

# Superior Scenes

**Superior Township Board of Trustees**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| William McFarlane | Supervisor |
| David Phillips    | Clerk      |
| Brenda McKinney   | Treasurer  |
| Nancy Caviston    | Trustee    |
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| Alex Williams     | 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

Nancy Caviston, Editor  
C/O 3040 Prospect Road  
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734-482-6099 or 455-8120  
[education@superior-twp.org](mailto:education@superior-twp.org)

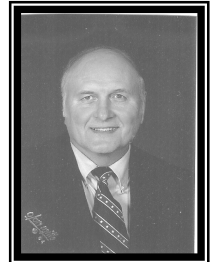
**3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

## From our Superior Supervisor . . .

If per chance you visited the Township Hall on or after September 15, 2009 you may have noticed the Treasurer's office window and assessor's office window broken.

The Township Hall experienced a break and entering on September 15, 2009 at 7:30 A.M. the last day to pay summer taxes. A suspect violently broke into the Assessor's office window which faces Prospect Road. The suspect looked around then proceeded to the Treasurer's office. Upon hearing the initial loud crash of breaking glass the Township Maintenance person Mr. Saddler took a position behind a large desk to carefully observe the offender so a full description could be given to the police. Upon entering the Treasurer's office the suspect became even more upset. The motive for the break and entering involving this offender remains a mystery. The offender then without justification or reason

broke violently through the Treasurer's window and escaped. The Township maintenance person gave an accurate description which follows. The suspect was described as a large male deer with huge antlers and was not particularly happy about his visit to neither the Assessor's office nor the Treasurer's office.



**William McFarlane,  
Supervisor**

I am pleased to report the Superior Township Board of Trustee' voted to reduce the Township millages at the regular Board meeting on September 21, 2009. The millages for the upcoming 2010 tax year will be reduced as follows; the fire

*Continued on page 4*

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## Superior news you can use

Election November 3, 2009, Polls Open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

**PLEASE GET OUT AND VOTE**

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, Superior Township voters will be voting on issues for two school districts. If you are one of the 284 voters who reside in the Plymouth-Canton School District, you will be electing four School Board members. There are five candidates running for three positions which are four year terms. One candidate is running for one position which is a partial term ending in 12/31/2011. The remaining 9,500 voters in Superior Township will be voting on the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's (WISD) enhancement millage proposal.

This proposal requests that the millage for all property located in the Washtenaw Intermediate School District be increased by 2 mills (\$2.00 on \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five years, 2009 to 2013. If the millage is approved, the 2 mill increase will be added to Winter 2009 tax bills which will be mailed out in December 2009. The enhanced millage will raise about \$30 million per year for each of the five years. The funds will be distributed to each of the ten local school districts in the WISD based upon student population and is to be used for operating funds to maintain and improve the quality of education. Please visit the Township's website [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org) to view sample ballots and download an Absentee Voter's Application.

## News from our Superior Clerk

**Election November 3, 2009. Please Vote!**

It is important for all of us to exercise our right to vote. We want our democratic decisions to be made by as many voters as possible. In an effort to make it easier for people to vote, in 2003 our legislators passed Public Act 298 which consolidated elections to four times per calendar year: fourth Tuesday in February, and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, August and November. Legislators, local officials and election officials continue to try to find ways to increase voter turnout. The turnout for the May 2009 election was very low. The November 3, 2009 election has important financial implications for property owners and the school districts. If you need to vote absentee, you must submit a written request to the Clerk's office. For further information, or to obtain a printed Absent Voter Application, please contact me, or visit the Township's website. Please Vote!

Applications to the Planning Commission have decreased significantly. The Planning Commission has been taking advantage of this slow down by reviewing and revising the current Growth Management Plan. No major changes of the document are anticipated. It is expected that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the document at their March 2010 meeting. Prior to the public hearing, copies of the document will be available for review at the Township Hall, on the Township website and at the public hearing.

There are several other continuing issues which have major implications to the Township's planning process. In 2007, Hummana, LLC applied to rezone the North-West corner of Geddes and Prospect Roads to an R-4 zoning for 235 homes served by an on-site waste water treatment facility. Upon the Planning Commission recommending denial and the Board denying the request, the applicant/property owner filed a lawsuit against the Township.

Township officials have been working with the property owner and a potential purchaser of the property that would result in a use consistent with the rural and agricultural character of the property and resolution of the lawsuit.

Some of you may remember that in 2005 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) denied the request of Riverine Development Co., Inc. for a permit to install an on-site waste water treatment facility which was to provide service to the proposed development of 1950 manufactured homes on approximately 360 acres which they owned in the area North of Superior Road, between Geddes and Cherry Hill Roads. Riverine Development appealed the MDEQ's decision. However, in November 2006 the appeal was placed in abeyance to allow Riverine Development to first proceed with the rezoning process. Riverine Development has not yet filed a rezoning request with the Township. They have indicated they are waiting to see what changes are made to the current Growth Management Plan.

Township officials are very committed to transparency and complete disclosure on all issues. Prior to taking action on any of the above issues, the Township will make every effort to inform our residents of the date, time and place of the meeting at which it will be discussed and make all applicable information available. The Township will post signs, publish notices, place information on the Township website and hold public hearings as necessary.



**David Phillips,  
Clerk**

## Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

This is John Hudson, Township Coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. 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](mailto:Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net). Our alerts include copies of monthly crime reports and up to the minute alerts received from Sheriff's department and information received from citizens.

Neighborhood Watch meets bimonthly with representatives from The Washtenaw County Sheriff. A deputy or official from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's office is available to take questions and provide updates.

Meetings are open to all and are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday every other month depending on the calendar. The next meeting is November 24<sup>th</sup> at Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, across from Township Hall. We welcome new members from all areas of the Township.

Joining the email alert list will ensure that you receive updates on crime and meetings. Attending meetings presents an opportunity to discuss police matters directly with County Officers and Township Officials.

**John Hudson**

**Coordinator, Superior Township**

**[Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net](mailto:Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net)**

# News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney



**Our Treasurer  
Brenda L. McKinney**

**Important Notice:** The Washtenaw Intermediate School District has placed a two-mill enhancement millage on behalf of its local school districts on the November 3, 2009 ballot. If successful, I will have to collect an additional two mills with the winter tax collection December 1, which will result in an increase in your property taxes.

The Township recently passed a resolution authorizing the treasurer to charge a \$30.00 administration fee for unpaid ordinance violations and water bills. Unpaid balances and the additional administration fee will be collected on the winter tax bill.

### What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- As you know, Summer Tax Bills were mailed July 1 and payable through September 15 without penalty. If you did not receive your summer tax bill, please contact my office at (734) 482-6099.
- Winter Tax Bills will be mailed December 1 and will be payable through February 14. Just a reminder that tax deferments are good through April 30 for seniors who have filed for deferments.
- In regards to escrow payments, if you recently refinanced your mortgage and now have a new taxpaying agent or no longer have an escrow, please contact my office to update our records.
- Note: the Company that provides our online tax payments service is no longer accepting Visa Credit Cards due to a bank fee increase; this became effective September 1, 2009. Currently, the only credit cards that they are accepting are Mastercard and Discover.

- To pay taxes online please visit our website at [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org). There is a \$15.00 fee per \$500.00 for credit card use and NO FEE for using your Checking or Savings accounts.
- Just a reminder, a Drop-Box is located inside the double doors of the Township Hall for those of you who wish to drop off tax payments after hours.
- Beginning December 1, Dog Licenses may be purchased from the Treasurer's office until February 28.
- New homeowners, please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to receive the 100% exemption.

### Blanket and Food Drive-Please Donate

Last winter Superior Township employees and residents expressed interest in participating in this year's Blanket Express and Food Drive. During last year's drive, we collected over 350 blankets for those in need. With your help, we look forward to an even better year for 2009. The blanket and food drop-off dates are going to be from November 1 thru December 15 at the Superior Township Hall. The blankets must be new and thanks in advance for your support. Contact Brenda at 482-6099 for more information.

# Our Superior Wetlands

Early this year, Gov. Granholm proposed eliminating the state wetland protection program in her budget message and to send regulation of wetlands to the Army Corps of Engineers. Many have been concerned with losing this authority at the state level and have tried to come up with an alternative.

This and other changes at the State level have prompted us to revisit our ordinance for Wetlands. Our Clerk, David Phillips and our Wetlands Board have worked closely on the proposed changes which are to be discussed and then voted on at our October meeting of our Board of Trustees.

The copy of the new Ordinance is on our web-site [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org).

Attend this October 19, 2009 Board meeting and give us your opinion on the changes, this is an important revision. The future of our Wetlands could well depend on us to protect!



*(Continued from page 1) Supervisor*

millage will be 2.90 mills instead of the allocated 3. mills. The law enforcement millage will be 2.15 mills instead of the allocated 2.25 mills. The General fund millages of .8192 mills was not reduced however Superior Township is one of only two Townships in Washtenaw County that does not levy a 1% tax administration on all taxes collected.

The Township saved during the good times to help with the bad times. The community and the State of Michigan are certainly in what may be described as bad times. In 2011 the State Shared Revenue as well as tax collection will likely be substantially lower. The Township reserve funds will be adequate to continue the same level of service for our residents during the 2011 budget year. The Township has reduced staffing for the General Fund by not replacing retirees or vacancies. The Fire Fund has sufficient reserves to pay for new equipment however we have applied for several federal grants. The Law Fund for police service has benefited from collaborations with our neighbors in Ann Arbor Township and Ypsilanti Township. The Township was able to take

advantage of lower cost this year for road improvements and spent an extra \$140,000.00. In general I am happy to say the Township is in very good shape to withstand this terrible economic down turn.

Get the help you need! or Give the help you can!

Notice: During these difficult times you can DIAL 211 for information on employment/job training, shelter, food pantries, rent assistance, legal aid, medical services care for seniors and more. You can also volunteer to become a mentor, staff a helpline, assist seniors, rebuild neighborhoods, or make a contribution.

You can also contact Washtenaw County office of Community Development for Housing Rehabilitation if you need assistance in home repairs at (734)-622-9025. You may also contact Washtenaw County Employment, Training and Community Service (ETCS) at (734)544-6858 for directions on various social/personal needed assistance.

## Our Superior Wetlands

Jacqueline Beaudry

### What Can You Do to Manage Your Wetlands?

Wetlands are defined as transitional lands between aquatic and earthen systems where the water table is at or near the surface of the land. These lowland areas are often referred to as swamps or marshes. Wetlands can often be identified by the presence of certain wetland vegetation, such as cattails, water-lilies and other sedges and grasses. Wetlands also provide habitat to wildlife, including herons and loons and many species of insects and fish. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), one of the simplest things you can do to manage and protect your wetland is to simply avoid any activities that may impact normal wetland functions. Activities to avoid include vegetation clearing; recreational overuse; the use of any chemicals, such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides; and the introduction of non-native or exotic species. The purple loosestrife is a good example of a non-native (European) plant that has aggressively attacked Michigan wetlands. Unfortunately because the flower is attractive,

in the past many people purposefully planted the purple loosestrife in their gardens and wetlands, facilitating its spread. Pro-active management practices such as establishing and maintaining an upland or greenbelt buffer to your wetland can help to encourage and support wildlife corridors and habitat in and around the wetland. Control pets, such as dogs and cats, around your wetland property as they can be serious predators to young wildlife. Maintaining a working septic system and controlling stormwater runoff are also critical to protecting your upland and wetland areas. Some stormwater management techniques include the planting of rain gardens, using native species, and the use of rain barrels. Improving awareness about the runoff of products from the house and garage, such as cleaning chemicals and car maintenance products, are critical to stormwater management as well. Don't dump anything on the ground that you wouldn't want in your drinking or swimming water!

For more information and additional tools on your own wetland management, visit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's website at [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq).

Source: MDEQ, "Management to Protect Your Wetland"



## Superior Job Opportunity

The U.S. Census Bureau will be hiring for the 2010 census. For further information please contact [2010censusjobs.gov](http://2010censusjobs.gov) or call toll-free: 1-800-861-2010.

## Our Superior Utilities

Diana Rivis

### UTILITY DEPARTMENT – SEASONAL EXTENDED HOURS ENDING FOR THE YEAR

Beginning Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Utility Department will switch to its winter hours.

We will be able to accept payments and inquiries through our drive-through window from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- The office will be open for telephone inquiries and for scheduling appointments over the phone from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the department's hours and where are you located?
  - We are located at the northeast corner of Prospect & Clark Roads.
  - 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.
  - Effective November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will revert to our winter hours, which are: weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the office and 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. for making payments through our drive through window.
  - We anticipate going back to our seasonal extended hours next March through October, 2010 (exact dates to be determined). Please feel free to give us a call (734-480-5500) or check our web site ([www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)) for additional information regarding our hours.

### 2. What are my payment options?

- If making a payment through our drop box, by mail or in person, we can only accept payments by check, money order or cash.
- Credit card (MasterCard only) and bank account payments (checking and savings accounts) can be made online by going to the Township's web-site ([www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)), then:

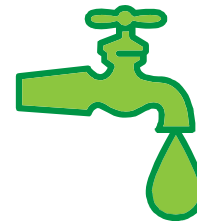
Click on: [Departments](#), then

Click on: [Utilities](#), then

Click on: [Online Bill Payments](#)

### 5. What do I do if I have water coming up through the floor drain in my basement?

If you have water coming up through your basement floor drain, it may be an indication that there is a sewer back-up in front of your house. Call us anytime, day or night, seven days a week, at 734-480-5500 and we will check our sewer line for blockages. We will then let you know if the problem is in our line, which we will take care of, or if it is a blockage within your house line, which you will need to contact a plumber or repair service to address.



## Our Superior Parks

Cherry Hill Nature Preserve is located on Cherry Hill Road, about a mile east of Plymouth Road, and about a mile and a half west of Prospect Road. Its 160 acres, with many trails and beautiful woods, wetlands, and meadows, is one of our most popular parks, and is busy year-round.

The Superior Township Park Commission has recently applied for a grant from the State of Michigan to make the Nature Preserve

even better. We're proposing to add a handicap accessible boardwalk to the Preserve, which will begin at the front gate and which will make it possible for all our residents to enjoy this delightful spot!

Autumn is a great time to visit Cherry Hill! We hope to see you there.

*Editors note: See page 7 for the driving tour written by our Committee to Promote Superior Township for the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. Enjoy our beautiful Superior Township!*

# One Superior Place

Sarah Moon

Looking for something fun and interesting to do locally? The Committee to Promote Superior Township is building a collection of sites to visit, called Driving Tours. The tours highlight the many interesting things to do in the township complete with hours, if applicable, and driving directions originating from township hall. Here is a sample of one of the tours.

Visit our website, [superior-twp.org/one\\_superior\\_place](http://superior-twp.org/one_superior_place), to discover other interesting places to visit in Superior Township. If you have an idea or would like to participate on the volunteer Committee to Promote Superior Township, contact township hall at 482-6099. Meetings are held at the township hall the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.

## Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill

Cider Mill: 10685 Warren Rd., Superior Township, MI, 734-455-2290

Market: 10260 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Superior Township, MI, 734-414-0366

[www.plymouthorchards.com](http://www.plymouthorchards.com)



The Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill consist of two locations: the cider mill and a separate retail outlet. The mill, once a dairy farm, is surrounded by 60 acres of natural wooded beauty and 30 acres of farmed land which grows 16 varieties of dwarf apple trees. Only the 50 year old milk house of the dairy farm still stands; this milk house was the original cider mill in 1981. One hundred gallons of cider was hand pressed during the inaugural 3 weekend cider season. In 1982 the first cider mill was built, which comprises the current cider mill's press-room and stockroom. Thousands of gallons of natural cider and dozens of fresh donuts are produced each 2-1/2 month long fall season.

Plymouth Orchards is more than just cider and donuts. They also offer facility rentals, tours, daily wagon rides through the orchard, u-pick pumpkins, a petting farm, picnic space, and bales of hay and corn stalks for purchase. The tour, designed for school age children, includes a one hour staff-guided tour of the facilities and grounds, as well as a presentation on the mill's operations. The pavilion and schoolhouse are available to rent for parties.

The second location, the Ann Arbor Road Market, features a period wood stove, a picnic area to enjoy your cider and donuts, as well as all of the products available for purchase at the cider mill.

To get to the cider mill from the Superior Township Hall (3040 N. Prospect Rd.):

Turn RIGHT (north) on Prospect Rd. (0.9 miles)

Turn RIGHT (east) on Ford Rd. (3.0 miles)

Turn LEFT (north) on Napier Rd. (1.0 miles)

Turn LEFT (west) on Warren Rd. (0.4 miles)

# One Superior Place

Looking for something fun and interesting to do locally?

The Committee to Promote Superior Township is building a collection of sites to visit, called Driving Tours. The tours highlight the many interesting things to do in the township complete with hours, if applicable, and driving directions originating from township hall.

Here is another sample of one of the tours.

*Editors note:*

See page 5 for the write up by the Parks Committee on the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve.

## Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

6375 Cherry Hill Rd, Superior Township, MI 48198



The Cherry Hill Nature Preserve is 160 acres of diverse terrain, including rolling hills, wetlands, part of Fleming Creek, meadow and woods. The preserve is approximately one half mile square. The land is owned by Superior Township and open to the public. Some walking paths have been created (look for a trail map in the map box at the main entrance). The wildlife population here is as diverse as the terrain, with a resident owl population as well as many wetland bird species, including warblers, bluebirds, etc. Enjoy your exploration!

To get here from the Superior Township Hall (3040 N. Prospect Rd.):

Turn LEFT (south) on Prospect Rd. (360 ft.)

Turn RIGHT (west) on Cherry Hill Rd. (1.6 miles)

The preserve is on the RIGHT (north) side of Cherry Hill Road. The entrance and small parking area are well marked by a yellow "Nature Preserve" sign and gate. There is an unmarked entrance 200+ yards (1/8 mile) east of the main entrance (narrow path by the "no dumping" sign).

# Our Superior Fire Department

Firefighter Lance Pierce



With the winter season fast approaching, here are a few reminders from the Fire Department about being safe when using your indoor fireplace :

- Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a Certified Chimney Sweep.
- Keep the top of chimneys clear of tree limbs or debris
- Install a chimney cap to keep debris and animals out of the chimney
- Always open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. This will avert the build-up of poisonous gases, such as carbon monoxide.



Fuel the fire safely. For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well-seasoned wood that has been dried for a minimum of six months to a year.

- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors can explode. Never keep flammable fuels near a fire.

- Do not overload the fireplace. Large fires can lead to overheating of wall or roof materials, particularly if the fireplace is constructed of metal.

- Always use a screen around the fireplace to keep sparks from flying out and to protect children and adults from accidental clothing ignition.

- Warn children about the danger of fire. Do not let them play with fire.

- Keep flammable materials such as carpets, pillows, furniture or papers away from the fireplace area.

- Always make sure that the fire is completely extinguished before going to bed for the night or when leaving the house.

- Always dispose of ashes from the fireplace properly. Place in a metal container, outside away from any flammable materials.

**Superior Charter Township**  
**Superior Scenes Editor**  
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 734-482-6099 Fax 734-482-3842

**PRESORTED  
 STANDARD  
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 PERMIT NO 489**

# Our Township is Superior!

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