

THOMAS TODAY

Township

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

- Bob WeiseSupervisor
- Michael Thayer.....Clerk
- Steven Witt Treasurer
- Katie McDonald.....Trustee
- David Sommers.....Trustee
- Craig Monahan.....Trustee
- Tara DeLine.....Trustee
- Russell Taylor Manager

Departments

- Municipal Office.....781-0150
249 N. Miller Road
- Parks & Recreation..781-0151
249 N. Miller Road
- DPW Administration781-6438
251 Miller Court
- Police Department ..781-1300
8215 Shields Drive
- Fire Department781-4141
8215 Shields Drive
- Library781-3770
8207 Shields Drive

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Trash Pickup the week of Trash & Treasures Yard Sales - June 13th

On **THURSDAY, June 13th**, please put your trash to the road **BEFORE** going to bed. Trash pick-up will run overnight into Friday morning.

Trash pick-up will run at a different time during the yard sales so that the drivers can easily pass down streets and pick up trash before the roads become congested with traffic. If the driver is unable to go down a road due to traffic congestion, the driver must turn around and your trash will not be picked up until the following week. Some of our roads are narrow or dead ends which would make it difficult if not impossible for the driver to safely navigate the truck.



Infrastructure Boom in Thomas Township Continues

On February 27th, 2024, the State of Michigan in coordination with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Saginaw Future announced funding to support infrastructure improvements in Thomas Township.

Corning Incorporated will construct a new manufacturing facility on the border of Richland and Thomas Township on North Orr Road. Investing up to \$900 million, the plant will target to create up to 1,100 new jobs. Thomas Township will be supplying the water and sewer services to the site, which will require some substantial infrastructure improvements. The identified water and sewer improvements are noted below:

- Gravity Sewer on North Orr Road from O'Hara heading south to Geddes Road.
- New Sewer Pumping Station at the southeast corner of Geddes and Orr Road.
- New Sewer Force Main heading east on Geddes Road terminating into the currently under-construction pump station at the northwest corner of Geddes and Gleaner Roads.
- Upgrades to the City of Saginaw's Gratiot Road Booster Station near the Tittabawassee River which delivers drinking water to all residents in Thomas Township.
- Water Pressure Boosting Station located at the Township's water tower site on Graham Road, south of Geddes Road.
- 5 Check Valve Structures around the Township to support the Water Pressure Booster Station.
- New 12" water main on North Orr Road between Frost and Dice Roads.
- Water main and valve repair at the intersection of Graham and Gratiot Roads.

All of these projects will be worked on simultaneously. Coordination with our residents on when these improvements will be completed is paramount to their success. We will do our best to notify you of any upcoming work that will specifically impact you. One of the easiest things you can do to ensure you receive the notices is to sign up for updates from Saginaw County Emergency Notification Services. I will be utilizing this service to get area-specific updates to residents by a text message or call to your phone. Please follow this link below to the website, or use your favorite internet search engine and type "SAGINAW COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION REGISTRATION," and click the link from the County. Once you have signed up, please make sure you opt into the "Utility" notifications as well.

<https://www.saginawcounty.com/courts-public-safety/9-1-1-administration/emergency-notification-registration/>

I will continue to utilize Facebook for large-scale updates during the heaviest construction, so please follow Thomas Township's Facebook page for updates.

Additionally, you will be able to reach me by phone at 989-781-6438 or via email at dpwdirector@thomastwp.org

Trevor Schultz – Thomas Township DPW Director

Promotion in the DPW Department



Trevor Schultz

Thomas Township announces the promotion of Trevor Schultz to DPW Director. Trevor was promoted after Rick Hopper's retirement back in December, 2023. Trevor has been employed with Thomas Township since 1996. He was a full-time laborer from 2005 to 2017. Assistant Director from 2017 to 2023.

Trevor is a graduate of Swan Valley High School, Class of 2000. He and his wife, Kadie have two sons who attend Swan Valley School. Trevor and his family enjoy spending

quality time together. His favorite past-time is a day spent on the golf course. The Thomas Township Board and employees congratulate Trevor in his new role and thank him for his dedication and service to the community. Trevor can be reached by phone at 989-781-6438 or by email at dpwdirector@thomastwp.org.

Promotions in the Police Department

Thomas Township announces the promotion of Eric Cowles to Police Chief. Eric joined the Thomas Township Police Department as a part-time road officer in March of 1998. He was hired to full-time January 1, 2000. Cowles worked as a patrolman until he was promoted to the role of Sergeant in 2019. Eric served as Sergeant until Chief Fong's retirement in June, 2023 when he was promoted to Interim Chief. The Township Board made the official announcement of his promotion to Chief at the January 8th board meeting.

Randy Kumm has been selected as the new Sergeant of the Thomas Township Police Department, filling the vacancy left by Cowles. Sergeant Kumm has been with the Thomas Township Police Department since he was hired in April of 2000 as a road officer. Thomas Township appreciates the long-standing commitment these two men have to our community and we congratulate them both on their promotions!



Sergeant Randy Kumm & Chief Eric Cowles

Outdoor Water Restrictions Start June 1st

Beginning June 1st the annual outdoor water restrictions will be taking effect. The outdoor water restriction will continue until August 31st, 2024. During the restrictions using outdoor water for washing the car, watering the garden or grass, and other summer activities will be limited according to your address.

Even number addresses may use outdoor water on even days and odd number addresses may use water on odd days. By putting these restrictions in place, we can control excessive demands for water, which helps keep our water rates lower. Thomas Township greatly appreciates your cooperation as we conserve our water resources.



Grass Mowing Requirements

Now that April is officially here, it's time to think about getting your lawn mower ready to cut for the summer. It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep lawns to a height of no more than ten inches (10") beginning May 1st. Exceeding this is a violation of the "Noxious Weed Ordinance". If you receive a notification that your property is in violation and do not bring the property into compliance, Thomas Township may enter the property and cut the weed/plant growth. Any expenses incurred to do so will be the responsibility of the property owner and they will be charged accordingly. Upkeep of the property helps 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 or concerns.



Swan Valley School Resource Officer



Rafe Maxwell

The Swan Valley School District entered into a partnership with the Thomas Township Police Department which provided the district with their first School Resource Officer, Rafe Maxwell. Officer Maxwell has been in this position since August of 2023. Officer Maxwell visits school buildings daily, forming relationships with students and staff, attends lunch hours, and monitors the parking lots. He genuinely enjoys interacting with students of all ages and is frequently seen out at elementary recess or shooting hoops in the gym with the kids.

This year he also partnered with Ms. Shelley Hanson (Swan Valley High School Principal) and the Community Education Department to develop a smoking/drug prevention and response program. The class helps students who have been struggling with nicotine and/or other addictions that affect their learning. Brad Jeske, Health Resource Advocate, and Officer Maxwell partnered to teach the students about the negative effects of drugs and how damaging they are in all areas of life. They have held one class so far and have seen a positive response to it.

Officer Maxwell was also involved with The Amazing Race, a school fundraising event made possible by the dedication and heart of the school's guidance counselor, Christine Luplow. The students and staff raised over \$5,500 in charitable donations, and Officer Maxwell had the pleasure of delivering some of the gifts to families that benefited from the event.

Officer Maxwell is "rolling with the punches" as he puts it. Every week there is a new experience at school. Whether it is school-related, or law enforcement-related, he is constantly learning with every new endeavor. "If just my presence alone makes even one student feel safe at school, then the challenges and struggles of this new position are well worth it. Even before Columbine, we as a Country, have been looking for an answer to school violence and school safety. I truly believe SROs are the answer. I am proud to be the first Swan Valley School District School Resource Officer" says Officer Rafe Maxwell. "We very much appreciate Thomas Township's commitment to our district and the safety of our students, and it is our hope that this program will remain in place for the long term," stated Superintendent Mat McRae.

Student and faculty safety is the main goal of the SRO program. Also important is the student and police interaction. Officer Maxwell has proven to be a good fit for this program. The goal is for the relationship between students and the police to continue to grow. As Chief of the Thomas Township Police Department, I am thrilled that this has been a successful experience so far and I look forward to the continued partnership with the Swan Valley School District.

Chief Eric Cowles
Police Department

Dog Ownership Responsibility in Thomas Township

Almost fifty percent of U.S. households own at least one dog, or chances are if you do not own a dog, you most likely live next door to or near someone who does. Dogs are the most popular household pets, beating out the second place, cats, by approximately eighteen million. Below are four legal issues related to dog ownership that every dog owner should know.

The State of Michigan requires that every dog, older than four months, have a dog license. To get a license, your dog must be current on their rabies vaccination. The yearly licenses can be obtained locally at the Saginaw Animal Center, the Saginaw County Treasurer's office, your veterinarian's office, or at the Thomas Township office (December 1st through February 28th only). Dog licenses help reunite lost dogs with their owners, and the funds raised from the license fees go toward helping care for lost, abandoned, mistreated, or injured animals.

In addition to having your dog licensed, owners are expected to keep their dogs appropriately contained on their property. When on public property, leashes are a requirement. Many dog owners like to let their dogs run free, but this is a violation of the law which could result in a ticket. Or worse yet, you could be liable if your dog were to bite someone because you didn't adequately contain it.

On occasion, my officers get called to homes for barking dogs. There is some confusion, and sometimes disbelief from residents, related to the barking dog ordinance. Dog owners are expected to keep their dogs from "frequent or continued duration of sounds which create a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary." It is not unreasonable to expect a dog to bark if they see a squirrel or another dog. What is not right is if a dog is left outside and unattended to bark nonstop with no one to interrupt this action. Dog owners who have doggy doors that allow the dogs to go outside should have a plan in place, such as a neighbor who can intervene if the dog becomes a disturbance. It is understandable that people work and need to let their dogs outside for breaks. Fortunately, there are services available that will provide dog walking or "let out" breaks to help assist people who can't get home during the day.

Lastly, while it is not a fun topic to discuss, there are laws regarding your dog's waste. Not all dogs are disciplined enough to take a walk without using it as an opportunity to relieve themselves. If you have a dog that likes to mark its territory while on a walk, try walking on a trail or a less residential area than the local neighborhood. If that is not an option, start your walk by going around your yard first, hopefully getting your dog to take care of its business before starting the walk. If you are walking on a sidewalk, have your dog walk between the sidewalk and the road as opposed to walking in the neighbor's yard. Also, if a dog tries to leave its scent on the neighbor's manicured landscaping, pull it away and opt for the dandelion or pinecone instead. It is not just an unsightly nuisance; it is full of harmful bacteria which can stay in the ground long after the poop itself is gone. It is not a fertilizer, as I know many dog owners like to claim. It is bad for the lawn and can be unsafe for humans as well as other pets. Dog waste can take weeks, months, or even up to a year to decompose. Be a responsible dog owner and pick up after your dog.

Dog ownership comes with many rewards but also big responsibilities. Following these simple guidelines will help you stay clear of law enforcement and allow you to enjoy your pet, hopefully for many years to come. A copy of the loose or barking dog ordinance is available on the Township's website at www.thomastwp.org. *Please call the Central Dispatch non-emergency number at (989) 797-4580 if you have a complaint regarding a loose or barking dog.*

Eric Cowles – Police Chief



Fire Station #1 - New Chapter



Fire Station #1

As you know, Fire Station #1 underwent a facelift for some much needed improvements. The improvements included a radio dispatch room, a command room, and a meeting room. The meeting room also serves as a polling location for three precincts and a training room for our firefighters.

The February election was held in the new room and the improved accommodations met the needs of a polling location. It was neat, streamlined, and easier to navigate where to go. The easier access with no stairs to tackle was a hit. Another huge advantage is its climate-controlled environment and a clearer separation between the fire response area and the voting area. In fact, on the day of the election, we responded to three high-priority calls that never impacted the election at all. That wasn't the case in the past.

We've already held a few training classes in this room and it has served our needs perfectly. It will be the location for hosting a continuing medical education class which is an annual requirement for our responders. This class will be attended by not only our responders but also our neighboring responders from the James, Richland, and Tittabawassee Fire Departments.

The new Radio Dispatch Room is twice the size, making it much easier for dispatch to function. It is the dispatch room that gets used on every call we respond to. This room becomes the epicenter when we are responding to high call volumes i.e. storm events.

Our previous Command Room was literally a large closet. With the improvement, four people can now work in this area more affectively. If they need to have a confidential conversation or debrief a call, this provides the space to do so.

We, as a Fire Department, are extremely pleased and thankful for the support we received in this venture. It is so nice to have adequate space to function in. We plan to hold an open house in the future where you can come in and see the improvements yourself. Below are some pictures of the new areas.

Mike Cousins – Fire Chief



Fire Station #1 Garage



Training/Meeting Room



Command Room



Radio Dispatch Room

Texting - 911

You can now TEXT Saginaw County Central Dispatch (911). There may come a time when you witness something happening that you think may require emergency services, and a quick text to 911 can get emergency responders on the move. The situation may make you uneasy to physically call 911. This option would allow you to notify the police without bringing it to anyone's attention.

Recently, we had a nationwide cell service outage. Text operates on a different band, so during a time of no cell service, most text messages can still go through. This is a huge benefit for those who need the help 911 provides. 911 can dispatch police, fire, and medical units to respond to your call for help.

A text to 911 still won't replace the advantages of actually speaking to a 911 operator, but if that is not possible the text option is available.

If you have any questions regarding this new advancement, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at (989) 781-4141.

Mike Cousins – Fire Chief

Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve - What's New?

2024 should be a great year for the Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve, located at 6660 Gratiot Road. Hopefully, you've been able to stop in and check things out. If not, come on in to say hello and see what we have to offer. The Nature Center is open from 3 - 7 pm on Tuesdays and noon - 4 pm on Wednesdays - Fridays, and the Nature Preserve is open from dawn to dusk. There is no entry fee.

Plans are underway for a lot of excitement in the Nature Preserve. Native seeds will be planted throughout the preserve, trees will be planted in the north end, and gravel trails will extend to the observation deck on the east side and the breach in the berm on the west side. There will be multiple seating areas, observation areas, interpretive signs, a picnic pavilion, and a fishing platform. Depending on how well the seeding goes, we might be able to carve a trail into the preserve interior.

In the Nature Center, there are some exciting changes as well. A local artist, Eric Schantz, is creating multiple areas of interest. He is creating a tree, a land mass, and a mural to showcase the natural world and bring the outdoors inside. Plans for a couple other projects are underway as well. It is fun to watch the creative process unfold. Thomas Township Nature Center won an award for Facility Design at the 2024 MParks Association Conference in Kalamazoo on February 28! It is an honor to be chosen and recognized by our peers.

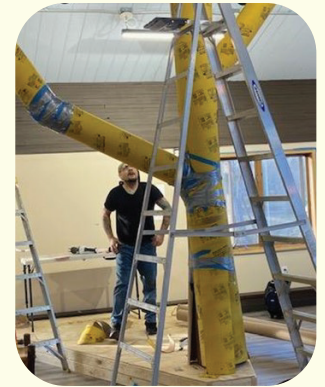


Pictured from left to right are Assistant Parks Director Tyler Sutherland, Parks Director John Corriveau, and Linda Thayer accept the award for Facility Design.

Our program schedule is going well and we will continue with our offerings. We have our family FUN (Families United in Nature) nights on Tuesdays from 5 - 7 pm, where a variety of science, nature, and art activities that revolve around a theme are available. On Wednesdays from noon - 2pm, we host senior citizen activities. Lunch and bingo are the first Wednesday of the month, while the other Wednesdays are game days. On Thursdays from 1pm - 2pm, we host Little Acorns, an activity group for preschool aged nature enthusiasts and their caregivers. We usually read a book, do a game or craft, then head outside for some fresh air (weather permitting). Programs are free of charge.

As spring and summer approach, we are looking to add additional programs that promote interaction with the natural world for visitors of all ages. Field trips are available for school-aged children, and if you belong to an organization and are looking for a meeting space, please contact me. You can reach me by email at naturecenter1@thomastwp.org or by calling the Nature Center at (989) 245-0801. Follow us on Facebook or check out our page on the Thomas Township website at thomastwp.org to stay connected for upcoming programs.

Lynda Thayer, Director



Artist Eric Schantz contemplates his next move on the habitat tree.

Storage Containers, Know the Law First!



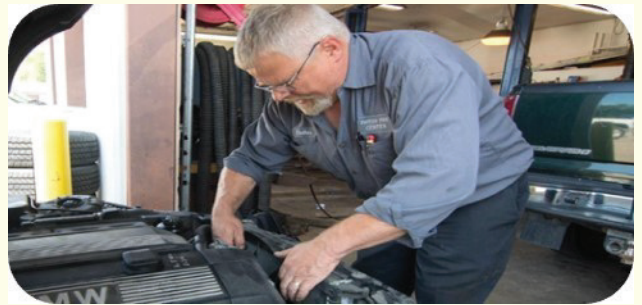
A frequent question the Building Department is asked is about the use of portable storage containers. Thomas Township, like many other communities have an ordinance that allows for the use of these containers. In Thomas Township a storage container can be used for up to 30 days for all properties **without an active permit**. **With an active building permit** that time can be extended if your construction project is delayed, but only if approved by the Building Inspector and for only a limited time. Most people use a storage container to keep items such as household goods, personal items, and construction materials dry and safe during construction, renovation, or after a disaster such as a fire or flood. This ordinance applies to both residential and agricultural zoning districts.

The Building Inspector is sometimes asked about using these containers for a shed or garage on a property. These containers cannot be used as a shed or a garage, they are only allowed for a limited time. When using a container, consider where you place the container on your property because it will damage lawns and will kill the grass underneath. Find a suitable location on your property to place the container that will meet all of the required setbacks. You are not allowed to create a safety hazard by placing the container in the front yard. You can find a brochure with the regulations and requirements on the Thomas Township website at thomastwp.org or for a copy of the ordinance, contact the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

Community Business Spotlight - Totten Tire

Looking for a professional and experienced automotive repair shop? Look no further, Totten Tire is a small family-owned full-service repair and tire shop.

Dallas McKim, the owner since 2017, takes pride in their quality standards and a strong reputation for customer satisfaction. Employing ASE-certified auto technicians with a combination of over 35 years of experience in combined service.



Dallas McKim

Before owning the business, Dallas worked for his brother (former owner) as a head mechanic for 37 years. He has been in the same job for 43 years. Dallas grew up in West Branch and moved to St. Charles in 1980. From there he and his family moved into Thomas Township in 2011. He enjoys the sense of community the Township offers. Dallas and his wife Marianne have one son who is a recent graduate of Swan Valley High School. Marianne also works at the shop doing the daily administrative duties. Dallas has enjoyed the football games and continues to support the sports and band programs as well as other functions. He supports the Township Parks and the Thomas Township Business Association which he is involved with. Dallas has seen the growth of the Parks & Rec Department in the Township and feels this has been a positive change for the community. Dallas is a strong supporter of the Fire and Police Department and the first responders. He likes the sense of community Thomas Township offers and he values and appreciates his loyal customers. When Dallas is not working he enjoys camping, fishing, riding his Harley, and taking the family dogs for walks.

Totten Tire is located at 7410 Gratiot Rd. and can be reached at 989-781-4190 to schedule an appointment. You can find out more information on their services at tottentiresaginaw.com.



Karen Hitz
Community Development Department



Trash & Treasures Yard Sales

June 13th - June 16th, 2024



**Thank you for choosing to participate in the
15th Annual Trash & Treasures Yard Sales!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Your completed form can be returned to:

Thomas Township

Attn: Karen Hitz

249 N. Miller Rd

Saginaw, MI 48609

Place in the drop box out front of the office.

You may email the form to: operator@thomastwp.org

or fax it to (989) 781-0290.

**In order to have your sale included on the map you must
have the form turned in by May 30th, 2024! Please be
considerate of your neighbors during the sale.**



***If you are not a Thomas Township resident, you may register your sale. It will be displayed in the address list section, but may not appear on the map.**

***Due to limited spacing, we cannot list specific times, days or individual items for sale on the map.**

New Businesses Open in Thomas Township

Hope Through Healing Counseling

Randi Price, owner and clinician, opened her business in October, 2023 at 105 South Miller Road. Hope Through Healing Counseling offers face-to-face and telehealth mental health therapy, individual and family therapy for children and adolescents ages 6 - 18. The name originated with her belief in having hope through difficult times is important. Randi has worked as a clinical child therapist for over ten years. Currently accepted insurances are BCBS, BCN, Aetna, ASR, HAP, and Optum for behavioral health services. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Randi Price

Thomas Township is special to Randi and her family. Randi and her husband are high school sweethearts who met at Swan Valley High School. They purchased their home in Thomas Township specifically as they wanted their children to go to the Swan Valley School District. The reason she chose Thomas Township is she didn't see many therapy services available and her hope is to reach clients and their families. In addition, she was looking for a better home life/work balance. Visit the website at hopethroughhealing.com for more information.

Thrive MI, PLLC

Thrive MI, PLLC is an outpatient therapy private practice that opened in September 2023, located at 105 S. Miller Road in Thomas Township. Providing outpatient counseling services to adults with a wide variety of mental health concerns and needs. Sarah Henninger, LMSW, PMH-C is the owner and sole clinician. Sarah has been practicing therapy for 5 years and left an agency job to open her private practice. Sarah wanted to continue doing the work that she loved while having more time for her family. Sarah has experience working with a variety of mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, mood disorders, stress, anger management, self-esteem, emotion regulation, women's issues, grief and loss, life changes, and more. Her primary specialties are trauma, PTSD, and perinatal mental health (prenatal/postpartum mood and anxiety disorders).

Thomas Township was chosen because Sarah loves the community and feels it's filled with great people and opportunities and she felt it would be a good place to grow her business and be available to provide services to those who live and work in the community. The name of her business is a combination of what she believes in as a therapist and her love for our great state of Michigan. Hours of operation are Monday: 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm, and Thursday: 9 am to 3 pm. Currently accepting new clients and is in network with a variety of insurances along with private pay being available. For more information check out both her websites at thrivemitherapy.com and her Psychology Today profile at psychologytoday.com/us/therapists,sarah-henniger-saginaw,mi/1168554. Sarah can be best reached through Psychology today, her website, or by phone at 989-833-9234. Help us welcome her and her business to the Township!



Thrive MI, PLLC

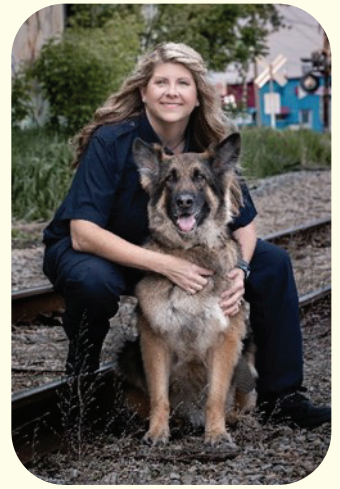
New Businesses Open in Thomas Township (Cont.)

Paws & Beyond K9 Training & Boarding

Paws & Beyond K9 Training & Boarding is a comprehensive facility that provides a range of services for your furry companion. Offering boarding services to ensure your loved one is well-cared for when you are away. Additionally, they provide grooming services to address any grooming needs your pet may have and their expert trainers are available to help correct any behavioral issues your dog may be experiencing. Their primary focus is on behavior, ensuring that each dog receives the necessary training and guidance. Customers can also find a retail section where they can purchase unique paw-related items.

Paws & Beyond was founded in 2018 as a virtual pet training service, offering in-home training and group classes at Magoos Pet Outlet. They recently have expanded and have a new facility located at 7916 Gratiot Road. Sharon J. Maher is the owner of Paws & Beyond, a woman-owned family business. Her passion for dog training began when she attended her first obedience class with her German Shepherd. Sharon has dedicated herself to improving her training skills and helping others. Alongside her, is her husband Jim Maher and six grown children. They care for three German Shepherds and two foster dogs from Saginaw County Animal Care and Control. Together, they work tirelessly to find loving homes for these animals. They chose Thomas Township for their location, as it is their hometown and they have a strong connection to the community and they wanted to contribute to its growth.

The name Paws & Beyond is derived from the combination of PAWs, which represents a dog paw print, and BEYOND, symbolizing pushing your dog beyond their perceived limits. The name also aligns with their mission. Their core values include doing what is right without compromise or shortcuts, meeting expectations, and showing respect to everyone and everything, following the Golden Rule on steroids. They emphasize taking ownership, accepting responsibility, and avoiding excuses. Lastly, they are dedicated to continuous improvement and are always available to enhance their services. Open 7 days a week, with hours from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Extended hours are also offered to accommodate a client's need. Visit their website at pawsandbeyondllc.com for more information.



Sharon Maher

The Lunch Box

Looking for a new place for lunch, or a place to help cater a luncheon or a meeting? At Your Service presents The Lunch Box located at 7755 Gratiot Road. A catering company initially now with a storefront focusing on lunchtime foods. You may choose to dine-in or take-out, with delivery available through Grub Hub. Seating of four tables and a lunch counter that seats eight people is available. After almost fifteen years of At Your Service catering, owner Melissa Gonzales-Spitz started working on a new project with a lunch place in mind and felt it needed something a little different. With two names in mind, her boys decided on The Lunch Box instead of The Lunch Spot. The Lunch Box offers an American, Mexican, light breakfast menu, and fountain and can beverages. Also on sight is an ATM for your convenience. Melissa, her mom, and two other employees are there to serve you. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Melissa and her family are a strong Viking family, with her two boys in the school system. Melissa chose Thomas Township for her business because it has shown good community support and room for growth and development. The Lunch Box can be reached by phone at 989-401-2865, for catering needs email at thelunchbox7755gratiot@gmail.com, or stop in to say hi and grab lunch. Please help us welcome The Lunch Box to the Township.



The Lunch Box

Thomas Township Library



Thomas Township Library

Thomas Township Library offers many available services to the community. The library has been an integral part of the Township for many, many years with a continued focus on its mission. Established originally in 1989 the library has continually improved and added services. The Thomas Township Library, as an informational hub, dedicates itself to being an integral part of our community by providing residents of all ages equal access to diversified resources and services that support both life-long learning and the enrichment of the quality of life.

As a member of the White Pine Library Cooperative, Thomas Township residents who have a library card can access downloadable eBooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines through the Libby App. If you don't have a library card stop in with a picture ID showing your current address and we can get you one. Download the app on your device from our website, the Apple App Store, Google Play, or the Amazon App Store.

The library offers a collection of over 81,000 volumes including CDs, large print books, audiobooks, the Ancestry Library Edition database on in-house computers, and jigsaw puzzles. The library has computers for Internet access and word processing, wireless Internet if you want to use your device, a children's area, a young adult section, and a technology area. The library also offers book page, fax, photocopier, reserves, freedom machine, interlibrary loan, special needs, tax forms, and typewriters. Regular programs include an adult reading/discussion group and an adult coloring club. Youth programs offered are craft nights, preschool story time, summer reading, and a Tales for Two's program. In September we hold an annual book sale, (donations are accepted, please call ahead for details), a year-round used book cart for purchasing books, and blood drives.

Readers of all ages are welcome to join us this summer as Thomas Township Library presents, "Adventure Begins at Your Library". This year's theme will include so many activities related to great adventures within and outside the library, involving STEM, nature, and lots of hands-on fun! The 2024 Summer Reading Program is open to preschool through teens/young adults and adults. Children and teens will have theme-related indoor and outdoor adventures, drawings, story times, great incentives with reading, and more. Registration for "Adventure Begins at Your Library" begins June 10th and the program continues through August 9th. For more information, stop in at 8207 Shields Dr., call the library at (989)781-3770, or visit our website's calendar for the details and updates at <https://thomastownshiplibrary.org>.

The library has so much more to offer, so give them a call or stop in. For more information regarding the services and programs, please visit the website at thomastownshiplibrary.org or call 989-781-3770. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 10 am to 7 pm, Friday: 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm. The professional staff is ready and available to help serve you.

Tari Dusek/Thomas Township Library Director
Janet Adair/Youth Services Librarian



Building Our Community: Community Park Improvements

Thomas Township Parks continue to grow and improve, providing many quality recreational activities and opportunities. The Parks and Recreation department has developed a truly unique program philosophy where we maintain the highest standards of coaching and sportsmanship, while kids play in a distinctive, noncompetitive environment. We strive to provide the best programs and parks possible and are always looking at new and innovative ways to improve our recreation opportunities we are able to offer. As part of that growth and improvement, Community Park located at the Thomas Township Municipal Campus (corner of North Miller & Shields Drive) was in need of some major upgrades. It has also been part of the Township's long-term Recreation Plan to recreate the Community Park into a multi-faceted modern park to serve our neighborhoods on the north side of Gratiot Road.



With the new municipal office building being built, the Township agreed that this was the perfect opportunity to finally accomplish this goal. The condition of the courts were in need of major repairs having been built in the early 1960's and converted multiple times from their original purpose as tennis courts. After considering the costs and advantages/disadvantages of several possible locations, the Board decided that locating the new building between the

Library and Fire Station would be the most cost-effective location, and it would keep all of the Township services in a centralized area on the Campus. Besides, it then made it possible to rebuild a NEW and BETTER Community Park as planned for the last twenty years.



The park will be located on the grass area that has served as the occasional ice rinks just south of the new municipal building between Culvers and Shields Drive. The New Community Park will feature a brand new stand-alone basketball court along with six state-of-the-art pickleball courts separated with a walking path and benches leading to the parking lot behind Culvers. Once completed, the courts will have a very strong resemblance to the Garber Courts built in the city recently. Along with the courts, there will be two new play areas dedicated to two different age groups. One section will be created for kids ages 2 - 5 and the other section will be focused upon kids ages 5 - 12. Along with the play structures there will be swing sets, rope climbers, spring riders, and hop rocks for kids to enjoy.

Like the name Community Park implies, the new modern playground is a community-project. Donations from the Thomas Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of \$100,000, the Thomas Township Business Association of \$25,000, and the Thomas Township Kiwanis Club of \$25,000 are providing the funding for the equipment. However, we want you and other members of our community to help with the actual construction. **As part of the Building Our Community, Community Park improvements, we are looking for volunteers to help put together the new playgrounds. The build will happen sometime in late July. If you would like to help be a part of "Building Our Community Park", please contact the Parks and Recreation Office at (989) 781-0151 or email me at park4@thomastwp.org.**

Tyler Sutherlund
Assistant Parks Director



Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Craig Aimar, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sovo

Annie Hoffman

Parks & Recreation Staff Members

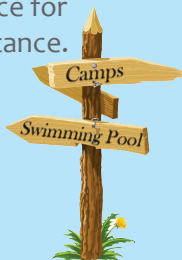
John Corriveau,
Director

Tyler Sutherland,
Asst. Director

Lynda Thayer,
Nature Center &
Preserve Director

Susan Prevost,
Receptionist

The Parks & Recreation Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm by phone at (989) 781-0151. Walk-in hours from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. If the office is closed for any reason, please stop into the main office for further assistance.



Day Camp

Thomas Township has nine exciting, week-long day camp sessions this summer for children ages 7 - 12. The Day Camp runs five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This year each week will have its own new theme for campers to explore, while still offering some of the activities that campers have come to love such as swimming, train rides, and crafts.

Before & After Camp Care

Before and After Camp Care is for parents who need to drop off or pick up their children before or after the scheduled camp time. A counselor will stay with any children if they need to be dropped off early or stay late. Before and After Camp Care begins at 7:30 am and ends at 5:30 pm.

Registration Fees:

Resident 1st child: \$125

Resident 2nd child: \$95

Non-Resident 1st child: \$135

Non-Resident 2nd child: \$105

There is a reduced fee for a 2nd child of the same family registered in the same week. This also applies to mini camps.

Before & After Care:
\$30 per week per child

This years themes are:

June 10th - 14th	OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
June 17th - 21st	BLAST OFF
June 24th - June 28th	WATER WONDERS
JULY 1st - 5th	**NO CAMP**
July 8th - 12th	ANIMAL KINGDOM
July 15th - 19th	FARM FUN
July 22nd - 26th	NATURE UNLEASHED
July 29th - Aug. 2nd	SURVIVOR
Aug. 5th - 9th	THE AMAZING RACE
Aug 12th - 16th	SUMMER SEND OFF



ONLINE REGISTRATION is available for Parks and Recreation Programming. You can access the online registration at thomastwp.org. When using the online registration system to register for Parks and Recreation Programming, you **MUST** pay for the program you are registering for at the time you fill out the registration form or you will not be considered enrolled in that program. Registration is a two step process. Once you hit **REGISTER NOW**, you will register, agree to the terms and hit **SEND**. You will then be redirected to the payment options on the next screen. From there you should receive a confirmation email of payment. If you do not receive a confirmation, then your payment was not processed and 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.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are taught by certified instructors. Each session consists of eight lessons. Classes are Monday through Thursday with both morning and evening sessions.

Fees:

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

Level 1: Water Exploration (Ages 4-6) Introduction to aquatic skills & water safety.

First Session: June 17th - 27th Second Session: July 8th - 18th
Third Session: July 22nd - Aug. 1st Fourth Session: Aug. 5th - 15th
Morning Session: 10:00 am - 10:45 am 11:00 am - 11:45 am
Evening Session: 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm 7:15 pm - 8:00 pm (Not offered every session)

Level 2: Primary Skills (Ages 5-9) Passed level 1 or a skill test. Working on a basic strokes and aquatic safety.

First Session: June 17th - 27th Second Session: July 8th - 18th
Third Session: July 22nd - Aug. 1st Fourth Session: Aug. 5th - 15th
Morning Session: 10:00 am - 10:45 am 11:00 am - 11:45 am
Evening Session: 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm 7:15 pm - 8:00 pm (Not offered every session)

Level 3: Stroke Readiness (Ages 6-10) Passed level 2 or a skill test. Continue working on strokes, water safety and diving skills.

First Session: June 17th - 27th Second Session: July 8th - 18th
Third Session: July 22nd - Aug. 1st Fourth Session: Aug. 5th - 15th
Morning Sessions: 11:00 am - 11:45 am Evening Sessions: 7:15 pm - 8:00 pm

Pool Schedule

The pool will be opening up for recreational swimming, Monday through Sunday on June 8th, 2024 and will remain open until August 16th, 2024, *Closing date subject to change*

Open Swim Monday - Sunday:

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fees

Resident: \$5
Non - Resident: \$10
Family of 5:
Resident: \$15
Non- Resident: \$25

Season Passes:

Resident: \$60
Non - Resident: \$80
Family of 5:
Resident: \$85
Non - Resident: \$115

There will be an additional \$25 fee on family passes for each additional family member over the limit of 5. Season passes are available at the Thomas Township Office, located at 249 N. Miller Road.



Park Reminders

As the temperatures rise and everyone flockes to the parks this summer, Thomas Township Parks and Recreation would like to highlight some of the park rules so that everyone can enjoy the parks and have fun. Per Township ordinance, park hours are 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Vehicles must park in designated parking lots and spaces only. **Dogs MUST be kept on a 6 ft leash at all times.** This is also a Township ordinance and will be enforced more strictly. When enjoying the park please be respectful of other park users and do not allow your fun to impede the fun of those around you. Have fun and enjoy your summer in Thomas Township parks!

Job Opportunities:

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation is constantly looking for sports officials and instructors. An application can be found online at www.thomastwp.org/employmentopportunities or in the office at 249 N. Miller Rd.

For the Seniors:

Swingin' Seniors

The Swingin' Seniors typically meet the first Wednesday of the month for a potluck luncheon and to play bingo. Lunches are held at noon at the Thomas Township Nature Center, located at 6660 Gratiot Rd. There will be no lunches during the months of June, July, or August. For any questions please call the parks office at (989) 781-0151.

Ride the Roethke Mini Train

The Roethke Mini Train runs Tuesday Evenings from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm and every Saturday and Sunday from June 10th through August 30th (Schedule subject to change and weather permitting) from noon until 4:00 pm. If you are planning a large family or group event, please call ahead and verify the availability of the train by calling (989) 781-0151.



Movies in the Park

The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting FREE movies in the park again this summer. The movies will be held at Roberts Park on 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 to enjoy during the movie! There will be two family friendly movies played this summer. Movie selection and dates will be announced later this spring! Keep an eye on the Thomas Township Website and Facebook for those selections.



Concert Series at Roethke Park

Join us for a summer picnic and a FREE concert at Roethke Park, located at 400 Leddy Road. Enjoy great music and many more special events on Tuesdays from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

The Roethke Mini Train will be ready to roll for the kids during the concert series for just \$1 per person! Come on over and have a nice family night out at Roethke Park.

June 11th	Todd Michael	July 23rd	Bob Marshall Band
June 18th	CEYX	July 30th	Laurie & The Lefties
June 25th	Dave's Not Here!	Aug 6th	The Rock Show
July 9th	Voortex Jazz & Blues w/Papa Kiszka		

Rainouts will be rescheduled for August 20th, 2024.

Sand Volleyball Leagues

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation has had sand volleyball leagues for a number of years. The leagues will be held at Roethke Park and Roberts Park based on the number of teams registered. Currently leagues are held on Tuesday nights at Roethke Park, and Monday - Thursday nights at Roberts. Leagues are mainly coed except for two nights designated for men and women leagues. Games are played 4 v 4. For more information please check out the Parks and Recreation page on our website, or stop in our office at 249 N. Miller Road, or contact us by phone at (989) 781-0151.

Archery

Classes are for beginners to work on safety, form, equipment, and the fundamentals of becoming a good archer. Classes for advanced archers are based on using their own 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.

Archery classes begin the 2nd or 3rd Thursday in April and run every Thursday for 6 weeks.

Class Times:

Beginner: 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

Beginner: 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm

Fees: Resident: \$70

Beginner: 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

Advanced: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Non-Resident: \$75

Bow Fishing

Our bow fishing program is a three day session taking place at Roberts Park. In order to take this class, you must have taken one of the winter archery classes. Parks and Recreation will provide all bows, arrows, targets, and materials needed for the program. This program is geared to educate individuals on how to bow fish as well as educating them on the different equipment used. ***Real fish are NOT shot in this program*** Program is subject to change *



Class Sessions: Dates to be determined.

Fees: Resident: \$35 Non-Resident: \$40

Men's Softball Leagues



This year Thomas Township Parks and Rec will be offering a Tuesday and Wednesday night league. Each league will consist of no more than 8 teams with a minimum of 4 teams. The registration deadline is Friday April 26th, 2024. The season will begin on Tuesday, May 28th, and Wednesday, May 29th.

Registration Fee: Team: \$325

Player Fee: Resident: \$10 Non-Resident: \$15

Men's Softball Tournament

On August 19th, 2024 (Tentative Date*), Thomas Township Parks and Rec will be holding a Slow Pitch Softball Tournament! All teams are guaranteed 4 games. The registration deadline is July 31st, 2024. For more information contact our office at (989) 781-0151 *Tournament subject to the number of teams registered.

Team Fee: \$250



Sand Volleyball League

Leagues for sand volleyball are now forming for play at Roethke Park, located at 400 Leddy Road.

League Times:

Roethke: Tuesday Night

Season Starts: June 11th

Team Fee: \$90

Roberts:

Mon. - Thurs. Nights

Season Starts: June 3rd

Team Fee: \$90



Pavilion Rentals

We are currently taking pavilion rental agreements for the 2024 season. The pavilions are available for rent from May through August. A copy of the homeowner's insurance showing personal liability coverage is required from renters and a \$200 deposit along with a completed rental agreement form.

Rental Fees:

Vary per park and pavilion. Please visit our website www.thomastwp.org for more info.

Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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Brush Drop Off

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 Roads (Access drive from N. Gleaner). No leaves, grass, or commercial brush will be accepted. The site will be open on the following dates starting Saturday at 8am and closing Monday at 8am.

2024 Drop Off Dates:

April 6/7, 13/14, 20/21, & 27/28

May 4/5 & 18/19

June 1/2, 15/16, & 29/30

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 begin April 5, 2024

Phone: (989) 781-0150 • Fax: (989) 781-0290 • Web: www.thomastwp.org • Editor: Karen Hitz
For Property Information: www.sagagis.org