



**TRICK OR TREAT HOURS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31
5:30-7:30**



TODAY

THOMAS TOWNSHIP GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosofski
Clerk

Craig Monahan
Trustee

Mike Thayer
Trustee

Ellen Ryder-Petre
Trustee

Dave Sommers
Trustee

Russell Taylor
Manager

Municipal Offices
249 North Miller Road
781-0150
www.thomastwp.org

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



Last year, Thomas Township formed a partnership with the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity organization to begin planning for the Habitat Build/Home Preservation week held here this past August 14-18th. The event gave both Township employees and volunteers a chance to share their generosity, while improving both individual homes and our community as well. Our hope was to give some of our residents' a helping hand by creating an opportunity for Township employees, along with volunteers from throughout Thomas Township to give back. It turned out to be a great experience for everyone.

As a community, Thomas Township has always been generous and supportive. Just look at the impact of the local "Pay it Forward" program as an example. The Township employs an awesome group of community-minded and sincere people who really enjoy working with and helping others. The Habitat Week gave all of us a chance to support our residents and community. Deidre Frollo, Fiscal Services Director, along with a committee of fellow Township employees, deserve special recognition for taking on the responsibility of coordinating the effort.

The Habitat team brought their experience and an excellent reputation with leading large community-based building projects like this one. They know the funding sources and how to qualify homeowners. They also have the personnel with experience selecting qualified homeowners and determining what improvements are needed. They also bring the expertise with the construction and the tools/equipment needed to complete the work. In the end, they located eight homes with qualified homeowners for us to work on that needed a wide range of repairs and maintenance work.

Thomas Township employees, Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity volunteers, community members, churches, businesses, local clubs and other organizations provided over 100

volunteers. They came together to install siding, windows, doors, soffit, handicap accessible bathrooms and ramps, LOTs of paint, brush removal and many other tasks. What a week of excitement, hard work, fun and sometimes tears!

A great big thank you goes out to everyone who participated. Likewise, we want to thank our local businesses and churches who provided food, volunteers and donations: Mid-Valley Insurance, Tim Horton's, Culver's, Sporty's Wing Shack, Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, St. Dominic's Catholic Parish, Flannigan's, Brown & Brown Insurance, The State Bank, HSC and Eudici's.

All in all, it was an awesome week. Over 100 community minded people came together to help eight homeowners make a variety of improvements to their property. We are considering trying to make this an annual event for our community to come together to help Township residents and to enjoy the privilege of lending a helping hand. We will likely designate the third week of August as the Thomas Township Habitat Build Week.

If you have an interest in participating next year as a volunteer, please call Deidre @ 989-781-0150. If you think that either you or someone you know could use some help, please contact the Habitat team at 989-. They will get you all of the information you need and perhaps we will be painting your house next year.



Inside Features

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2017 Business Of The Year Recipients

Thomas Township Announces 2017 Business of the Year

The Thomas Township Planning Commission has selected the winners and runners-up for the Business/Organization of the Year Awards for 2017. Each year the Planning Commission reviews the list of licensed businesses and organizations in Thomas Township and selects those that they feel have demonstrated aesthetic excellence and set a positive example for Thomas Township.

Kluck Nursery Inc., located at 1020 Van Wormer Road was selected by the members as Business/Organization of the Year for the large business category.



L to R: David Sommers, Planning Commission Member, Karen and Tom Kluck, Owners, Rod Iamurri, Planning Commission Chairman, Tyler Kluck and Doug Bird, Planning Commission Member.

Coco Loco Mexican Grill and Bar at 7467 Gratiot Road was chosen as Business/Organization of the Year for the small business category.



L to R: Dave Sommers, Planning Commission Member, Doug Bird, Planning Commission Member, Jose Costilla and Alicia Costilla, owners, and Ruth McDonald, Planning Commission Member.

Runners-up in the large business category were Martin Chevrolet located at 8800 Gratiot Road, and Apple Mountain located at 4519 North River Road.



L to R: Doug Bird, Planning Commission Member, Tad Veremis, Martin Chevrolet, Rod Iamurri, Planning Commission Chairman, Angie Schreiner, Martin Chevrolet, and Dave Sommers, Planning Commission Member.



L to R: Doug Bird, Planning Commission Member, Russ Chanin, Apple Mountain, Rod Iamurri, Planning Commission Chairman and Dave Sommers; Planning Commission Member.

Runners-up for the small business category were W.L Case Funeral Home, 201 North Miller Road and Rail Trail Motor Company, 8235 Gratiot Road



L to R: Doug Bird, Ruth McDonald, Planning Commission Members, Becky Case-Myers, Dave Case, Julie Case-Swieczkowski, Case Funeral Home, Rod Iamurri, Planning Commission Chairman and Dave Sommers, Planning Commission Member.



L to R: Dave Sommers, Ruth McDonald, Planning Commission Members, Justin Luneack, Brandon Hitchcock, owners, Rod Iamurri, Planning Commission Chairman and Doug Bird, Planning Commission Member.

Jennifer Holtman,
Community Development Staff

Parks and Recreation Fall and Winter Happenings

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission Members and Staff

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

Staff:
John Corriveau, Director
Stacy Hable, Assistant Director
Connie Smith, 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 13-14 and 20-21. The Train will run from dusk until everyone has ridden! 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 organization, family or individuals 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 fifth annual Christmas Train and Festival of Lights will be held at Roethke Park on December 1-2 and December 8-9. 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 our 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.

Parks and Recreation Fall and Winter 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 skill drills that will help them take the next step in basketball. We like to also 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 17, 2017. Games will begin January 6, 2018. Cost is \$45 for

residents and \$50 for non-residents.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Boy's Basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-3rd grades and 4th-6th grades. Registration deadline is November 17th. Draft day is December 2nd 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 \$45 for residents and \$50 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

Our girls basketball league is offered for grades 2nd-4th and 4th-6th. Registration for this league ends on January 19, 2018. All games begin on February 17th. 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 \$45 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. You can call (989) 781-0151 to volunteer.

******NEW PROGRAMING******



RECREATIONAL DOGEBALL

Registration begins in January 2018. this six week program starts February 17, 2018. Games will take place on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School:

2nd/3rd Grades	12:00 pm—12:45pm
4th/5th Grades	1:00 pm—1:45 pm

Teams will be mixed up each week. No equipment is needed. \$45 Resident and \$50 Non Resident.

2017 THOMAS TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Congratulations to Craig Monahan, the third inductee into the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame. Craig is well known throughout Thomas Township, and his true passion has always been working with sports and kids. Craig is not only a teacher and a coach at Swan Valley High School, but also a former member of our Parks and

Recreation Commission and a Trustee on the Thomas Township Board of Trustees.

Craig was our first ever Parks and Recreation Director, and actually used to LIVE at Roethke Park. Craig has always been involved with our parks and making his community better.

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, or recreation programs. Craig has certainly done that!

*John Corriveau,
Parks and Recreation Director*

AN EVENING IN THE PARK

An Annual Park Fundraising Event

The 2017 Evening in the Park event was held September 18, 2017 at Roethke Park. Thomas Township Parks and Recreation's annual fundraiser is a time to thank all those that have given to Thomas Township Parks and Recreation over the past year. At this year's event Craig Monahan was named the third inductee into the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame (see page 4).

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 or just give back to their community.

We would like to thank everyone who helps make our Parks so successful and who donated to the Parks throughout the year:

Hemlock Semiconductor Operations LLC
 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
 Michael and Carla Zietz
 Steve and Deborah Witt
 Kiwanis Club of Saginaw-Thomas Township
 Standard Electric
 Sandy Hirschman
 Thomas Township Fire Fighters Association
 Frank and Tina Gulczinski
 Russ and Sue Taylor
 Mike and Chris Cousins
 Leddy Electric
 Spicer Group
 Don and Angie Scherzer
 Ann and James Curran
 Bierlein Company
 Apple Mountain
 Tom, Tyler and Sally Kluck
 Shields Lions Club
 Shields Men's Club
 Tom Radewahn and Mid Valley Insurance
 Dr. and Mrs. L.W. Leddy
 Ed and Nancy Brosowski
 Mike and Linda Thayer
 Jack Visuri
 Steve and Angela Alworden

Dean Rusch
 Ruth McDonald
 Craig and Nicole Blower
 Little Caesars Pizza
 Eudici's
 Renue Physical Therapy
 Steve and Sharon Kocsis
 David and Betsy Wietfeldt
 Rebel Magnolia
 David and Edith Sommers
 Wendy Bridges
 Robert Kain
 Dave Adams
 Joan Bintz
 Swan Valley Banquet Center
 Magical I Do's
 Culvers

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!

John Corriveau
Parks and Recreation Director



THOMAS TOWNSHIP ARCHERY PROGRAM



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

Registration is taking place now through Friday, December 1, 2017 for both Beginning Archery and Explore Archery (formally advanced archery) classes. Beginning Archery is for everyone ages 8 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 4, 2018 at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, 1500 North Gleaner Road. Classes continue for six weeks. Classes available this winter are:

Adults Only	1:00 pm-2:00 pm
Beginner	4:30 pm-5:15 pm
Beginner	5:15 pm-6:00 pm
Beginner	6:00 pm-6:45 pm
Explorer Archery	6:45 pm-7:30 pm
Explorer Archery	7:30 pm-8:15 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.



**Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Named**



We are very happy to introduce Thomas Township's Parks and Recreation's new Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Stacy Hable. Stacy previously held the position of Parks and Recreation's Clerical Receptionist for the past 3 years. Stacy has played a significant role in the operations of the parks programs and special events held in Thomas Township. Stacy is a Level 2 archery instructor and working on her Certified Pool and Spa Operator certificate.

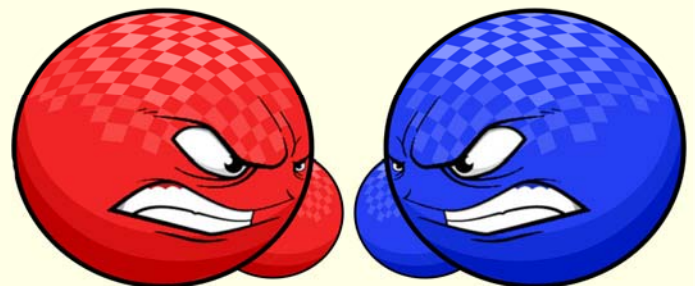
Stacy is a Level 2 archery instructor and working on her Certified Pool and Spa Operator certificate.

Please congratulate Stacy on her new roll when you see her!

**New Secretary for our Parks and
Recreation Department**



We are pleased to introduce Connie Smith as the new Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Secretary. Connie comes to us with a lot of great leadership experience. We look forward to having her in our office. Please stop and by and welcome Connie to the Thomas Township family.





Colonel Laura Russell Varhola

Laura is the first child (1967) of long time Thomas Township residents Carl and Emily Russell, of Russell Blueberry Farm.



Laura, a graduate of Okemos High School, received a BA from the University of Michigan in Political Science in 1989, and was the Captain of the U of M Rifle Team her senior year. She then obtained two Master's Degrees, one in International Relations from Troy University and another in National Security Studies

from the National War College in Washington, D.C. She is also a graduate of the French War College, *École Militaire*, in Paris, France.

From the beginning of her Military career, Laura never really thought about the Military as a career. Initially, it was a way to pay for college (ROTC). However, after her first Company Command as a young Military Police Captain, she realized how much she enjoyed the profession; working with soldiers, working as a team, and accomplishing important goals. The Military quickly became part of her identity, and something she felt very comfortable doing. Laura was selected for a promotion to Colonel in 2011, a very proud moment for her, given the responsibilities that this rank holds.

When I asked Laura about her Military career, and what she was most proud of, it wasn't her accomplishments. It was her family! Without their love, flexibility and support she could not have had this career. She credits her husband, Christopher Varhola, a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, for being her #1 supporter. Laura met Christopher on a drop zone in 1997 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, while conducting parachute operations (yes, they were both jumping out of perfectly good planes). Laura says of Christopher, "he's a great husband and father, and without him, I couldn't do what I do. There would be no way to ensure their children would get the grounding they needed without him." After that, Laura is most proud of being recognized by the French government for her efforts while on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, in coordinating U.S. support to French operations in West Africa to oust Islamic militants (Operation SERVAL). In 2014, Laura was presented the French National Order of Merit, in the rank of "Knight", by the French Ambassador to the U.S.

Laura's key medals include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with three

oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster. Laura has also earned the Parachutist, Air Assault and Joint Staff Identification Badges. In addition to the French National Order of Merit, her other foreign awards include the German Sports Badge (in Gold).

Laura was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps in 1989, and served in a variety of Military Police command and staff positions in South Korea, Panama, and Honduras, to include Company Command in the 101st Airborne Division. Laura also served as a Civil Affairs Tactical Support Team Leader in the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), where she deployed multiple times to West and Central Africa. In 2000, she was selected to become a Foreign Area Officer specializing in Sub-Saharan Africa, and was sent to language school to learn French and Swahili. Laura also served as the Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché in Sar es Salaam, Tanzania, and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia within the U.S. Embassy in each of these countries. While serving at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Laura deployed to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. As a political-military staff officer, she served on the Joint Staff (J5-Africa) at the Pentagon, and at U.S. Africa Command Headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, where she is stationed at the present time. In her current job, her focus is on East Africa, where she must travel frequently.

For anyone else aspiring towards a career in the Military, I asked Laura what are the most important things one needs to think about while attending high school and college. Laura stated that good grades and physical fitness are the most important. However, civic involvement is also important. Preparing for a career in the Military is about Service—serving your country, its people and the values America represents. There are many ways to serve your community, whether coaching a little league team, serving as an assistant Boy or Girls Scout leader, volunteering for school events, or just helping others in need. All of these activities allows one to give back, while learning valuable leadership skills, tools that will serve one well in the Military. While the Military does offer a lot of benefits; such as college money, travel opportunities, lifelong skills, and retirement options. More importantly, it's about understanding what it's like to serve your country, and to do something that is greater than yourself. Conducting your life with honor and integrity is also important—not to mention hard work and discipline.

While Laura has served our country, all over the world, her roots are firmly planted in Michigan. She looks forward to returning to the family farm—The Russell Blueberry Farm—upon retirement, and hopes to continue to serve, both her family and her community.

Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk/Newsletter Editor

November 7, 2017 Election Hemlock Schools Sinking Fund Millage Proposal

For those voters who live in Thomas Township, and vote in Precincts 3 and 4, located at the Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive. You will have an election on November 7, 2017. Hemlock Schools have put forth a millage proposal that reads as follows;

"Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Hemlock Public School district, Saginaw and Midland Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2018 to 2027, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improve-

ments, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately \$500,000?"

If you are in need of an absentee voter ballot, applications can be obtained at the Thomas Township Clerks office, 249 North Miller Road, Saginaw, MI 48609, or you can call the Deputy Clerk, Betsy Wietfeldt, at (989) 781-0150 and an application for a ballot can be mailed to you. Please don't wait until the last minute, as mail service does take longer to get the applications and ballots back and forth in the mail.

If you need to check your registration status, the Michigan Voter Information Center was created for you to find out if you are registered. To find out where you vote and to look over the ballot for the precinct where you vote. To get to the Voter Information Center, go to:

michigan.gov/vote

If you are not online, please feel free to call Betsy at (989) 781-0150.



*Ed Brosofski,
Township Clerk*

FROM THE TREASURER

Winter Tax Bills to Arrive by December 1, 2017

Winter property tax statements are scheduled to be mailed to you on or around December 1, 2017. If a property tax statement has not been received by December 5, 2017, 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 at 8:00 am 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, 2017, to be considered paid in 2017.

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, 2017 through February 28, 2018.

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*

DPW NEWS



Well, another summer has quickly passed us by! 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 home's water taps. This is a normal occurrence, and is typical of flushing activities. If your water appears discolored or is cloudy, simply run your water taps for a short period of time to clear your home's water piping. This flushing activity also means that there may be areas with standing water or puddles, specifically within the road right-of-ways and along curbing. In some cases, fire hoses or other piping is used to diffuse or to direct water away from potentially pooling areas and yards.

Annual sewer inspection and cleaning will begin the week of September 20th and continue for approximately 3 to 4 weeks. We will be cleaning the sanitary sewers in the area and videotaping piping for review and study. The areas that will be affected this year are strictly the commercial areas along Gratiot Road.

The Brush site will be opened for residents every Saturday in October. The hours of operations are 8 AM to Noon. The site is open for any Township Resident. No leaves or grass accepted.

We will soon begin decorating the various areas and buildings for the Christmas season. Look for the Christmas displays to be lit on November 20th. It will be spectacular!

THOMAS TOWNSHIP VETERANS DISPLAY

None of us can go about our days untouched by the devotion and sacrifices innumerable Moms and Dads, Brothers or Sisters, Sons, Daughters, or Husbands and Wives have endured throughout our history, simply because they chose to protect us from those that wish to do us harm. And it is a shame that in our busy lives, we sometimes fail to remember those who answered the call to duty except during a couple of holidays each year. When Thomas Township constructed this display, it was designed to be a living tribute-not strictly a memorial-where residents could honor their veteran with an engraved

paver installed in the reflection area of the monument. Now you too can honor your Veteran with an engraved brick simply by stopping in to the Municipal Offices Building located at 249 N Miller Road and filling out the order form. The costs for each brick is \$35.00. This is not a fundraising endeavor and the cost for a paver only represents the actual expenses we incur to purchase and engrave a paver.

Brick Paver orders are turned in for engraving 4 times per year, coinciding with the major Veteran's Holidays to help keep the costs down.

ORDER BY: February 15, INSTALLED by Memorial Day.

ORDER BY: May 1, INSTALLED by 4th of July.

ORDER BY: August 15, INSTALLED by Veteran's Day.

ORDER BY: November 15, INSTALLED by Memorial Day or as weather permits.

(SEE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERANS DISPLAY ON PAGE 10)

THOMAS TOWNSHIP OWEN CEMETERY



According to industry statistics, about one half of all funerals held today incorporate cremation rather than direct burial. Because of this trend, Owen cemetery is home to a new columbarium that is designed with individual niches that are large enough to accommodate two sets of adult cremated remains can be interred. As with the traditional gravesites within the cemetery, niches are for sale to Thomas Township residents only. If interested in either grave sites or columbarium niches, contact Rick Hopper at DPW at (989) 781-0150.

*Rick Hopper,
Director of Public Works*

POLICE NEWS

A big hello from your Police Department to all of our neighbors in Thomas Township. Here are a couple of questions for you. Have you ever met the Police Officers who are patrolling our Township? Would you even recognize them if you saw them? Chances are pretty slim, but that's about to change!

Beginning in January of 2018 you will have your chance to meet the Thomas Township Police Officers! Come on out and enjoy some coffee and donuts with our Officers at Tim Hortons, 8099 Gratiot Road in Thomas Township. If you have a question you've always wanted to ask, or you have questions about any of our local laws or ordinances, you will have a chance to sit down and have those questions answered.

The dates and times of these meetings will be in our newsletters and posted on Facebook. The meetings will continue once a month for as long as there is an interest by the public.

We look forward to seeing you!
Sergeant Al Fong

Outdoor Water Restrictions

The annual outdoor water use restrictions have been lifted for 2017. Thomas Township greatly appreciates your cooperation as we continue to conserve our water resources.



Meet Your Neighbor

Our quarterly feature "Meet your Neighbor" on page 7 has gone Military! For the next several editions I will be featuring the Women and Men of Thomas

Township who are selflessly serving this great country of ours. We hope you enjoy this article and those that will come in the next year.

Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk/Newsletter Editor

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE SMOKE DETECTORS FROM GRANT

The Thomas Township Fire Department, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, has acquired a number of smoke detectors to give to any Thomas Township resident who doesn't have one. We will continue to supply these smoke detectors to our residents until the grant supply runs out.

These smoke detectors have a fantastic 10 year life span. You do need to have one of our staff install them in your home. If you have any questions or would like to apply for a smoke detector, please contact our Fire Inspector, Joe Giacoletti at 781-4141.

Smoke Detectors DO Save Lives!

Michael Cousins
Fire Chief

Veteran's Display

Remember that Saturday, 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 into the display. You can download a paver order form from our website at 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.



Fire Department News

SEVEN RESIDENTS ANSWER THE CALL FOR MORE FIRE FIGHTERS

The Thomas Township Fire Department has seven new members! All of them are residents who want to help their community members when in need. By using our Newsletter and portable signs at both Fire Stations, we advertised the need for additional Fire Fighters. The hard part when asking for help is we need people who are willing to dedicate a large amount of time towards training and learning the profession.

Our Fire Department remains strong with 33 people willing and able to answer that call. Our new additions are as follows: **Christopher Castellano, Chloe Farnham, Joe Gill, Steve Hermann, Matt Marshall, Molly McGrandy and Jenna Stevenson.** Of these members, three of them will serve within the medical division while the other four will serve for the fire and medical divisions. Each one of them will invest approximately 360 hours in the fire academy starting in January and another 80 hours in a medical class.

As a community, we are extremely fortunate to have 33 dedicated members who give up so much of their own time to help others. These folks maintain fulltime employment in the private sector, have hobbies, operate households, and maintain families. Somewhere in this mix, they still attend training and mandated meetings to maintain quality skills, so they are able to professionally respond to your call.

We welcome all seven new faces and I encourage each of you to say 'thank you' to all of the Fire Department members you see for the hours they invest to protect you and your family.

*Mike Cousins
Fire Chief*



Castellano

Farnham

Herman

Stevenson



Marshall

McGrandy

Gill

THOMAS TOWNSHIP GATEWAY SIGN

Have you seen our beautiful new sign welcoming drivers to our community? Gratiot Road is not only the central business corridor of Thomas Township, but it is also the main entry point to our Township for thousands of vehicles each day. Signifying this location as the entrance to Thomas Township is a key way of getting people to associate the name with the community.

As our Community has grown and developed, the Township Board recognized years ago the importance of trying to enhance the visible identity of our community, especially our business district where over 30,000 vehicles pass through each day. The Board has also tried to implement this strategy in an affordable manner through a series of small changes that have collectively started to show results. Sidewalks were installed about twenty years ago. Business signage requirements were changed fifteen years ago to reduce and lower signs along the corridor. Several driveway openings have either been closed or realigned throughout the years. Unnecessary street signs and poles have been removed as opportunities came up over the years. And, streetlights were installed about seven years ago. Similarly, the pillars and fencing enhancements to property frontages were introduced at about the same time.

Thank you to Tri Valley Construction, Leddy Electric, Kluck Nursery and MDOT for their assistance with constructing this welcome sign. Hopefully, with the sign and the other enhancements mentioned earlier, people will identify Thomas Township as a great place to live and do business. We realize that it is not going to result in any major psychological shift in the public's view of our community, but we also know that it takes a lot of little steps to reach any goal. This sign is simply one more step taken in that direction.

*Russ Taylor
Township Manager*





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: October 7, 14, 21, 28.

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