

# THOMAS Township TODAY

## New Changes to Thomas Township Winter Wonderland

The Thomas Township Winter Wonderland was a huge success in 2020. Instead of decorating the train tracks for the Christmas Train event, we asked volunteers, local businesses and schools to build sites in Roberts Park along the road so we could have a Christmas Light drive through. We want to give a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers and businesses who participated and the community for showing their support. Due to the huge turnout, we have made some changes to the 2021 Winter Wonderland Event.

Along with the lights this year, there will be food vendors, hay rides, a craft tent, bonfires n' smores, along with Santa and Buddy the Elf. Instead of driving through the lite displays, guests will be able to take a hay ride through the lighted park which comes with admission into the event.

**2021 Dates:** December 9th, 10th and 11th



## Roenicke Light Show at Roberts Park 2021



The popular Roenicke Christmas Light Show located on Una Drive moved to Roberts Park in 2020. The Roenicke Christmas Light Show will be setting up their display at Roberts Park again in 2021. Please park by the new pavilion at the soccer complex and enjoy the show accompanied with music. The event will feature 15,000 lights on the display!

The Roenicke show ONLY will be free to anyone who wishes to see it everyday from December 12th through 31st. Donations are welcome and will be used to support the Swan Valley Pay it Forward Program.

### Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob Weise .....Supervisor
- Edward Brosofski . .... 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 Administration781-6438  
251 Miller Court
- Police Department ..781-1300  
8215 Shields Drive
- Fire Department .....781-4141  
8215 Shields Drive
- Library .....781-3770  
8207 Shields Drive

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## Trick or Treat Hours

Bring out those superheroes, princesses, ghouls, mermaids and more for Trick or Treating in Thomas Township from **5:30-7:30 pm 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.

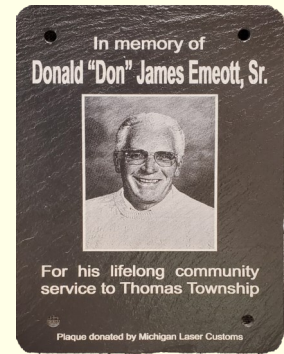
## Honoring Don Emeott

On July 27, 2021 Mrs. Jan Emeott along with family, Township Staff and the Thomas Township Downtown Development Authority members came together at Roberts Park to honor Mr. Don Emeott. Don was an active member of the Thomas Township community and was one of the founding members of the Shields Men's Club, where he spent countless hours each year preparing for the festival at what is now Roberts Park. He was the first inductee into the Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame for his work on the Township Parks Commission as well as his efforts to help create the parks in Thomas Township that we have come to know and enjoy today.

The former Shields Men's Club pavilion has been remodeled and is now a part of Roberts Park. A thank you goes to Michigan Laser Customs for creating a plaque to honor Don. The plaque is displayed on the Pavilion, once a part of the Shields Men's Club, in remembrance of Don and all of his contributions to our Community and our parks. Don was an asset to Thomas Township and will be missed by many. Thank you Don, and thank you to the Emeott family for "sharing" him with us all of these years.



Members of the family pose with the new plaque.



Don Emeott Plaque at Pavilion

## Sidewalks During the Snowy Season

Thomas Township has a large number of walkers that use the sidewalks on a daily basis. The number of walkers diminishes as the temperatures fall, but not as much as you think. On most days you can find people getting in a mile or two, or walking their dogs for an evening stretch. After school you will see kids walking from the bus stop or home from an after-school event. For these reasons, it is important to remember to keep sidewalks clear of snow as soon as a storm ends. After a snowfall, residents and businesses with sidewalk crossing their frontage must ensure that the sidewalk is cleared within 48 hours. Michigan weather is unpredictable and sometimes it snows for days at a time, 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.

More and more residents young and old are using sidewalks to get around and for exercise. Did you know that Thomas Township has over 10 miles of sidewalks connecting subdivisions, businesses, parks, libraries, the Saginaw County and Thomas Township Rail Trails, and schools? If you use the sidewalks make sure the next time you see someone shoveling them that you express your gratitude and tell them you appreciate what they are doing. Their efforts are a benefit to the entire community.

## Changes to the Police Department

Big changes have happened since the last newsletter. Two of our police officers retired from the department to enjoy life away from law enforcement, Officers Ross & Brocker have been with the department for 20 years. With two officers leaving, we will have two new faces coming into the department.

We have hired one officer to replace Officer Brocker and hopefully soon, will have hired another to bring the department back to full strength. New Officer, Albert Presley, comes from the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department. Prior to that, he worked for the Bay County Sheriff's Department for five years as a corrections officer. If your child attended Shields Elementary, you may know Albert or have seen him in the classroom as he was a substitute teacher. Albert also worked as a youth care supervisor for Wolverine Human Services.

When you see Albert, please give him a warm welcome to Thomas Township. I, for one, am happy to have him as part of our team.

Al Fong,  
Police Chief



Officer Albert Presley

## Retiring Officers from the Police Department

Big changes have happened since the last newsletter. Two of our police officers, who've been with the department for 20 years, retired to enjoy life away from law enforcement. That means there will be two new faces in the department, and you can meet one of our new hires on page 3.

Officer Charles Brocker retired after working 30 years in the Police Department. He had worked part-time for both St. Charles and Thomas Township until he was offered full-time employment with the latter. Officer Brocker had worked the night shift for most of his career and he was in charge of the evidence/property room. Officer Brocker was a very detail-oriented officer and was thorough in his work. Charles plans to spend time with his family and learn how to sleep at night now that he can have a normal schedule. He will be missed by everyone here at the Police Department and we wish him a happy retirement!



Charles Brocker



Paul Ross

Officer Paul Ross has worked with the Police Department for 20 years. He had previously worked for the Wayne County Airport Police before coming to Thomas Township. Paul primarily worked the afternoon shift, but moved to the day shift for the last two years. Officer Ross was proactive in seeking out traffic violators, arresting drunk drivers and keeping the public safe. Paul plans to spend more time camping with his family. Officer Ross will be missed by everyone here at the Police Department and we wish him good luck in his future endeavors!

## New Faces in Thomas Township

Welcome to Karen Hitz as the new Administrative Assistant for Thomas Township! Karen comes with an experienced background and is jumping in with both feet. Please welcome her the next time you stop into the Main Office.



Karen Hitz,  
Receptionist

Our Dept. of Public Works also welcomed a new member to the Township. Kito Sharper joined the team in August. Please welcome him when you see him around the Township!



Kito Sharper, DPW

## Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1st, 2021 through March 1st, 2022. **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.

## Veterans Display

Remember that Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. Thomas Township has a dedicated a 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](http://www.thomastwp.org) or by visiting the main Municipal Offices located at 249 North Miller Road.



## DPW a Year in Review

As we move into the fall, 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 will be many areas with standing water or puddles, specifically within the road rights-of-way 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.

### ***All water systems are required to regularly test for lead and copper.***

In 2021, Thomas Township tested for lead and copper in our drinking water. Testing for lead and copper content in the water is a requirement under the State Clean Water Act and requires us to sample every year. During this year's sampling period, we tested 30 independent sites representing a cross section of the water services found in the community. Our latest results showed a high level of 2.9 parts lead per billion parts of water and a low of less than the limit of detection, with an average of 1.3



parts lead per billion parts of water. These results are far below the allowable levels in drinking water and amongst the lowest in the State of Michigan. How little lead do we have in our drinking water? If we looked at that concentration related on dilution, how about the equivalent of less than 1-1/2 drops of water per a 10,000-gallon swimming pool!

There are many reasons for so little lead in our system. It begins with an excellent source water drawn from Lake Huron. The water from the lake is consistent in its chemical and mineral content versus a river source allowing standard treatment practices to be used to eliminate contaminants, even during seasonal changes.

Another reason is providing adequate treatment for corrosion control. Highly acidic waters, like those found in rivers and streams, have a tendency to corrode the interior of pipes resulting in water quality issues that could include leaching lead compounds from bronze fittings, soldered fittings or lead pipes. By adding corrosion control materials, we protect these fittings by imparting a protective coating on the inside of the fitting or pipe.

Thirdly, Thomas Township's water system is rather "young" and uses more contemporary materials in its system that contain little, if any lead. Finally, training programs and certification standards are followed for the hundreds of water professionals who work every day to ensure what you drink from your tap is of the highest quality and is safe to use.

***For more information regarding water quality in your drinking water, please visit [www.thomastwp.org](http://www.thomastwp.org) and click on the 2020 Water Quality Report.***

## Fire Dept. Annual Open House with a Twist

On September 26th we had our Annual Open House with a twist. Typically, this would have been our pancake breakfast event. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the pancake portion of the event and I know I disappointed many people by making the decision not to host this popular event inside our fire station. The rationale for this is nothing more than a desire to protect our guests and first responders. With the “uptick” in COVID-19 and the related Delta variant, I felt it could be high risk given the strong supporters we have and close quarters inside the fire station. By changing this to an outside event, it will allow us to gather in the fresh air while at the same time, allow for social distancing. This decision was not taken lightly. We had many conversations as we know the community wanted to get together. In light of this, we knew we needed to do something to see all of you again and to invite you to “our house”.

We have always appreciated the great support you have shown and want to demonstrate our appreciation by holding this “modified event”. This event held various food / drink trucks, our Police Department, the Health Departments hand sanitizer model, Sparky the Fire Dog and of course our own fire trucks to include our new ladder truck!

We ran a recruitment booth there to help explain our need for first responders. We can only hope we will be able to report in the near future, this event led to hiring more paid-on-call first responders. Many departments across Saginaw County, and even throughout the United States, are in dire need of Fire Fighters. As an example, approximately ten years ago, Saginaw County had at least 800 fire fighters. Today those ranks are closer to 500. If you have a desire to give back to your community, help those around you and have the TIME it takes to commit, please don't hesitate to contact me at:

989-781-4141 or emailing [mcousins@thomastwp.org](mailto:mcousins@thomastwp.org)

Thank You,

Mike Cousins, Fire Chief

## Fire Hydrant Safety during Winter



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.

## A New Way to Receive Your Water Bill!

Thomas Township residents can now elect to receive their water bills by email. By receiving your bill electronically, you won't need to worry about it getting lost in the mail!

A photo ID will be required to sign up to receive your bill by email. You may make a photocopy of your ID and use our drop box out front or mail it in along with the form to our main office at:

Attn: Water Dept.  
249 N. Miller Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48609

You can also simply bring the form into the main office along with your ID to sign up. The form is enclosed in this newsletter or it is also available at our website at [www.thomastwp.org](http://www.thomastwp.org).

Walk in hours for the office are from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday unless closed for a holiday. Staff is available by phone from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## Winter Tax Bills

Winter property tax statements are scheduled to be mailed to you on or around December 1st, 2021. If the property tax statement has not been received by December 6th, 2021 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, 2021 to be considered paid in 2021.

**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.

## 2021 Business/Organization of the Year

In June the Thomas Township Planning Commission represented by Mr. Rod Iamurri, Chairman and Mr. David Sommers, Planning Commission member presented the 2021 Business/Organization of the Year awards to the businesses/organizations that were selected by the Planning Commission as best demonstrating aesthetic excellence and setting a positive example for the Township. These awards are divided into two categories that reflect “small” and “large” businesses in the community. The winners for 2021 are:

### Small Business Of the Year: Shields Quick Lube

Pictured are David Sommers, Ted Bushons, Shanna Dingman, Brian Haenlein, Bill Mulders, owner, John Dingman, owner and Rod Iamurri



### Small Business Honorable Mention: Frankenmuth Credit Union

Pictured are Dana Reif, VP of Operations, Kevin Fresorger, Team Lead, Vickie Schmitzer, CEO, Rod Iamurri, Dan Wortman, Senior VP, and David Sommers.



### Large Business of the Year: Saginaw Control & Engineering

Pictured are David Sommers, Scott Baldauf, VP and Rod Iamurri



### Large Business Honorable Mention: Covenant Health

Pictured are David Sommers, Charity Cavlery, Nurse Practitioner, Karl Gruschke, Manager Practical Management, David Easton, D.O., Jessica Harper, CMA, Normalyn Mitchell, CMA, Rod Iamurri and Alicia Babock, CMA



**Congratulations to all of the winners!**

## An Evening in the Park Annual Fundraiser

This year the 2021 Evening in the Park Annual Fundraiser was held at Roberts Park on August 23rd and it was a marvelous evening with local food catered by Swan Valley Banquets and music put on by the Jim and Tim Acoustic Show. This was our 1st fundraiser back at Roberts Park since the Covid-19 pandemic began. This event is our biggest fundraising event of the year and not having our event in person last year was tough. We truly can't thank the generous people who come every year to help support our parks and our recreation programs enough! THANK YOU!

We would like to say a special thank you to Hemlock Semiconductor. Each and every year we hold this event Hemlock Semiconductor has donated \$10,000. We simply cannot thank you enough for your continued support towards our parks and our recreation programs. Without your support we wouldn't be able to make the parks and programs what they are today!

The Parks & Recreation Department depends on the work of so many people in our community who volunteer to coach, work events, help raise money or give back to their community in other ways. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated to the Parks and Recreation Department throughout the year and specifically thank everyone who donated towards the Evening in the Park Fundraiser:



HSC Donation to  
Parks & Recreation

Apple Mountain	Dave and Edith Sommers	Sally Kluck
Ann and Bob Murphy	Dean Rusch	Scott and Julie Branch
Angela Alworden	Doug Bird	Shields Lions Club
Annie and Matt Hoffman	Ed and Nancy Brosofski	Steve and Debbie Witt
Bierlein	Eric and Janice Cowles	Tara and David Deline
Bob and Mary Jo Wiese	Hemlock Semiconductor	Terry and Donna Ross
Craig and Ann Leddy	James Theisen	Terry and Margaret Ross
Craig and Deborah Monahan	James and Luann Marx	Thomas TWP Firefighters
Craig and Nicole Blower	Kiwanis Club Saginaw	Trevor and Kadie Schultz
Dana and Fred Raymond	Mike and Lynda Thayer	Vern & Yvonne Webber
	Russ and Sue Taylor	

### Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Craig Amar, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Ann Hoffman

### Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau,  
Director

Tyler Sutherlund,  
Asst. Director

Nicole Schulte,  
Secretary

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.

## Pavilion Rentals

Starting January 3rd, 2022 at 8:00 am Thomas Township **Residents Only** can begin renting pavilions for the 2022 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!

## A New Face in the Parks Department

Please welcome Nicole Schulte as the new Parks Secretary. She grew up in Chesaning and graduated in 2003 and attended Delta College and received a degree in Graphic Design. Before working at Thomas Township, Nicole worked for the State Bank as a teller. She is very excited to become a member of the team at Thomas Township and looks forward to the future here.



Nicole Schulte, Parks Secretary

## Thompson Memorial Disc Golf Course is Open



In 2020, Thomas Township purchased nearly 20 acres of land located along the South West corner of Roberts Park which extends to Dutch Road. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, the Parks and Recreation department installed a 9 hole Disc Golf Course in memory of Chris and Mari Thompson. The Thompsons willed a donation to Thomas Township Parks and Recreation which funded the development of the course. Thomas Township chose to use the donation to create a unique attraction at one of its parks that would allow the community to come together and enjoy. There are plans to install an additional 9 baskets to make the course an 18 basket course. Cutting has begun in preparation and the plan is to have the next 9 holes ready for play in the spring of 2022.

## 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 3rd, 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 13th 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:

<u>Beginner:</u>	<u>Explorer:</u>
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm	6:45 pm - 7:30 pm
5:15 pm - 6:00 pm	7:30 pm - 8:15 pm
6:00 pm - 6:45 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 12th with the clinic beginning on January 8th .

### **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 12th. 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! 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 opens in December and ends on January 7th. 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 8th & 9th  
Haunted Train Ride at Roethke Park
- October 15th & 16th  
Haunted Train Ride at Roethke Park
- October 31st  
Trick or Treating from 5:30 to 7:30 throughout Thomas Township
- November 25th & 26th  
Offices closed in observance of the Holiday
- November 27th  
Delayed Trash Pick-Up day
- December 1st  
Dog Licenses available at Township Office
- December 1st  
Winter tax bills begin arriving in mailboxes
- December 9th - 11th  
Winter Wonderland at Roberts Park
- December 23rd & 24th  
Offices closed in observance of the Holiday
- January 3rd  
RESIDENT ONLY Pavilion rentals begin at 8am



Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road  
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

PRSRT MKT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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SAGINAW, MI  
PERMIT NO. 273



*2021 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 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

*Yard Waste Pick-up will begin in April*