

249 NORTH MILLER ROAD
SAGINAW, MI 48609
(989) 781-0150



DDA BOARD MEMBERS:

Tom Radewahn, Chairman

Fred Gray, Vice-Chairman

David Duclos, Secretary

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Bill Martin

Ellen Ryder-Petre

Don Emeott

Robert Weise

Tom McDonald Memorial Trailhead Building

The Tom McDonald Memorial Trailhead Building located on Shields Drive was completed at the end of May 2015 and dedicated in June 2015.

The building, which has bathroom facilities as well as an area for picnicking, water and air for bike tires complements the 2.3 mile Thomas Township Trail which was constructed in 2013. The trail is used by many people as a means of exercise and simply enjoying the outdoors. It also is a convenient location for an outdoor lunch.



On June 9th it was the site of the Saginaw Community Foundation’s annual celebration. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place to open the building to the public. Many groups and organizations helped construct the new facility, it was a true community effort. A major donor was the McDonald family in the memory of Tom McDonald Sr.

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

A Letter From the Chairman

The Thomas Township DDA is very pleased with the progress we have been able to make to date. With the installation of the 98 light poles, removal of some of the overhead wires and a variety of banners that change seasonally, the streetscape has changed our look on Gratiot Road. This winter you will begin to see our new Christmas decorations that the Township has spent considerable time to ensure consistent and attractive lighting. Our over Gratiot Road Banner also catches the attention of passersby promoting Township events and inviting them to participate in our community. The underlying purpose of all of these is to provide traffic a purpose to slow down and see what's going on in Thomas Township. Current planning also will be introducing new "Welcome to Thomas Township" signs at both ends of Gratiot Road in the future. We are working with the Michigan Department of Transportation "MDOT" for placement of these decorative additions.

If you use Gratiot Road, you're very much aware of the MDOT construction from Meijers to Leddy Road. As a result of continued catastrophic automobile accidents, MDOT has decided to remove the crossovers which allow drivers to turn into side roads and business, and replace them with Michigan turnaround loons. When completed, there will be three of these "loons" which eliminates most left turns on Gratiot, reducing the potential of turning into traffic. Although this is neither a DDA or Township project, we are working with MDOT to reduce any conflict that may come up in traffic confusion and create the best possible alternative for traffic to get to a business location. Keep in mind that MDOT's desire is to keep traffic moving as swiftly as possible while the Township and DDA are pursuing the opposite, reducing speeds to benefit our business district. Gratiot Road is a State road so our input that is sometimes heard may be altered by the States desire to move traffic. But we feel our efforts have been fruitful.

Road speed continues to come up as we meet with business leaders in the community. It is this very reason that your DDA is working diligently to create traffic calming activity. The speed on Gratiot Road is controlled completely by MDOT. If we were to request a traffic study and MDOT determined that the speed was traveling at a faster pace than the speed limit, they could ultimately increase the speed limit rather than reduce it. This has occurred in neighboring communities. We will therefore continue to work towards developing Gratiot Road in a manner that provides the instinctive reaction of drivers to slow down.

2015 has been a year in which we have seen some new construction and remodeling on the Gratiot corridor. These improvements to the DDA district will ultimately lead towards our ability to make even more changes to our community in enhancing business opportunities. Your input to the future look of Thomas Township is invaluable so please pass on any input you have so your DDA can remain consistent with building a model business district.

Thomas Township Tech Park Has New Business

Fullerton Tool, which is located in Saginaw, is expanding its operations into Thomas Township in its new Fullerton Tool West manufacturing facility. The company which manufactures solid carbide cutting tools, expects completion of the building around mid-October 2015.

The new Fullerton Tool West manufacturing facility is creating 58 jobs for the area.

Saginaw County Economic Development Corporation is the administrator and owner of the park property while Saginaw Future is actively helping businesses interested in moving to the park.

If you know of a business interested in becoming part of the Great Lakes Tech Park, please contact Saginaw Future (on behalf of Saginaw County EDC) at (989) 754-8222.



The new Fullerton Tool West Building.

DDA Welcomes these new businesses!

- ◆ Studio Aftershock Tattooz
8075 Gratiot Rd.
- ◆ Phil's Electric
7855 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Chula's
7755 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Reign On Me Consignment
7585 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Boese AAA Insurance
7950 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Tranquil Moments Massage
7075 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Tri-City Computer
7075 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Cool Licks Ice Cream
7647 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Kathlene's Adult Day Care
7916 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Busman Insurance Agency
7204 Gratiot Road
- ◆ Purple Sage
7570 Gratiot Road

A Look Back At The Shields “Summer Festival”

A Glance at Festival Events:

- ◆ Lions Club Parade
- ◆ Trailblazer 5K Race
- ◆ Trash & Treasures
- ◆ Softball Tournaments
- ◆ Car Show
- ◆ Motorcycle Show
- ◆ Rides
- ◆ Entertainment
- ◆ Millionaire Club
- ◆ Beer Tent
- ◆ BBQ Chicken Dinners

The Shields “Summer Festival” took place at the Shields Men’s Club in Thomas Township June 25th through June 28th. The Trash & Treasures yard sales, were held for the fifth year and was a success this year with over 100 sales in spite of the road construction taking place in the Township on several major roads. A host of activities took place including the Trailblazer 5K walk/run, softball tournaments, car show, motorcycle show, rides entertainment and more brought residents and visitors into Thomas Township to share in the festivities.

The Lions Club parade was held Saturday, June 27th . This years theme was “The 70’s”. Local businesses, schools, and civic organizations made there way down Gratiot Road to the festival grounds.

Numerous local businesses participated in “Festival Days” during the festival. This community event showcases and promotes local businesses along the business corridor during the week of the Summer Festival. Participation is free to have your business and any sale or event that you are having the week of the festival advertised on a placement that is compiled and distributed by Thomas Township. Several businesses hand out these placemat flyers during “Festival Days” to encourage the community to visit our local businesses.

Some of the offerings in 2015 were:

- ◆ Free hot dogs
- ◆ Free vehicle detailing
- ◆ Free drinks on parade day
- ◆ Buy one get one free ice cream
- ◆ Free Jr. Frosty’s
- ◆ A percentage off your purchase for Festival Week
- ◆ And much more!

It is our hope to increase participation in this event in 2016. All businesses will be sent information in January of 2016 for the upcoming event. Don’t miss out!



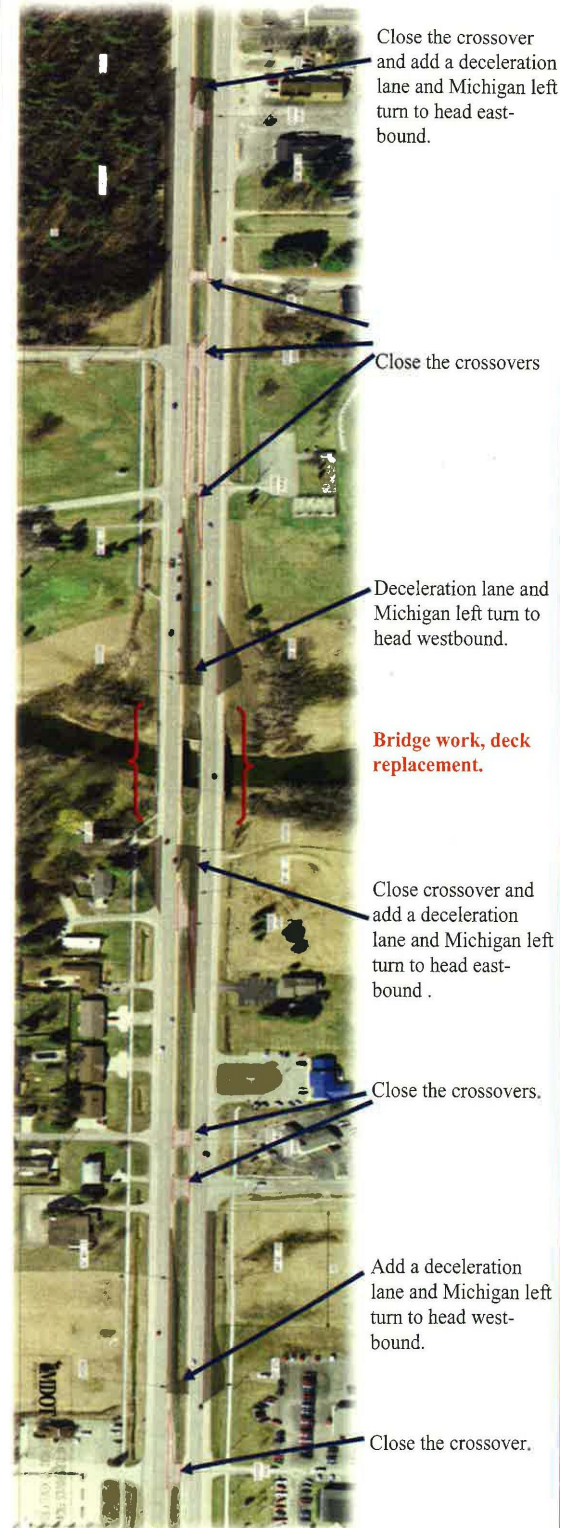
Two Major Road Projects Near Completion

Construction projects were underway this summer on major roadways in Thomas Township and are close to completion.

To the right is an overview of the construction project taking place on Gratiot Road . It includes the closure of crossovers, adding deceleration lanes and work on the bridge over Swan Creek. The addition of four "Loons" as well as a turning lane onto Kennely are part of the project.

The North Miller Road project began its second phase in June with work beginning on the northbound lane of North Miller Road. The project is designed to lower the road, improve drainage and add curbing . Approximately July 30, the work on the northbound lane had drawn to a close with the southbound lane work immediately following.

New sidewalks have been installed and the final paving is set to take place by the end of Fall. There will be an addition of a control light at the Fire Station as well as a right turning lane added from Shields Drive onto Miller Road.



Thomas Township Downtown
Development Authority

249 North Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone: (989) 781-0150
Fax (989) 781-0290
Email: codeenforcer@thomastwp.org

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DDA Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- ◆ November 24, 2015
- ◆ January 26, 2016
- ◆ March 22, 2016
- ◆ May 24, 2016

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,

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 ensure that businesses and residents alike remain within our Township and to attract new businesses and residents as well.

