

The Thomas Township Board and Staff would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!



TODAY



Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosowski
Clerk

Tom Radewahn
Trustee

Mike Thayer
Trustee

Ellen Ryder-Petre
Trustee

David Sommers
Trustee

Russell Taylor
Manager

Municipal Offices
249 North Miller Road
781-0150

Thomas Township Parks
249 North Miller Road
781-0151

DPW Administration
251 Miller Court
781-6438

Police Department
8215 Shields Drive
781-1300

Fire Department
8215 Shields Drive
781-4141

Library
8207 Shields Drive
781-3770

Township Website
www.thomastwp.org

Library Website
www.thomastownshiplibrary.com

Gypsy Culture Flea Market Coming to Roberts Park



The Gypsy Culture Flea Market is coming to Thomas Township! Over 100 vendors will bring handmade crafts, home décor, vintage items, clothing, accessories and more.

The event is organized and run by Lauren Husen and Hailey Cannon, owners of the Rebel Magnolia Boutique, now located at



7677 Gratiot Road. Hailey and Lauren have enjoyed the support they've received from our community

since moving the store to the Gratiot Road corridor.

Now, they'll also be bringing the Gypsy Culture Flea Market to Roberts Park.

The one day, all day event will be held on Saturday, May 13th, 2017. (That's right, Moms, the weekend that you get to pick the activities). The event has the chance to be one of the largest ever held in Thomas



Township and we couldn't be more excited.

Roberts Park will provide the perfect backdrop utilizing the open space, walking paths, and new pavilion. Please watch for further details about this amazing event. Customers from all over Michigan and beyond will be coming to the event to shop, gather, and spend the day outside in our great park.



Will Gast
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

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Dioxin Cleanup Begins in Thomas Township

The Township has received many phone calls concerning the work that was being done on North River Road this fall. Here is a synopsis of what precipitated that work.

For the past 20 years there has been controversy regarding contamination of the Tittabawassee River. There have been charges and counter-charges regarding the health effects of dioxin and furans that were disposed of as chemical waste to local residents. In the 1910's and 20's it was common practice to dump wastes into the waterways and Dow Chemical, in Midland since the 1890's, was no different.

Over the years the practices have ceased, but chemicals have been left behind in the sediment in the riverbanks, flood plains and river bottom. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded that dioxin may cause health issues, including cancer, skin problems and liver damage. The EPA along with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) are directing Dow's investigation and cleanup of the river. The cleanup project runs about 21 miles from the Dow property in Midland to the Saginaw River in Saginaw. To make the clean up work manageable, the river was divided into seven segments ranging from three to four miles each.

The EPA has two main cleanup goals. First, limit the spread of dioxin contaminated riverbank soil and sediment to reduce dioxin levels in each segment and further downstream. Second, help keep dioxin from building up in the fish in the river. Work started on segment one, a three mile section next to the Dow Plant, in 2012. Work moves from upstream to downstream. Segment one was completed in 2013. Segment 2 is four miles long with work done in 2014 and 2015. Dow started cleanup on the four mile long Segment 3 in 2016 which was slated to be completed by the end of the year.

A flood plain project in Thomas Township was completed in late October of 2016. It involved about a dozen properties along N. River Road south of Dice Road. Dead and dying trees were removed along with approximately 12 inches of contaminated soil and replaced by clean soil, then seeded.

In 2017 work is to begin on segments 4 and 5. This six mile area stretches upstream of the Tittabawassee Road Bridge to near the State Street bridge. In this area there are 16 river bank areas that will be worked on. They

range between 150 feet and 650 feet for a total of about 1.1 miles. The EPA has identified these as the least stable riverbanks that could release dioxins back into the river if the banks erode.

There are also two river soil areas, each totaling about .7 acres. These areas include deposits that contain higher levels of dioxins that built up long ago.

More areas may be identified. There are several cleanup options that Dow and the EPA are evaluating with final determination to be made in the Spring of 2017.

The Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination Community Advisory Group is composed of a broad cross-section of representatives from Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties. It serves as the focal point for the exchange of information between residents and EPA, the state regulatory agencies, potentially responsible party and other federal agencies involved in site cleanup.

For more detailed information see

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0503250>
www.saginawcag.org

*By David Sommers
Thomas Township Trustee
President Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination Community Action Group
(all pictures are courtesy of David Sommers)*



Dow Chemical is removing contaminated soil from the Tittabawassee River just downstream from the Gordonville Road bridge. When contamination is in the river, one method is to drive sheet piling into the river then pump out the water so that heavy equipment can excavate the contaminated soil.

pictures are continued on page 3

Pictures continued from page 2



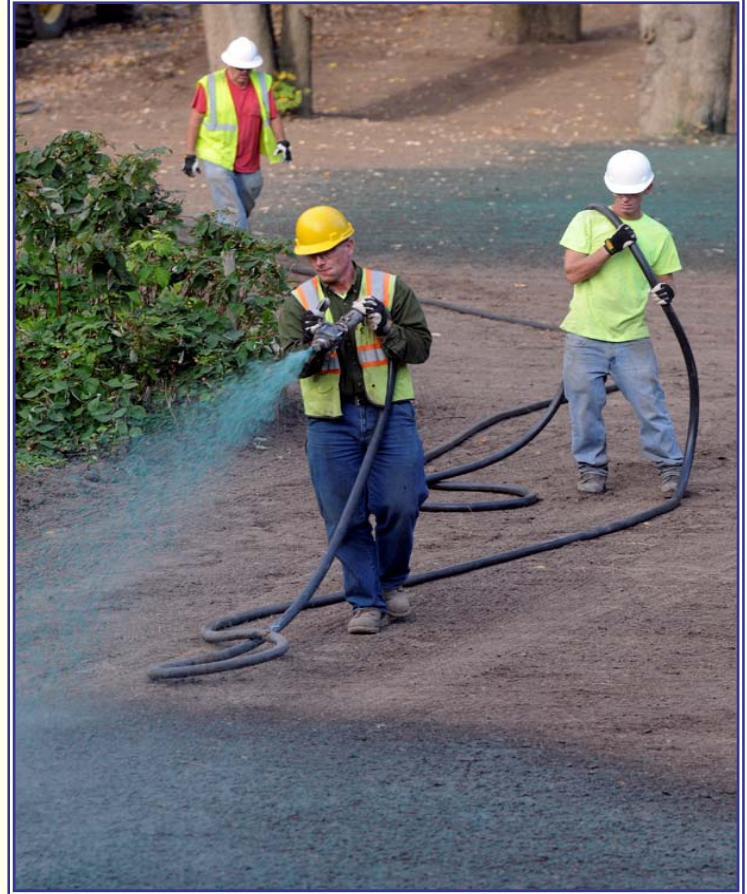
Construction crews excavate 12" of soil from about a dozen backyards along N. River Road south of Dice. The yards are in a floodplain along the Tittabawassee River. Dow Chemical was removing contaminated soil under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Soil is removed from about a dozen backyards along N. River Road south of Dice. The yards are in a floodplain along the Tittabawassee River. Dow Chemical was removing contaminated soil under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency.



A resident photographs the excavation of 12" of soil from about a dozen backyards along N. River Road south of Dice. The yards are in a floodplain along the Tittabawassee River. Dow Chemical was removing contaminated soil under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency.



After 12" of soil was removed and replaced with clean soil the yards are seeded. About a dozen backyards along N. River Road south of Dice were involved in the project. The yards are in a floodplain along the Tittabawassee River. Dow Chemical was removing contaminated soil under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency.



As the work moves downstream, we hope to continue to bring you updates until the work has moved out of Thomas Township.

Thanks to David Sommers, Thomas Township Trustee for compiling the information and pictures for this story.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant*

Thomas Township
Habitat Home
Rehabilitation Week
August 12-17



The Thomas Township employees will be joining forces with Habitat for Humanity (HFH) in an effort to improve the lives of some Thomas Township residents.

We are seeking applicants within Thomas Township who own their homes and who need basic home repairs or handicapped updates, but cannot afford them.

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 in January and contact Lizz Gluchowski, , Saginaw-Shiawassee HFH , 315 W. Holland Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48602 (989) 753-5200, ext. 500 or by email at lizz@sshfh.org. Feel Free to call and ask questions.

Deidre Frollo
Fiscal Services Director

Thomas Township Voters Show Up in Force for the Presidential Election

Whether or not your candidate won the election, the voices of Thomas Township residents were definitely heard.

Over all, 73.87% of all registered voters in Thomas Township cast votes in the November 2016 General Election, compared to 72.60% in November of 2012.

A breakdown of voters by age group and gender are as follows:

- 18-21 years old—60.90%
 Males 57.38% Females 64.25%
- 22-30 years old—53.32%
 Males 49.36% Females 57.25%
- 31-40 years old—66.82%

- Males 65.18% Females 68.40%
- 41-50 years old—69.41%
 Males 69.56% Females 69.26%
- 51-59 years old—77.50%
 Males 77.56% Females 77.46%
- 60+ years old—83.57%
 Males 85.61% Females 81.93%

Breakdown of voters by Precinct:

Precinct 1—79.21%
 Voters at the Polls—890
 Absent Voter Ballots—173

Precinct 2—71-18%
 Voters at the Polls—874
 Absent Voter Ballots—210

Precinct 3—70.23%
 Voters at the Polls—967
 Absent Voter Ballots—267

Precinct 4—77.03%
 Voters at the Polls—696
 Absent Voter Ballots—159

Precinct 5—70.40%
 Voters at the Polls—892
 Absent Voter Ballots—145

Precinct 6—73.18%
 Voters at the Polls—709
 Absent Voter Ballots—257

Precinct 7—78.81%
 Voters at the Polls—765
 Absent Voter Ballots—172

Elections in Michigan could not happen without the help of our Precinct Chairpersons and Election Workers. These people work from 6:00 am to 8:30 p.m. They are trained professionals who are ready to help every one of our electors on Election Day.

Thank you to all of our Election workers who once again did a great job during another record breaking turnout!

Edward Brosowski
Clerk

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Mike Slasinski, a resident of Thomas Township, runs a nonprofit museum you may not have heard of right here in Thomas Township. The museum is called the Great Lakes Logging & Indian Culture Museum. Mike runs it out of his home by appointment only. The museum boasts thousands of pieces of Native American artifacts and bits of history. In addition to his 3,000 plus artifacts, he also has more than 1,000

books about Native Americans and their culture.

Mike's favorite story to tell is where his love for the Native American culture and artifacts truly began. When Mike was just 9 years old, he flew for the first time to visit his uncle. During that flight Mike was invited into the cockpit of the plane and sit in the co-pilot chair and ask questions that the pilot answered for him. Now, you would think that experience would have been the best part of his trip but a special activity with his uncle was actually the highlight. While visiting with his uncle, Mike was taken to the Winnebago Indian Reservation in the Wisconsin Dells where he picked up a couple of souvenirs that would start his collection of a lifetime. That is when his love for the American Indian culture began. Mike now acquires most of his items through auctions, private trading, eBay and while attending Native American shows. His museum has some very rare pieces in it and he takes great pride in them. However, the artifact in which he takes the most pride, which was also a favorite of his wife Barb, is an early 1800s cradle board with a little Indian Doll in it. Mike says that is the one piece he will never sell and will more than likely pass it on to his grandson, who has an interest in the Native American Culture as well.

While his growing private collection contains items from a variety of Native American tribes, Mike has donated a full exhibit featuring a number of items related to the Council of Three Fires, which were the Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes, to the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History in Barb's name after she passed away in 2013. The exhibit, called "The Everyday Objects of the Chippewa People," is a part of the museum's Signature Exhibitions and is on display still today.



We pass each other on the streets and in the stores of our community each day and often do not know the treasures we have right here in Thomas Township. Your neighbor, Mike Slasinski, curator and collector of Michigan History, is another example of the special people in our neighborhoods. Next time you see Mike, remember to say, "Hello" and stop to learn more about his remarkable collection of artifacts.

Community Development Staff
**Photos courtesy of MLive

2017 Board of Trustees **Meeting Dates**

January—9	July—10
February—6	August—7
March—6	September—11
April—3	October—2
May—1	November—6
June—5	December—4

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., and are held at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive.

From the Assessing Department

2017 Assessment Notices

Your 2017 Assessment Notices will be in your mailbox the last week of February, 2017. **THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE OF WHAT YOUR ASSESSMENT (SEV); TAXABLE VALUE (TV) AND PRE EXEMPTION WILL BE FOR 2017.**

If you have 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 in the year that your assessments can be protested, and that is at the March Board of Review. The 2017 March Board of Review will meet March 13th, 14th and 15th (call for times).

If there is not an error in your assessment,

and you wish to appeal the values, which the Assessor has placed on your property, you ***must*** attend this March Board of Review.

If the March Board of Review does not agree with your appeal, you may then protest to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; however, ***YOU MUST FIRST APPEAL YOUR ASSESSMENT TO THE LOCAL MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW.***

The Thomas Township Assessor can be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00p.m. at 989-781-0150.

Thank you,

*Will Gast
Thomas Township Assessor*

From the Treasurer

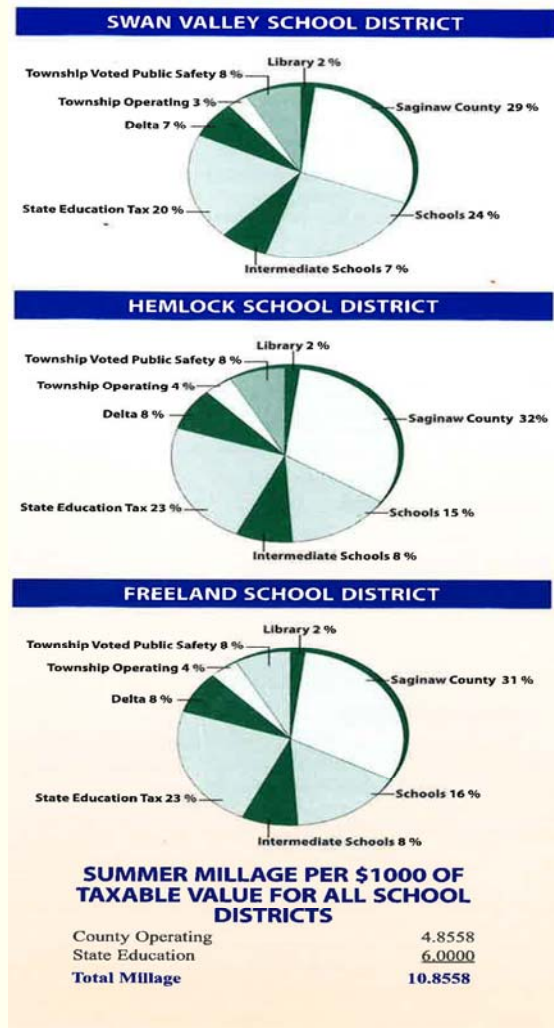
Do You Know Where Your Tax Dollars Go?

Listed below is a tax bill detail for an average home in Thomas Township. The only amount of your tax bill that the Township gets to keep for general operations is listed below as LOCAL OPERATING. This amount is equal to about 2.60% 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, the Water Department and the Sewer Department. While the Public Safety millage (9.55% of tax bill) and the Fire millage (1% of tax bill) offsets the majority of the Police Department and Fire Department expenses, the General Fund must still supplement a large percentage of their operations. This holds true for the Parks and 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 3.0% of each tax bill goes to operate the public Library in Thomas Township.

The remaining 82% of your tax bill is sent to various OTHER taxing jurisdictions such as the County of Saginaw, Delta College, solid waste pick up and the local Schools.

*Vern Weber
Treasurer*



Police News

The Police Department is pleased to announce that we have partnered with Officer Henry Reyna (Ret) and currently with a company called SecureCom to produce a quarterly "Crime Prevention Newsletter". They will be posted on the Police Department web page of the Township website at www.thomastwp.org.

If anyone has areas or topics of particular concern let us know and we will try to address them in future newsletters. The first newsletter is already up on the web page for your viewing. We hope you find them informative and useful.

Have a safe and fun winter season.

*Steve Kocsis
Chief of Police*

Planning Commission 2017 Dates

January 1	July 19
February 15	August 16
March 15	September 20
April 19	October 18
May 17	November 8
June 21	December 20

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

Downtown Development Authority 2017 Meeting Dates

January 24	July 25
March 28	September 26
May 23	November 28

Meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. and are held at the Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive.

Fire Department News

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT

Since we are into our SNOW SEASON.... it becomes more important than ever to keep your fire hydrant clear of snow. We in the fire department urge you...no, challenge you, to locate the closest fire hydrant to your home and make sure it is clear.

Please accept this challenge and take ownership of that fire hydrant by adapting it as "your own". Being able to quickly locate that fire hydrant will clearly help you out as well as the fire department. With the endless snow piles, it becomes very challenging to locate some of these hydrants, especially when looking for them in the night. By adapting YOUR local fire hydrant, it is doing your part to help not only your home but your neighbor's homes. This simple preventive measure can have large dividends in the end.

*Thank you,
Michael Cousins, Fire Chief*

When Seconds Count...



Which would you rather have to protect your home?

After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.

Zoning Board of Appeals 2017 Meeting Dates

Meetings, when needed, will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be at 4:00 p.m. and are held at the Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive.

Parks and Recreation Fall and Winter Happenings

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission Members and Staff

Scott Branch, Chairman, Tara DeLine,
Stephanie Yancer, Craig Monahan,
Bryan Mrozinski, Carly Rusch,
Dean Rusch

Staff:
John Corriveau, Director
Will Gast, Assistant Director
Stacy Hable, Secretary

Parks Office is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS TRAIN AND FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thomas Township wants to thank everyone who came out and supported the 2016 Christmas Train and Festival of Lights. It is hard to believe this is the 6th year of the event already! The event has grown every year and this year Mother Nature gave us some good weather for people to come out and enjoy the event.

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. 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 and beautiful.

Thomas Township Business Association (Sponsor)

McDonald Ford Freeland

Stanley Steemer

Wolgast Restoration

Corriveau Family

Skiendziel Family

Thomas Township Kiwanis Club

Shields Lions Club

Klucks Nursey

Holy Spirit

Hopevale Church

Hemlock Semiconductor

Saginaw Community Education Center

Swan Valley Schools

Knights of Columbus Council 8808
Hemlock Middle School Junior National
Honor Society

A special thanks to our friends at Domagalski Photography who supplied free pictures with Santa Claus to everyone who attended this event!

WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS

ARCHERY CLASSES

Archery classes began again on January 5, 2017, at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club. Classes are for both beginner and advanced archers. 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 NFAA.

To give each student individual attention class size is limited to 12 students, so please sign up early! The next class, which begins February 16, 2017 is taking registrations now until classes are full. A third session will begin April, 6, 2017 with registration continuing until classes are full.

Cost is \$40 per resident student, \$45 per non-resident student, each student also receives a free T-Shirt.





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, and will run for six weeks.

4-5 year olds will run from 9:00am-10:15am
6-7-8 year olds will run from 10:30am-11:45am.

Registration will continue until January 20, 2017 with games beginning February 11, 2017. Don't forget you can register online. A \$10 late fee will be charged after January 20, 2017. No registration can be taken after January 27, 2017.

Cost: \$40.00 Residents
\$45 for Non Residents

Thomas Township Continues to Construct Trails

In an effort to connect our parks and schools by sidewalks and pathways, another leg of pathways has been constructed. The goal is to provide the residents of Thomas Township and the surrounding area as many miles of safe, well maintained, connected walking paths as we possibly can.

The completion of the Roberts Park Trail Expansion is an important step in completing that goal. Roberts Park, located on South Miller Road, is already home to soccer fields, softball fields, walking trails, pavilions and a fishing pond.

A survey of our community taken in 2014 showed that more walking trails should be a top priority for the Township. With the expansion of Roberts Park in 2011/12 we have seen a large increase in the number of people in the park, walking, playing sports and enjoying

the area. The amount of people using the walking trails in the park has been amazing. Families with strollers, kids on bikes, and people out walking their dogs have all benefited from the trails built in 2011/12.

In 2013 Thomas Township added a 2.3 mile bike/walking path called the Thomas Trail. The new trail expansion will allow users of the Thomas Trail easy access to the Roberts Park trails by using the sidewalk on the north side of O'Hern Road and walking east towards Miller Road. On the east side of the intersection of O'Hern and Miller Road, residents will then join and enjoy the trail expansion.

This trail expansion will encourage the use of our parks, promote outdoor activity, and enhance the quality of life for our residents.



REMEMBER, 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.

MORE FROM PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE HOURS

The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Occasionally, the park office will be closed when the park staff has to leave the office. In those cases, the main office staff will assist you with questions and registrations. Phone number (989) 781-0151.

SWINGIN' SENIORS

The Swingin' Seniors meet the first Wednesday of the month for a pot luck luncheon and bingo. Join in the fun. Meetings are at noon at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive. Any questions, call (989) 781-0151

2017 PAVILION RENTALS

It's time to reserve your pavilion for the 2017 season. Residents only can rent in January. In February, we open up the registration process to non-residents. The fee for any of the four pavilions is \$50 for Thomas Township residents; \$80 for non-residents; and \$100 for companies. There are three pavilions at Roethke Park and one at Roberts Park.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Girls' basketball leagues are forming for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 4th, 5th, 6th grades. Girl's in 4th grade can choose to play up with the 5th and 6th graders or down with the 2nd and 3rd graders. Sign up continues until January 20 2017. After this date, a \$10 late fee will be assessed, with no registrations taken after January 27, 2017. Saturday games begin February 11, 2017 at Swan Valley High School. Player fees are \$40 for Thomas Township residents and \$45 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. The draft for girls in 4th-6th grades is January 28, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Swan Valley High School Gym. Shirts will be provided.

YOUTH FLOOR HOCKEY

Floor hockey will again be offered to Y5's-K and 1st-2nd-3rd graders. The six week season begins on February 11, 2017. This program is held on Saturdays at

Swan Valley High School and is for both boys and girls. Floor hockey is recreational in nature and there are no practices or standings kept. Fees are \$40 for Thomas Township residents and \$45 for non-residents. Shirts will be provided. Registration continues until January 20th. After this date a \$10 late fee will be assessed. No registrations can be taken after January 27, 2017.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

Adult volleyball teams can sign up for the spring league for women either recreational or power and men's power begin in March and games begin in April. Games are held weeknights at the Swan Valley Schools. There is a \$125 team fee and \$10 player fee for Thomas Township residents and \$15 for non-residents.

WINTER FUN IN THE PARKS

SLEDDING

There is a lighted sled hill at Day Park on South River Road for your winter sledding FUN! Day Park is located on South Miller just north of Ronald Drive.

ICE SKATING

There are two ice rinks in Community Park behind the Township Office buildings at 249 North Miller Road. Due to the 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 "Rink's 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, so parental supervision is mandatory for the safety of all participants.



This year has continued to place drinking water into the national spotlight. News stories about lead contamination in older cities like Flint to ground water pollution coming from a former military installation that is threatening Lake Huron highlight how important and how reliant we are on safe drinking water. While making sure that our water is safe to drink, most of the world lacks a reliable water source for drinking water.

The earth is home to a lot of water. But 97% of the world's entire supply is seawater. Another 2% is captured in polar ice caps. This leaves just 1% of all the water in the world as drinkable fresh water. And even though pollution and maintaining safe drinking water standards are important, another important issue is conservation and making sure that the 1% of drinkable water we have is used wisely.

According to the US Department of Interior, the average US household of four uses 293 gallons of water per day. And for every 10 gallons of water used, 9.5 gallons is simply wasted down the drain. This means that every year, hundreds of billions of gallons of water are wasted nationwide through inefficient water use or faulty or broken plumbing fixtures. This waste adds unnecessary costs to customers and impacts both water and sewer utilities through wasted energy consumption, chemical and treatment costs and manpower. are some statistics;

- ..# Toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, (providing your toilet is fairly new or has been replaced since 1995). Have a toilet installed before 1995? You use 6 gallons *per flush!*
- ..# Have a leaky toilet? A running toilet will use up to 2 gallons per minute. That could be 2,800 gallons per day and is the same as having 39 of your favorite relatives living in your home.
- ..# Have a dripping faucet? 1 drip per second unchecked and you wasted 5.5 gallons per day.
- ..# Did you know that an older washing machine uses between 25 and 55 gallons; or that a dishwasher uses 15 gallons *per load?*
- ..# Do you hand wash dishes? You're using about 2.2 to 3 gallons per minute.
- ..# Watering your flowers and grass? You're using around 10 gallons per minute.

Every time our staff reads your water meter, we look for large, out of the ordinary water use. Not only does it reflect in a larger water bill, it's a pretty good indication you have something that is leaking in your home or business. When we spot it, we try and notify you so you can address the issue, or arrange an appointment with our staff to help you find a leak. Every month, scores of customers are assisted this way. If you happen to get a letter from the Township about a high water use, please contact us. We will be more than happy to help determine if you have a leak problem or not. Look for leaks on your own.

Listen for a running toilet. If you suspect a silently leaking toilet, try placing some food coloring in the tank of the toilet and see if, over time, the color shows up in the bowl. Look for dripping faucets. And if you find something, fix it.

Want to help conserve? Here are some tips:

- ..# Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or shave.
- ..# Take short showers instead of baths.
- ..# Install water-saving accessories in your bathroom, like low-flow shower heads and low-flow or dual-flush toilets.
- ..# Immediately repair leaks in faucets, toilets and other plumbing.
- ..# Replace older, water-consuming appliances like dishwashers and washing machines with those that are more efficient. Look for appliances tagged with the "Energy Star" label. (These appliances are vetted to the government's standards of efficiency).
- ..# Scrape -rather than rinse- your dishes before putting them in your dishwasher.
- ..# Run your dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- ..# Pour water at tap temperatures and store in the refrigerator to cool instead of running the faucet until you get cool water. Likewise, use a sink-based instant water heater to heat water, or loop your hot water piping rather than running faucet until you get hot water.
- ..# Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems for your plants rather than a sprinkler.
- ..# Water lawns and gardens in the coolest part of the day, such as the early morning.

Remember, water is a finite resource. We have all the water we will ever have. We cannot make more. We have to clean and reuse water time and time again. We need to be conscious of the water we use and we must protect the resource so that clean, drinkable water is always available.

Lets Conserve and Protect Our Water.

*Have a Safe and Happy New Year!
Rick Hopper, DPW Director*

Holiday Trash Delay Dates for 2017

- Friday, June 2nd will be Saturday, June 3rd
- Friday, July 7th will be Saturday, July 8th
- Friday, September 8th will be Saturday, September 9th
- Friday, November 24th will be Saturday, November 25th
- Friday, December 29th will be Saturday, December 30th

THOMAS TOWNSHIP
249 NORTH MILLER ROAD
SAGINAW, MI 48609-4896

2017 BRUSH SITE DATES

Brush may be taken ***by the homeowner*** to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of Gleaner and Frost Roads. No stumps, leaves, grass or commercial brush will be accepted. The site will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., on the following dates; April 1, 8, 22, 29; May 6, 20; June 3, 17; July 8, 15; August 12, 26; September 9, 23; October 7, 14, 21, 28.

Yard Waste collection will begin again the first pick up of April, 2017