



### Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise .....Supervisor  
Michael Thayer.....Clerk  
Steven Witt ..... Treasurer  
Katie McDonald.....Trustee  
David Sommers.....Trustee  
Craig Monahan.....Trustee  
Tara DeLine.....Trustee  
Deidre Frolo ..... 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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# Thomas Township Welcomes New Township Manager



Deidre Frollo

Thomas Township’s new manager is Deidre Frollo. The board approved her contract on April 1, 2024. Deidre has been employed with the Township since 1998. She first worked as an assistant in the Finance Department from 1992-1994, then left to attend college full-time and returned back to the Township in 1998 as Finance Coordinator. Deidre and her husband are Thomas Township residents. She earned a BBA with a major in accounting from Saginaw Valley State University. With Deidre’s knowledge, loyalty, commitment, and familiarity of the township she is sure to continue the exemplary service to our Thomas Township residents and the community. We congratulate her in her new position.



Russ Taylor

Russ Taylor made the decision to retire as Township Manager this past May. The Thomas Township Board of Trustees formally hired Russ as Township Manager back in December, 2001, although his first actual date took place in January, 2002. Russ’s experience, knowledge, and willingness to serve and conquer the many challenges of the Township has landed our community in a better place. Russ has overseen many major projects during his time with the Township. The Township Board approved Russ to stay on as Lead Project Manager at the April board meeting to oversee the numerous ongoing Township projects for another year. The Township Board and employees wish him the best in his new journey and thank him for his outstanding dedication, leadership, and the many improvements made to the Thomas Township community.

## Date Change

Due to circumstances beyond the Township’s control we had to change the dates of moving into our new building. *The new scheduled dates of moving will be Thursday, July 18th and Friday, July 19th. We will be closed those two days for moving and set up and will reopen on Monday, July 22nd.* We are beyond excited to get into our new building.



New Township Municipal Office



## Promotions in the Township Office

We are pleased to announce Thomas Township has some familiar faces in new positions here at the municipal office.



Aleigha (Allie) Crowl

Aleigha (Allie) Crowl has been selected as the new Fiscal Services Director, filling the vacancy left by Deidre. Allie joined the Township in 2021 as the new face of the Water Department and in 2022 moved into the position of Deputy Treasurer, as the position became vacant due to Korina Tucker's retirement. Allie and her husband Matt have one son, Wyatt and one on the way. She enjoys spending time with her family, going on walks with her son and dog and being outside every chance she gets during the warmer months. Allie's new duties include general ledger and supervision of accounts payable, utility billing, and tax collection functions.

Nicole Schulte has filled the vacancy of the Treasurer's Assistant position. Nicole came to the Township in 2021 as the Parks Secretary. In 2022 she moved to the role of Water Department Clerk. Nicole graduated from Chesaning High School and attended Delta College where she received a degree in Graphic Design. She lives in St. Charles with her boyfriend and two dogs. When Nicole is not working she enjoys hanging out with her family, playing with her dogs, and reading.



Nicole Schulte



Meghan Prinz

Meghan Prinz is the new Water Department Clerk. Meghan came to the Township in 2023 as the Department of Public Works Secretary. She resides in Thomas Township with her husband Kyle and their two daughters. Megan enjoys gardening, baking, and watching her kid's sports.

Filling the position of the Public Works secretary is Chris Cousins (wife of Mike Cousins, Fire Chief). They met while attending Swan Valley High School. They've been married for 36 years and have 2 sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandson, Calvin who brings them so much joy. They all reside in Grand Rapids. In her spare-time she loves to go camping, work in her perennial garden in the summer, and read.



Chris Cousins

## Water Quality Report from the DPW Department

In conformance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, Thomas Township is required to provide all users of the water system a Consumer Confidence Report each July. This report outlines the drinking water quality that is delivered to your home or business. The 2023 report, as well as all prior reports, can be reviewed by visiting the City of Saginaw's website at:

<https://www.saginaw-mi.com/447/Water-Quality>

Please take the time to read this important information regarding your drinking water quality. To request a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report, please contact us at 989-781-6438.

Beginning in late April, the DPW staff began its yearly maintenance work on both the water and sewer systems. For our water system, we will be completing preventive maintenance on all of our fire hydrants. This work will include flushing the water mains and testing the operation of each fire hydrant. The work is done to make sure that our hydrants operate properly in emergencies and to remove air, "old water" or mineral buildup that may have become trapped within the water mains. Overall, these activities will ensure the water that is delivered to your home or business is of the highest quality available. During the overall maintenance work, we will also be lubricating, painting and color coding each hydrant, while ensuring that the hydrants are un-obscured. In some areas, we will measure water pressure and flow rates of a particular water main while flushing a hydrant. The work will be completed in phases ending in October. Additionally, if you have a hydrant located in your yard, please make sure that plants and shrubs are at least 6 feet away from the centerline of the hydrant. This clear area is necessary so that the hydrant can be quickly located, hooked to and operated in emergency conditions. Thank you for your help.

Work on our sanitary sewers will begin in mid to late May and continue through the summer months as we clean major portions of the sewer pipelines of grease and "other" built up materials. Cleaning will consist of high-pressure and velocity water and is necessary to ensure that the sewers continue to flow unobstructed. This work is expected to be completed by October 1st.

DPW also performs minimal maintenance on public owned sidewalks. Our staff inspects all of the sidewalks in the Township, and "scarifies" trip hazards. Additionally, if the sidewalks are noted to be in extreme dis-repair, they will be turned in to Code Enforcement for potential replacement.

Lastly, I want to give a special shout out to our DPW employees. Thomas Township has been extremely busy the past few years with infrastructure improvements, on top of our regular responsibilities. These employees consistently go above and beyond for the Township, and they deserve recognition. Steve Everett (Foreman), Darryl Eaves, Tyler Branch, Kito Sharper, Tyler Sharp, Andy Skiendziel, John Donahue, Mark Foy, Mike Messisco, Bob Seeber, Chris Cousins, and Meghan Prinz. Thank you to ALL for your hard work and dedication.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns with anything Public Works, please call the office at 989-781-6438, or you can email me at [dpwdirector@thomastwp.org](mailto:dpwdirector@thomastwp.org)

Trevor Schultz - DPW Director



## Firefighters Give-a-Way Scholarships

I want to take a minute to brag about our firefighters. As you may or may not be aware many of the firefighters are considered paid on-call first responders and continue to give of their time selflessly. What paid on-call means is the first responders receive minimal compensation for responding to emergencies in our community such as a medical emergency, smoke or carbon monoxide alarm activation, vehicle crashes, or a fire, etc. Many of them serve our community as first responders along with maintaining other employment. Thomas Township's first responders are committed to our residents and do a fantastic job.

They are also very involved in supporting our area youth. They contribute one hour of their pay each pay period to support a local youth scholarship fund. Each year they award scholarships to graduating students going to college or trade school. This year six students applied and the committee awarded four scholarships. The selected students were: Logan Gast, Mason Horwath, Mallory Kretz, and Isiah Sova. Congratulations to each of them and we wish you the best in the next chapter of your education.

Thank you

Mike Cousins – Fire Chief

## New Road Patrol Officer

Thomas Township is pleased to welcome our new road patrol officer, Devon Barron. Devon graduated from Delta College Police Academy in May 2024. Devon is a St. Charles High School graduate. In his spare time, Devon enjoys playing softball and spending time with his family. He will be a great asset to our department. Stop and say "Hi" if you see Devon out patrolling our Thomas Township roads.



Connie Watt & Devon Barron

## Thank you Trash & Treasure Participants

With the end of another successful year. We had a total of 140-yard sales and 4 sidewalk sales. Lots of shoppers came out to find that special treasure.

New this year was the advertising on 97.3 The Joe, with a short commercial. We hope this brought in more shoppers to our township. We would like to thank Dan Hoffman from Saginaw GIS for producing the map, and 7-Eleven at 7970 Gratiot for helping us get the maps distributed. Thank you to the MMWA team for getting the trash picked up early before the sales started and the staff that worked the donation trucks that were provided by Oldtown Christian Outreach Center and Goodwill. This event couldn't happen without the help of everyone including the staff at Thomas Township. A huge Thank You to all.



## Motorcycle Safety

Summer is here and I think most Michiganders will agree that nothing beats a beautiful summer day in Michigan. Whether your perfect day involves golfing, hiking, swimming, or just going for a drive, this time of year is magical. Not only are there more vehicles on our Michigan roads this time of year, but you will see many motorcycles traveling our roads as well. In fact, according to the State of Michigan, there are currently over 600,000 licensed motorcycles in our state.

In 2017, Michigan introduced the “Look Twice. Save a Life” campaign to bring awareness to motorcycle safety. Funded in part by motorcycle endorsement fees, this campaign’s goal is to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities for motorcyclists because these accidents can be so deadly. In fact, a motorcyclist is four times more likely to suffer significant injury and twenty-four more times likely to die in an accident than someone in a vehicle crash. These stats are chilling.

The following suggestions can help you do your part to reduce the number of motorcycle accidents on Michigan roads this year.

**STOP** – The law says to come to a complete stop when entering a roadway from a parking lot, driveway, or other road. A stop sign does not have to be posted for the law to be in effect. Quite often, I encounter people who are shocked to learn that leaving their own driveway is included in this motor vehicle code. An extra five seconds to bring your vehicle to a complete stop can save a life. “Rolling through a stop sign” can, and most often will, get you ticketed if observed by a police officer.

**BE PATIENT** – It is more difficult to judge the speed and distance of a motorcycle than a truck or car. If you are unsure if you have time to pull onto a roadway, just wait. It is difficult for a motorcyclist to make quick maneuvers so if you pull out in front of them, you are most likely going to cause an accident.

**DOUBLE CHECK** – Motorcycles can easily be lost in the blind spots of your vehicle. Taking extra time to check twice can save a life. Many of the crashes that occur between a motorcycle and a vehicle happen when the vehicle is making a left turn. Always double check to your left side when pulling out into traffic. In addition, make sure before you change lanes that you have clear visibility behind you and that you are not missing a motorcycle in your back corner.

**REMOVE GRASS CLIPPINGS** – One less talked about, but important issue for motorcyclists is when people blow grass or leaves into the roadway when mowing. Leaving yard waste on the roads can make it difficult for a motorcycle to stop and turn as needed. Be a caring citizen and keep your grass and leaves out of the roadway.

Summer is a great time to hit the road and venture to your favorite Michigan destination. Vehicles and motorcycles should be able to share the road without the fear of a devastating accident. Take heed of these suggestions and enjoy your Summer. There is nothing else like it!

Chief Eric Cowles, Police Department





## Prepare for the Summer Tax Collection Season

Taxpayers have until September 16th to settle their summer tax bills without facing any penalties. For your convenience, we offer online payment options including credit/debit card and eChecks, with applicable fees. Additionally, you can set up a direct debit by requesting a form from the Treasurer's Office. If you haven't already received your tax bill, simply contact the Treasurer's Office to request a copy or inquire about the amount owed.

## Understanding the Utility Billing Process

Managing utility bills is an essential aspect of responsible homeownership or tenancy. Water and sewer services come with a quarterly billing cycle, which can sometimes be confusing to navigate. Understanding the intricacies of the billing process can help residents stay on top of their payments and avoid any unnecessary complications.

### Quarterly Billing Cycles

Residents who have a water and/or sewer service will find themselves on a quarterly billing cycle. Within this system, there are three distinct billing cycles in total. Each cycle corresponds to specific months throughout the year. This predetermined schedule helps residents anticipate and manage billing periods efficiently.

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
August	March	January
November	June	April
February	September	July
May	December	October

### Billing and Due Dates

Every month, a billing cycle is processed, aligning with the designated cycle assigned to each resident. Bills are typically mailed out by the 5th of the month corresponding to the billing cycle. However, if the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is shifted to the next business day. This adjustment ensures that residents have adequate time to submit their payments without penalties or late fees.

### Communication Channels

Maintaining open lines of communication between residents and the Utility Billing Department is vital for a smooth billing process. If residents fail to receive their bills by the 10th of the billing cycle month, they are encouraged to reach out to the department promptly. This proactive approach allows for the timely resolution of potential issues, such as lost or undelivered bills. Additionally, Thomas Township offers various alternatives for receiving and paying bills to accommodate different preferences and lifestyles:

**Email Bills:** Opting to receive bills via email provides residents with a convenient and eco-friendly alternative to traditional mail. (see enclosure)

**Direct Debit (Auto Pay):** Enrolling in automatic payments through direct debit ensures that bills are paid promptly each billing cycle, eliminating the risk of late payments. (see enclosure)

**Online Payment:** Our secure payment website lets residents conveniently pay their bills online using credit/debit cards or e-checks, with applicable fees. Please contact the Utility Billing Department if you have questions on how to pay your water/sewer bill online.

### Conclusion

Navigating the utility bill process doesn't have to be daunting. Residents can streamline the process and ensure timely payments by understanding the billing cycles, due dates, and available payment options. Effective communication with the Utility Billing Department and proactive engagement with billing alternatives can contribute to a hassle-free experience.

Allie Crowl, Fiscal Services Director

## Kiwanis Club of Saginaw - Thomas Township

Kiwanis Club of Saginaw–Thomas Township was founded in 1981. Focusing on children's causes and providing assistance in the local community as well as throughout the world. Currently, there are three Kiwanis Clubs in the tri city area, Downtown, North-West, and Thomas Township. Dale Stroebel of Stroebel Automotive is the current president for the Thomas Township Kiwanis. The group of seventeen members meets every Thursday at 7:30 am at Swan Valley High School. There is a speaker and a short meeting along with a wonderful breakfast. The public is welcome to attend. They're always looking for new members.

Some of the many projects they are a part of are CAN Council, Cystic Fibrosis, Ecumenical Food Pantry, Hidden Harvest, Junior Achievement, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Underground Railroad, Adopt a Family – Christmas, Camp Kiwanis Frankenmuth, Kiwanis Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Kiwanis Police Academy Camp, Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast, SVAA – Rally in the Valley, Swan Valley High School After Prom Party, Swan Valley High School Club Teams, Swan Valley High School Senior Scholarships, Swan Valley Medal of Honor Program, Swan Valley Middle and High School Art Awards, Swan Valley Senior CPR Training, Thomas Township Winter Wonderland, Thomas Township Parks and Recreation numerous projects, Haunted Train Renovation, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Builds, Kiwanis International Foundation Children's Fund, and Kiwanis Michigan Foundation Children's Hospital Fund. One of their major fundraisers is the September Kiwanis Golf Outing which is held at Apple Mountain. This year will be their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual outing being held on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

I sat down with Terry Rock, Secretary for the Kiwanis of Thomas Township, and asked him about the changes he has seen throughout the years in Thomas Township and Terry contributed the growth and infrastructure improvements to Thomas Township Manager Russ Taylor's commitment to the township and to the staff from the Parks and Recreation Department.

If you would like to find out more about the Kiwanis Club you may contact Terry Rock at 989-781-2995 (H) or 989-598-5600 (C) or by email at [kiwanisthomastwp@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisthomastwp@gmail.com). They encourage people to get involved and help make the community a better place to live for all.



Annual Golf Outing  
Pictured left to right: Dave Kenel,  
Steve Witt, Larry Mohr, Todd Ramos.



Stuffing boxes for the Food Pantry.  
Pictured left to right: Russ Taylor,  
Mike Wenglikowski, Steve Witt,  
Debbie Witt, Terry Rock, Rhonda  
Otway, and Fred Gray.



## Shield's Lions Club

Shields Lions Club was formed on January 29, 1964 with 31 members, for the purpose of serving the community of Thomas Township. Our Motto is: "We Serve". Our many projects include the pavilion at Robert's Park and our Lion bench and wooden train at Roethke Park. Our past projects included the Thomas Township Tennis Courts, "Jaws of Life" for our Fire Department, and our annual parade during the Shields Festival for over 45 years. We are currently donating to Thomas Township Parks and Recreation, and have established a Swan Valley Scholarship Fund as well as international projects such as Leader Dogs for the Blind, Special Needs Vision Clinic, and Lions Club International Foundation. You may have seen us at 7-Eleven on Gratiot and Miller with our white canes collecting donations, or at the Farmer's Market at Robert's Park. Stop and say Hello. We are always looking for new members, if you're interested in becoming a Lion and helping the community or have any questions, contact us at [shieldslions@charter.net](mailto:shieldslions@charter.net).



## Thomas Township Business Association strives for a Prosperous Community

Thomas Township has more than 240 businesses motivated by various business and community activities. The 100-member Thomas Township Business Association's purpose is to help the local businesses work together for a stronger community. It was incorporated in 1978, as the Shields Civic Association. Its mission is to enhance the growth and quality of life of the community by encouraging and promoting cooperation between citizens, businesses, and government.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month except June, July, August, and December from noon to 1 p.m. or so. Meetings feature a guest speaker with topics ranging from business, and education to government issues. Other special events include TTBA's steak fry in June, an annual golf outing in August, and Holiday Business After Hours in December.

The group's major fundraiser is the golf outing, held at TTBA member golf courses for the past 23 years. More than \$135,000 in net profit has been generated from the golf outing with all proceeds earmarked for local programs. For the past five years, TTBA sponsored a Greater Thomas Township Buy Local program, featuring a 32-page all-color printed section with all net profits donated to local projects. More than \$7,000 in local TTBA member gift certificates have been distributed to area residents thanks to the program.

TTBA funds many projects yearly from membership dues, golf outings, sponsorships, and other special funding programs. TTBA donations have assisted in the creation of the Thomas Township Downtown Development Authority, Gratiot Road Streetscape Project, endowing the high school scholarships annually, state highway (M-46) safety leadership, donations to Roethke & Roberts Parks, beautification projects, co-sponsor local member Business After Hours, youth programs, local festivals, local school sports and educational programs, Thomas Township fire and police projects, Rail to Trail, Swan Valley Pay It Forward, local scouting, and multi-year Roberts Park's multi-purpose pavilion, Roethke Park train cars engine acquisition & refurbishing, Thomas Twp. Nature Center and Preserve and Community Park pad on North Miller Rd. projects.

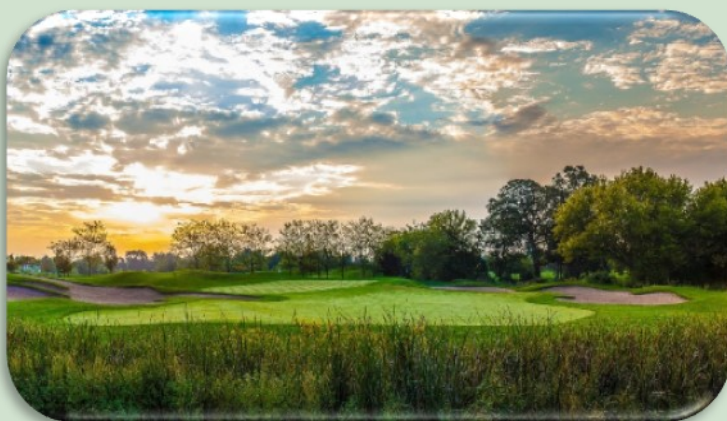
Membership and other TTBA related information are available on [www.ttbami.com](http://www.ttbami.com).

## Golfing in Thomas Township

Thomas Township has four beautiful golf courses throughout our community for our golf enthusiasts. Whether you are looking for a day of fun or would like to join a league, there is a variety of courses to choose from. Below is a list of the golf courses in our township.

### **Apple Mountain Golf Course**

John Sanford masterfully designed the par 72 championship course in 1998 to challenge (and delight) golfers of all ages and abilities. The course offers four sets of tee boxes, generous fairways, true greens and spectacular views. Season golf passes are available, you'll enjoy the type of benefits usually reserved for club membership without the monthly minimums or initiation fees. Golf lessons are also available for all age groups. If you're looking for a fun night out there is a state-of-the-art indoor golf simulator which features TrackMan 4, a powerhouse in simulation golf and the industry's premier in terms of technology and accuracy. TrackMan's combination of radar and camera tracking has led to a golf simulator experience that emulates some of the best courses in the world. Enjoy access to over 260 golf courses, various challenge games, and multiple practice ranges to get your swing data. Visit their website at [applemountain.com](http://applemountain.com)



### **Crooked Creek Golf Course**

Crooked Creek Golf Course is a public eighteen-hole course par 72, 5,740 yards, slope: 110. The course organizes a variety of events, including the golf championships and leagues.

A pro shop is also on site that stocks a variety of golf apparel and accessories for members. Crooked Creek Golf Course also operates a banquet center that offers casual and fine dining facilities for wedding receptions, graduation parties, anniversaries, reunions, seminars, meetings, and craft shows.

The course offers a driving range, batting cages, beach volleyball, banquet facility, and snack bar. Located at Gratiot Road and can be reached by phone at 989-781-0050. For more information regarding leagues, membership, and more visit their website at [crookedcreek.com](http://crookedcreek.com)



## Golfing in Thomas Township (Cont.)

### **Mueller's Valley View Farm Golf**



This eighteen-hole public course located at 1435 South Thomas Road is complete with rolling hills, ponds, and a stream flowing throughout. Beautiful trees and foliage offer an escape and show the maturity and beauty of the course throughout each season. There are four tee-off locations based on skill level: Blue, white, silver, and gold. Want to join a league? Valley View is home to some of the finest and longest running golf leagues in Mid-Michigan. There are a variety of leagues including morning, afternoon, and evening as well as weekly and bi-weekly. If you're interested in joining a league you may contact them for availability and schedules at 989-781-1248. Visit their website at [valleyviewfarmgolf.com](http://valleyviewfarmgolf.com) for more information.

### **Swan Valley Golf Course**

Swan Valley Golf Course is an 18-hole course that is a challenging, yet fair, picturesque golf course located at 9521 Highland Green Drive. The course was designed by Carl Mueller/(R) Jerry Matthews, ASGCA, the Swan Valley golf course opened in 1958. The course was redesigned in the 90's by Michigan's premiere golf course architect Jerry Matthews. The new layout takes advantage of the natural rolling terrain, while incorporating multiple large expanses of water for both beauty and challenge. The course features large undulating greens with three sets of tees. The course features 5,985 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 70. The course rating is 68.9 and it has a slope rating of 119. Leagues, membership, and open golf are all available. For more information visit their website at [swanvalleygolf.com](http://swanvalleygolf.com).





## High Grass and Noxious Weeds

In Thomas Township, it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep lawn to a height of no more than ten inches (10"). Exceeding this is a violation of the "Noxious Weeds and Uncontrolled Plant Growth Ordinance". If you receive a notification that you are in violation of the ordinance, please bring the property into compliance promptly. Working together will help to keep the appearance of the neighborhood and Township to a higher standard as well as deterring any vermin from finding a habitat to live. Contact the Code Enforcement Officer at (989) 781-0150 for any questions, concerns, or if you need extra time to get the issue corrected. Additional time may be provided as long as you are making progress to correct the violation. Let's do our best to enhance the quality of living in our Township.



## Hometown Hero

Do you have a family member or know someone who has served or is currently serving the United States of America? Thomas Township and the Downtown Development Department (DDA) offers a program to honor that person. 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 Memorial Day and Veteran's Day holidays. The cost for the banner is \$157.00 and taking part in the program will ensure your banner will be part of the display for five (5) years. You will need to fill out an application and provide a picture of the honoree preferably in their military uniform to be placed on the banner (picture to be in digital format).

If you would like to honor and recognize someone, please contact the Thomas Township Community Development Department at (989) 781-0150, visit our website [thomastwp.org](http://thomastwp.org), or stop in the main office at 249 N. Miller Rd. for more information.

Community Development Department



## Community Business Spotlight - 7-Eleven Store# 36907

Shields 7-Eleven has been owned and operated by Jeff Brock since 2017. Jeff had a vision of wanting to own a 7-Eleven since the mid-nineties. Once he learned the Shields location became available he jumped at the opportunity to fulfill his dream. 7-Eleven is a family-owned operation that loves servicing the local community. Jeff and his family lived in Thomas Township for 10 years but decided to move just a little north to Freeland. Jeff is a U.S. Army vet. He attended Delta College and Northwood University where he earned 3 degrees. Over the years Jeff has spent time as a youth soccer coach at both the recreational and travel levels. Jeff's hobbies include mountain biking, road biking, water sports, and snow skiing. He also dabbles with the electric bass and guitar as well.

7-Eleven offers a variety of refreshments, food, candy, some groceries, gas, and of course the famous Slurpee. Located at 7970 Gratiot Rd. operating 24 hours a day seven days a week for all 365 days this is a quick convenient stop for your needs. The staff is always so friendly and helpful.

Jeff likes the small-town feel and ease of access to shopping centers and parks. He loves the friendly community and feels that it is continually growing and improving with lots of job opportunities and many unique businesses. One of his favorite things is the rail trail. Stop in and grab some of your favorite treats and say hello.



Jeff Brock

Karen Hitz  
Community Development Department



## Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve: Come for a Visit!

Warmer weather is upon us and it is a great time to come for a visit to the Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve! The Nature Center is open on Tuesdays from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesdays-Fridays noon-4:00 pm, and the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 am -2:00 pm. Feel free to stop in for a visit! The Nature Preserve is open daily from dawn to dusk.

We have programs that are free of charge! On Tuesdays from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, come for our F.U.N. (Families United in Nature) evening, where there are six or so science, nature, craft, or snack activities to participate in. Most visitors usually spend about an hour or so going through the activities, enjoying the preserve, and enjoying free play time in the children's interactive area. On Wednesdays, we welcome adults of all ages from noon - 2:00 pm to come visit, have a snack, and play any of the games we have here. On Thursdays, our Little Acorns preschool group meets from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm to play, listen to a story, do activities or crafts, and go outside for a bit. On the first Saturday of every month, we host a Family Fun Day, which is similar to our Tuesday event, but with more activities.

So what can you do at the Nature Center when it is open besides programs? There's plenty to do! We have a children's interactive area that has nature-based books, color pages, activities, and games.



We have additional games and reading materials in the adult section, too! We have a selection of books with Saginaw-based themes that is fun to read, as well as a large selection of nature-themed books.

We have displays! Our display area is getting an overhaul, but you will be able to check out the Native American, logging, Hidden Hollow, and Thomas Township historical displays, as well as our habitat area. Local artist Eric Schantz has used his talents to enhance the experience.





## Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve: Come for a Visit! (Cont.)

Maybe you'd like to sit, relax, and check out what is going on in the preserve. We have comfortable seating areas for observing the outdoors, relaxing, or visiting with friends. Stop in anytime we are open!



The Nature Preserve will be going through a lot of drastic changes this summer! We will be adding a fishing platform, kayak launch, picnic pavilion, and more gravel trails. The interior of the preserve has been seeded with native plants and is growing well! We will have grass trails throughout the preserve area as well. Come out to hike, do some birding, and enjoy the natural world. Please note that the trails are for hiking only-no bikes, dogs, skateboards, etc.



You can find more information on Facebook or on the Thomas Township website. You can also email me at [naturecenter1@thomastwp.org](mailto:naturecenter1@thomastwp.org) or call the Nature Center at (989) 245-0801.

Lynda Thayer, Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve Director

## Thomas Township Parks

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation has a variety of parks for our residents to enjoy. From fishing ponds to ball diamonds, from miniature trains to concerts, from soccer fields to bike trails we have it all.

### **Roberts Park 455 South Miller Road**

Four softball diamonds, playgrounds, walking trails, fishing pond, Farmers Market, soccer fields, sand volleyball, pavilions, and disc golf.

### **Roethke Park 400 Leddy Road**

Swimming pool, sand volleyball courts, bandshell, fishing pond, three pavilions, two miniature trains, playground, hiking trails, and the home of Roethke Park Day Camp and the Haunted Train Ride.

### **Day Park 700 South River Road**

Known for its sledding hill during winter, Day Park is a beautiful green space that offers plenty of room for kids to run around.

### **Community Park**

Community Park had a major renovation this spring and will be open for use in July. The park added six brand new pickleball courts, new basketball court, and two new playscapes.

### **The Nature Center**

Come visit our little part of “Up North” at the Nature Center 6660 Gratiot Road. New this year is a kayak launch and we will have some new trails being installed along with a fishing pier.

### **Farmer’s Market**

In 2022, with the help from Schomaker Farms, the Thomas Township Farmer’s Market was established and found a home in Roberts Park under the former “Men’s Club Pavilion” which was restored by the Parks and Recreation department in 2018 - 2019. This spring we added a fifty foot by 100 foot concrete slab to expand the market space and we have filled it with new vendors already! The Farmer’s Market has plans for a couple events in 2024 to help grow the communities support and give families a place to gather and enjoy their time at the market. The market season started on June 24th and it will run every Monday from 4pm - 7pm through October 14th, except Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd.



## Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Craig Aimar, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Annie Hoffman

## Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau,  
Director

Tyler Sutherlund,  
Asst. Director

Susan Prevost,  
Receptionist

The Parks & Recreation Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and can be reached at (989) 781-0151 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If the office is closed for any reason, please see the receptionist for further assistance.

## Archery Classes 2025

Archery classes will begin Thursday, January 16th, 2025 and will continue through May 2025. There will be three, six week sessions with classes being held on Thursdays. Registrations will begin in November of 2024 and run through December of 2024. Call the Parks and Recreation Office for more information about the program at (989) 781-0151 or check our website for updates, [www.thomastwp.org](http://www.thomastwp.org).



Classes for beginners work on safety, form, equipment, and the fundamentals to become a good archer. 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 or longbows available for your use.

### **Sessions will be at the following times:**

Beginner: 4:30 - 5:15 pm    5:15 - 6:00 pm    6:00 - 6:45 pm    6:45 - 7:30 pm

Advanced: 7:30 - 8:15 pm

## Fall Soccer Leagues

Registration for fall soccer leagues for boys and girls in grades young 5's through 8th grade will begin August 5th.

The fall soccer season runs for six weeks beginning September 7th and will continue until October 19th, 2024. For more information please call the Parks and Recreation office at (989) 781-0151.

### **Registration Fee:**

Resident: \$60

Non-Resident: \$70



## Movie in the Park

The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting FREE movies in the park this summer. The movies will be held at Roberts Park at 455 S. Miller Road. The movies will begin around 9:30 pm and the concession stand at the pavilion will be open to purchase snacks and drinks during the movie! Movie dates are :

July 27th : The Great Outdoors

August 17th: Uncle Buck



**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 option 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 processed and the registration will not 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.



Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road  
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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## 2024 Brush Drop Off Dates

*Cameras are being installed this year 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 Road. 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 back up first thing Monday morning.

### Drop Off Dates:

July 13/14 & 27/28

August 10/11 & 24/25

September 7/8 & 21/22

October 5/6, 12/13, 19/20, & 26/27

*Yard Waste Pick-up will end December 6th, 2024*