



Thomas Township Board of Trustees

David Sommers.....Supervisor
 Katie McDonald.....Clerk
 Steven Witt.....Treasurer
 Dale Stroebel.....Trustee
 Nate List.....Trustee
 Craig Monahan.....Trustee
 Tara DeLine.....Trustee
 Deidre Frollo.....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 Department781-1300
 8215 Shields Drive
 Fire Department781-4141
 8215 Shields Drive
 Library.....781-3770
 8207 Shields Drive
 Nature Center.....245-0801
 6660 Gratiot

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November 3, 2026 General Election Reminders

The General Election is approaching quickly. Below are some things to keep in mind:

Precinct 1 - Precinct 1 electors now vote at the Thomas Township Library, located at 8207 Shields Drive. The polling place is located **at the rear of the building**. The door is clearly marked and directional signage will be outside of the building. *There is no longer a polling place located at St. Mark Church.*

Polling places are also located at the Public Safety Building (**Precinct 3**) and at Fire Station #1 (**Precincts 2, 4 and 5**). If you are unsure as to where you should be voting, please contact the Clerk's Office at (989) 781-0150 for assistance.

Campaigning at the polls must be done outside of the 100' (one hundred foot) mark. If you are inside of this area, it is a misdemeanor. You will be asked to move. (*Michigan Election Law-Act 116 of 1954; Section 168.744*)

If you are not on the Permanent Ballot list and would like an Absentee Ballot for this election, you may do so by applying for one at the Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional Saturday hours will be held the Saturday before the election, on October 31, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., when you may also apply for an Absentee Ballot. On-line Absentee Ballot applications can be completed at the following address:
www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting.

If you are on the Permanent Ballot list but will be out of town when it is time to receive your ballot (they are sent near the end of September) you must notify us of a mailing address to send your ballot to. **BALLOTS CANNOT BE FORWARDED.** Do not miss your opportunity to vote by not receiving your ballot in the mail.

Nine days of early voting will take place at the Saginaw County Early Voting Center located at 618 Cass Street in Saginaw. This will take place from Saturday, October 24th through Sunday, November 1st, 2026. Daily hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the exception of Wednesday, October 28th when the hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registrations to vote can be completed at anytime prior to the election but please note if it falls within the 0-14 day window, before the election, registration must be completed at the Clerk's Office in order for the registrant to be able to vote in this election. You must also provide a valid proof of residency showing your name and current address in Thomas Township if registering during that time frame.

If interested in serving as an Election Inspector, contact the Clerk's Office at (989) 781-0150 for information on how to apply and training opportunities.

Connie Watt, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant



Thomas Township Today Newsletter

The Thomas Township Today newsletter will no longer be mailed out. For the Township to continue to provide the important information the newsletter contains to our residents, we will be sending the newsletter via email if you have signed up. Residents who would still like to sign up for an emailed newsletter can do so by contacting the Township Office at (989) 781-0150 or by stopping in to provide their email address. A sign-up link is also available on our website, www.thomastwp.org, by scrolling to the bottom of the home page. A simple fillable form you can submit with just a click. A limited number of newsletters will be available at the Thomas Township office.

The newsletter will be done every quarter, starting with the January 2027 edition. The newsletter is packed with information for our residents, including updates on Parks and Recreation programs, details on improvements to the water and sewer systems, as well as articles offering valuable insights into the community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Thomas Township Office.

Karen Hitz/Community Development Department



Thomas Township Honors Clerk, Michael Thayer



Michael Thayer

Thomas Township would like to remember Mr. Michael “Mike” Thayer, Township Clerk. Mike passed away on July 21, 2026, after a battle with cancer. Mike is survived by his loving wife Lynda, whom you may know ran the Thomas Township Nature Center; his two daughters, Kelsey and Kennedy; and many relatives. Mike was promoted to Grandpa (aka “Gumpers”) with his first grandchild, Jack, in 2025. Mike loved his family, friends, and his community.

Mike began his journey with Thomas Township in 2005 when he was appointed to the Thomas Township Board of Trustees. In 2022, he took on the role of Township Clerk. Mike loved the Thomas Township community, and it showed in his character, hard work, and dedication.

Thomas Township staff would like to express how deeply he will be missed. Please keep the entire Thayer family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Thanks, Mike, “It was a good run!” One of his favorite quotes. Well done.

Thomas Township Board Changes

Katie McDonald’s appointment as Township Clerk, she will no longer serve as a Township Trustee. Katie will continue to serve the remainder of Mike’s term in her new role as clerk.

Dale Stroebe has been a resident of Thomas Township for 27 years and a business owner in the community for more than 40 years. He is a graduate of Swan Valley High School and a graduate of Lincoln Technical Institute. Dale is married to Teri, and they have two sons. Both of whom are graduates of Swan Valley High School.

Dale is currently a member of the Kiwanis Club of Thomas Township, where he previously served as president. He also serves as a member of the Thomas Township Downtown Development Authority.



Katie McDonald



Dale Stroebe

New Face



Wendy Fitzmaurice

We are pleased to welcome Wendy Fitzmaurice to our staff as our new Water/Sewer Billing Clerk. Wendy started her position in January and has been doing a great job learning everything we do. Please stop by and welcome Wendy to the Thomas Township family.

Wendy grew up in the township, graduating from Freeland High School. Wendy and her husband Gary have a daughter who recently graduated from UCONN and got engaged. They are members of St. Mark Church in Thomas Township. In their free-time they enjoy boating on the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. We’re glad to have her on the team.

The Thomas Township Board and staff congratulate Katie, Dale, and Wendy on their new roles and wish them the best as they continue serving the Thomas Township community.

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1st, 2026 through March 1st, 2027.

At any time outside of these dates, you will need to obtain the dog license from the County Courthouse or your local veterinarian's office.

P.A. 195 of 1969, Sec. 6 requires the owner to show proof of valid rabies vaccination with the expiration date to obtain a dog license. **Dog licenses will not be issued without the required rabies vaccination information.**



Recreational Vehicle Equipment Parking & Storage

Reminder: All Recreational Vehicles and Equipment may no longer be parked in the primary driveway.

Only two (2) RV's are allowed on a parcel at any one (1) time.



First Responder Joins the Fire Department

We are pleased to announce that Dylan Sweaza has joined our fire department and will be assigned to Fire Station #1. Dylan has successfully completed our initial testing process and is currently serving our community. He brings valuable experience to our department, and we are confident that his addition will strengthen our team of dedicated professionals.

Adding new members to our department is always a welcome boost. Our community's needs are significant, and having more qualified people allows us to spread the workload while continuing to provide the level of service our community deserves.

We want our community to know that our hiring process is about much more than simply finding someone willing to put on a uniform. Our community has a great deal of respect for its fire department and the work we do, and we recognize the level of service you have come to expect from us. We are proud to uphold that standard.

Our selection process is thorough and includes an extensive background check utilizing multiple sources to help ensure that the people we bring onto our team are the right fit for our department and our community.

If you've ever thought about joining the fire department, we'd love to talk with you. Call us at (989) 781-4141 to learn what it takes to join our team.

Mike Cousins, Fire Chief



Dylan Sweaza

Utility Billing: Paperless Billing & Direct Debit

Thomas Township offers residents the option to receive their utility bills electronically and have payments automatically withdrawn from a designated bank account. As an added incentive, residents who enroll in Paperless Billing and/or Direct Debit will receive the following credit on each utility bill:

- Paperless Billing only: \$1.00 credit per bill
- Paperless Billing + Direct Debit: \$3.00 credit per bill

The \$3.00 credit is available only to residents enrolled in both Paperless Billing and Direct Debit. Direct Debit alone does not qualify for a utility bill credit. The credit will begin on the bill following enrollment and will continue on each bill as long as the resident remains enrolled.

Paperless Billing allows residents to receive their utility bill by email instead of receiving a paper bill through the mail. Direct Debit allows the payment to be automatically withdrawn from a designated bank account each month, eliminating the need to mail, drop off, or manually make a payment each month. These convenient options provide residents with an easier, more convenient way to manage their utility bills while reducing the need for paper and mailed payments.

Residents can contact the Thomas Township Utility Billing Department at 989-781-0150 or stop by the Utility Billing window in the Municipal Office Building to pick up the appropriate enrollment forms for Paperless Billing and/or Direct Debit.

Allie Crowl, Fiscal Services Director

Thomas Township Fire Department Served-up Pancakes



Another year of serving pancakes and more is in the books. Each year, on the last Sunday in September, we cook and serve pancakes to our supporters and host many activities for the kids. This annual event has become a big tradition for many families.

This year, we had another impressive team of people who helped us prepare pancakes. Special thanks to Rachel Arn, Mary Beth

Leach, Diane Parrent, and Crystal Irvine! These ladies have done this for years. They prepare the batter and provide it to the team who cooks the pancakes and the sausages and serves them to you. We have another team of volunteers who serve drinks and they make sure your plate does not go empty. This big event is an all-hands-on-deck event, and we ask all our members to help. Aside from a couple who must work, we typically get the majority to help. The pride this team has is amazing! Several of them even bring their families in to help ensure it is a smooth event.

Outside of the wonderful pancakes, we offered Tom's Coffee Truck, Kona Ice, Shields Lions Club, Gohm Restoration, Jump-Joy Bounce House, Michigan DNR Fire Division, Hemlock Semiconductor, Thomas Township Police and their car-seat inspections, and Thomas Township Library; all attended, each group offering a variety of things for kids and the family to enjoy.

The morning provides a suitable place to enjoy fellowship with a great community of people, all of whom support their local fire department. We take this opportunity to offer health and safety conversations with anyone who would like to know more about any safety topic.

During this event, I am sometimes asked, what do you do with the money you make? After all the food is paid for, the balance of the money is put into the Firefighters' Association fund. The firefighters use those funds to support many community events and organizations. They are incredibly good at reinvesting in the community. Another example of this is that each one of our firefighters donates one hour of their pay to a fund that supports three scholarships for any high school graduate each year! That is a clear demonstration of their support for not only our community but the future of our youth. I have also been asked about making donations. The Thomas Township Firefighters Association is a certified non-profit organization that can accept donations. The Fire Department itself can also accept donations, but we are not a non-profit.

This entire event is sponsored by both the Thomas Township Fire Department and our Firefighters Association. We both wish to say THANK YOU for your continued support!

Fire Chief Mike Cousins

Trick or Treat Hours and Safety Tips

Trick or Treating in Thomas Township will be from **5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Halloween night** for all those ghouls, ghosts, princesses, superheroes, and more.



Halloween Safety Tips

- ☆Trick or Treat in groups, not alone.
- ☆Wear bright colored or reflective costumes and 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.

Department of Public Works

Well, another summer has quickly passed us by - exceeding what should be the speed limit for seasons! As we head into fall and eventually winter, the Department of Public Works begins one of our busiest times of the year. Much of the work we do during these months happens behind the scenes. It is some of the most important preparation we can do to keep Thomas Township's water, sewers, roads, and public facilities operating properly through the winter.

Hydrant Flushing & Winterization

One of our major fall activities is flushing and winterizing the fire hydrants throughout the township. While it may look like we are simply letting water run down the street, there is quite a bit happening during this process.

Hydrant flushing helps remove sediments and mineral deposits that naturally accumulate in water mains over time. It also allows our crews to verify that hydrants are operating properly, valves are functioning, and adequate water is available for firefighting. In other words, we would much rather discover a problem with a hydrant during routine maintenance than during an emergency.

You may notice several things while we are flushing hydrants:

- **Cloudy or discolored water:** Flushing can temporarily disturb sediments in the water main. If this happens, simply run your cold-water tap for a few minutes until the water clears.
- **Water in the roadway:** Thousands of gallons of water can be released during hydrant flushing, so puddles and standing water along roads and curbs are normal.
- **Fire hoses in the roadway:** Our crews sometimes use hoses or other piping to direct water away from yards, driveways, or areas where excessive water could accumulate.



Temporary changes in water pressure: You may notice a brief change in pressure while nearby hydrants are being flushed.

Another important part of our fall hydrant work is winterization. Before freezing temperatures arrive, crews inspect hydrants and make sure they are properly drained so that water does not remain trapped inside the hydrant barrel and freeze. A frozen hydrant can be damaged and more importantly, may not function when firefighters need it.

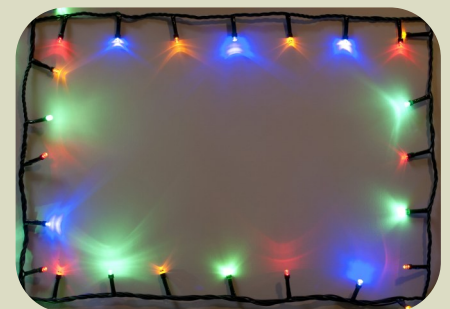
So, the next time you see a hydrant flowing in the fall, remember we are not just making a puddle; we are preparing the water system for an emergency we hope never happens.

Then There Are the Christmas Lights!

You may not know that your Public Works Department is also responsible for installing the Township's Christmas decorations, including the decorations throughout the municipal campus and along the streetlights on M-46.

Unbelievably, putting up Christmas decorations is a significant operation. Crews begin preparing equipment and decorations well before most of us are thinking about Christmas. Our goal is to have everything installed, tested, and lit by the third week of November.

So, while the rest of us are still trying to figure out where summer went, DPW is already thinking about Christmas!



Trevor Schultz – DPW Director

Thomas Township Veterans' Display

As Veterans Day approaches, Thomas Township once again remembers and honors the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Thomas Township Veterans Display, located at Owen Cemetery, was constructed by Thomas Township residents as a living tribute to those who have served our country. The idea for the display was inspired by the death of Lance Corporal Thomas Echols, a Michigan-raised Marine who was killed in action in Iraq in December 2006. Tom was only 20 years old when he died while serving his country. He left behind a young widow and an unborn daughter.



It is easy in our busy lives to take for granted the freedom we enjoy and to forget the people who have made that freedom possible. The Veteran's Display was designed not simply as a memorial, but as a place where our community can actively remember and honor its veterans.

Residents can honor a veteran by purchasing an engraved paver that is installed in the reflection area of the monument. If you would like to recognize a veteran in your family, simply stop by the Municipal Offices Building at 249 North Miller Road and complete an order form.

The cost is \$35 per paver, which represents the actual cost to the Township to purchase and engrave the paver. This is not a fundraising endeavor - it is simply an opportunity for our community to ensure that the service and sacrifice of our veterans are remembered for generations to come.

As we enter the holiday season and another winter, we encourage everyone to take a moment to appreciate the people who keep our community running - and especially those who have served, and continue to serve, our country.

Trevor Schultz – DPW Director

Help Keep Our Sidewalks Safe This Winter



With winter just around the corner, Thomas Township would like to remind property owners, residents, and businesses about the importance of keeping sidewalks clear and safe. If your property is next to a sidewalk or other pedestrian pathway, snow must be cleared within 24 hours after an accumulation of 1 inch or more. Ice should be removed as soon as possible, or treated with salt, sand, or another material to keep the surface from becoming slippery.

Keeping sidewalks clear helps everyone get where they need to go safely, including walkers, cyclists, children, and other pedestrians. If snow or ice isn't cleared as required, the Township may arrange to have it removed and charge the property owner for the cost of the work. Failure to follow the ordinance can also result in a municipal civil infraction and fines. A little time spent clearing your sidewalk can go a long way toward keeping Thomas Township safe and accessible for everyone this winter!

If you have any questions about the snow removal ordinance, call the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

Community Development Department

Host Your Next Event at the Thomas Township Rental Facility



The Thomas Township Rental Facility offers a welcoming, affordable space that's perfect for a variety of occasions. Conveniently located at **173 Miller Court, Saginaw, MI 48609**, just off Gratiot Road, this beautifully renovated facility provides an inviting atmosphere and all the essentials needed to help make your event a success.

Designed to comfortably accommodate up to **60 guests**, the rental facility is ideal for both personal celebrations and

professional gatherings. Whether you're planning a birthday party, graduation celebration, bridal or baby shower, retirement party, family reunion, anniversary gathering, holiday party, business meeting, club meeting, or community event, you'll find a clean, comfortable, and flexible space that can be arranged to fit your needs.

The recently updated interior features an open floor plan, allowing you to customize the layout for your event. Whether you prefer banquet-style seating, a classroom arrangement for meetings, or an open space for mingling, the facility can easily be adapted to create the setting you envision.

To make planning easier, the facility includes tables and chairs for your use, along with a convenient kitchenette for serving refreshments or storing items during your event. These amenities help simplify setup and allow you to focus on enjoying your special occasion with family, friends, coworkers, or guests.

During the warmer months, guests can also take advantage of the outdoor patio area. This pleasant outdoor space offers an excellent place to relax, enjoy conversation, or simply step outside for some fresh air. The patio serves as a wonderful extension of the indoor gathering space and adds even more flexibility to your event.

One of the greatest advantages of the Thomas Township Rental Facility is its affordability. It provides an attractive and convenient venue without the high rental costs often associated with banquet halls or larger event centers.

From life's biggest celebrations to important meetings and community gatherings, the Thomas Township Rental Facility offers a comfortable, versatile, and welcoming place to bring people together. Our goal is to provide a clean, enjoyable space where lasting memories can be made.

For rental rates, availability, or to reserve the facility, please contact **Thomas Township** at **989-781-6538** or email dpwsecretary@thomastwp.org.



Fall Safety Tips

Fall brings cooler weather, changing road conditions, and **less daylight**. As the days get shorter, police encourage everyone to take a few extra precautions.

Walking & Personal Safety

- Choose well-lit routes and avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas, and poorly lit shortcuts.
- Stay alert to what is happening around you. Keep your phone put away when walking.
- Whenever possible, walk with another person or in a group.
- Carry a flashlight or use your phone's flashlight when walking after dark.
- Keep purses, wallets, and other valuables out of sight.
- Tell someone where you're going and approximately when you'll return.
- If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and move to a safe, well-lit area.

Driving After Dark

- Slow down and watch carefully for pedestrians, cyclists, and children.
- Make sure headlights, brake lights, and turn signals are working.
- Clean your windshield and headlights for better visibility.
- Be especially cautious around school zones, neighborhoods, and intersections.
- Lock your vehicle whenever you leave it.
- Park in well-lit areas and look around your vehicle before getting in.

Home Safety

- Lock doors, windows, garages, and vehicles every night.
- Turn on porch, driveway, and exterior lights before it gets dark.
- Motion-activated or dusk-to-dawn lighting can improve visibility around entrances.
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed so they don't create hiding places.
- Get to know your neighbors and watch out for one another.
- Don't leave valuable items or packages visible from outside.

If you see suspicious activity, don't approach or confront the person yourself. Move to a safe place and report what you have observed.

Call **911 for an emergency or crime in progress**. For non-emergency suspicious activity, use your local police department's non-emergency number. Thomas Township Police, for example, specifically advises residents to report suspicious behavior and provides 911 for emergencies.

Fall reminder: *It may still feel like daytime when you leave - but it can be dark by the time you return. Plan, stay visible, and stay alert.*

Eric Cowles, Police Chief



Thomas Township Nature Center

After School Program

The Nature Center is excited to announce our new after school program. Students are invited to explore nature's wonders through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Each day offers opportunities to learn, imagine, and grow.

Yoga

Starting September 23rd, Jen Clor will host yoga classes at the Nature Center from 6:30p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for ages 16 and up. Enjoy a tech-free class focused on strength, stability, and stretching.

Tales By the Trail

On the last Tuesday of every month, we will be working with the Thomas Township Library for a story time. This will include songs, crafts, and treats to go along with the fun stories!

Weekly Programs

Grown-up Visits and Games: This is a free program for adults to connect and enjoy the outdoors together.

F.U.N: Families United in Nature is a free, self-paced experience with crafts and activities. Each time features a different nature-based theme.

Saturdays

We will now be open on the third Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can come to read a book, play a game, do a craft, and enjoy the outdoors and our building during this time.

After School Adventures at the Nature Center

Are you looking for a fun, educational place for your child to go after school? The Thomas Township Nature Center is excited to offer a new After School Program for students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade!

From creative nature projects to outdoor exploration, games, and discovery activities, every day offers something new. Our goal at the Thomas Township Nature Center is to help children connect with the natural world while giving them a safe space to learn, imagine, and grow.

What does an afternoon look like?

- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Drop-off & snack.
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Lesson & activities.
- 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. - Free time & pick-up.

This program is divided into three trimesters throughout the school year, with weekly registration options also available. Families who register for a full trimester at the time of registration will receive a \$10 per week discount.

Children should come prepared for outdoor learning and exploration by wearing comfortable clothing, layers, and closed-toe shoes.

For registration information, please contact the Thomas Township Parks & Recreation office at 989-781-0151. Registration is not accepted at the Nature Center. For further busing information, contact Rachel Stephens at rstephens@swanvalley.k12.mi.us.

Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Craig Aimar, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sovia

Annie Hoffman

Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau,
Director

Dylan Pattulo,
Asst. Director

Julia Reeves,
Nature Center
Coordinator

Chris Cousins,
Administrative Assistant

The Parks & Recreation
Office can be reached
Monday through Friday
at (989) 781-0151 from
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Boys & Girls Basketball Clinic and Soccer Clinics

These **five week** programs are held at **Swan Valley High School** and are for children ages 4 - 8. Our recreational staff, which consists of high school athletes, will run the participants through skill drills that will help them take the next step in basketball or soccer. We would 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 basketball skills clinic will start on January 9, 2027. The registration deadline is November 20th. The soccer skills clinic will start on February 13th, 2027. The registration deadline is January 25th.

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$60 Non-Resident: \$70



Basketball Clinic
Coach with team

Boys & Girls Basketball

4th - 6th Grade Basketball

Both boys and girls 4th - 6th grade basketball league will take place at the same time. Games start January 9th and will run for 5 weeks. The registration deadline is November 25th. There will be a draft held for the 4th - 6th grade divisions at Swan Valley High School. All participants 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.

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$60 Non-Resident: \$70

2nd - 4th Grade Basketball

2nd - 4th grade girls and boys basketball will be held at the same time this year as well. The season for 2nd - 4th grade will start on February 13th and will run for 5 weeks. Registration for 2nd - 4th grade basketball opens in December and ends on January 15th. All participants 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: \$60 Non-Resident: \$70



Boys Basketball



Girls Basketball

Community Calendar 2026/2027

- October 9th & 10th
Haunted Train Ride at Roethke Park
- October 16th & 17th
Haunted Train Ride at Roethke Park
- October 31st
Trick or Treating from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. throughout Thomas Township
- November 26th & 27th
Offices closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday
- Saturday, November 28th
Delayed Trash Pick-Up day, will be collected on this day
- December 1st
Dog Licenses available at Township Office
- December 1st
Winter tax bills begin arriving in mailboxes
- December 11th - 12th
Winter Wonderland at the Thomas Township Main Campus
- December 24th & 25th
Offices closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday
- December 31st & January 1st
Offices closed in observance of the New Year Holiday
- January 4th, 2027
RESIDENT ONLY Pavilion rentals begin at 8:30a.m.



Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers to help make the Haunted Train event a scary fun time for all who come. If you know anyone in need of volunteer hours or who may be interested in volunteering at the Haunted Train this year please call the Parks and Recreation Office at (989) 781-0151.



Keep up to date by accessing the website

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



Haunted Train

Get ready for Spooky Season: The Haunted Train at Roethke Park Returns!



For nearly 50 years, the **Haunted Train at Roethke Park** has been a beloved October tradition. As a generational landmark, it continues to welcome back kids, parents, and grandparents for an evening of thrills and spooky fun.

Thanks to the addition of a second train and an extra passenger car, waiting times have been slashed, getting you to the scares faster than ever!



Event Details & Logistics

- **Location:** [Roethke Park](#), 400 Leddy Road in Thomas Township.
- **Food & Drink:** Enjoy 3 to 4 local food vendors stationed in the parking lot each night.
- **Overflow Parking:** Available nearby at the **Crooked Creek Golf Course**.
- **Event Sponsor:** Proudly sponsored in part by **Travlin' Tom's Coffee**.



Get Involved: Volunteer or Decorate!

Want to be part of the terror? The park is looking for volunteers to decorate sites and jump out to scare riders along the tracks!



To join the scare crew: Call the parks office at (989) 781-0151.

2026 Dates:

October 9th & 10th

&

October 16th & 17th

Winter Wonderland



Big Changes Coming to the 2026 Thomas Township Winter Wonderland!

The **2026 Thomas Township Winter Wonderland** is moving to a brand-new location! Plans are underway to bring the event to the **main campus at 249 North Miller Road**, transforming the area into a festive, walkable holiday experience for the entire community.

This year's holiday magic will include:

- **Festive Venues:** Enjoy holiday activities inside the **Thomas Township Library** and the **Fire Department Training Room**.
- **Illuminated Walking Trail:** Stroll along a beautifully lit path featuring a "Tinsel Trail" a holiday twist on a traditional trunk-or-treat.
- **Cozy Amenities:** Gather around warm **fire pits** and enjoy a great selection of **local food trucks**.
- **Live Reindeer:** Meet Santa's Reindeer up close, as they will be present on **both nights** of the event.
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Watch the official lighting of a massive **22-to-24-foot** Christmas tree.
- **A Special Guest:** **Santa Claus** will make his grand arrival in style on a **fire truck**!

2026 Dates:

December 11th & 12th

Archery Program

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

Registration is taking place now and will continue through November 25th, for both the Beginning Archery and the Advanced Archery classes. Beginning archery is for everyone from age 7 through adult! Classes for beginners work on safety, form, equipment, and the fundamentals to become a good archer. Advanced Archery is for archers who have passed our beginner class and can shoot 20 yards with accuracy. Students in the advanced-group will still be honing their skills through games designed to offer a fun yet challenging experience in archery. Classes for advanced 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 five weeks.

Classes available for this winter season are as follows:

Beginner:

4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Advanced:

6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$70 Non-Resident: \$75



Pavilion Rentals

Starting January 4th, 2027 at 8:30 a.m. **Thomas Township Residents Only** can begin renting pavilions for the 2027 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!



Our mission at Thomas Township Parks and Recreation is simple: to provide top-tier community spaces and youth programs built on great coaching and strong sportsmanship. By focusing on a fun, non-competitive environment, we give kids the freedom to play, make friends, and build confidence.

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 unable 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.



INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMUNITY • SERVICE

*We are committed to working with the community to
provide quality-driven, citizen-focused services.*

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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2026 Brush Drop Off Dates

Cameras are installed to monitor use.

Brush may be taken by the homeowner to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of N. Gleaner & Frost roads. No stumps, leaves, grass or commercial brush of any kind will be accepted. The site will be open the entire weekend, Saturday and Sunday, and closed up first thing Monday morning.

Drop Off Dates:

October 3/4, 10/11, 17/18, & 24/25

***Yard Waste Pick-up will end December 11th
and begin again on April 9th, 2027***