

SUPERIOR SCENES

SUPERIOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



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FROM OUR SUPERVISOR

BY KENNETH SCHWARTZ, SUPERVISOR

SALEM SEWER UPDATE:

Last fall I wrote about Salem Township's lawsuit against Superior Township. Well, there's a bit of an update, and I'm pleased to tell it.

Salem's suit demanded the court to order Superior to issue a construction permit to Salem to construct a sewer line on Gotfredson Road from M-14 to the YCUA treatment plant – a total of 10.5 miles. In March 2021 Salem Township asked the court to issue an order compelling Superior Township to issue a construction permit based on three very obscure legal theories and they alleged that Superior denied Salem due process by not issuing the permit.

On April 20, 2021, a special meeting of the Superior Township Board of Trustees was convened for the sole purpose of listening to Salem's attorneys present their reasons for the permit and why this sewer was appropriate. Our attorneys, David Landry and Fred Lucas, responded with proof that the sewer would permanently alter the character of Superior Township and only lead to many future lawsuits against Superior to request permission to connect to the sewer and build subdivisions on existing farmland. After listening to both sides, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to deny Salem the sewer permit.



KENNETH SCHWARTZ
SUPERVISOR

SUPERVISOR, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

NEWS FROM OUR SUPERIOR CLERK

BY LYNETTE FINDLEY, CLERK



**LYNETTE
FINDLEY
CLERK**

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer! It has been a very warm and rainy summer. I missed all my amazing election workers this past year.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Welcome to fall!

Great news about Washtenaw County and Charter Township of Superior according to the U.S Census Bureau 2020 Census which was released in August. Washtenaw County is one of the top five counties in Michigan who experienced the most growth since the last U.S. Census Report in 2010. Our Township grew by 13.6% to 14,832 residents. The median household income in 2010 was \$85,538 compared to \$69,688 in 2020 which represents a loss in income of \$15,850 (18.5%).

Please observe the following chart on the next page for specific Census information on Charter Township of Superior. For more detailed information regarding the U.S. Census, please visit the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) website.

2020 Census Data for Charter of Superior Township														
Total Population			Voting Age Population (Age 18 and up)						Child Population (Age under 18)					
Total Population			Age 18 and up			Percent of Total Pop			Age under 18			Percent of Total Pop		
2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000
14,832	13,058	10,740	11,131	9,577	7,634	75.0%	73.3%	71.1%	3,701	3,481	3,106	25.0%	26.7%	28.9%

Non-Hispanic White			Percent of Total Pop		
2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000
7,770	7,441	6,674	52.4%	57.0%	62.1%

Non-Hispanic Black			Percent of Total Pop		
2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000
3,964	3,894	3,294	26.7%	29.8%	30.7%

Non-Hispanic Asian			Percent of Total Pop		
2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000
1,040	741	246	7.0%	5.7%	2.3%

Hispanic			Percent of Total Pop		
2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000
956	495	197	6.4%	3.8%	1.8%

Multi-Racial			Percent of Total Pop		
2020	2010	2000	2020	2010	2000
1,013	433	363	6.8%	3.3%	3.3%

Housing Units			Change		Households		
2020	2010	2000	10-20	00-10	2020	2010	2000
5,747	5,322	4,097	425	1,225	5,518	4,924	3,961

CLERK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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.*



**Brenda McKinney
Treasurer**

News from: Brenda L. McKinney,
your Superior Township Treasurer since 1996

Your Tax Dollars at Work – 2021

• Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 3,761,791	Washtenaw County:	\$ 4,908, 515
• Plymouth Schools:	\$ 291,742	General Fund:	\$ 559,092
• Ypsi Comm Schools:	\$ 6,149,719	Fire Fund:	\$ 2,414,499
• State Education:	\$ 4,150,277	Law Fund:	\$ 1,897,106
• Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 938,287	Legal Defense Fund:	\$ 0
• Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 607,293	Wash Comm College:	\$ 2,350,002
• Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 3,743,491	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 3,514
• Wayne RESA:	\$ 224,778		

In addition, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$262,518, which included County Drains, Streetlights, Side Street Maintenance for Oakbrook and Washington Square, Delinquent Water Bills, Ordinance Violations, and Geddes Ridge Debt.

Out of 6,240 parcels, 630 went delinquent. The total amount delinquent was \$827,586.00 and was turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 2, 2020.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- **Summer Collection:** 2021 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:** 2021 taxes are payable beginning December 1 and are due by February 14. All 2021 taxes unpaid at the township Treasurer's Office 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 Office Hours:** The Township has resumed their hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Payment can be made in person or through the Treasurer's Mail Slot inside the front foyer of the township hall, excluding holidays, or mail your payments. On September 14, 2021, the Treasurer's Office will be open until 5:00 PM; on December 30, 2021, the Treasurer's Office will be open until 5:30 PM and on February 28, 2022, the Treasurer's Office will be open until 5:00 PM. Please refer to the Superior Township Holiday Schedule on our website (www.superiortownship.org) for the days that the Treasurer's Office will be closed.
- **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.
- **Escrow Payments:** Homeowners who have refinanced - please have your lender contact my office with new mailing information.

TREASURER CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**WANTED:**

Superior Township residents and friends who are inclined to community assistance, but not necessarily fond of attending meetings. The Committee to Promote Superior Township (C2PST) is hampered in our efforts by lack of helpers, but we realize that not everyone is interested in joining a committee. If you have any skill, you'd like to apply to benefit your community, we'd like to hear from you. We particularly need someone with skills in negotiating social media, and we'd like someone who could represent the C2PST at the Dixboro Farmers' Market. We would also like to engage with folks in the real estate field who could advise us on how they might promote Superior Township to prospective buyers (future residents!).

Contact Brenda Baker (cell/text 734-635-2911, email BakerPartin@aol.com) or Carla Bisaro (phone 734-484-0074, email ckbisaro@comcast.net). Here's a great opportunity to benefit your Township without a rigid schedule or long-term commitment.

At the same time as we request your help, we offer you a pleasant treat. Our comprehensive list of significant spots within Superior Township has been recently updated, and we present it to you with pride. In a binder in the Township Hall lobby, and on the Township website, there is a listing of sites called Superior Places. We invite you to take a look through the offerings there and choose one or two of the locations described. They are all interesting, and a visit to any of them could help familiarize you with your Township or discover something new.

Maybe we'll see you out and about!

BUILDING/ZONING DEPARTMENT**Planning Commission Meetings**

Planning Commission members are appointed by the Township Board and have several responsibilities. These include preparing and updating the Master Plan for Township Board approval, advising the Board on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, and reviewing and approving (or denying) site plans, special land uses and planned community developments. All Planning Commission meetings are open to the public. Often the public is not fully aware of Planning Commission procedures. Following are brief explanations of some common Planning Commission actions.

Applications- Property owners or authorized agents can submit applications to the Township for proposed subdivisions or individual site developments. Such applications may also entail rezoning, conditional use approvals, and site plan review. The Township is required to accept complete applications and place the application on the appropriate Planning Commission agenda. The acceptance of proper and complete applications and scheduling of hearings is required and is not an indication that the Township favors any particular proposal.

DIXBORO'S FARMERS' MARKET NEWS

We hope you have been enjoying this season (our 10th!) and taking advantage of the fresh food offered by our vendors. In addition to the regular market, we are hosting a couple of special events – "Trunk or Treat", a Halloween celebration scheduled for October 22nd (in partnership with Dixboro United Methodist Church) and "Christmas on the Green", a holiday celebration on Saturday, December 11th with a Christmas tree lighting, visit by Santa, Carolers and a food truck! The Dixboro Farmers' Market is held every Friday, 3-6 PM, through October 22nd. Join us on the Village Green!



RICK MAYERNIK

BUILDING DEPT. CONTINUED ON PAGE

Building Dept. continued from page 4

Rezoning- Applications to rezone property are heard first by the Planning Commission who will make a recommendation to the Township Board. Notices are mailed to property owners within 300 feet, a notice is placed in the paper and is posted at the Township, and a sign is placed at the subject property. Information relating to the rezoning is also placed on the Township website. The application is placed on the Planning Commission's agenda and a public hearing is held. At the appropriate time during the meeting, the Chairman will open the public hearing at which time comments from the audience will be heard. After the public hearing is closed, the Planning Commission will deliberate and act on the application. For rezonings, Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map amendments, the Planning Commission recommends approval or denial to the Township Board. The Township Board considers the Planning Commission's recommendations and then approves or denies the application.

Conditional Uses- Conditional Uses are land uses that are found to be generally acceptable in a certain zoning district but, not necessarily acceptable at every location and not without appropriate restrictions or conditions. Much like a rezoning, a public hearing is held relating to an application. Unlike a rezoning, the Planning Commission makes the final decision to approve or deny an application.

Pre-application Conference- For projects located in Special Districts, a pre-application conference at the Planning Commission is required. The purpose of this meeting is for the applicant to describe the proposed project to the Planning Commissioners in order to receive informal feedback relating to the use and general project design. This feedback can be helpful to the applicant as they move forward with the design of the project.

Site Plan Review- One of the final steps in development approval is site plan review. Larger projects will generally have the review completed in two steps: preliminary site plan review and final site plan review. Minor projects may choose to combine the steps into one preliminary/final review. Site plan review would occur after any required rezoning or conditional use approvals have been granted. Uses that are designated as "permitted" in a zoning district would move directly to site plan review as no additional prior approval steps are required.

OUR WETLANDS

BY JIM
MCINTYRE

Wetlands Under Siege

As real estate prices skyrocket, the importance of maintaining our wetland areas is amplified. The push to expand and build regularly threatens the open spaces that we've worked so hard to protect. To see the importance our community has placed on our wetland areas, one has to go no further than to review the public comments offered by numerous members of the community in response to a recent development proposal that would have put significant wetland areas at risk.

Thoughtful planning and deliberate actions in pursuit of that planning is a critical element of enabling our community to grow while maintaining the characteristics that brought many residents here in the first place. The passionate advocacy displayed by those who continue to work tirelessly to protect the township's open spaces is laudable, but more work needs to be done. In the past year, we've seen two proposals that threatened significant portions of the Township; while these have not been successful, surely, we will continue to face these types of challenges going forward.

So, what can be done?



WETLANDS CONTINUED PAGE 6

Wetlands continued from page 5

Continued support of Township initiatives aimed at preserving and protecting our open spaces, as defined in the Master Plan, is a great place to start. Focusing on ensuring the Township has the resources available to defend the Master Plan and that Township officials are expected to make decisions that align with the plan is also an important step. Most importantly, though, is the continued need for community involvement. When we see these threats to our community, they're often presented with the hope that an apathetic community will simply acquiesce.

Engaged, involved, residents can show our representatives in local government that we fully support their initiatives by continuing to provide public comment and feedback in these types of situations.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our open spaces and wetlands!

OUR SUPERIOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, John Hudson served the Township for over a decade and has retired from the position. The Charter Township of Superior is looking for a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator currently. Please contact Supervisor Schwartz at (734) 482-6099 or kenschwartz@superior-twp.org if you are interested in serving the Township in this position or for further information regarding this position.



Ypsilanti District Library

BY MARY GARBODEN

We are ecstatic about construction progress on the new library. We anticipate opening the new location by early Fall 2022. If you haven't checked out the construction site on North Harris Rd, stop by and take a look! You can see the outline of the building and parking lot, along with the beginnings of the building foundation.

Our capital campaign committee is working hard to raise funds to make the library everything our community deserves. Your contributions to the Young Family Next Chapter Challenge in June and July totaled over \$100,000. The Young Family Foundation will match this 2:1, giving YDL's capital campaign an additional \$200,000. Through the end of September, donors can contribute to the Children's Book Challenge to raise \$25,000 for the picture book collection. On October 1st, a new \$100,000 matching challenge kicks off. To learn more and make your contribution, go to ypsilibrary.org/nextchapter.

Thanks to a generous gift of \$10,000 from the DTE Foundation, we have new and improved lockers at the Superior branch for 24/7 pickup of library materials. When you make your pickup reservation at ypsilibrary.org/curbside, choose the Superior location and then choose locker pickup. When you arrive, simply scan your library card and the door with your items will pop open, already checked out to you.

We are happy to see you back inside the Michigan Ave & Whittaker Rd. branches, which reopened this summer! The Superior branch remains closed due to its small size and COVID rates. The library continues taking steps to stay safe. The vast majority of staff is vaccinated, and air purification systems installed at Whittaker Rd. and Michigan Ave. are designed to clean the air as well as surfaces. We will continue to follow CDC guidance on masking within our buildings.

While the Superior branch is closed to the public, we have outdoor activities planned. We can't wait to see you! All outdoor programs are weather dependent; no indoor access will be available.

LIBRARY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

- Saturday, September 25, 2pm: Spotlight on Science | Try out giant bubbles, baking soda science, cast a faux fossil, and plant a little grass head at our science stations.
- Thursday, September 30, 4-6pm: Pop-up Browsing | Check out some of the latest & greatest library materials outside the library. Check [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://www.ypsilibrary.org/events) for more dates in October and November.
- Saturday, October 9, 2pm: Fun & Games | Stop by the lawn for outdoor fun with tie-dye, lawn games, and giant bubbles.



Superior Township Library
8795 MacArthur Blvd.
Superior Township, MI 48198
(734) 482-4110 x1391
Friday & Sunday Closed

WATER WISE – SUPERIOR UTILITIES

BY MARY BURTON

2020 Drinking Water Quality Report:

The 2020 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 or to receive a free printed copy, please email your request to 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.

Bill Payment Assistance Program:

Do you need assistance in paying your water/sewer bill? Superior Township Utility Department (STUD) has partnered with the Great Lakes Water Authority WRAP (Water Residential Assistance Program). This program is designed to assist low-income households with water and sewer bills and encourage water efficiency in the community. There are several WRAP options that qualified households can benefit from including bill payment assistance, minor plumbing repairs, arrear age assistance and more. Call STUD today at 734-480-5500 for more information.

Customer Service Counter Re-Opened:

Due to COVID restrictions, the customer service counter was closed to walk-in service. To better serve the needs of our customers and community, STUD has re-opened the Customer Service Counter located at 575 E. Clark Rd. Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Feel free to stop in for fast, friendly service.



FREE and Easy Payment Option:

STUD offers a free and easy payment option to pay your water/sewer bills through Automated Clearing House (ACH). With this service, you can have your bill paid automatically on the due date from your checking or savings account. By choosing ACH, you can save time, money and avoid late fees while never having to write a check. To sign up online, go to www.superiortownship.org and select Departments/Utilities/ACH Direct payment Application or call the Utility Department at 734-480-5500 and request an ACH application.

Winterize Your Sprinkler

It's hard to believe but it's that time of year again, the Summer has come to an end and Fall is setting in. Winterizing your sprinkler system is highly recommended to minimize the chance of freeze damage. There are professionals that offer sprinkler auto drain or blowout services. Be sure to have your system winterized before the cold weather comes.

CLERK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Fun Fact about Charter Township of Superior:

Dixboro was founded in 1824, by Captain John Dix, a retired sea captain. Although the community prospered and had its own post office for many years, it never incorporated to form a municipal government. The railroad bypassed Dixboro, and Ann Arbor soon quickly outpaced Dixboro. The community's most notable features are the Dixboro General Store, founded in 1840, and the Humane Society of Huron Valley, founded in 1896.

SUPERIOR PARK NEWS

BY JUAN BRADFORD

Hello Neighbors,

Your Parks & Recreation Department is excited to announce that the tennis courts at Community Park were refurbished over the summer and are ready for play! In order to introduce kids to the sport of tennis we will be offering weekly beginners tennis classes to kids ages 6 – 13 for free this fall. Because this is a free offering, children must be residents of Superior Township, and a parent or guardian must provide proof of residency. Registration is now open, and space is very limited so early registration is encouraged.

Preparation is beginning on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for the years 2023-2027. The plan is a guide for park and open space development and acquisition, with the goals of providing equitable distribution of facilities for Township residents and maintaining and improving existing parks and recreational offerings. Part of the preparation will involve citizen input through surveys, open houses, and focus groups. If you are interested in serving on the Recreation Plan Steering Committee, please contact Parks & Recreation Administrator Juan Bradford at (734) 480-5502 for more information.

Please come out and join us for some of the upcoming free family activities we have planned for you. October 9th will be our first ever Nature Hunt Bingo at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. Hunt for plants, trees, birds, and other critters. Bingo cards, snacks, and prizes will be provided. October 23rd will be our annual Pumpkin Carving and Arts & Crafts Day at Norfolk Park. Every child in attendance will receive their own pumpkin to carve and take home, along with snacks and crafts. After taking last year off to stay safe, Santa will once again be joining us at Township Hall on December 4th at 6:00pm to light the Township Christmas Tree. There will also be old fashioned Christmas carolers, warming fires, ice carving, cookies, and hot cocoa. Please come out and help us welcome Santa back to Superior Township!!!

To register for tennis or get information on any of our other special events 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
Parks & Recreation Administrator



Golden Eagle on Vreeland Road
Photo by Supervisor Schwartz

Preserving Nature in Superior Township

The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), is a non-profit charity founded in 1988 “to conserve natural land and open space—including forests, wetlands, meadows, agricultural lands, and places of scenic beauty – to provide habitat for wildlife and to enrich the lives of people.” SMLC conserves and manages natural land and has been instrumental in protecting nearly 3,500 acres in the 7-county southeast Michigan region.

Thirty years ago, SMLC placed a focus on protecting land in Superior Township where much of the last remaining open landscapes between Detroit’s urban sprawl and Ann Arbor lie. We formed a local chapter, Superior Land Conservancy (now called the Superior Township Chapter) to help spearhead preservation efforts in the Township. The chapter’s first success was securing a donation from Brad and Nancy Perkins, which created the 30-acre Springhill Nature Preserve.

In the ensuing years, SMLC has partnered with Superior Township, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, state and federal government, other environmental groups and hundreds of individuals to protect 2,500 acres in our township. This includes farmland forever preserved from development through Conservation Easements and several public Nature Preserves scattered throughout our community. Our efforts to create a robust greenbelt locally are now known as the Superior Greenway—which is a work in progress!

These protected lands provide essential habitat to numerous wildlife species including fox, coyotes, salamanders, frogs, all manner of native plants and over 240 species of birds. Birders from throughout the state flock to our township to see such rarities as Short-eared Owls, Bobolinks, Peregrine Falcons, Scarlet Tanagers, and Trumpeter Swans. This year, thanks to our 17-year cicada uprising, Mississippi Kites, never before seen in these parts, showed up drawing throngs to our preserves.

Our supporters help maintain our headquarters at the Conservancy Farm on Vreeland Road. From this historic setting, we publish newsletters and monthly updates, host full moon campfires, lead seasonal nature walks and other events highlighting the wonders of nature. Our Community Organic Garden provides fun and healthy opportunities for folks to raise good food amidst beautiful natural surroundings.

SMLC relies on volunteers to help steward our preserves throughout the year. They are currently planting native prairie plants to expand the Native Plant and Insect Garden at the entrance to the J.R. Smiley Nature Preserve across from Township Hall. Signage there will illustrate the delicate ecological balance that holds our lives on Earth together. We have also just opened a new 80-acre preserve at Ford Road and Berry which will need volunteers to restore over the years ahead.

If you sympathize with our efforts to “Think Globally, and Act Locally”, join us! Attend our “Red Barn Bash” fun raising event going on virtually, and in person, October 23rd at the Ypsilanti Freight house. To register for this event, or to learn more about the SMLC, visit our website, www.smlcland.org or contact us via Facebook, Twitter, or call me at 734-482-5957.

Thank you!

- Bill Secest



Rainbow over LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
Photo by Charles Scott

SUPERVISOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A court hearing was held on May 24th at the Washtenaw County Circuit Court to compel Superior to issue the permits based on the three obscure legal theories. The Judge listened to Salem's arguments and Superior's rebuttal. At the conclusion of all arguments Judge Conlin ruled against Salem on all theories declaring the issues raised by Salem at the hearing legally moot; thus, affirming the authority of the township Board to determine this issue.

After the hearing the claim that Superior denied Salem due process was dismissed voluntarily by Salem and the trial case is over and all claims resolved. Salem has appealed the court's decision of the obscure counts.

It's worth noting that at the special meeting of the Board, even though it was on Zoom, numerous residents attended and spoke against the proposed sewer. The residents made their preferences known and its clear to me that all of our residents want to keep Superior Township as the last green speck on the map between the Detroit River and Ann Arbor.

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT NEWS:

On August 30th Superior Township received notice from YCUA that the Great Lakes Water Authority (YCUA's water supplier) raised rates by 3%, and that YCUA will pass along the added costs to Superior water and sewer customers effective October 1, 2021. So, you will see a slight upward bump in future water bills.

NEW PROSPECT ROAD NON-MOTORIZED PATH:

Last year the township secured from SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) a grant in the amount of \$429,609.00 for the construction of a non-motorized path from Geddes and Prospect to Prospect and Berkshire. Washtenaw County Parks also granted \$125,000.00 towards engineering and inspection. The path is now under construction and will include a new 500-foot pedestrian bridge to cross the wetlands and the drain that crosses Prospect Road just south of Geddes. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the path should be completed by this Fall.

ZONING NEWS:

In December 2020, the Township Board of Trustees imposed a zoning moratorium on zoning petitions until July 20, 2021. The Board believed that an in-person public hearing and public comment was absolutely necessary for any zoning changes.

On August 25th a public hearing was held before the Superior Township Planning Commission at the township hall to listen to a proposal by the Eyde Company to rezone, develop, and build over 2,000 units on 649 acres of greenspace. The proposal included providing public sewer and water north of Geddes Road. Traditionally, and by master plan and zoning standards, public sewer north of Geddes is prohibited because it is outside of our urban services district. Ironically, the Eyde Company already owns over 300 acres south of Geddes already zoned for the uses they were requesting but it appears they want an up or down decision on the entire proposal instead of developing where it is currently permitted.

The Eyde proposal was met with strong citizen opposition. Written comments streamed in all week to be included in the record of the proceedings. Attendance was overwhelming. Many people wanted to be heard. Every chair was occupied with people filling the hallway and spilling out the doors. In the time of COVID this was a little alarming. Although not a requirement of attending, almost 100% of the citizens stated they were vaccinated, and they masked up. There were no known cases of covid arising out of this meeting – how fortunate. I believe Superior Township residents do not want to contract or pass along the COVID virus, and since reopening the township hall, most visitors want to tell us they are vaccinated and wear a mask upon entering the building. We all want to get back to normal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

SUPERVISOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Rezoning 649 acres of farmland is not a normal rezoning and the citizens responded by risking attendance to speak their minds. This is evidence of the great concern our residents have regarding this development as every speaker spoke out against the proposal. After numerous public comments against the proposed rezoning, one written comment for the proposal was read aloud to the audience. Then the township Clerk, Lynette Findley entered into the record all the written comments. Several Planning Commissioners responded to the proposal with cogent arguments and excellent comments; and at the end of business on this matter a motion was approved to table the rezoning petition so that a written motion to deny recommendation of the rezoning proposal could be drafted in accordance with the wishes of the residents and citing the standards for a rezoning petition as set forth in our adopted Master Plan. Your township Planner, Ben Carlisle, will draft a motion of denial based upon significant deviations from Master Plan and township zoning standards. By the time you read this article the matter should be before the Township Board as the Board has the final determination on this petition.

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

¹ Four legal theories were raised by Salem, they are 1) Denial of Due Process, 2) Mandamus, 3) Superintending Control, 4) Declaratory Judgment.

TREASURER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- **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:** To pay current year taxes online, visit our website at www.superiortownship.org and click on Departments/Treasurer. There is a \$3.00 fee for Electronic Check payments. The fee will increase to \$10.00 for amounts over \$10,000.00. There is a three (3) percent fee with a minimum \$2.00 fee for credit or debit card payments. VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are the only credit cards that are accepted online. Fees are charged by the online payment vendor. Tax payments are posted "real time."
- **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 deferment applications for the 2021 tax year must be signed and returned by September 14, 2021. Winter tax deferment applications for the 2021 tax year must be signed and returned by February 14, 2022.

Support for Hope Clinic:

- Superior Township has been designated as a year-round drop off point for donations of food pantry items and toiletries for the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. If you are considering a donation, please contact the Hope Clinic directly at (734) 484-2989 to schedule a drop off. You can obtain information about their programs and service at: www.thehopeclinic.org

PLEASE STAY SAFE!

SUPERIOR SCENES

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

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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 734-480-5500

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. In August 2021, the Fire Department was awarded a grant for \$205,745.00. This is a FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant. The grant was for Fire fighter Turnout Gear. This is a Regional Grant that was approved for Augusta Township FD, Ann Arbor Township FD, Chelsea Area FD and South Lyon FD as well. The grant funding will outfit 196 fire department personnel. We are pleased to receive this much needed grant. As Fall and Winter approaching, it will be time to clean furnaces and wood burning chimneys. Please have your furnaces serviced by Authorized Furnace Company. With wood burning chimneys, many have a buildup of creosote within the chimney. Please have your chimneys cleaned and inspected to prevent chimney fires.

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 to be burned. 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. Application for Open Burning Permit at the Township Hall. Once approved, you will be notified by email or telephone.

Smoke Detectors

The Fire Department has free smoke detector and CO detector to install. You may contact the Fire Department at 734-484-1996 for smoke detector installation. With COVID-19, Fire Dept. personnel will be utilizing social distancing and PPE when installing the Detectors. As a friendly reminder, please change out your batteries on all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors annually.

Child Car Seat Safety Check

The Fire Department offers Child Car Seat Safety Check by one of our Certified Personnel. Please call the FireDepartment at 734-484-1996 for an appointment.