

# THOMAS Township TODAY

## Winter Wonderland

Thomas Township along with the Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the 2nd Winter Wonderland at Roberts Park. The inaugural Winter Wonderland in 2020 was a huge success and as promised, Thomas Township’s Winter Wonderland was back in 2021. There were a few changes this year that helped make the event a huge success.

This year’s Winter Wonderland was only 2 nights; December 9th and 10th. Unfortunately, our 3 night event was shortened to 2 nights due to a severe windstorm on the 11th. On the 9th, the park was lit for drive through viewing only and on the 10th, hay rides were offered through the Winter Wonderland displays. There was a viewing area for the popular Roenicke Light Show, a bonfire, s’mores, a craft tent, food and beverages, Santa with Buddy the Elf, and a fireworks show. This year there were 35 spots available to decorate which is more than we had last year.

We would 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 again this year. Bringing your light show back to the park and adding over more than two times the lights and displays created something even more magical for all to see!

### Sponsors:

Garber Chevrolet on Gratiot  
Meijer  
Thomas Township Kiwanis  
Saginaw County Parks

Fullerton Tool  
Swan Valley Pay It Forward  
Strobel Automotive  
Yeo and Yeo: Steven P. Witt

Hemlock Semiconductor  
Mid Valley Insurance  
The State Bank  
Schomaker Farms

## Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob Weise .....Supervisor
- Edward Brosowski . ....Clerk
- Steven Witt ..... Treasurer
- Michael Thayer..... ..Trustee
- David Sommers..... ..Trustee
- Craig Monahan..... ..Trustee
- Tara DeLine ..... ..Trustee
- Russell Taylor ..... . Manager

## Departments

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

## Inside this Issue

- Important Dates..... 2
- Hydrant Safety ..... 4
- Community Calendar ..... 5
- Parks Thank You..... 8
- Trash & Treasures ..... 9

## 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 7:00 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.



## 2022 Important Dates

### Holiday Trash Delays 2021

New Years Day:	NO DELAY this year
Memorial Day:	Saturday, June 4th
4th of July:	Saturday, July 9th
Labor Day:	Saturday, September 10th
Thanksgiving:	Saturday, November 26th
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.

Monday, January 10th	Monday, July 11th
Monday, February 7th	Monday, August 1st
Monday, March 7th	Monday, September 12th
Monday, April 4th	Monday, October 3rd
Monday, May 2nd	Monday, November 7th
Monday, June 6th	Monday, December 5th

### Planning Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive.

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

### Downtown Development Authority Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 9:00 am and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive.

Tuesday, January 25th	Tuesday, July 26th
Tuesday, March 22nd	Tuesday, September 27th
Tuesday, May 24th	Tuesday, November 22nd

### Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Dates

When needed, meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings begin at 4:00 pm and are held at the Public Safety Building, located at 8215 Shields Drive.

## New Police Officer

The Police Department added another new face. We welcome Brennan Ward, who replaces Paul Ross, who retired in August. Brennan was born in Saginaw and raised in St. Charles. He graduated from St. Charles High School and went on to play football at Sienna Heights University on a scholarship. He left shortly after that to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer.

To attend the police academy, he worked at Standard Electric to earn money to pay for it. After graduating from the academy, he was hired by the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department and was assigned to road patrol. After hearing that Thomas Township had an opening, he applied and was hired shortly after on October 19<sup>th</sup>. He'll start his training program soon and by the time you have received this letter, he will be patrolling Thomas Township on his own. Please welcome Brennan and congratulate him when you see him.



Officer Brennan Ward

## Outdoor Woodburning Furnaces

With winter weather upon us, temperatures dipping below freezing, and energy costs on the rise, the Building Department is frequently asked, what are the regulations for installing an outdoor wood furnace.

In many cases, if you live on a large parcel of land, outdoor wood furnaces are allowed, but their location is regulated so that neighboring property owners are not harmed by the smoke produced. As the owner of the furnace, it is important that you understand the operation before you make the purchase. This is particularly true when considering heating with an outdoor wood burning furnace, also known as an outdoor solid fuel burning furnace due to the potential negative effects from these furnaces.

Outdoor solid fuel burning furnaces must also comply with Township Zoning regulations which are in place to help prevent health hazards as well as reduce potential conflicts with neighbors. These furnaces have been known to create heavy smoke emissions if wet wood is burned. The zoning regulations include the following important rules:

Anyone installing one of these furnaces must be licensed by the State of Michigan and must secure a permit from the Township Building Department. The Township will inspect the new furnace to protect the home occupant's health and safety. Keep in mind that the minimum smoke stack height is 17 feet and it must be equipped with a spark arrester cap. The furnace cannot be placed in the front or side yard, it must be behind the home and be a minimum of 300 feet from any side or rear lot line and 300 feet from a neighbor's home. Only firewood, corn, coal and untreated lumber is permitted to be burned in the furnace.

If you are planning to purchase and install an outdoor wood burning furnace, look over the Township Ordinance and talk to the Building Inspector before purchasing the unit to ensure that it is allowed in your area. If you have a question, please contact the Thomas Township Building Department or the Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

## News from the Police Department; Slow Down

The Michigan State Police published their monthly progress report on November 28, 2021 for fatal vehicle crashes in 2020. I hate to say it folks, but it's not good. The number of fatal crashes was up from last year. The total number of fatal crashes for the year 2021 through the month of November was 923, compared to 838 in 2020. The month of August was the deadliest in 2021 with 126 deaths.

While there may be many factors in the increase of fatalities, speed is the biggest.

In an attempt to reduce the number of fatalities, police departments throughout Michigan will focus on speeding drivers between December 1, 2021 and February 28, 2021. That could mean seeing additional officers on the road and directed patrol on certain roads. Keep in mind that at times outside of that period, we will still enforce speeding violations. Let's slow down to help reduce the number of fatalities.

*Chief Al Fong*

## 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 so 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.



## Promotions and New Faces in the Fire Department

In the fire department, we have recently had a few changes which include promotions and a couple new hires. With the retirement of David Sommers as Assistant Chief, we went back to the method of having an Assistant Chief at each Station. Each Assistant Chief is in charge of the overall success and preparedness of the Stations. They ensure the members and equipment are in a state of operation to respond to your call for help at any given hour.

At Station #1, appointed to the Assistant Chief's position was Brandon Rossi and at Station #2 was Jason Grandy. Brandon has served our department for 18 years and Jason has served for 21 years. Both of these men have served in the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and now Assistant Chief. They have proven themselves as leaders and instructors and are qualified to hold these positions.

Brandon's daytime position has him serving as the fire inspector for Kochville Township. He also serves on a number of committees and organizations related to the fire and emergency services. Jason's daytime position is at Hemlock Semiconductor where he is a Safety and Emergency Service Day Technician. Both of these men teach in the local fire academies where they help educate our new upcoming fire fighters.

Due to the promotion of Jason Grandy at Station #2, Mike Fabish was promoted to Captain at Station #2. Mike has served on our fire department for 15 years and has been the Lieutenant for several years. Mike brings Human Resource type talent to our Command Staff and serves with great dedication and commitment to serving this community.

On an Interim basis, we have promoted Gary Salo to serve as a Lieutenant at Station #1 to help fill a staffing gap within the Command structure. Gary has served on our fire department for 11 years and also teaches in the County Fire Academy.



Kylar Vanderwall

We were lucky enough to hire Kylar Vanderwall and Tyler Larsen. Kylar works for us part-time during the day to help respond to calls and accomplish multiple tasks. Tyler joined our paid on-call ranks and came to us with experience as he was a member of the Tri Township Fire Department. We appreciate the talents both of these men have brought us.



Tyler Larsen

We are always looking for people who have a desire to serve his great community by being a member of the fire department. Yes, this job is paid on-call, and there are a lot of hours in training and once you are trained, there are plenty of calls for help to keep you busy... but it is very rewarding! If you have any questions about being a fire fighter OR a medical responder, please call us so we can talk about it. Call us at 989-781-4141 M-F 8-5.

Chief Mike Cousins

## DPW Year in Review

Approaching the end of 2021, it's always nice to take time to reflect. Public Works sets yearly goals, no different than yourself, and this article will provide a synopsis of everything we accomplished in 2021.

Public Works operates and maintains the water distribution system that includes over 115 miles of water mains, 934 fire hydrants, 1,705 valves, and services 5,003 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From January 2021 through November 2021, we provided 697,480,000 gallons of water (or an average daily water use of 1,760,000 gallons per day). When the calendar turns to January, we expect to have delivered around **750 MILLION** gallons of water or an average of 2.05 million gallons/day. 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 3,404 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.

Over the past year, staff completed 1,278 work orders to date, repaired or replaced 421 water meters and added 31 new water customers. Your Public Works staff also responded to specific water related issues for the year that included 85 "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 108 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.

### **Fire Hydrants need a little love....**

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. Also, please do not plow snow against a fire hydrant as you are not only making it difficult to get to it in emergencies, you are likely damaging the water pipes connecting the hydrant to the water mains underground. You never know, the next time that hydrant is needed, it may be for your home.

### **Transitions**

This year we saw Chris Shephard move on to a new community and welcomed aboard Kito Sharper. Kito comes to us with a wealth of maintenance and customer service experience.

These services you receive come only through the dedicated efforts and hard work of all the employees at Public Works. As we usher in 2022, our staff will continue to provide you with courteous and professional service. Thank you for being a resident of Thomas Township and supporting us in our work. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Department of Public Works,  
Rick, Jerri, Aleigha, Trevor, Darryl, Steve, Jayson, Tyler, Kito, Kris, Marcia, Mark, Gene, and Mike

## Community Calendar 2022

- Last week of February  
Assessment Change Notices will be in mailboxes
- February 21st  
Office Closed in observance of President's Day
- February 28th  
Winter Taxes due in office without penalty
- March 14th, 15th & 18th (Tentative Date)  
March Board of Review at the Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive
- April 1st  
Yard Waste Pick-Up begins
- May 30th  
Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day
- June 9th - 12th  
Trash & Treasures Community Wide Rummage Sale



Important  
Reminders

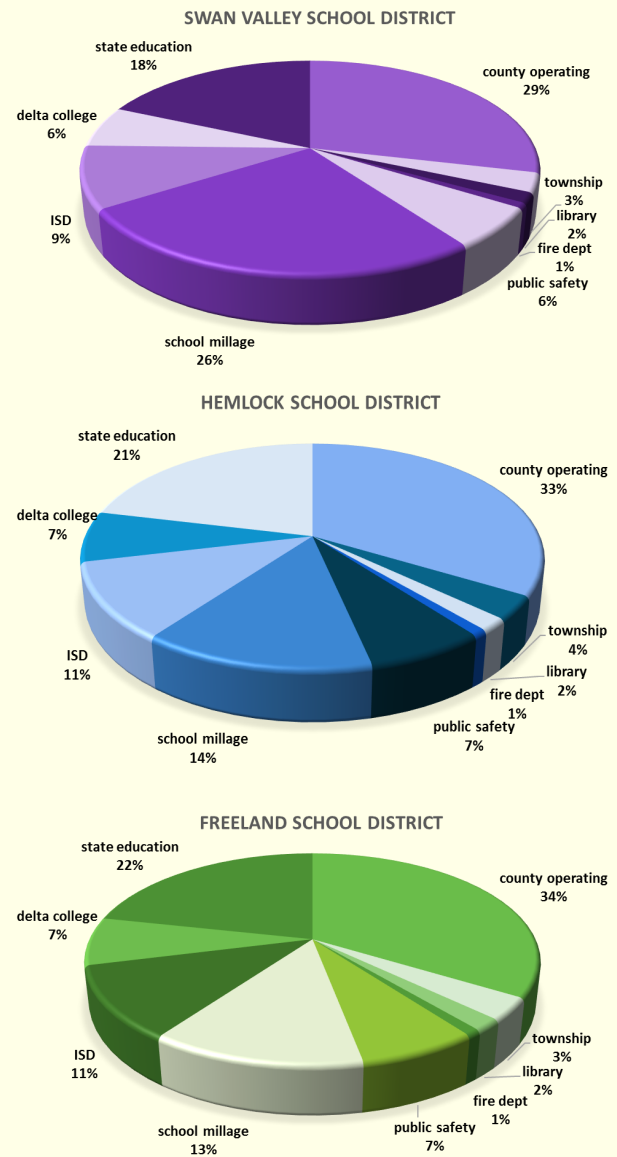


## From the Treasurer

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% of tax dollars 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.

Steve Witt, Treasurer



## Assessing Updates

Your 2022 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 2022.** If you have any questions about your assessment notice, you should contact the Assessors Office 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 2022 March Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for **March 14th, 15th and 18th, 2022** (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 Assessors Office can be reached Monday, Tuesday through 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 crossbows. 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 13th. Registration for the first session ended on Wednesday, December 17th. 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 cancellations and Covid-19 restrictions.

### **Fees:**

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

## Soccer Clinic

Our Soccer Clinic is for children ages 4-8. 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 scheduled for the third Saturday in 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: 10:15 am to 11:15 am

### **Fees:**

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



## Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Craig Aimar, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Anne Hoffman

## Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau,  
Director

Tyler Sutherlund,  
Assistant Director

Nicole Schulte,  
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](http://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 is an ice rink 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. 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.**

## A Special Thank You

We mistakenly forgot to mention some of our greatly appreciated supporters in the last edition of the newsletter so we would like to recognize them now with a SPECIAL THANK YOU to Terry & Peggy Rock , Al Fong, Darci Seamon, Lee Tents, Crooked Creek and Tim Barocko for donations they have made to our department in the 2021 year. It takes a lot to maintain our parks and run our programs and donations throughout the year are a huge help. THANK YOU!

## 2022 Pavilion Rentals

It's time to reserve your pavilion for the 2022 season. Starting January 3rd 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. Stop into the office at 249 N. Miller Road to reserve a pavilion as reservations cannot be made over the phone. If you have any questions regarding our pavilions, please call the park office at (989) 781-0151.

## Floor Hockey

Floor hockey is back again this year for grades 1st-3rd. This will be an instructional program with coaching and officiating 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 beginning the third week of February. Games will be held on Saturdays. Mouthguards are required to be worn by all participants. Stop into the office at 249 N. Miller Road to register or if you have any questions. Registration is now open and will close the last week of January.



*Floor Hockey; Face Off*

### **Fees:**

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

## Girls Basketball

Girls basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-4th grade and 4th-6th grades. Girls in 4th grade can choose to play up with the 5th-6th graders or down with the 2nd and 3rd graders. Registration is now open for both divisions.

Saturday games are scheduled to begin the third Saturday in February. The draft for girls in 4th-6th 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) 781-0151.



*Girls Basketball*

### **Fees:**

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



# Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales June 9th - 12th, 2021



**Thank you for choosing to participate in the 13th  
Annual Trash & Treasures Rummage Sales!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 you can email it to [assessor2@thomastwp.org](mailto:assessor2@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 May 30th, 2022! Please be considerate of your neighbors during the sale.**



**\* 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.**

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

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:

#### **2022 Drop Off Dates:**

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

May 7 & 21

June 11 & 25

July 9 & 23

August 6 & 20

September 3 & 17

October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

***Yard Waste Pick-up will begin in April 2021***