



Changes on the Thomas Township Board



Ellen Ryder-Petre accepting recognition plaque at her last meeting

After serving 18 years on the Thomas Township Board, Ellen Ryder-Petre has decided to step down from serving as a Trustee. Ellen’s last official meeting was on November 5th, with her last day being November 6th, 2018.

Not only has Ellen been a Township Trustee, she has also Chaired the Policy and Ordinance Committee, as well as served time on the Public Safety Committee and on the Downtown Development Authority Board. Ellen and her husband of over fifty years, Ron, have been gener-

ous and upstanding members of our community and Thomas Township cannot thank Ellen enough for her many years of service to Thomas Township.

With Ellen’s departure comes a new member to the Thomas Township Board. Welcome new Thomas Township Board Trustee, Tara DeLine. Tara is well known to the Township staff as she has always been close with the Township. In fact, she started working for Parks and Recreation in 2004 as a sports official. Tara took on responsibility within the Parks Department and quickly became a Lifeguard for the Roethke Park Pool and also was a Camp Counselor. Due to the fact she was such a great leader and always reliable she took on any roll when the Parks Department needed her to. At the end of her 12 years working for the Parks and Recreation department she was the Head Lifeguard, as well as, the Camp Director. After all of her time working for the Parks and Recreation Department she wasn't quite ready to leave, so she was then elected to the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2016 where she made an immediate impact with new ideas and helping with several events. Tara is also a teacher at Shield Elementary and has two children with her husband David DeLine.



New Trustee Tara DeLine with Ellen Ryder-Petre

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob WeiseSupervisor
- Vern Weber Treasurer
- Edward Brosowski... Clerk
- Craig Monahan..... Trustee
- Mike Thayer Trustee
- Tara DeLine Trustee
- David Sommers..... Trustee
- Russell Taylor.....Manager

Departments

- Municipal Office..... 781-0150
249 N. Miller Road
- Parks & Recreation . 781-0151
249 N. Miller Road
- DPW Administration 781-6438
251 Miller Court
- Police Department . 781-1300
8215 Shields Drive
- Fire Department 781-4141
8215 Shields Drive
- Library..... 781-3770
8207 Shields Drive

Inside this Issue

- Important Dates..... 2
- Trash & Treasures 3
- Assessing Updates 6
- Thomas Trail Addition..... 8

Christmas Tree Disposal

Residents in all 34 communities served by the Mid Michigan Waste Authority can put their fresh Christmas trees to the curb by 7 am on their regular trash day throughout the month of January.

You do not need to remove ornaments, tinsel, garland or other decorative items, and trees can be put to the curb with or without a tree bag.

Trees that are frozen to the ground or covered with snow will not be collected until they can be safely accessed by the driver. Large or heavy trees may have to be picked up by the bulk truck, and in those cases, trees should be collected within two days of the resident's regular service day.

The service applies only to Christmas trees that have been used as indoor holiday décor. State law prohibits yard waste and vegetation from being disposed of in the landfill; however, the ban does not apply to Christmas trees. Artificial trees may be placed to the curb as a bulky item at any time of the year.



Important Dates for 2019

Holiday Trash Delays 2019

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Delayed Pick-Up Day</u>
New Years Day:	Saturday, January 5th
Memorial Day:	Saturday, June 1st
4th of July:	Saturday, July 6th
Labor Day:	Saturday, September 7th
Thanksgiving:	Saturday, November 30th
Christmas:	Saturday, December 28th

Board of Trustee Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Public Safety Building located at 8215 Shields Drive.

Monday, January 7th	Monday, July 8th
Monday, February 4th	Monday, August 5th
Monday, March 4th	Monday, September 9th
Monday, April 1st	Monday, October 7th
Monday, May 6th	Monday, November 4th
Monday, June 3rd	Monday, December 2nd

Planning Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Public Safety Building located at 8215 Shields Drive.

Wednesday, January 16th	Wednesday, July 17th
Wednesday, February 20th	Wednesday, August 21st
Wednesday, March 20th	Wednesday, September 18th
Wednesday, April 17th	Wednesday, October 16th
Wednesday, May 15th	Wednesday, November 20th
Wednesday, June 19th	Wednesday, December 18th

Downtown Development Authority Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. and are held at the Public Safety Building located at 8215 Shields Drive.

Tuesday, January 22nd	Tuesday, July 23rd
Tuesday, March 26th	Tuesday, September 24th
Tuesday, May 28th	Tuesday, November 26th

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Dates

When needed, meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Meetings begin at 4:00 pm and are held at the Public Safety Building located at 8215 Shields Drive.

*Important
Upcoming
Dates!*

2019 Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales

Although the Shields Festival has ended, the Trash & Treasures Rummage Sale event is still going on! The sales are scheduled to run from Saturday, June 15th through Sunday June 16th, 2019. We hope to see just as many if not even more sales registered this year!

A donation truck will be provided for any items that residents would like to donate. There will also be dumpsters available for residents to use as well. Both of these will be available at the Public Safety Center, located at 8215 Shields Drive, during the event.

Registration is **FREE** and is starting now! Once registered, your sale will be listed on a map provided by Thomas Township and distributed the week of the sales. Copies of the map will be printed in local newspapers, as well as available at local businesses and on our website www.thomastwp.org. In order to have your sale included on the map you **MUST** have the form turned in by 5:00 pm on **May 24th, 2019.**

*** If you are not a Thomas Township resident, you may still register your sale, and it will be displayed in the address list section, but may not appear on the map. ***

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Due to limited spacing, we cannot list specific times or individual items for sale on the map

You may register your sale by completing this form and returning it to:

Thomas Township Office
Attn: Jennifer Holtman
249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609

You may email the form to:
operator@thomastwp.org

You may also use the drop box located out in front of the office. For any questions, please contact Thomas Township at 989-781-0150.

Habitat for Humanity

We are seeking applicants from residents within Thomas Township who own their homes and who are in need of basic home repairs or handicap updates but cannot afford them. Applications are available in the Thomas Township Office, located at 249 N. Miller Road. We are also seeking any local business who would like to participate with Habitat for Humanity. For further information on how your business can help please contact Deidre at (989) 781-0150.

You may qualify for one of several available grant opportunities available! If you are interested, or know of someone who may qualify, please act right away by contacting the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity at (989)-753-5200 or visiting them at 315 W. Holland Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48602.



Saginaw-Shiawassee
Habitat
for Humanity®

Fire Safety Inspections

The Thomas Township Fire Department offers home fire safety inspections free of charge. A fire official will come to your home and perform an inspection indicating areas which may pose a hazard and offer a suggestion or two on preventing the hazard. If you have questions on any of these safety concerns or would like a safety inspection, please don't hesitate to contact our Fire Prevention Bureau at 781-4141.

Burning Candles Facts

- 38% of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- December is the peak time of year for candle fires, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations as compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 12% of home candle fires.
- The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day and Halloween.



Chimney Maintenance

Having a fireplace can be very fun, safe and romantic. It can also be a great method of alternative heating. With fireplaces, comes the need to maintain them. Depending on how you use or maintain your fire place / chimney, you may have an above average build up of creosote. It is extremely important to properly maintain a chimney and to properly dispose of the ashes. The chimney itself needs to be cleaned out regularly, depending on your usage. There are a couple different methods of accomplishing this. One of those methods is to contact a chimney sweep company so they can clean and inspect your chimney. Properly disposing of fireplace ashes can be another significant hazard. As hard as it may seem to believe, these ashes can hold heat for several days. It is very dangerous to remove your ashes and place them in a combustible container (plastic trash can or trash bag) and leave them inside a structure. It is best to place these ashes in a metal container, and keep them outside away from any structure. This may prevent your ashes from starting a fire in your garage, house or other building.



If you think you might have a chimney fire, the fire department can respond and check it with a thermal imaging camera which detects heat. We use it to check those hidden areas to ensure you don't have any "hidden" fires. The attic space is one of those forgotten areas where fires can begin due to a small hole in the chimney which can allow creosote to "flow" out of. Please feel free to contact our fire prevention bureau if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Fire Safety During the Holidays

With the snow season comes many small things we forget about that can have big returns, in terms of safety. What I am talking about are the safety items that need extra attention during the winter months. Please take a couple moments to review this list to help ensure your safety throughout these cold months.

1. Keep a clear distance around your furnace, hot water heater and heat vents.
2. Have your chimney cleaned regularly.
3. Keep your closest fire hydrant shoveled out (at least three feet).
4. Ensure all your household exit doors are accessible.
5. Be VERY careful when using candles.
6. Test your smoke detectors to ensure they work.
7. Educate your family on your own safe meeting place, outside the home.
8. Ensure your carbon monoxide detector is operating properly.
9. If you have a live Christmas tree... water it regularly and do not let it dry out.

*Thank you,
Michael Cousins, Fire Chief*

Department of Public Works, a Year in Review

Public Works operates and maintains the water distribution system that includes over 115 miles of water mains, 933 fire hydrants, 1,703 valves, and services 4,756 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From December 2017 through November 2018, we helped provide **993,873,000** gallons of water (or an average daily water use of 2,722,900 gallons per day). Over the past year, staff repaired or replaced 617 water meters, and added 27 new customers. And, your Public Works staff responded to 1,620 water related issues for the year that includes 136 “Check for Leaks” or follow-up requests, helping residents and business owners alike find the causes of high water uses through leaky fixtures and water services. These efforts saved customers potentially thousands of dollars in wasted water use.

The Public Works staff also operates and maintains the sanitary sewer system that includes over 67 miles of sewer mains, 700 manhole structures and 15 sewage pumping stations located throughout the Township. The sewer system services 3,370 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From December 2017 through November 2018, we discharged **403,457,000** gallons of sewage, or an average daily discharge of 1,105,000 gallons per day for treatment and disposal.

Besides the maintenance and operation of the water and sewer system, staff also provided over 830 underground utility locates through the MISS DIG system. Buildings and facilities generally fall within the responsibilities of the Public Works Department too. This year staff performed landscape maintenance, painting and cleaning services to 7 different buildings or grounds including the Township’s Owen Cemetery. We also inspected over 25 miles of sidewalk and performed preventive maintenance on 30 sidewalk pads by removing tripping hazards. (These efforts saved residents and businesses the cost of having to replace the sidewalks at their expense). Public Works staff replaced the Gratiot Road Banners numerous times over the course of the year, and of course completed the Holiday decorations seen throughout the Township. A special shout out goes to our seasonal help this year that consisted of Mark, Dave, Noah and Jeffrey. Without their hard work, Public Works would not have been able to accomplish the little extra things that make Thomas Township a great place to live.

What’s coming up for next year? We are looking at completing some extensive sewer system maintenance and cleaning. We are planning to replace two water main crossings along North River Road and will continue to install or update water meters under our water meter replacement program. Finally, your public works will continue to strive harder and harder to provide the best possible service for the least cost possible. Thanks for your support and it is a pleasure to work for you. Rick, Jerri, Renee, Darold, Trevor, Darryl, Steve, Jayson, Tyler, Mark, Dave, Noah and Jeffrey.

Rick Hopper,
Director of the Department of Public Works

Fire Hydrant Accessibility

Fire hydrants are strategically located throughout the Township and are used in emergencies to combat fires of all sorts. With wintertime upon us, we ask that you help us keep snow away from any hydrant. Please keep a three foot radius around the hydrant snow free. Hydrants can be difficult to see in the dark and when they are buried in snow it becomes even more of a challenge when every second counts.

Please do not plow snow against a fire hydrant as you are not only making it difficult to get to it in emergencies, you are likely damaging the water pipes connecting the hydrant to the water mains underground. You never know, the next time that hydrant is needed, it may be for your home.



From the Treasurer

Listed below is a sample tax bill detail for an average home in Thomas Township. The only amount of your tax bill that the Township keeps is listed below as “Township Operating”. This amount is equal to about 3-4% of your total winter tax bill. Local Operating (general fund) is the amount of money the Township receives to operate everything in the Township, except the Library, Water Department and the Sewer Department.

The Public Safety millage (6-7% of the tax bill) and the Fire millage (1% of the tax bill) offset the majority of the Police Department and Fire Department expenses, but the General Fund must still supplement a large percentage of their operations. This holds true for the Parks & Recreation Department as well.

The Township Library also receives its operating income from a local millage, which was voted in by Thomas Township residents. About 2% of each tax bill goes to operate the Public Library in Thomas Township. The remaining 85% of your tax bill is sent to various OTHER taxing jurisdictions such as the County of Saginaw, Delta College, solid waste pickup and the local schools.

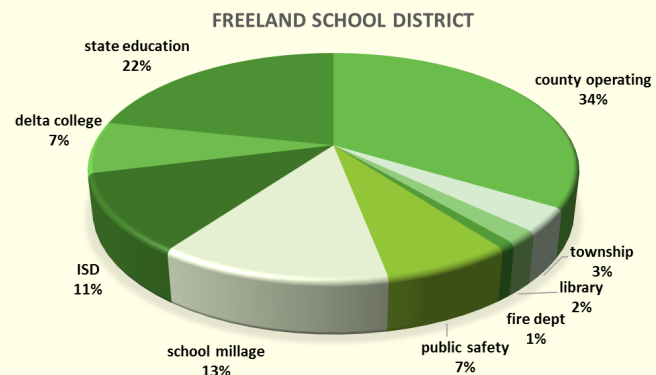
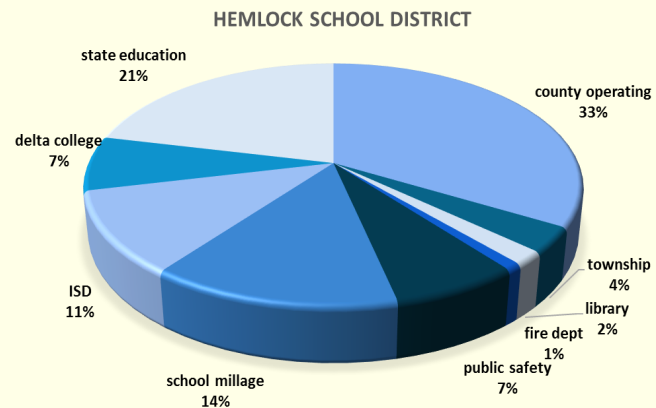
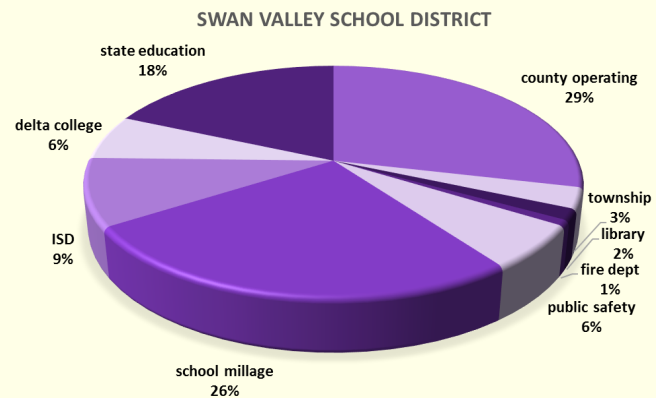
Vern Webber,
Treasurer

Assessing Updates

Your 2019 Assessment Notices will be in your mailbox the last week of February, 2019. **THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE OF WHAT YOUR ASSESSMENT (SEV); TAXABLE VALUE (TV) AND PRE EXEMPTION WILL BE FOR 2019.** If you have any questions about your assessment notice, you should contact the Assessor as soon as your assessment notice arrives in the mail. **Do not wait**, as you may lose your opportunity to appeal these values.

There is only one time of the year that assessments can be protested, and that is at the March Board of Review. The 2019 March Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for March 11th and 12th, 2019 (please call to make an appointment). If there is an error in your assessment and you wish to appeal the values, which the assessor placed on your property, you must attend the March Board of Review. If the Board does not agree with your appeal, you may then protest to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; however, you **must** first appeal to the March Board of Review. The Assessor can be reached Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Jill Peters,
Thomas Township Assessor



Christmas Train & Festival of Lights

Thomas Township wants to thank everyone who came out and supported the 2018 Christmas Train and Festival of Lights. It is hard to believe this is the 8th year of the event already! The event has grown year after year, and this year Mother Nature gave us some good weather for people to come out and enjoy themselves.

We need to thank the Thomas Township Business Association for sponsoring the event. The community support from local businesses and organizations helps make our events successful each year. Thank you Thomas Township Business Association for your continued support!

We also need to thank the businesses and individuals who helped set up the lights and make the train ride so enjoyable. A special thanks to our friends at Domagalski Photography who supplied free pictures with Santa Claus to everyone who attended the event!

Sponsor:

Thomas Township Business Association

Displays:

McDonald Ford Freeland
Stanley Steemer
Hemlock Semiconductor
Swan Valley High School
Hemlock Middle School Junior National Honor Society
Apple Mountain Resort
Duclos Insurance
Edward Jones
Weddings Family
Bryce Family
Wolgast Restoration
Latty/Armstrong Family
Saginaw Career Complex
Page Family
Knights of Columbus
J.R.'s All Star Haircuts for Men

2019 Pavilion Rentals Reservations

It's time to reserve your pavilion for the 2019 season. Only Residents can reserve pavilions in January. In February, we open up the registration process to non-residents.

Fees:

Resident: \$50
Non-Resident: \$80
Companies: \$100

Fees Subject to Change



Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Carly Rusch, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Eric Whelton

Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau,
Director

Tyler Sutherland,
Asst. Director

Meaghan Zielinski,
Receptionist

The Parks & Recreation Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and can be reached at (989) 781-0151. If the office is closed for any reason, please stop into the main office for further assistance.

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!** SM

For the Seniors:

Swingin' Seniors

The Swingin' Seniors meet the first Wednesday of the month for a potluck luncheon and to play bingo. Join in on the fun! Meetings are at noon at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive. For any questions please call the parks office at (989) 781-0151.



Senior Euchre

Senior Euchre is held on the third Wednesday of every month except for in July, August and December. Euchre begins at 1:00 pm at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive. The buy in is \$3.00 and goes towards the winnings! Thomas Township provides coffee, snacks and cards.

Check Out the Newest Addition to the Thomas Trail

The Thomas Trail is a great way for residents to get out and enjoy the community in a safe environment away from motorists. Residents of all ages use the trail for walking, running, biking and more. The Thomas Trail also connects to the Townships many miles of sidewalks making it even easier to safely travel throughout our community.



Since the Thomas Trail has been such a success, the Township has continued to add to it. In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department added .83 more miles of the trail in the community. The addition extends from Shields Drive and heads north along the Consumers Energy Right-of-Way to North Miller Road. This extension brings the trail to a total length of 3.13 miles long. The Thomas Trail connects to the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail just south of Ederer Road, which enables our residents to bike, run or walk to St. Charles or Saginaw Township.



Residents will also see another new addition to the Thomas Trail at the connection with the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail. At the intersection of the two trails there is now a sign showcasing participating businesses as being a part of the community.

Join An Archery Class

Archery classes begin on January 3rd, 2019 at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, located at 1500 N. Gleaner Road. All archery classes are six week programs taught every Thursday. Students learn about recurve, compound and crossbows. Instructors are certified through USA Archery and the National Field Archer's Association (NFAA).

To give each student individual attention, class sizes are limited to 12 students, so please sign up early! Classes begin February 14, 2019 and registrations are being taken now until the classes are full. A third session will begin April 4th, 2019 with registration continuing until classes are full.

Fees:

Resident: \$50

Non-Resident: \$55

ONLINE REGISTRATION is available for Parks and Recreation Programming. When using the online registration system to register for Parks and Recreation Programming, you **MUST** pay for the program you are registering for at the time you fill out the registration form or you will not be considered enrolled in that program. Registration is a two step process. Once you hit **REGISTER NOW**, you will register, agree to the terms and hit **SEND**. You will then be redirected to the payment options on the next screen. If you have not received a confirmation of payment, you are not registered. Some program sizes are limited, and make sure the form you are using is not out of date.

Girls Basketball

Girls basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-4th grade and 4th-6th grades. Girls in 4th grade can choose to play up with the 5th and 6th graders or down with the 2nd and 3rd graders. Sign up will continue until January 18th, 2019. After this date, a \$10 late fee will be assessed with no registrations being taken after January 25th, 2019.

Saturday games begin February 16th, 2019 at Swan Valley High School, located at 8400 Ohern Road. The draft for girls in 4th - 6th grades will be on February 2nd, 2019 at 1:00 pm. Volunteer coaches are also needed for this program! Please stop in or call the Parks and Recreation Office for more information at (989) 781-0150.

Fees:

Resident: \$45

Non-Resident: \$50



Looking for new ideas!

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation is always looking for new ideas and programs to offer. Are there any senior programs that would interest our residents, or programs your child would like to take part in? Please contact our office at (989) 781-0151 if you have any ideas! We would love to offer something new for the residents in our community!

Soccer Clinic

Soccer Clinic registration is underway for both boys and girls. The clinic is an instructional program where boys and girls will learn the fundamentals of soccer. The soccer clinic will be held on Saturday mornings at Swan Valley High School, located at 8400 Ohern Road.

4-5 Year olds will run from 9:00 am until 10:15 am

6-8 Year olds will run from 10:30 am until 11:45 am

Registration will continue until January 18th, 2019 with games beginning February 16th, 2019 continuing for six weeks. Please don't forget that you can register online! A \$10 late fee will be charged after January 18th, 2019 and no registrations will be taken after January 25th, 2019.

Fees:

Resident: \$45

Non-Resident: \$50



Winter Fun in the Parks

Sledding

There is a lighted sledding hill at Day Park, located on S. River Road just north of Ronald Drive.

Ice Skating

There are two ice rinks in Community Park, located behind the Thomas Township Office Building at 249 N. Miller Road. Due to unpredictable Michigan winter weather, and the fact that the temperature tends to climb during the day and fall at night, we cannot guarantee the quality of the ice. One rink is for hockey and one is for leisure skating. Please pay attention to the "Rinks are Closed" signage if it is up. You will see the signs primarily after the rinks have been flooded and are not frozen solid or after a natural thaw. We close the rinks to ensure your safety on the slushy ice.



These winter activities are not monitored by Township Staff, therefore parental supervision is mandatory.

Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

PRSR MKT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAGINAW, MI
PERMIT NO. 273



2019 Brush Drop Off Dates

Brush may be taken by the homeowner to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of Gleaner & Frost Roads. No stumps, leaves, grass or commercial brush of any kind will be accepted. The site will be open from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following dates:

Drop Off Dates:

April 6, 13, 20 & 27	May 4 & 18
June 1, 15 & 29	July 13 & 27
August 10 & 24	September 7 & 21
October 5, 12, 19 & 26	

Yard Waste Pick-up will begin in April