



2020 Evening In the Park: A Virtual Fundraiser

Every fall Thomas Township Parks and Recreation gathers to recognize all the individuals and businesses who support the Parks Program and to raise funds for the Parks Department. With Covid-19 hitting our country we have had to change many things including our annual fundraising event. We feel it's best not to gather our friends and community at this time in person, **HOWEVER we will be hosting a new online community fundraiser.** Clearly the impact of the Covid-19 crisis has caused the cancellation of the majority of our programming, which has also resulted in a large reduction in parks revenues. We hope this event will help fill the shortfall created by Covid-19 and will give all of you a chance to show your support during this challenging time.

The Parks Department has once again teamed up with our friends at Hemlock Semi-Conductor to help us create five unique videos about our Parks throughout the Township. Every day for five (5) days we will post a new video to our website, www.thomastwp.org. These videos will be posted along with a special fundraising challenge that will be really interesting and exciting! Every day when a new video is released it will highlight one of our parks along with work that has been done at the parks and future plans for the park. We are really hoping for this to be an exciting and fun way to not only raise money for our parks but also to show off each of our parks unique personalities. Not everyone may be able to visit our parks in person so this gives everyone a chance to see our parks.

We are still working out all of the details for this event but as soon as we have the information we will post it. Our goal is to have the fundraiser begin October 26th and run through October 30th. On Friday, October 30th we will get together with our friends over at Hemlock Semi-Conductor and we will be able to reveal how much money was raised for the Thomas Township Parks & Recreation Department.

Money raised for the Parks & Recreation Department is used to help maintain our parks and keep them clean and nice for our residents. It also goes towards new things for our community to enjoy. Such past items include putting a new roof on one of the Roethke Park pavilions, two (2) new volleyball courts, and the new sign currently being built outside of Roberts Park. Thomas Township works diligently to ensure our residents have clean, beautiful well-maintained parks for not only themselves but their families as well. We look forward to getting back to normal, but truly hope that the 2020 Virtual Evening in the Park Fundraiser will still be a fun event for everyone to enjoy.

John Corriveau,
Director of Parks & Recreation

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob WeiseSupervisor
- Vern Weber Treasurer
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- Michael ThayerTrustee
- David Sommers..... ..Trustee
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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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Thomas Township Business Association Golf Outing

The Thomas Township Business Association (TTBA) celebrated its 20th annual golf outing on August 10th at Apple Mountain. Thank you to the many businesses that participated in this wonderful event.

The golf outing is the TTBA's biggest fund raiser in which all of the funds raised stay right here in Thomas Township. To date, the TTBA has raised \$103,066.93 over the last 20 years from its golf outings. President Lynn McCoy attributes that to a very supportive business community.

The Thomas Township Business Association currently has 102 members. The membership drive started in September, so please consider joining this amazing organization. For more information and the current membership form please visit their website at www.ttbami.com.



Thomas Township Hometown Heroes Banners



Thomas Township along with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is proud to honor Thomas Township men and women who have served or are currently serving the United States of America by instituting the **HOMETOWN HEROES BANNER PROGRAM**. This program is a way for a service person and or family member to honor and recognize their contribution. The Hometown Hero must be a current or previous resident of Thomas Township. The banners will be displayed on the light poles along Gratiot Road (M-46) for the Veteran's Day and Memorial Day holidays.

The Hometown Heroes applications are being taken on a "first come, first served" basis. Applications will be closed once space limitations have been reached. Taking part in the program will ensure your banner will remain part of the

display for five (5) years. After that, the banners will be replaced (due to issues of fading etc.). The Township will contact the sponsor at that time to return the banner to them. If you wish to continue having a banner as part of the display, you would then have to repurchase a new banner.

You must provide a picture of the honoree to be placed on the banner. It should be provided in "digital" format for the best likeness. It should be understood, that some photos may not produce a likeness that is as clear and of the same quality. The photograph is preferred to be one of the honoree in their military uniform.

Please let us know why you chose to honor this person so that we may publish this information on the Thomas Township website and in the quarterly newsletter to further honor your "Hometown Hero".

The \$110 application fee can be paid by check, cash or money order in person, through the drop off box, or by mail to the Thomas Township Office, 249 North Miller Road, Saginaw, Michigan 48609. For any additional questions, please contact the Thomas Township Community Development Department at (989) 781-0150.

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1st, 2020 through March 1st, 2021. **At any time outside of these dates you will have to obtain the dog license from the County Courthouse or at your local veterinarians office.**

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 licenses will not be issued without the required rabies vaccination information.

Three New Faces in the Fire Department

The Thomas Township Fire Department has two new members of the department who answered the call to serve their community. Welcome **Brandon Gagnon** and **Samantha Coykendall** to the department. These two residents said they want to help their community by helping their neighbors when in need. When we ask for volunteers, we look for people who are willing to dedicate a large amount of time towards helping the community. A background check, along with a medical and physical agility exam are required to ensure we serve our community with quality people and continue with the image you have seen over the years. Those who complete this process will then continue through the hiring process as well as medical and fire classes.

Brandon and Samantha are currently attending the required medical classes and will be attending the fire academy starting in December. They will each invest approximately 460 hours between the fire academy and their medical certification. As a community, we are extremely fortunate to have a fire department consisting of dedicated members like Brandon & Samantha who give up their own time to help others. These folks maintain other full-time jobs and have family responsibilities. Somewhere in this mix, they still manage to attend trainings and meetings.

As you can see, there is more to it than just saying, “I am on the fire department.” We welcome these two new faces and I encourage each of you to say ‘thank you’ to all of the fire department members you see around our community for the hours they invest to protect you and your family.

In addition to these two responders, we have a new part-time Administrative Assistant in the fire department. **Jean Lisee** joined us in July and replaces Jenna Stevenson who left to attend college. Jean brings several years of experience with her after retiring from Saginaw City Schools. Her personality is already a perfect fit for our organization.

Thank you,
Michael Cousins,
Fire Chief

“When One Neighbor Helps Another, We Strengthen Our Community” - Jennifer Pahlka

Veterans Display at Owen Cemetery



As Veteran’s Day sneaks up on us, Thomas Township remembers our heroes with the Veteran’s Display located at Owen Cemetery. The display was constructed by residents of Thomas Township, for the benefit of honoring those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. The idea of the display was inspired by the death of Lance Corporal Thomas Echols, a Michigan raised Marine killed in action in Iraq in December, 2006. Tom was 20 years old when he died a hero helping to protect our freedoms.

Sidewalks During the Snowy Season

After a snowfall, all residents and businesses must make certain that their sidewalk is cleared within 48 hours of the storm. Michigan weather is so unpredictable and sometimes it snows for days at a time. That’s why it is important to clean your sidewalk as soon as possible, so it does not get packed down from an accumulation of several snow falls or from the walkers that use them.

Residents young and old use sidewalks to get around and exercise. Thomas Township has over 10 miles of sidewalks connecting subdivisions, businesses, parks, the library and schools. If you use the sidewalks, make sure the next time you see someone shoveling them that you express your gratitude. Their efforts are a benefit to the entire community. If you have a question about the snow removal ordinance, call the Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.



Absentee Ballot Q & A

Q. How do I receive an Absent Voter Ballot Application?

A. Applications are available online at <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/>

Q. I received an Absent Voter Ballot Application in the mail and I already filled one out in March and/or August. Do I need to fill this one out?

A. If you marked the November election on those applications then no. If you did not, then you will need to submit another application. You can check the status on this online at <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/>. Please utilize that service if you can, as our office is already busy with calls and preparations for the upcoming election.

Q. I signed up to always receive absentee ballots so why am I receiving this application?

A. Voters have the option to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list. This does not mean that they are exempt from completing an absentee ballot application. By being placed on the permanent absentee ballot application list it allows the Township to automatically mail you an application for elections in that current year. The application must be completed and returned to the Clerk in order for the Clerk to verify the signatures and distribute the requested ballots.

Q. Can I return my Absent Voter Ballot Application in the drop box at the Township Office?

A. Yes the applications can be returned via mail, in-person or by utilizing the secure drop box between the double doors or the one outside the office.

Q. I will be away at school and would like my ballot mailed there. How do I do that?

A. There is a section near the middle where you can put the start date and end date that you will be at a different location and enter the address you would like the ballot mailed.

Q. How do I know if I am registered to vote and how do I track my absentee ballot application?

A. Go to <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/> to look up everything from what is on the ballot to whether you are registered to vote and where.

Register to Vote Through Election Day

Through October 19	October 19—November 3	November 3
Register at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Secretary of State Branch Your Township or County Clerk's Office A designated state agency By mail 	Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Person with Township Clerk 	Register and vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person with Twp. Clerk, not in precinct
Residency Verification Required Acceptable Documents Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's License • State ID Card • Current Utility Bill 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Statement • Paycheck / Government Check • Other Government Document

All voters can now vote by Absentee Ballot

Step 1: Request your Ballot

Get an application at the County or Township Clerk's Offices or at Michigan.gov/vote

- Mailed in applications must be received by 5pm the Friday before the election. Your ballot will be mailed to you.
- Voters also can drop off their application in person at the Township Clerk's Office by 4pm the Monday before Election Day and get their ballot. The ballot must be voted in the office.

Step 2: Complete it, Sign it, Submit it

- Option 1: Drop off completed ballot in person to your Township Clerk.
- Option 2: Return your ballot through the mail.
- Option 3: Drop off completed ballot in the drop box outside of the Township Office

Ballots must be signed and received by 8pm on Election Day.

Vote By Mail, Early Voting and Absentee Voting

The terms “vote by mail” and “early voting” are all terms for voting by absentee ballot in the State of Michigan. A request must be made in writing, including a signature, to the Township Clerk. Once the application is received the clerk verifies the signature with the one on file and if the signatures are consistent, a ballot is mailed to the requested address. Please remember that election mail is not forwardable so list a temporary address on the application if you will be away from home. If the signatures do not match, the clerk will contact the voter by phone, email or postal mail. The voter will be asked to arrive in person to verify the signature.

Ballots are available forty days prior to the election (September 24, 2020). The mailing of ballots to the applications received will begin on that day and can be expected in your mailbox by the first week of October. Voters requesting and picking up absentee ballots in person at the Township Clerk’s Office will be subject to the Michigan voter photo identification requirement. Ballots issued in person may only be delivered to the person they are intended. Spouses and family members may return applications, but may not pick up the unvoted ballots for each other. A secure drop box is also available in the vestibule of the Township Office or just outside the building.

Registered voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail until the Friday before the election. The final deadline to apply for an absentee ballot in person is 4:00 p.m. the day before the election. A signed application must be received by the Township Clerk before an absentee ballot will be issued. The Thomas Township Clerk’s Office will be open for in-person voter registration and absentee ballot requests on Saturday, October 31, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Voters registering to vote within 14 days of an election will be required to provide proof of residency.

All returned absentee ballot envelopes are processed and tabulated on Election Day. Absentee ballots are counted by an absent voter counting board and the votes are applied to each voter’s assigned precinct along with all of the in-person votes cast on Election Day.

Voters should expect to see additional applications sent by political parties and other interest groups. Voters do not need to submit multiple applications for each election. If you have access to the internet you can check your status at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/> before filling out additional applications. This link can also be used to view a sample ballot, check the status of your voter registration, locate your polling location and track your absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

All polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with social distancing and capacity limitations in effect. Please be understanding of possible wait times and exercise your right to vote. Your vote counts.

Happy Voting,
Darci Seamon,
Deputy Clerk

ELECTIONS  **2020**

Winter Tax Bills

Winter property tax statements are scheduled to be mailed to you on or around December 1st, 2020. If the property tax statement has not been received by December 7th, 2020 please contact the Deputy Treasurer at (989) 781-0150 or request a copy through email at treasurer@thomastwp.org

For your convenience, a drop box is available near the entrance of the Thomas Township Municipal 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 31st, 2020 to be considered paid in 2020.

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

Trick or Treat Hours

Bring out the superheroes, princesses, ghouls, mermaids and more for Trick or Treating in Thomas Township from **5:30 - 7:30 pm** on Halloween night!



Halloween Safety Tips

- ☆ Trick or Treat in groups, not alone.
- ☆ Wear bright colored or reflective costumes or carry a flashlight.
- ☆ Avoid costumes that impair your vision.
- ☆ Avoid costumes that may cause a tripping hazard.
- ☆ Cross the street at crosswalks.
- ☆ Do not run in-between parked cars.
- ☆ If your child is trick or treating without a parent, make sure that you know what areas they are going to and what time they will be back.
- ☆ Don't talk to strangers.

Police Chief Addressing Nationwide Protests

Situations are breaking out all around the country. Riots are becoming commonplace along with looting and burning down buildings. I would like to address these riots caused from protesting happening around our country in places like Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Kenosha, Wisconsin; Austin, Texas; Oakland and Los Angeles, California.

I am not talking about peaceful protesters who are marching for a cause they believe in, I know that some are truly peaceful and being handled correctly. I am talking about the destruction of property, the assaulting of innocent people and the assaults on police officers who are working tirelessly to protect life and property. When protestors are burning buildings with people inside, they are not peaceful protesters, nor are they when they are throwing Molotov cocktails and arming themselves with weapons. You have seen the news clips of riots that are being broadcast on a daily basis; the images of burned out businesses, graffiti all over buildings and the masked rioters clashing with police officers. You have also seen so-called peaceful protesters attacking innocent people in public based on their race or on political affiliation. Such individuals are not protesting peacefully.

Saginaw County has so far escaped the riots and I credit that to the excellent communication that the Police Departments have with their respective community leaders and with their citizens. I feel that we have the same excellent communication with our community leaders and citizens of Thomas Township. Our goal is to continue and improve upon our communication lines with the community.

With that said, I can assure the citizens of Thomas Township and anyone traveling through Thomas Township that the Police Department is committed to upholding the Constitution of the United States and the Michigan Constitution. We will treat everyone, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation with the respect and fairness that all citizens are entitled to. Any complaints of excessive force will be thoroughly investigated.

As it is one's right under the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to protest peacefully, it is not one's right to destroy public or private property. It is not one's right to block traffic. It is not one's right to assault a police officer, a firefighter or anyone else. It is not one's right to burn buildings. It is not one's right to throw dangerous items at police officers.

The Thomas Township Police Department is committed to protecting the citizens and the businesses of Thomas Township and lawlessness and disorder will not be tolerated. The Thomas Township Police Department is working for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To the citizens of Thomas Township and to the businesses in Thomas Township, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Al Fong,
Police Chief

***"Coming Together is a Beginning; Keeping Together is Progress;
Working Together is Success."***

-Henry Ford

Haunted Train Ride Canceled for 2020

Michigan Executive order 2020-176 does not allow for amusement rides to operate and for those of you that don't know, the miniature train at Roethke Park is classified as an Amusement ride and we are a licensed operator.

For almost 50 years, the Haunted Train at Roethke Park has been scaring riders every October. The train is a landmark for generations of families who have ridden the train as kids, parents and grandparents. This is really a hard one to accept for us as this event is one of the largest fundraisers we have for the parks.

Two years ago we actually bought a second train just so we could get more riders through the park with less wait times. Our friends at **Garber Chevrolet** painted the engine and one passenger car for us, **Strobel Automotive** got the engine running and our train mechanic has been working hard to find parts and piece the new train back together.....Then COVID hit and the world changed. The train is still being worked on and hopefully this coming summer we will be back in operation. We look forward to being able to fright and delight you in October 2021!

NEW Thomas Township Winter Wonderland A drive-thru light display & show

Despite the Haunted Train not being able to operate we have come up with an idea on how to keep the Christmas Train event happening; however, slightly modified. This NEW event, Thomas Township Winter Wonderland, will become part of a community event at Roberts Park that will be held each year as part of the lighting ceremony here in Thomas Township.

Instead of decorating the train tracks, we will ask volunteers, local businesses and schools to build sites in Roberts Park along the road so we can have a Christmas Parade in cars. People will enter down Bacon Road and drive through the decorations along the road in the warmth, comfort and safety of their own cars and exit through Miller Road. We all know the kids love the train and that is the real attraction; however, we hope this will be something fun we can still do and enjoy quality time with our friends and family during the holidays.

Make sure to turn the page and check out the main attraction coming to this new event! It's always been a crowd stopper and we are so excited and thankful to have them come and be a part of the Thomas Township Winter Wonderland Event. Check it out on page 8!

Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Carly Rusch, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Eric Whelton

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.

Pavilion Rentals 2021

Starting January 4th, 2021 at 8:00 am Thomas Township **Residents Only** can begin renting pavilions for the 2021 year. Pavilion rentals will open up to **Non-Residents** beginning in February. Make sure to get your reservation in as early as possible because the pavilions rent out fast!



Roethke Park
Pavilion

Keep up to date by accessing the website

To keep up to date with Thomas Township stop by our website at www.thomastwp.org. View upcoming events and programs, Township information, Parks & Recreation programs, job postings and more.



Roenicke Light Show Moves to Roberts Park

The popular Roenicke Christmas Light Show located on Una Drive will have a new home this winter. Along with Thomas Township's **NEW** Winter Wonderland drive-thru light display, the Roenicke Christmas Light Show will be setting up their display at Roberts Park. Half way through the drive-thru light display, please park at the soccer complex and enjoy the show accompanied with music. After the show you can hand Santa's elves your Christmas wish list on your way out of Roberts Park!



Dates and times to take a drive through the Winter Wonderland:

December 3rd—5th
&
December 10th—12th

Both occasions from 6 pm-9 pm

Archery Program

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

Registration is taking place now and will continue through December 4th, for both the Beginning Archery and the Explorer Archery (formerly known as Advanced Archery) classes. There is a class for everyone's personal skill level!

Beginning Archery is for everyone from age seven through adult! Classes for beginners work on safety, form, equipment and the fundamentals to become a good archer.

Explorer Archery is for archers who have passed our beginner class and can shoot 20 yards with accuracy. Students in the Explorer group will still be honing their skills through games designed to offer a fun yet challenging experience in archery. Classes for Explorer Archers are based on using their equipment if they have it or using advanced set up bows. We have both

fully set up compound bows and longbows available for your use.

Classes will be held weekly beginning January 7th at the Saginaw Field & Stream Club, located at 1296 N. Gleaner Road. Classes will continue for six weeks.

Classes available for this winter season are as follows:

Beginner:
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

Beginner:
5:15 pm - 6:00 pm

Beginner:
6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Explorer:
6:45 pm - 7:30 pm

Explorer:
7:30 pm - 8:15 pm

Registration Fees:

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

Boys & Girls Basketball Clinic

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 also like to encourage the participants in the basketball clinic to attend the local high school games and cheer their instructors on as they play. The deadline to register is November 13th with the clinic beginning on January 9th .

Registration Fees:

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



Basketball Clinic Coach with team

Boys & Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

Boy's basketball leagues are forming for the 2nd - 4th grades and 4th—7th grades. Children in 4th grade can either play up or down. The registration deadline is November 13th. There will be a draft held for the 4th—7th grade division at the Swan Valley High School. All kids will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week. Games are held on Saturday's at Swan Valley High School. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program! To volunteer please call (989) 781-0151 to coach a team!



Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

Our girls basketball leagues are offered for 2nd—4th grades and 4th—7th grades. Children in 4th grade can play up or down. Registration for girls basketball ends on January 8th. There will be a draft held for the 4th—7th grade division at the Swan Valley High School. 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. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program! If you'd like to volunteer please call (989) 781-0151 to coach a team!

Registration Fees:

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



Girls Basketball at S.V. High

Community Calendar 2020

- October 26th - 30th (tentative) Virtual Evening In the Park Fundraiser online at www.thomastwp.org
- October 31st Trick or Treating from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- November 3rd General Presidential Election
- December 1st Dog Licenses available at Township Office with proof of Rabies Vaccination
- December 3rd - 5th Winter Wonderland light display drive-thru at Roberts Park
- December 10th - 12th Winter Wonderland light display drive-thru at Roberts Park
- January 4th, 2021 Thomas Township Resident ONLY Pavilion Rentals Begin



Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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



2020 Brush Drop Off Dates

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:

Drop Off Dates:

October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Yard Waste Pick-up will run through November 28th & resume again in April