Superior Township received a jolt last fall when we discovered that Salem Township applied for a permit to construct a sewer line on Gotfredson Road from M-14 to Geddes Road, then east on Geddes Road to Ridge Road, and then south on Ridge Road to the treatment plant in Ypsilanti Township. This represents a total of 10.5 miles of sewer lines, pumps and other infrastructure necessary to operate a sewer system.

Salem Township informed me last June that this might be happening. In turn, I informed the Superior Township Board. The Board’s position is that Salem Township must receive a permit from Superior Township as a necessary condition, and no permit will be issued unless there is a clear and immediate threat to public health. Since this sewer, if constructed, would have a devastating impact upon our land use and our 45-year goal of preserving some semblance of rural Michigan between Ann Arbor and Canton, I want to set forth my objections to this ill-conceived project.

Salem Township was granted two, ten million-dollar ($10,000,000.00) grants by the State of Michigan Legislature over the last two years: Ten million in 2017 and another ten million last December 31st. Salem Township never applied for these grants nor was it even aware that the State Legislature was considering these grants. No one from the State even called Salem Township to inquire about the need. No public hearings were held. No legislator sponsored the grants. The entire process appeared shady.

Continued on Page 10
NEWS FROM OUR SUPERIOR CLERK
BY LYNETTE FINDLEY, CLERK

**Expressions of Thanks from Lynette Findley, Clerk**

Last year’s primary and midterm elections were run smoothly thanks to the dedication and commitment of our temporary election workers! I am very grateful for their support and hard work.

Superior Township could not conduct elections without the help of temporary staff. To ensure integrity in the process, it is always important to have a mixture of workers from different party affiliations. At this time we have enough registered Democrats who have filed applications with us to work elections. To improve the balance of party affiliations, I would like to invite township registered voters, affiliated with parties that are non-Democratic, to apply for temporary election assistant jobs. These are paid positions that provide an opportunity to see how elections are run in a fair and secure way.

Please consider applying! The application for election workers may be found at superiortownship.org/departments/clerk/ on the Clerk’s page under elections.

**ARE YOU INFORMED OF CHANGES?**

In November 2018, Proposal 3 was passed, and the following changes have been implemented:

- The Secretary of State’s Office will automatically register voters.
- Voters can register anytime, including Election Day, at their local Clerk’s office with proof of residency.
- The voter’s right to a secret ballot is protected.
- Michigan voters may vote straight party.
- Military members and overseas voters have the right to have an absent voter ballot sent to them at least forty-five (45) days before an election.
- All registered voters can vote absentee.
- The Constitution provides for the auditing of election results.

More details of Proposal 3 can be found at www.michigan.gov/sos/.
The Clerk’s Office is also available to answer questions concerning changes to the voting process at 734-482-6099 or you may email the Township Clerk, Lynette Findley at lynettefindley@superior-twp.org.

**DON'T WAIT IN LINE—ABSENTEE VOTING AVAILABLE TO ALL**

Many voters become discouraged with the process of waiting in lines to cast their vote. Before Proposal 3 passed, voters had to provide a reason for wanting to vote by an absentee ballot. Voting is now more convenient than ever! Proposal 3 allows all eligible registered voters in Michigan to participate through absentee ballots without having to provide a reason. The Clerk’s Office will process the absentee voter application through confirming that the applicant is a registered voter and that the application signature matches the voter’s file of record.
NEWS FROM: BRENDA L. MCKINNEY,
OUR SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP TREASURER SINCE 1996

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 Your Continued Support!

We are so grateful to all of our Superior Township residents who donated blankets and food for our annual Blanket Express and Food Drive during the months of November and December. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide warmth and nutrition to those in need. The blankets were delivered to various charities in our community. The food donations were delivered to the food pantries of local churches. We are now a year round drop off point for donations of food and toiletries for the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. You can obtain information about their programs and services at: www.thehopeclinic.org.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

Total property taxes billed for 2018 was estimated at $28,262,703. The estimated total amount of property taxes collected as of February 14, 2019, was $27,034,284 from 6,257 parcels. As of this date, Superior Township collected 95.65% of the estimated taxes billed.

- The 2018 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended on February 28, 2019. Beginning March 1, 2019, all delinquent 2018 real 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 file your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit forms with the Assessor in order to claim the exemption from school operating taxes on your property tax bill. Filing deadlines are on or before June 1st for a summer PRE and on or before November 1st 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. Please contact my office at (734) 482-6099 with any questions.
- 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 statutory one percent per month interest fee unless a deferment has been granted. After February 28th, any unpaid real property 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.
Help Your Community to Help Yourself

Our Superior Charter Township offers to its residents a great number of benefits, responding in various ways to community preferences and desires. From modest to grand, one can find almost any style of housing. We enjoy police and fire protection, as well as public parks and nature preserves. Our accessible local government is located at the very center of the Township. Beyond all of these attributes, we are located with convenient access to the cultural and commercial offerings of the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Canton and Plymouth while still maintaining a rural atmosphere. All of this contributes to making Superior Township a nice place to live.

Recognizing that this is a nice place to live, the Committee to Promote Superior Township has worked for over ten years to foster pride, unity, and a sense of place among Township residents. It has been our intent to help residents appreciate our Township, but that appreciation carries with it a sense of obligation. When you like where you live, it makes sense to do what you can to make your community continue to meet your needs. This sort of altruism has a boomerang effect – your community service turns around to benefit you! Being helpful helps you. We challenge you to examine what you like best about Superior Township, and then consider how you might contribute to that aspect of life in our community.

Possibilities are endless, depending on your vision or aspiration. Whether your thoughts are toward a one-time event, an ongoing feature of life in our Township, or a more formal policy change, we invite you to share your ideas with our ad-hoc Committee. Come join us on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, at Superior Township Hall, or drop us a line at onesuperiorplace1@gmail.com.

THE BENEFITS OF BUILDING PERMITS

WHAT'S A BUILDING PERMIT?
A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?
The best way to find out if you need a permit is to call your local building department. Discuss your plans with the code official before beginning construction to determine whether you need a permit. Even if a permit is not needed, the code official will answer construction questions and may provide valuable advice.

PERMITS ARE USUALLY REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING:
- New buildings
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.)
- Residential work (decks, garages, fences, fireplaces, pools, water heaters, etc.)
- Renovations (garage conversions, basement furnishings, kitchen expansions, reroofing, etc.)
- Electrical systems
- Plumbing systems
- HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning) systems

Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety, and welfare. By following code guidelines, the completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends, or future owners.
### Spring Cleaning 2019

Jim McIntyre

Springtime in the township means spring cleaning and making room for all the awesome stuff we acquired over the oh-so-long winter. Sadly, this is also the time of year where we see many of our wetland areas become filled with litter. Often we see small, harmless, debris that has simply accumulated over the winter, but we also see significant instances of dumping throughout the township, which can cause significant pollution in our wetland areas.

As the weather improves, there will be several opportunities within the township to collect some of what has been left behind. Public workdays, local clean-up events, and even state-wide initiatives like Adopt-a-Highway are happening all year in the township for those who want to put in the time to keep the township superior.

Just as important as cleaning up the trash is looking at ways to prevent it from being left behind in the first place. Dumping of large pieces of furniture, appliances, and even bags of household trash happens far too frequently on our less-traveled roads, creating unnecessary pollution and making it more difficult to ensure that our wetland areas are healthy.

Reporting these activities goes a long way to stop them, as does understanding how to dispose of these types of items. Republic will pick up as many as two large items per week like sofas, most appliances, and even basketball hoops as part of their regular pick up schedule. Simply call Republic (800-878-4626) 24 hours in advance and they can schedule bulk pick up for you, ensuring your unwanted stuff ends up in the landfill where it belongs.

### Superior Township Happenings

Tom Freeman

**Dixboro Village Green, Inc. (DVG)**

DVG, a 501 (c) (3) private nonprofit organization, was formed with the goals of providing a Farmers' Market and renovating the Dixboro Village Green and historic one room Schoolhouse as a community gathering place.

The Farmers' Market: open for its eighth season on **Friday, May 31, 2019 Fridays, 3-7 pm through October 26**

Artisan Market falls on the last Friday of each month.

*Note - The Market will not be open on July 5, 2019*

Renovation efforts for the School are continuing. A new roof, new belfry and brick repair have been accomplished. With generous support from Superior Township and other donors, a pavilion is currently under construction on the north side of the Schoolhouse. The pavilion will provide a venue for community activities. Discussions are underway with musicians, businesses in the Village and other community groups to provide attractions that appeal to a wide range of ages and interests.

For more information go to [www.dixborovillagegreen.org](http://www.dixborovillagegreen.org)

**Freeman Environmental Education Center**

The Glen Freeman school building, located north of Plymouth Rd on Dixboro Lane, has been dedicated as the Freeman Environmental Education Center. After many years as a rented space, the school is now repurposed as an important piece of the Ann Arbor School system environmental education programs. See mlive information at [https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/02/ann_arbor_schools_2018-19_plan.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/02/ann_arbor_schools_2018-19_plan.html)
WATER WISE – SUPERIOR UTILITIES

New Lead and Copper Rule

Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) is in the process of adapting new testing processes for the New Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The goal is to minimize lead and copper levels in public drinking water systems throughout the State. The revised plan will affect a small portion of township residences and require significant changes for testing water supplies. Some of the key changes that will take place include:

- Lead and copper testing will increase from every three years to once a year.
- MDEQ requires an increased number of participants in tap water sampling pools.
- A small sampling of properties built before July 1988 will be required to be tested.
- Properties receiving public water that have a lead water service line will require replacement at the expense of the township.

Superior Township is devoted to providing healthy and safe drinking water to its residents and will continue to meet all requirements issued by MDEQ. As the plan develops and is rolled out, we will contact our customers and provide details on the testing process or any other requirements that may impact them. For more information on the New LCR, please visit www.michigan.gov/deq.

Water/Sewer Monthly Billing Cycle

Superior Township Utility Department is making plans to change its residential water/sewer customers over to a monthly billing cycle. Currently, residential customers are billed every three months, receiving four bills per year. This plan will benefit its customers in many ways including earlier detection for water leaks, lower bills due to frequent billing and better management of household budgets. Before launching the new plan, customers will be notified with a letter via U.S. mail.

Water Main Break Awareness

With the changing of Winter to Spring and the frozen ground beginning to thaw, the risks for water main breaks increase. Main breaks are not predictable and therefore we rely on the citizens of our community to be the eyes and ears for us. If you see water bubbling up from the ground or in the road it may be a main break. To report a water main break, please call Superior Township Utility Department seven days a week, 24 hours a day at 734-480-5500.

Tips for Watering Your Lawn

With the sprinkling season approaching us soon, here are few tips you may want to use for watering your lawn:

- Check your sprinkler system and if needed, have preventative maintenance performed on it such as cleaning of nozzles and sprinkler heads.
- Program your sprinkler timer and water your lawn for the correct number of minutes. Don’t over water your lawn, water your lawn just enough where 6-8 inches down is moist.
- Have a rain sensor installed on your system
- Water in the morning instead of night, it’s the best time because it’s cooler and you will have less evaporation. Watering at night promotes unhealthy fungus growth on your lawn.
Superior Happenings

Currently, fifth grade students from the Ann Arbor system are participating in field trips to the Center for winter survival classes. There are many possibilities for the 40 ac. site; an advisory committee is working on utilization plans. Neighbors of the site are informed of scheduled activities. There have also been trash cleanups to help provide a safe and attractive learning site.

Michigan Folk School

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) is committed to offering high-quality and diverse programs at Staebler Farm Park. To help accomplish this goal, WCPARC is partnering with The Michigan Folk School, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing hands-on experiences in traditional folk arts, crafts, and skills that keep learning, tradition, and community alive. Classes create a community that honors and shares the old ways of doing things — offering access to skills you thought may have disappeared. More than 30 classes are offered each session. For more information, go to www.mifolkschool.com

The campus for the Folk School is being constructed at the Staebler Farm County Park site on Plymouth Road. For more information, go to https://www.washtenaw.org/701/Staebler-Farm-County-Park.

Superior Township Neighborhood Watch

Welcome to Superior Township Neighborhood Watch where we assist the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department in maintaining safe and friendly neighborhoods throughout the Township by sharing information about safety issues and interacting with representatives from our Washtenaw County Sheriff staff.

Those who attend our meetings are given updates and information from the Sheriff and are welcome to ask questions about all topics involving the Township and County.

Residents who join the Superior Township Neighborhood Watch email list receive monthly crime summaries and year to year crime trends for Superior Township. We also send out road closure updates and public safety information for nearby municipalities.
New library update: Plans continue for our new library on Harris Road. A staff committee reviewed public input and made recommendations based on comments received through in-person sessions, social media, a website form, and communications with the Library Director. Topographical and boundary survey work has been completed, and the Architect and Construction Manager are working on a schematic design. Soil borings will be taken as part of a geotechnical investigation. Soon, you will start to see construction equipment on the site. Get all of the latest updates at ypsilibrary.org/newlibrary.

YDL has partnered with Black Men Read to bring the monthly Black Men Read Kids Club story-time to the Superior Library. Held the third Saturday of each month at 11am, the story-time features stories for all children, read by Black men. Find even more library programs at ypsilibrary.org/events.

YDL now offers STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) kits for check out. Each kit lets kids explore a different topic with hands-on toys and books. Some of the themes available are magnetism, coding, the human body, and video game design. These kits can be requested for pickup at any YDL location.

YDL’s Summer Challenge is a great way to read what you want at your own pace, learn exciting new things, and keep your brain in shape. Readers of all ages can read, attend library programs, and complete challenges to earn prizes. Mark your calendar for our big Kick-Off festivities Saturday, June 15! We’ll usher in a summer of reading and learning with STEM-themed activities at each location.

Your Parks & Recreation Department has been preparing all winter for 2019 and now that it’s here we can’t wait to get started! Check out the 2019 Special Events flier that’s included in this newsletter and you’ll see what’s in store for you, including all your favorites like Easter Egg Hunt, Superior Day, Family Kickball Day, and others. Last summer we introduced Movies in the Park and it was so well received that this year we will be holding it twice! We invite you to bring lawn chairs, blankets, snacks, coolers (NO alcohol) and join us for a family movie under the stars. Get there early for fun and games. We have received some generous donations to help fund both events. The first movie will be held on July 13th in Dixboro on the Village Green and is sponsored by English Gardens Plymouth Nursery and Destination Ann Arbor. This is a great opportunity to begin expanding our programing to the western area of the Township, and the members of the Dixboro Village Green Board have volunteered to assist with the evening. The second movie night will be held on August 10th at Oakbrook Park and is sponsored by Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department and Destination Ann Arbor. Partnering with these sponsors and volunteers helps us to be able to provide all our events to you and your family FREE of charge.

Once again, we will be hosting the COME OUT & PLAY! Summer Playground Program held in conjunction with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The program will run Mondays – Thursdays, June 24th thru August 15th. Our trained Playground Coordinators aka “PLAY AGENTS” will lead kids in games, crafts, fun, fitness, education, and more FUN!!! All this in a safe, supervised, structured setting that promises to be a great time. Breakfast and lunch are provided. The best part…..It’s FREE!!! The last two years this program was at capacity and space is limited so contact Superior Township Parks & Recreation now to register.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at one of our events or if you would like additional information regarding any of our events or programs you can reach the Parks & Recreation Department at (734) 480-5502, or via email at superiorparks@superior-twp.org. Don’t forget to check out the Township website at www.superiortownship.org for the latest updates.

HAVE A SUPERIOR DAY!

Juan Bradford

JOIN US FOR FUN AND REFRESHMENTS
FREE OF COST

EASTER EGG HUNT
Date & Time: Saturday April 13th, 11:00a.m. - Noon
Rain Date: Saturday April 20th
Location: Fireman’s Park  Corner of Harris & MacArthur Blvd.
Program: Easter Egg Hunt, Craft Bags, A special visit from the EASTER BUNNY!
Snacks: Candy Provided Cost: FREE

Backyard Bird Watching
Date & Time: Saturday May 11th @ 10:00a.m.
Location: Cherry Hill Nature Preserve  6255 Cherry Hill Rd.
Program: Presented by the Detroit Audubon Society and is designed for all ages to learn about local birds & how to view them in the wild with binoculars.
Binoculars available for use  Cost: FREE

FUN FOR EVERYONE
ENJOY THIS 2019 WONDERFUL WEATHER!
SUPERVISOR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The ill effects of this proposed sewer on the people of Superior Township are profound and permanent. The citizens of Superior Township have strongly supported planning that identifies land preservation as a top priority since the 1980’s. Over the years, Superior Township has had great success preserving over twenty properties totaling around 2,500 acres; and we are currently in the process of trying to preserve another 380 acres. Our many partners include the Ann Arbor Greenbelt, the Washtenaw County Parks Commission, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, the federal government, the Superior Land Preservation Society, the local farming community and a myriad of other interested individuals.

Now this sewer is being proposed that will cut through the entire eastern part of Superior Township, north to south, and no doubt will spur developers and other speculators to buy large tracts of vacant land to build out and connect to this new sewer. This is inevitable! No safeguards can be built into the process to protect this land once it is serviced by sewer.

Superior Township has accommodated growth and development within our urban service district for decades; however, for over forty years we have preserved farmland and open space in a functional way that considers the economics of farming and the rights of owners. By embracing land acquisition this way, I believe we have balanced the public interest of preservation with the private interests of ownership. This priority has survived through many different township boards and countless elections.

Superior Township stands as the last defender of open space and farmland between Ann Arbor and the greater Detroit area. No amount of dollars or new tax base can possibly compensate our residents for the loss of this valuable regional resource; and no developer should be subsidized with public dollars to build an unwanted sewer without public hearings to determine public support before the grant is awarded.

Please feel free to contact about this issue or anything else at 734-482-6099.

(For an in-depth look at the legislative process go to):

https://www.bridgemi.com/public-sector/michigan-lawmakers-award-10m-project-benefitting-former-gop-chair

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**Superior Day**

**Date & Time:** Saturday June 8th, 11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.
**Rain Date & Time:** June 15th.

**Location:** Oakbrook Park- 8460 Berkshire Dr. east of N. Prospect Rd.

**Program:** Township & Recycling Info, Horseback rides, Library info, Games, Sheriff & Fire Dept., Farm Animals, Free Books, Face Painting, & More

Sponsored in part by English Gardens & Destination Ann Arbor

**Lunch:** Provided  **Cost:** FREE

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**BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE~**
AGGRESSIVE AND NON-NATIVE PHRAGMITES
IN SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

An invasive plant, Phragmites australis, has become widespread in Michigan and is an increasing threat in Superior Township. Township officials have determined that, wherever possible, steps be taken to bring this plant under control in both public and private lands because it is infesting the wetlands, marshes, roadside ditches, and other low, wet areas of the Township. It displaces desirable native plant species and greatly reduces wildlife habitat resulting in loss of food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds, amphibians, and small animals. It dries marsh and wetland soils, and takes up subsurface groundwater, leaving a dense stand of nothing but itself. If left unchecked, it will adversely affect our ecological and economic environment.

Information manuals giving details on how to identify and control Phragmites are available free-of-charge at the Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, and at the Superior Farm and Garden Store, 2121 N. Prospect. It is hoped that everyone will work towards bringing this very scary plant under control.

New Nature Preserve on the Horizon

The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), based in Superior Township, recently received an Option to buy a significant 80 acre parcel at Ford Road and Berry Road to expand the Superior Greenway. The property features a wonderful old-growth oak wood in the northern part of the property where it adjoins the County’s Weatherbee Woods Preserve, which is adjacent to Schroeter Park. If acquired, this land would consolidate 278 acres of protected land at this location, protecting the length of Berry Road from Ford to Warren Road. It will also enable another 2 miles of hiking trails which will link to Schroeter Park.

Protection of this land will require a strong partnership. The Township Board of Trustees has pledged $20,000 to help make this new preserve a reality. The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has committed $360,000 to purchase a conservation easement on the property to assure that it remains undeveloped and open to the public. The City of Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Commission has also recommended a significant contribution which the City Council will soon consider. SMLC is over $130,000 for this project, of which $37,000 has yet to be raised. If you would be interested in helping to secure this property, pledges may be made by sending an email to jlewis@smiclnd.org by April 30th. Help keep our Township Superior!

Neighborhood Watch - Continued from 7

We meet on fourth Tuesdays every other month in the Old Town Hall building by Town Hall. Our meetings begin at 7:00 PM and everyone in the Township is invited to attend and to share with their neighbors and friends any information from the meetings. The next meetings for 2019 are March 26th and May 28th.

If you would like to begin receiving email information please submit an email request to John Hudson, Superior Township Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at: jhudson300606mi@comcast.net
Our Superior Fire Department

Chief Vic Chevrette

Fire

I am pleased to write this column and update you on what is happening within your Fire Department. With spring and summer approaching it will be time for residence to conduct yard cleanup. As a friendly reminder, open burning is permitted in certain areas of the township, please see Burn Permit section.

In September 2018, we are pleased to announce the Fire Department received a FEMA Grant under the SAFER Grant to hire three additional fire fighters. The three fire fighters began working in January 2019. This allows the Fire Department to have four fire fighters on duty 24/7.

Burn Permits

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,

Size of the lot you have as to whether 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 Burning Ordinance 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.

The Fire Department is conducting FREE smoke alarm installations and inspections. The Fire Department through the State of Michigan Fire Marshal Division has received Smoke Detectors. Please contact the Fire Department for information on the Smoke Detector Program at 734-484-1996.