

Volume 10 Issue 1

June, 2010

# Superior Scenes

**3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

**Superior Township Board of Trustees**  
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**David Phillips** Clerk  
**Brenda McKinney** Treasurer  
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**Lisa Lewis** Trustee  
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On the Web:

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

734-482-3842 Fax

Water & Sewer Services

575 E. Clark Road, 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

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## From our Superior Supervisor . . .

While the economy is showing signs of recovery, there are still residents in financial distress. Superior Township government understands that we must do more to lessen the financial burden on Township residents whenever possible. This means reducing the cost for residents to live in Superior Township and still maintain a high quality of life.

One way to keep costs down for residents is to NOT charge a 1% tax administration fee on all the property taxes collected. All communities are authorized to collect this fee. Superior Township is one of only two municipalities in Washtenaw County that do not. Instead, the township has adjusted expenditures to match the revenue and still not reduce service.

The Township Board chose to reduce the law enforcement millage and fire department millage without reducing service. An example is the addition of a summer deputy for June, July and August.

William McFarlane  
Supervisor

During the summer months, residents generally call in more requests for service from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's department. This additional officer will provide faster responses and the ability to do proactive patrol. The other nine months the deputy will work in the schools. In addition, Superior Township continues to collaborate with Ann Arbor Township on

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## Superior news you can use

Carla Bisaro

**DID YOU KNOW . . .** If you are homebound in Superior Township, and can't get to the library, the library will come to you.

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.

Residents who reside in the Ann Arbor Library service area can receive the same service by calling that library at

(734) 327-4220.

There are good things happening at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library! Kids can enjoy Wii games on Wednesdays, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. You can check out a Museum Adventure pass that provides free admission to numerous museums and cultural institutions in the S.E. Michigan area. More new programs are coming!

Please check [www.Ypsilibrary.org](http://www.Ypsilibrary.org), or call 734-482-3747 for more information.

## **News from our Superior Clerk**

There are two elections this year. On August 3, 2010 there will be a primary election. The winners of this primary election will advance to the November 2, 2010 general election. In the August 3, 2010 primary election and November 2, 2010 general election you will be voting on candidates for the statewide offices of Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State. Superior Township voters will be voting for State Senator for the 18<sup>th</sup> District and State Representative for the 54<sup>th</sup> District, as both current office holders are term limited. Superior Township voters will also vote for Washtenaw County Commissioners for District 5 and District 2, one seat on the Superior Township Parks Commission, Precinct Delegates and the 15th District Representative in the U.S. Congress. The November 2, 2010 ballot will include the proposal to convene a constitutional convention. Other proposals may be added on the ballot if enough signatures are obtained.

The last day to register to vote is July 6, 2010 for the August 3, 2010 primary and October 4, 2010 for the November 2, 2010 general election.

If you are expecting to be out of the community on Election

Day, are 60 years of age or older, or 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. Please forward the request to David Phillips, Superior Township Clerk, 3040 North Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Or, come into the Township Hall prior to the election, fill out the application and pick up an AV Ballot at the same time. AV Ballots are available until 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding the elections. The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Saturday preceding each election, July 31, 2010 and October 30, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact me, David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #14, or e-mail: [davidphillips@superior-twp.com](mailto:davidphillips@superior-twp.com).

David Phillips  
Clerk

## **Our Superior 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, including monthly crime reports and alerts, contact [Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net](mailto:Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net). He will place you on his e-mail 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 next meeting will be on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, across from Township Hall. Other meetings for 2010 are September 28 and November 23.

Sycamore Meadows Apartments conduct Neighborhood Watch meetings for their area. They meet at 5:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month in their community room. For further information please contact Sycamore Meadows Office at 483-4000.

## **Superior Planning Commission News**

The Superior Township Planning Commission has a vacancy for one Planning Commissioner. The Planning Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Township Hall. Planning Commissioners use the Township's Growth Management Plan, Zoning Ordinance and applicable law to make decisions and recommenda-

tions on rezoning properties, site plans, conditional uses and other land use issues. If you are interested in applying for the position, please forward a letter of interest with information on your qualifications by June 17, 2010 to David Phillips, Clerk, Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, via e-mail [davidphillips@superior-twp.org](mailto:davidphillips@superior-twp.org), or fax (734)-482-3842. For information, please telephone David Phillips, (734)-754-1419, extension 14.

## News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney

Brenda L. McKinney  
Treasurer

Property taxes are collected twice a year. Summer tax is collected July 1 through September 15 without penalty or interest. Postmark dates are not accepted. Beginning September 16 through September 30 a 1% interest charge will be added. An additional 1% interest charge will be added on the first of each month to the unpaid balance until February 28. Please remember that failure to receive a tax bill does not waive interest charges.

Winter tax collection is payable December 1 and is due by February 14. Please be sure before paying your winter taxes, that your summer taxes are paid. Any taxes that are not paid by February 28 will go to the Washtenaw County Treasurer's office. Beginning March 1, an additional 4% collection fee will be charged along with interest.

To pay taxes online visit our website at [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org). There is a \$15.00 bank charge per \$500.00 for credit card use. MasterCard and Discover are the only two credit cards that may be used. NO FEE is charged for using your checking or savings accounts.

Taxpayers, if you have recently purchased or re-financed a home and your taxes are escrowed make sure your new escrow company has forwarded the information to us. After

business hours, taxpayers may use our Treasurer's Drop Box for tax payments, which is located in the front entrance foyer of the Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd.

Deferment applications are available in our office for senior citizens, veterans, and farmers. They must be turned in by September 15.

Dog licenses are now available ONLY through the Washtenaw County Treasurer's office. However, we do have the application forms with a prepaid envelope here at the Township Hall for your convenience.

In conclusion, our Second Annual Green Fair will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010. The fair will be held at the Superior Township Library (8795 MacArthur Blvd. at Harris Road) and will run from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please join us as we celebrate some of the things that make Superior Township a green community and One Superior Place. Free hot dogs and free refreshments!

**ALL ARE WELCOME! LET US HELP SAVE OUR PLANET!**

## EECG Grant Awarded

### Township Awarded Grant for Energy Efficiency Renovations

On January 25, 2010, the State of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth Bureau of Energy Systems awarded Superior Township a grant for \$73,853 to complete energy efficiency renovations at the Township Hall and the Utility Department Administration Building. Renovations will include the installation of energy efficient lighting, several high efficiency furnaces, insulation improvements and other upgrades that will reduce the consumption of gas and electricity. The Township partnered with the Willow Run School District on the grant. The School District will use their share of the funds to install occupancy light sensors at the Cheney Academy.

Construction on the buildings is expected to start in June. The Township will continue to pursue methods to reduce utility bills in order to conserve natural resources and save precious tax dollars.



*(Continued from page 1) Supervisor*

shared deputy service.

Another way the Township government is working on solutions to support the economy is by participating in the Eastern Washtenaw County Leadership Group. This organization is a partnership among business, education, government and civic leaders and includes Superior Township, Ypsilanti Township, Ypsilanti City, Augusta Township, Washtenaw County and Eastern Michigan University. The goal is to improve job creation, promote development and support the revitalization of existing infrastructures. An example of the group's success is Spark East, a high tech business incubator located in downtown Ypsilanti. The Eastern Leadership Group is also involved with three local public school systems in eastern Washtenaw County. Understanding and assisting these schools to overcome challenges will only improve the quality of education and quality of life for all residents.

The Township has also pursued federal, state and local grants for other improvements to the quality of life in Superior Township. Examples are the proposed non-motorized trails for Geddes Road between Prospect and Harris Roads. This was a combination of Federal Highway Safety Grants and the Washtenaw County Parks funds. The Harris Road non-motorized trail between Geddes and MacArthur is a combination of Federal Urban County and Washtenaw County Parks funds. Both trails are scheduled for construction in 2010.

Plymouth Road is scheduled for resurfacing between M-153 Ford Road and Dixboro Road in 2012. In addition to the resurfacing, a non-motorized extension along Plymouth Road is proposed. This is being done with Federal Urban

County Highway and Washtenaw County Park funds. Improvements and traffic calming devices are also under consideration for the Plymouth and Cherry Hill Road intersection.

The Township has settled the Hummana lawsuit that was filed for a rezoning at the northwest corner of Prospect and Geddes Roads. Developers requested to change the zoning for a 235 unit residential housing development on a private community sewer and wells. Superior Township denied the zoning request and the developer sued for damages. The settlement allowed the Township to purchase 8.1 acres on the corner for a future Fire Department building. The Township purchased the development rights on the next 34 acres so the property will remain a farm forever. The remaining 29 acres, which includes the existing stables, as well as the farm lands for the Township development rights, was purchased by a horse farm. The horse farm will be able to place an agriculture support business on the 29 acres near the stable. This allows the Prospect corridor from Geddes to Ford to remain open for generations to come. The Township was able to make the purchases for below appraisal estimates using Fire Department Reserve funds and the Legal Defense/Purchase of Development Rights funds. The Superior Township Board is able to make such decisions by managing reserves and advantageously using those funds in a depressed market.

If there is a positive aspect to the economy being depressed it is the fact that requests for zoning changes for increased density have stopped. In the absence of development requests the Township Board and the Planning Commission are pursuing an update to the Master Plan. This will allow Superior Township to be in the best position to handle development requests when the economy turns around.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

## ***Our Superior Wetlands***

We are fortunate to have wetlands in our Township. Basically, wetlands are defined by the presence of water at a frequency and duration that supports wetlands vegetation or aquatic life. They are often called bogs, swamps or marshes.

Wetlands vegetation allows or requires the plant's root system to be in water or saturated soil.

Wetlands are an important part of our ecosystem that help to improve the quality of our streams, lakes, rivers and drinking water.



## Our Superior Utilities

Diana Ravis

**SPECIAL NOTICE: Effective Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, all water/sewer bill payments that are made in person will need to be taken to the Treasurer's Office at the Township Hall.**

The Township has recently been awarded a grant through a program whose purpose is to assist eligible cities, townships and counties in implementing energy efficiency and conservation projects. As a result of this award, some much needed energy saving improvements will be able to be made to the Utility Department Administration Building, the bulk of which will be paid for by the grant.

These improvements will include such things as replacing the furnace, entry doors and light fixtures, as well as sealing the attic and adding insulation to both the attic and the exterior building walls. Since the building will already be under construction, we will also be making some additional improvements at this time that had originally been planned for the future, such as replacing the drive through window, removing some partitions and other minor improvements.

Because of this, from June 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>, the building will be under a significant amount of construction and we will be unable to accept payments made in person at this location (575 East Clark Rd., corner of Prospect and Clark Roads). During this time period, Utility Department payments that are made in person will need to be taken to

the Treasurer's Office at Superior Township Hall (3040 North Prospect Road, corner of Prospect and Cherry Hill Roads).

This change only affects payments that would have been made either at our drive through window or lobby. We will continue to be able to accept online payments as usual as well as payments that are mailed to our regular address or that are placed in the drop box at the Utility Department Administration Building.

### SAVING ON SPRING/SUMMER 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.



## Our Superior Parks

Keith Locke

### Summer Fun in Superior Township Parks!

Mark your calendars! Your Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department is scheduling Saturday summer fun days for kids of all ages.

Events will be held on 3 different Saturdays, each with a special theme.

All events will have prizes and snacks.

♦ June 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fireman's Park (MacArthur @ Harris) will be Kite & Rocket Building. Build your own kite or air-powered rocket and fly high!!

\* July 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fireman's Park (MacArthur @ Harris) will be Bicycle Use & Safety. Bring your bike and learn the rules of the road and tips for keeping your bike in top shape!

\* August 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakbrook Park (Berkshire near Sheffield) will be Kickball. Come and play kickball with us!!

Please visit [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org) for further information.

Hope to see you there!



## One Superior Place

Sarah Moon

**The Committee to Promote Superior Township works to foster pride, unity and a sense of place among our residents. We do this by getting the word out about all of the wonderful things that make up the Township - the deep-rooted history, the wonderful scenic features, the diversity of our residents - and how it all comes together to create "One Superior Place."**

The group meets at Township Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend, whether to share ideas and suggestions, or ask questions and learn more about our Township. We invite you to get involved! Please feel free to drop in once, or join the group as a regular member.

**For more information please contact the Township offices at 734-482-6099.**

## Our Superior historic homes

Kay and Karl Williams



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS - AUGUST 22, 2010.**

On August 22 from noon to 5:00 p.m. the four Historic Districts in Superior Township will be open to the public as part of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Home Tour.

If you have driven on Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road in Superior Township you have passed these districts and probably have been intrigued by the two red brick homes close to the road, the red brick school house at Gotfredson, and the red barn near the road with a yellow house in the rear. Now is your chance to go in them, hear about their history, and walk around the grounds.

All four districts are within a mile of each other on the north side of the road between Prospect and Gotfredson. Heading east on Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road past Curtis, the first house you come to is the Italianate Watson Geer Home, built in 1884, which has been recently lovingly restored to its former beauty. Just a little further east is the Esek Pray

House, built in 1839, which has been well maintained over the years with the original design and woodwork. Further east you will see an 1850's red barn, part of the William McCormick Farm, with the 1838 farm house and many of the original outbuildings. As you continue east about 3/4 of a mile you will come to Geer School which has been restored to represent an 1880's school house with old-time school desks and vintage materials.

This is the first time in memory that all these sites have been open to the public. The tickets are \$10.00 before the event and \$12.00 on site. You can purchase the tickets at the Superior Township Hall or at Haab's Restaurant, Nelson Amos Studio, and Salt City Antiques in Ypsilanti; Downtown Home and Garden in Ann Arbor, and Saxton's Garden Center in Plymouth.

We hope to see you there. Appreciating our heritage is one of the things that makes our Township Superior.

## **Superior Township Green Fair**

**Please join us as we celebrate some of the things that make Superior Township a green community and One Superior Place!**

**(LET'S HELP SAVE OUR PLANET)**

**On Saturday, June 19, 2010, Superior Township Parks, Committee to Promote Superior Township, the Superior Land Preservation Society, Superior Land Conservancy, the Ypsilanti District Library, Danbury Park Apts., Sycamore Meadow Apts., Growing Hope, Washtenaw County Sheriff Dept, OHM Engineering Advisors, Hyundai, Republic Waste, The Pharmacy, Washtenaw Community College, Absopure Water, Washtenaw County Weatherization & WHEP will join Superior Township in presenting the Township's Second Green Fair.**

### **Attractions Will Include**

- **Hotdogs and refreshments.**
- **Health Walk, Blood Pressure Screening, Diabetes Information.**
- **Horses, Humane Society, Music, Book Give-a-ways, Games.**
- **Maps and information about parks and nature preserves.**
- **Demonstrations of why it's smart to recycle, reuse and reduce waste.**
- **Superior Township Fire Department, Sheriff Department, Neighborhood Watch, and Utility Department.**

**The fair will be held at the Superior Township Library (8795 MacArthur Blvd. at Harris Road) and run from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information contact Brenda McKinney, Treasurer.**

**All is free. . . . All are welcome!**

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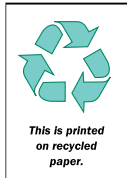
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## ***Our Township is Superior!***

Email:

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**[brendamckinney@superior-twp.org](mailto:brendamckinney@superior-twp.org)**



## ***Our Superior Fire Department***

Our Fire Department is comprised of three separate fire suppression shifts that are on duty 24 hours each day and respond to any call for assistance from our citizens. The calls vary from fire and medical to virtually any request for help and we never, absolutely ever, stack a call. If we can't make it due to already being committed, we will use mutual aid and get the next fire department on the way. With that being said, each shift is run by a fire suppression Captain that is in charge of every emergency. Two of the three fire captains have graduated from Eastern Michigan Universities Fire Staff and Command School with the third captain slated for graduation the end of this year. The classes taught, involve every facet of being a leader in the fire service and it is apparent that we have three very fine examples.

The next time you require assistance from your fire department, you will be serviced by an officer and crew that are trained to the very highest levels of competence offered in our field of expertise.

Our Superior Fire department has used Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for years and found them to be an essential tool to be used in instances of responding to calls for assistance involving heart attacks. We recently requested permission to purchase three new additional AED's. One will be installed on our new tanker apparatus but the other two are to be installed in our Township Hall and Utilities Department Buildings. We have lots of citizens visiting the Township Hall and Utilities personnel are involved in some difficult situations where a close by defibrillator could make the difference between life and death.

Our department has made arrangements for the purchase and installation of the equipment. We will be providing the instruction on how to use and care for the equipment to every employee of each department. It is well documented that defibrillators save lives and the sooner they are applied, the greater the chance of success.

