

**FREE
MOVIES IN THE PARK**

← Saturday, July 15, 2017
Back to the Future

Saturday, August 19, 2017
Star Wars Rogue One →
(See page 7 for details)



TODAY

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PARTNERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AUGUST 14-18 TH



We need your help! The Thomas Township employees will be joining forces with Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity (HFH) in an effort to give back to our Community and

improve the lives of some of our residents during our Neighborhood Revitalization Project (NRP).

The NRP will be taking place the week of August 14-18, 2017. Thomas Township employees will be rolling up their sleeves and gathering their tools with other volunteers from within the community to do home improvements and landscaping projects within our Township.

You can help too! We are in need of additional volunteers to help us have a successful revitalization week. You can volunteer as an individual or with your whole family. Or, if your business or church would like to participate in a great teambuilding exercise, think of us! If you are interested, please contact

Deidre Frollo, Director of Fiscal Services at (989) 781-0150 or contact her by email at finance@thomastwp.org. Come on out for a week of fun. If you can't help all week, bring your group out for a day or two.

We are also in need of support for lunch and beverages for our volunteers. If your group can help with this, please contact Deidre Frollo to get more information at (989) 781-0150 or by email at finance@thomastwp.org



*Deidre Frollo
Fiscal Services Director*

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosowski
Clerk

Craig Monahan
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

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New Faces in the Township



Welcome Jill Peters our new Assessor. Jill has been an assessor since 1996 and is certified as a Michigan Advanced Assessing

Officer. Before becoming an assessor Jill worked in home appraising as well as real estate. Jill is originally from Ohio and after some moving around Jill and her family currently live in Mt. Pleasant.

Jill has two adult children as well as a couple of grandchildren whom she spends most of her time off with. She also like to spend time outdoors fishing and gardening. Jill will be available Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8 am to 5 pm to help with any of your assessing needs.



Also, welcome Jim Gray to Thomas Township. Jim is our new Building Inspector. Jim has been a builder for over 30 years and has now been certi-

fied in both Building Inspection and Plan Review. Jim also works with a couple of other smaller communities as their Code Enforcement Officer. Before

becoming a builder Jim served with the United States Air Force. While stationed overseas he met his wife. They live in a neighboring community and have 3 sons.

Jim will be in the office from 8am until 12pm Monday through Friday. During this time, he will also be going out and doing inspections. Please stop in or call the Office at (989) 781-0150 for any building questions or concerns.

THOMAS TOWNSHIP APPOINTS CRAIG MONAHAN AS TRUSTEE



Trustee Craig Monahan is a teacher and coach at Swan Valley High School. Craig was the Parks and Recreation Director in Thomas Township from 1983-1993 and started teaching at Swan Valley in 1994. For the past ten years, Craig has been a Thomas Township Parks Commissioner. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan

University and has a Masters degree in Educational Administration from Saginaw Valley State University. Craig is a member of the Knights of Columbus and past president of the Shields Kiwanis. Craig and wife Debbi have three children. Debbi is an elementary teacher for Saginaw Public Schools.

Welcome Two New DPW Laborers



Tyler Branch has recently been hired as a DPW Laborer. Tyler is a lifelong Township resident who "grew-up" working at Thomas Township. He has served our community for nearly a decade as a part-time Parks and Recreation maintenance employee and will bring to Public Works a wide range of experiences.



Jayson Graebner has also been hired as a DPW Laborer. Jayson and his family are Thomas Township residents. Jayson comes from a diverse construction background and is experienced in heavy equipment operations and maintenance. He has also worked extensively in utility construction.

2017 Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Guide

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission Members and Staff

Scott Branch, Chairman,
Tara DeLine, Carly Rusch,
Dean Rusch, Stephanie Yancer,
Angela Alworden, Craig Blower

Staff:
John Corriveau, Director
Stacy Hable, Assistant Director

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 10-14	Party in the USA
July 17-21	Adventure Awaits
July 24-28	Under the Big Top
July 31-Aug 4	Survivor
August 14-18	Culinary Kids
August 21-25	Beach Bash

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 7th through the 11th. 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.

August 7-11 When the Wild Things Are

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.

Third Session July 24-Aug 3
 Fourth Session Aug 7-17
 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.

Third Session July 24-Aug 3
 Fourth Session Aug 7-17
 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.

Fourth Session Aug 7-17
 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 24-Aug 3
 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 25, 2017 (*may change depending on weather and staffing levels).

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 19, 2017 (when weather permits) from noon to 4 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 until August 20, 2017. Fall soccer season runs for six weeks starting September 16th through October 21, 2017.

Fees: Residents \$45.00
 Non Residents \$50.00

ARCHERY CLASSES-2018

Beginning Thursday, January 4, 2018 and continuing until February 8, 2018 archery classes will run each Thursday. Three sessions will run consecutively through mid-May, 2018:

- Beginner 4:30 pm-5:15 pm
- Beginner 5:15 pm-6:00 pm
- Beginner 6:00 pm-6:45 pm
- Advanced 6:45 pm-7:30 pm
- Advanced 7:30 pm-8:15 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 2017 and run through December 2017.

2017 HAUNTED TRAIN RIDE AT ROETHKE PARK

October 13th-14th 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.

2017 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRAIN AT ROETHKE PARK!

December 1-2 and December 8-9

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 18- The Rock Show
- July 25- Don't Look Down
- August 1- CEYX
- August 8- the Laurie Middlebrook Band
- August 15- The Bullseye Band



FLOODING IN THOMAS TOWNSHIP

As you know, in late June we suffered a significant flood. This storm was unlike others in our recent past in terms of predictions. As the water levels began to increase in Midland County, we became keenly aware our water levels would also rise significantly. When flooding events such as this occur, there is significant preparation, planning and communications that take place behind the scenes. We do this in an attempt to lessen the damage to our community. Clearly, with a flood, we don't have much control. However, constant communications with Midland County and Saginaw County Emergency Management teams, help us predict where our services will be needed most. Throughout the flooding process, Thomas Township workers were working diligently to maintain all current services at the level you have come to expect. At the same time, we were also working to watch, "predict" and view the extent of the area that was covered by the flood waters. With each and every flood event in Thomas Township, we learn and documenting. During the 1986 flood, we built dikes to prevent damage to certain Township facilities. The crest level of the flood of 1986 was 33.99'. The crest level of the June of 2017 flood was at 32.09'.

During the June flood, the Gratiot Road bridge was the only connection between the east and west sides of northern Saginaw County. With this being the ONLY route open, numerous precautions were taken. DPW Director Rick Hopper, was in constant communications with Saginaw City Water Department to ensure the operation of the main water pumping station, as it was in jeopardy of being turned off. This would have reduced our water pressures in Thomas Township as well as James Township and Swan Creek Township. We were fortunate that didn't happen, but it was a VERY close call.

Had the Gratiot Road bridge closed, emergency services would have been compromised. We maintained communications with Mobile Medical Response (MMR) for some preplanning. In cooperation with MMR and Swan Valley Schools, a Disaster Response Trailer was deployed to the high school parking lot where it remained on standby.

The communication with Midland proved beneficial. By knowing their situation and flood levels, we could predict how the flood waters could affect us in Thomas Township. As the water levels rose here, we remained vigilant to their affects; St. Francis Home needed constant updates to help them decide if evacuations were necessary. Although they did not have to evacuate, there were a few residents who self evacuated to avoid potential issues. We had a number of homes which had anywhere from minimal water up to a couple feet of water in their first floor living space. If you were one of these people, this flooding had a major effect on you and disrupted your lives for several days, and in many cases, yet today.

As the waters were elevated, many roads became

impassable thus were closed. This changed many of our commutes and normal travel routes. Although an event like this is interesting to watch, many people traveled past the closed roads signs to see the water levels themselves. This created another problem for our police department who ended up sitting at many of these closed signs to ensure the onlookers safety. During events like these, although we get people just want to see for themselves, please don't go past these road closed signs. They are in place for your protection. Aside for this being a violation of the traffic code, we want you to be safe.

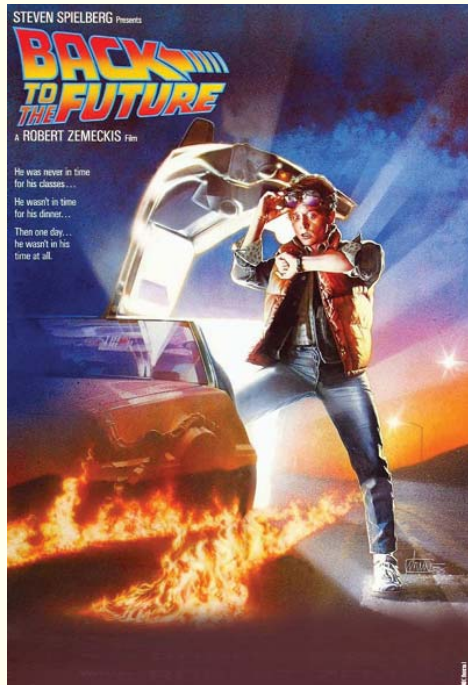
As the flood waters receded, the apparent damage continued to become more visible. The waters actually receded quicker than expected which was a welcome sight. During this time, we had many more conversations with the Emergency Manager for Saginaw County (Mark Przybylski). Lt. Przybylski spent many hours over this weekend evaluating, monitoring, planning with me and is now working the recovery for this flood event. We also had many coordinated conversations with Saginaw County Central Dispatch (911) where we kept each other up to date on needs and assessments for resources and from our residents.

The damage assessment phase is now well under way. During this process the fire department sent out teams to do what is referred to as an initial damage assessment. Our reports then go to the Saginaw County Emergency Management Office. He compiles this for the entire county then submits our findings to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a determination. If FEMA makes the determination we suffered enough damage to be declared a disaster area, FEMA may offer low interest rate loans to those affected by the flood waters. If that occurs a FEMA representative would arrive and make contact with you the homeowners. For those who do need help, a local source for you to call is 211. This is a contact group operated by the United Way who can steer people in directions to get them help. In addition to this, we placed a few large dumpsters at Day Park for ease of getting rid of damaged goods and materials from the flood. This was very successful in that we filled ten large dumpsters!

Although the flood waters may have not been as high as they were in 1986, they definitely had a negative impact on many of us. For all of you who helped each other out as neighbors and lent a hand we say THANK YOU! As your fire chief, I also wish to give a shout out to the many hours your DPW, Township Manager, police and firefighters gave to help ensure continuity of our services and doing the extra for the right reasons. If you have questions about this process please feel free to contact the County Emergency Managers Office at 790-5434. If I can be of any assistance you can contact me at 781-4141.

THANK YOU,
Mike Cousins
Fire Chief

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 will be Back to the Future and will be shown on Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Our August feature film, Star Wars Rogue One, will be shown on Saturday, August 19, 2017.

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

This is the third 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. 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, 2017. They are due by September 14, 2017 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 14, 2017.**

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, 2018 without penalties and interest.

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

Vern Weber
Township Treasurer



Fire Department News

BURNING PERMIT RULES IN THOMAS TOWNSHIP

We are asked regularly about the burning ordinance in Thomas Township. Most of these questions are concerning the burning of various items in our residential areas. For those backyard enthusiasts, we offer what is referred to as a recreational fire. 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 in diameter and do not require a burn permit. Keep in mind, that if we receive complaints from your neighbors, and the fire department is called to a recreational fire, it may have to be extinguished.

ANY other time you desire a fire greater than a recreational fire, such as having the need to burn some brush, a burn permit IS required.

Please keep in mind, 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 and your fire is a nuisance to your neighbors, the fire department will come and 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 or a worse, a health hazard to those suffering from a medical condition.

There are no fees for burn permits. Permits can be obtained online or at the Public Safety 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 hours problems, please contact 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.

Open Burning during the night hours is also prohibited.

Burning of leaves, and ANY building or combustible materials is strictly prohibited.

*Michael Cousins
Fire Chief*



WHO DO I CALL ?

We have received several calls which concern us and could create a dangerous situation for you. The Public Safety Administrative office hours for the Fire Department are Monday through Friday 8-5. The Administrative offices are closed after 5:00pm, as well as on weekends and most federal holidays. However, emergency response operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

What concerns me, as the Fire Chief, is upon opening up on Monday morning, we have been finding several voice mails alerting us about a problem that happened over the weekend. I need to stress, that residents should leave a message ONLY if it is not urgent and does not require a quick response. In a couple of cases residents have left a message telling us their fire alarms were going off and didn't know what to do. In another case a message was left telling us they have carbon monoxide in their home and needed us to respond to investigate. Both of these types of calls would have needed a fire truck to respond to investigate and remove the hazard. However, the problem being, we didn't know about it until after the weekend and in one case it was a holiday weekend so we didn't learn about the problem until that Tuesday.

We strive to serve our residents to the best of our abilities. If we don't know about your concern, we can't help you stay safe. I would strongly encourage you to call the emergency number at Central Dispatch (911) for any serious concern you have when our offices are closed. The Saginaw County 911 Dispatchers are trained professionals who can help you get the response you need to handle your emergency or concern. They know how to contact our fire department for non emergency business just like they do for emergencies. Please don't leave a voice mail if you need help before the next business day. The dispatchers will decide on how to contact us based on the information you provide them. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm at (989) 781-4141.

*Here to Serve,
Michael Cousins
Fire Chief*



FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Thomas Township Fire Department recently held its annual awards banquet at the Swan Valley Banquet Center. Service pins and awards were presented to the members. Thank you to James Fire Department for graciously protecting our community during the awards ceremony.

Jonathan Ollech was introduced as our newest firefighter. This year saw us lose some people from our department; Ryan Ludwick 12 years, Joshua Irvine and Erin Ludwick both with 6 years of service, Tim Gray 5 years, Drew Wagner 3 years and James Nestell 1 ½ years. We wish them well.

Several firefighters received pins for saving lives. Those receiving save pins were; Joe Giacoletti, David Sommers, Brandon Rossi, Mike Fabish, Jim Grove, Craig Simon, Casey Cichowski, Jean Reif, Nathan Wachowicz and Brandon Felten.

Those with new certifications and licenses; Drake Parent was recognized for becoming Nationally Certified as a Safety Officer; Nathan Wachowicz received his Medical First Responder license; Brandon Felten received his Emergency Medical Technician license and hazardous Material Technician certification; Wachowicz and Felten both graduated from the Fire Academy.

Service pins were issued for those having reached milestone years of service. For 5 years of service were Nick Chad, Casey Cichowski and Derek Nikolai. For 10 years of service was Mike Fabish and Jim Grove. For 15 years of service we had Brian Leach. Congratulations to each of them!

The Chief's Award was given to a member from each of our stations. For Station #1 this award went to Anthony Martin. For Station #2 this award went to Jim Grove.

The highlight of the evening was the Fire Fighter of the Year Award. This award is selected by the members of the department. They all vote for the person most deserving to be recognized. Congratulations Casey Cichowski for this well deserved honor!

We are extremely lucky to have a great deal of awesome responders within our fire department. They all have a true commitment to our community.



Anthony Martin



Jim Grove



Casey Cichowski
Fire Fighter of
the Year

On behalf of the Residents, Board of Trustees, Manager and myself, I thank each and every member for their dedication to serving this community.

*Sincerely,
Michael Cousins – Fire Chief*

Thank You!

Thomas Township would like to thank everyone who participated in the 8th Annual Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales as well as to everyone who shopped them! Hopefully everyone was able to get some sales in-between the bouts of rain. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Thomas Township would also like to thank all of the businesses and organizations who participated in Festival Days this year. We had a record breaking 25 participants this year! Let's see if we can get even more sales for both Festival Days and Trash & Treasures next year.



In case you missed the spring Gypsy Culture Flea Market event, there will be a repeat performance. The Gypsy Culture Flea Market Fall Sale will be held at Roberts Park once again.

The first Gypsy Culture Flea Market, held over Mothers Day weekend was a huge success, and they wanted to come back to Roberts Park in the Fall. Save the Date: September 8 (pre-sale only, no tickets at the door) and 9, 2017. There will be satellite parking at various locations throughout the Township with Shuttle services throughout the day on Saturday.

The History of Thomas Township in Review

THE BUILDING OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Thomas Township Police Department started out long ago with the position of Constables. Constables performed various duties as prescribed by law and were elected officials. Some of the duties performed by Constables were, Officer of the Day at Elections; mediating farm fence disputes; enforcement of liquor laws; enforcement of local township ordinances; policing the Town Hall when alcoholic beverages were served.

On April 3, 1967, the Township Board purchased the Township's first police car for \$2,690.70. It was a fully equipped 1967 Plymouth specifically designed for police work was purchased.

On May 4, 1970 a resolution was adopted creating a Thomas Township Police Department. Later, the State Vehicle Code was adopted as guidelines in enforcing vehicle laws. The Police Department at that time was made of four officers, Police Chief, E. David Eimers, who had been a constable; Edwin Matzke, also a former constable, was appointed an officer; and Robert Frost, was appointed an officer. These officers all worked part time.

As the population grew and the Township developed and the need for more police protection became a reality, the Township Board hired a full time Chief, Larry Sicard, on April 7, 1975. The Police Department also consisted of three other part time, qualified officers. Larry Sicard left the Township in 1986 and was replaced by Chief Joseph Reinig. Joe stayed until 1990, when the fourth and current Chief, Steve Kocsis was hired.

Today, Thomas Township Police Department is proud to offer around the clock coverage. Thomas Township has a full time Chief, Steve Kocsis; a full time Sergeant, Al Fong and six full time officers; Charlie Brocker; Chad Sutkowi; Eric Cowles; Randy Kumm, Paul Ross and Brandon Federspiel.

*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 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*

Remember that our flag flies above the land of the free only because of the brave.....

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.

DPW NEWS



Department of Public Works Summer Newsletter

In conformance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, Thomas Township is required to provide all users of the water system a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) each July. This report outlines the drinking water quality that is delivered to your home or business. The 2016 CCR is now available online in electronic format at the following URL address;

<http://www.saginaw-mi.com/pdfs/2016-Saginaw-Region-CCR.pdf>

Please take time to read this important information regarding your drinking water quality. To request a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report, please contact us at 989-781-6438.

Now that summer is here we can also expect those pesky thunderstorms. And with that additional rainfall, you might notice slow storm runoff and drainage from our roads or even your yards. Every season, Public Works responds to numerous questions and concerns from residents and business owners about storm sewers not working properly. This article will describe the differences between *sanitary* and *storm* sewage systems and who is responsible to make sure they operate properly.

There are two different collection systems throughout Thomas Township. The first one is a **Storm Water** Sewer System. This system collects the rainwater and snow melt runoff from many areas ranging from farm fields to parking lots. But most commonly, they drain excess waters from the roads. These types of systems are constructed of enclosed pipes, swales, open ditches, and semi open culverts. In many cases, home sump pumps, farm field drains, paved areas, local irrigation runoff and building foundation drains are also directly discharged into this system. Storm sewers discharge their waters directly to the environment, typically without any pre-treatment. This is important to remember because of the potential of pollution entering our streams, rivers and lakes through these types of sewers. You can help protect our environment by making sure that the drains in your yards are not plugged with debris and trash, that the drainage culverts under your driveways are clear and unobstructed and that you maintain the proper grading of your property to encourage the water to shed properly and in a controlled manner minimizing erosion. Always use fertilizers according to the manufacture's application instructions and do not dump any sort of chemicals, oils, paints, or antifreeze into any sewer, especially a storm. With few exceptions, the Saginaw County Road Commission (752-6140) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the storm water system in our community.

The second type of sewer system in the Township is the **Sanitary Sewer System**. Sanitary sewers are designed to convey wastes generated through the use of toilets, housekeeping and bathing activities. As it is estimated that *every individual* uses approximately 110 gallons of water per day, these types of wastes pose specific dangers to the environment and

the public health if they are improperly handled or discharged without being adequately pre-treated and cleaned up first.

Common problems associated with sanitary sewers are typically "owner generated" ones. Inappropriate or excessive materials being dumped or flushed can cause restrictions in your piping, leading to backups. Garbage disposals, grease, even hair and soap scum can create or compound problems. Low flow fixtures can further attribute to sewer problems as there is not enough water to move "materials" down the pipe. Because there is the propensity for solid material to build up in the pipes, our DPW staff routinely cleans the sewers while we flush the fire hydrants in your area.

To help your sewer system run trouble free, you; should not flush or dump, greases, oils or fats down any drain. Do not grind extremely fibrous or stringy food wastes in your garbage disposal. Dumping coffee grounds down the sink can be a problem too. Make sure you run your tap water longer to move this material through your pipes. Always use "flushable" wipes and sanitary materials if you flush them down your toilets.

These materials are designed to break down in the water and not cause clogs in plumbing. Check the packaging of the supplies that you buy and make sure they are safe for sewage systems before you flush them. If they don't specifically say they are flushable, dispose of them in the proper waste receptacles. One of the biggest problems you may face is caused from flushing the standard diaper wipes, disposable diapers or adult hygiene materials down your toilet.

Public Works also recommends that you check the floor drains in your basements and ensure that they are not connected to the sanitary sewer. An easy way to check is to put dye into the drain, flush the drain with water and see if the dye shows up in your sump crock. If it does, your drains are connected to the storm water system. If dyed water does not show up, then the drain is most likely tied to the sanitary sewer. Floor drains that are connected to the sanitary sewer are an accident ready to happen. They can easily back up if there is a problem with your sewer line or even if the Township or our contractor is cleaning the sewer pipes outside of your home. If you have floor drains connected to the Township's sanitary sewer you have some decisions to make. First question yourself as to the purpose of the floor drains themselves. If you can't come up with a good answer, then most likely you don't need them in the first place. If you don't need them, you can plug them up with removable drain plugs (purchased from any home improvement store), or permanently seal them with concrete. Should you wish to keep the drains, the Township highly recommends that you install a one-way check valve on your sewer line to protect against inadvertent backups.

If you experience sewer problems and cannot clear your drains yourself, there are numerous services available. Simply check your local phone directory under "Sewer". If you believe you are experiencing problems with the Township's sewer system, please contact us immediately at 790-0150 or any time after normal hours at (989) 529-0041 and one of our staff will assist you.

Rick Hopper
DPW Director

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



2017 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 8, 15; August 12, 26; September 9, 23; October 7, 14, 21, 28.

Yard Waste pick-up will continue until November 25, 2017