

# SUPERIOR SCENES

SUPERIOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



## 2017 TRUNK OR TREAT



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## FROM OUR SUPERVISOR

BY KENNETH SCHWARTZ, SUPERVISOR

In August primary election the Superior Township Board asked the voters to renew the police services millage and renew the Fire Department millage. In addition, the board asked for a ½ mill increase for each fund. I’m very pleased to report that both millages passed with overwhelming approval. No one wants to raise taxes and that includes me and the Board, but the police services funding was drawing down on the fund balance in an unsustainable manner so to keep our current level of service we had to ask for more funding.

Township police services are provided under a contract with the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department. We have currently assigned to Superior Township, ten (10) Deputy Sheriffs, two (2) Sergeants, one (1) Lieutenant, and one (1) Commander. This year the township is paying \$160,650 per Deputy. Since we contract for ten deputies, the Sheriff’s Department provides the Sergeants, the Lieutenant and the Commander at no additional cost. The contract fee includes all costs associated with police enforcement such as vehicles, gasoline, uniforms, weapons, insurance and communications. Superior Township also receives a set of core police services as part of the general county tax. Some core police services include the detective bureau, the marine division, SWAT, traffic patrol, police dog services, underwater search, the mounted horse division, secondary road patrol and of course the county jail.

With the additional millage we can confidently sign the 2019-2022 police services contract with the county, and be assured that we can meet the costs involved, including overtime for extraordinary events for the term of the contract. The Township Board is also focusing on more community policing practices such as zoning ordinance and blight enforcement.

SUPERVISOR – CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



KENNETH SCHWARTZ  
SUPERVISOR

**NEWS FROM OUR SUPERIOR CLERK**

BY LYNETTE FINDLEY, CLERK



**LYNETTE  
FINDLEY  
CLERK**

Residents who will be voting in the Tuesday, November 6, 2018 General Election should be aware that there is a ban on straight-ticket voting. Therefore please be aware of the following:

- It will take more time to fill out the ballot which will have races/proposals on the front and back.
- Due to the ban we foresee lines being longer so I would encourage you to get to the polls between 10:00am-3:00pm when the polls generally are not as busy.
- You can find sample ballots on our website at <http://superiortownship.gov/government/voting-elections/>. A little further down the page you can also find your polling location or the status of your absentee ballot by selecting the Michigan Votes link.

We had an influx of voters this year compared to the 2016 August State Primary. In 2016, 1726 voters participated compared to 3731 in 2018 representing a 106.72% increase (please see comparison chart below). This is great news for Superior Township. But if this is any indication of voter turnout for the upcoming November election, we need your support and help.

**August 2, 2016 - Primary Election Results**

**August 7, 2016 - Primary Election Results**

Precinct	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Voter Turnout
Precinct 1	1713	347	20.26%
Precinct 2	2371	456	19.23%
Precinct 3	1833	235	12.82%
Precinct 4	2075	254	12.24%
Precinct 5	2311	434	18.78%
<b>Combined Voter Turnout</b>		1726	16.67%

Precinct	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Voter Turnout
Precinct 1	1768	788	44.57%
Precinct 2	2398	888	37.03%
Precinct 3	1823	434	23.81%
Precinct 4	2200	546	24.82%
Precinct 5	2554	1075	42.09%
<b>Combined Voter Turnout</b>		3731	34.46%

Superior Township is in dire need of precinct workers for the upcoming general election on Tuesday, November 6th. We definitely need more workers who are non-democrat in order to provide a balance in all five of our precincts. Applications are available for work on our website in case you are interested in supporting your Township’s election process. We ask you to apply so you may receive the appropriate training. These are paid positions.

I would like to continue to thank our current election workers who continue to provide excellent service at our five polling sites. Please join me in thanking all of our election workers.

**ELECTIONS 2018**

**General Election- On Tuesday, November 6, 2018 Polls Will Be Open From 7:00am to 8:00pm.**

**The last day to register for the November General Election is October 9, 2018.**

**It's Easy and Convenient to Vote by Absentee Ballot**

Voting by absentee ballot is easy and allows you the opportunity to complete your ballot in the comfort of your home. I would encourage you to vote by absentee ballot if you are eligible. Voters can contact the Clerk’s Office to request an application for an absentee ballot or to be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voters list. Once placed on the permanent AV list you will be mailed an application for an absentee ballot for each election in which you are eligible to vote. AV applications can also be found at [www.superior-twp.org/voting](http://www.superior-twp.org/voting) in regular sized font and large print. In order to receive an absentee voter’s ballot you must complete and return either a pre-printed form or submit a suitable written request and meet one of the following criteria:

- I am 60 years of age or older
- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion

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**NEWS FROM: BRENDA L. MCKINNEY,  
OUR SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP TREASURER SINCE 1996**



**Brenda  
McKinney  
Treasurer**

*Treasurer's Mission Statement*

*The Superior Township Treasurer is committed "to provide prompt, courteous, and efficient service to the public."  
The Treasurer is committed to handling public funds with the highest degree of integrity and accountability.*

**Your Tax Dollars at Work – 2017**

• Ann Arbor Schools: \$ 3,086,674	Washtenaw County: \$ 3,861,628
• Plymouth Schools: \$ 257,940	Township Tax: \$ 503,357
• Ypsi Comm. Schools: \$ 4,878,460	Fire Department Tax: \$ 1,843,741
• State Education: \$ 3,763,160	Law Fund Tax: \$ 1,382,816
• Ypsilanti Library: \$ 612,859	Legal Defense Fund: \$ 0
• Ann Arbor Library: \$ 552,760	Wash Comm. College: \$ 2,120,054
• Washtenaw ISD: \$ 3,163,068	Schoolcraft College: \$ 5,272
• Wayne RESA: \$ 276,803	

In addition, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$370,410, which included County Drains, Streetlights, Side Street Maintenance for Oakbrook and Washington Square, Delinquent Water Bills, Ordinance Violations, False Alarms, and Geddes Ridge Debt. Out of 6,199 parcels, 295 went delinquent. The total amount delinquent was \$716,050 and was turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 1, 2018.

**What You Should Know About Your Taxes**

- **Summer Collection:** Taxes are payable July 1 through September 14 without interest charge. After this date, one percent interest per month will be added to all unpaid tax bills unless a deferment has been granted. Summer tax deferments are available to qualified applicants.
- **Winter Collection:** Taxes are payable beginning December 1 and are due by February 14. All taxes unpaid by March 1 must be paid to the Washtenaw County Treasurer with additional interest and penalties as prescribed by law. Winter tax deferments are available to qualified applicants.
- **Treasurer's Winter Office Hours:** Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday Friday, excluding holidays. Please refer to the Superior Township Holiday Schedule on our website ([www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org)) for the days that the Treasurer's Office will be closed. For your convenience, the Treasurer's Office will be open from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM on Friday, December 28. The Treasurer's Office will also be open on Thursday, February 28 from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
- **Partial Payments:** Upon receipt of your tax bill, partial payments in any dollar amount will be accepted; however, any taxes unpaid by the statutory due dates will be subject to applicable interest and penalty fees.

TREASURER - CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## FROM YOUR COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP - Take a Town Tour -

This is the time of year when many people begin plans for sightseeing and color tours. If your circumstances don't allow travel away from home, you can still plan an interesting, enjoyable and informational tour right here in Superior Township! You can travel by foot, on a bicycle, in an automobile, and even take a virtual tour on the Township's website, [www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org).

The Committee to Promote Superior Township has assembled a compendium of significant sites within our Township. A binder, labeled "Superior Township Superior Places," is available at the counter in the inner lobby of Township Hall, in the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library, and on the Township website, under the "About" heading. Each site description includes driving directions from Township Hall.

For a fall color town tour, you might choose to travel our Natural Beauty Roads; for a family outing, a trip to one of the Township Parks or the Plymouth Orchards Cider Mill will be sure to please everyone.

History buffs will certainly enjoy a trip on the Esek Pray Trail, with its historic homes, one-room schools and early cemetery sites. Nature lovers and hikers

can avail themselves of a number of nature preserves in the Superior Greenway, including Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve, the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve and the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve. Gardeners will be drawn to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, which lies mostly in Superior Township, despite its Ann Arbor address.

Beyond the above-listed sites, adventure can be had at the Flying Pilgrims Model Airplane Club Field, at the seasonal Dixboro Village Farmers' Market, on the Border-to-Border Trail that has been incorporated into Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, and at our own Superior Township Library.

If you have any suggestions for Township sites that should be included, please contact the Committee to Promote Superior Township at [onesuperiorplace1@gmail.com](mailto:onesuperiorplace1@gmail.com), or call us at 734-635-2911.

The Committee meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month, at the Township Meeting Hall. We invite you to join us and bring your suggestions for additions to our Superior Places.

**This is one Superior Place!**




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## CLERK - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests during regular business hours (8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday) and from 8:30am to 2:00pm the Saturday preceding each election.

### **Ballot requests and returns via the United States Postal Service (USPS)**

We highly recommend that if you want a ballot mailed in a timely manner, please send your application in once received so that your ballot may be sent out. We also ask that once you receive the ballot, please vote it and return it to the clerk's office in person or via the USPS allowing enough time for receipt of your ballot before 8:00pm on Election Day. Although, the state allows for a voter to request a ballot be mailed up until 2:00pm on the Saturday (November 3rd) preceding the election that is not realistically enough time for the clerk's office to process the voter's request and receive the ballot back at our office prior to the close of polls.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynette Findley, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #1014, or e-mail: [lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org).

Please continue to use the website at [www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org)  
It is my pleasure to serve you as Clerk of Superior Township.

TREASURER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- **Escrow Payments:** Homeowners who have refinanced - please have your lender contact my office with new mailing information.
- **Mail Payments:** Tax payments should be mailed to 3040 N. Prospect Rd., Superior Township, MI, 48198. Please note that postmarks are not accepted and allow for sufficient mailing time.
- **Online Tax Payments:** Online payments may be made from December 1 to February 14 at midnight for winter bills only. There is NO FEE for using checking or savings accounts. There is a \$15.00 bank fee per \$500.00 for credit/debit card use; for payments less than \$500.00 an incremental fee will be applied. MasterCard, VISA, and Discover cards are the only credit cards that are accepted for on line payments. Credit/debit cards cannot be used to pay taxes at the Treasurer's Office.
- **Mailing Address:** Tax bills are mailed to the address of record on file as of June 1 and November 1 of each year. Should you not receive your tax bill, please contact the township office to confirm that we have your correct mailing address on file. Per Michigan Statute (MCL 211.44), failure to receive a tax bill does not abate late payments and penalties.
- **New Homeowners:** Please make sure to complete and file your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit with the Assessor's Office in order to claim the exemption from the school operating millage. Homeowners must own and occupy their home by June 1 to be eligible for a summer PRE and by November 1 to be eligible for a winter PRE.
- **Summer/Winter Tax Deferments:** Qualified applicants may defer payment of their taxes until April 30 without interest or penalties. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at (734) 482-6099 to request an application form if you have not received one by mail. Summer tax deferral applications must be signed and returned by September 14. Winter tax deferral applications must be signed and returned by February 14.

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## OUR WETLANDS BOARD

BY JIM MCINTYRE

One of the things that differentiates Superior Township from neighboring communities is the level of cooperation between governmental and non-governmental entities. This is most evident in the way groups work together to ensure that our wetlands are protected and remain viable for future generations. As communities around us continue to grow unabated, Superior Township has embraced the challenges that come with protecting our natural areas by fostering cooperation between disparate groups, with outstanding results—all while maintaining services and keeping taxes under control. So how does it happen? Here is a quick overview detailing some of the many moving parts that go in to ensuring that we can continue to protect our wetlands and open spaces.

Much of the preservation work that has been done within the township begins with township initiatives. For example, over the last 25-30 years, Superior Township has passed several ordinances that help to make preserving natural areas easier. Ordinance 166 limits the size and type of waste water systems in the township, helping to reduce the potential for pollution in many areas. Ordinance 174 establishes zoning standards in the township, better identifying the types of land available for development and protection. Lastly, Ordinance 178 defines the wetland areas of the township and establishes detailed procedures for protecting them.

WETLANDS BOARD CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



**WATER WISE – SUPERIOR UTILITIES**

MARY BURTON

**2017 Drinking Water Quality Report**

The 2017 Drinking Water Quality Report for Superior Township is now available. This report is published annually by YCUA (Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority) and contains detailed information on test results for drinking water. To review the report online, please visit our website at [www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org) or to receive a free printed copy, please email your request to [utilitybilling@superior-twp.org](mailto:utilitybilling@superior-twp.org) and include your mailing address. For requests by mail, send your request to: Superior Township Utility Department, 575 E Clark Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Do you know how much water can be lost from a leaky faucet or toilet?

A leaky faucet or toilet can add up very quickly over a short period of time. A very small drip of 30 drops per minute will equal about 54 gallons of water in a one month period while a slightly larger drip of 60 drops per minute will equal about 237 gallons per month. A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! To test your toilet, remove the lid from the tank and put in five to ten drops of food coloring. Wait about 30 minutes to check the bowl, if any color seeps in the bowl there is a leak. Have it fixed immediately!

**CUSTOMER BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

U.S. Mail: Send check or money order with payment stub to: STUD, 575 E Clark Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Lobby Service Counter (8:30am-4:00pm Mon-Fri): Cash, check, or money order  
Drive-thru Service (8:15am-4:15pm Mon-Fri): Cash, check or money order  
24 Hour Drop Box: Check or money order (NO CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED)

Online Payments: Go to [www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org) for Discover and Master card only (convenience fee applies) or choose electronic check for FREE. AUTO-Pay/ACH: Sign up for ACH to have your bill deducted from your bank account on the due date FREE of charge. Go to [www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org) to download the form. Email completed forms to [utilitydept@superior-twp.org](mailto:utilitydept@superior-twp.org) and include a blank, voided check or send by U.S. mail.

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**Wetlands Board - continued from page 5**

Several organizations have worked together over the years to ensure that Superior Township's resources are protected. Whether through the acquisition and rehabilitation of land, through private conservation easements, or through creation of public preserves, these partners have provided valuable resources to ensure the continued protection of our land. Continued management of our open spaces is critical to maintaining them for the future. Many local groups are involved with making sure local ordinances are followed and that these valuable parcels are properly monitored.

Washtenaw County Parks, Superior Township Parks, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Friends of the Rouge, and the Huron River Watershed Council all devote considerable time and effort to making sure protected areas are properly managed.

As the autumn season begins, take some time to visit the township's preserves and natural areas. Knowing that these areas don't happen by accident makes it even easier to appreciate all of the great natural resources that are available for all of us to enjoy.



## **SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Our Neighborhood Watch assists the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department in maintaining safe and friendly neighborhoods throughout the Township by sharing information about safety issues.

At our meetings residents are given updates and information from the Sheriff Representatives who attend our meetings. 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.

We meet on fourth Tuesdays every other month in the Old Town Hall building by Town Hall. Our meetings begin at 7:00pm 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 2018 are September 25th and November 27.

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](mailto:jhudson300606mi@comcast.net)

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## **SUPERVISOR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

One development that has arisen lately is houses in the community which are occupied by relatives and friends of the deceased home owner or are being occupied by squatters. These homes are not being properly cared for. They are often being used for nefarious purposes and are degrading the neighborhood. We have instructed our attorney to start a probate court estate so we can get someone to take responsibility for the condition of the property. Until a probate is started there is no legal way to sell the house except through property tax foreclosure which takes many years and is not very helpful to neighbors.

Superior Township fire services are provided by the township fire department. Again, I want to thank you for approving a ½ mill increase for fire services.

Currently, Superior Township has nine (9) full time Fire fighters three (3) of which are Captains. That means one Captain for each 24 hour shift. We also employ a Fire Chief and a Fire Marshall. Right now both the Chief and Marshall offices are vested in one person, Chief Vic Chevrette. With the fire millage we are able to hire three (3) new fire fighters that's one fire fighter for each shift.

Additional personnel are required due to population growth over the last fifteen (15) years and to bring the fire department into total federal compliance with OSHA rules. Having four (4) fire fighters at each incident allows two fire fighters into a burning structure and having two fire fighters on the outside to affect a rescue in case something goes wrong. Up to this point in time OSHA rules prohibited attacking a fire from inside a building unless there were two fire fighters on the outside. It was infuriating for residents to see the fire fighters only able to attack the blaze from the outside until mutual aid from surrounding communities arrived. This will not happen anymore and we are all safer for it.

In addition to hiring new personnel we intend to begin planning for the construction of a new fire station at Harris and MacArthur. The Harris Road fire station currently has three users: The Ypsilanti District Library, the Superior Township Parks Department and the Superior Township Fire Department. The building is antiquated and cannot house the new ladder truck. A new fire station at this location is overdue and should decrease fire insurance costs for residents, so that the added cost can be offset by a reduction in fire premium costs.

Superior Township funded many road improvements in 2018 including the milling and resurfacing of Panama Avenue, Overbrook Ct, Harvest Lane and repairs in the Tanglewood and Oakbrook subdivisions. Warren Road between Napier and Gotfredson will receive all new culverts and reconstruction of the road bed. Vreeland Road between Hickman and Gale will also receive drain improvements and a new road bed. In addition, over 2,000 tons of limestone will be spread this fall to repair gravel roads and the gravel roads will be graded three times with dust control.

SUPERVISOR-CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



MARY GARBODEN

Your neighborhood library is busy with activities and new materials for you to enjoy. Playgroup & Storytime, held the third Saturday of each month at 11am, is a great opportunity to introduce the wonders of the library and reading to your child, ages 0-5.

Celebrate another great year of gardening at our Harvest Party on October 4 at 5:30pm.

During winter break from December 26-January 5, come at 4:30pm for daily Boredom Buster activities such as snowman slime, flip books, and spring rolls.

We have just released a mobile app for Android & Apple phones and tablets. The app allows you to save your barcode for checkout, place holds, view checkouts, renew materials, use our electronic resources, and browse library events. To download, search for YDL or Ypsilanti District Library in your App Store.

YDL will have a millage measure on the November 6 ballot. If passed, a new library would be built on Harris Road between MacArthur and Geddes, which would open in 2020 and have double the hours of the current Superior library location.

Be sure to check the insert in this edition of Superior Scenes for more information. An informational session will take place at the Superior library on October 2 at 2pm.

## SUPERIOR PARK NEWS

BY JUAN BRADFORD

Another busy summer is winding down and I hope you were all able to spend some quality time together with your family and friends. Even though the days are getting shorter, there is still time to get together and enjoy the outdoors. Head on over to one of our Superior parks and have a picnic, go for a walk, play on the playground, take a hike, who knows you may even make some new friends out there. While you're out there check out some of the many improvements that have been made to the parks this year.

A portion of your tax dollars fund the parks & recreation department, so we are always working on projects to maintain and improve the parks infrastructure for you. Projects that were undertaken this year include, adding a new slide to Fireman's Park, replacing the old play structure at Community Park with a brand new one, installing message boards at Oakbrook and Fireman's Park, planting trees, creating a path extension at Schroeter Park, opening up the meadow area at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and completing the next phase of the boardwalk surrounding the wetlands there. As you can see the Parks & Recreation Commission and staff take the infrastructure maintenance and improvements of the parks very seriously and will always try to distribute improvements across as many areas as possible while taking into account both long and short term needs and wants of the residents and other park users. Another thing that your tax dollars does is enable us to provide you with multiple special events throughout the year.

This year we added a great new family event for you to enjoy, our first ever "Movies in the Park" took place at Community Park on August 11th and proved to be a great time for all. We're sorry if you missed it but don't worry, we will do it again next summer so stay tuned!

PARKS &amp; RECREATION, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



We hope to see you at the Pumpkin Carving/Arts & Crafts event at Norfolk Park on Saturday October 20th at 11:00am, and at our 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting with Santa Claus held at Township Hall on Saturday, December 1st at 6:00pm.

As always, please feel free to contact my office anytime with questions, concerns, ideas, or just to say hello. You can reach us at (734) 480-5502 or via email at [superiorparks@superior-twp.org](mailto:superiorparks@superior-twp.org). Also don't forget to check out the Township website at [www.superiortownship.org](http://www.superiortownship.org) for the latest updates.

*Juan Bradford*

Parks & Recreation Administrator

### **PUMPKIN CARVING/ARTS & CRAFTS**

**Date & Time:** Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:00.m. - 2:00p.m.

**Rain Date & Time:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

**Location:** Norfolk Park

**1815 Norfolk Ave. between Sheffield Dr. & Stamford Rd.**

**Program:** Pumpkin Carving and Arts & Crafts

**Refreshments:** Provided

**Cost:** FREE



**JOIN US FOR FUN AND REFRESHMENTS**

**FREE OF COST**

**Christmas Tree Lighting**

**With Santa Claus**

**Date & Time:** Saturday December 1st, 6:00p.m.

**Location:** Old Township Hall

**3040 N. Prospect Rd. Corner of N. Prospect & Cherry Hill**

**Program:** Lighting the Township Christmas Tree,  
Caroling, Ice Carving Demo, Pictures with Santa

**Refreshments:** Hot Chocolate & Cookies



**SUPERVISOR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7**

There's still good news about housing throughout Superior Township. All subdivisions that were stalled by the great recession are now under new housing construction. Housing values continue to grow in all our subdivisions. New houses are being marketed in the subdivisions at prices exceeding \$325,000.00. That's unbelievable but true, and your Superior Township Board recognizes that your home is one of your greatest assets and we continue to work to support housing values and to do our part in maintaining your housing investment.

On a final note, the Washtenaw County Park Commission has approved the final master plan for the Staebler County Farm Park. Later this fall the Michigan Folk School will be opening a blacksmithing and woodworking shop at the park. Opportunities for working with iron and wood will be available for all county residents. For more information please contact the Washtenaw County Parks Commission at 734-971-6337.

Feel free to call me at 734-482-6099 if you want to talk about any other matter important to you.

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**STATE MANDATED TOWNSHIP REAPPRAISAL**

PAULA CALOPISIS

The assessing Department has begun a 5-year entire township reappraisal. This entails physical measurements and photographs of every structure in the township. This will take place throughout the next 5 years during normal business hours. The Assessing Department will have an appraiser visit every building or structure in the township. This includes all homes, out buildings, barns, and commercial/industrial buildings, as well as mobile home decks, sheds, carports and garages etc.

The intention of the reappraisal is to fairly and accurately update all assessment records in the township to the current state of Michigan standards. The appraisers will be driving a township-marked vehicle and will have an identification badge. They will need physical access to the exterior of all buildings. Your cooperation during this reappraisal is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions you can contact the Assessing Department at 734-482-6099.

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**COUNTY CLEAN-UP DAY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20**

ALEX WILLIAMS

As in previous years, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office in conjunction with Superior Township, Eastern Michigan University, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, and the City of Ann Arbor will be hosting a county-wide clean-up day from 9am - 2 pm on October 20th in the parking lot on N. Hewitt Rd. across the street from EMU's Rynearson Stadium.

This Clean-up event is free to all Washtenaw County residents (excluding businesses), however please consider a \$10 donation to help support this event. Due to the expense of recycling tires, large appliances and electronics, participants bringing more than 4 tires, or more than one large appliance, TV, or computer will be asked to make a \$5 donation for each additional tire, and a \$10 donation for each additional large appliance, TV, or computer. Additional donations are welcome.

For more information about this and other Washtenaw County recycling initiatives visit: [www.washtenaw.org/cleanup](http://www.washtenaw.org/cleanup) or perform a web search for Washtenaw recycling.

ALLISON OLEYNIK

## BASIC RADON FACTS

Information provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) –  
Article EPA 402/F-12/005, July 2016

### **Breathing radon in your home can cause lung cancer**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water that can build up to dangerous levels inside any home; this means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without a basement. Radon gas is odorless and invisible, and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it.

Breathing radon can increase your risk of lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer for people who do. EPA estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 deaths from lung cancer each year in the U.S. If you smoke and your home has a high radon level, your risk of lung cancer can increase even more.

### **Radon has been found in every state**

Homes with high levels of radon have been found in every state. In fact, radon levels can vary greatly from home to home – even levels next door can be very different.

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), a measurement of radioactivity. In the United States, the average indoor radon level is about 1/3 pCi/L. The average outdoor level is about 0.4 pCi/L. The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend fixing homes with radon levels at or about 4 pCi/L. EPA also recommends that people think about fixing their homes for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.

### **You should test for radon**

Testing your house for radon is easy. If your house has a radon problem, it can be fixed. Fixing a radon problem reduces the risk of lung cancer for you and your family.

A simple test will tell you if your home has a high radon level. Most radon tests last between 2 and 7 days. It's as easy as opening a package, and putting the test kit in the right place. After sending the test kit back to the address in the package, the company will send your radon test results in about 2 weeks.

Many local home improvement or hardware stores sell test kits. Test kits can be ordered online too. Sometimes you can get a test kit from your state radon office. You also can hire a qualified tester to do a radon test for you. Your state radon program may keep a list of these professionals.

Kansas State University, under a cooperative agreement with EPA, provides national radon program services, including selling radon test kits and answering toll-free radon hotlines. For more information about radon testing call 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236) or visit <https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-radon-test-kit-or-measurement-and-mitigation-professional>.

### **You can fix a radon problem**

Help is available to fix a radon problem. You can call your state radon office to find qualified radon mitigators in your area. Also local companies with radon mitigators are in the phone book or online. The cost to reduce radon depends on how your home was built and how you use it. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs.

# SUPERIOR SCENES

SUPERIOR CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR: NANCY CAVISTON, TRUSTEE  
EDUCATION@SUPERIOR-TWP.ORG

3040 N. Prospect Road Superior  
Township, MI 48198



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### Water & Sewer Services

575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI  
734-480-5500  
Office hours 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM  
**24/7 Emergency Service**  
For Water & Sewer Emergencies

### Superior Township Fire Department

7999 Ford Road  
Ford and Prospect Roads Ypsilanti, MI  
48198  
734-484-1996

### In Emergency dial 911

Fire Station #2  
Corner of Harris and MacArthur Dial  
911 for Emergencies

### Parks & Recreation

575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI  
734-480-5502

## OUR SUPERIOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

BY CHIEF VIC CHEVRETTE

I am pleased to write this column and update you on what is happening within your Fire Department. With fall and winter approaching it will be time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and also have any chimneys cleaned if you burn fire wood to prevent a chimney fire.

In April 2018, your Fire Department received a new Ladder Truck which was purchased with a Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant (FEMA) under Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant. We are excited about this new vehicle to serve the residents of Superior Township.

Your Superior Township Fire Department received a second FEMA Safer Grant so we are now able to hire three more firefighters!

### 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, and the 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](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 American Red Cross is conducting FREE smoke alarm installations and inspections. You can go to their website at [www.redcross.org/local/Michigan/home-fire-campaign](http://www.redcross.org/local/Michigan/home-fire-campaign) or call 734-971-5300 for further information.