



April, 2017

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Superior Twp, MI 48198

From our Superior Supervisor . . .

Superior Township Board of Trustees

Kenneth Schwartz	Supervisor
Lynette Findley	Clerk
Brenda McKinney	Treasurer
Nancy Caviston	Trustee
Lisa Lewis	Trustee
Alex Williams	Trustee
Rodrick Green	Trustee

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
Superior Twp, MI 48198
734-482-6099

education@superior-twp.org

Inside this Issue:
Superior news from. . .

Our Clerk	2
Our Treasurer	3
Promote Superior Twp. Wetlands	4
Our Utilities Parks & Recreation	5
Neighborhood Watch Ypsilanti District Library Where you Live	6
Water Wise	7
Boards & Commissions Environmental Land Improvements	8
Wetlands Replacement	9
Our Building Department	10
Our Fire Department	12

In 2017 Superior Township will continue to invest heavily in our physical and civic infrastructure to assure residents the best possible use of their tax dollars entrusted to the Superior Township Board. The township millage rate for 2017 is 6.0224 mills. This millage is the financial backbone of the township and pays the vast majority of the bills. The quality of life in Superior Township is determined, in large part, by how well we manage these tax dollars when delivering municipal services to residents.

In 2016 Superior Township invested in the following broad categories of infrastructure improvement. This is not an exhaustive list but reflects our priorities for this year.

Superior Township funded many road improvements in 2016 including the milling and resurfacing of Panama Ave., Vorhies Rd., and Church Street; and the following courts: York Ct., Thames Ct.,

Windsor Ct., Ashton Ct. and Oxford Ct. There will be additional road improvements this year, but as of this writing, the Road Commission has not yet presented proposals for the 2017 season to the Township Board. We're looking to finish two projects started last year — Vorhies Road and Panama Avenue.

It's safe to say that even with new funding sources at the state and the county, there is still not enough roads funding to bring Superior Township roads into the condition you expect and deserve.

Many of our gravel roads cannot be maintained through state funding. Public Act 51 collects the road taxes and distributes them back to the county road

Supervisor, continued on page 10



Kenneth Schwartz,
Supervisor

Garden Plots Available

Jack Smiley

If you'd like to grow your own vegetables, but don't have space available at home, you are welcome to get a garden plot in the Community Organic Garden at the Conservancy Farm on Vreeland Road. Enjoy the wonderful setting amidst hundreds of acres of protected land and share the camaraderie of fellow garden enthusiasts. For more information,



News from our Superior Clerk



Lynette Findley

The Township is very excited to share that we will have a new website by the end of May. It will contain all of the critical information related to voting, taxes, Township departments, meetings, community information and Parks & Recreation activities, as well as information on programs available through other government agencies. We are adding new features such as Calendar of Events throughout the Township and an Educational component which will provide educational opportunities and programs within Ypsilanti Community Schools, Plymouth-Canton Schools and Ann Arbor Public Schools and throughout Washtenaw County. Included will be tutoring programs, local college programs offered to youth; and grant and scholarship information for college. The website will also include events and programs in the Township and throughout local Washtenaw County. It is our goal to make the website more user-friendly to our residents of all ages where they will consider it a source of pertinent information.

We are offering you the opportunity to receive a newsletter in an electronic version only, both or to remain only with the printed newsletter. Please let us know your choice by taking the survey at this address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HQ6MFSW>. Please continue to use the current website at www.superior-twp.org.

I have been serving as the Township Clerk since the end of November. It has been a pleasure getting to know more about Superior Township and meeting those of you who have come in to Township Hall. It is my honor to serve you in my position as Clerk.

It's Easy and Convenient to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Voting by absentee ballot is easy and allows you the opportunity to complete your ballot in the comfort of your home. I would encourage you to vote by absentee ballot if you are eligible. Voters can contact the Clerk's Office to request an application for an absentee ballot or 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. AV applications can also be found at www.superior-twp.org/voting in regular sized font and large print. In order to receive

an absentee voter's ballot you must either complete and return 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 without the assistance of another
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

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

ELECTIONS 2017

On May 2, 2017, there will be a special school election for Superior Township voters who reside in the Ann Arbor Public School District to vote on a proposal to replace and extend the 2013-2019 sinking fund millage to authorize and levy 2.50 mills (\$2.50 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2017 to 2026. This proposal would allow the use of proceeds to be used for the construction or repair of school buildings, including school security improvements, and the improvement and development of sites and where permissible by law for other purposes, including, but not limited to, the acquisition and installation of furnishings and equipment. Superior Township's precinct 1 (Dixboro United Methodist Church) and precinct 5 (Superior Township Hall)

Clerk, continued on page 5

News from our Superior Treasurer



Brenda L. McKinney

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.

Thank You for all Your Support!

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the Superior Township residents who donated blankets and food for the **2016 Blanket Express and Food Drive**. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide warmth and nutrition to those in need. The blankets went to various charities in our community. The food donations went to the food pantries of local churches. We will be participating again in December of 2017.

Mobile Farm Stand

The Farm Stand that was established in 2015 by Growing Hope, with support from Superior Township, was back in action again in 2016 at the corner of Harris Rd. and MacArthur Blvd. This locally sourced fresh fruit and vegetable market took place on Thursdays from 4:00am to 7:00pm during the months of June-September and was a great success. We hope to continue our partnership with Growing Hope in 2017 to support Growing Hope’s commitment to “increase access to healthy food.”

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

Total property tax billed for 2016 was estimated at \$25,779,202. The estimated total amount of property tax collected for 2016 was \$25,062,829 from 6,222 parcels. An estimated 309 parcels of property went delinquent. The total amount of estimated delinquent property tax was \$716,373. Superior Township collected 97.22% of the estimated taxes billed.

- The 2016 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended on February 28, 2017. Beginning March 1, 2017, all delinquent 2016 real property taxes are now payable to the Washtenaw County Treasurer. Please contact the Washtenaw County Treasurer at 734-222-6600 with any questions.
- New homeowners, please be sure to complete and

return your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit forms in order to receive the 100% exemption from school operating taxes on your property tax bill. Filing deadlines are June 1st to qualify for a summer PRE and November 1st to qualify for a winter PRE.

- Deferment Applications will be mailed June 1st. Please sign and return completed applications by September 14th. Eligible persons are 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death, paraplegic or quadriplegic, eligible serviceperson, eligible Veteran, eligible widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. Having a deferment allows homeowners to pay taxes until April 30th without penalties or interest charges. Please contact my office with any questions.
- Partial payments in any dollar amount will be accepted during the property tax collection period from July 1st – February 28th; however, summer taxes unpaid by September 14th will be subject to a statutory one percent per month interest fee. After February 28th, any unpaid taxes must be paid to the Washtenaw County Treasury with additional interest and penalty fees.
- Cash payments in the exact amount are appreciated as the Treasurer’s office has only a limited amount of cash on hand to make change for large bills. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Online property tax payments can be made at: www.superior-twp.org. Payments must be received online by **September 2nd** for the summer property tax payments and **February 2nd** for the winter property tax payments. The length of time required to receive the payment reports and bank confirmations of payment by the statutory due dates makes it necessary to adhere to these deadlines. Thank you for your understanding.

Committee to Promote Superior Township

Brenda Baker

One of the strategies used by the Committee to Promote Superior Township to let the world (especially our residents) know how special our Township is, is a collection of "Superior Places." These are sites in our Township that contribute to our "Superior-ness." Places range from nature preserves to fire stations to a golf course, and even include two villages (Dixboro and Frains Lake).

One of these Superior Places, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, is highlighted in the inset of this article. Yes, the hospital and everything on its campus is located in the southwest corner of Superior Township. It is not in Ann Arbor, nor is it in Ypsilanti.

[The zip code line actually runs right through the campus! If you have a doctor in the Reichert Building, for example, the doctor's mailing address will be "Ypsilanti," since the zip code is 48197 (not 48198, since they're on the opposite side of the Huron River). Offices on the west side of the hospital campus have a zip code of 48105, and will identify as Ann Arbor.]

All of the places in the current collection can be found in the 3-ring binder located in the Township Hall lobby or at the Superior Township branch library, or on the Township website at www.superior-twp.org/one_superior_place and select Superior Places.

Anyone wishing to contribute a new Superior Place to be added to the collection (this doesn't mean you have to write it) please contact Lynette Findley at Township Hall (734-482-6099) or lynettefindley@superior-twp.orr.org.

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is a 537-bed teaching hospital complex located on a 340-acre campus in the southwest corner of Superior Township. Sponsored by Catholic Health Ministries, and a member of Trinity Health, St. Joseph has been named as a Top 100 Hospital in a variety of clinical specialty areas, including oncology, cardiovascular, neurosciences, women and children, orthopedics and senior health. It is part of a regional health system that spans five counties in southeastern Michigan. The 11-story East Tower – the tallest building in our township – opened in 2007, joining a surgery pavilion completed in 2006. North Tower, the newest patient facility, was added in 2010.

This is One Superior Place!



Our Superior Wetlands

Jim McIntyre

May is Wetlands Month! American Wetlands Month was created in 1991 by the EPA and its partners to highlight the importance of wetland areas throughout the country. Superior Township is one of just a handful of communities in Michigan with an established Wetlands Ordinance, and maintaining these important areas within our community is one of the core functions of the Wetlands Board.

Nearly half of all the imperiled species in the United States use wetlands at some point in their lives, and many of the threatened species in Michigan have begun to make a comeback in communities that have placed

a priority on preserving wetland areas. Wetlands preservation projects are a frequent and welcome sight here in Superior Township, as they serve to keep the township unique in Washtenaw County.

As we look forward to another spring season, consider taking some time to assist our local organizations whose efforts make our beautiful wetland areas possible. Community involvement is a crucial element to local conservation efforts, and with everyone's help, we can continue to ensure that our community remains a haven for the diverse plant and animal species we've all grown to appreciate.

Clerk, continued from page 2

will be open for voters who reside in the Ann Arbor Public School District. Further information and the complete ballot proposal are available on the Township's website, www.superior-twp.org.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2017, there will be a special school election for Superior Township voters who reside in the Ypsilanti Community School District to vote on a proposal that will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory millage rate of not to exceed 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1000 of taxable valuation) and also increase by .5 mill (\$0.50 on each \$1000 of taxable valuation) on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance for a period of 5 years, 2018 to 2022.

Superior Township's precinct 2 (Abundant Life Ministries Church), precinct 3&4 (Christian Love Fellowship Ministries) and precinct 5 (Superior Township Hall) will be open for voters who reside in the Ypsilanti Community School District. Further information and the complete ballot proposal are available on the Township's website, www.superior-twp.org.

On Tuesday, August 8, 2017 (if necessary) - A Primary Election will be held.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 - The General Election will be held.

We will be getting new election equipment this year which should be available for the November 7, 2017 General Election.

Our Superior Utilities

Mary Burton

New payment option coming:

Beginning in May 2017, STUD (Superior Township Utilities Department) will offer its customers the ability to pay their water/sewer bills through **Automated Clearing House (ACH)**. With this service, customers will be able to have their bill paid automatically on the due date from their checking or savings account. By choosing ACH, customers can save time, money and avoid late fees while never having to write a check. To sign up for ACH, call the Utility Department at 734-480-5500 and request an ACH application.

Go Green with Paperless Billing:

Paperless Billing gives you the same information as a

paper bill. The only difference is how you receive it and how easy and convenient it is. Save time by getting your water/sewer bill delivered to your email inbox. It's trouble-free when you enroll. You will receive an email notification with the bill attached to it. No worries because you'll still have plenty of time to review the bill before it is due, and have the option to pay online at our website, by mail or by **ACH** if your account is set up. The ACH payment will be withdrawn on the due date. You'll save time, reduce paper clutter and benefit the environment. Enroll in paperless billing by sending an email to utilitydept@superior-twp.org. Include your name, account number, and "Request for Paperless Billing" in the subject line.

Superior Parks News

Juan Bradford

A new year has begun and I hope that you and your families are happy and healthy! This year's program is in conjunction with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation and will be held at Community Park which is located at 1311 Stamford Road. Our trained Playground Coordinators, a.k.a. "PLAY AGENTS," will lead kids in games, crafts, fun, fitness, education, and more FUN!!! All this in a safe, supervised, structured setting that

promises to be a great time. The best part.....It's FREE!!! Space is limited so contact Superior Township Parks & Recreation to register.

See the insert provided in this newsletter for all of our upcoming activities!

Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

Welcome to Superior Township Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch has been an effective tool assisting the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department in maintaining safe and friendly neighborhoods throughout the Township.

At our meetings, information is exchanged between residents and the Sheriff's representative who attends our meetings. We send out monthly crime summaries and year-to-year crime trends in Superior Township, and we also send out road closure updates and other local crime updates.

We meet every other month in the Old Town Hall building by Township Hall. Our meetings begin at 7:00pm. Everyone in the Township is invited to attend and share with their neighbors and friends any information from the meetings.

The next meeting is May 23 in Old Town Hall at 7:00pm. If you would like to begin receiving email information please submit an email request to John Hudson, Superior Township Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at: jhudson300606mi@comcast.net



Ypsilanti District Library

Mary Garboden

If you haven't stopped by our Superior Township location recently, we have big surprises in store for you! We closed the library for two weeks of renovation work in January. We took down an interior wall, repainted, and installed new carpet. We added two more public computers and increased the length of computer sessions to one hour. We added additional shelving to allow for more books and movies. Please stop by and check us out!

Our lineup of fun, educational activities continues. Weekly drop-in tutoring for Grades K-8 is on Mondays from 4-6pm, through June 5. Every Thursday, from 5-6 pm, is Lego Night. Our Saturday storytimes are a per-

fect way to start the day with your toddler or preschooler. Storytimes happen at 10:30am and include books, music, and craft activities.

Summer activities are on the horizon! On May 20 (2:30pm), join us to plant this year's Superior Learning Garden. The library's Summer Challenge will begin June 17 with kickoff events at all library locations. Over the summer, library users of all ages earn points for reading books and engaging in other library-related activities. Read about all of this and more at www.ypsilibrary.org.

Where you live

Brenda Baker & Carla Biscaro

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!



Water wise - Superior Utilities

Mary Burton

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 building. Phone: 734-480-5500, Fax: 734-484-4883, Email: utilitydept@superior-twp.org

Our drive-through summer hours (May 1 through Sept. 1) are 7:15am to 5:15pm, Monday through Friday.

Office summer hours (May 1 through Sept. 1) are 7:00am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Home appointments can be scheduled (May 1 through Sept. 1) between 7:30am and 5:00pm, 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), 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.



Easter Egg Hunt

Date & Time: Saturday April 8th, 11:00am - Noon

Location: Fireman's Park

Come join us!!!!!!



Boards and Commissions

Ken Schwartz

Superior Township needs volunteers for Boards and Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission for Superior Township, please send me a letter of interest at 3040 N. Prospect Road, Superior Township, MI 48198.

Presently there is only one opening. We need a resident to serve on the Tax Assessment Board of Review. This Board is responsible to hear property tax assessment objections and to determine the final tax values in March for the summer and winter levy. The Board of Review meets three times a year. In March the Board is in session for three days to hear objections and appeals to the tax assessment and to finalize the tax roll for the tax year.

In July and December the Board is in session to correct any errors, mistakes or omissions to the tax roll. The Board of Review requires a good dose of common

sense, a highly tuned ear and patience. Technical skills will be built through a training course. Members of the Board make \$15.00 per hour for their service. Contact Ken Schwartz at 734-482-6099.



Environmental Improvements

Ken Schwartz



It's worth repeating about the many land preservation projects and the environmental improvements throughout Superior Township. Many residents have heard these statistics before, but for the new residents and to refresh the memory of others, Superior Township boasts one of the finest examples in Michigan of a township committed to land and farm preservation along with environmental projects designed to add wetlands, prairies and other bio-systems.

The Superior Township Board of Trustees has been committed for decades to land, farm and environmental protection and preservation. The township has enlisted the assistance of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Ann Arbor Greenbelt, the state of Michigan, the Southeast Michigan Land Con-

servancy, the Superior Land Preservation society and many other donors, organizations and volunteers which have made possible the preservation of over 4,000 acres (including township parks) in Superior Township. Many Board members have claimed that Superior Township "is the last green speck" on the map between Ann Arbor and the Metro Detroit area.

In 2016, the Washtenaw County Parks Commission added another 55 acre parcel on Clark Road west of Prospect to the preserved land inventory. This is the first acquisition south of Geddes Road and will be developed for passive uses such as hiking, cross country skiing and biking.



Spring Cleaning

Brenda Baker

With the arrival of spring, many residents think of sprucing up their yards or other outdoor spaces. This includes “spring cleaning” of the outdoor variety, removing old leaves, twigs, and other organic debris that has accumulated over the winter. This is also the time that grass begins to grow again, and lawn mowing becomes a recurring chore for many.

Residents who were not yet adults in 1995, or who lived in another state, may not remember the yard waste ban enacted by the State of Michigan that year. Also known as the “Composting Law,” this legislation prohibits disposal of yard waste in landfills and incinerators, and restricts burning of yard waste in municipalities having a population of 7,500 or more (Superior Township’s population is about 13,000).

At the time this law was passed, it wasn’t well publicized. To this day, there are still many Michigan residents who aren’t aware that **putting leaves or grass clippings in the trash is against the law.** Prior to passage of this law, leaves and grass comprised over 30% of all household waste generated. That takes up a lot of space in landfills needlessly, and may contribute to methane gas and leachate production that can negatively impact local water supplies. The moisture in

yard waste makes it burn poorly in private yards or public incinerators.

For residents who have the space to do it and uses for the finished product, composting yard waste is the preferred method of “disposal.” For the rest of us with yard waste, we are fortunate that the Township has contracted with Republic Services to collect our yard waste every other week, April through November. A map of pickup areas and their collection dates is available on the Superior Township website (it’s the same days as recycling pickup).

Yard waste for collection can be placed in brown paper craft bags, or loose in trashcans with handles. Such trashcans must be clearly marked “COMPOST” or “YARD WASTE.” Small limbs or brush can be tied in bundles that do not exceed 4 feet in length or 30 pounds in weight.

Advances in the design of “mulching” mowers have helped reduce the amount of yard waste we generate, and backyard composting has become more common. Beyond those improvements, Superior Township residents are fortunate to have pickup of yard waste available at our homes.

Wetlands Replacement

Ken Schwartz

I’ve received numerous phone calls and inquiries about the work being done on the Jack R. Smiley preserve on Cherry Hill and Prospect Roads. The activity is the construction and development of a large wetland to replace the wetlands lost elsewhere in the River Rouge system in Wayne County. The divide between the Huron River system and the Rouge River system runs through Superior Township. The line runs roughly to the east side of Stommel Road, down Vreeland Road to Harris Road and then south to Clark Road. Most of the land east of the above line is in the Rouge River watershed and most of the land west and south is in the Huron River watershed. The headwaters of the lower branch of Rouge River are on the north side of Cherry Hill just west of Prospect. From here the lower branch runs to

the main branch in Dearborn.

When developers fill wetlands in the Rouge River watershed, they will be required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to replace those lost wetlands within the same watershed at a ratio of two acres of new wetlands for each acre filled. Since much of the Rouge River is in Wayne County, and the last remaining large undeveloped tracts are in Superior Township, developers are building wetlands here to offset the lost wetlands in Wayne County. So far there have been four wetland remediation projects in Superior. All have been on either side of Prospect Road between Cherry Hill and Vreeland roads. All have contributed to the health and vitality of the Rouge River headwaters.

Our Superior Building Department

Rick Mayernik

Frequently asked questions

Q. I am going to hire a contractor to work on my home. Does my contractor need to be licensed?

A. In general, a person who contracts with a homeowner for residential construction or remodeling where the total value of the project is \$600.00 or more, including material and labor, is required to be licensed in the State of Michigan as a Residential Builder or a Maintenance and Alteration Contractor. A Builders License allows a contractor to do all the work (except Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical) for a project while a Maintenance and Alteration contractor is permitted to perform only the specific trade or trades endorsed on their license.

Q. How can I check to see if my contractor is licensed?

A. Builders licenses can be verified by checking on the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) website, www.michigan.gov/builders. You may also contact the Builders Unit at 517-373-8376.

Q. I am going to be working on my home myself. Do I need permits and inspections from the Township?

A. Generally, permits and inspections are not required for *ordinary repairs*. Ordinary repairs do not include the construction or cutting away of any wall (or portion thereof), structural member or changes affecting egress; nor do ordinary repairs include addition to or alteration of any water supply, sewer, drain, vent or similar piping, electrical wiring, mechanical equipment or duct. Permits are not required for



roofing (where no structural replacement required), siding, gutters, trim, painting, papering, tiling, carpet, cabinets, countertops and similar finish work. Permits are also not required for exterior sidewalks and driveways, window and door replacement (opening size not modified), and minor repairs to plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems.

Q. Do I need a permit for my deck, fence or shed?

A. Decks adjacent to a dwelling require permits and inspections. Sheds less than 200 sq. ft. in area and fences less than 7 foot in height do not require building permits but do require zoning approval from the Township. At this time, there is no charge for zoning review and approval of residential sheds and fences.

Q. How do I get other questions answered?

A. Building Department staff is available to answer your questions Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. The inspector is normally in the office and available in the mornings only.

Supervisor, continued from page 1

commissions. For many years now the state has provided only \$1,500.00 per mile, per year for all gravel roads in Michigan. This includes gravel road improvements, winter plowing and summer maintenance. The amount is so deficient that it forces Superior Township to pay for road improvements and maintenance from the property tax.

In order to build roads to 21st century standards in Superior Township it will require a dedicated funding

source for roads and only roads. Your current millage supports funding for roads, fire, police, building inspection, assessing, planning and zoning, and all other functions that a township must provide. In the end, there is simply not enough funding to improve every road in the township and to maintain every road each year. There is a possible solution to make all our roads excellent all the time. It is to create two special assessment districts (SAD) dedicated only to roads. One district can be for roads north of Geddes road, and a second one for roads south of Geddes road. A special assessment

Supervisor, continued from page 10

would be paid to the township annually and every dollar collected would be dedicated to road purposes only.

The north district would be charged around \$80 per year, and the south district around \$40 per year. Special assessment districts are for specific purposes and for limited times. A five year special assessment, along with state, county and additional township funding would finance the complete reconstruction of all roads in the township. At this point it's only a suggestion, but it has worked well in the other townships where it has been implemented. If the Township board considers the idea, there would be many public meetings and hearings to get public input and mutually decide if this idea should become a reality.

There's still nothing but good news about housing prices in all our subdivisions. Homeowners continue to experience rising values. Superior Township issued 88 new construction permits for single family homes in 2017. The 2017 total tentative state equalized value (SEV) for Superior Township is \$702,382,490; and the township-wide tentative taxable value for 2017 is \$609,130,081. All housing in Superior Township is experiencing strong and durable increasing value, and it's safe to say that we are back from the 2008-10 national housing devaluation.

In April 2014 Superior Township received a Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$505,000.00. The intent of the SAW grant program was to determine the overall condition of the sanitary sewer system throughout the township and develop an asset management plan utilizing practices to maintain and improve water quality. I'm happy to report that the SAW grant is coming to a close on May 8, 2017. The majority of sewer lines were televised and over 800 manholes inspected. We now know the exact condition of oldest sewers in the township and have a new capital improvement plan to attack the weaknesses discovered over the next five years. The pipes, pumps and lift stations were not the only structures inspected, so were our utility accounting and financial management. The Superior Township Util-

ity Financial System was rated very well managed by the MDEQ. It is expected that Superior Township will implement the necessary sewer improvements without an increase in rates. Of course when YCUA receives a water rate increase from the Great Lakes Water Authority, YCUA will pass it along to Superior customers. The same pass-through applies to water rates received from city of Ann Arbor. A complete SAW grant final report will be available for review at the township hall after May 8th.

On January 30th the utility department hired Ms. Mary Burton as the new office manager of the utilities billing system. Mary has been very impressive in her first few months and if any utility customer has a billing issue, you can contact Mary at 734-480-5500.

On a final note, Donald Staebler, living virtually all of his life in Superior Township recently passed away at the age of 106 ½. Many residents of the Dixboro area knew Donald for many decades. He was a wonderful person and a good man. He will be remembered for many years to come for his years of service to the township and by the generous sale and gift of his beautiful farmstead and farmland on Plymouth Road near Curtis Road to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department for establishment of a county farm park. At the time of sale Donald reserved onto himself a life estate for the house. Don was in his 90s when he cut the deal with county and then promptly lived for another fifteen years on the property due to his extreme longevity.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation has now started to formulate a master plan for the farm. The farm includes shoreline on two lakes, two ponds, Fleming Creek and a complete set of farmstead buildings. For more information please contact the Washtenaw County Parks Commission at 734-971-6337.

Superior Township residents that want to talk about roads, utilities or any other matter important to you, feel free to call me at 734-482-6099.

Superior Charter Township
Superior Scenes Editor
Nancy Caviston, Trustee
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township, MI 48198
education@superior-twp.org
734-482-6099
Fax 734-482-3842

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
YPSILANTI, MI
PERMIT NO 489**

Our Township is Superior!

Email:

kenschwartz@superior-twp.org
lynettefindley@superior-twp.org
brendamckinney@superior-twp.org



This is printed
on recycled
paper.

Our Superior Fire Department

Chief Vic Chevrette



I am pleased to write this column and update you on what is happening within your Fire Department. With springtime rapidly approaching, many of our residents will be outside conducting spring cleanup. As a friendly reminder, you must follow the requirement for "Burn Permits."

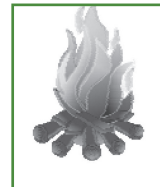
In April, Washtenaw County Emergency Management will begin conducting their annual "Tornado Siren Test." This test is on the first Saturday of every month at 12 o'clock noon.

In October 2016, your Fire Department received a FEMA Grant to replace our aging Ladder Truck. The new 2017 KME Ladder Truck is expected to be delivered in January 2018. We are excited about this new vehicle to serve the residents of Superior Township.

Burn Permits

There are limitations to burning within the Township. There are specific restrictions based on where you live in the Township. The size of the lot you have, weather conditions and types of material as to whether you can burn. All details regarding open burning are found in Superior Township Ordinance 185:

Burning Ordinance (http://superior-twp-org/news/ord_185_burning_final.pdf). The first step is obtaining an Application for Open Burning and having it approved by the Township Clerk's Office and the Fire Chief. Then a Burn Permit must be obtained from the Fire Department at (734) 484-1996, prior to any open burning.



The American Red Cross is conducting FREE smoke alarm installations and inspections. You can go to their website at redcross.org/local/Michigan/home-fire-campaign or call 734-971-5300 for further information.

