



TODAY

TOWNSHIP UPDATES METER READING SYSTEM

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosowski
Clerk

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Mike Thayer
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Ellen Ryder-Petre
Trustee

Dave Sommers
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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

Thomas Township has begun a multi year installation process of radio based, remote *reading* devices on every water meter. These devices will only transmit water usage information when specifically asked. The system is identical to what nearly every other community in this region is using OR is in the process of converting to. These reading devices are battery powered and transmit information for a few milliseconds at a time, and only when specifically interrogated; much like when a fax machine is awakened to receive a fax. Once the usage information is passed to the reader, the unit will go back to sleep. Because the units work so intermittently and efficiently, the battery life is warranted for 20 years. No continually broadcasted remote device can operate that long on a battery unless it hibernates when it is not needed. Once your meter is converted, the water meters will continue to be read on a quarterly basis.

How can you help us? Since this summer, our staff has been systematically installing or retrofitting these devices. To date, about 15% of the water meters in the entire system have already been converted. In the future, staff from the Public Works Department will contact you to arrange a time for us to complete the conversion of your water meter. The work typically takes anywhere from 5 to 20 minutes to complete and will be done primarily during normal, working hours. Once you are contacted by our department to make an appointment, we will

schedule a convenient time for us to visit your home or business. Our staff will arrive no later, nor earlier than 10 minutes either side of your appointment time to complete the work. From the top down, our staff realizes that your time is important. It benefits us all to be on time, every time. That is our promise. These updates are of no cost to you. If you would like more information regarding the meter conversion project please feel free to contact Rick Hopper at the Department of Public Works, (989) 781-6438 or by email dpwdirector@thomastwp.org.

Your Opinion Matters

The Thomas Township Master Plan is currently being updated by the Township Planning Commission. This plan will guide growth and development in Thomas Township for the next ten to twenty years. As a resident or stakeholder of Thomas Township, your opinions and vision of the future of your Township is important for this plan to be successful. Please take a few minutes to take the survey at: www.thomastownshipsurvey.com. You can also access the survey on your mobile device by scanning the QR code below.



Inside Features

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Thomas Township is a Passport Acceptance Facility



Since 2004, Thomas Township has been designated a Passport Acceptance Facility. We have five employees who are trained passport acceptance agents

and can help you with a full range of passport needs.

Any passport forms you may need are available at our Municipal Offices at 249 North Miller Road or you can visit the US Department of State website at www.travel.state.gov and fill out your forms online to print them off and bring them to our facility for completion and mailing. Thomas Township also offers passport photo printing services for \$10.00.

Passport acceptance is a serious job for the ac-

ceptance agents, with multiple tasks to be completed with each passport which is brought in to our office. All of our acceptance agents are trained and must be recertified each year.

Furthermore, our agents and facility are tested by the U.S. Department of State on a yearly basis to make sure we are compliant with all of their rules and regulations and to verify we have the required most up to date passport forms in our facility.

Since 2004, the numbers of accepted passports we have accepted on a yearly basis have varied, but for the most part we accept between 550 and 700 passports yearly. We accept passport applications Monday through Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Please allow yourself extra time if you need to fill out your applications on site.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Passport Acceptance Facility Manager*

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Don Emeott, the first inductee into the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame.



Don was a member of the very first Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission (back row left). The other members were; front row left to right Ray Sarow, John Fahrenbruch and Fred Fischer. The other gentleman in the back right was Dave Thompson. Ted Glowacki was the remaining Commissioner and was not pictured.

The purpose of the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame is to honor and recognize those persons from Thomas Township who have

made exceptional contributions to the Thomas Township Parks system and/or recreation programs. The candidate will have also made outstanding accomplishments and contributions through community service, coaching, as a business, being an outstanding citizen, or related endeavors, who are or were citizens of Thomas Township or who have a recognizable link to Thomas Township and its Parks and Recreation programs.

Don is a lifetime resident of Thomas Township, was a naval reservist, and is still a member of the Shields Men's Club and KOC #8808 Holy Spirit Parish. He and his wife Janet raised 8 children in Thomas Township.



Congratulations, and thank you Don!

*John Corriveau
Director, Thomas
Township Parks and Recreation*

Parks and Recreation Fall and Winter Happenings

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
Stacy Hable, Secretary

Parks Office is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (989) 781-0151



Haunted Train

Roethke Park will once again be hosting the Haunted Train Ride and Haunted House. Come on out and get your fill of fright on October 23rd-24th. The Train will run from dusk until everyone has rode! Usually we try to end by 11:30pm.

The Haunted Train ride has been operated at Roethke Park for over 30 years and continues to be a huge event that we look forward to each year. Volunteers are always needed to run skits during the event. Your organizations, family or just people who love Halloween can come on out and help. If this sounds like something you would like to do please call our office at (989) 781-0151 and find out how you can help.



Christmas Train and Festival of Lights

The fourth annual Christmas Train and Festival of Lights will be held at Roethke Park on December 3-4-5 and December 10-11-12. The Roethke Express will ride the winter wonderland each night from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come on out and enjoy our bonfire, have some s'mores and of course visit with Santa Claus.

The Christmas Train and Festival of Lights is a fantastic family event, sponsored by the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation. This event couldn't be done without the help of the area businesses and local families who come out and decorate a Christmas scene for you to enjoy!

If your family, business, church or civic group would like to participate, please call us at (989) 781-0151.



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.



BOYS AND GILS 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 skill drills that will help them take the next step in basketball. We like to encourage the participants in the basketball clinics to attend the local high school games and cheer on their instructors as they play. Deadline to register is November 20, 2015. Games will begin January 10, 2015. Cost is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents.



BOYS BASKETBALL

Boy's Basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-3rd grades and 4th-6th grades. Registration deadline is November 20th. Draft day is December 5th at Swan Valley High School for grades 4th-6th. All kids will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week. Games are held on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School. Player fees are \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. Please call (989) 781-0151 if you would like to coach a team.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

A girls basketball league is offered for grades 2nd-4th and 4th-6th. Registration for this league ends on January 22, 2016. All games begin on February 20th. All girls will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week. Games are held on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School. Player fees are \$40 for resi-

dents and \$45 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches

are needed for this program You can call (989) 781-0151 to volunteer. Cost is \$40 for residents

and \$45 for non-residents.



FLOOR HOCKEY



Recreational floor hockey leagues will be forming in January of 2016. Games will begin February 20, 2016, at Swan Valley High School. Registration deadline will be Friday, January 22nd. All kids playing floor hockey will be required to wear gym shoes and wear a mouth piece.

This co-ed league is a recreational league, with no standings kept, and there will be no practices. The two leagues will be Y5's-Kindergarten and 1st-2nd-3rd grades. Cost to play is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non residents.



AN EVENING IN THE PARK

The Taste of Thomas Township was renamed "An Evening in the Park"! Thomas Township Parks and Recreation held its annual fundraiser August 17th at Roethke Park, with a new name and a surprise. For many years the event has been called the Taste of Thomas and we felt it was a time for some changes so we renamed the event and presented the first ever Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame inductee.

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation depends on the work of so many people in our community who volunteer to coach, work events, help raise money and who just give back. The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission decided to create an award to recognize such people with The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame. The first inductee into the Hall of Fame is Don Emeott. Don helped create the parks and programs for Thomas Township. He was a member of the very first Parks and Recreation Commission. Without people like Don our parks, programs and community would not be what it is today. We are looking forward to recognizing many more of our Park supporters in the years to come.



We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event so successful:

Hemlock Semiconductor
 The Thomas Township Business Association
 Kluck's Nursery
 Bob and Mary Jo Wiese
 Ron and Ellen Petre
 Don and Janet Emeott
 Vern and Yvonne Weber
 Terry and Peggy Rock
 Jack and Connie Rehman
 Craig and Deborah Monahan
 Brett Monahan
 Michael and Carla Zietz
 Mike Grillo
 Steve and Deborah Witt
 Kiwanis Club of Saginaw-Thomas Township
 Standard Electric
 Sandy Hirschman
 Thomas Township Fire Fighters Association
 Frank and Tina Gulczynski
 Russ and Sue Taylor
 Mike and Chris Cousins
 Leddy Electric
 Spicer Group
 Don and Angie Scherzer
 Ann and James Curran
 Martin Chevrolet
 Bob and Ann Murphy
 Tom and Sally Kluck
 Shields Lions Club
 Shields Men's Club
 Dave and Randi Kutch
 Ed and Nancy Brosowski
 Mike and Linda Thayer
 Terry and Donna Ross
 Jack Visuri
 Thomas McIntyre
 Angela Alworden
 Dean Rusch

Once again, thank you to all the people who make this event possible and the community who continues to support our Parks and the programs we offer!

THOMAS TOWNSHIP ARCHERY PROGRAM



The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation will continue to offer both winter and spring archery classes. Thomas Township now has three USA Archery and National Field Archery certified instructors on staff.

When we started the Archery program almost six years ago, we were a test program for the State of Michigan. Thomas Township Archery is now one of the top recreations programs in the State of Michigan. We have been



chosen to be a pilot program AGAIN! This time for the State of Michigan's new Explore Bowfishing. This new program will be offered in the spring of 2016.

Registration is taking place now through Friday, December 4, 2015 for both Beginning Archery and Explore Archery (formally advanced archery) classes. Beginning Archery is for everyone ages 6 years on up through adult! Explorer Archery is for archers who have their own equipment or have passed our beginner class and can shoot 20 yards with accuracy. Our equipment is available for use if you don't have your own equipment. Students in the Explorer group will still be honing their skills through games designed to offer a fun yet challenging experience in archery.



Classes will begin on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, 1500 North Gleaner Road. Classes continue for six weeks. Classes available this winter are:

Beginner	4:30 pm-5:30 pm
Beginner	5:30 pm-6:30 pm
Beginner	6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Explorer Archery	7:30 pm-8:30 pm

A huge thank you goes out to the Saginaw Field and Stream Club who have been great supporters of our program, and let us use their facilities for our program. Without them, we wouldn't have such a great program.

SPRING ARCHERY PROGRAMS

This spring we will be offering Explore Bowhunting for ages 6 on up, and the new Explore Bowfishing for ages 10 and up, prior class or shooting experience will be required for the Explore Bowfishing class.

Registration for the spring classes will begin in March of 2016 with classes starting in May of 2016. The location of these outdoor classes have not been determined at the time of this newsletter.



The Life and History of Chris Thompson



On July 2, 2015, we tragically and suddenly lost one of our Thomas Township Board members, Chris Thompson. Chris Thompson was born on January 16, 1941 in Tiffin, Ohio. A Michigan State graduate, a Veteran of the US Army, a husband, a father and a grandfather.

Chris loved to write. He was employed by the Saginaw News for over 40 year. In this time he held various editorial positions including 30 continuous years as a contributing columnist. For years, his first wife, Judith, and his children served as topics for his columns. After the death of his wife Judith, Chris married Mari (Zimmerman) in 2002. And wrote about their lives as well.

Over the years, Chris was involved in a variety of activities and community services. Chris had worked as a photographer of Big Ten Football, a writer for Booth Newspapers and an editor and columnist for the Saginaw News. In recent years, Chris wrote an opinion column for the Midland Daily News.

Chris has received numerous awards and recognition for his journalism and photography. These awards included first, second and third place along with honorable mention from United Press International and the Associated Press.

Chris was a devoted member of the Thomas Township Board of Trustees, serving on both the Policy and Ordinance Committee and the Liquor License Review

Committee. Chris was also the Chairman of the Thomas Township Zoning Board of Appeals.

Other service groups which benefited from Chris's time were the William B Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited, where he served as a board member and the Can-Amara Games served on the Board of Directors. He served as president of the Central Michigan Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi (a professional journalism society), the Great Lakes Press Association and the Gandy Dancers.

Chris continued to support the Michigan State University Alumni club of Saginaw County, the big Brothers organization of Saginaw, the Apple Mountain Ski Patrol, the Saginaw News Spears Bureau, was a coordinator of the Famers Market Table Project, a member of Shields Lions Club and Gus Macker Basketball.

Chris, along with his wife Mari, who was also tragically killed in the accident, shared many activities together. They were both members and served as deacons of the Second Presbyterian Church. They were members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardner's, volunteered at Beal Botanical Garden at Michigan State University, members of the Midland Artist Guild and avid contributors and supporters of the local art community.

They enjoyed their families, traveling and were active contributors and attendees of the Midland and Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestras. They also enjoyed frequent discussion with their History of God class.

Chris is survived by his children: Elisabeth Paige (Thompson) Jones and her husband Troy, and Regan Kathleen (Thompson) Bell. His grandchildren are; Allison, Karly, Kendall and Austin Jones. Chris was also survived by Mari's children; Sperry (Zimmerman) Megerian, and her husband Mark; Jon Zimmerman and his wife, Amanda and Margaret (Zimmerman) Cook and her husband Justin. Mari's grandchildren, Kathryn and Courtney Megerian and Jay and Drew Cook.

Chris will be missed by the Township Board and the Thomas Township Employees.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk*

FREELAND SCHOOLS MILLAGE ELECTION

Freeland Community Schools will be having a millage election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Freeland Community School District, Saginaw, Midland and Bay Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Two Million Three Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$22,395,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds in series therefor, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to and remodeling, furnishing and re-furnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; erecting and equipping a bus garage;

purchasing school buses; and developing, improving, and equipping athletic fields, playgrounds, and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2016 is 3.29 mills (\$3.29 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any re-funding, is sixteen (16) years.

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$5,495,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$-0-. The estimated

computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Absent voter ballots are available for this election through Saturday, October 31, 2015. You can request an application by calling the Clerk's office at (989) 781-0150 or by email at clerk@thomastwp.org

*Edward Brosowski,
Township Clerk*

FROM THE TREASURER

Winter Tax Bills to Arrive by December 1, 2015

Winter property tax statements are scheduled to be mailed to you on or around December 1, 2015. If a property tax statement has not been received by December 5, 2015, please contact the Deputy Treasurer, Korina Tucker at (989) 781-0150 or by email at treasurer@thomastwp.org to request a copy.

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, 2015, to be considered paid in 2015.

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.

*****REMINDER*****

When paying in person, bring the entire tax notice with you (both top and bottom portions) and our staff will mark the top portion paid for you as your receipt.

*Vern Weber
Township Treasurer*

DOG LICENSES FOR SALE

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1, 2015 through March 1, 2016.

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 Frolo
Director of Fiscal Services*

DPW NEWS



Well, another summer has quickly passed us up greatly exceeding what should be the speed limit for seasons! As we move into the fall, your Public Works will be busy flushing and winterizing all the fire hydrants located throughout the water system. This is a normal maintenance function that is extremely important to ensure the fire hydrant in your area works properly if needed in an emergency. As those flushing activities begin, you may see cloudy water from your water faucets. This is a normal occurrence, and is typical of flushing activities. If your water appears discolored or is cloudy, simply run your water faucets for a short period of time to clear your home's water piping. This flushing activity also means that there will be many areas with standing water or puddles, specifically within the road right-of-ways and along curbing. In some cases, fire hoses or other piping are used to diffuse or to direct water away from potentially pooling areas and yards.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who detoured around, waited patiently, or was inconvenienced by the Swan Valley Homecoming Parade on October 2, 2015.

This is an important event that the whole community looks forward to each year, especially the Swan Valley school aged children, faculty and staff.

Thomas Township along with the Thomas Township Police and Fire Departments partners with Swan Valley Schools, Saginaw County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation each year to make sure that permits are obtained, barricades are up and escorts are in their proper places.

Thank you for your patience in this matter!

Facts about Water Meters

Water meters are extremely accurate and constructed with a precision-machined chamber containing a disc which nutates (which is just a fancy word for wobble). The position of the nutating disk divides the metering chamber into compartment containing an exact volume of water. As the water pressure drives the nutating disc to wobble, a roller causes the disc to rotate completely around within the meter completing a "cycle". Each cycle equates to a measured amount of water and is then transmitted by a gear to an indicator, totalizer or pulse transmitter.

The water meter manufacturing industry standards require their meter to be between 99% and 101% accurate before they are sold to water utilities. Our Township standards require water meters to be accurate between 95% and 100%. As meters are mechanical in nature, they tend to be less accurate as they age and rarely, if ever, measure more water through them than the actual amount delivered.

*accuracy in water meters
continued on page 10*

Hydrants

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

The annual outdoor water use restrictions have been lifted for 2015. Thomas Township greatly appreciates your cooperation as we continue to conserve our water resources.

POLICE NEWS

After 14 years of dedicated service as the Police Department's Sergeant, Gary Breidinger has retired and relocated outside the area. We wish him all the best in this new phase of his life and hope that he and his wife Marianne enjoy everything life has to offer.

With Sergeant Breidinger's retirement the department had a vacancy to fill. After a very competitive selection process, Officer Al Fong was promoted to the position of sergeant. Al has been with the police department since April of 2014. Previously he had worked 20 years with the City of Saginaw Police Department and 2 ½ years with the Frankenmuth Police Department. Al and his wife, Diane, and their children have resided in Thomas Township for some time now. Al is active in the community and enjoys coaching track and cross country at the Swan Valley Schools.



Al has been with the police department since April of 2014. Previously he had worked 20 years with the City of Saginaw Police Department and

2 ½ years with the Frankenmuth Police Department. Al and his wife, Diane, and their children have resided in Thomas Township for some time now. Al is active in the community and enjoys coaching track and cross country at the Swan Valley Schools.

We encourage you to get to know Al, along with all of our excellent officers.

*Steve Kocsis
Chief of Police*

For Township news, breaking news, and parks and recreation programming reminders find us on:



Facts about Water Meters continued from page 9...

So how does a water meter work? Once the water flows through the meter, that flow rate needs to be converted to a registered reading. This is done via a mechanically driven-odometer type register mounted atop the water meter. This register counts the gallons passed through the meter as the disc rotates. The odometer count is then transferred to another exterior mounted, odometer-type reader, mounted on the outside of your home or business. Our meter readers then read the outdoor reader, hand write that number on a meter card, and then our water billing clerk enters the handwritten data into the billing software. For these reasons and others, our staff works very hard to make sure that our customers are billed fairly based upon accurately metered water service.

Recently, our specific meters became obsolete as a result of the meter industry switching over to more technology based meters. In 2012, we were notified that the metering devices that have been sold since the 1960's were no longer manufactured or supported. This affected every one of the communities in our region and resulted in all of us having to abruptly reassess our system and modify it so we all could continue to meter water. Since 2013, Thomas Township has elected to modify our system by incorporating remote read metering devices on all 5,500 meters in our system. Using this type of technology will allow our staff to streamline our ability to accurately and safely read your water meter by remotely accessing the device from outside your home or business. Once read the data is downloaded directly into the billing program, eliminating the potential to miss-read or misinterpret the readings.

For any questions about water metering or our water meter conversion, please call Rick Hopper at (989) 781-6438 or send him a question by email at dpwdirector@thomastwp.org.

*Rick Hopper
DPW Director*

Fire Department News

THANK YOU SPARKS FARM!

As all of us are aware, North Miller Road had some significant construction improvements going on this year. This construction had an enormous impact upon operations at Station One located on North Miller Road. A lot of people were curious about where we parked the trucks and how we responded to calls with all of the construction taking place on the main access road to the Station.

Our staff began planning in 2014 for this year's construction in order to develop a well thought out plan for maintaining our Department's ability to respond to emergencies in a timely manner within the Station One service area. Having Miller Road closed to only southbound traffic, meant that fire trucks needed to respond via Gratiot to River or Kennely, for anything north of the Fire Station. It might have seemed easier to allow only northbound traffic so the trucks could always just go north; however, the problem with that idea is the majority of our responders live north of the station which prevents them from getting to the Fire Station.

As we analyzed our situation, the specific problem that came to light was our limited ability to quickly access the area directly north of the Station One. It became clear that if we left the trucks in the Station, our response times would probably lengthen significantly for homes north of there. To this end, I approached Bill and Joe Sparks. I explained our problem and proposed a solution of parking a fire truck in their barn to respond from. As with the Sparks Family tradition... and commitment to helping community... they embraced this and offered up two locations to park our equipment.

In light of this, we reassigned a number of fire fighters to this new "Fire Station Three" *barn*. Yes it was literally a barn much like the days of how fire stations first began. Each firefighter assigned to this station had to carry their fire gear with them, carry a flashlight due to no power and no lights for the night calls and operate much differently in these unusual circumstances. I do appreciate each of their commitment to adapting to this temporary situation. Those assigned to this duty station were Erin Ludwick, Tim Gray, Brian Leach, Tim Woodcock, Safety Officer Drake Parent, Crew Leaders Gary Salo, Peter Stevens and was lead by Lt. Ryan Ludwick. In addition to these folks, the rest of our firefighters also had to deal with many obstacles to get to the station and back home. I appreciate their commitment to doing all of this in the spirit of helping a resident in a time of need.

Our entire department wishes to THANK the SPARKS FAMILY; Marilyn, Bill, Eve, Joe, Kris, Ivan and Dana. Thank you for providing the space for us, and for putting up with fire trucks and people coming and going, keeping an extra eye on our trucks and offering assistance whenever needed. It is this type of willingness to help our community remain such a great place to live. Many people speak of helping, but you folks stepped up and did something to make a difference and for this we sincerely thank you.

As they say, "there are two seasons in Michigan...pothole season and construction season. The reconstruction work has been an inconvenience for all of us, especially those living along Miller Road. However, it will be nice when it's all done to have the improved drainage, safer road, improved sidewalks and smoother driving surface. Additionally, as part of the project, there will be a new traffic control light installed in front of the fire station to assist us with getting in and out of the Station both quickly and safely. The light will be activated by the firefighters to stop traffic in both directions to allow our vehicles to move in and out of the building with minimal risk to the fire fighters and our equipment.

We did work through the construction project the best we could. I was pleased the construction company, Ground-breakers, worked with us throughout the summer to also help make sure that access to the Station by our fire fighters was given the highest priority. The construction crew foreman was issued a pager to know when we had fire calls and would help block roads to assist us in getting through quickly. We moved trucks in and out every day, exposed the trucks to more dirt than we like and literally had conversations multiple times a day all with having the goal of ensuring the trucks could get out to help someone when the need arose.

In closing, without the support of the Sparks Family, it would have been a much greater challenge to provide a quick emergency response during this Miller Road construction project. Thanks again for your commitment to community!

Michael Cousins
Fire Chief



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



2015 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: October 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Yard Waste pick-up will continue until November 28, 2015