



Thomas Township Response to COVID-19!

By the time this newsletter goes to print and is mailed to all of you, we will hopefully be approaching the end of the COVID-19 crisis. Like so many other local governments across our state and Country, Thomas Township has been challenged with keeping our employees safe and yet providing all of the services that our community relies upon. This has led to countless internal procedure changes, limiting access to our buildings, interpreting all of the Governor’s executive orders and many changes to the methods we use to provide those services. Through all of this, our foremost thought has and will continue to be the safety of both the public we serve and our fellow employees.

Early on, Thomas Township was ahead of the curve with the implementation of a Four Step Action Plan adopted by the Board that has been followed throughout the COVID-19 experience. The Action Plan was designed to ensure that we took practical steps to address the health of both our community and our employees knowing that keeping our staff healthy would be the critical factor to ensure that we could maintain all of the essential services that we provide to the residents and businesses of our community. In this case, essential services were defined as Fire, Police, Water, Sewer, Parks and Trash collection. All of our actions to date have been intended to comply with all of the State and Federal orders that have been issued without over-reacting to the situation.

We have taken several steps internally to address numerous other challenges created by the virus and the State/Federal decisions. However, here is a list of the actions that are most likely to have an impact upon you at this point, understanding that between the time of writing this article and you receiving it, this list could change:

- Brush was closed, but has since opened on April 25th after the Governor defined it as an essential service and yard waste collection restarted.
- Yard waste was discontinued until April 24th.
- All Township buildings (except for public safety) are closed to the public until the Governor’s order is lifted and further direction from the State is provided.
- Water bills, taxes, fees and any other payments are to be paid by using the drop box, U.S. mail or online.
- Parks are open, but group gathering spaces are closed.
- Senior citizen programs are cancelled until further notice.

(Continued on next page)

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob WeiseSupervisor
- Vern Weber Treasurer
- Edward Brosowski Clerk
- Michael ThayerTrustee
- David Sommers..... ..Trustee
- Craig MonahanTrustee
- Tara DeLineTrustee
- Russell Taylor Manager

Departments

- Municipal Office781-0150
249 N. Miller Road
- Parks & Recreation..781-0151
249 N. Miller Road
- DPW Administration781-6438
251 Miller Court
- Police Department ..781-1300
8215 Shields Drive
- Fire Department781-4141
8215 Shields Drive
- Library781-3770
8207 Shields Drive

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Find us on Facebook:

- Thomas Township
- Thomas Township Public Safety

2020 Community Calendar

- May 9th
Rebel Magnolia Flea Market
- June 12th
Roethke Pool Opens
(Subject to change)
- Date
Thomas Township Business
Association Annual Steak Fry
- June 19th
Movie in the Park: Frozen 2
(Roberts Park)
- July 16th - 19th
Trash & Treasures Rummage
Sales
- July 17th - 19th
Future Fest (Roberts Park)
- July 18th
Shields Lions Club Parade at
11:00 am
- August 1st
Movie in the Park: Toy Story 4
(Roberts Park)
- August 17th - 21st
Thomas Township Build Week
- August 21st
Roethke Pool Closes
(Subject to change)
- September 27th
Thomas Township Fire Depart-
ment Breakfast (Fire Station
One)

Township Response to Covid-19 Continued

- Spring recreation programs have been cancelled. We are taking sign-ups for some summer programs, though we may be forced to cancel those as well.
- Passport processing is closed until further notice.
- Code enforcement has been suspended until further notice.
- Library is closed until further notice.
- Most of the administrative, parks and DPW staff have been temporarily furloughed.

There is no question that we are living in the midst of uncertain times. In light of that fact, let me first assure you that we are doing everything possible to ensure that the Township is able to continue to provide you with the water, sewer, police protection and fire/emergency services you have come to expect from your community. While we have been forced to restrict access to public buildings, you are still able to visit the public safety building for any immediate police or fire support service needs. We are working with minimal staffing as directed by the Governor; however, all critical services are still being supported. . We are able to address any water service issues; we are monitoring and repairing all sanitary sewer lift stations; parks are open; Fire personnel are continuing to respond to all calls, though they are taking additional precautions to stay healthy and our Police Department can be relied upon to respond to your emergency. Parks and trails are being mowed, along with trash removal with Township equipment and personnel. Bathrooms will not be opened until after the crisis has passed.

Each day for the past few weeks we have faced a new challenge related to the COVID-19 virus spread just like you. I can assure that everyone here is anxious to open the doors and welcome all of you back. A sense of normalcy would be a wonderful feeling right now, but until this crisis has passed we are committed to getting through this together.

If you have specific concerns or questions, please call:

Municipal Office: 989-781-0150

Parks Office: 989-781-0151

Fire Dept.: 989-781-4141

Police Dept.: 989-781-1300

DPW: 989-781-6438

General questions can be directed by email as well to operator@thomastwp.org.

Stay healthy,
Russ Taylor
Township Manager



Trash & Treasures Rummage



July 16th - 19th, 2020

Thank you for choosing to participate in the 11th Annual Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales!

*** If you are not a Thomas Township resident, you may 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, days or individual items for sale on the map

Thomas Township Build Week August 17th—21st, 2020

Thomas Township will once again be joining forces with the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity in an effort to improve the lives of some of our residents. Thomas Township employees work alongside Habitat for Humanity volunteers and employees as well as volunteers from local businesses and organizations. Each Township employee looks forward to Build Week every year so we can show our residents how much we care about them and appreciate them being a part of our community.



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! If you are interested, or know of someone who may qualify, please act right away and contact the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity, 315 W. Holland Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48602, (989) 753-5200.

Thomas Township Library Summer Reading Program: "Imagine Your Story"

Readers of ALL ages are welcome to join the 2020 Summer Reading Program at Thomas Township Library. Come explore fairy tales, fantasy and mythology themes this summer as the Thomas Township Library presents, "Imagine Your Story". The 2020 Summer Reading Program is open to adults and young people (preschool through teens), with weekly youth programs and great incentives for reading. Participants receive a program booklet at the time of registration outlining each program. **Registration for "Imagine Your Story" begins June 8th and the program continues through July 31st.**

For more information, call the library at (989)-781-3770, stop in at 8207 Shields Dr., or visit our website at thomastownshiplibrary.org



High Grass and Noxious Weeds

With Spring just around the corner it's time to think about keeping our lawns mowed. Weeds and plant growth must be cut by the property owner by May 1st of the year. It is the property owner's responsibility to keep uncontrolled plant growth to a height of no more than ten inches (10") throughout the growing season.

If you receive a notification that your property is in violation and fail to bring the property into compliance, Thomas Township may enter the property and cut the weed/plant growth. All expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the property owner. Keeping the lawn mowed not only improves the appearance of the property, neighborhood and Township, but also helps to deter creating a habitat for vermin. If you see a property you believe is in violation after May 1st, please contact the Code Enforcement Officer at (989) 781-0150



Burning in Thomas Township

We regularly get asked questions about our burning ordinance. Most of these questions are related to burning in residential areas. We do offer what is referred to as "recreational fire" as an option for most residents. A recreational fire is typically what you would have in your back yard for roasting marshmallows or hotdogs. These fire pits are generally 2 x 3 ft. and do NOT require a permit. If called upon, the fire department reviews each case and if it is justified may require the fire to be extinguished. Anytime you desire a fire greater than the recreational fire, a burn permit IS required. Aside from the burning of a small log for a recreational fire, the only thing you can burn is brush. **Burning of leaves, ANY building or combustible materials is strictly prohibited.** Open Burning during the night hours is also prohibited.



Based on our ordinance and the International Fire Code, the fire department DOES have the right to extinguish ANY fire for just cause. If we get calls or complaints about neighbors burning where it is becoming a nuisance we will investigate. If the smoke is found to be causing a nuisance, we will require the fire to be extinguished. This still can occur even if you have a permit and are complying with the ordinance. While smoke to some is a welcoming odor reminding them of being "Up North" it can also be a nuisance to others. It may also be a health hazard to some who may suffer from medical conditions.

We also get asked, why do you issue a burn restriction when there maybe standing water or the ground is soaked? What we have to look at, while the ground maybe wet, the vegetation on the top of the ground is dry. If this does catch on fire, we may not even be able to get to the fire due to saturated ground. The drier weather conditions also contribute to a burn restriction because the humidity plays a factor in how "combustible" the vegetation can be. We use the State's web site on fire conditions as our guide.

BURN PERMIT

There are no fees for these permits which may be obtained online or at our office located at the Public Safety Building at 8215 Shields Drive. If you have any questions regarding our burn ordinance, please feel free to contact our fire prevention bureau at 781-4141 between 8-5 Monday - Friday. For after hour problems, please contact the Central Dispatch at 911. This number is still ok to use even if you don't believe it is a true emergency. The Dispatchers will decide how to contact us based on your information.

Michael Cousins,
Fire Chief

Be Alert: Scams happen all the time



There are several phone scams going around currently that are geared specifically towards senior citizens. These scammers use specific themes in order to garner favor and get what they are looking for. They may use an emotional connection or fear to get their victim to make quick decisions. Sometimes they even use the promise of something free. In recent years, seniors in Thomas Township have fallen prey to these scams and have lost thousands of dollars. This is not just a Thomas Township, Saginaw County or State of Michigan problem. According to the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging (USSSCA), it's a national problem. If you receive a phone call pertaining to the following, please be advised it is a scam:

- Receiving a phone call that you have won something free, but in order to receive your prize you need to send money first.
- Receiving a phone call from a relative stating they are in trouble and need money to get out of jail.
- Receiving a phone call stating they are the IRS and that you owe them money and if you don't pay right then a team of law enforcement officers is on standby to arrest you.

There are several other types of scams out there to be aware of as well. Not all scams happen over the phone, they can happen online or in person as well. The following is a list of some of the most reported scams USSSCA has received and a brief description of the scam.

- **Social Security:** Scammers posing as employees of the Social Security Administration and seeking payment or personal identification information.
- **Sweepstakes Scams:** Scammers claim that you have won a large sum of money, but you must pay some money up front for taxes and fees before collecting the prize.
- **Romance Scams:** Someone creates a fake on-line profile and after gaining the trust of the victim, they will ask for money to pay off a bill, an emergency that came up or some other expense.
- **Computer Scams:** Scammer will convince the victim that their computer has a "virus" and they will convince the victim to give them access to their computer. They will then ask for a large fee to fix the "virus." Once they have access to the computer, they can obtain any personal info that's stored on the computer.
- **Grandparent Scam:** Scammers impersonate a grandchild who's in trouble and needs money to get out of jail. They will then put someone else on the line posing as the attorney and/or judge to better sell the scam.
- **IRS Impersonation Scam:** Scammers will accuse the victim of owing back taxes that must be paid immediately or the victim will be arrested.

The best way to avoid scams is to remember: Nothing is free. Legitimate business do NOT ask for payment in gift cards. Legitimate agencies do NOT threaten you with officers on standby. If you receive a call from your family asking for money to get out of jail, ask personal questions ONLY they would know or call their parents to check on them.

If you receive a suspicious phone call or have been scammed (lost money), call the USSSCA hotline at 1-855-303-9470. Remember, the scammers work on the promise of free stuff and putting fear into their victims.

Al Fong,
Police Chief



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

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.



Day Camp

Thomas Township has nine exciting, week-long day camp sessions this summer for children ages 7-12. The Day Camp runs five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Each week will have a new theme for campers to explore, while still offering some of the activities that campers have come to love such as swimming, train rides and crafts.

This years themes are:

June 8th - 12th Camp Roethke's Got Talent

June 15th - 19th Buggin' out

June 22nd - 26th Space is the Place

July 6th - 10th Shark Week

July 13th - 17th Full STEM Ahead

July 20th - 24th Roethke Survivor

July 27th - 31st Dino Dayz'

Aug 3rd - 7th Inventors Workshop

Aug 10th - 14th Zootopia

Registration Fees: Resident: \$120

Non-Resident: \$130

There is a reduced fee for a 2nd child of the same family registered in the same week. This also applies to mini camps.

Mini Camps

Mini camp is a one week session, Monday through Friday, for children ages 4-6. The sessions run from 10 am to 3 pm. This outdoor day camp is fun and includes all of the activities that Day Camp has to offer. All activities are geared towards the age level of the children. The theme for Mini Camp this year is Nickelodeon Days and will take place **June 29th—July 3rd**. There is a limit of 20 campers!

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$85

Non-Resident: \$95

Before & After Camp Care

Before and After camp care is for parents who need to drop off or pick up their children before or after the scheduled camp time. A counselor will stay with any children if they need to be dropped off early or stay late. Before and After Camp Care begins at 7:30 am and ends at 5:30 pm.

Fees:

\$30 per week per child

All children must be registered and paid in advance for this service.



Day Camp at Roethke Park

ONLINE REGISTRATION is available for Parks and Recreation Programming. You can access the online registration at thomastwp.org. 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. From there you should receive a confirmation email of payment. If you do not receive a confirmation, then your payment was not able to be processed and registration will not be able to be completed.

Not all programs are available for online registration. If you have any questions feel free to call the Parks and Recreation office at (989) 781-0151 or stop into the Parks and Rec office at 249 North Miller Road.

Pool Schedule

The pool will be opening up for recreational swimming , Monday through Sunday on June 12th, 2020 and will remain open until August 21st, 2020.

Closing date subject to change

NEW POOL HOURS

Open Swim Hours: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fees (Day Pass):

Resident: \$5

Non - Resident: \$10

Family of 5:

Resident: \$15

Non- Resident: \$25

Group Rate:

\$15 per 4 members

Season Passes:

Resident: \$60

Non - Resident: \$85

Family of 5:

Resident: \$85

Non - Resident: \$115

There will be an additional \$25 fee on family passes for each additional family member over the limit of 5. Season passes are available at the Thomas Township Office, located at 249 N. Miller Road.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are taught by certified instructors. Each session consists of eight lessons. Classes are Monday through Thursday with both morning and evening sessions.

Fees:

Resident: \$50 Non-Resident: \$60

Level 1: Water Exploration (Ages 4-6) Introduction to aquatic skills & water safety.

First Session: June 15th - 26th

Second Session: July 6th - 17th

Third Session: July 20th - July 31st

Fourth Session: Aug. 3rd - 14th

Morning Session: 10:00am - 10:45am

Evening Session: 6:15pm - 7:00pm

Level 2: Primary Skills (Ages 5-9) Passed level 1 or a skill test.

Working on a basic strokes and aquatic safety.

First Session: June 15th - 26th

Second Session: July 6th - 17th

Third Session: July 20th - July 31st

Fourth Session: Aug. 3rd - 14th

Morning Session: 11:00am - 11:45am

Evening Session: 6:15pm - 7:00pm & 7:15pm - 8:00pm

Level 3: Stroke Readiness (Ages 6-10) Passed level 2 or a skill test.

Continue working on strokes, water safety and diving skills.

First Session: June 15th - 26th

Second Session: July 6th - 17th

Third Session: July 20th - July 31st

Fourth Session: Aug. 3rd - 14th

Morning Sessions: 10:00am - 10:45am

Evening Sessions: 6:15pm - 7:00pm



Roethke Park Pool &
Pool house

For the Seniors

Swingin' Seniors

The Swingin' Seniors meet the first Wednesday of the month for a potluck luncheon and to play bingo. Bring a dish to pass and join in on the fun! Lunches 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.



Looking for new ideas!

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation is always looking for new ideas and programs to offer to our community. 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!



Concert Dates

- June 9th
The Savior Machines
- June 16th
CEYX
- June 23rd
Brush Street Feat
- June 30th
Julie Malady
- July 7th
The Rock Show
- July 14th
The Yesterday's Country Band
- July 21st
Tim & Jim Acoustic Show
- July 28th
Laurie & The Lefties
- August 4th
Michele Spitz
- August 12th
Todd Michael Band

Ride the Mini Train!

The Roethke Mini Train runs Tuesday Evenings from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm and every Saturday and Sunday from June 8th through August 21st (Schedule subject to change and weather permitting) from Noon until 4:00 pm. If you are planning a large family or group event, please call ahead and verify the availability of the train by calling (989) 781-0151.

Concert Series at Roethke Park

Join us for a summer picnic and a FREE concert at Roethke Park, located at 400 Leddy Road. Enjoy great music and many more special events on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Rainouts will be rescheduled for August 18th 2020.

The Roethke Mini Train will be ready to roll for the kids during the concert series for just \$1 per person! Come on over and have a nice family night out at Roethke Park.

Archery

Classes for beginners work on safety, form, equipment and the fundamentals of becoming a good archer. Classes for advanced archers are based on using their own equipment, if they have it, or using advanced set up bows. We have both fully set up compound bows or longbows available for your use.

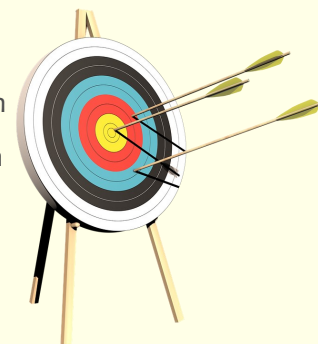
Third session of archery classes begin on Thursday, May 7th, 2020 and run every Thursday through June 11th, 2020.

Class Times:

Beginner: 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm Beginner: 5:15 pm - 6:00 pm
Beginner: 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Beginner: 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm
Advanced: 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm

Fees:

Resident: \$55 Non-Resident: \$65



Bow Fishing

Our bow fishing program will be brought back again in 2020. To be able to take this class, you must have taken one of the winter archery classes. Parks and Recreation will provide all bows, arrows, targets and materials needed for the program. This program is geared to educate individuals on how to bow fish as well as educating them on the different equipment used. ***Real fish are NOT shot in this program.*** For more information and to register for class please stop into the Parks and Recreation Office.

Fees:

Resident: \$35 Non-Resident: \$40

Men's Softball Leagues

This Year Thomas Township Parks and Recreation will be offering a Tuesday night softball league along with a Wednesday night league. Each league will consist of no more than 8 teams, with a minimum of 4 teams.

Team Registrations will be based on the first 8 teams to register for each league. The season will begin on Tuesday, May 19th and Wednesday, May 20th.

Registration Fee:

Team: \$325

Player Fee:

Resident: \$10

Non-Resident: \$15



Future Fest Softball Tournament



This year the Thomas Township Wooden Bat tournament is going to be held during the Future Fest as part of a new community wide festival. The tournament will be held on July 18th 2020 during the second day of events for the Future Fest. The tournament will be consisting of Co-ed teams playing double elimination until a winner is determined. The winning team of the tournament will receive a trophy. The cost for teams to entry is \$200 which includes wooden bats, game balls and game umpires. 8 teams will be allowed to register for the 2020 tournament.

Future Fest Cornhole Tournament

What better way to kick off cornhole in Thomas Township than at the 1st Future Fest Event. Cost for teams to enter is \$50 per team and pre-registration is required. The tournament will begin at 10am with a gam check in time. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. The tournament will be run as a double elimination tournament. You can sign up in person at the Parks and Recreation office located at 249 N. Miller Rd. Saginaw MI 48609.

Future Fest Volleyball Tournament

New this year along with the Thomas Township Future Fest one of the events will be a Co-ed, 4 vs 4, Sand Volleyball Tournament. The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Staff will be installing 2 additional sand courts at Roberts Park next to the already existing court to allow for more games to be played. The cost for teams to enter the tournament will be \$50 which includes the game ball and shirts. The tournament will be a double elimination bracket with rounds played best 2 out of 3 scoring the 1st to 15 pts. 8 teams will be allowed to register for the 2020 tournament.

Future Fest 5k Run/Walk

Every year Thomas Township holds a 5k run/walk and this year the race event is going to be held during the Future Fest. The 5k run/walk will be held on July 18th , 2020 during the second day of events for the Future Fest. There will be a 5k Run, a 5k walk and a kids fun run. Every participant will receive a shirt and a finishers medal. Awards will be given out for 1st - 3rd place in each division as well. To register and for more information go to runsignup.com/futurefest5k.

Movies in the Park

The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Department will, be hosting FREE movies in the park this summer. The movies will be held at Roberts Park on S. Miller Road. The movies will begin around 9:30 pm and the concession stand at the pavilion will be open to purchase snacks and drinks to enjoy during the movie! There will be two family friendly movies played this summer and they are subject to be rescheduled due to weather.



Frozen 2: June 19th, 2020.

Toy Story 4: Aug. 1st 2020.

Both features are weather permitting



Sand Volleyball League

Leagues for sand volleyball are now forming for play at Roethke Park, located at 400 Leddy Road. There will be 2 six week seasons.

League Times:

Coed Fours: Tuesday Night
1st Season: May 26th
2nd Season: July 14th
Team Fee: \$90

Soccer Leagues

Registration for the fall soccer leagues will begin in August 2020. Fall soccer will run from September through October.

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$50
Non-Resident: \$55

Pavilion Rentals

We are currently taking pavilion rental agreements' for the 2020 season. The pavilions are available for rent from May through August. A copy of the homeowner's insurance showing personal liability coverage is required from renters along with a completed rental agreement form.

Rental Fees:

Resident: \$60
Non-Resident: \$90
Corporation: \$110

Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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PERMIT NO. 273



2020 Brush Drop Off Dates

Brush may be taken by the homeowner to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of N. Gleaner & Frost Roads (Access drive from N. Gleaner). 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 18 & 25 August 1, 15 & 29
May 9 & 23 September 12 & 26
June 6 & 20 October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
July 11 & 25

Yard Waste Pick-up will begin after April 13th (tentatively)