



October, 2016

# Superior Scenes

**3040 N. Prospect Road, Superior Twp, MI 48198**

## From our Superior Supervisor . . .

**Superior Township Board of Trustees**  
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On the Web:

[www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)  
734-482-6099

734-482-3842 Fax

Water & Sewer Services

575 E. Clark Road, Superior Twp, MI  
734-480-5500

Office hours 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM  
24/7 Emergency Service

For Water & Sewer Emergencies  
Superior Township Fire Department

7999 Ford Road

Ford and Prospect Roads

Superior Twp, MI 48198

734-484-1996

In Emergency dial 911.

Fire Station #2

Corner of Harris and MacArthur

Dial 911 for Emergencies

Parks & Recreation

575 E. Clark Road, Superior Twp, MI  
734-480-5502

Nancy Caviston, Editor

C/O 3040 N. Prospect Road

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734-482-6099

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In this edition I'll provide a few short updates of interest to the residents of Superior Township.

### Building Permits and other Development Issues:

Through August 31<sup>st</sup> the township has issued 49 single family building permits and 52 water and sewer permits. The estimated increase in tax value to the township is \$13,836,821.00. Two subdivisions should be noted for their build out: Prospect Pointe and Prospect Pointe East. Both are building out nicely and provide homes for seniors (Prospect Pointe East) and families (Prospect Pointe).

The Woodlands of Geddes Glen subdivision on Geddes road is building out the fastest and should be completely sold out and fully developed by the end of 2017. This subdivision is an example of very upscale housing in Superior Township and will make a significant addition to tax value growth which helps the township keep our property taxes reasonable. Infinity builders of Novi have purchased all the vacant lots and the unim-

proved phase the Woodside Village subdivision on Ridge Road, so we might see some action there in the next year.

Superior Township welcomes all of our new residents. You have moved to a wonderful community that has been praised for many years. The Township board's goal is to keep the great reputation and to set a high bar for quality in southeast Michigan.

Recently, the Township Board approved an amendment to an area plan for the Bromley Park Condominiums by amending phase II from 135 attached condominiums to 125 high-end apartment units designed to serve senior citizens and empty nesters. As our population ages the township is under an obligation to make housing available to all segments of society. Your Township Board takes that responsibility seriously, and will continue to follow the zoning and planning ordinances which have proven their value time and time again.



**Kenneth Schwartz,**  
Supervisor

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## County Clean-up Day - Oct. 15, 2016

This clean-up event is for Washtenaw County residents, not businesses. The event is free, although a \$10 donation would be appreciated. Due to the expense of recycling tires or large appliances, participants bringing more than 4 tires or more than one large appliance (or computer) will be asked to make a \$5 donation for each additional tire, and a \$10 donation for each additional large appliance (or computer). Additional donations are welcome.

Last year this event drew over 350 participating vehicles over a five-hour period, so while the organizers do their best to rapidly unload vehicles there may be a wait at some stations. The station with the longest delay is usually the Home Toxics (paint/cleaners/motor oil/fertilizer/pesticides), as handling that material generally requires more care. Washtenaw County runs a separate Home Toxics Collection from April - November, 9am - Noon, on the first three Saturdays of each month at their Zeeb Road collection center.

## News from our Superior Clerk

**The Presidential Election is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.  
Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.**

It's Easy and Convenient to Vote by Absentee Ballot. The November 8 Presidential election ballot will be long. At the time this was written, it was not clear if straight-party voting would be allowed. In January 2016, Michigan eliminated straight-party voting. In July 2016, a federal judge blocked this law but there was a legal challenge to the judge's ruling. I would encourage you to vote by absentee ballot if you are eligible. Voting by absentee ballot is easy and allows you to complete your ballot in the comfort of your home. Voters can contact the Clerk's Office to request an application for an absentee ballot as well as to be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voters list. Once placed on the permanent AV list you will be mailed an application for an absentee ballot for each election in which you are eligible to vote. In order to receive an absentee voter's ballot you must complete and return either a pre-printed form or submit a suitable written request and meet one of the following criteria:

- I am 60 years of age or older
- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day
- I am physically unable to attend the polls with the assistance of another
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct in where I reside

- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.



**David Phillips,  
Clerk**

The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday) and from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding each election. If you have any questions, please contact David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #1014, or e-mail: [davidphillips@superior-twp.org](mailto:davidphillips@superior-twp.org).



I am not running for another term for Clerk or any other elected position. I have held various Superior Township elected and appointed positions since 1988 and it has been a pleasure and honor to serve you. Working together with elected officials, voters, residents and others, we have shaped the finances, character, development and quality of life in our community. I am gratified and appreciate the success our community has attained thus far. I want to thank all of you who have helped to make Superior Township a superior place to live, work and enjoy. I encourage everyone to get involved in keeping Superior superior!

## Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

Neighborhood Watch is an effective means of assisting community law enforcement. It relies on community awareness, involvement and communication. It encourages residents to get to know each other, know your neighborhood and call the police when something looks suspicious. Our police do a very good job but we can help them to make our community even better. A well-functioning Neighborhood Watch program can reduce crime and improve the quality of life in your community.

Meetings are open to all and are held at 7:00pm at the Old Town Hall on the fourth Tuesday of every odd-numbered month. A Sheriff's Department official is usually in attend-

ance and available to answer your questions.

Our Township Coordinator for Neighborhood Watch is John Hudson. If you have concerns or questions about crime in the Township and would like to receive Neighborhood Watch information by email, including monthly crime reports and alerts, contact [jhudson300606MI@comcast.net](mailto:jhudson300606MI@comcast.net). Our alerts include copies of monthly crime reports and up-to-the-minute alerts received from the Sheriff's department and information received from citizens.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on November 22, at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Road, across the parking lot from the Township Hall. JOIN US!

# News from our Superior Treasurer



**Brenda L. McKinney,  
Treasurer**

**Treasurer’s Mission Statement:**

The Superior Township Treasurer is committed “to provide prompt, courteous, and efficient service to the public.” The Treasurer is committed to handling public funds with the highest degree of integrity and accountability.

**Your Tax Dollars at Work – 2015**

Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,534,464	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,691,360
Plymouth Schools:	\$ 253,131	Township Tax:	\$ 478,204
Ypsi Comm Schools:	\$ 4,890,055	Fire Department Tax:	\$ 1,751,320
State Education:	\$ 3,580,004	Law Fund Tax:	\$ 1,313,481
Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 593,034	Legal Defense Fund:	\$ 0
Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 447,467	Wash Comm College:	\$ 2,019,794
Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,185,165	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,251
Wayne RESA:	\$ 123,391		

In addition, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$429,940, which included County Drains, Streetlights, Side Street Maintenance for Oakbrook and Washington Square, Delinquent Water Bills, Ordinance Violations, False Alarms, and Hyundai Road Improvement.

Out of 6,027 parcels, 334 went delinquent. The total amount delinquent was \$671,161 and was turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 1, 2016.

**What You Should Know About Your Taxes**

**Summer Collection:** Taxes are payable July 1 through September 14 without interest charge. Beginning September 15 through September 30, a statutory 1% interest charge per month will be added on the first of each month to the unpaid balance.

**Winter Collection:** Taxes are payable beginning December 1 and are due by February 14. All taxes unpaid by March 1 must be paid to the Washtenaw County Treasurer with additional interest and penalties.

**Treasurer’s Winter Office Hours:** Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, excluding holidays. For your convenience, the Treasurer’s Office will be open until 5:30 PM on December 27, 28, and 29. All Superior Township offices will be closed on December 30. The Treasurer’s Office will be open on February 28 from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

**Partial Payments:** Upon receipt of your tax bill, partial payments in any dollar amount will be accepted; however, any taxes unpaid by the statutory due dates will be subject to applicable interest and penalty fees.

**Escrow Payments:** Homeowners who have refinanced—please have your bank contact my office with new mailing information.

**Mail Payments:** Tax payments should be mailed to 3040 N. Prospect Rd., Superior Twp, MI, 48198. Please note that postmarks are not accepted and allow for sufficient mailing time.

**Online Tax Payments:** Will begin December 1 and end February 2 for winter bills only. In order to have sufficient time for the timely processing of tax payments from the online payment system, it is necessary to establish the February 2 cut-off date.

*Continued on page 6*

## Control Phragmites

Marion Morris

### AGGRESSIVE AND NON-NATIVE PHRAGMITES IN SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

A new invasive plant, *Phragmites australis*, has become widespread in Michigan and is an increasing threat in Superior Township. Township officials have determined that, wherever possible, steps be taken to bring this plant under control in both public and private lands because it is infesting the wetlands, marshes, roadside ditches and other low, wet areas of the Township. It displaces desirable native plant species and greatly reduces wildlife habitat resulting in loss of food, shelter and nesting sites for birds, amphibians, and small ani-

mals. It dries marsh and wetland soils, and takes up subsurface groundwater, leaving a dense stand of nothing but itself. If left unchecked, it will adversely affect our ecological and economic environment.

Information manuals giving details on how to identify and control Phragmites are available free-of-charge at the Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect. It is hoped that everyone will work towards bringing this very scary plant under control.

## Our Superior Wetlands

Jim McIntyre

During the hot dry months of summer, wetland-dependent species face increased habitat pressure. Focus on wetlands preservation helps to protect the habitats that these plants and animals rely on to survive. Of the 395 threatened plant and animal species in Michigan, nearly half (194) rely on wetlands for their survival.

Of specific concern during the summer months are the various water birds that call Superior Township home. Two notable, newer, additions to the area are the Sandhill Cranes and the Great Egret. Both of these species have benefitted directly from local conservation efforts.

In the late 1980's, a Kalamazoo Nature Center report determined that there were virtually no Egret habitats in the southeast Michigan area, with Superior Township representing the only suitable habitat in all of Washtenaw County. Today, the number of townships in the state able to sustain Egret populations has increased over 400%.

Michigan is at the extreme southern and eastern breeding areas for Sandhill Cranes. Continuing to preserve wetland areas gives these once rare birds a place to safely reproduce and raise their young. Currently, cranes are breeding in a six-county area of southern Michigan, with Superior Township representing very edge of this breeding area. Today, an estimated 24,000 birds make their way through the area annually, with 800 breeding pairs in the state, mostly in the Ann Arbor and Jackson areas. This is more than double the estimates of just 20 years ago.

Continued work to preserve the wetland areas and open spaces that these species call home is an important endeavor. It's great to see that our township continues to lead the way by ensuring that we protect and preserve the areas that these creatures call home, allowing them to thrive.

## Committee To Promote Superior Township

Brenda Baker &amp; Carla Bisaro

Superior Charter Township and our Committee to Promote Superior Township had the pleasure and honor to be featured in the July 2016 issue of *Township Focus*, the publication of the Michigan Townships Association. The article "What's Your Story?" addresses the subject of "developing a sense of place for your township," and shows how even small townships can build on whatever unique features they possess.

The magazine cited our rural and agricultural history, our focus on preservation of natural areas, and our diverse population as some of the attractive features of Superior Township. We offer here a balance between wide-open spaces and solid-

ly populated subdivisions, and in 2014 *USA Today* recognized the Township for the diversity of its population.

In support of fostering a sense of place, the Committee to Promote Superior Township has recently undertaken an effort to address the lack of a specific Superior Township ZIP code. Remember to show your pride and use "Superior Township" in your mailing address, regardless of ZIP code. Some of your fellow residents already do!

# Our Superior Utilities

Keith Lockie

## Water Wise:

A small leak in your water system can be very costly. A quick way to check for leaks is to turn off all water-using devices inside and outside. Locate your water meter (usually located in your basement, or if you do not have a basement, in your laundry room). If after turning off all water-using devices, the dial on the meter is turning, you have a leak.

If you suspect an intermittent leak in your toilet, please call us at 734-480-5500, and we will send you Toilet Dye Strip Packets, which can be used to test for leaks.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What are the department's location, contact information and hours?

- We are located at 575 E. Clark Rd. (@Prospect Rd.) & have a drop box on the east side of the building.
- Phone: 734-480-5500, Fax: 734-484-4883, Email: [utilitydept@superior-twp.org](mailto:utilitydept@superior-twp.org)
- Our drive-through winter hours (October–April) are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Office winter hours (October– April) are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Home appointments can be scheduled (October– April) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### What are my payment options?

- Payments being made through our drop box or by mail can be by check or money order (NO CASH PAYMENTS).
- Payments made in person can be by check, money

order, or cash.

- Credit card (MasterCard & Discover only) and bank account payments (checking and savings) can be made online by going to the Township's website ([www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)), then:

Click on: [Departments](#), then

Click on: [Utilities](#), then

Click on: [Online Bill Payments](#)

### What do I need to do if I plan to move from my home or am new to the Township?

- If you are moving in or out of your home, please contact the Utility Department at least 24 hours prior to your move date to arrange for a final meter reading, so that you will not be charged for water used after you have moved out, or prior to you moving in. Also, we will need your billing information at that time.

### What do I do if I have water coming up through the floor drain in my basement?

- If you have water coming up through your basement floor drain, it may be an indication that there is a sewer back-up in front of your house. Call us anytime, day or night, seven days a week, at 734-480-5500 and we will check our sewer line for blockages. We will then let you know if the problem is in our line, which we will take care of, or if it is a blockage within your house line, which you will need to contact a plumber or repair service to correct.



# Republic Recycling and Yard Waste

Republic provides every other week pick-up of recyclables and yard waste. For further information on how to recycle and when your pick-up date is, please click on [http://superior-twp.org/departments/solid\\_waste.html](http://superior-twp.org/departments/solid_waste.html).

Grass, leaves, weeds and garden waste must be placed into biodegradable Kraft paper bags or in a container not larger than 32 gals. or 50 lbs., which is clearly marked "COMPOST" or "YARD WASTE." Republic will also pick-up twigs, brush and shrubs. These must be tied in bundles not more than three feet in length and not more than 24 inches in diameter per bundle.

Republic also provides special pick-up of large household appliances, furniture, carpeting and TV sets.

To schedule a special pick-up or to enroll in either the regular service or Tagged Bag Service, please contact Republic at 1-800-878-4626.

**YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21 OR NOVEMBER 28, DEPENDING ON WHICH PICKUP AREA YOU RESIDE IN.** Please check the website or contact the Township Hall to verify the last day you can put yard waste out for collection.

## YDL-Superior

Mary Garboden— Head of Outreach  
Ypsilanti District Library (YDL)

Here's the latest from YDL-Superior! After a busy summer, we are gearing up for another season of fun, educational programs and services.

- Be sure to check out our weekly Saturday story-times, beginning on September 17 at 10:30am. Drop-in Tutoring resumes September 19. Check out our newsletter for more special events like a Pokémon Party, Spooky Pop-ups, and Gingerbread Houses.
- We have added some fabulous new resources to our website. With your library card, you can download music, movies, magazines, and more! **Hoopla** allows you to access movies, music, audiobooks, TV shows, and comic books instantly, including many new releases! Stream content online on any device, or download it using the Hoopla app for iPhone, Android, or Kindle Fire. ([www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com)) **Zinio** is a newsstand at your fingertips! Browse popular magazines like National Geographic, Business Week, Cosmopolitan, Bon Appetit, and many more. Get them on any device and keep them as long as you like. Browse online or get the Zinio app. ([www.ypsilibrary.org/zinio](http://www.ypsilibrary.org/zinio))
- Where's the bookmobile? Did you know the bookmobile makes various stops in Superior Township? Come aboard to sign up for a library card, check out materials, and use our public computers! View the schedule at ([www.ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile](http://www.ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile))
- Coming Soon: **Washtenaw Reads**. The Washtenaw Reads program is a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book. The 2017 title is being chosen right now. Stay tuned for a title announcement in your next newsletter!

## Superior Parks News

Juan Bradford

I hope you all had a healthy, fun-filled summer. The Parks & Recreation Department had a busy summer hosting special events, sharing parks information at the Dixboro Market, implementing the Building Healthy Communities' Come Out & Play and Walk With Ease programs, and completing numerous park improvements. While summer may be coming to an end, that doesn't mean the end of the fun. This fall, don't forget about Pumpkin Carving & Crafts on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Norfolk Park. There will be pumpkins to carve, arts and crafts to complete and refreshments to enjoy. We will close out the year with a very special visit from Santa Claus. Santa will be visiting Superior Township's Old Township Hall on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm to light the Township Christmas Tree. There will be caroling, hot chocolate & cookies and a picture with Santa! Come out and join us for both of these great family events, all free of charge!!!



The Parks & Recreation Department is already looking ahead and planning for 2017 and we would love to hear from you regarding both youth and adult programs and activities you would like to participate in, or park improvements that you would like to see. We are here for you, and knowing what your interests are enables us to serve you better. Please feel free to contact the Parks & Recreation office to share your ideas, or for any questions you may have about our events. You can reach us at (734) 480-5502 or via email at [superiorparks@superior-twp.org](mailto:superiorparks@superior-twp.org). Also don't forget to check out the Township website at [superior-twp.org](http://superior-twp.org) for the latest updates.

*Continued from page 3 Treasurer*

**New Homeowners:** Please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to be exempt from the school operating millage.

**Summer/Winter Tax Deferments:** Qualified applicants may defer payment of their taxes until April 30 without interest or penalties. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at (734) 482-6099 to request an application form if you have not received one by mail. Summer tax deferral applications must be signed and returned by September 14. Winter tax deferral applications must be signed and returned by February 14.

*Continued from page 1 Supervisor*

Our current land use strategy is to require substantial completion of the existing housing subdivisions already permitted and fully entitled to build. That amounts to over 350 units in the urban service area.

Earlier this summer the Board approved the Washtenaw County Parks Commission to buy and preserve 55 acres on Clark Road from any future development. The new preserve is located across from the new solar power demonstration site in the city of Ypsilanti at River and Clark. Washtenaw County and Superior Township plan to develop a trail system through this new acquisition to Prospect Road; eventually connecting existing trails through the preserved parts of Superior Township all the way from the township hall to the new preserve.

The township is also working with the Ann Arbor Greenbelt and the Washtenaw County Parks Commission to preserve roughly 300 acres of land north of Geddes Road where a high density subdivision on private water and sewer was proposed. Hopefully, through the various agencies of government, and with the cooperation of the owner, the land can be saved from development in perpetuity and open to the public for recreational uses. Stay tuned to the next *Superior Scenes* for further news.

**Dixboro Area:**

The Township Board authorized the Planning Commission to undertake a review and revision of the Dixboro sub area plan. The Planning Commission and a group of Dixboro citizens will begin to take the pulse of Dixboro area residents to craft a new planning document to guide development for the foreseeable future. The **“village green”** on Church and Short will be the core of the Dixboro planning area. This spring the township received a \$10,000 grant to beautify the Dixboro area. Tree trimming and removal have already started. This fall approximately 20 large sugar maples will be planted along the **village green** on Short Street, Plymouth and Church Street. A new roof has been installed on the old schoolhouse on the Green. The schoolhouse belfry has been rebuilt and reinstalled. You can expect to see sidewalk improvements and parking improvements around the Green soon.

The Roger Monk’s restaurant, the former Lord Fox, has been sold to RFC Financial. A new building and use plan has been submitted to the Dixboro Design Review Board to review the plan. The proposal is to rehabilitate the historic building into an office and a tavern. The township has insisted that the new owners keep a restaurant, tavern or pub in Dixboro and they have agreed.

You might have noticed that Dixboro has new welcome signs on Plymouth Road. These signs were designed by a group of Dixboro residents and were paid for by a 2015 grant. Over

the next two to three years, residents of Dixboro can expect to see additional public infrastructure improvements and serious beautification efforts.

**Roads and Rights-of-Way:**

So far this year you might have seen the orange trucks of the County Road Commission around the township. Prospect Road from Clark to Geddes has already been repaved. The following projects are in progress and will be complete by the end of fall:

- Church Street from Short Street to Dixboro Road.
- Vorhies Road from Plymouth Road to the M-14 Bridge.
- Panama Avenue - easterly two-thirds of the road.
- York Court
- Ashton Court
- Oxford Court
- Windsor Court
- Thames Court

The Township Board has purchased 4,000 tons of road gravel this year. The gravel will be judiciously spread and graded wherever road conditions demonstrate the greatest need. You can expect one more grading and application of dust control this month which will conclude summer maintenance on gravel roads. I want to express my appreciation to the Washtenaw County Road Commission for their continuing assistance to the Township.

The Township has embarked upon a right-of-way program to clean rights-of-way that are overgrown, littered or may cause dangerous driving conditions. Improvements this year include Geddes Road from Harris to Andover; MacArthur Blvd. from Harris to Wiard and Gale from Walnut Hall to Stonehedge.

Keeping the rights-of-way clean and safe is an important public priority. Once these rights-of-way are cleaned, I hear from many approving residents because the improved right of way is very pleasing and safer. I believe that public cleanliness and beautification of public property increases the attractiveness quality of our community.

If you have any questions, concerns or matters of interest, feel free to contact me at 734-482-6099.



# Our Superior Fire Department

Chief Vic Chevrette



With the winter season fast approaching, here are a few reminders from the Fire Department about being safe when using your indoor fireplace or wood burner stove.

- Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a Certified Chimney Sweep. This is required under NFPA 211.

- Keep the top of chimneys clear of tree limbs or debris.

- Install a chimney cap to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.

- Always open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. This will avert the build-up of poisonous gases, such as carbon monoxide.

- Fuel the fire safely. For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well-seasoned wood that has been dried for a minimum of six months to a year.

- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors can explode. Never keep flammable fuels near a fire.

- Do not overload the fireplace. Large fires can lead to overheating of wall or roof materials, particularly if the fireplace is constructed of metal.

- Always use a screen around the fireplace to keep sparks from flying out and to protect children and adults from accidental clothing ignition.

- Warn children about the danger of fire. Do not let them play with fire.

- Keep combustible materials such as carpets, pillows, furniture or papers away from the fireplace area.

- Always make sure that the fire is completely extinguished before going to bed for the night or when leaving the house.

- Always dispose of ashes from the fireplace properly. Place in a metal container, outside away from any combustible materials. Metal containers can be purchased at your local hardware store.

Open burning is regulated by Ordinance No. 185 and you must complete and submit an Application for Open Burning. Both are available on the township website or at the Township Hall. The application is easy to complete and it only takes a few minutes. After your application is approved, you only have to call in for permission to burn.

Your Fire Department wishes everyone to have a safe and happy fall season.

**Superior Charter Township  
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