

October, 2015

Superior Township	Board of Trustees	
Kenneth Schwartz	Supervisor	
David Phillips	Clerk	
Brenda McKinney	Treasurer	
Nancy Caviston	Trustee	
Lisa Lewis	Trustee	
Alex Williams	Trustee	
Rodrick Green	Trustee	
On the	e Web:	
www.super	rior-twp.org	
734-482-6099		
734-482-3842 Fax		
Water & Sewer Services		
575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, Mi		
734-48	0-5500	
Office hours 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM		
24/7 Emerg	ency Service	
For Water & Sewer Emergencies		
Superior Township Fire Department		
7999 Ford Road		
Ford and Prospect Roads		
Ypsilanti, MI 48198		
	4-1996	
	ncy dial 911	
Fire Station #2		
	and MacArthur	
Dial 911 for	Emergencies	
	lecreation	
	ad, Ypsilanti, Mi	
734-480-5502		
	iston, Editor	
C/O 3040 N. Prospect Road		
Ypsilanti, MI 48198		
734-482-6099		
education@su	perlor-twp.org	

Inside this issue:

News from our - Superior Clerk - Parks & Recreation	2
News from our - Superior Treasurer	3
News from our - Committee to Promote Superior Twp - Election Information	4
Superior News - Utilities - Wetlands	5
Our Superior News - Neighborhood Watch - County Clean-up Day	6
Our Superior - YDL District Library - Fire Department	7 8

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

From our Superior Supervisor

In the spring issue of *Superior Scenes*, I described the various road projects approved for Superior Township in 2015. With the road construction season almost behind us, I can report that the following roads have been addressed:

- 1. MacArthur Boulevard has been repaved from Clark Road to Harris Road.
- 2. Harris Road has been repaved from Mac-Arthur Boulevard to Geddes Road.
- Superior Road has been repayed from the Geddes Road roundabout to Huron River Drive with a new railroad crossing.
- 4. Curtis Road has been resurfaced from Plymouth Road to Joy Road.
- 5. The Plymouth Road/Old Ford Road safety improvement with a three-way traffic light is complete.

 The Plymouth Road/ Curtis Road safety improvement with a new left-hand turn lane and a flashing yellow light is complete.

The following projects have started and will be completed by October 31st:



Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor

- 1. Repaving Short Street in Dixboro with improve shoulders.
- 2. Repaving the eastern 2/3 of Church Street in Dixboro.
- 3. Repaving Stamford Road from Wiard Road to Panama Avenue.

Unfortunately, we were unable to reconstruct Vorhies Road this year.

Continued on page 7

News from our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie

Pumpkin Carving/Arts & Crafts

Date & Time: October 17, 2015 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain Date & Time: October 24, 2015 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location: Norfolk Park Pumpkin Carving (pumpkins & supplies for Arts & Crafts provided) Refreshments: Provided Cost: FREE

Join us!



News from our Superior Clerk

Voting Precincts 2 and 4 Moved From Cheney Academy

Precinct 2 voters will vote at the Abundant Life Ministries Church located at 855 E. Clark Road (1/4 mile east of Prospect).

Precinct 4 voters will vote at the Christian Love Fellowship Church located at 1601 Stamford Road (across Stamford and just east of Cheney Academy).

Cheney Academy closed and is no longer available for use as a voting precinct. The school served our voters well for over 30 years. Space for use as a voting precinct is difficult to obtain. There are few facilities in our Township that have adequate space and parking and are able to meet the State requirements. Fortunately, two churches in our community offered us space in their buildings. I would like to thank the Abundant Life Ministries Church and Christian Love Fellowship Church for allowing us to use their facilities. Their cooperation and generosity is greatly appreciated.

In August, all voters in Precincts 2 and 4 were mailed new voter identification cards, which contained the address of the new voting precincts. I will post signs at Cheney Academy to direct voters to their new precincts. In order to reduce the traffic at the new precincts, I would encourage all who are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your new voting precinct: David Phillips, Clerk, telephone 734-482-6099.

It's Easy to Vote by Absentee Ballot

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 or to be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voters list. Once placed on this 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 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 religion; I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct in which 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 (8:30 a,m, to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday) and from 8:30 a,m, to 2:00 p,m. on 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.

Our Superior Parks & Recreation

Keith Lockie, the Parks Administrator for nearly 20 years, is preparing to retire, and we are sad to see him go. He has directed the department through many positive changes, including arranging for enhancements to all our parks and acquisition of new ones, enabling evolving recreation plans, and overseeing big changes in operations, all while keeping the Parks Department on good financial ground. We will miss him!

We ask you to join us in welcoming our new Parks Administrator, Juan Bradford, who will begin the job on October 6. Juan was chosen from among 6 excellent candidates for this position, and he brings extensive qualifications to the job. He has worked for the City of Wayne for nearly 30 years in many capacities, and is now finishing as Interim Director of Parks

and Recreation there. Juan is familiar with all aspects of Parks and Recreation, and is enthusiastic and eager to begin his new position with us!



Parks Administrator Juan Bradford

News from our Superior 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.



Brenda L. McKinney, Treasurer

	Y	our Tax Dollars at Work - 2014	
Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,458,772	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,558,267
Plymouth Schools:	\$ 254,954	Township Tax:	\$ 463,881
Ypsi Comm Schools:	\$ 4,648,258	Fire Department Tax:	\$ 1,698,855
State Education:	\$ 3,463,469	Law Fund Tax:	\$ 1,274,133
Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 576,254	Legal Defense Fund:	\$ 141,551
Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 404,476	Wash Comm College:	\$ 1,954,081
Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,111,020	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,028
Wayne RESA:	\$ 121,747		

In addition, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$408,749, 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 6,022 parcels, 320 went delinquent. The total amount delinquent was \$679,875 and was turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 2, 2015.

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 5:00 PM on December 28, 29, and 30. Superior Township offices are closed on December 31; however, the Treasurer's Office will be open for payment of taxes on that day from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Treasurer's Office will be open on February 29 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 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., Ypsilanti, 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 5)

Committee to Promote Superior Township

Brenda Baker

- ... A historical settlement trail
- ... A world-class hospital
- ... Orchards and farmers' markets
- ... Parks and nature preserves
- ... A well-run humane society
- ... The village of Dixboro

This is just a sampling of the places and features that help make our 36-square-mile township **One Superior Place**. Highlighting such amenities is one of the strategies employed by the Committee to Promote Superior Township in our quest to make residents more aware of where we live.

So we have prepared short write-ups about some of the more prominent or interesting of these. That's nice. But it's just an exercise unless someone reads them.

The Committee's mission is 'to foster pride, unity, and a sense of place among Superior Township residents.' To get the word out about how special and unique our community is, we need communication "channels" to reach you—our target audience of Superior Township residents. This newsletter is one such channel.

Another communication channel is the Superior Township website, www.superior-twp.org. Our Township website is not as snazzy as those of some larger townships, but it is attractive, functional, and very low cost (provided by Washtenaw County). The drawback of this particular communication channel is that few people visit the site. Perhaps residents would be more inclined to visit if they knew how much useful information can be found there.

One of the most useful areas of the site is the homepage that comes up when you first access the site. There, notices are posted about topics of interest to Superior Township residents. These postings are well maintained and generally remain current.

From that homepage, there is a menu across the top, and a different menu down the right-hand side. Navigation is fairly easy for finding information about Township government; boards and commissions meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes; documents such as Township Ordinances, Master Plan, and Engineering Standards; complete information related to voting and taxes; and more...including, of course, **One Superior Place**.

Click on **One Superior Place** on the menu to the right, and get a brief description of the Committee to Promote Superior Township. More important, click again on Superior Places on the right-hand of the screen to access write-ups about some of the places that make our Township Superior.

Election Information

David Phillips

There are three elections scheduled for the Township in 2016. March 8 is the Presidential Primary; all other primaries will be held August 2, and November 8, 2016 is the general election. Many of the federal, state, county and local offices will be on the ballot of the primary and general election. In Superior Township, terms for the following positions expire in November 2016: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, four Trustee positions and seven Parks Commissioners.

The Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer are full-time positions and entail various statutory duties. Certain skills would be very helpful to be successful in these positions.

Candidates for the local offices are on the August primary election ballot, with successful candidates advancing to the

November general election.

In order to be on the ballot of the August primary, local candidates must file an Affidavit of Identity and Nominating Petitions with the required number of valid signatures by 4:00 pm on April 19, 2016. Candidates must also file campaign finance forms with the County Clerk's office.

Additional info can be obtained at: http://michigan.gov/ sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8721_11839—,00.html or you can contact me, your Township Clerk.

Requirements for write-in candidates vary from above. All of the above local positions are four-year terms.

From our Superior Utilities . . .

Department News:

Earlier this year, the Utility Department built a new pole barn on the Maintenance Facility's grounds at 9699 MacArthur Blvd. This new storage building allowed us to remove the previous pole barn at the corner of MacArthur and Harris.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

- The business office is located at 575 E. Clark Rd. (@Prospect Rd.) & has 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 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 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- 2) What are my payment options?
- Payments made in our office drop box or by mail can be by check or money order.
- Payments made in person can be by check, money order or cash.

Our Superior Wetlands

Surrounded by urban sprawl, Superior Township has managed to remain largely rural, somehow shielded from the growth and expansion that seems to plague our surrounding communities. How? The Township works with several organizations, some focused solely on our township and others focused on a much larger area, and each of these groups needs the help of individuals to help with identifying potential areas of action. Each year, watershed clean-up events

(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

 Credit card, with fee (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

3) 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.

4) What do I do if 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.

take place which require volunteers walking the drains, creeks, and rivers identifying dump sites to address.

We must be the eyes and ears of these groups. Our hikes, our jogs, and our Sunday afternoon drives give us a unique chance to see changes in the local environment first hand, in real time. We, as residents of this beautiful Township, have the support of a vast, intricate network of dedicated groups ready to plan events based on what we observe, fully prepared to turn out en masse to ensure that our Superior Township's natural areas are protected.

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 deferment applications must be signed and returned by September 14. Winter tax deferment applications must be signed and returned by February 14.

Page 6

Township Places New Emphasis on Ordinance and Blight Enforcement and Hires New Ordinance Officer

You may have noticed improvement in the appearance of some of our neighborhoods. Roads have been repaved, new trees have been planted, existing trees have been pruned, the walking paths have been seal-coated, you don't see garbage cans lining the streets for days after pick-up and some blighted areas have been cleaned. Township officials have implemented these actions in order to maintain and improve property values, improve our quality of life and make our Township even more "Superior".

Superior Township recently hired Ronald Peatry as the Ordinance Officer. He has been busy working with resident to improve our community. If you have comments or complaints concerning ordinance enforcement or blight, please contact Supervisor Ken Schwartz, 734-482-6099 or kenschwartz@superior-twp.org.

Yard waste Pickup Ends on November 30. Please do not put yard waste bags out for pickup after November 30.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch can be an effective means of assisting community law enforcement. It relies on community awareness, involvement and communication. A well-functioning Neighborhood Watch program can reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our community.

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

The next meeting will be on November 24 at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Road, across the parking lot from the Township Hall. JOIN US!



County Clean-up Day, October 17th

Alex Williams, Trustee

As in previous years, the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program in conjunction with Superior Township, Eastern Michigan University, and the City of Ann Arbor will be hosting a county-wide clean-up day from 9am – 2 pm on October 17th in the parking lot on N. Hewitt Rd. across the street from EMU's Rynearson Stadium.

This event will accept recyclable material, electronics, and household hazardous material. This includes glass, cardboard, paper, scrap metal, cleaning supplies, motor oil, paint, pesticides, sharps, freon appliances, furniture, tires, computers, televisions, monitors, printers, and more. Household garbage is not accepted.

This clean-up event is for Washtenaw County residents, not businesses. The event is free; however, 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 600 participating vehicles over a 5 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 activity from April – November, 9am – Noon, on the first three Saturdays of each month at their Zeeb Road collection center.

For more information about this and other Washtenaw County recycling initiatives, visit: www.ewashtenaw.org/ government/departments/environmental_health/ recycling_home_toxics or perform a web search for Washtenaw recycling.

(Continued from page 1) Supervisor

Over the last two years the Township has adopted and implemented a new strategy to maintain and improve gravel roads. We have surveyed and identified the most severely degraded and deficient segments of gravel roads for treatment. We treated and repaired segments of the following gravel roads with over 3,500 tons of limestone: Gale, Warren, Joy, Cherry Hill, Gotfredson and Hickman roads. We also improved many gravel intersections with an application of thick limestone. For the second year in a row we will apply dust control and grading for the entire Township three times: Twice this summer, and there will be a final application this fall to provide better roads for the winter season.

This summer the Washtenaw County Road Commission was sued by activists over the design of ADA ramps in subdivisions with curb-and-gutter. As a result, no repaving occurred on urban subdivision roads this year. The WCRC informs me that they believe the litigation will be resolved before the next road construction season. So I expect the Township Board will address the road conditions on all cul-de-sacs, Panama Avenue and other urban road sections that are in dire need.

This summer we started a street lighting replacement project with DTE. All mercury vapor lamps in the Township have been replaced with LED street lights. The Washington Square, Harvest Lane and Panama subdivisions are complete. We are already seeing greatly reduced energy costs and improved lighting. Over the winter the Township will embark on a street tree trimming program to ensure that each streetlight is free of tree limbs, leaves and other obstructions to increase visibility on our streets and sidewalks.

Next spring the Oakbrook subdivision will see lamppost replacement with upgraded lamps and posts on cement bases, if DTE can deliver at an affordable price.

31st Superior Township led all townships in Washtenaw County in increased value to tax roll through new residential construction. New residential construction added \$7,344,000 in value to the Township.

The housing buildout of existing subdivisions continues to grow at a pace not seen since the early 2000's. Housing values throughout the Township are rising briskly with many of our older subdivisions seeing as much as a 40% increase in the value of their homes. This is good news for our residents. The greatest increases are in our solid, middle-class neighborhoods. As these values continue to rise, the new revenue generated will be used to provide Township services and infrastructure to further reinforce this positive trend.

While on the issue of neighborhoods, I'm very proud to say that through fair and strong enforcement of blight and building code violations, Superior Township is practically blight free. The Board of Trustees, working through the Township Treasurer, Brenda McKinney, has identified all blighted structures on the county tax sale and purchased these homes. In turn, we will sell these homes to Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley for the exact amount we expended. Habitat for Humanity will completely rebuild these homes and sell them to families. If followed systematically in the future we can avoid blighted properties falling into the hands of absentee landlords who rarely bring the houses back to code without a fight. If you see any blight in the Township you believe needs to be addressed, please call me at the Township Hall.

Finally, I'm delighted to report that after a decade of litigation, crime, blight and horror stories, the Township purchased the MacArthur Boulevard party store. This notorious symbol of decay, blight and social disorder will be demolished by Thanksgiving.

I'm very pleased to report that from January 1st through May

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any Township issue, feel free to call me at 482-6099. I hope you have a warm and happy Holiday season.

Ypsilanti District Library

A note from YDL's new Director

Hello! I'm Lisa Hoenig, a longtime Superior Township resident. After 25 years as a librarian, including 10 as a director, I'm delighted to now be a part of our own Ypsilanti District Library. The wonderful staff and services of YDL should be a true point of pride for every resident. The Library offers exciting free activities for all ages, computers that connect you to the world, materials to educate, inform, and entertain, and great service with a smile. Did you know the Superior branch

offers free tutoring for grades K-8 on Mondays from 4-6 p.m.? Or that you can request books and movies from libraries all over the state, and pick up them at your branch or the Navigator bookmobile? I'm eager to learn how you use this valuable community resource, and how we can serve you best. Please drop in soon to say "hello" back to me, get a library card if you don't already have one, and check out all the great things your Library delivers.

Chief Vic Chevrette

Our Superior Fire Department

As your new Fire Chief for the Superior Township Fire Department, I am pleased to write this column and update you on what is happening within your Fire Department. October 4th to 10th 2015 is Fire Prevention Week. In keeping with this year's theme from the National Fire Protection Association, "Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP," every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm. Free smoke detectors are installed by your Local Chapter of the American Red Cross by calling 734-971-5300 Ext 229.

In September the Fire Department was awarded a \$355,000 FEMA Grant. This grant was written to be shared and equip 15 Fire Departments within Washtenaw County with Firefighter Rescue Equipment. The equipment will be used for the specialized rescue of trapped firefighters.

Also in October, your Fire Department will be taking delivery of a new 2016 KME Fire Engine. This state of the art much needed Fire Engine will be replacing our 1990 FMC Spartan Fire Engine. We are excited and anxiously await this new delivery.

Lastly, with colder weather within the next few months, we ask citizens using wood to heat their homes, to please maintain and clean your chimneys to prevent a chimney fire.

Burn Permits

There are limitations to burning within the Township. There are specific restrictions based on where you live in the Township, size of lot you have, weather conditions, and type of materials you can burn. All details regarding open burning are found in Superior Township Ordinance 185 a copy of which is available on our web-site. The first step is obtaining an application for Open Burning and having it approved by the Township Clerk's Office and the Fire Chief. A Burn Permit must be obtained from the Fire Department at (734) 484-1996, prior to any open burning.



New Superior Fire Chief Vic Chevrette

Superior Charter Township Superior Scenes Editor Nancy Caviston, Trustee 3040 N. Prospect Road Ypsilanti, 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@superlor-twp.org davldphillips@superlor-twp.org brendamckinney@superlor-twp.org

