

FREE
MOVIES IN THE PARK
 Saturday, July 23, 2016
 Saturday, July 23, 2016
 Disney's Pixar Inside Out
 Saturday, August 13, 2016
 Hotel Transylvania
 (See page 7 for details)



TODAY

NEW EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SIGNAL



We have a new emergency traffic signal on North Miller Road in front of Fire Station One. The purpose of this emergency light is to provide a safer environment for our fire fighters when trucks are leaving or returning to the fire station after a call. Prior to the installation of this light we have had some very close calls where impatient drivers nearly hit our fire fighters as they were directing the trucks into the station.

The best practice for preventing accidents at most fire stations is to have someone serve as a "guard" whenever the trucks are backing up. This is intended to prevent the driver of the fire truck from backing into something or prevent someone walking or riding a bike behind the

truck. As hard as it is to believe, there are times when people are out walking or riding their bikes on Miller Road thinking that its safe to go behind a moving truck. Still other times they are talking with their friends, listening to their radios or just aren't aware that a truck on the road is backing up into the fire station. In a recent close call, a firefighter was almost hit by a careless driver that literally pulled up into the fire station's front parking lot to go around "behind" the fire truck.

This light will operate as needed. Typically, the emergency traffic light will be a constant green on North Miller Road. When fire trucks are leaving or returning to the station, the traffic signal will cycle from green to yellow to red for North Miller Road traffic allowing the trucks to come and go as needed. The light will then stay red for one minute (unless more trucks are leaving or returning). Every attempt will be made not to delay traffic on North Miller Road any longer than is necessary to keep our responders safe.

Continued on page 6

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosofski
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

Inside Features

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REMEMBERING LONG TIME PLANNING COMMISSIONER



Thomas Township would like to remember Mr. Richard "Rich" Reuter. Rich passed away on May 3rd of this year. Rich was very involved with our community, serving both on the Thomas Township Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals for many years.

Rich was generous with both his time and money as demonstrated by the numerous charitable organizations

and causes that he supported. He retired from his job at Michigan National Bank in 1997.

Rich was sworn into the Planning Commission on April 17, 1989 and served on the board for 16 years, 10 of those years as chairman. He was sworn into the Zoning Board of Appeals on March 18, 1993 and served for 12 years. During his 16 years on the Planning Commission he attended approximately 184 Planning Commission Meetings and was instrumental in several key ordinances to improve the Gratiot Road Corridor. Rich also helped update the Thomas Township Master Plan for several years starting in 1994. He was the driving force behind the Thomas Township Business of the Year award that the Planning Commission continues to give out annually.

Rich resigned from both boards on May 3, 2005. After his retirement from Thomas Township, Rich and his wife Patty permanently moved to Crooked Lake in Northern Michigan.

HONORING TOM KRUEGER, FORMER DPW DIRECTOR



On May 3, 2016, after suffering from an extended illness, former DPW Director, Tom Krueger peacefully passed away surrounded by his family. He was 67.

Tom began his career with Thomas Township in 1974 after serving in the US Army. In his 35 years of community service, Tom eventually worked his

way up from a general laborer to hold the position of Director of Public Works.

During Tom's tenure, the Township saw tremendous growth of which he supervised many of the Township's water and sewer improvements.

A lifelong resident of our community and an avid outdoorsman, Tom was a familiar face to all the residents. Tom is survived by his wife of almost 45 years, Sue, his daughter Tammy (Jim) Bakos, sons Scott and Ryan Krueger, three grandchildren, and many friends and relatives.

Tom's imprint on Thomas Township is evident everywhere you look, and his legacy will continue on. Thanks Tom, you will be missed.

*Director of Public Works
Rick Hopper*

2015 Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Guide

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission Members and Staff

Scott Branch, Chairman, Angela Alworden,
Craig Blower, 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. (989) 781-0151



DAY CAMPS

Thomas Township has six exciting week-long camp sessions left for this summer. Day Camp is for children ages 7-12. The Day Camp runs five days a week, (Mon-Fri) 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year each week will again have its own new theme for campers to enjoy, while still offering some of the activities that they have come to love; swimming, train rides and crafts. This year's themes are:

July 11-15	Outdoor Explorer
July 18-22	Carnival Crazyness
July 25-29	Roethke Olympics
August 1-5	Chef for a Week
August 15-19	Under the Sea

Fee: Resident \$110 Non Resident \$120

****Camp fees will be reduced by 25% for each child after the first child registered in the same week of camp.** This applies to Mini Camp as well.**

BEFORE & AFTER CAMP CARE

Before & After camp care is available for parents who need to drop off or pick up their children before the scheduled camp time is available. A counselor will stay with any children if they need to be dropped off early or stay late. Before & After Camp Care begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m. There is a \$30 fee per week per child for this service. All children **MUST BE REGISTERED AND PAID IN ADVANCE FOR THIS SERVICE**

MINI CAMPS

There is one more one week (Mon-Fri) session for children ages 4-6 being offered this year. It runs from August 8th through the 12th. The daily sessions run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This outdoor oriented day camp includes all the activities that Day Camp has to offer. All activities are geared to the age level of the children. There is a limit of 20 campers. Wednesdays are still cook-out days.

Fee: Residents \$80 Non Residents \$90

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

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.



SWIM LESSONS

Taught by certified water safety instructors according to the Red Cross Swim Program. Each session consists of eight lessons. (Monday-Thursday) with both morning and evening sessions.

Fee: Resident \$45.00
 Non Resident \$50.00

Level I: Water Exploration

Ages 4-6, an introduction to aquatic skills & water safety.

First Session	June 13-23
Second Session	June 27-30th & July 11- 14
Third Session	July 18-28
Fourth Session	Aug 1-11
9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.	6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Level II: Primary Skills

Ages 5-9 who have passed Level I or a skill test. Working on basic strokes & aquatic safety.

First Session	June 13-23
Second Session	June 27-30th & July 11- 14
Third Session	July 18-28
Fourth Session	Aug 1-11
10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Level III: Stroke Readiness

Ages 6-10 who have passed Level II or skill test. Continue to work on strokes, water safety & diving skills.

First Session	June 13-23
Second Session	June 27-30th & July 11- 14
Fourth Session	Aug 1-11
9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.	10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.	6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Level IV: Stroke Development

Those who have passed Level III or skill test. Endurance & confidence in the various strokes.

Third Session	July 18-28
9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.	10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.	6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

POOL SCHEDULE

The pool will continue with it's summer schedule for recreational swimming Monday-Sunday. The pool will close on August 19, 2016. Swim Sessions are as follows:

Monday-Thursday	11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday-Sunday	Noon-3:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Fees for all sessions:

Individual	\$ 5.00
Individual All Day	\$10.00
Family per session	\$10.00

Season Passes:

Individual Resident	\$ 55.00
Individual Non Resident	\$ 75.00
Family Resident	\$ 80.00
Family Non Resident	\$110.00

\$20.00 extra on family passes for each additional family member over 5. Season passes are available at the Township Office, 249 North Miller Road.

****For open swim times, if there are NO swimmers in the pool at 8:00 p.m. the pool will close early for the night.****

RIDE THE ROETHKE TRAIN

The train runs Tuesday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and every Saturday and Sunday through August 21st (when weather permits) from noon to 5 pm. If planning a family event or bringing out a group, it is always wise to call ahead to verify the availability of the train for your get together. For special group times call 781-0151.





SOCCKER LEAGUES

Fall soccer leagues for boys and girls in grades Y5's-6th grade will begin taking registration's in mid-July and will continue through the last day of August 2016. Fall soccer season runs for six weeks starting September 10th through October 15, 2016.

Fees: Residents \$40.00
 Non Residents \$45.00

ARCHERY CLASSES-2017

Beginning Thursday, January 5, 2017 and continuing until February 9, 2017 archery classes will run each Thursday. Three sessions will run consecutively through mid-May, 2017:

Beginner 4:30 pm-5:30 pm
 Beginner 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
 Beginner 6:30 pm-7:30 pm
 Advanced 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

Classes for beginners work on safety, form, equipment and the fundamentals to become a good archer. Classes for advanced archers are based on using their equipment if they have it or using our advanced set up bows. We have both fully set up compound bows or longbows available for your use. Registration will begin in November 2016 and run through December 2016.

2016 HAUNTED TRAIN RIDE AT ROETHKE PARK

October 14th-15th and 21st-22nd
 From dusk to midnight you can ride the fright train. This ever popular attraction returns for another year of screams. Remember we are always looking for more ghouls and goblin volunteers. Call the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Department at (989) 781-0151 for more information.

2016 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRAIN AT ROETHKE PARK!

December 1-2-3 and December 8-9-10

Come ride the train and see lighted scenes created by local businesses and individuals who love Christmas lights! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event or to make a display please call the Park Office at 781-0151. The Christmas Train runs from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



PICNIC IN THE PARK-CONCERT SERIES AT ROETHKE PARK

Join us for a summer picnic and FREE concert at Roethke Park. Enjoy great music and many more special events on Tuesdays from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Rainout date will be August 25, 2015.

- July 12- The Beets
- July 19- Operation 13
- July 26- The Rock Show
- August 2- CEYX
- August 9- the Laurie Middlebrook Band
- August 16- The Bullseye Band



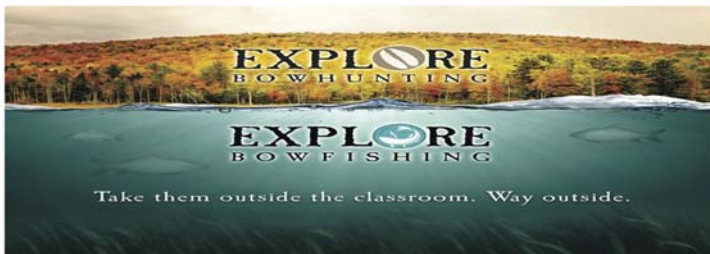
EXPLORE BOWFISHING

thomas Township Parks and Recreations archery program was created in 2010 and has grown dramatically over the last six years. This program is now recognized nationally as a top recreational archery class program.

Thomas Township was the pilot program for Explore Bowhunting in 2011 and in 2013 Parks and Recreation Director John Corriveau was part of the group that created a new program called Explore Archery, just for recreational archery. Now, the Archery Trade Association along with USA Archery has asked Thomas Township Parks and Recreation to pilot a new program, Explore Bowfishing. All equipment for this pilot program has been supplied to us.

Our job will be to write a bowfishing program that other parks and recreation departments can use to implement the program in their areas. We have selected qualified students from our other archery classes to be a part of this process. This will help us figure out what ideas and methods will work for teaching this class.

Our classes will be held at Roethke Park and Roberts Park. The students will be shooting into the water at



targets (made for underwater use) and will advance to shooting carp and goldfish we see in the ponds. Carp (goldfish) are in invasive species of fish and are not supposed to be in our fishing ponds. We spend money each year to plant Bass, Bluegill and Catfish so our park users can enjoy catching and releasing game fish. Signs will now be posted at our ponds informing people to not release goldfish into the ponds, in an effort to reduce their population.

Bowfishing in our ponds will only be allowed during class time, and only under the direct supervision of our certified archery instructors. Signs will be placed at the ponds during classes and all instructors will have Thomas Township Parks and Recreation ID with them.

*John Corriveau
Parks and Recreation Director*

Emergency signal (continued from front page):

We ask that you remain patient and diligent while we all get used to this new safety device. Please come to a complete stop if you see this signal turn red.

There is one remaining concern that we are in the process of rectifying. People who are turning from Shields Drive to North Miller Road to head south, can't see the light clearly. This was done on purpose so Drivers on Shields Drive don't think the light is controlling traffic coming from that road. To resolve the problem the County Road Commission will be painting "hold" markings on the road indicating where to stop when the light is red. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our departments administrative office at 781-4141.

*Michael Cousins,
Fire Chief*

Police Department News

What is Crimedar?

CRIMEDAR is a provider of custom crime map solutions. It is used to interact with the general public regarding current crime activity in the community. It is free, easy and can be viewed including map activity from the Thomas Township website under the Police Department.

Crimedar is updated weekly with neighborhood crimes such as theft, burglary, robbery, assaults, arson, vandalism, gunfire, suspicious and threatening behavior, etc.

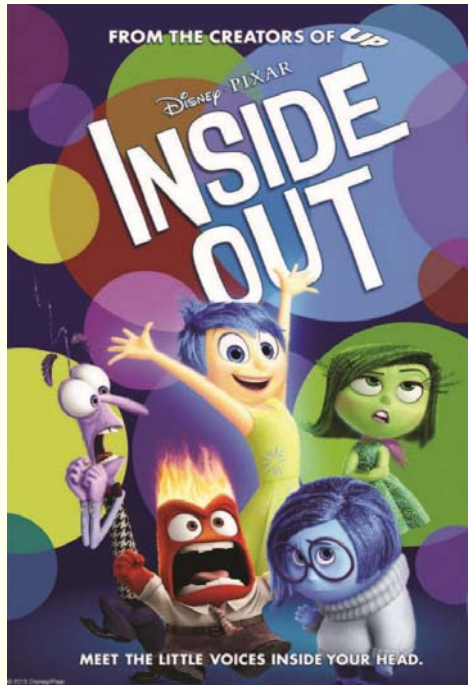
Crimedar is based on the nature of the call and does not report names, addresses and/or any other personal information.

The idea of Crimedar is to reduce crime, bring law enforcement and citizens together, unite the community with surrounding communities, offers citizens a sense of involvement by providing crime information. More important, Thomas Township Police is hoping for Crimedat to be a valuable tool in creating a safer community.

Note: Crimedat reporting is not intended to replace 911 emergency calls.

Steve Kocsis,

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK



Come on out to Roberts Park and enjoy two more FREE family friendly movies this summer.

Our July feature film, Disney Pixar's Inside Out will be shown on Saturday, July 23, 2016.

Our August feature film, Hotel Transylvania 2, will be shown on Saturday, August 13, 2016.

Movies begin at dusk (about 9:45) and will be shown on a 25 foot screen complete with surround sound.

This is the second year in a row we have been able to offer FREE Movies in the Park.



All movies are shown on the Thomas Township Soccer Fields. Bring your own lawn chair, blankets, snacks, and bug spray and come on out and watch movies under the stars. NEW THIS YEAR is the Soccer Pavilion! Not only do we have bathrooms with running water, we also have a full service concession stand.

SUMMER TAX BILLS

SUMMER TAX BILLS DUE TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ON JULY 1.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO DEFER YOUR SUMMER TAXES?

Summer tax bills should have arrived in mailboxes on or about July 1, 2016. They are due by September 14, 2016 to avoid penalties and interest. If you do not receive a summer tax statement, contact the Treasurer's office and request a copy. The Treasurer can be reached at (989) 781-0150.

Some property owners may defer payment of the summer tax until the time that winter taxes are due if one of the following apply:

- ...# The property is the principal residence of persons 62 years of age or older, or the surviving spouse of a person who was 62 or older at death, with a household income below \$25,000.
- ...# Persons with a disability that allows them to qualify for an extra personal exemption on the State income tax form.
- ...# Property that is classified or used as agricultur-

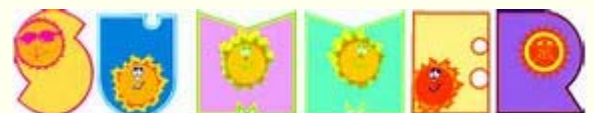
al property may qualify if the gross receipts of the farming operation are not less than the household income for the previous year.

Individuals who meet any of the above criteria for deferral must complete a form available through the Treasurer's office in order to receive the deferral. The deferral form must be completed each year **PRIOR TO OR ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2016.**

Deferral of summer taxes does not relieve the property owner from payment of the taxes. It only allows them to defer the payment until February 28, 2017 without penalties and interest.

If deferred, the summer tax amount due will not appear on your winter tax statement.

Vern Weber
Township Treasurer



Township Board Approves First Water Rate Increase in Eight Years

At the June 6th Thomas Township Board meeting, the first water rate increase in eight years was approved. During that time, the Township was able to manage the water system and related costs without increasing costs to its water customers in spite of numerous increased costs for materials, labor, etc. The Board has always been diligent about not spending beyond the means of the community's ability to support them. Our community has always recognized the importance of keeping water rates as affordable as possible without sacrificing water quality or customer service. The result has been that for several years now, the Township has been at the low end of rates in Saginaw County. Even with the increase this year, Thomas Township customers will still be paying the lowest rates in the county for an average household using 16,000 gallons/quarter (please see the graphic at the bottom of the page).

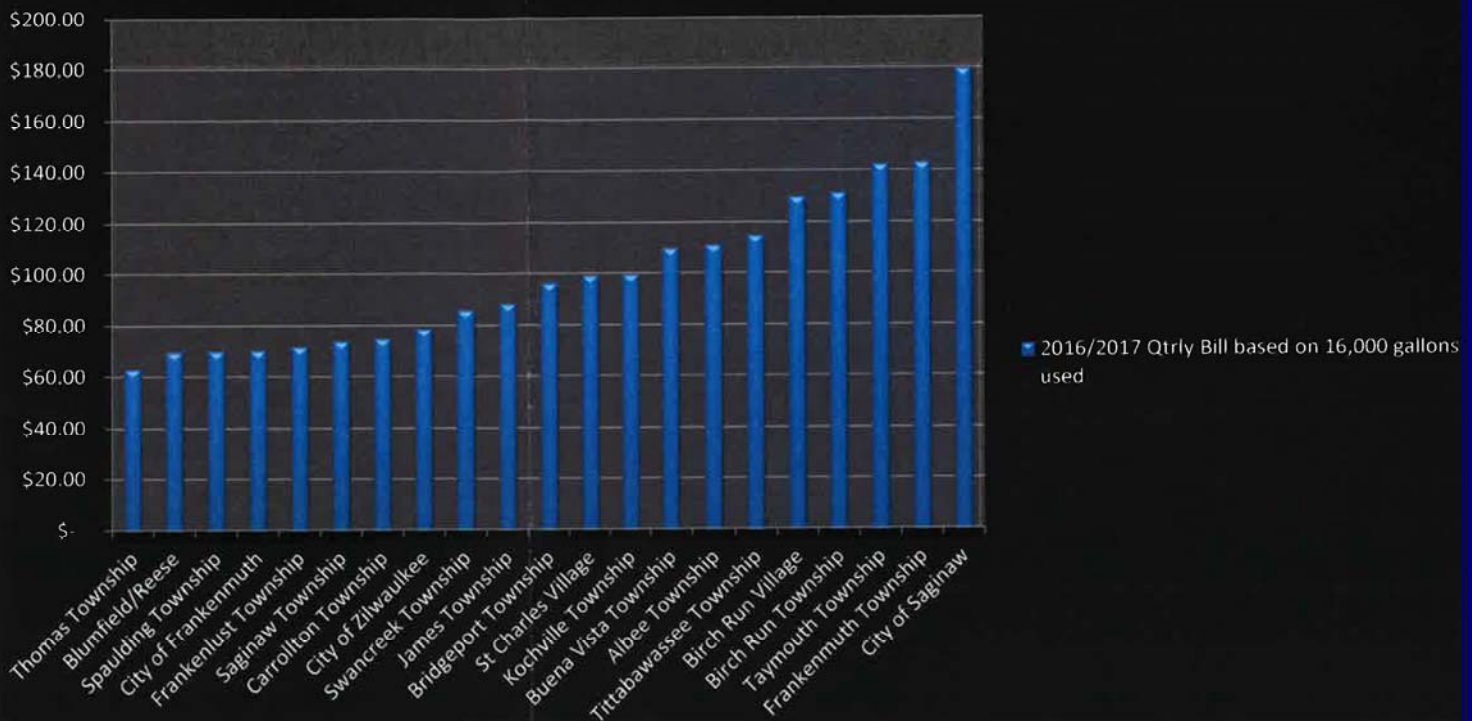
Over the past eight years, the Township has had to absorb several increases from our wholesale water supplier, the City of Saginaw. However, the most recent increases of 11% this year and another 10% next year could no longer be absorbed without changing the rates as our expenditures would have greatly exceeded revenues. Besides a frugal department, having Hemlock Semiconductor in the commu-

nity has been an important reason for keeping rates low. HSC has paid directly for many of the necessary infrastructure improvements that the Township has had to make over the last several years. Additionally, the Township has also leveraged HSC's job creation to acquire additional grant funding. Collectively, they have resulted in the new water tower being built on Graham Road, demolition of the old elevated tank, a second parallel 12" main on Gratiot, a second 20" Tittabawassee River crossing and multiple improvements to the pump station next to the River. Even without HSC, most of these improvements would have still been required; however, the cost would have been borne solely by the rest of the residential and commercial customers.

The new rate for water purchased is \$2.50/1,000 gallons. This is up from the previous \$2.23/1,000 gallons. For a household using 18,000 gallons/quarter, that translates into an additional \$4.86. The ready to serve rate is based upon the meter size; however, for the large majority of residential and commercial customers, the rate will increase from \$11.00 to \$11.77/quarter. Thus, the total for an average household using 18,000 gallons will be \$5.63/quarter. Customers will begin to see the increase with the first bills in August.

Russ Taylor
Township Manager

2016/2017 Qtrly Bill based on 16,000 gallons used



The History of Thomas Township in Review

THE BUILDING OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT

All the way back to the 1930's Thomas Township understood the importance of fire protection for its residents. Convincing the largely rural residents to pay for it back then was another story.

In the 1930's Thomas Township contracted with other municipalities to supply the residents with fire protection. In the event of a fire, the contracted municipality was called and a run was made into Thomas Township. Fire protection at that time cost our Township \$1,000 a year plus \$100/hr for every run. However in the 1950's with a rapidly increasing population, a group of residents decided it was time to buy our own fire equipment.

On April 4, 1956 the first group of residents expressed a desire for the Township to buy its own fire equipment and build a fire station. However after appointing a committee to study the need, no action was taken on the matter by the Township Board. In 1959 another committee was appointed to study the matter again. This committee recommended to the Township Board that they buy a fire engine and construct a fire station. The total estimated cost of \$52,000 was to be financed by bonds approved by the voters. On November 2, 1959 the bond issue was presented to the voters and the proposals were defeated.

Not to be deterred, the Township Board placed the same proposals on the ballot in May of 1960 and it passed, however, due to lack of publication of a required document, the election was deemed null and void. The following year the Township Board placed the same proposals on the ballot and the proposals were once again turned down.

Finally, on May 17, 1962, a new bond proposal was presented to the residents for \$74,000 and this one passed. This was the beginning of a great and efficient volunteer Fire Department. The new volunteer Fire Department had a charter membership of 32 trained men. Just like today, fire fighting equipment was provided to each man for their use.

The \$74,000 approved by the voters was enough to build Fire Station #1, then located at 249 North Miller

Road on the grounds of the Municipal Building today, and to convert the former Dice School building, located at 9970 Dice Road into Fire Station #2. It also pur-



Front row - Chief Ken Gauze Second row - L to R Al Kindel, Lyle Cousins, Jim Pinnell, Roland Marshall, Tom Hales, Dick Bouliw, Dave Nikolai, Al Sumption, George Schmidt Third row - Don Turner, Bob Watters, David Eimers, Robert Steele, Paul Kragenbrink, Ed Kragenbrink, Charles Chantiny, Terry Peters, Ralph Bowden Fourth row - Richard Borm, Ed Briggs, Ted Glowacki, Duwayne Stockwell, Gary Fuller, Clarence Schultz, Tom Beckrow, Warren Wyatt Missing from picture are - Tom Aspin, David Meyer, Richard Hughes, Clarence Wegner, Jerry Knoll, Jim Armstrong, Ed Matzke

chased a pumper truck for Station #1 and a tanker truck for Station #2. It also purchased some miscellaneous tools and fire fighting equipment.



Thomas Township's Fire Station One (North Miller Rd.)



Fire Station Two (Dice Road)

Story continued on page 10....

continued from page 9.....

The new units were dedicated on September 1, 1963. It was quickly realized that a smaller truck was also needed for smaller fire fighting needs such as grass



and bush fires. So in 1967 a small truck was purchased and designated fire truck #3.

On November 5, 1974, a Fire Protection millage was passed by the voters. This proposal called for the construction of a larger fire station, that being the current Fire Station #1 and the purchase of a new aerial tele squirt fire truck at a total cost of approximately \$300,000.

Since its inception, the Fire Department is constantly being upgraded and expanded to meet the current needs of our residents. We have been extremely fortunate to have had long term Fire Chiefs that have kept the vision and comradery amongst the volunteer Fire Fighters. Those Chiefs are, Dallas Wiltse—1963-1964; Ken Gauze—1964-1991; Jim Peterson—1991-2005; and Mike Cousins—2005-current.

Thomas Township's Fire Department personnel are also part of a couple multi-jurisdictional teams known as the Special Rescue Team, the Hazardous Material Response Team and the Saginaw County Coordination Team, which help municipalities throughout Saginaw County keep their stations manned in the case of a large scale event.

Today, the Thomas Township Fire Department maintains a force of 33 paid-on-call fire fighters, a full time Fire Chief, three Assistant Chiefs, two Captains, two

Lieutenants, one Safety Officer, one Training Officer, two Crew Leaders and two part time Fire Inspectors. These dedicated individuals maintain two fire stations, two rescue trucks, two engines, one pumper/tender, one ladder truck, one boat and one brush truck.

As with most paid-on-call fire departments, the biggest challenge today is finding enough fire fighters to respond to daytime calls. Most of our personnel also have full time jobs and families to support, which makes it a challenge to find people willing to devote their extra time to training and fire fighting. If you think you have what it takes to be a fire fighter or you are interested in finding out more about how you could volunteer call Fire Chief Mike Cousins at (989) 781-4141.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Newsletter Editor*

VETERAN'S DISPLAY

Honoring all who have served.....



You have an opportunity to honor your Veteran with an engraved paver that will be placed within the Township's Veteran's Display. Anyone who has served in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States is welcomed to be honored. Costs are \$35.00 per paver and the price only represents the actual costs to purchase and engrave the brick. Simply visit the Township Offices located at 249 N Miller Road, or download a form at www.thomstwp.org

*Rick Hopper
Director of Public Works*

DPW NEWS



We are all aware of the challenges some older cities like the Flint are facing with lead in the drinking water. This article will explain some of the steps that Thomas Township takes to ensure the drinking water delivered to your home or business is safe, of high quality, and meets every requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Lead is a malleable and common element found in abundance within the earth's crust. Its use in water systems dates back thousands of years to some of the earliest plumbing systems developed by the Romans. Making pipes from lead was preferred because of the metal's unique ability to resist pinhole leaks and for the fact that it was soft enough to form into various shapes with primitive tools and forging skills. Its use for water piping in the United States was fairly common until it was discovered to be a leading cause of lead poisoning in the 1880's and by 1920, many US cities and towns prohibited its use. Today, lead is no longer installed in water systems and great strides have been made to limit human exposure where there may still be some instances of lead components within the older water systems. In those older systems, lead is typically found in old water services, lead pipes within homes and buildings, and in the solder used to fuse copper fittings together prior to 1980.

Safe exposure limits for lead and many other contaminants have been devised by the US Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and many other agencies. These exposure limits have since been incorporated into law, with those laws dictating uniform standards for drinking water. Modern water treatment and distribution systems have been designed around limiting lead exposure as well as for treating for many other contaminants. Today, the level of lead contaminates allowed in drinking water is 15 parts per *billion* parts of water.

Thomas Township tests for lead in its drinking water once every 3 years with the previous sampling period occurring in 2013. During that sampling period, we tested 7 independent sites representing a cross section of the water services found in the community. The results showed a high level of 5 parts lead per billion parts of water, and a low of less than the limit of detection with this average being 2.0 parts lead per billion parts of water. These results are far below the allowable levels in drinking water and because our system is consistently below the standards, we are only required to test every 3 years.

There are many reasons for so little lead in our system. It begins with an excellent water source drawn from Lake Huron. The water from the lake is consistent in its chemical and mineral content allowing standard treatment practices to be used to minimize pollutants, even during seasonal changes. The second reason is providing adequate treatment for corrosion control. Highly acidic waters have a tendency to corrode the interior of pipes resulting in water quality issues that could include leaching lead compounds from bronze fittings, soldered fittings or lead pipes. By adding corrosion control materials, we protect these fittings by imparting a protective coating on the interior of the fitting or pipe.

Thirdly, Thomas Township's water system is rather "young" and used more contemporary materials in its system that contain little, if any lead. And finally, training programs and certification standards are followed for the hundreds of water professionals who work every day to ensure what you drink from your tap is of the highest quality and is safe to use.

We will again be testing for lead this summer. Watch for the results of these tests in upcoming newsletter articles later this year. Of course, you can also review water quality results anytime by checking out <http://www.saginaw-mi.com/pdfs/Saginaw-Region-CCR-CY2015.pdf>

Rick Hopper
Director, Department of Public Works

In Other News

If you have a hydrant located in your yard, please make sure that plants and shrubs are at least 6 feet away from the centerline of the hydrant. This clear area is necessary so that the hydrant can be quickly located, hooked to and operated in emergency conditions. Thank you for your help.

Outdoor Water Restrictions

Annual Outdoor Water Use Restrictions will resume June 1st and continue until August 31st. Even addresses may use outdoor water on even dates, and odd number addresses on odd dates. Thomas Township greatly appreciates your cooperation as we conserve our water resources.

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



2016 BRUSH DROP OFF 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: July 16 & 30, August 13 & 27, September 10 & 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29.

Yard Waste pick-up will continue until November 26, 2016