



Thomas Township Board of Trustees

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Departments

Municipal Office.....781-0150
249 N. Miller Road
Parks & Recreation ..781-0151
249 N. Miller Road
DPW Administration 781-6438
251 Miller Court
Police Department...781-1300
8215 Shields Drive
Fire Department781-4141
8215 Shields Drive
Library781-3770
8207 Shields Drive

Inside this Issue

DPW Update.....2
Dog License4
Trick or Treat Info5
Drive-thru Drop Box6
Nature Center.....7
Basketball Clinics.....9
Haunted Train.....10
Community Park.....10
Archery Program.....11

Department of Public Works 2024 Fall Newsletter

As the warm weather transitions to fall, your Public Works will be busy flushing and winterizing fire hydrants throughout the water system. This is a normal maintenance function that is extremely important to ensure fire hydrants in your area work properly if needed in an emergency. As those flushing activities begin, you may see cloudy water from your home's taps. This is a normal occurrence and is typical of flushing activities. If your water appears discolored or cloudy, run your water taps for a short period 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 right-of-way and along curbs. In some cases, fire hoses or other piping is used to diffuse or direct water away from potential pooling in areas and yards.

Additionally, you may or may not know that your Public Works Department handles the installation of all Christmas-related decorations that adorn the campus and streetlights on M-46. Prep work has begun for Christmas lighting, and we intend to have everything lit up by the third week in November.

PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Thomas Township continues massive sewer upgrades to service industrial growth on the western portion of the community, while simultaneously setting the Township up for future growth as well. Two new pump stations (Geddes/Gleaner and Madeline/Sue) have been constructed to not only be able to pump higher flow rates of sewage, but also provide additional resiliency to the system. A Gravity Sewer has also been installed on Geddes road, from Glencairn drive west to Kennely road and a force main (for sewage being pumped) was installed from the corner of Geddes/Gleaner roads terminating in the newly extended Gravity Sewer on Geddes road.



Pump Station on Madeline/Sue

While those projects are pretty much wrapped up, work continues this fall with a new gravity sewer being installed on Orr Road to support the Corning plant. Another new sewage pumping station is being constructed at the corner of Orr and Geddes roads, as well as a force main to move the sewage down Orr road and terminate into the newly constructed pump station at Geddes/Gleaner roads.

Continued on page 3

Department of Public Works 2024 Fall Newsletter (Cont.)



Pump Station on Geddes/Gleaner

Additional work will be completed on the water system beginning this fall and continuing through next spring. The majority of the work will be completed at the water tower site on Graham Road, but additional isolated water main work will also occur. Any work that will require a shutdown will be accompanied by advance notice from this office as to minimize the impact on our residents.

Lastly, I want to thank ALL Township residents again for continuing to be patient during this time period of unprecedented utility construction.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything related to these projects, please call the office at 989-781-6438. You can also send me an email at dpwdirector@thomastwp.org

Trevor Schultz – DPW Director

Safety Tip from the Fire Department

**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
WASTE**

**Flammable
Corrosive
Toxic**

From time to time, we all need reminders on safety items. The saying “You don’t know what you don’t know”, holds so much truth in this area. I share this with you hoping it may prevent a dangerous situation. For this quarter, I’m going to talk about the hazards related to staining. When cleaning up or changing the appearance of furniture, flooring, or other wood products. We finish some of these projects with stains. Stains can leave the wood with a variety of colors and beauty. Although very nice looking, we do have to take safety precautions with this product specifically the rags we may use to apply the products. The stain that is left on the rags can be rather toxic and can spontaneously ignite causing a fire! I have had several conversations recently and many have no idea this could happen. Each container of these flammable stains has or should have a safety warning message advising you of the safety measures you should take and should be aware of to prevent a fire. Proper disposal should include allowing

them to dry out in a wide-open air, not near any structure. Please take the time to read the safety messages on any product you are using. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

Fire Chief Mike Cousins

Dog Licenses

Your dog is too cool not to have their own license.

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1st, 2024 through February 28th, 2025. **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.**



Get your
Dog License

Latest Happenings in the Fire Department

We have recently been pushing for fire and medical responders who reside in the northern part of our Township. This area is our Station 2's District. We've held several recruitment sessions at the Dice and N. Thomas road station in an attempt to hire much-needed, paid-on-call responders. The recruitment days did bring in a few candidates and of those candidates, we hired one person. The need continues, if you have questions or would like to know more about being a first responder, visit our website, or contact us at 989-781-4141.

I would like to introduce to you a few of our new members. The first is Travis Leach. Travis completed the Fire Academy in his senior year of high school at Swan Valley. Upon graduation, he received his Fire Fighter 1 & 2 State certification. Travis is following in his father's footsteps as he has been serving on our Fire Department for the past 23 years.

Brian Beeckman attended one of our recruitment sessions and thus answered the call to assist those in need in our Station 2 area. In addition to these two, we also brought on Mason Young. Mason comes to us eager to learn more about the fire and medical service. Mason's grandfather Larry Jarabek also served on our Fire Department in the late 70's. With Travis and Mason, it's nice to see generations in the fire service carrying on the tradition. We welcome all three of these members and wish them longevity and success as they serve our community.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tony Bell! Tony has completed the Fire Academy, received his Emergency Medical Responder License and completed his probationary requirements. He is a full-fledged firefighter/medical responder and is serving our community with his newly learned skills. Thank you to Tony and his family for the hours committed to accomplishing these goals.

Fire Chief Mike Cousins



Tony Bell

Police Department offers Car Seat Installation

We understand that car seats can be extremely confusing. Officer Bailey Gosen is a State Certified Car Seat Technician. This involves several hours of training as car seat installations are extremely complicated. Officer Bailey is able to install car seats for a preemie baby up to a child that is in a booster seat. She is also able to make sure the car seat you have is the appropriate size and installed properly. Car seat checks and installations are FREE! Also, if you qualify you can get a FREE car seat that is the correct size for your child. This is a win, win! Call Thomas Township Police Department today at 989-781-1300 and get your appointment scheduled.



Officer Bailey Gosen

Speed Safety from the Police Department

The Thomas Township Police Department receives complaints from residents, almost daily, about speeders traveling our local roadways, particularly from our residential neighborhoods. Residents are worried about their safety and the safety of others and are requesting additional patrols in the area.

According to the State of Michigan, there were 26,700 crashes in 2022. This was an 8.7% increase from the prior year. Nationwide, for this same year, over 12,000 people died in a crash where at least one of the drivers was speeding.

Many people believe the most dangerous roads to travel are the busier roadways such as US-10 or I-75; those that have higher speed limits and increased traffic. However, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, this is not true. The local roadways pose more of a danger due to the high number of drivers exceeding the posted speed limits.

As part of our job to serve and protect, our officers patrol the Township roads to cut down on speeders and keep our residents safe. It is not a matter of issuing tickets or issuing fines, it's about safety. Children under fourteen are more likely to be struck by a car on a road where the speed limit is 25 mph or less. These reduced speed limits in residential areas are extremely important.

When it comes to fines and points, these can range from \$115 to \$160 depending on speed, plus up to four points on your driving record. Points can increase the price of auto insurance. If slowing down in order to save a life is not enough motivation for speeders, the potential of the fines and points on your record should provide the additional incentive to follow the posted speed limits. In addition, these penalties are higher in school or construction zones.

While most people think about the construction zone laws as it pertains to interstate roads, local roads are also included in these laws. In 2001, "Andy's Law" created additional penalties related to driving in construction zones. These penalties include up to one year for injuring and up to 15 years for killing a construction worker. There is also a maximum fine of \$7,500 for causing the death of a construction worker in a construction zone. In 2008, this law was upgraded to include ANYONE injured or killed in a construction zone. These areas can be dangerous, so following the posted speed limit in a construction zone is a must.

The Thomas Township Police Department is committed to the safety of its residents. We will continue to patrol the Township roadways while giving increased attention to the neighborhoods where speeding is particularly bad. Please do your part by traveling at the posted speed and help to keep our community safe while also keeping your driving record clean.

Police Chief Eric Cowles

Trick or Treat Hours and Safety Tips

Trick or Treating in Thomas Township will be from **5:30 pm-7:30 pm 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.

New Update from the Finance Department: Introducing Our Drive-Thru Drop Box

We're thrilled to announce a new convenience for our residents: the Finance Department's brand-new, drive-thru drop box, now available at the north end of the municipal building! This addition is designed to make managing your water/sewer and property tax payments easier and more efficient.

Here's how it works: The drop box is situated flush against the wall on the north side of the building. To use it, simply push up on the handle to open the box, then pull down to securely close it. Once you've placed your payment inside, it will safely enter our locked deposit box within a secure room, where our team will process it the following business day.



Drop Box Location

Should you have any questions about using the drop box, need directions, or want to confirm receipt of your payment, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact Meghan in the Utility Billing Department, or Nicole or Noreen in the Property Tax Department at 989-781-0150. We're here to assist you with any inquiries you may have.

We hope this new feature enhances your experience and simplifies your payment process.

Aleigha (Allie) Crowl, Fiscal Services Director

Winter Snow Removal



In the winter, snow and ice can make sidewalks, parking lots, and driveways dangerous. Even a small amount of ice can cause a person to slip and fall. Left untouched, snow can quickly turn into ice, making the surface extremely slippery and dangerous.

In many jurisdictions, including Thomas Township, businesses are required to clear their sidewalks within a specified time after a snowfall. In Thomas Township snowfall exceeding 1 inch must be cleared within 24 hours. To ensure the safety of the public who use the sidewalks the most, the ordinance has changed. In the past, owners were given 48 hours, sent letters, and potentially ticketed when the sidewalks were not maintained properly. Starting with the institution of an updated ordinance last winter, if someone fails to clean the sidewalk of snow or ice, a notice will be sent to the owner giving them a deadline to clear the frozen materials from the sidewalk. If the owner refuses, the Township will clear the sidewalk on their behalf, and the owner will be responsible for the cost.

Next time you're out making use of the sidewalks and see someone shoveling, make sure you thank them for their efforts. If you have any questions about the snow removal ordinance, call the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

Community Development Department

Thomas Township Nature Center - What's New?

We reached our first anniversary on August 26 and celebrated at our Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 7. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of Thomas Township. One year down and more to grow!

This spring, we were able to plant native plant seeds as well as a cover crop of oats in the preserve. It takes about three years to establish a solid native planting area. We are hopeful that the next couple of years will show the results. Grass trails through the interior have been planted and mowed. Interpretive signs and way-finding signs will be added, as will benches. A floodplain forest is in its beginning stages in the north end of the preserve. Don't worry, all the items that will be in the interior of the preserve are chosen for their ability to survive flooding. If there is a major flood event, the area will be impacted, but everything has been specially selected for our location along the floodplain and the Tittabawassee River floodway. We aim to add plants and amenities to the preserve as we grow.

The long-awaited trail expansion work, fishing platform, and picnic pavilion will be completed this fall. The work is funded by a Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant. The contractors have been hard at work to create a wider gravel trail that will allow nature lovers of all ages and abilities to enjoy the preserve. Seating areas and interpretive signs will be added when the trail work is completed.

In the Nature Center, the latest improvements include a new mural and new display cases. Eric Schantz, the artist who created the habitat area, created a mural of the Tittabawassee River watershed and highlights the location of the Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve along its shores. It is a pretty unique concept and serves as a backdrop for the updated displays of Thomas Township, Native American, and logging history. Stop in and see the new updates!

Don't forget about our weekly programs that are free to the public. If you are interested in field trips or using the Nature Center building to host a civic group meeting, call the Nature Center at (989) 245-0801 or email naturecenter1@thomastwp.org. Check out our pages on Facebook and the Thomas Township website.

Lynda Thayer, Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve Director



A view of the preserve plantings and the Nature Center.



A revamped display of logging artifacts.



The new gravel trail at the observation deck.

An Evening in the Park Annual Fundraiser

The 2024 Evening in the Park Annual Fundraiser was held at Roberts Park on September 10th. It was a beautiful evening with local food catered by **Sherri Hancock with Cam's Brick Oven and music by Jeff Schrems Band**. This event is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and we truly can't thank Hemlock Semiconductor, our community, and those who come every year to help support our parks and our recreation programs enough, THANK YOU!

The Parks & Recreation Department depends on the work of so many people in our community who volunteer to coach, work the 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:

Allan Vroman	Deidre & Jim Frollo	Shields Lions Club
Apple Mountain	Ed & Nancy Brosofski	Steve & Debbie Witt
Bierlein Company	Eric & Janice Cowles	Spicer Group
Bob & Mary Jo Wiese	Hemlock Semiconductor	Terry & Donna Ross
Carla & Michael Zietz	Jack & Elizabeth Visuri	Terry & Margaret Rock
Chuck & Lori Latty	John & Jody Corriveau	Tina Gulczinski
Craig & Nicole Blower	Kiwanis Club Saginaw	Tom & Katie McDonald
Craig Monahan	Mike & Lynda Thayer	Thomas Twp. Firefighters
Dave & Edith Sommers	Russ & Sue Taylor	Trevor Schultz
Dean Rusch	Sandra Hirschman	Kluck Nursery

Thomas Township Farmers Market at Roberts Park

The Thomas Township Farmers Market started in the year 2022, and this is our 3rd operating year. We have a large variety of 30 seasonal vendors ranging from produce, baked goods, maple syrup, flowers, and other home made goods. We also have at least 6 pop-up vendors at each market. Additional features of the market include a welcome booth hosted by the Lions Club, a Young Entrepreneur booth, and 3 business spots for education and advertising of other local vendors. We also have featured the Alpaca's from Pine Haven Senior Living this year which has been enjoyed by all! Each market hosts a live musician, and has 2 food trucks and 2 beverage trucks.

Schomaker Farms is a local produce farm with a vision to create community connection in the world of agriculture. We host educational events, u-pick opportunities and more at our farm. Starting the farmers market allowed us to expand our efforts to educate, empower, and promote all the local growers, bakers, and makers of our wonderful community!

The Market operates on Mondays from 4 - 7 pm from June to October. The last market of the year will be on October 14th. This will be a special market with a car show along with a Halloween themed trunk or treat event.

Contact Info: Taylor Schomaker, schomakerfarms@gmail.com, 989-274-5557 call/text, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thomastownshipmarket/>

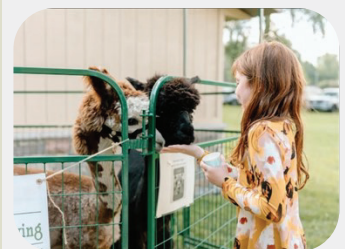
Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair
Craig Amar, Secretary
Angela Alworden
Craig Blower
Dean Rusch
DJ Sova
Ann Hoffman

Parks & Recreation Staff Members

John Corriveau, Director
Tyler Sutherland, Asst. Director
Susan Prevost, Secretary

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



Photos by Vanliew Photography

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 27th with the clinic beginning on January 11th.

Registration Fees:

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



Basketball Clinic Coach with team

Boys & Girls Basketball

4th - 6th Grade Basketball

Starting in 2025 both boys and girls 4th - 6th grade basketball will be going on at the same time. Games will be played beginning January 11th and go for 6 weeks. The registration deadline is November 27th. There will be a draft held for the 4th - 6th grade divisions at 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.

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 be on March 1st and will run for 6 weeks. Registration for 2nd - 4th grade basketball opens in December and ends on January 31st. 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: \$60 Non-Resident: \$70



Boys Basketball



Girls Basketball

Community Calendar 2024

- October 11th & 12th
Haunted Train Ride at Roethke Park
- October 18th & 19th
Haunted Train Ride at Roethke Park
- October 31st
Trick or Treating from 5:30 to 7:30 throughout Thomas Township
- November 28th & 29th
Offices closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 26th
Delayed Trash Pick-Up day
- December 1st
Dog Licenses available at Township Office
- December 1st
Winter tax bills begin arriving in mailboxes
- December 13th - 14th
Winter Wonderland at Roberts Park
- December 24th & 25th
Offices closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday
- December 31st
Offices closed in observance of the New Year Holiday
- January 2nd, 2025
RESIDENT ONLY Pavilion rentals begin at 8:30am



Volunteers Needed!

With running any event, 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

For almost 50 years, the Haunted Train at Roethke Park has been scaring riders every October. The train is a landmark for generations of families who have rode the train as kids, parents, and grandparents. With the addition of a second train purchased 6 years ago and an extra car added to the end riders wait times were reduced. We look forward to seeing you all there and welcome you back for some scary, fun times. If you would like to volunteer or decorate a site and scare riders as they go along the tracks, please call the parks office at (989) 781-0151.



Our train mechanic has been working hard to piece everything together for our riders to enjoy. We have redone the train loading area to allow for easier loading and unloading of the two trains and are looking forward to speeding up our lines. Each night there will be 3 - 4 food vendors stationed in the parking lot as well for your enjoyment. Overflow parking for the park will be located at Crooked Creek Golf Course.

2024 Dates: **October 11th & 12th** & **October 18th & 19th**

Winter Wonderland

The 2023 Thomas Township Winter Wonderland was a spectacular site to see. Local businesses, schools, and volunteers built sites in Roberts Park along the road so we could have a Christmas Light drive. Hay rides were given through the park for all to enjoy. Again this year, we are asking for the community to help decorate Roberts Park for our 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. There will be a 50/50 raffle along with the event and tickets are being sold now until the drawing on December 9th. Contact the parks office or find a Winter Wonderland elf to purchase your tickets.



2024 Dates: **December 13th & 14th**

Community Park Update



Community Park is located just behind the Township offices. Community Park was redone in 2024 as part of the Townships new municipal building project. The park has been relocated south across the parking lot and features a full-size outdoor basketball court, 6 pickleball courts, and 2 separate play equipment zones dedicated to ages 2 - 5 years of age and 5+ years of age. The play areas are currently under construction and should be completed by the end of October. Please be patient and use the park with caution while we work on installing the playscapes. There is a sidewalk that runs through the middle of the park with a drinking fountain and benches. Shade structures will be installed in the coming months.

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 November 27th, 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 7 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 9th 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	
6:00 pm - 6:45 pm	

Registration Fees:

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



Fall and Winter Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays inside the Train Depot at Roethke Park, “Yoga By Kathryn” will be offering 60 minute classes for all levels.



Beginner and parental friendly. For more information or to register for a class, you can go to www.yogabykathryn.com or email info@yogabykathryn.com. You can also find out more information by calling (404) 539-2147.



Pavilion Rentals

Starting January 2nd, 2025 at 8:30 am Thomas Township **Residents Only** can begin renting pavilions for the 2025 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!



Thomas Township Parks and Recreation has developed a truly unique program philosophy where we maintain the highest standards of coaching and sportsmanship, while kids play in a distinctive non-competitive environment. We strive to give you the best programs and parks possible.

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.

Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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

2024 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 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 up first thing Monday morning.

Drop Off Dates:

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

***Yard Waste Pick-up will end December 6th
and begin again on April 11th, 2025***