



October, 2013

# Superior Scenes

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

## From our Superior Supervisor . . .

**Superior Township Board of Trustees**  
**Kenneth Schwartz** Supervisor  
**David Phillips** Clerk  
**Brenda McKinney** Treasurer  
**Nancy Caviston** Trustee  
**Lisa Lewis** Trustee  
**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 Road, Ypsilanti, MI

734-480-5502

Nancy Caviston, Editor

C/O 3040 N. Prospect Road

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734-482-6099

As most of you are probably aware, I have had several medical issues this past year and have therefore decided to retire on September 30, 2013. I do not have the energy I feel is necessary to give the job 100%. I have enjoyed the privilege of serving the residents of Superior Township these past twenty one years as Supervisor and six years as a Township Trustee. My grandfather moved to Superior Township from Greenfield Township (what is now Detroit) approximately 100 years ago because he saw something special here. Looking at the history of Greenfield and Superior Townships you will note many McFarlanes were involved in local government. For us, serving the community you live in has always been considered a great privilege.

For my last newsletter article, I am pleased to report that the Township is in excellent fiscal shape with all funds. Consequently, I have recommended that for the 2014 tax year, the general fund millage be cut in half from .8192 to .4096 mills. This means a small portion of the reserve fund will have be used to cover next year's projected expenditures. But because we generally receive next to nothing in interest on our reserve fund accounts, and the Township is legally limited with how reserve funds are invested, it would be better to leave more money with the taxpayers and less in the reserve fund with the banks.



**William McFarlane**  
Supervisor

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## News from our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie

### Pumpkin Carving

Please join us for pumpkin carving and arts and crafts on October 19, 2013 from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. at Norfolk Park on Norfolk Avenue, just around the corner from Oakbrook Park. Pumpkins and refreshments will be provided! Rain date: October 26, 2013, same time, same location.

### New Preserve To Open!

Superior Township Parks is very pleased to announce that Washtenaw County is opening the Weatherbee Woods Preserve, which is immediately adjacent to Superior Town-

ship's Schroeter Park, at Berry and Warren Roads. This beautiful preserve is 66 acres and is named in honor of Ellen Elliott Weatherbee, who has been instrumental in identifying important natural features in Superior Township. Superior Township Parks is working in collaboration with Washtenaw County, and with a generous donation from Superior Land Preservation Society, to make this preserve accessible to the public. We're glad to be able to be a partner in preserving this lovely spot!

**We look forward to seeing you at our parks!**

## News from our Superior Clerk

### Ann Arbor Public Schools Election November 5, 2013

On Tuesday, November 5, 2013 Superior Township voters who reside in the Arbor Public School District will be voting on a proposal to continue a sinking fund millage. In 2008, voters approved to levy one mill for a sinking fund for the purpose of construction, repair and improvement of school buildings, equipment and sites. The November 5, 2013 proposal will be to continue the one mill for five years, 2015-2019. Superior Township's precinct 1 (Dixboro United Methodist Church) and precinct 2 (Superior Township Hall) will be open for voters who reside in the Ann Arbor Public School District. Further information and the complete ballot proposal are available on the Township's website, [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org).

As always, you can request an Absent Voter Ballot if you are expecting to be out of the community on Election Day, are 60 years of age or older, are disabled or because of the tenets of your religion. You may use a pre-printed form (available on the Township website, [superior-twp.org/voting/index](http://superior-twp.org/voting/index)) 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. Or, come into the Township Hall prior to the election, provide acceptable photo

identification, 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 8:30 am to 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding each election. If you have any questions, please contact me, David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #14, or e-mail: [davidphillips@superior-twp.org](mailto:davidphillips@superior-twp.org).



**David Phillips,  
Clerk**

### Master Plan Review and Update

On August 19, 2013, the Township Board approved a proposal for the Township's planning consultant to work with the Planning Commission to complete a review of the Township's Master Plan. The goals of the review will be to evaluate future land uses in certain areas of the Township and to complete an overall review of the plan. State law requires the master plan to be reviewed at least every five years. The process began with the September 25, 2013 Planning Commission meeting and is expected to continue through most of 2014. Public participation in the process is welcomed. Please visit the Township's website for announcements of agenda items and public hearings scheduled for the Planning Commission's or Board of Trustees' meetings.

## Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

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](mailto: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. Neighborhood Watch is an effective means of community enforcement and relies on community awareness, involvement and communication.

Neighborhood Watch meets bimonthly with representatives from the Washtenaw County Sheriff. A Sheriff's Department official is usually in attendance and available to answer your questions. Recent guest speakers include Sheriff Clayton and Fire Chief Roberts.

Meetings are open to all and are held at 7:00 on the fourth Tuesday every other month depending on the calendar. The next meeting will be on November 27th 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

## Your Tax Dollars at Work – 2012

Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,436,393	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,177,934
Plymouth Schools:	\$ 246,674	Township Tax:	\$ 451,538
Willow Run Schools:	\$ 2,347,451	Fire Department Tax:	\$1,653,667
Ypsilanti Schools:	\$ 2,007,754	Law Fund Tax:	\$1,240,239
State Education:	\$ 3,404,101	Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 388,771
Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 566,974	Washtenaw ISD:	\$2,055,432
Community College:	\$ 2,000,952	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,072
Wayne ISD:	\$ 118,040	Legal Defense Fund:	\$ 68,883

In addition, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$408,729, which included County Drains, Streetlights, Oakbrook and Washington Square Side Street Maintenance, Delinquent Water Bills, Ordinance Violations, False Alarms, and Hyundai Road Improvement.

Out of 6016 parcels, 490 went delinquent. The total amount delinquent was \$989,871 and was turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 1, 2013.

### What You Should Know About Your Taxes

**Willow Run and Ypsilanti Schools Merged:** Effective July 1, 2013 all school taxes will be collected on the summer tax bill. In the past, former Willow Run school taxes were collected on the winter tax bill. The property taxes have not increased for the residents that reside in the Willow Run School District, just the collection schedule. My office will be happy to send a letter to your mortgage company to explain why the school taxes have been transferred to the summer tax bill.

**Summer Collection:** Payable July 1 through September 16 without interest charge. Beginning September 17 through September 30, a 1% interest charge per month will be added on the first of each month to the unpaid balance.

**Escrow Payments:** Homeowners who have refinanced– please have your bank contact my office with new mailing information.

**Electronic Payments:** Please update mailing address to 3040 North Prospect; Ypsilanti MI 48198, as the PO Box is no longer in use.

**Online Tax Payments:** will begin December 1 and end February 14 for winter bills only.

**New Homeowners:** please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to be exempt from the school operating millage.

**Deferment Notices:** were mailed June 1. For those who have applied for summer tax deferments, please sign and return by September 16. To apply for winter tax deferments please sign and return by February 14. 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 Permanently Disabled. Eligible persons may pick up an Application for Deferment of Summer and Winter Taxes at my office. Having a Deferment allows homeowners to defer paying taxes until April 30 without penalties.

*(Continued page 1) Superior Supervisor*

I leave Township government with a heavy heart (as I love my job), but I also feel confident that the current leaders and employees will continue to provide the great leadership and service the residents deserve. The Township is in great shape today, but there will be challenges on the path ahead. I am confident the elected officials and employees have the skills and desire to keep Superior Township "Superior."

I would like to thank all of the Superior People who have supported me over the years. I have never considered it a job to serve the people; I've considered it an honor. I plan on continuing to live on the family farm where I have lived my entire life. After all, if I moved, how could I say: "I live in a Superior Township?"

**Washtenaw County Clean-Up Day, October 26, 2013**

The Washtenaw County Public Health Division is hosting a County Clean-Up Day on October 26, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at EMU's Rynearson Football Stadium, 799 N. Hewitt Rd., Ypsilanti. Superior Township helped to fund the event. The event is free but there is a suggested \$10.00 donation per car. This is an excellent opportunity to discard items that are difficult to dispose of. They will accept traditional recyclable materials, as well as scrap metal, Freon appliances, household hazardous wastes (cleaning supplies, motor oil, pesticides, mercury, oil-based paints, etc.), furniture, tires, yard waste, electronic equipment (computers, TV's, etc.) and sharps (diabetic needles, etc.). For further information please visit the Township's website.



**A heartfelt thank-you to  
Supervisor William McFarlane  
Fire Chief James Roberts  
Utility Director Rick Church**

**The service you each provide to this community is**

**AWESOME**

**All of us are missing you already!**

# Our Superior Utilities

Diana Rivis

## Director Retirement

After serving the citizens of Superior Township for over 32 years, the Utility Director, Rick Church, is retiring in October of this year. Mr. Church began his career with the Township in 1981, as a janitor/utility worker. He was promoted to full-time maintenance technician in 1987 and then to maintenance supervisor in 1989. Mr. Church was promoted to the director's position in 2002. We all wish Mr. Church well in the next phase of his life and thank him for his excellent work for the Township residents.

## 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](http://www.ycua.org/waterreport.pdf).

## 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 hours and where are you located?

- We are located at 575 E. Clark Rd. (@Prospect) & have a drop-box on the east side of building
- Our drive-through hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 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.
- Payments made in person can be by check, money order or cash.
- Credit card (MasterCard & 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](http://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 are new to the Township?

If you are moving in or out of your home, please contact the Utility Department at least 24 hours prior to your move date to arrange for a final meter reading, so that you will not be charged for water used after you have moved out, or prior to you moving in. Also, we will need your billing information at that time.

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

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



# One Superior Place

Committee to Promote Superior Township

## Take a New Route

The Committee to Promote Superior Township works to foster pride, unity and a sense of place among Superior Township residents. To that end, we have developed a list of "Superior Places." A binder of single-page descriptions is on display in the Township Hall lobby and at our bulletin board display at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library; and bookmark-size descriptions are available for the taking in the Township Meeting Hall. Many of the site descriptions can also be found on the Township's website ([www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)) in the "One Superior Place" heading, located just under the "site search" box on the homepage.

Most recently, we have added descriptions of the Natural Beauty roads here. If you travel east/west along Geddes Road: Turn north on Gale Road to Cherry Hill Road, and continue north out to Plymouth Road. If an east/west route further north leads to your destination: Warren Road's Natural Beauty segment runs from Dixboro Road to Curtis Road, with a connection to the south with Plymouth Road. Finally, Napier Road, the Township's eastern border, runs north/south from Joy Road, the northern border, to Cherry Hill Road. None of these connections could be termed a shortcut, but

you will find the travel well worth the time it takes to drive along these routes.

If the scenery on the Natural Beauty roads is not sufficient reason alone to travel these routes, be aware that the Gale Road route can take you on to the Humane Society of Huron Valley shelter and the heart of Dixboro Village, as well as Frains Lake, the Staebler Farm and the Esek Pray Trail. The Dixboro Road end of the Warren Road Natural Beauty segment is very near the Matthaei Botanical Gardens entrance; the Hickory Creek Golf Course is at the intersection of Ford Road and Napier Road. These are just a few of the "Superior Places" sites near the Township's Natural Beauty roads.

There are many more places to see and reasons to travel within the Township. All of the "Superior Places" site descriptions include directions from Township Hall. Follow the directions to take a new route and discover your Township!



# Our Superior Wetlands Board

The Superior Township Wetlands Board has been actively involved throughout the township in recent months, participating in preservation, stewardship, and improvement activities in both the Huron and Rouge watershed areas of the township. Recent events have included portage improvements along the Huron River for canoe and kayak access, invasive species removal projects, and habitat preservation projects in both the Huron and Rouge watershed areas.

For the upcoming spring, the Wetlands Board will be taking an even more active role in maintaining and preserving the township's water resources by hosting a Rouge Rescue event on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We will be, in conjunction with the Friends of the Rouge, selecting sites within the Rouge water-

shed in need of waste removal, and targeting other areas for planting, invasive species removal, and general stewardship projects. Volunteers are always welcome, and this is a great opportunity for some community involvement. Look for more details in the April 2014 Newsletter.



## Our Superior Township Board

### Township Board Appoints Supervisor

On September 16, 2013, the Township Board of Trustees, by unanimous vote, appointed Kenneth R. Schwartz to the position of Supervisor of the Charter Township of Superior. Township officials worked with the Township Attorney and the Michigan Townships Association to formulate the procedure for making the appointment. The newly appointed Supervisor's term of office commenced at the close of business, September 30, 2013 and will end at noon, on November 20, 2014. The office of supervisor will be on the ballot for both the 2014 and 2016 election cycles.

Mr. Schwartz brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. He is an attorney with experience in municipal law, finance and other areas. He served as a Superior Township Trustee from 1997 to 2004, a Washtenaw County Commissioner from 2007 to 2010 and currently serves as a Washtenaw County Road Commissioner. Further information is available on the Township's website.

## Grant Awarded Superior Fire

The AAA Insurance Company recently approved a grant to the Superior Township Fire Department for \$14,000.00 to be used for the purchase of a cordless extrication tool and stabilization equipment. This equipment will replace the Jaws of Life currently in use and will enable our firefighters to respond more quickly and efficiently to serious vehicle accidents. Our fire department has been very successful in securing grants. Competition for the grant was fierce. Representatives from the AAA Insurance Company said Superior Township's grant application, which was written by Firefighter Christopher Wiggins, was outstanding. We thank the AAA Insurance Company and Firefighter Chris Wiggins!



## Supervisor Ken Schwartz



Dear Superior Township Resident,

As the new Superior Township Supervisor I want to thank the Township Board for having confidence in me. I really appreciated the unanimous vote appointing me as your next Township Supervisor. The vote was a great gesture. So let me pledge to the Board and to all the Township residents to honor the office and to work diligently to advance the interest of all Superior residents without regard to where you may live, how much money you make or what school your children attend.

We are all very fortunate that our Township Board has worked intelligently in the past. They have made sound decisions based on reason and common sense. As a result, the Township is currently in very good financial condition.

But the Township has some big challenges.

The biggest challenge right now is to negotiate a new 30 year water and sewer contract with Y.C.U.A. which is required by state and federal law. Our current water and sewer contract expired in 2012. Although there have been negotiations with Y.C.U.A., the new contract has not been approved by both parties and several important issues have yet to be resolved. Since this is another 30 year contract, it is important to get this right. To add to this challenge, our utility director, Rick Church, is retiring on October 31th.

Public safety is always a challenge. As Supervisor, I will continue to emphasize the importance of providing excellent Police and Fire services throughout the township. Your family's safety is always our first priority. Superior Township has a police services contract with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. We contract for 10 sheriff deputies. This includes 1 lieutenant and 2 sergeants assigned to Superior Township. I will continue to work with our deputies and the county Sheriff, Jerry Clayton, and his command staff, to keep response times low and employ pro-active community policing. As a final note to public safety our fire chief, Jim Roberts, retired last month. Fire Marshall Wayne Dickerson, a 42 year veteran has been appointed the Fire Department's temporary, part time Chief pending further discussion by the Board.

Hopefully, the Governor can persuade the state legislature to reform the methods by which highway and road funds are levied, collected and returned to the county road commission so more state funding is available to keep improving our roads.

There are many other challenges to confront over the next year that will keep all of us busy. I hope that you will stay involved in your community and your neighborhood in whatever way you desire to serve. Community involvement creates ties that bind us together and help us face the future with the knowledge and the dedication to meet the challenges that are always upon us. Together, we will remain, in the words of Bill McFarlane, SUPERIOR RESIDENTS.

# Our Superior Fire Department

Chief James Roberts



During the first week of August, a representative of Rolling Thunder Inc., Chapter 5 Michigan, stopped by our fire department and asked if we would be interested in flying a POW-MIA flag on our flag pole in front of the station. We cleared the request with our Township and set aside August 24, 2013 on a Saturday for the installation to take place.

Approximately 18 members of Rolling Thunder arrived at 11 a.m. and properly installed the flag and hardware, played taps while saluting the flag and had some very nice things to say about the fire service and our brothers and sisters in the military. They were here for an hour and waited for the department members to go on a run before finishing with the service.

Many vehicles driving by blew horns and rendered a hand salute as they passed, demonstrating their appreciation. It was beautiful in a way, as all of the members rode Harley-Davidson motorcycles that were parked at the front of the station, and along with a fire engine, became a part of the service.

I served in the U.S. Army 1965-1968 and attained the rank of Sergeant E-5 during my three years of service, so the installation of the POW-MIA flag on our pole meant a great deal to me. Serving my country and our flag a total of nearly 49 years with military and fire service combined, has been an honor for me.

With that being said, this will be my last contribution to our township newsletter as I will be retiring from this department with my last day being September 27, 2013. I greatly thank you for allowing me to represent the Superior Township community and its citizens.

Oh yes, the last thing the spokesman for Rolling Thunder said to me as they were leaving the parking lot, was to call him if the POW-MIA flag frayed or for any reason needed to be replaced. They would be honored to come back, donate, and install the replacement.

**Superior Charter Township**  
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Nancy Caviston, Trustee  
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**PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
YPSILANTI, MI  
PERMIT NO 489**

## Our Township is Superior!

Email:

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