



New Gateway Sign To Be Constructed.

After over three years of working on the project, a new Thomas Township Gateway Sign will become a reality. The sign, which is to be located on the Township property next to Heritage Insurance, will be comprised of pillars and fencing. The project includes a Thomas Township logo sign which will be attached to an arched fencing displaying the "welcome" message. Flagpoles and flags of the United States, Michigan and the Township will also be present on the site. The area will be lit and landscaped as well.

The new Gateway Sign will enhance the identity of our community and business district to those traveling Gratiot Road and help to associate the name with our community.

Construction is set to begin soon!



Above: Picture depicts the approximate design and layout of the Gateway Sign.

DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

Tom Radewahn, Chairman

Fred Gray, Vice-Chairman

David Duclos, Secretary

Diane Doyle

Lynn McCoy

Bill Martin

Ellen Ryder-Petre

Don Emeott

Robert Weise

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Tom Radewahn,
DDA Chairman and Owner of
Mid-Valley Insurance

A Letter From the Chairman

A Message From The Chairman.

Seasons Greetings to all our Thomas Township Business's and residents. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already behind us and the days to Christmas are quickly counting down. Your DDA Board of Directors has been busy even though our budgetary allowances are somewhat restrictive on any new projects. As you will remember, the 98 streetlights that were installed in 2011 were bonded and we have devoted the majority of our revenues to the payment of that bond. But don't be concerned that our attention is diverted. We have been actively working on your behalf in other ways.

The street light bond will be paid in August of 2019 which is now a very short two years away. There has been discussion on where to spend our resources after the bond is paid that include extending the streetlights to the creek so as to further our lighting program West down the DDA Gratiot Road corridor, or to utilize the funds to further improve the landscapes of the main business district. This is where you come in. We would like to hear your suggestions on what you feel we could do to make Gratiot Road a better business district.

We have balanced our budget in spite of some economic challenges including the decreasing of property values that we have experienced since the bond sale. We have also substantially reduced the electrical cost of our street lights by converting to LED fixtures on the poles. This has actually cut our power usage in half. More money to our budget in this manner simply converts to better usage of your dollars to Gratiot Road improvements. You'll also note that our community banner, that crosses Gratiot Road just East of Swanson, has a full calendar of alternating messages for those that pass through our community. It is not only informative but helps in slowing our traffic.

We're so proud that the street light project has pulled this community together in so many ways. The high school was very involved with the construction of the ornaments in the schools shop class and then the decorating of the ornaments by high school groups. We originally had some difficulties to keep the lights lit due to an updated code for the electrical defaults. Our DPW spent months in the development of a light that would not trigger a default in the event of rain or wind. You also may have seen in late November a parade of Township vehicles and people installing the Christmas ornaments. These were volunteers from the Thomas Township Kiwanis, Lions club, St. Mark Church and Township employees. This has become an annual event that takes only three hours to put all the decorations up each year and concludes with a fellowship luncheon. The DDA Board wants to thank all those that participated to help keep our costs to a minimum. It really is an easy thing to give something back to your community.

Please take some time to also read the articles on our pocket park and Gateway sign. These are just more indications of Community improvements that we take great pride in. I'm hopeful that you do as well.

A very Merry Christmas to all
Thomas Radewahn DDA Chairman

“Pocket Park” Being Constructed on Gratiot

Awhile back the property located at 7888 Gratiot next door to Burger King was purchased by Consumers Energy . The existing building was demolished and a structure was constructed by Consumers as well as updating existing gas line piping equipment. After negotiating with Consumers, an easement was granted for a new “pocket park” to be constructed at the front of the property along the business corridor.

Currently the property has pillars and fencing constructed by Consumers as well as grass and shrubbery they had installed. A contract has been awarded by the Township for the completion of the project to include two benches, a trash can, a drinking fountain and brick pavers installed in a circular pattern.

The project, which is scheduled to begin yet this year, is another one of the continued efforts to “dress up” the Gratiot Road business corridor. It also continues to develop a district identity through the use of consistent landscaping enhancements.



Welcome to these new DDA businesses!

- ◆ Gunther’s Detailing & Restoration
125 South Miller Road
- ◆ Boost Mobile
8390 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Apple & PC Custom Computing
7204 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Galaxy Granite
6920 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Rebel Magnolia
7679 Gratiot Road
- ◆ The “C” Room
9790 Gratiot Road, Suite 4
- ◆ Melissa Storage
10075 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Rock Solid Tattoo
7589 Gratiot Road
- ◆ SE Cellular, LLC
7950 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Monro Muffler Brake
8150 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Counseling & Massage Associates
105 South Miller Road
- ◆ Portraits by Melissa Starr
103 South Miller Road

**Thomas Township Downtown
Development Authority**

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2017 DDA Meeting Dates:

- ◆ January 24, 2017
- ◆ March 28, 2017
- ◆ May 23, 2017
- ◆ July 25, 2017
- ◆ September 26, 2017
- ◆ November 28, 2017

The Thomas Township Downtown Development Authority Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every other month. Meetings are held at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, Michigan 48609 at 8:00 a.m.

Welcome to Downtown Thomas Township. Thomas Township offers a quality of life and sense of place that welcomes the spirit and invites you to stay.

All Downtown Development Authority projects are solely for a public purpose and are designed to create a friendly and inviting atmosphere to encourage businesses and residents alike remain within our Township and to attract new businesses and residents as well.

