

THOMAS Township TODAY

Thomas Township's Winter Wonderland

Thomas Township along with the Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the 1st Winter Wonderland at Roberts Park. **Garber Chevrolet** on Gratiot, **Thomas Township Kiwanis**, **Hemlock Semiconductor** and **Totten Tire** all helped sponsor the event this year at Roberts Park. This event would not have been possible without all of your support. THANK YOU!

Due to Covid-19 and state imposed restrictions on operating our Train at Roethke Park; we wanted to create an event that we could still try and spread the holiday cheer! In times like these, having the community of Thomas Township come together to create a Winter Wonderland at Roberts Park is what makes our community so special! In the creation of this event, we see a great potential to make next year even better! The hope is to have a Winter Wonderland at Roberts Park be a yearly tradition where we can all come together and kick off the holiday season together!



We would also like to extend a special THANK YOU to all of the local businesses and organizations that decorated a site this year! Without your support and participation, our event would not have been the success it was! Thank you for your

continued support and we hope to see you attend next year for yet another amazing event!



We would like to give a special THANK YOU to the Roenicke Light Show for being a part of our event this year. Bringing your light show to the park added a magical sparkle for all to see!



Displays:

- Garber Chevrolet Gratiot
- Apple Mountain Resort
- Hemlock Middle School
- Shields Lions Club
- Wolgast Restoration
- McDonald Ford
- Tri-Valley Construction
- Thomas Township Kiwanis
- Shields Elementary
- Swan Valley Middle School
- Swan Valley Pay It Forward
- Riverbend Storage
- Swan Valley Methodist
- Bierlein Company
- All4Sports
- Knights of Columbus
- Edward Jones
- Family Video
- Team One Credit Union
- Hemlock Semiconductor
- Leddy Electric
- Campbell Supply
- Home Depot

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob WeiseSupervisor
- Edward Brosowski Clerk
- Steven Witt Treasurer
- Michael ThayerTrustee
- David Sommers..... ..Trustee
- Craig MonahanTrustee
- Tara DeLineTrustee
- Russell Taylor Manager

Departments

- Municipal Office.....781-0150
249 N. Miller Road
- Parks & Recreation..781-0151
249 N. Miller Road
- DPW Administration781-6438
251 Miller Court
- Police Department ..781-1300
8215 Shields Drive
- Fire Department781-4141
8215 Shields Drive
- Library781-3770
8207 Shields Drive

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Christmas Tree Disposal

Residents in all 34 communities served by the Mid Michigan Waste Authority can put their fresh Christmas trees to the curb by 7 am on their regular trash day throughout the month of January. You do not need to remove ornaments, tinsel, garland or other decorative items. Trees can be put to the curb with or without a tree bag.

Trees that are frozen to the ground or covered with snow will not be collected until they can be safely accessed by the driver. Large or heavy trees may have to be picked up by the bulk truck, and in those cases trees should be collected within two (2) days of the resident's regular service day.

This service applies only to Christmas trees that have been used as indoor holiday décor. State law prohibits yard waste and vegetation from being disposed of in landfills; however, the ban does not apply to Christmas trees. Artificial trees may be placed to the curb as a bulky item any time of the year.



2021 Important Dates

Holiday Trash Delays 2021

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| New Years Day: | Saturday, January 2nd |
| Memorial Day: | Saturday, June 5th |
| Labor Day: | Saturday, September 10th |
| Thanksgiving: | Saturday, November 27th |
| Christmas: | NO DELAY this year |



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DELAY

Board of Trustee Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive when Covid-19 restrictions are not in place. In the mean time feel free to teleconference by dialing (844) 855-4444 and using Access Code: 482236#

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Monday, January 4th | Monday, July 12th |
| Monday, February 1st | Monday, August 2nd |
| Monday, March 1st | Monday, September 13th |
| Monday, April 12th | Monday, October 4th |
| Monday, May 3rd | Monday, November 1st |
| Monday, June 7th | Monday, December 6th |

Planning Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive when Covid-19 restrictions are not in place. In the mean time feel free to teleconference by dialing (844) 855-4444 and using Access Code: 482236#

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wednesday, January 20th | Wednesday, July 21st |
| Wednesday, February 17th | Wednesday, August 18th |
| Wednesday, March 17th | Wednesday, September 15th |
| Wednesday, April 21st | Wednesday, October 20th |
| Wednesday, May 19th | Wednesday, November 17th |
| Wednesday, June 16th | Wednesday, December 15th |

Downtown Development Authority Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 9:00 am and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive when Covid-19 restrictions are not in place. In the mean time feel free to teleconference by dialing (844) 855-4444 and using Access Code: 482236#

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday, January 26th | Tuesday, July 27th |
| Tuesday, March 23rd | Tuesday, September 28th |
| Tuesday, May 25th | Tuesday, November 23rd |

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Dates

When needed, meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, Meetings begin at 4:00 pm and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive when Covid-19 restrictions are not in place. In the mean time feel free to teleconference by dialing (844) 855-4444 and using Access Code: 482236#

Changes to the Thomas Township Board



Vern Weber

After serving on the Thomas Township Board as Treasurer for 13 years, Vern Weber has decided to retire. Vern will be missed as he has been a long standing member of various Township Boards and positions for over 40 years. Vern's last official meeting was on November 2nd, 2020 with his final day being November 20th, 2020.

Vern began his career in Thomas Township in 1978 as a Police Officer. He held this position until elected as a Trustee in 1992. In 2007 he was appointed as Treasurer and he has filled this position with high ethical standards until his retirement this year.

Though Vern has spent 40 years with the Township, he has also made a positive impact on the Township through his many other services. Vern has served on the Board of Directors of the Saginaw County 911 Authority, Saginaw County Sheriff's Department Support Division where he was Captain, chairman of the Personnel Committee; and memberships of the Public Safety Committee, Roads Committee, as well as the Kiwanis Club of Thomas Township and more.

We wish you well in your retirement from the Township Board Vern, we can not thank you enough for your dedication to Thomas Township over the last 40 years.



Bob Weise (left), Township Supervisor, recognizing Vern Weber (right), for his 40 years of service.



Steven P. Witt

With Vern's departure comes a new, or should we say returning face, to the Thomas Township Board. Welcome the new Thomas Township Treasurer, Steven Witt. Steven previously served one term on the Thomas Township Board in the late 1990's as a Trustee. He also serves his community as the current Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club of Saginaw-Thomas Township and is also a member of the Thomas Township Business Association, and was previously the Treasurer for the Association. Steven is a member and elder of St. Marks Lutheran Church.

Steven is a Certified Public and Principal at the Saginaw Location of Yeo & Yeo PC and has been married to his wife, Debbie, for over 40 years. They have lived in Thomas Township for the past 34 years and raised their two children here. Please give Steven a warm welcome to the Township Board when you see or talk to him next!

Welcome to the Township Staff

Welcome Scott Crofoot, the new Building Inspector. Scott brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the position and started in late August. Since then, he's been kept quite busy with plenty of projects and new builds happening all over the Township. Welcome to the Township Scott!



Scott Crofoot

Secondly, we would like to welcome Aleigha Crowl to the Township Staff. Aleigha is the new face of the water department and began in October. She jumped right in to the position and has done so with a smile! Welcome to the team Aleigha. We're so happy to have you here!



Aleigha Crowl

Fire Hydrant Accessibility

Fire hydrants are strategically located throughout the Township and are used in emergencies to combat fires of all sorts. With wintertime upon us, we ask that you help us keep snow away from any hydrant. Please keep a three foot radius around the hydrant snow free. Hydrants can be difficult to see in the dark and when they are buried in snow, it becomes even more of a challenge when every second counts.

Please do not plow or shovel snow against a fire hydrant. You are not only making it difficult to get to it in emergencies, but you may also be damaging the water pipes connecting the hydrant to the water mains underground. These fire hydrants are essential to our community and residents, please be respectful and keep them clear. You never know, the next time that hydrant is needed, it may be for your home or business.



Gary Fuller Serves 50+ Years with the Fire Department



Gary Fuller,
Firefighter

Gary Fuller was recently recognized for serving 50+ years with the Thomas Township Fire Department! Gary is currently a firefighter but has held several positions within the Department over the last 50 years. He is also the longest standing Treasurer for the Thomas Township Fire Association with over 20 years as acting Treasurer.

Gary's current primary duties include driving and operating the trucks as well as operating the base radio as our dispatcher. Gary has always served with a positive attitude and has earned a lot of respect from his peers over the last 50 years. I've never heard anyone say a bad word about Gary, he's just that kind of guy.

Gary became interested in serving on the fire department when his neighbor and soon to be longtime friend, George Schmidt, talked him into joining. George had been a member of the fire department and spoke highly of it to Gary. Gary quickly became interested and began his career by joining the department's auxiliary, in which he served in various ranks for several years. Once the opportunity came to join as a regular member, he has served as fire fighter, Captain and Assistant Chief over the years. He had also served on many committees throughout his years of service.

Being on the Fire Department takes a huge amount of support from family members and his wife Sue was no exception. Sue was very instrumental regarding his presence and dedication to the fire department. She would often assist him where she could and helped with our annual pancake breakfast up until her passing. Gary's family support didn't stop there. Their children; Tammy, Kate and Kevin were also very supportive and proud of their Dad. Gary has passed on his passion for serving the community through the fire department by having two grandsons (Doug & Brad) proudly serving on the James Township Fire Department.

The Township Board recently recognized him with a proclamation for 50+ years of dedicated service. Due to Covid-19 we had to modify how we could recognize Gary. Our department members along with several surrounding fire departments held a fire truck "walk of fame". The trucks and members of the combined departments lined up in a safe-distance tunnel which started behind the basketball courts on Shields Drive and led to the fire station. At the end of the tunnel were his 3 children and grandchildren waiting to present this honor to him and celebrate his awesome accomplishment.

Congratulations and THANK YOU Gary for such a long career with the Thomas Township Fire Department.

Mike Cousins,
Fire Chief



Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales

July 15th - 18th, 2021

Thank you for choosing to participate in the 12th Annual Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales!

** If you are not a Thomas Township resident, you may register your sale, and it will be displayed in the address list section, but may not appear on the map. **

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Due to limited spacing, we cannot list specific times, days or individual items for sale on the map

To return your completed form to Thomas Township you may drop it off at our office located at 249 N. Miller Road (You may use drop box out front) or by emailing it to operator@thomastwp.org. You may also fax the form back at (989) 781-0290. In order to have your sale included on the map you **MUST** have the form turned in by **June 25th, 2021!**

Please remember, this is a community event. Please be considerate of your neighbors during the sale. Please allow parking for shoppers at your home and consider asking your neighbors if they would like to stake off their yard to avoid shoppers walking through it. Let's make this event enjoyable for everyone!



Shields Lions Club

The Shields Lions Club is a nonprofit organization functioning in Thomas Township. The Club has donated funds and support to local organizations to better serve their community.

The Shields Lions Club was founded on January 24th, 1964 with 31 Charter Members. The club motto is "We Serve" and they do. Though the Club has several ways to donate to the community, their eyeglass donations box is the most prominent. The glasses are sorted to determine those that are usable or unusable, processed and placed in inventory for distribution to optical missions around the world.

The Lions Club has donated to Thomas Township Parks & Recreation, Swan Valley High School Scholarships, the Fire Department and more. The members of this group are selfless in their efforts for their community.

Many thanks to the current and past members of the Shields Lions Club for all you do for this community.

A Message from the Police Chief

Though the holidays may be behind us, for some the festivities are still looming over their heads. Everyone loves to celebrate the holidays and sometimes that can include partaking in an adult beverage or two. If you would like to have a drink, please be responsible while doing so. For some, it's too late, the holiday cheer was a little too much, and now they are facing some serious fines and charges.

In Thomas Township, there were 47 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests as of November 30th, an increase of five OWI's from last year. What's alarming is that a majority of the OWI arrests this year, the offender had been previously convicted of an OWI.

As Police Chief, I am asking everyone to be responsible. Don't drink and drive and please do not let anyone else. You can be the person that prevents a tragedy by taking their car keys or choosing to be the designated driver or to call a taxi or Uber ride. Don't drink and drive, and remember that if you do, a police officer will have a set of cuffs and a cold cement cell for you to sleep in.

Please take a look at some of these facts regarding alcohol:

- 0.08% is the legal limit in Michigan to drink and drive.
- 0.08% means you have eight units of alcohol for every 10,000 units of blood in your bloodstream.
- A drink is either one 12-oz beer, one 5-oz glass of wine or 1.5-oz shot of hard liquor.
- It takes anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours after drinking the first sip of alcohol for it to get fully absorbed into your bloodstream.
- Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is the ratio of alcohol to blood in your body.
- Alcohol burns off at the rate of 0.016 BAC per hour for any person regardless of weight, size or gender.
- A 120-lb female having two consecutive drinks can reach 0.08% within 30 minutes, but for the 0.08% to be fully flushed from your system, you will need to wait five hours.
- A 160-lb male having three consecutive drinks can reach 0.08% within 30 minutes, but for the 0.08% to be fully flushed from your system, you will need to wait five hours.

Adverse effects on your driving can include but are not limited to:

- Impaired coordination, unable to stay in your lane or react to traffic situations.
- Your depth perception and ability to judge distance are impaired.
- Your perception of speed is impaired, driving too fast or too slow.
- Your reflexes are slow.
- Your ability to be alert and aware of your surroundings is reduced.
- Your ability to react to a traffic hazard or situation is reduced.
- Your ability to think clearly is reduced.

Al Fong,
Thomas Township Police Chief

DPW: A Year in Review

It is amazing how fast the year goes by. Even though it has been a tough year, we all tend to look back at ourselves and reminisce, so this article will highlight the efforts of the Department of Public Works over this past year.

The biggest challenges we faced this year have been the ongoing pandemic and the 500-year flooding event this past spring. These incidences have been particularly difficult to navigate through because Public Works operates and maintains the water distribution system that includes over 115 miles of water mains, 933 fire hydrants, 1,703 valves, and services 4,833 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From January 2020 through November 2020, we provided 738,350,000 gallons of water (or an average daily water use of 2,020,000 gallons per day). Over the past year, staff completed 1,571 work orders to date, repaired or replaced 300 water meters and added 15 new water customers. Your Public Works staff also responded to specific water related issues for the year that included 99 “Check for Leaks” or follow-up requests, helping residents and business owners alike find the causes of high water uses through leaky fixtures and water services. These efforts saved those customers potentially thousands of dollars in wasted water use. We also completed 148 water system valve preventive maintenance tasks and continue to systematically test and perform maintenance on the other valves in the system to ensure the reliability of the water supply.

The Public Works staff also operates and maintains the sanitary sewer system that includes over 67 miles of sewer mains, 700 manhole structures and 15 sewage pumping stations located throughout the Township. The sewer system services 3,393 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From January 2020 through November 2020, we discharged 376,970,000 gallons of sewage, or an average daily discharge of 1,030,000 gallons per day, for treatment and disposal. Besides the maintenance and operation of the water and sewer system, staff also provided over 630 underground utility location services through the MISS DIG system.

Township Buildings and facilities generally fall within the responsibilities of the Public Works Department also. This year staff performed landscape maintenance, painting and cleaning services to 7 different buildings and grounds including the Township’s Owen Cemetery. Some significant improvements were made at Owens Cemetery including repaving the cemetery roads, restoring the “Owen’s Angel” and completing some drainage and landscaping projects. We also inspected over 25 miles of sidewalk and performed preventive maintenance on 30 sidewalk pads by removing tripping hazards (These efforts saved residents and businesses the cost of having to replace the sidewalks at their expense). Public Works staff replaced the Gratiot Road Banners numerous times over the course of the year, and of course completed the Holiday decorations seen throughout the Township. A special shout out goes to our seasonal help this year that consisted of Mark, Gene and Mike. Without their hard work, Public Works would not have been able to accomplish the little extra things that make Thomas Township a great place to live.

Rick Hopper,
Director, DPW

Transitions in the Department

On a special note, one of our full-time staff, Darold “Big O” Schultz has retired from Thomas Township after 28 years of service. Darold retired on January 31, 2020. He has been an indispensable member of Public Works and served as the staff foreman. His work ethic, demeanor, leadership and kindness are missed. Good luck in retirement Darold and with your new bosses (his grandkids...). Thank you.

Renee Sullivan, our long-time utility billing clerk and front office friendly face has left us to join Saginaw Township. Renee helped us through many changes over her near-decade of work with us and is truly missed. Good luck Renee and thanks.

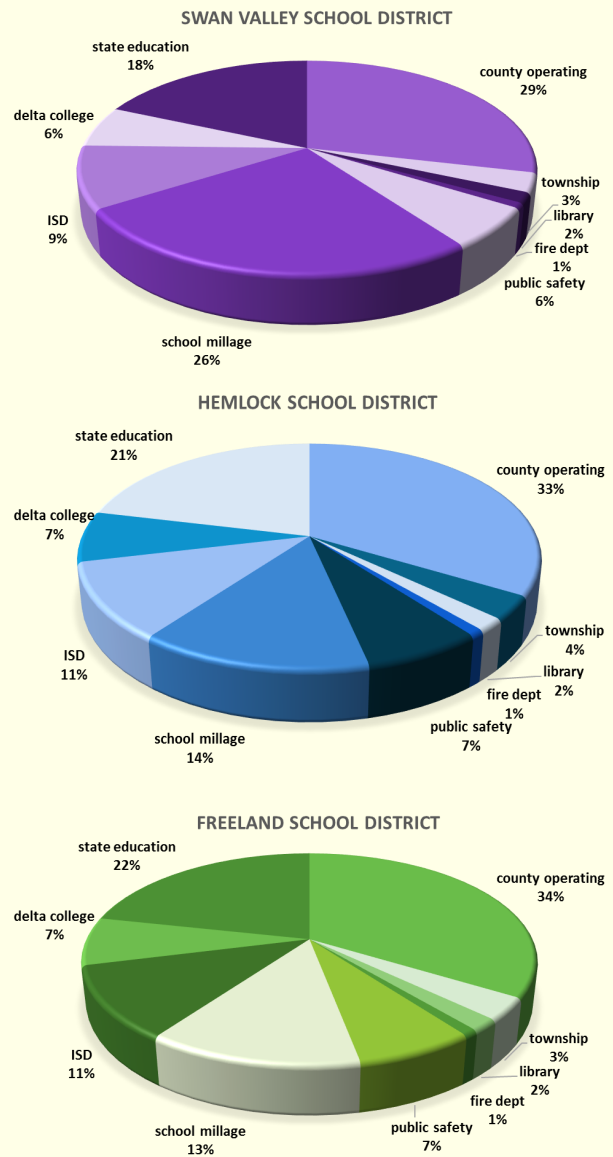
We wish you both the best of luck in your new adventures!



From the Treasurer

Although Thomas Township collects your tax dollars the percentage of your bill that is actually used to fund Thomas Township operations is approximately 13%. As the charts indicate, the Township General Operating collects approximately 3% of the total tax bill. These dollars fund the basic operations of the Township such as building operations, parks & recreation, community development and construction operations, sidewalks and limited road maintenance. The Public Safety millage accounts for approximately 7%, which helps fund the Police and Fire Departments within Thomas Township. This millage allows Police to provide 24/7 police protection and paid-on-call fire protection. The Fire Apparatus Millage is approximately 1% of your tax dollars and helps fund the equipment necessary for the Fire Department to provide fire protection within the community. The last millage that the Township collects is the Library millage. This millage supports the Thomas Township Library and provides the necessary funds to operate the library such as books, periodicals, and children's programs and also provides the necessary funds for building operations for the library.

As the chart indicates a large share of your tax dollars, 46%-53% depending on the district you live in, fund local school operations. Approximately 32% funds county operations such as senior services, public safety, mosquito control, animal control along with other county operations. For a more detailed overview of the entities that collect your property tax dollars, refer to the back of the tax notices that you receive.



Assessing Updates

Your 2021 Assessment Notices will be in your mailbox the last week of February. **THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE OF WHAT YOUR ASSESSMENT (SEV); TAXABLE VALUE (TV) AND PRE EXEMPTION WILL BE FOR 2021.** If you have any questions about your assessment notice, you should contact the Assessor as soon as your assessment notice arrives in the mail. **Do not wait**, as you may lose your opportunity to appeal these values.

There is only one time of the year that assessments can be protested, and that is at the March Board of Review. The 2021 March Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for **March 8th, 9th and 12th, 2021** (please call to make an appointment). If there is an error in your assessment and you wish to appeal the values, which the assessor placed on your property, you must attend the March Board of Review. If the Board does not agree with your appeal, you may then protest to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; however, you **must** first appeal to the March Board of Review. The Assessor can be reached Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm by calling (989) 781-0150.

Jill Peters, MAAO
Thomas Township Assessor

Join an Archery Class!

Archery classes are held at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, located at 1296 N. Gleaner Road. To give each student individual attention, class sizes are limited to 12 students, so please sign up early!

All archery classes are six week programs that are taught every Thursday. Students learn about recurve, compound and cross-bows. Instructors are certified through USA Archery and the National Field Archer's Association (NFAA).



Previous Archery Class

There are 3 class sessions offered with the first session beginning on January 7th. Registration for the first session ended on Wednesday, December 11th. The second session offered will begin in February and registrations are being taken now until the classes are full. A third session will begin in March, with registration continuing until classes are full. Dates are subject to some changes based on weather cancelations and Covid-19 restrictions.

Fees:

Resident: \$55 Non-Resident: \$60

Soccer Clinic

Our Soccer Clinic is for ages 4-8 year olds. Registration is underway for both boys and girls. You can send in your registration to the parks office or register online. The start date of our Soccer Clinic is TBD based on Covid-19 restrictions but is scheduled to start at the end of February .

The clinic is an instructional program. Participants will be taught the fundamentals of soccer. The soccer clinic will be held on Saturday mornings at Swan Valley High School, located at 8400 Ohern Road.

Ages 4-5: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Ages 6-8: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Fees:

Resident: \$50 Non-Resident: \$55



Previous Soccer Clinic

Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Carly Rusch, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau,
Director

Tyler Sutherlund,
Asst. Director

Amanda Cech,
Receptionist

The Parks & Recreation Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and can be reached at (989) 781-0151. If the office is closed for any reason, please stop into the main office for further assistance.



ONLINE REGISTRATION is available for Parks and Recreation Programming. You can access the online registration at thomastwp.org. 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. From there you should receive a confirmation email of payment. If you do not receive a confirmation, then your payment was not able to be processed and registration will not be able to be completed.

Not all programs are available for online registration. If you have any questions feel free to call the Parks and Recreation office at (989) 781-0151 or stop into the Parks and Rec office at 249 North Miller Road.

Winter Fun in the Parks

Ice Skating & Hockey

There are two ice rinks at Community Park, located behind the Thomas Township Office Building at 249 N. Miller Road. Due to unpredictable Michigan winter weather and the fact that the temperature tends to climb during the day and fall at night, we cannot guarantee the quality of the ice. One rink is for hockey and one is for leisure skating. Please pay attention to the “Rinks are Closed” signage if it is up. You will see the signs primarily after the rinks have been flooded and are not frozen solid, or after a natural thaw. We close the rinks to ensure your safety on the slushy ice.

Sledding

There is a lighted sledding hill at Day Park, located on S. River Road just north of Ronald Drive.



These winter activities are not monitored by Township Staff. Parental supervision is mandatory.

Swingin’ Seniors

The Swingin’ Seniors typically meet the first Wednesday of the month for a pot-luck luncheon and to play bingo. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Thomas Township Parks and Recreation has postponed all luncheons until further notice. For any questions please call the park office at (989) 781-0151.

2021 Pavilion Rentals

It’s time to reserve your pavilion for the 2021 season. Starting January 4th Pavilion reservations will open to **residents only**. In February, we open up the registration process to non-residents as well. Pavilions are great for birthday parties, graduation parties, family gatherings, baby showers and so many more events! To secure your spot make sure to register early as rental dates tend to fill up quickly. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, reservations will be taken by phone. All payments and rental agreements shall be mailed to the parks and recreation office at 249 N. Miller Road, Saginaw, MI 48609.

Fees: *Fees Subject to Change*

Resident: \$60 Non-Resident: \$90 Companies: \$110

Floor Hockey

Floor hockey is back again this year for grades 1st-3rd. This will be an instructional program with coaching and reffing provided by Thomas Township staff. There won’t be any practices for Floor Hockey. Kids will learn the basics of the game and be able to put their skills to the test for 6 weeks. Games will be held on Saturdays and dates are to be determined based on Covid-19 restrictions. Stop into the office at 249 N. Miller Road to register or if you have any questions. Registration is now open and will continue until February.

Fees:

Resident: \$50 Non-Resident: \$55



Floor Hockey; Face Off

Girls Basketball

Girls basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-4th grade and 4th-7th grades. Girls in 4th grade can choose to play up with the 5th-7th graders or down with the 2nd and 3rd graders. Registration is now open for both divisions.

Saturday games will hopefully begin in February, though dates are to be determined based on the Covid-19 restrictions. The draft for girls in 4th-7th grades will be announced when we have more information. Volunteer coaches are also needed for this program! Please call the Parks and Recreation Office for more information at (989) 781-0150.

Fees:

Resident: \$50 Non-Resident: \$55



Girls Basketball

A Step Back in Time– Thomas Township’s Early Businesses: Tittabawassee Boom Company

Thomas Township, formerly known as Thomastown was officially founded in 1832, though the boundaries have changed a lot since then. The river banks made for easy transportation of materials down the Tittabawassee River, one such being Lumber.

Saginaw was a logging town not so long ago, with great access to pines for days and a river to flow them down. Camps were set up along the rivers as well as most of the first boarding houses and businesses in the area. Thomas Township played its part in the logging era as well.

Thomas Township’s first known business was the Tittabawassee Boom Company, founded in 1864. It quickly became the largest of its kind for approximately 30 years. The Boom company was owned by many over its time. In its heyday the company controlled 12 miles of booms down the Tittabawassee River. This was at a time when there were around 100 sawmills lining the banks of the river.



Tittabawassee Boom Company; men working on the Tittabawassee River

Each spring tens of thousands of logs floated down the Tittabawassee River from the various streams throughout central Michigan and most were held here at Bryant’s Trip on the Tittabawassee River. Bryant’s Trip was a natural bend in the river. John Bryant was the Bryant in Bryant’s Trip and would control

the flow of the logs down the river for processing. Marked logs representing various timber companies would be sorted and stored in booms along the river. When a company needed timber, they would send a message to the boom company and the company would tow a raft of logs down to the Saginaw River Sawmills.

The Tittabawassee Boom Company even built two of the nine boarding houses in early Thomastown. People would often spend a night by the river at a boarding house and await the ferry for crossing the next day.

Eventually, mass commercial logging operations came to an end. The Tittabawassee Boom Company as a result went out of business. Though the business is gone, and Thomas Township has grown, the Tittabawassee Boom Company will forever be Thomas Township’s first known business.

Community Calendar 2020

- March 1st
Winter Taxes due in office without penalty
- March 8th - 9th
(Tentative Date)
March Board of Review at the Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive
- May 31st
Office Closed in observance of the Holiday
- July 15th - 18th
Trash & Treasures Community Wide Rummage Sale



Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

PRSR MKT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAGINAW, MI
PERMIT NO. 273

Brush Drop Off

Brush may be taken by the homeowner to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of N. Gleaner & Frost Roads (Access drive from N. Gleaner). No stumps, leaves, grass or commercial brush of any kind will be accepted. The site will be open from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following dates:

2021 Drop Off Dates:

April 3, 10, 17 & 21

May 1, 8, & 22

June 5 & 19

July 10 & 24

August 7 & 24

September 11 & 25

October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Yard Waste Pick-up will begin in April 2021