I hope everyone has noticed the new Thomas Township Trail and more importantly have found time to take advantage of this great addition to the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation offerings. This trail was seven years in the making and I for one am very proud to see it being used by so many people on a daily basis. In an effort to keep the trail useable and safe for everyone, the Thomas Township Board of Trustee passed Ordinance 13-G-05 which regulates the use of this Non Motorized Trail. The ordinance is designed to keep the users of this trail safe and the traffic moving in an orderly fashion. You can view the entire ordinance on our website at http://www.thomastwp.org/community/thomas-township-non-motorized-pathway-ordinance. Listed below are some of the highlights, paraphrased;

Section 6.5.2-Prohibition of Motor Vehicles, this section does exempt wheelchairs.

Section 6.5.3-Safe Bicycle Operation, no one shall operate a bicycle at a speed or in a manner that is unsafe.

Section 6.5.4-Horse Riding/walking is prohibited

Section 6.5.5-Always travel on the far right hand side and travel in a predictable manner. Pass on the left when you can do so safely. Give an audible warning when passing if this can be done in a safe manner. If you would like to stop and stand, do so two to three feet off the edge of the asphalt.

Section 6.5.6-No person shall willfully or maliciously damage the path.

Section 6.5.7-Obstructions. No parking, no dumping debris, no removing ice or snow from private property and depositing onto the path.

Section 6.5.9-Animals, Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet, and you must pick up all debris left by your pet.

Section 6.5.10-Vegetation. No trees, shrubs, or other vegetation can be planted near the path that may grow to a size that would obstruct the view of path users.

6.5.11-Irrigation. No person shall leave on a hose or lawn sprinkler so as to make contact with the surface of the pathway.

6.5.12-Construction Projects. If a construction project on adjoining lands results in damage to the path, that damage must be fully repaired.

Continued on page 3
THE LUMBER ERA

As white pine lumber became scarce in the mid 1800’s due to the diminishing supply in New England, prospectors turned to Michigan and their vast pine forests as an attractive source of lumber. Michigan had over 3,000,000 acres of white pine forests and over 1,500 miles of navigable rivers and streams. As a result, Michigan became the geographical center of the largest white pine lumber industry in the United States.

Thomastown had scarcely been organized in 1856, when a log boom operation came to town. The Charles Merrill Company, began operation on the Tittabawassee River. The network of rivers in the Saginaw Basin were ideal for floating logs considerable distances to the sawmills in the Saginaw area.

Thomas Township’s involvement with the pine industry came because of its proximity to the river and more importantly to Bryant’s trip. Bryant’s Trip was located on the Tittabawassee River, just north of Frost Road. A “trip” was a device used to regulate the flow of logs coming down the river and it was named for John Bryant who tended it for many years. The site selection of the Trip was made because of its strategic position following a sharp bend in the Tittabawassee River. The bend, like any bend in a river, had a tendency to ease the pressure of logs coming downstream, so that the logs could be held by a “boom”. A boom, was similar to a gate, and consisted of a heavy rope or chain which spanned the river with one end attached to a heavy piling on one side of the river and the other end attached to a heavy windlass on the opposite side of the river. The release of logs with the boom was called tripping and Bryant’s Trip was one of the key trips in the logging industry. When the water levels are moderated in the summer, you can still see the pilings used for this operation. Bryant’s Trip was a large operation. Not only did it float logs from the immediate area, but it also floated logs from the Sugar and Molasses River’s in the North, the Tobacco River at Edenville, the Salt River at Sanford and the Chipewa and Pine River’s at Midland.

Prior to being dumped into the river, every log was marked at the logging camps with special marking hammers with the specific log mark of the owner. When the logs arrived at the Boom Company, they had to be sorted and grouped by the mark on the logs. By 1875 it was reported that 1,100 log marks were being handled on the Tittabawassee River alone. As logs floated downstream, men with pike poles at the gate of each river pocket drew in the logs marked for that particular owner. This was called sorting. When there were enough logs in a pocket, they were fastened together into a raft consisting of 10 to 100 or more logs. The raft was then floated down to the mouth of the Tittabawassee River where they were attached with other rafts to form one long continuous raft, sometimes as long as a half mile. These large rafts were then towed by tug boat down the Saginaw River to the saw mills.

A Boom Company would make their money when the mills were full, and the logs needed to be stored. The Boom Company would store the logs for the owner at a cost of about $.50 per thousand board foot. Towing the rafts of logs cost owners of the wood $.10-$3.00 per thousand board feet, depending upon how far the wood needed to travel. In 1866 the Tittabawassee Boom Company had twelve miles of sorting pockets, employed 250 River Men, and expended $21,000 for rope, all while rafting 186 million board feet of logs. Needless to say, over the course of 30 years, MILLIONS of dollars were made along the Tittabawassee River.

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We cordially invite you to participate in the first annual “Thomas Township Trailblazer 5K Run/Walk”. This event is to support the maintenance and future improvements to the Thomas Township Trail. It will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. and will follow the new Thomas Township Trail starting at Swan Valley High School, on O’Hern Road. Awards will be presented to the first and second place finisher in each division. Watch upcoming newsletters and our website for registration times.

Sponsorships are also available if you would like to sponsor the event. Your sponsorship will help to defray some of the costs. Additional proceeds will be used specifically on the trail.

Sponsors will be represented on the race t-shirt and all publications.

There are four (4) levels of sponsorship available to you:

**Diamond Sponsorship:** $2000 and up (receive 4 free race entries)

**Major Sponsorship:** $1000-$1999 (receive 2 free race entries)

**Minor Sponsorship:** $500-$999 (receive 1 free race entry)

**General Sponsorship:** $100-$499.

Booth space will be available at the race for sponsors. We would like all sponsorships to be received by May 1st, 2014. If you have any questions, please call the Thomas Township Office at (989) 781-0151 or email operaor@thomastwp.org. Sponsorship forms are available on our website.

Thank you for your support.

**Thank You Thomas Township Kiwanis**

The Thomas Township Kiwanis Club recently constructed over 120 feet of boardwalk at Roethke Park. The walking trails that meander through the 72 acre park had several sections that ended up underwater yearly due to the seasonal snow melt and spring rains making the trails unusable in the spring. The Thomas Township Kiwanis Club contacted Parks Director John Corriveau about making the walking paths a bit more user friendly by installing the boardwalks, and Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Director was more than pleased to receive this generous donation of time and materials. Thank you Thomas Township Kiwanis.

**Section 6.5.13** - Cuts or openings in sidewalk or Pathway, must obtain a permit from Thomas Township to cut or open the pathway; emergency cuts by utilities must be reported to the Township within 24 hours. Any cuts will be repaired to the standard acceptable by the Township Engineer.

**Section 6.5.14** - No signs, banners or printed leaflets shall be affixed or placed on the pathway or it’s designated easement.

**Section 6.5.15** - Exemptions. This ordinance does not apply to emergency personnel or township employees doing authorized work on the pathway.

**Section 6.5.16** - Sanctions. Violators are subject to a municipal civil infraction fine of not less than $9.00, nor more than $500.00.

This printed material is a summary of the whole text. Users of the trail are urged to visit our website and read the full text of the Thomas Township Non Motorized Pathway Ordinance.

Russ Taylor
Township Manager
In this installation of our feature “Meet Your Neighbor” I bring you a person who has played a tremendous role in the education of our children. Dr. Richard Syrek was born and raised in Grand Rapids and received his bachelor’s degree from Aquinas College and both master’s and doctorate degrees from Western Michigan University. He has lived in Thomas Township over twenty-six (26) years along with his wife Betty, with whom he raised three children. Dr. Syrek served as superintendent of the Swan Valley School District for twenty-one years (21) and presently is the superintendent of the Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD).

Recently, he was awarded the Region IV Superintendent of the Year Award for his on-going efforts of always working for the benefit of children and their education. Dr. Syrek has also been named to the Advisory Work Group on Financial Accountability for Schools for the State of Michigan by the Governor’s Office, and is a member of the Michigan Association of School Administrator’s Legislative Committee.

He is also very active in his community, where he serves as president of the local Kiwanis Club; is a board member for the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw County United Way, Alignment Saginaw, the Coalition for Disconnected Youth and is the co-chair of Youth First. Yet, he still finds time to share his love of traveling with his wife, spending time this past summer in London, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and the fjords of Norway. His hobbies include reading, golf, tennis and “rooting” for the Tigers and Spartans. After thirty years (30), he has returned to long distance running and completed a half marathon last January.

As far as Dr. Syrek’s thoughts on the Township in which he lives he wrote, “The Township has made the most of change and managed it efficiently and well. I am pleased to see the wonderful work that has been done in our parks. Knowing the benefit of exercise and recreation to our physical and mental well-being, Thomas Township has stepped forward to improve the lives of its residents. I am a very happy resident of Thomas Township!”

Thanks you Dr. Syrek. We appreciate all that you do to make Thomas Township a wonderful place to live and work.

Connie Watt
Community Development Department

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**Continued from page 2**

Due to the lack of roads, lumbermen braved the harsh Michigan winters, because it was easier to build sleds to transport the fallen logs to the river. They would then pile them on the bank of the river, or at times on top of the ice, to wait for the spring thaw and the flow of water to transport their bounty down the river. A curious fact is, that the lumbermen were never actually known as “lumberjacks”. That was a term popularized by writers of history years later.

The “River Men”, who arrived each spring to sort and float logs for the Boom Company, were a popular and jovial crew. They wore bright red sashes and became known as the “Red Sash Brigade”. The lumbermen and the river men helped the local economy, however, due to the fact that most Boom Company’s operated like their own small cities, this influx of men each year didn’t help the local economy as much as you would think. These men would eat, drink, work and sleep along the river at the Boom Company and seldom left the banks of the river.

In total, between 1840 and 1870, the Saginaw Valley produced between one and seven million dollars PER YEAR in lumber.

In our next issue of the Thomas Township Today, we will begin to look at Agricultural Development in Thomas Township. The land, which was stripped because of the lumber industry was advertised and sold as “fertile” farmland. However, a good number of prospective farmers lost everything once they arrived on their “fertile” farmland. They found they had no way to strip the land of the stumps and roots left by the lumbermen.

Tom McDonald Sr.
Historian
Thomas Township Sidewalk Snow and Ice Reminder

Now that leaves are starting to fall from the trees, it won't be long before snow and ice follow. So it's time to have a conversation about sidewalk safety. Thomas Township has a great number of walkers, runners, and bike riders that use the sidewalks on a daily basis. The number of walkers goes down as the temperatures fall, but not as much as you may think. On most days you can find residents of Thomas Township getting in a mile or two in the dead of winter. Keeping that in mind, every winter as the first snow falls residents and businesses that have sidewalks in front of their property need to know what their responsibility is for keeping them clean.

After a snowfall, all residents and businesses must ensure that the sidewalk is cleared within 24 hours of the storm. Because Michigan weather is so unpredictable and sometimes it snows for days at a time, it is important to clean your sidewalk as soon as possible so it does not get packed down from an accumulation of several snow falls or from the walkers that use them.

More and more residents young and old are using sidewalks to get around and for exercise. In fact did you know that Thomas Township has over 10 miles of sidewalks connecting subdivisions, businesses, parks, libraries, and schools?

If you use the sidewalks make sure the next time you see someone shoveling them that you express your gratitude and tell them you appreciate what they are doing. Their efforts are a benefit to the entire community, from children walking to school, to those who use them for exercise. If you have a question about the snow removal ordinance, call the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

Dan Sika
Community Development Department Director

Winter Tax Bills to Arrive by December 1, 2013

Property tax statements are scheduled to be mailed to you on or around December 1st. If a property tax statement has not been received by December 5th, please contact the Deputy Treasurer, Korina Tucker at (989) 781-0150 or by email at treasurer@thomastwp.org to request a copy.

All payments should be made by check or money order. Many banks and credit unions will issue a check for a withdrawal at no charge or for a small fee.

For your convenience, a drop box is available by the south side of the Township office building for making payments after hours. The drop box is checked each morning that the Township holds business hours and all payments are considered received on that day. All payments must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2013, to be considered paid in 2013.

If your property taxes are paid by an escrow account, you will receive confirmation of payment in the form of a paid property tax receipt. If you do not receive a paid tax receipt, you may want to contact your bank and make arrangements for payment.

Vern Weber
Township Treasurer

***REMINDER***
When paying in person, bring the entire tax notice with you and our staff will mark the top portion paid for you.

DOG LICENSES FOR SALE

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1, 2013 through March 1, 2014.

P.A. 195 of 1969, Sec. 6 requires the owner to show proof of valid rabies vaccination including the expiration date to obtain a dog license. Dog licensees will not be issued without the required rabies vaccination information.

Deidre Frollo
Director of Fiscal Services
As fall rapidly arrives and the days get shorter, it’s time to discuss a few safety issues with the family. Every bicycle in the family needs to be checked to assure that each one has properly adjusted front, rear and side reflectors for those times when you’re riding in low light situations so others can see you. When riding your bike, particularly during low light times, it’s important to ride WITH traffic and obey all rules of the road.

When walking, walk opposite the traffic flow, so that when oncoming traffic presents itself you can move off the road. Don’t assume that the driver of a vehicle can see you. Dress in light colored clothing and wear something that is reflective. It could save your life.

If you’re afield hunting, scouting or just taking a leisurely walk in the woods it’s a wise idea to wear something that is “Hunter Orange” in color. Be seen and be safe.

So get outside and enjoy whatever fall activity suits you and remember to be safe!

**New Patrol Cars in the Police Department**

After a four year hiatus on purchasing replacement patrol cars, the Police Department recently took delivery of two new patrol vehicles. The 2014 Ford Taurus patrol cars will be replacing two Ford Crown Victoria’s. Along with a new body style and color comes, a slightly reworked graphics package and an updated look!

We would like to again thank the community for their recent support by passing the Public Safety Millage renewal last fall. It is this millage that allows our department to be properly equipped to protect our community.

Check out our new look soon in your neighborhood!

*Steve Kocsis, Chief of Police*

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**Winter Water Shut Off Program**

Every year, we hear horror stories about when a water pipe broke in a house while the resident was away for the winter. Many snowbirds will have a neighbor or family member routinely check their home, but even in their best of efforts, accidents happen, pipes freeze and break and basements get flooded. You can protect your home by calling the Water Department and having us shut your water service off at the road. Simply call the Water/Sewer Billing office at 989-781-0150 and schedule a water shut off. When you know you will be home by a certain date, call us again and we will turn your water back on. It’s as simple as that. The cost for this service is $36.00 but it is cheap insurance.

**Veteran’s Display**

Remember that Monday, November 11th is Veteran’s Day. Thomas Township has a dedicated display where you can honor your Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard Veteran by adding an engraved paver that would be included in the display. You can download a paver order form from our website at [www.thomastwp.org](http://www.thomastwp.org) or by visiting the main Municipal Offices located at 249 North Miller Road.

*Remember that freedom isn’t free. We live in the land of the free only because of the brave.*

**Thomas Township Trail Parking**

The business owners along Gratiot have asked that you please not use their parking lots for parking while out enjoying the Thomas Township Trail. They would like to reserve their parking for their customers. Alternate parking can be found at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building or at Swan Valley High School.
50 YEARS OF SERVICE.... AND STILL GOING STRONG

On September 1, 1963 the Thomas Township Fire Department began serving the residents of Thomas Township. At that time, the Department responded out of two fire stations just like we do today; however, Station 1 was located at the site of the current Township Office at 249 North Miller Road. Station 2 has always been on the corner of Dice and North Thomas Roads. Prior to this, our Township was protected by Richland, Tittabawassee and Saginaw Township. James Township started operation around the same time we did and provided additional aid.

Thirty-four residents of our community helped form the department and are now charter members. Since that time, we have had 200 members (past and present) serve this community with a humble servant’s heart and truly dedicated to the and profession and community. The time these men and women have invested in serving Thomas Township is a true testimony of volunteerism. Fifty years ago, the training requirement was 66 hours of State mandated training. Today its 300 hours of firefighting training and an additional 89 hours of medical training making besides all the runs that happen daily. Having said that, we still have new members willing to serve within the ranks of our prestigious Fire Department and help maintain the reputation we have built through the years.

We celebrated this milestone with two events; one at each fire station. These open houses gave many residents and former firefighters time to reunite and reminisce the “good ole days”. It was great to see many of them sharing of stories. At fire station 2 they were able to see and talk about the changes from when it was an old school house station to a four bay updated fire station. Many of our fire trucks were proudly on display and provided many smiles for the children (and adults) admiring their shine. For Station 1, much of the same was viewable in addition to tasting the great fire house pancakes we serve up on the last Sunday of September every year. Our annual pancake breakfast was the perfect setting for our 50th anniversary at the Miller Road fire station.

Your fire department was very proud to have Supervisor Weise on behalf of the Township Board, present a proclamation thanking the fire fighters for their service over the past 50 years. The proclamation read as follows;

PROCLAMATION
THOMAS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR FIFTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHEREAS it is acknowledged, 34 citizens of Thomas Township began a grass root effort which cultivated the creation of the Thomas Township Fire Department. WHEREAS it is acknowledged that September 1, 1963 was the date Thomas Township began its service to the community known as Thomas Township. This Fire Department began with and continues to proudly serve its residents from two fire stations, one on N. Miller Road and the other on Dice Road.

WHEREAS in the past 50 years of service to its residents, at least 200 men and women have proudly served in the ranks of the Thomas Township Fire Department. Today, we have 35 men and women providing a quality service.

WHEREAS these men and women provide a professional service through their dedication towards training and the desire to help their community in times of need. These members of our own community, work outside jobs, have hobbies and families, yet they selfishly give of their time to ensure the safety of the residents of Thomas Township. This was acknowledged in a recent Insurance Services Office rating improvement which has us ranked in the top 8% of Michigan Fire Departments.

WHEREAS it is the financial support of the residents which enables the Fire Department to operate at the high level it does and is provided the tools to perform the tasks required to help ensure safety from the threat of fire, other disasters and medical emergencies.

The Thomas Township Board of Trustees and the Township Manager, hereby extends their appreciation to all past and present members of the Thomas Township Fire Department.

Bob Weise, Supervisor          Ed Brosofski, Clerk
Vern Weber, Treasurer          Tom Radewahn, Trustee
Ellen Ryder-Peter, Trustee     Chris Thompson, Trustee
Mike Thayer, Trustee           Russ Taylor, Manager

In closing, and on behalf of all the fire fighters who have and currently serve on this great fire department, we say thank you to the residents, Board of Trustees and Township Manager for providing us the tools to service this Township at a top notch level.

Mike Cousins,
Fire Chief

Our Current Staff: Thomas Arn-Fire Prevention, Nicholas Chad, Lyle Cousins-Assistant Chief, Michael Cousins-Chief, Kelly Deering, Michael Fabish-Int. Lieutenant, Gary Fuller, Joe Giacoletti-Assistant Chief, Dominic Goergen, Jason Grandy-Int. Crew Leader, Tim Gray, David Grimsley, James Grove, Jean Harken, Joshua Irvine, Brian Leach-Lieutenant, Maynard Lockwood, Jacob Lounsbury, Don Ludwick, Erin Ludwick, Ryan Ludwick-Training Officer, Derek Nickolai, Steven Ortega, Drake Parent, Cory Pitt, Rodney Romain, Brandon Rossi-Captain, Scott Rousseau, Gary Salo, Craig Simon-Crew Leader, Dave Sommers-Captain, Peter Stevens, Tom Stoddard, Time Woodcock, John Wunderle-Safety Officer, Warren Wyatt. Sherri Simerson-Secretary, Matt Hooverman-Fire Corp, Tom Ruth-Fire Corp.
UPCOMING EVENTS AT ROETHKE PARK

Christmas Train and Festival of Lights
The third annual Christmas Train will be held at Roethke Park on December 5-6-7 and December 12-13-14, 6pm-9pm. Come ride the Roethke Express through the Christmas woods, decorated by local businesses and families! We will have a bonfire, smores and Santa Claus there for pictures.

We would love for you to join us in decorating the park, if you would like to come and set up a light display for everyone to see please call us at 781-0151. We will be having a lighting contest!

REMEMBER, ONLINE registration is available for Parks and Recreation Programing. When using the online registration system to register for Parks and Recreation Programing, 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.
**FALL RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL CLINICS**
This six week program is held at Swan Valley High School and is for kids ages 4-8. Our recreational staff, which consists of high school athletes, will run the kids through drills and skills that will help them take the next step in basketball. Also, we encourage the kids to attend the local high school games and cheer on their instructors as they play! Program begins January 11, 2014. Cost is $40 for residents and $45 for non-residents.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
Boys basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-3rd and 4th-6th grades. Sign up continues until November 22nd. Draft date is December 7th at Swan Valley High School for 4th-6th graders. All kids will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week. All games are held on Saturday's at Swan Valley High School. Players Fees are $40 for residents and $45 for non-residents. Volunteer Coaches are needed for this program.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
A girl's league is also offered for grades 2nd-4th and 4th-6th. Registration for this league ends on January 24th, 2014. The games begin on February 22nd. Fees and practice times are the same as the boy’s league. Volunteer Coaches are always needed. Cost is $40 for residents and $45 for non-residents.

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP ARCHERY**
Thomas Township is proud to have an Archery program that is taught by an instructor that has been certified by the USA Archery and the NFAA. We offer classes for beginners and advanced. Ages run from 6 years old and up. We have parents and kids taking the class together and really enjoying learning together. Winter Class begins January 16, 2014 and runs for 6 weeks on the following dates: January 16, 23, 30 and February 6, 13, 20.

- Beginner 4:00 pm-5:00 pm
- Beginner 5:00 pm-6:00 pm
- Beginner 6:00 pm-7:00 pm
- Advanced 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
- Advanced 8:00 pm-9:00 pm

Cost is $40 for residents and $45 for non-residents.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS FOR PROGRAMMING ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.thomastwp.org
Parks and Recreation Department 989-781-0151
Our Annual Taste of Thomas Township was held at Roethke Park on August 19th. Once again with tremendous community support we raised just over $20,000. We want to thank Swan Valley Banquet Center for all the hard work they put into the set up of the food and tables. More special thanks to HSC, Kluck’s Nursery, Thomas Township Business Association, Eudici’s Pizza, Little Ceasars, Jacks Fruit Market, Bob Evans, Kathleen’s Creekside, Culver’s, Swan Valley Banquet Center and Lee Tents for all of their generosity!! Everyone enjoyed great food from our local restaurants.

Lee’s Tent once again came out and set up a 30’ x 60’ tent for the event. Tom Kluck, from Kluck’s Nursery, again provided us with a beautifully landscaped walkway to the tent as well as trees to auction. Swan Valley Banquet Center brought the skirting for our tables and allowed us to use their chafing dishes. Craig Leddy made sure all of our electrical outlets were safe.

The Taste of Thomas Township began sixteen years ago as a Business After Hours event and has blossomed into our biggest Parks and Recreation fundraising event of the year.

Just over $20,000 was raised for the Department. Money from this event will go toward the Roberts Park Expansion Fund, as well as park improvements throughout our park system.

Emcee, Terry L. Rock, John Corriveau, Parks and Recreation Director and David Rengering, Site Manager of Hemlock Semiconductor

Besides our food donors, we would like to also thank our monetary donors, for making this event a huge success:

Angela Alworden
Craig Blower
Ed & Nancy Brosofski
Mike & Chris Cousins
Jim & Ann Curran
Grainger Industrial Supply
Frank & Tina Gulczinski
Don & Jan Emeott
Warren & Jan Heath
Ken & Veronica Horn
Dow Corning Foundation HSC
Thomas Township Kiwanis
Kluck Nursery
Sally Kluck
Dave & Randi Kutch

Leddy Electric
Martin Chevrolet
Tom & Ruth McDonald
Tom & Kathleen McIntyre
Bob & Ann Murphy
Terry & Peggy Rock
Jerry & Lorraine Ruppel
Dean Rusch
Don & Angie Scherzer
Shields Lions
Shields Men’s Club
Spicer Group
Standard Electric
Stevens Van Lines
Cecil Szepanski Edgewood Mobile Home Park
Russ & Sue Taylor
Mike & Lynda Thayer
James & Janet Theisen
Thomas Township Business Association
Thomas Township Fire Department
Chris & Mari Thompson
Vern & Yvonne Weber
Steve & Deb Witt
Michael & Carla Zietz
Trees:
Ken & Veronica Horn
Russ Taylor
Terry & Peggy Rock

Above: David Rengering, Site Manager Hemlock Semiconductor; Leslie Orozo, Community Relations, Dow Corning Corporation; Aaron Howald, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Hemlock Semiconductor; Rachel Swanson, Administrative Specialist, Hemlock Semiconductor, preparing to present a donation check from the Dow Corning Foundation to the Parks and Recreation Department.
About 97% of the world’s water supply is seawater 2% is captured in polar ice caps, and just 1% is considered drinkable fresh water. As Americans, especially here in the Great Lakes region, we seem to take for granted that water is available any time we need it, whether it’s for drinking, cooking, cleaning, pets, livestock, and irrigation. Here 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! 
- How about that long shower? Showers use between 2 1/2 and 3 gallons per minute.
- Bathing the kids! Baths use between 28 and 36 gallons per bath.
- Cleaning the sink or tub? Maybe shaving? A running faucet uses between 2 and 3 gallons of water per minute.
- Did you know that a washing machine uses between 25 and 55 gallons; or that a dishwasher uses 15 gallons per load?
- Brush your teeth today? You used up to 3 gallons per minute, (each time)!
- Do you hand wash dishes? You’re using about 2.2 to 3 gallons per minute.
- Watering grass? Up to 10 gallons per minute.
- How about this...drink two cups of coffee per day, a glass of water in the middle of the night, a couple of glasses of lemonade on a nice summer day, have a cup of soup at lunch, boil up some pasta for dinner and finally wash down the antacids after reading the daily news and you used a gallon and a half of water!

The most exciting fact though isn’t that we use 293 gallons per household per day. It is that we don’t even realize it. So what happens when one of your fixtures is leaking, or running, or not shutting off all the way? Then you are wasting water, and wasting dollars. This article will describe some of the most likely causes of wasted water and will give you some practical tips to help you determine if you have a problem with leaky fixtures.

The most common problem associated with high water use is leaky toilets. In fact, toilets can waste enormous amounts of water. The standard toilet uses 1.6 gallons of water per “flush”. When you flush; water stored with in a separate tank provides the volume of water needed to allow debris to go quickly down the drain. Once flushed, a valve within the tank opens and allows new water to refill the tank for the next use. The valve is controlled by the level in the tank and should automatically shut off once the tank is made up. An overflow pipe serves as a safety allowing water to run down the tube back into the toilet bowl (rather than out of the tank and onto your floor). When the water valve is incorrectly set allowing water to fill the tank up to the overflow tube (or simply never shuts the water flow off when full), you have a “running toilet”. A running toilet will use up to 2 gallons per minute. That works out to an additional 2,880 gallons of wasted water per day or equivalent to having over 39 of your favorite relatives living in your home!

Another type of toilet leak is the silent type. Silent leaks are caused when the flapper valve within the tank is weeping by, allowing water to slowly empty from the tank to the bowl. As the tank level drops, the water valve opens and refills the tank. Usually, this is very intermittent but a silent leak will use up to 223 gallons of water per day.

And one more thing........Dripping faucets and hose bibs are culprits also. If you have a faucet that drips just one drop per second, you will waste 5.5 gallons of water per day.

So what do you do if you have high water bill? Look for leaks. 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 leaky faucets. And if you find something, fix it.

Want to conserve water too? 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 ones that are more efficient. Look for appliances tagged with the “Energy Star” label. (These appliances are vetted to the government’s standards of efficiency).
- Scraper -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. Therefore we have to reuse water time and time again. We need to be conscious of the water we use and protect the resource so that clean, drinkable water is always available. Want more information? Check out http://wateruseitwisely.com/ or one of the many other websites regarding water conservation.

Rick Hopper, DPW Director
REMAINING BRUSH SITE DATES FOR 2013

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: October 5, 12, 19, 26.

Yard Waste pick up continue through your last pickup of November, 2013