

Winter 2024

Volume 28 Issue 1



**Thomas Township
Board of Trustees**

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- Michael Thayer.....Clerk
- Steven Witt..... Treasurer
- Katie McDonald.....Trustee
- David Sommers.....Trustee
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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 Water System History

You wake up in the morning and your first instinct rolling out of bed is to wash your face and brush your teeth. Into the bathroom, you go to turn on your faucet, where some of the world's cleanest and healthiest drinking water is dispensed. At that moment, you don't consider all of the work required to provide the clean water to your tap. Below I will help you to understand that more.

Thomas Township's original water system was developed in 1956 and was located in the northwestern area of the Township. The initial system included three pumping stations with wells, around 24 miles of water main, 178 fire hydrants, and roughly 300 valves. The three original pumping stations and wells combined to produce 720,000 gallons per day. By 1969, residential growth had outpaced the initial system capacities, and a more dependable water supply was sought to meet future demands. At that time, Thomas Township partnered with the City of Saginaw (Saginaw) to provide high-quality treated water. Between 1969 and 1977, Saginaw had completed two connections into Thomas Township. At Gratiot on the southeast side of the community, a new dedicated water feed was installed underneath the Tittabawassee River and the supporting 1.5-million-gallon ground storage tank was constructed. The second connection to Saginaw's system was at the northeast portion of the community, near Tittabawassee and North River Road.



In the 1980's and throughout the 1990's, industrial demands began to outstrip our water capacity necessitating water system improvements primarily to supply the growing needs of Hemlock Semi-Conductor and the Health Industries Material sites. Water system improvements doubling the water supply to the Township were completed during this period. Finally, from 1999 through 2012, industrial demands again increased making additional water system improvements necessary to ultimately provide over 1.25 billion gallons of water per year. All of these improvements driven by industrial growth had little to no financial impact on the rates to Township residents, as these were either paid for in full through State Grants, or funded by the industry directly. In fact, many of these improvements subsidized customer rates as eventually they would have needed to be built as planned capital projects, i.e. the water tower. The water tower you see above was constructed during this period to replace the undersized tower that was located behind the governmental office building on Miller Road.

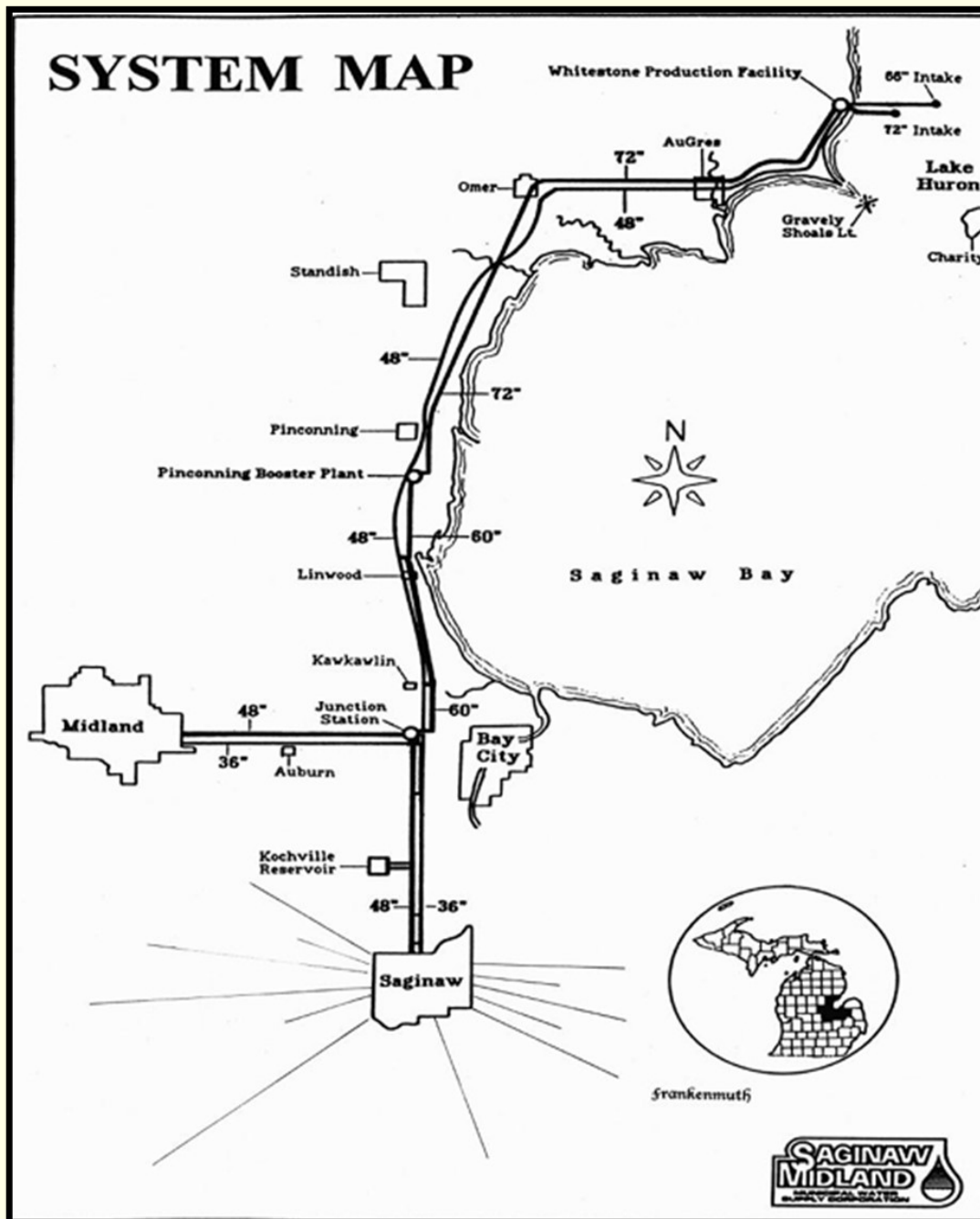
As a consequence of the well-planned expansion of the Township's water distribution system, Thomas Township is currently home to one of the most up-to-date, looped, and robust water systems in the State of Michigan. Throughout the years, the Thomas Township Board of Trustees has recognized the importance of and implemented a purposeful policy to loop together dead-ended water lines. With these improvements as well as the "age" of the water system, the Township has experienced very few water main breaks or other emergency conditions in the past decade.

Today, Thomas Township's water system is comprised of around 120 miles of water mains, greater than 1,000 fire hydrants, and around 850 valves. In 2022, Thomas Township serviced around 5,800 water connections to the tune of 2.641 million gallons of water per day. This makes us the second-largest user in Saginaw's distribution system.

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Thomas Township Water System History (Cont.)

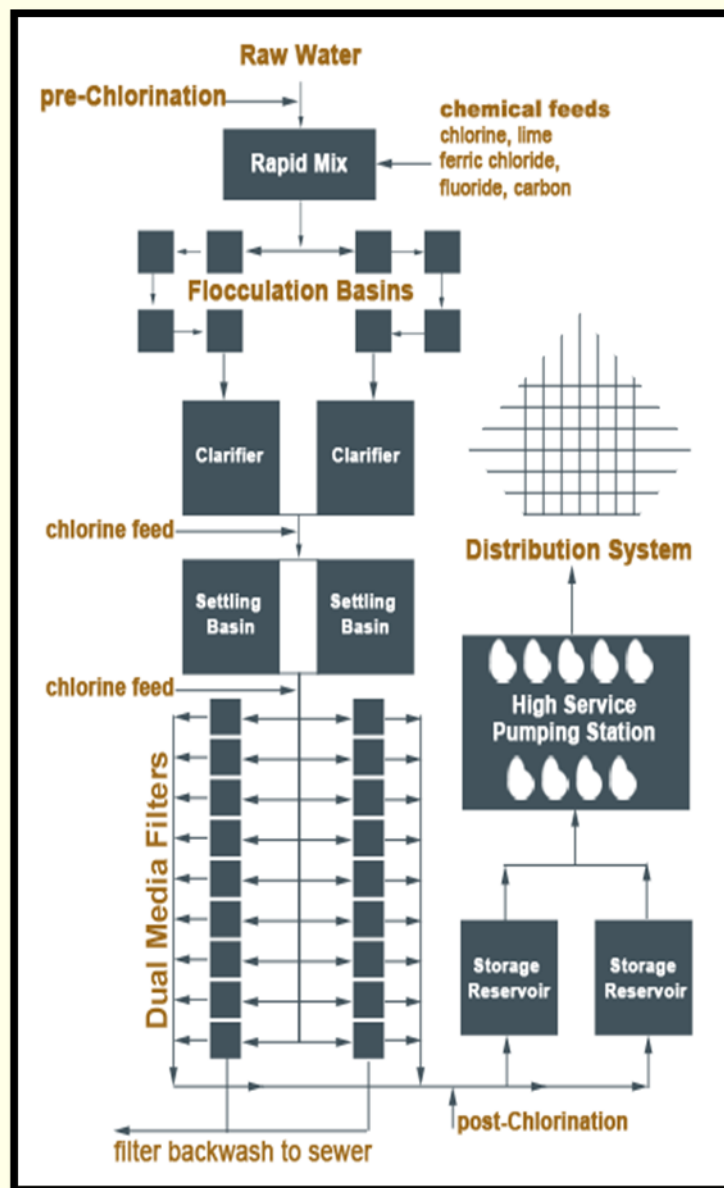
How does Saginaw treat and ultimately provide all of this water to Thomas Township? Let's begin at the source, shall we? The Great Lakes, from which Saginaw gets its water, make up the largest body of fresh water on the earth. Among the world's largest freshwater lakes, Lake Huron provides the source for the water you drink daily. Near Au Gres at Whitestone Point, the raw water trip begins. Two intake sites located between 1 and 2 miles offshore and between 35 and 60 feet deep bring the raw water into the booster station. From there, it travels around 50 miles to another junction plant in between Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland. Finally, the raw water takes another 15-mile trip into Saginaw and ultimately arrives at the Water Treatment Plant, on Ezra Rust Drive. Numerous improvements over the years have provided system redundancy and reliability in delivering the raw water to Saginaw.



Thomas Township Water System History (Cont.)

Once the raw water has made its way to the treatment plant, the water treatment process begins. This list is pulled directly from the City of Saginaw's website, and outlines the treatment process:

1. *Raw Water is drawn from Lake Huron.*
 2. *Pre-chlorination kills disease-causing organisms.*
 3. *Adding ferric chloride causes fine particles to clump together for easier removal. Lime is added for stabilization and PH balance. Carbon and chlorine additions improve taste and odor, and fluoride is added to promote strong teeth.*
 4. *Rapid Mix blends these chemicals.*
 5. *Flocculation helps form larger particles to aid the sedimentation and filtration processes.*
 6. *Clarifiers and settling basins remove larger suspended particles and other sediments. Chlorine feeds provide additional disinfection.*
 7. *The Dual Media Filters remove the remaining particles.*
 8. *Post-chlorination provides continued disinfection and protects water during distribution.*
 9. *The storage reservoirs allow chlorine contact time for disinfection and provide water storage for use during peak demands.*
- The high-service pumps provide pressure to deliver clean drinking water to customers.*



Now that the raw water has been treated to “drinking water” standards, it continues its long trip from Lake Huron to Thomas Township. The water follows a series of transmission water mains (almost 11 miles), eventually ending up at the Gratiot Road Booster Station, and subsequently distributed into your home.

For more information on the quality of your drinking water, please visit the City of Saginaw's website and view the "Consumer Confidence Report". This document is updated yearly and outlines infrastructure improvements as well as the water quality test results. Please visit www.saginaw-mi.com/ccr.php to view this report. Additionally, if you have any specific water quality questions or concerns, please reach out to Trevor Schultz in the DPW Department at 989-781-6438.

Thomas Township's DPW Director, Rick Hopper Retires



Rick Hopper and Bob Weise

Rick joined Thomas Township back in 2007 when he came to us from the Saginaw Township Wastewater Treatment Plant. Rick's career started in the U.S. Coast Guard where he was assigned research and rescue, drug interdiction, and fisheries duties in Alaska, California, and Michigan. We were very fortunate to have him on our team.

Rick has overseen many major projects during his 15-year tenure. While he has a long list of accomplishments through out the years, some of the more notable contributions are overseeing the implementations of the ten year program to change out our water meters to remote read meters, coming up with the cost effective upgrade to the Gratiot Road streetlights, developed the columbarium and Veteran's Display in Owen's Cemetery, professionalized the DPW

in terms of training, operations, inventory, inspections, utilization of technology, and many other aspects of the department, oversaw numerous water and sewer infrastructure projects, chaired the Storm Water Authority Board for many years, installed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system throughout the water and sewer system, and standardized much of our lift station equipment.

As Rick retires, he will continue to enjoy spending time with his wife, Susan and his family.

Rick's contributions and exemplary service was recognized at the December 4, 2023 Board meeting, where a proclamation was read announcing his retirement. The Thomas Township Board, Manager, and employees wish him happiness and best wishes on his new life journey.

Trevor Schultz will be taking over as DPW Director. Please help us congratulate him at his new position.

Fire Responders Join the Fire Department

We recently hired several new people for the Fire Department. Five new members will be joining our team, with one of them completing the final process. Joining us are: Trayvell Illikman, Tony Bell, Josh Federspiel, Austin Kraszewski, and Josh Feldotte. Of the new firefighters, three will serve from Station One, one from Station Two, and one is assigned to the Public Safety Building. Trayvell, Tony, and one of our current members, Steven Weal are all currently attending the Fire Academy. Both Josh Federspiel and Austin Kraszewski are certified firefighters with Austin replacing one of our full-time responders who left to join another Fire Department. The remaining members all joined the paid-on-call side of the department. Austin's prior experience came from the Birch Run Township Fire Department.



Austin Kraszewski

If you are interested in serving on the Fire Department and want to experience that awesome feeling of giving back to your community, please contact us, so we can talk about it in more detail with you. (989) 781-4141

Thank you

Mike Cousins – Fire Chief

Michigan Winter Weather Driving Law

Winter weather is in full force and there is no avoiding the snowy and sometimes icy roads if you travel during the winter months in Michigan. There are many safety tips that people share when it comes to driving under snowy conditions, but are you aware of the laws that affect you as a Michigan driver during the winter months. The following are five laws that every motorist should know before tackling the sometimes treacherous roads brought to us by Mother Nature:

1. The Michigan basic speed limit law requires motorists to drive “at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than what is reasonable and proper.” Even if you are at or under the posted speed limit, you can still be ticketed if a Police Officer believes your speed is not reasonable given the conditions of the road. Often, motorists who crash due to poor road conditions believe they are exempt from penalty because they were not exceeding the posted speed limit. This simply is not true. According to the Motor Vehicle Code, your speed must not be “greater than that which will permit a stop within the assured, clear distance ahead.” Snowy or icy roads often require speed that is less than the posted speed limit to ensure safety for the motorist.
2. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, it is illegal to pass a snowplow on the right side. It is not wise to pass on the left side either and motorists should proceed with “extreme caution” if doing so. It is not always possible to predict the movement of a snowplow. They make wide turns and sometimes overlap lanes. According to Michigan.gov, a snowplow can weigh as much as thirty tons. Compare this to an average passenger vehicle weight of two tons and you have a significant uneven match. Stay well behind snowplows as they are working to clear roads (at least six to ten car lengths behind). Let them finish their job so you can have safer roads to travel.
3. Snowplows are covered under Michigan’s Move Over Law which requires motorists to “slow down and move over for stationary authorized vehicles with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights (that are) activated.” If you encounter a snowplow stopped at the side of the road with its lights activated, you must reduce your speed to at least 10mph under the speed limit and move over to another lane. If you are unable to change lanes, then slow down and proceed with caution providing as much room as possible to the snowplow. This is true for other emergency vehicles as well, any time of year, including Police, Fire, Rescue, Ambulance, and Tow Trucks.
4. Michigan law requires that you remove snow from your vehicle before driving on public roads. Clear your windshield and the back and side windows to make sure your vision is not obstructed. Keep your vehicle roof clear of snow so you are not depositing snow on the roadways or having snow hit vehicles traveling behind you. Remove snow from your hood so it does not end up on your windshield and obstruct your view. Lastly, clear snow from headlights and taillights so when you are braking or signaling it can be seen by other motorists. Police Officers can, and will, stop vehicles if they are not adequately cleared of snow according to the law.
5. When clearing snow from your driveway, remember that Michigan’s vehicle code prohibits you from leaving snow, slush, or ice in the roadway. I have experienced many times in my law enforcement career people pushing snow across the road from their driveway leaving a trail of snow on the road. This is a violation of Michigan law and is a ticketable offense. Be sure not to leave snow in the roadway and keep snow piles down so you can see to exit your drive.

These are just some of the Michigan laws related to snow that motorists should keep in mind. In addition, everyone should review winter driving tips which can be found on the Michigan.gov website. Be prepared before venturing out on Michigan’s snow-covered roads and have a safe 2024 winter driving season.

Chief Eric Cowles, Police Department

Community Business Spotlight - Kluck Nursery

Kluck Nursery has been a staple in Thomas Township for many, many years. Established in the late 1920's by founder Walter Kluck when he planted an acre or two of evergreens. Walter and his wife Frieda planted nursery stock to supply local customers. This part-time, "Dig Your Own" nursery was operated hand in hand with a full-time dairy farm. Two of their sons joined them in the operations and in the 1960's the dairy herd was sold. Their two sons Edward and Gerald became partners in the nursery business. In 1981 Gerald's son, Tom, joined them and in 1987 Edward retired. Gerald remained very active in the operations until his retirement in 1999. Gerald's son Tom is now currently the president of the nursery and in 2013 his son Tyler joined the management team. Tyler is the fourth generation to help in continuing to grow the nursery. They currently employ 20 full time employees and it peaks at 45 employees in the summer season.



Kluck Nursery

Kluck's is a full-service wholesale and retail nursery. The nursery features both stock on hand and custom digging of special orders. Delivery service was initiated in 1982, with job site deliveries. Kluck's offers over 300 varieties of trees, shrubs, evergreens, and perennials. They also produce over 50,000 Christmas trees. With a highly trained sales staff they can provide you with help on plant selection, and any landscaping questions. Kluck Nursery is also involved in special events. A home and garden show held yearly in the Ryder Center at Saginaw Valley State University, where you can receive a 15% off coupon when visiting their booth and an annual fall open house at the nursery which begins the weekend after Labor Day each year and lasts for nine days, offering 15% off all plants and supplies during the open house. Christmas tree fields open annually the day after Thanksgiving to provide a "cut-your-own" tree experience, (as well as pre-cut trees), homemade wreaths, Charlie Brown Christmas trees, concessions, a hay fort, cozy fire, and a hay ride to round out this treasured family event. Kluck Nursery continues to be a great asset to our Township and we thank them for their commitment to our community in providing professional service and products, building on their Christian principles which has built their successful business.

Karen Hitz
Community Development Department

New Businesses Open in Thomas Township

Pho Asian Bistro

Looking for something different from the same old dinner. Try Pho Asian Bistro located at 8466 A Gratiot Road. Pho Asian Bistro is a dine-in & take-out restaurant. It opened in April, 2023. The name signifies a well-known Vietnamese dish.

Offering Vietnamese, Hibachi Steaks & Seafood, and American food. Owner, Tanny Nguyen, also resides in Thomas Township. Pho Asian Bistro is a family-owned business. Managers are Adriana Pham and Morris Nguyen. Hours of operation are Monday – Sunday 11:00am to 9:00pm, CLOSED on Tuesdays. Visit their website at phoasianbistrosaginaw.com for a more descriptive look at their appetizers, entrees, specialty drinks, and more.



Pho Asian Bistro



Poor Boy's Home Décor & More

Poor Boy's Home Décor & More

After 20+ years of all wholesale sales, Matt & Heather Hunter decided to open Poor Boy's Home Décor & More retail shop located at 7397 Gratiot Road. They have been in the industry for 36 years and decided it was time to take a leap of faith and open their own store. Over 25 years ago Poor Boy was the name of their furniture business, then later their wholesale sign business. They thought it only made sense to continue with the name of their store. Thomas Township was the perfect location as they reside here and like the small-town atmosphere.

Offering home décor, furniture, custom signs, candles (they make), gifts and gourmet. Their goal is to provide a quality store that offers unique options and services to their customers along with a fun experience. Please check for hours of operation as they may have changed. Stop in and welcome them to the Township.

Schark Heating and Cooling, Inc.

Schark Heating and Cooling, Inc. has a new location. Please help us in welcoming them to Thomas Township. Their new location is at 125 S. Miller Road. Schark Heating and Cooling is owned by Mary Ann Schark, David Schark, and Scott Hash. This family-owned business has been in their family for 4 generations, spanning over nearly 7 decades. It started right here in Saginaw, Michigan in 1961.

Schark Heating and Cooling, Inc. offers new installations, replacements, repair services, preventative maintenance, and commercial services, just to name a few. They are open Monday through Friday from 8am – 12pm and 1pm – 5pm and can be reached by phone at 989-781-1480.

Thomas Township has been the hub of a lot of their customer base for years. Many of their family members are graduates and current students at Swan Valley Schools. Thomas Township residents have always been supportive of their family business, and they're looking forward to being more centrally located for you to stop in to schedule an appointment, pick up a filter, or just to say hello. Visit their website at scharkhac.com for more information.



Schark Heating & Cooling, Inc.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Residents can put their fresh Christmas trees to the curb by 7:00 am on their regular trash day throughout the month of January. You do need to remove ornaments, tinsel, garland or other decorative items. Trees can be put to the curb with or without a tree bag.



Trees that are frozen to the ground or covered with snow will not be collected until they can be safely accessed by the driver. Large or heavy trees may have to be picked up by the bulk truck, and in those cases trees should be collected within one to two days of the resident's regular service day.

This service applies only to Christmas trees that have been used as indoor holiday décor. Artificial trees may be placed to the curb as a bulky item any time of the year.

New Businesses Open in Thomas Township (Cont.)

Prime Internists

Prime Internists is a new startup primary care practice that has come to Thomas Township. Located at 7261 Gratiot Rd. Dr. Ghazanfar Latif and staff, while working for other employers, felt there was a large patient population that was unable to find a primary care physician who would accept their insurances. They felt the need to do something for the community. Living in the area for over a decade, they met many wonderful people and small businesses, that inspired them to start and grow their business in Thomas Township.



Prime Internists

Staff includes highly qualified providers with decades of experience in Internal Medicine and Family Medicine. They accept most insurances as well as self-pay patients. If you are looking for a family doctor or PCP, call 989-270-3100 to schedule an appointment. Open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm offering services such as annual well visits, routine office visits, telemedicine visits, house visits for qualifying homebound patients, chronic care management, DOT physicals, pre-employment physicals, sports physicals, healthy child visits, sick visits, walk-in visits and more. To find out more information or to know more about them give them a call or stop in.

2023 Business/Organization of the Year Awards

In October the Thomas Township Planning Commission, represented by Rod Iamurri, Chairman; David Sommers, Planning Commission member; and Doug Bird, Planning Commission member, presented the 2023 Business/Organization of the Year awards. These awards are presented to businesses or organizations selected by the Planning Commission as best demonstrating aesthetic excellence and setting a positive example within the Township. These awards are divided into two categories that reflect "small" and "large" businesses in the community. The winners for 2023 are:

Gratiot Animal Hospital Small Business of the Year



Pictured from left to right are David Sommers, Dr. Dwight McNally, owner, Rod Iamurri, and Doug Bird

2023 Business/Organization of the Year Awards (Cont.)

Swanhaven Manor

Small Business of the Year Honorable Mention



Pictured from left to right are Jessica Cappel, Activities Director, Kaitlyn Boese, Administrative Assistant, David Sommers, Julie Glynn, Community Manager, Rod Iamurri, Alicia Jones, Leasing Consultant, and Doug Bird

Culver's

Large Business of the Year



Pictured from left to right are David Sommers, Aly Merchant, Owner, Ashley Matheson, General Manager, April Kusowski, Business Manager, Rod Iamurri, Doug Bird, and various members of the Culver's Staff.

Garber Chevrolet

Large Business of the Year Honorable Mention



Pictured from left to right are Doug Bird, David Sommers, Mike Wenglikowski, General Manager, Rod Iamurri, and Danny Fekay, New Car Sales Manger

Sidewalk & Parking lot Maintenance

Winter season is here, please remember to clear the sidewalks at your home or business of any snow and/or ice to prevent a potential hazardous situation. Thomas Township residents appreciate your hard work keeping the sidewalks cleared and safe for pedestrians. ***As of this year, Thomas Township now mandates that the snow and/or ice be cleared within 24 hours of a storm.*** If the ice and snow have not been cleared after a warning is sent, Thomas Township will have the sidewalk cleared, and the property owner will be assessed the cost. Allowing the snow or ice to build up creates a safety issue for those who regularly utilize the sidewalks, and under the new ordinance, the Township will be able to ensure safe sidewalks for all of the residents. Ice or snow can create a slipping hazard but also can force walkers to go out into the street to avoid trudging through the accumulation thus putting them at risk. Remember, your efforts at keeping the sidewalks clear benefit the entire community. If you have any questions about the updated ordinance, call the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINNERS!!

Community Development Department

Fire Hydrant Accessibility

Fire hydrants are strategically located throughout the Township and are used in emergencies to combat fires of all sorts. With wintertime upon us, we ask that you help us keep snow away from any hydrant. Please keep a three foot radius around the hydrant snow-free. Hydrants can be difficult to see in the dark and when they are buried in snow, it becomes even more of a challenge when every second counts.

Please do not plow or shovel snow against a fire hydrant. It will make it difficult to get to in emergencies, and it may also be damaging to the water pipes connecting the hydrant to the water mains underground. These fire hydrants are essential to our community so please be respectful and keep them clear. You never know the next time that hydrant is needed, it may be for your home or business.



Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve: Come Watch Us Grow!

The Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve opened to the public on August 26, 2023. We are grateful for the support that we have received and can't wait to expand on our offerings and experiences. Here's an update on what is happening and what the future holds.

The Thomas Township Preserve is open from dawn until dusk daily. You can hike along the berm from the building to the east and along the Tittabawassee River to the observation deck. It is about a half a mile out, so you can get in a mile on an out and back hike. If you choose to go to the west, you can walk along the berm along Cavanaugh Lake for about a third of a mile until there is a breach in the berm. You can observe the great blue heron nests that make their home high in the trees.

In 2024, the gravel trail will be extended from the building to the observation deck on the east and to the breach in the berm on the west and will include seating areas and interpretive signs. In the interior of the preserve more native plants and seeds will be planted as well as grass trails. Additional amenities will be added, including a split rail fence, a picnic pavilion and a fishing platform. Progress has been made but a lot of work is yet to be done.

The Thomas Township Nature Center is open part time for now with hopes to expand our hours as we grow. We are open from 3:00 - 7:00 pm on Tuesdays and 12:00 - 4:00 pm Wednesday - Friday. We aim to be open one Saturday a month for nature-based fun for all. You can come in and check out our historical displays, indoor observation areas, and children's interactive area. There are plenty of books about local history, areas throughout Michigan, and plenty of field guides and resources about the natural world. Additional displays are planned and will become available as they are developed.

We also started offering programs that are free of charge. On Tuesdays from 5:00 - 7:00 pm we offer F.U.N. (Families United in Nature) activities that are based on a theme and include 5 - 6 stations of activities related to the theme. For example, we recently hosted a World Soil Day event. Visitors conducted experiments that tested soil pH and whether soil or sand filters water better, made Oobleck (a Dr. Seuss inspired mud), colored pages related to the topic and made worms and dirt that you can eat! Flashlights are available for hiking outside.

On Wednesdays, the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Department hosts senior citizen activities. The first Wednesday is a luncheon/potluck and bingo, the second Wednesday is euchre, the third Wednesday is cribbage, and the fourth Wednesday is canasta. Coffee and snacks are provided.

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Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve: Come Watch Us Grow! (Cont.)

On Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm, the Little Acorns preschool group meets. Participants and their caregivers listen to a book and engage in activities with a nature-based topic, then hike in the preserve. Dress accordingly! We are planning on adding additional programs and events that will provide a wide variety of experiences and information related to nature, science, history, and additional topics related to our mission. We would also like to encourage the use of the Nature Center as a meeting space to non-profit organizations, school groups, or community groups if available.

If you are interested in becoming involved, we are looking for volunteers, members, and donors. Check out our information on the Thomas Township website (thomastwp.org). Look in the department tab and scroll to the Thomas Township Nature Center & Preserve to find out more information. You can also email Lynda Thayer, the Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve Director, at naturecenter1@thomastwp.org, or call the Nature Center at (989) 245-0801. We are also on Facebook!

We are in the early stages of our development, so we appreciate your patience as we grow. We hope that you keep coming back to see what is new and enjoy the nature experience that we provide.



Our Little Acorns made it all the way to the observation deck!



Pickle Tasting at a F.U.N. night event. Dill pickles were the favorite!



Young crafters create their nature/recycle-based Christmas crafts.



Thomas Township Business Association held their Christmas get together.

Lynda Thayer
Thomas Township Nature Center and Preserve Director

Thomas Township Winter Wonderland

NEW CHANGES!!!

The Thomas Township Winter Wonderland had its most successful weekend thus far. Roberts Park was decorated by our Parks and Recreation Department and DPW staff along with volunteers, local businesses, and schools. We want to give a HUGE THANKS to all the volunteers and businesses who participated and the community for showing their support. This year we made a change to the layout of the event and added live music and a 30 foot movie screen.

Along with the lights, music, movie, Santa and Buddy the Elf there were food vendors, hay rides, a craft tent, bonfires and smores. The hay rides through the lighted park were included with admission into the event.

For 2023, we welcomed **Garber Chevrolet on Gratiot and Mid Michigan Chevy Dealers** as our main event sponsors.

Additional Sponsors:

Meijer	Mid Valley Insurance	Totten Tires
Thomas Township Kiwanis	The State Bank	My Member Insurance
Fullerton Tool	Schomaker Farms	Frankenmuth Credit Union
Swan Valley Pay It Forward	Apple Mountain	Wolgast
Strobel Automotive	Bierlein	

A Special Thank You

We would like to extend a SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Thomas Township Business Association for putting on their annual gift giveaway with Santa. The first 100 kids into the event were given a special gift from Santa again this year. Without support from our local community and businesses, we couldn't continue to grow this event. Our goal is to keep Thomas Township's Winter Wonderland growing for years to come.



Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Scott Branch, Chair

Craig Aimar, Secretary

Angela Alworden

Craig Blower

Dean Rusch

DJ Sova

Ann Hoffman

Parks & Recreation Staff Members

*John Corriveau,
Director*

*Tyler Sutherland,
Asst. Director*

*Sue 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, please stop into the main office for further assistance.



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

**Not all programs are available for online registration.* If you have any questions feel free to call the Parks and Recreation office at (989) 781-0151 or stop into the Parks and Rec office at 249 North Miller Road.*

Join an Archery Class!

Archery classes are held at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, located at 1296 N. Gleaner Road. To give each student individual attention, class sizes are limited to 12 students, so please sign up early!

All archery classes are six week programs that are taught every Thursday. Students learn about recurve, compound and crossbows. Instructors are certified through USA Archery and the National Field Archer's Association (NFAA).

There are 3 class sessions offered with the first session beginning on January 4th. Registration for the first session ended on Wednesday, December 15th. The second session offered will begin in February and registrations are being taken now until the classes are full. A third session will begin in March, with registration continuing until classes are full. Dates are subject to some changes based on weather cancelations and Covid-19 restrictions.

Fees: Resident: \$55 Non-Resident: \$60



Previous Archery Class

Boys & Girls Basketball



Boys Basketball

Boy's basketball leagues are forming for the 2nd - 4th grades and 4th - 6th grades. Children in 4th grade can either play up or down. The registration deadline is November 12th. There will be a draft held for the 4th - 6th grade division at the Swan Valley High School. All kids will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week.

Games are held on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School.

Volunteer coaches are needed for this program! To volunteer please call (989) 781-0151 to coach a team!

Girls Basketball

Our girls basketball leagues are offered for 2nd - 4th grades and 4th - 6th grades. Children in 4th grade can play up or down. Registration for girls basketball opens in December and ends on January 5th. There will be a draft held for the 4th - 6th grade division at the Swan Valley High School. All kids will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week.



Games are held on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program! If you'd like to volunteer please call (989) 781-0151 to coach a team!

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$50 Non-Resident: \$55

Pavilion Rentals 2024

Starting January 2nd, 2024 at 8:00 am Thomas Township **Residents Only** can begin renting pavilions for the 2024 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!



Roethke Park
Pavilion

Keep up to date by accessing the website

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



Community Calendar 2024

- February 19th
Office Closed in observance of President's Day
- Last week of February
Assessment Change Notices will be mailed
- February 28th
Winter Taxes due in the office without penalty
- December 1st - February 28th
Dog Licenses available at Township Office with proof of Rabies Vaccination
- March 11th
(Tentative Date)
March Board of Review
- April 5th
Yard Waste Pick-Up Begins



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 was November 22nd with the clinic beginning on January 13th .



Basketball Clinic Coach with team

Registration Fees:

Resident: \$50

Non-Resident: \$55

Soccer Clinic

Our Soccer Clinic is for ages 4 - 8 year olds. Registration is underway for both boys and girls. You can send in your registration to the parks office or register online. The start date of our Soccer Clinic is scheduled for the third Saturday in February.

The clinic is an instructional program. Participants will be taught the fundamentals of soccer. The soccer clinic will be held on Saturday mornings at Swan Valley High School, located at 8400 O'Hern Road.



Ages 4-5: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Ages 6-8: 10:15 am to 11:15 am

Fees:

Resident: \$50 Non-Resident: \$55

Winter Fun in our Parks

Sledding

There is a lighted sledding hill at Day Park, located on S. River Road just north of Ronald Drive.

These winter activities are not monitored by Township Staff. Parental supervision is mandatory.





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.**

Thomas Township

249 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609-4896

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

Brush Drop Off

Brush may be taken by the homeowner to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of N. Gleaner & Frost Roads (Access drive from N. Gleaner). No stumps, leaves, grass, or commercial brush of any kind will be accepted. The site will be open 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 on April 5, 2024

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