

Volume 12 Issue 1

April, 2012

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

From our Superior Supervisor . . .

Superior Township Board of Trustees
William McFarlane Supervisor
David Phillips Clerk
Brenda McKinney Treasurer
Nancy Caviston Trustee
Lisa Lewis Trustee
Alex Williams Trustee
Rodrick Green Trustee

On the Web:

www.superior-twp.org

734-482-6099

734-482-3842 Fax

Water & Sewer Services

575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, 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

Ypsilanti, 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 Rd, Ypsilanti, MI

734-480-5502

Nancy Caviston, Editor

C/O 3040 N. Prospect Road

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Superior Township's financial status remains strong. In fact, our bond rating was recently increased from AA- to AA. All Township funds remain strong in spite of the overall economy. This is because the Township continually makes strategic evaluations of all department budgets and approves only the most necessary expenditures based on the revenue received. I would like to note that Superior Township's employees recognize the Township's budget constraints and they have stepped up to work as a team to continue providing quality service to our residents. They deserve our appreciation.

There are some new building projects in the Township. The Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc. is expanding, adding jobs and tax revenue. A public charter school, South Pointe Scholars Academy, is being devel-

oped at the corner of Ridge and Geddes Roads by the National Heritage Academy Corporation. Potential improvements to the intersection of Geddes and Ridge Roads will be paid for by the new school. Lastly, Superior Township is working with the Ypsilanti District Library to locate an expanded branch library in Superior Township.

The Township Police and Fire millages expire this year and will be on the ballot for renewal this August. The Township can continue the same level of service without asking for increased millages even though taxable land



William McFarlane
Supervisor

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News from our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie

Spring/Summer/Fall Fun in Superior Township Parks!

Mark your calendars! Your Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department is scheduling Saturday fun days for kids of all ages. Events will be held on 5 different Saturdays, each with a special theme. All events are free to the public and have fun activities with lunch or snacks.

- May 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakbrook Park (Berkshire Dr.) – Planting in the Park
- June 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fireman's Park (MacArthur @ Harris) – Kite & Rocket

Building



- July 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakbrook Park (Berkshire Dr.) – Kickball
- August 11, Noon to 3 p.m. at Community Park (Stamford Rd.) – 3 on 3 Basketball
- October 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Norfolk Park (Norfolk Dr.) – Pumpkin Carving/Arts & Crafts
- Please visit www.superior-twp.org for further information.

Hope to see you there!

News from our Superior Clerk

May 8, 2012 Ann Arbor School Election

On Tuesday, May, 8, 2012, voters who Reside in the Ann Arbor School District will be voting on the Ann Arbor Public Schools Technology Improvements Bond Proposal. Precincts 1 and 5 will Vote at the Township Hall.

Voters are being asked to approve the Ann Arbor Public Schools request to borrow \$45,855,000 to be used to acquire and install technology instruction and equipment in the School District and to pay for the associated remodeling, equipping and furnishing of existing School District buildings. The last day to register to vote for this election is April 9, 2012. If you are expecting to be out of the community on Election Day, are 60 years of age or older, or are disabled, you may apply for an Absent Voter Ballot. You may use a pre-printed form or send a letter requesting the AV Ballot. The law states you must: (1) give the reason for needing the Absent Voter Ballot, (2) state where you want the ballot sent, (3) sign the request (must be an original signature), and (4) date the request. Forward the request to David Phillips, Superior Township Clerk, 3040 North Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. You may also come into the Township Hall prior to the election, fill out the application and pick up an AV Ballot at the same time. The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent

Voter Ballot requests 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 #14, or email: davidphillips@superior-twp.org.



David Phillips
Clerk

Precinct 1 to be Moved for August 7, 2012 Election

Precinct 1 has been located at the Township Hall for many years. You may have noticed that on busy election days the Township Hall can become rather crowded. The Dixboro United Methodist Church has graciously offered their Fellowship Hall for use as a polling location. In order to reduce crowding and increase the convenience for voters, beginning with the August 7, 2012 Primary Election, voters assigned to Precinct 1 will be voting at the Dixboro United Methodist Church located at 5221 Church Street in the Dixboro community. Voting locations for all other Precincts will remain the same.

Congressional District and County Commissioner District Changes

As a result of the 2011 Reapportionment process, several

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Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

Neighborhood Watch is an effective program to reduce crime in our community. It advocates community awareness, communication and preventative measures. John Hudson is the Township coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. If you would like to receive Neighborhood Watch information by email, contact jhudson300606MI@comcast.net. He will place you on his email alert list. His alerts include copies of monthly crime reports and up-to-the minute alerts received from the Sheriff's department and from citizens. Meetings are open to all and are usually held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday every other month. The meeting schedule for 2012 is:

May 22th, July 24th, September 25th and November 20th at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, across from Township Hall. A representative from the Sheriff's Department attends the meetings. Meeting topics include crime reports, security suggestions and trends in the Township.



(Continued from page 2) Clerk

political office districts were changed in Superior Township. Previously, all of Superior Township was contained in the 15th U.S. Congressional District. Michigan's U.S. Congressional Districts have been redrawn. All of Superior Township has been reassigned to the redrawn 12th U.S. Congressional District. Superior Township's Precinct 3 has been reassigned to the redrawn 6th County Commissioner District. Terms for these offices begin in 2013. Voters will be voting for candidates for both districts in the August 7, 2012 Primary Election and the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election. No other districts were changed in Superior Township. In May, 2012, all voters will receive new Voter Identification cards which will include the new polling location for Precinct 1 and the new office districts. Further information on the May 8, 2012 Ann Arbor School District election, the relocation of Precinct 1 and the Congressional and County Commissioner district changes can be viewed on the Township website, www.superior-twp.org.

Township Amends Ordinance No. 105, Burning Ordinance

As a result of requests from Township residents, Superior Township officials recently reviewed the existing Ordinance No. 105, Burning Ordinance. On January 17, 2012 the Board approved the adoption of amendments to the Burning Ordinance. Open fires are prohibited in Sections 33, 34 and 36 of the Township. In Sections 19 and 36, open fires are only allowed under very specific circumstances related to farming activities.

Open fires are allowed in the remaining Sections of the Township. However, residents must obtain a burn permit from the Fire Department. Residents who live in areas with nearby homes should be considerate of their neighbors and curtail any open fires. Smoke and open fires can create significant health and fire hazards. Complete copies of the Ordinances and more information are available on the Township's website, www.superior-twp.org/news.

Our Superior YDL Library

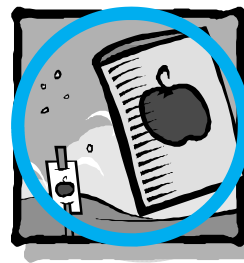
Ypsilanti District Library Superior is a busy place these days! You may see some new faces when you come by. Kim and Jason have both joined our staff recently. We have many great activities coming up.

- The following Saturday, April 21, children will decorate tin cans and plant herb seedlings in them.
- May will bring a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, Mother's Day Craft, and Seed "Bombs."
- Residents who reside in the Ypsilanti District Library service area can receive books, books on tape, and movies delivered to them at home. Call the Ypsilanti library at (734)482-4110, extension 1359, for more information on their "Books on Wheels" program.

For more information, go to www.ypsilibrary.org or call us at 482-4110, ext. 1391.

We hope to see you soon!

Mary Garboden
Head of Outreach Services
Ypsilanti District Library



Superior Recycling



Superior Township Residents Can Discard Yard Waste, Recyclables and Other Refuse at the Ypsilanti Township Compost Site at 2600 East Clark Road

The Ypsilanti Township Compost Site will accept yard waste (brush, grass, leaves, etc.), recyclables (antifreeze, motor oil, scrap metal, etc.) and other refuse (carpet, drywall and other certain types of construction debris) from Superior Township residents. The Compost Site is located at 2600 East Clark Road (Between Ford Blvd. and Ridge Road), Telephone: 734-482-6681. Their hours are: from April to November, Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and

from December to March, Saturday only, 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. You will be required to pay at the Compost Site. However, if you forward your Compost Site invoice to Superior Township, the Township will reimburse Superior Township residents a maximum of \$50.00, one-time per calendar year. For a complete list of items they accept and costs, please see Ypsilanti Township's website: www.ytown.org or Superior Township's website www.superior-twp.org.

One Superior Place

Committee to Promote Superior Township

You may know that the Committee to Promote Superior Township is a loosely formed group (whoever shows up!) whose mission is "to foster pride, unity and a sense of place among Superior Township residents." We are indeed privileged to live in such a unique and special community, yet with the hustle-bustle of daily life, it's easy to lose sight of the wonderful place we are immersed in.

The Committee constantly seeks to inform and remind all residents to appreciate and enjoy our One Superior Place. A sampling of what our Township has to offer for all residents to enjoy can be found in the "Superior Places" binder in the lobby at Township Hall; or on a bulletin board at the Superior Township library; or at www.superior-twp.org (choose One Superior Place, Superior Places). You can also find us at the Superior Township Green Fair on June 23, and at the Dixboro Fair on August 4.

Meanwhile, the Committee is working to engage more residents in loving where we live. We will be working together with the Township Parks Department on a youth (ages 6-12) flower-planting activity on May 19. We are connecting with

neighborhood groups to spread our message further, and we'd love to share information with anyone—a homeowners association, a neighborhood watch block, a church group, or just an individual. Call Township Hall (482-6099), ask for Deborah Kuehn, and she'll hook you up.

The Committee to Promote Superior Township meets at the Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd., on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Residents who want to participate, or simply learn more, are welcome and are encouraged to join us.



Totly Photography

News from our Superior Treasurer



Brenda L. McKinney
Treasurer

Your Tax Dollars at Work – 2011

Here is a brief Summary

• Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,343,542	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,193,328
• Plymouth Schools:	\$ 248,232	Township Tax:	\$ 474,979
• Willow Run Schools:	\$ 2,448,858	Fire Department Tax	\$1,582,947
• Ypsilanti Schools:	\$ 1,798,591	Law Fund Tax:	\$1,188,590
• State Education:	\$ 3,392,339	Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 385,882
• Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 578,400	Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,071,780
• Community College:	\$ 2,060,524	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,077
• Wayne ISD:	\$ 118,308		

In conclusion, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$417,015, which included county drain assessments, streetlights, Oakbrook and Washington Square side street maintenance, delinquent water bills, ordinance violations, false alarms and Hyundai Road Improvement. In addition, 604 parcels went delinquent. The total amount unpaid was \$1,228,556 and has been turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 1, 2012.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- As you know, 2011 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended February 29, 2012. Beginning March 1, 2012 taxes are now paid to the Washtenaw County Treasurer. If you have any questions regarding your 2011 taxes, please contact your county Treasurer.
- New homeowners, please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to receive the 100% homestead exemption on your property taxes by May 1st.
- Deferral notices will be mailed June 1st. For those who have applied, please sign and return by September 15th. 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 Veterans, Eligible Widow or Widower, Blind or Totally and Permanently Disabled may apply. Having a Deferral allows homeowners to pay taxes until April 30 without penalties.
- Please **DO NOT** use the P.O. address for mailing tax payments.
- **Taxpayers who use their bank service to make tax payments, please update the mailing to address to 3040 North Prospect, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.**
- If you do not receive a tax bill by the first week in July and December please give our office a call.
- Not receiving a tax bill **DOES NOT** waive penalty charges.

(Continued from page 1) Supervisor

values have decreased \$65 million and assessed values by about 22%. To make up for the lost revenue and still increase service, the Township was able to forge a partnership with the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. They are helping pay for an additional Sheriff's deputy to offset some of the demand at the hospital. The Township has also forged an agreement with the Ann Arbor Township Fire Department for automatic responses for fire-related requests for service. Both of these efforts have increased service at no additional cost to Township residents.

There continues to be pressure for development that is contrary to the adopted Master Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, the Township is considering placing on the August 7, 2012 ballot, a proposal for a .25 mill Levy to be used for

the legal defense of our plan and ordinance.

The Township is also considering expanding our contract with the Washtenaw County Road Commission for road improvements. The Road Commission will meet with the Superior Township Board of Trustees to discuss potential projects for 2012. The Township Board will attempt to fairly distribute the improvements throughout the entire township.

On a seasonal note, Superior Township will continue reimbursing Township residents up to \$50 per calendar year for trash or compost expenses with a receipt from the vendor.

Superior Township continues to be a unique place to call home. Enhancing the quality of life for our residents remains a top priority for your Township Elected Officials. In return, our community is blessed with a cultural and racial diversity that makes our residents *Superior*. Thank you.



One Superior Place - Green Fair



Please join us for a celebration of some of the things that make Superior Township a green community and One Superior Place.

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, the Superior Township Parks Department, Superior Land Preservation Society, Superior Land Conservancy, Ypsilanti District Library, Superior Township Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, Neighborhood Watch, Utility Department, Community & Economic Development, OHM, Republic Waste, PNC Bank, Superior Stables, Absopure Water, Voter registration and the Committee to Promote Superior Township will present the Township's annual Green Fair. Free Hot Dogs and Refreshments.

The fair will be held at the Superior Township Library, 8975 MacArthur Blvd. at Harris, and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Brenda L. McKinney, Treasurer



All is free...All are welcome!

Our Superior Utilities

Diana Rivis

SPECIAL NOTICE:

We have enhanced our online services by adding Discover Card as a payment option. You can pay your water/sewer bill online through your checking account, your savings account or by credit card (MasterCard or Discover Card only).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the department's hours, phone number and location?

- We are located at 575 East Clark Road (at the northeast corner of Prospect & Clark Roads).
- We can be reached by telephone at 734-480-5500.
- Our office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for scheduling appointments and making account information inquiries by phone.
- We can accept payments and inquiries through our drive-through window from 8:15 a.m. through 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- We have a payment drop box (located on the east side of the building) that is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, for water bill payments being made by check or money order.

2. What are my payment options?

- Payments made either through our drop box or by mail can be by check or money order.
- Payments made in person can be by check, money order or cash.
- Credit card (MasterCard and Discover only) and bank account payments (checking and savings accounts) can be made online by going to the Township's website www.superior-twp.org, then:

Click on: **Departments**, then

Click on: **Utilities**, then

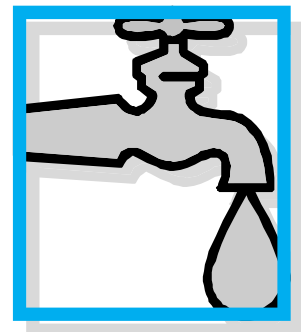
Click on: **Online Bill Payments** and just follow the instructions

3. 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 any-time, 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 address.

SAVING ON OUTSIDE WATERING COSTS

If you are planning on laying sod and/or planting new landscaping in the future, or if you believe you will be doing a lot of outside watering for any reason, we highly recommend that you consider purchasing a sprinkler meter in order to help reduce your water/sewer bills by up to as much as one third. Contact us at 734-480-5500 for additional information on sprinkler meters.



Superior Charter Township
Superior Scenes Editor
Nancy Caviston, Trustee
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734-482-6099 Fax 734-482-3842

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
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Our Township is Superior!

Email:

willammcfarlane@superior-twp.org
davidphillips@superior-twp.org
brendamckInney@superior-twp.org



*This is printed
on recycled
paper.*

Our Superior Fire Department

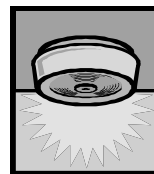
Chief James Roberts



Your Superior Township Fire Department has hired two new fire fighters within the past five months. Firefighter Christopher Wiggins' first day was November 9, 2011. He was formerly with the Van Buren Township Fire Department. Fire fighter Mark Polley was hired March 19, 2012 and was formerly with the Bruce/Romeo Fire Department. Last summer, our department advertised to hire fire fighters and received over 175 applications, many of whom had extensive fire backgrounds. Candidates were required to provide proof of Fire Fighter I and II certification, Basic EMT and Hazardous Materials. The evaluation process included oral interviews, a written test, a C-Pat, (Candidate Physical Ability Test), reference and background checks, and completing a psychological and physical exam. Fire fighters Polley and Wiggins are paramedics and they both scored high in all areas. They will work at Station Two on MacArthur Blvd.

Our department was recently given thirty battery operated smoke detectors and we would like to install them in

Superior Township homes. The limit is one per home and our department will do the installation. Please call us between 9AM and 4PM Monday through Friday to arrange for an appointment. First come, first served. Our number is 734-484-1996.



Limited supply of Smoke detectors available for installation

Welcome Fire Fighters
Wiggins and Polley



- Superior Township Fire Station # 1 Located at Ford and Prospect Road.
- Superior Township Fire Station #2 Located at Harris and MacArthur Blvd.