



April, 2015

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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On the Web:

www.superior-twp.org
734-482-6099
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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 Road, Ypsilanti, MI
734-480-5502

Nancy Caviston, Editor
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From our Superior Supervisor . . .

In last spring's **Superior Scenes** I reported to the residents of Superior Township the terrible conditions of our public roads due to the winter of 2014, and how I planned to address capital improvements and 2015 winter maintenance. Although the results are unscientific and very unofficial, the number of road complaints received this winter was negligible compared to 2014, so I'd like to declare a small victory for road improvements implemented last summer. Here's a short summary of what we did:

Last spring I promised to devise a road plan for the Township to improve drainage, grading and dust control on the gravel roads; and to repair, replace and seal our subdivision roads. Last summer we completely replaced the subdivision streets of Devon Street, Nottingham Drive, Manchester Drive, Clark Drive and Russett Road. These improvements

completed about 90% of the repairs in the Washington Square subdivision and upgraded other streets in our urban service district.

The Township and the County Road Commission identified the following gravel roads as severely degraded and deficient resulting in dangerous short segments of gravel roads embedded within stretches of gravel road in fair to good condition: We treated and repaired segments of First Street, Gale Road, Warren Road, Cherry Hill Road, Vreeland Road, Harris Road, Gotfredson Road and Vorhies Road with over 3,000 tons of limestone. In addition we applied dust control and graded the entire



Kenneth Schwartz,
Supervisor

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News from our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie



Join us for Superior Day

Date & Time: June 13, 2015 – 11:00 to 2 p.m.

Rain Date & Time: June 20, 2015 – 11:00 to 2 p.m.

Location: Oakbrook Park

Program: Games, Township & Recycling Information,
Book Give-away

Lunch: Barbecue - Provided

Cost: FREE



News from our Superior Clerk

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 Election

There will be a general election on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The ballot will include a statewide proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7%. The proposal includes a number of other actions that propose the following changes: funding for the School Aid Fund; funding of local units of government; how gasoline and diesel fuel are taxed; increased fees for vehicle registration; increase in the earned income tax credit; and, competitive bidding and warranties for road projects. These changes would provide additional money for roads and transportation purposes. Voters who reside in the Ann Arbor School District will also be voting on a proposal for the Public Schools of the City of Ann Arbor to borrow Thirty-Three Million Dollars (\$33,000,000) and issue its general obligation bonds for the purposes of making improvements to the school district. Sample ballots for all precincts are posted on the Township website, www.superior-twp.org. All five precincts will be open for voters at their usual location. For those of you who need to vote absentee, please see the following article. I have also placed information and forms on the Township website, www.superior-twp.org.

Voting Precincts 2 and 4 May Be Moved From Cheney Academy

Voters in Precincts 2 and 4 have voted at Cheney Academy for over 30 years. Cheney Academy closed as an elementary school in 2011. A portion of the school was used for an alternative education program until June of 2013, when it closed

completely. After the building was closed, maintenance was reduced. Voters may have noticed that the building was not as clean as it used to be and the lighting, heating or air conditioning may have been malfunctioning. In order to use the building for the May 5, 2015 special election, the plumbing, heating and lighting needed to be restored, and the building will have to be re-winterized prior to next winter.

These actions have become cost prohibitive. Unless Cheney Academy is re-opened and made available for voting, the Township will have to relocate the two voting precincts. I have had discussions with two churches in the area and following the May 5, 2015 election, I will probably begin arrangements to move precincts 2 and 4 to these new locations.

If the precincts are moved, I will mail you a letter explaining the move and new locations. I will also mail you a new voter registration card. The information will be posted on the Township's website, www.superior-twp.org, and I will make other efforts to notify voters of the change.

Because of the difficulties and possible moving of the precincts, I would encourage Precinct 2 and 4 voters who are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

It's Easy to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Voting by absentee ballot is easy and allows you to complete

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**David Phillips,
Clerk**

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. 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 May 26th 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.

Thank You for all Your Support!

I would like to thank all of the Superior Township residents who supported and donated blankets and food for the 2014 Blanket Express and Food Drive. Because of your generosity, we were able to collect over 1,100 blankets and five barrels of food. The blankets went to various charities in our community. The food donations went to local churches. We will be participating again in December of 2015.

Acts of Kindness

The long, cold, and snowy winter is over! I observed many acts of kindness this winter as neighbors helped neighbors to clear snow-covered driveways and walkways. Another reason why Superior Township is a superior place to live!

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

Total property tax billed for 2014 was estimated at \$23,540,504. The estimated total amount of property tax collected for 2014 was \$22,860,629 from 6,175 parcels. An estimated 320 parcels of property went delinquent. The total amount of estimated delinquent property tax was \$679,875. Superior Township collected 97.11% of the estimated taxes billed.

- As you know, the 2014 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended March 2, 2015. Beginning March 3, 2015, all delinquent 2014 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. 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.

- 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 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 1st for the summer property tax payments and February 1st 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.
- Homeowners who escrow their taxes should have their lender contact my office with their request for your tax bills and their correct mailing address.



Committee to Promote Superior Township

The Committee to Promote Superior Township expects to be busy again this year.

On June 13, we will have a table at Superior Day in Oakbrook Park. This free event is a great way to learn more about your Township, while spending an hour or two in a Township Park with activities (and park play equipment) for the kids, having a bite to eat, and meeting other residents and Township officials. Superior Day is put on by Superior Township and sponsors.

On June 27, the Committee will host a classic car exhibit, "Cars at the Crossroads" at Superior Township Hall (the crossroads being Prospect and Cherry Hill). From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, local car owners will display their vehicles for the inspection and admiration of the public. We invite all Superior Township car owners to display their "babies" at the event that will feature no entry fee, but no awards. We hope to augment the occasion with food and music, and hope that you will stop by, whether you are displaying a vehicle yourself or enjoying the pride of your fellow Superior Township residents.

In July, the Committee will work with the American Red Cross and Superior Township to facilitate a blood drive. This year's blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, July 18, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Last year's event met donation expectations, and we hope for similar success this year. Prospective blood donors must be in good general health and feeling well, be at least 18 years old, and weigh at least 110 lbs. This is a chance to give the gift of life to someone in our community.

Each Friday throughout the summer, the Committee will have information about many of the features that make our

Township Superior available at the Dixboro Farmers' Market. We encourage everyone to stop by the market to shop or browse, and check out our info while you're there.

In addition to these special days, the Committee is continuously updating and maintaining a catalogue of Superior Places—hard copies at Township Hall and at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library, as well as electronically at http://superior-twp.org/one_superior_place/driving_tours.html.

Also at the library, the staff has generously allocated bulletin board display space reserved for Superior Township. The Committee varies the display approximately monthly.

All of these activities are a means toward an end. The Committee to Promote Superior Township does not exist for the purpose of conducting events. The Committee's mission is "to foster pride, unity, and a sense of place among Superior Township residents."

Whether your mailing address is Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, or Plymouth, we are all "Superior-ites," and we comprise a Superior community. The Committee's most difficult challenge is reaching you, our fellow residents, to remind you how fortunate we all are. When someone asks where you live, consider telling them proudly that you are from Superior Township.

For more information on the Committee to Promote Superior Township or any of the events described, contact Carla Bisaro at 734-484-0074 or ckbisaro@comcast.net; Brenda Baker at 734-482-8084 or BakerPartin@aol.com; or call Township Hall at 734-482-6099.



The Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering FREE smoke alarm installations and inspections. They will change batteries and place up to four FREE smoke alarms in your home. This service is open to all home owners. The appointments last about twenty minutes. Call (734) 971-5300 ext. 229 to sign up. Or contact your local Fire station at (734) 484-1996. Smoke Alarms: Don't stay home without one (or more).

**Free Smoke detectors
installed**

**Call 734-971-5300 Ext 229
to sign up**

From our Superior Utilities . . .

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:

1. 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
- Our drive-through summer hours (May 4 through Oct. 2) are 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Office summer hours (May 4 through Oct. 2) are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Home appointments can be scheduled (May 4 through Oct. 2) between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2. 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](#)

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 any-time, day or night, seven days a week, at 734-480-5500 and we will check our sewer line for block-ages. We will then let you know if the problem is in our line, which we will take care of, or if it is a block-age within your house line, which you will need to contact a plumber or repair service to correct.



Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Quality Report

This report, containing important information about the source and quality of your water, is available online at www.ycua.org/waterreport.pdf.

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.

Clerk (Continued from page 2)

your ballot in the comfort of your home. Voters can contact the Clerk's office to request an application for an absentee ballot either verbally or in writing. Voters may also contact the Clerk's office and request 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 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 religion
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector

in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside

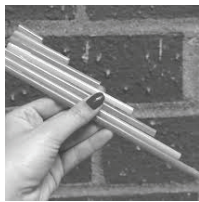
· I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

If you choose to submit a written request, 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. Upon approval and processing of your absentee ballot request, you will be mailed an absentee ballot. After you complete your absentee ballot, you are responsible to either return the ballot by U.S. mail or in person to the Clerk's Office at 3040 N. Prospect Road. 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. the Saturday preceding each election. If you have any questions, please contact David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #14, or e-mail: davidphillips@superior-twp.org

Our Superior Branch Library

Spring has sprung at the Superior Township Branch Library!

We have a number of events scheduled for this spring. On April 25, we'll make musical instruments from drinking straws.



Our weekly Tuesday morning story times continue through April 21. Monday Drop-in Tutoring continues through June 15. The tutoring is for all subjects, grades K-8. Bring the kids anytime between 4-6pm. Stay tuned for our lineup of awesome summer activities, including Lunch & Listen, Story times, our Learning Garden, and more!

From Superior Fire. . .

Have you ever wondered where you can purchase those reflective address signs that you see at your neighbor's driveway?



Reflective Address Signs are available for purchase at the fire department. These reflective signs are custom assembled for your address. They can be mounted either horizontally or vertically depending on your needs.

If you would like to order a sign, please call Fire Station #1 at (734) 484-1996.

Our Wetlands Board

Jim McIntyre

Phragmites Mitigation

The topic of invasive species and protecting our native flora and fauna has been widely discussed recently, so much so that even the Governor issued a call to action in his recent State of the State address. One of the most visible (and pervasive) invasives we deal with here in Superior Township is Phragmites Australis, also known as the common reed. Phragmites thrives in wetlands, ditches, and along waterways—replacing native species while it spreads and reducing overall ecological health and biodiversity in the process.

Recently, Superior Township has begun a local initiative aimed at raising public awareness of phragmites and the threats it poses to our local ecology. We are partnering with several large land holders in the Township to more effectively and consistently work to mitigate the areas of phragmites that have been identified in the Township. This initiative will consist of three distinct elements: educating residents about phragmites; identifying and mapping problem areas where phragmites has taken hold; and taking appropriate action to mitigate any phragmites stands on Township property.

Residents are encouraged to take steps to identify phragmites on their property, and to understand how to most effectively manage this invasive species should it be encountered.



Some important tips to remember when dealing with phragmites:

- A significant portion of the plant exists underground in the form of rhizomes, which are very effective at helping the plant take hold, spread, and choke out any other native plants in the habitat.
- Cutting, mowing, burning, and/or chemical treatments are **largely ineffective**, unless a very specific removal protocol is followed (see links below).

- A native phragmites (*Phragmites Americanus*) species does exist. It is far less prolific and easily distinguished from its invasive cousin.

To better understand how to identify phragmites visit <http://www.invasiveplants.net/phragmites/phrag/morph.htm> or <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/phragmites/phragmites-native-non-native.pdf>

- Effective mitigation techniques do exist and can be found in a variety of places. For more information on small-scale mitigation practices visit <http://www.oaklandphragmitestaskforce.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/OPIS-smallscale-Tri-fold-FNL-lr.pdf>

- The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is also a valuable resource for additional information. Visit them at www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives/.



From Your Superior Parks Department

One of the concerns for Parks workers in Superior Township is invasive species, and in Superior Township there are many of them. One of the species we've been concerned with lately is non-native phragmites, which you can see in many areas, including roadsides, wetlands, and possibly on your own property. This plant can reach 15 feet in height, but 80% of the plant is below the ground. Spreading by a dense mass of roots and rhizomes, once phragmites invades, it causes adverse ecological, economic, and social impacts, including threatening wetlands, displacing natural vegetation, and reducing wildlife habitat. Our hardworking Parks Maintenance staff is tackling the challenge that phragmites presents, and we encourage all Superior residents to help remove this invader from the Township. You can find more information above, thank you for helping to make our township Superior!

Supervisor (Continued from page 1)

Township three times, including a dust control and grading in late October for the first time. We believe this approach to gravel road maintenance was very successful, providing good winter results and relief to drivers throughout the Township. We will repeat this procedure this year by identifying and correcting additional areas of concern.

This summer you can expect to see many orange barrels throughout the Township as we have planned the single largest road replacement and safety improvements program in many years.

The following roads and safety improvements will be undertaken thanks to our partnership with Washtenaw County, the Washtenaw County Road Commission and the federal government:

1. MacArthur Blvd. will be completely replaced from Clark Road to Harris Road.
2. Harris Road will be completely replaced from MacArthur Blvd. to Geddes Road.
3. Superior Road will be completely replaced from the Geddes Road roundabout to Huron River Drive.
4. Curtis Road will be resurfaced from Plymouth Road to Joy Road.
5. The Plymouth and Ford Road intersection in Dixboro will see a significant safety improvement including a new intersection and a three-way traffic light.

6. The Plymouth and Curtis Road intersection will see a significant safety improvement with a new left-hand turn lane and a flashing yellow light.

I also propose, subject to Township Board approval, the following tentative additional road improvements:

1. The replacement of Short Street in Dixboro.
2. The replacement of the eastern two-thirds of Church Street in Dixboro.
3. The replacement of Stamford Road from Wiard Road to Panama Drive.
4. The replacement of Vorhies Road from Plymouth Road to M-14.

Obviously this will be a busy summer on the roads, and once the construction is completed, Superior Township will experience a significant improvement in road safety, driving comfort and road surface rehabilitation.

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 spring season.



How Does the Township Spend Your Money?



In compliance with State law, each and every year, Superior Township adopts a budget and is audited.

On October 20, 2014, the Superior Township Board of Trustees adopted the budgets for all funds for fiscal year 2015, which is from January 1 to December 31. The budget addresses all of the Township's spending.

You can view the Township's budgets at superior-twp.org/news/2015_budgets.doc

The Township's auditors, Pfeffer, Hanniford and Palka, CPA's, recently completed the Township's audit of fiscal year 2014. Results of the audit will be reported to the Board at an upcoming Board of Trustees' meeting and they will be reported to the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury. The Department of Treasury's web page contains the annual audit for all local units of government.

You can view Superior Township's audits by accessing the Department of Treasury's web page, http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1751_31038--,00.html



SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION'S 2015 Events



Kite & Rocket Building

Date & Time: July 18, 2015 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rain Date & Time: July 25, 2015 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: **Fireman's Park**
Program: Kite Making & Flying
Air Rocket Launches
Lunch: Provided
Cost: **FREE**



Dixboro Fair Book Giveaway

Date & Time: August 1, 2015 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: **Dixboro Green (Plymouth @ Cherry Hill Roads)**
Program: This event, sponsored by Dixboro United Methodist Church, is held in a beautiful outdoor setting, with all-day entertainment, food, activities and games.

Cost: **FREE**



Kickball

Date & Time: August 15, 2015 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rain Date & Time: August 22, 2015 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: **Oakbrook Park**
Program: Kickball Games & Crafts
Lunch: Provided
Cost: **FREE**



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**
Program: Pumpkin Carving (pumpkins & supplies provided)
Arts & Crafts (supplies provided)
Refreshments: Provided
Cost: **FREE**



For further information, please call
(734) 480-5502 or visit us at:
www.superior-twp.org
email: superiorparks@superior-twp.org

Our Superior Fire Department

Chief Brian Thurston



Put "ICE" In Your Cellphone

"ICE" stands for In Case of Emergency. By placing ICE contacts in your phone, an emergency worker can quickly scroll through your contacts list and identify your emergency contact. How does it work? Type in the acronym ICE by your emergency contact's name and phone number in your phone's contact directory. Save the number. Tell the person they are your contact. If you have more than one emergency contact, list them as ICE1, ICE2, and so on. If there is a need, the health worker or responder can scroll through the list and find your designated contacts. Pass this on to your friends and family.

Emergency Kits

Doing spring cleaning? Inspect your home, test your smoke alarms, be sure your water heater has a 3 feet clear area around it, make sure your plan for taking shelter from severe weather is known by all family members, clean out your weather shelter area and place emergency supplies there. Emergency supplies are items such as a flashlight, batteries, drinking water, first-aid kit, cell phone, blankets, and a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for "just in case."

More details on what items you should have in your emergency kit can be found at: <http://do1thing.com> and <http://www.michigan.gov/msp/>. Collect your supplies before you need them. Remember: "Just in Case..."

Burn permits

Can I burn a pile of brush on my property? 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: 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. A Burn Permit must be obtained from the Fire Department at (734) 484-1996, prior to any open burning.



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