

Thomas Township Board of Trustees

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosowski
Clerk

Tom Radewahn
Trustee

Mike Thayer
Trustee

Ellen Ryder-Petre
Trustee

Chris Thompson
Trustee

Russell Taylor
Manager

Municipal Offices
249 North Miller Road
781-0150

Thomas Township Parks
249 North Miller Road
781-0151

DPW Administration
251 Miller Court
781-6438

Police Department
8215 Shields Drive
781-1300

Fire Department
8215 Shields Drive
781-4141

Library
8207 Shields Drive
781-3770

Township Website
www.thomastwp.org

Library Website
www.thomastownshiplibrary.com



One Step Recycling

Beginning January 1, 2015, you can STOP sorting your recycling, as recycling will be going to a one step (no sort) system, and upgrading to include more recyclable materials.

Residents will now be able to recycle all of their plastic, metal, glass, paper, chip-board and cardboard in ONE container. The expanded program will now accept all plastics #1-#7 with the exceptions of #6 foam products (such as packing peanuts and packaging foam) which will still need to be disposed of in the trash.

Along with the above noted changes, you no longer need to use an official recycling bin, such as the Pepsi blue Thomas Township recycling bins. You can now use ANY 33 gallon or smaller container for your recycling. The only requirement is they must be marked in some fashion such as with a big "R" or with a "Recyclables Only" sticker which can be obtained at the Township Office, 249 North Miller Road.

Making recycling as easy for the consumer as possible has shown to increase recycling and decreasing these items bound for the landfills.

While residents may still use official recycling bins from our community, MMWA encourages residents to swap their bins, and start using their own 33 gallon containers, as they hold almost double the capacity of the recycling bins, while taking up less floor space than the bins.

No sort recycling rules have been posted to the MMWA website at www.recyclemotion.com. Between now and spring, you will begin to hear more and more about the one step recycling program in the media and in the newspapers, but it is available to you now.

Remember, you can pick up "Recyclable Only" stickers in the Township Office.

Russ Taylor
Township Manager

Inside Features

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Thomas Township Welcomes Fullerton Tool

Fullerton Tool will be the first business to break ground in the Great Lakes Tech Park at the corner of Gratiot (M-46) and North Graham Roads.

Fullerton Tool was started in 1942 by Morgan Arthur Curry. Morgan was born in Freeland, Michigan to a farm family. Not liking the arduous farm chores, Morgan vowed at an early age to do whatever it took to get off the farm. At the age of 17 he entered the University of Michigan and through hard work sweeping floors, waiting tables, and washing dishes, went on to achieve a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1932. His journey then surprisingly led him back into the dairy farming business, complete with a milk route. Morgan continued this business for three years while simultaneously operating a tire dealership. He then went on to selling insurance and subsequently operating an insurance company.

Morgan entered into tool making by organizing the Research Tool Company, which also sold under the names Perma Cut and Wolverine Cutter. On July 7, 1947 Fullerton Tool Company was incorporated



President Patrick Curry

and began operations at 522 South Hamilton Street, and in 1957 moved to its current location at 121 Perry Street.

Morgan believed in family values and had his family in place to carry his business into the 21st century. Morgan passed away at the age of 65, but the organization was put into good hands with Morgan L Curry, Jr becoming CEO and President and Richard C Curry becoming the Vice President.

This family commitment has continued as

Fullerton Tool is currently led by President Patrick Curry, the third generation to operate this manufacturing business, and a Thomas Township resident. Fullerton Tool is an ISO 9001:2008 certified company that continually provides quality solid carbide cutting tools to thousands of customers every day. As an ISO certified company, Fullerton Tool continues to demonstrate their commitment to process improvement and providing high quality products.

The company is recognized as a leader in precision-made tooling that is used in virtually all industries including the medical, aerospace, automotive and mold and die industries. Fullerton's tools are used wherever there is a difficult machining operation that requires quality tooling with quick on-time deliveries. The family and company have a firm grip on the future. Fullerton Tool continues to invest in new equipment, expansion and tool development while examining and planning for the future of cutting tools and manufacturing.

Fullerton Tool will continue their current operations in the City of Saginaw on Perry Street, however, having outgrown their current 35,000 square foot facility, will be breaking ground in the spring of 2015 on an additional 35,000 square foot building to allow for additional business growth. "Our current building is bursting at the seams," says Patrick Curry, President. "The expansion will allow for us to serve our existing customer base in a manner they have been accustomed to while still allowing for further diversified growth for our company." Curry further stated, "We feel it is important for us to keep our facilities located within the heart of the Great Lakes Bay Region. As a family-owned company, we highly value the people that work for us and we are thrilled to bring new team members into the Fullerton family."

Thomas Township welcomes Fullerton Tool and we look forward to them being a part of our community.



Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

The History of Thomas Township in Review

THE EARLY BUSINESS GROWTH

As early settlers came to Thomas Township and began clearing their lands and building homes, it became apparent that the residents were in need of dry goods, and material for clothing. Very little is known about the ownership of the early commercial operations in Thomas Township. The Atlas of 1877 shows multiple commercial operations, however they are only listed by general names such as "store", "hotel", "boom", "boarding house", "school" or "spring".

The Saginaw Boom Company, which we wrote about extensively in one of our first articles was the first known business in the Township, and was owned by several people. After the decline of the large commercial logging operations, several portable sawmills, which were independently owned, started popping up, and were mobile enough to be transported TO the wood, instead of the wood coming to them.

In 1872, Ferdinand Ohmer started a brickyard near the Tittabawassee River on what is now known as North River Road. The bricks were sold commercially and shipped down the river on barges to Saginaw. Ferdinand's operation was sold in 1895 to the Sperry Brothers who continued to produce bricks at this location until 1900, when they closed up this location and moved it to South River Road. Once the brothers moved to the South River Road location, they purchased a tile machine and switched from making bricks to making tile. The Sperry brothers sold their tile company in 1915 to the Miller City Tile company of Findlay, Ohio, who continued to produce tile at that site until 1941 when a fire devastated the site. The building's were never rebuilt and the land eventually sold. A couple of other brick companies were the Thomas Day Clay Pit and the John J Liskow Yard.



Brick makers stacking bricks

Another interesting entry on the 1877 Atlas lists a brewery near the intersection of what is now Short and North River Roads. The owner was thought to be AJ Meyer or some of his descendants who settled on the land. It

was said that it made a lager type beer, and because of it's rural location, almost a days travel from anywhere, was thought to cater to the logging and lumber boys from the nearby Boom company.

Numerous general stores were located throughout the Township. A couple of these general stores also served as meeting halls, dance halls and voting halls during election time.

In the 1920's there were three dairies operating in



Horse and wagons used to carry clay to the kilns to make bricks.

Thomas Township, Frost Corners Creamery, Harvey Miller's Dairy and Harold Frost's Dairy. All three were actually very modern for the time, with pasteurizing and bottling facilities as well as home delivery. In 1920 a hatchery was started by Harold Burden. Both eggs and baby chicks could be purchased there.

A very popular business in the Township was Liberty Beach. Liberty Beach was a small resort area complete with concessions. Charles Wegner started this business in the 1920's at the foot of State Street Bridge. Swimming in the clear water was an inexpensive enjoyment.

The first restaurant in Shields was Bess and Jean's Lunch Room, which opened in 1945. This business then became Chum and Jean's and subsequently LaBelle's.

As the population grew, so did the commercial businesses, as the demand for goods and services was required closer to home. From corner grocery stores such as Engels Market to the numerous Orchards owned by the Turners, Wenzel's, Bintz's, Thorsen's and Stebner's, many of these endeavors were run by hometown people, and many of these families still make Thomas Township home.

The population and business climate changed dramatically when in 1959 Dow Corning needed to expand their operations. First came the semi-conductor production, followed shortly thereafter by the medical product plant in 1963. These two facilities represented the beginning of a modern industrial complex, which continue and flourish to this day.

Information about our early businesses was not thoroughly documented, so we really do not have a good source of historical information concerning businesses in Thomas Township. So if we have left you out, I apologize, as I have limited material to work with! Next edition we will take a look at the schools, and churches of early Thomas Township.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Editor and Deputy Clerk*

**6TH ANNUAL
Thomas Township
TRASH & TREASURES
RUMMAGE & GARAGE SALES
June 26 thru June 28, 2015**



Attention all Thomas Township residents, clean out your garage and basement, because it's time to register your rummage or garage sale to be included on the free Trash & Treasures sale map. The Trash & Treasures sales map

will be distributed during the week of June 26 thru June 28, 2015. Don't miss out on this totally free opportunity to have your sale listed on restaurant placemats, on the Township web site, given away by local businesses, and printed inside local newspapers the week of the event. For those of you who might have leftover sale items, you can donate them by dropping them off next to the Thomas Township Public Safety building during the sale dates, where a truck will be located to take them away.

REGISTER YOUR TRASH & TREASURES SALE by completing a form that you can find on the Township's website or pick up one from the Township, and return it to our office at 249 N. Miller Rd. You may also email your information to operator@thomastwp.org. The Township's website is www.thomastwp.org.

For questions, please contact the Thomas Township Office at (989) 781-0150. We hope you will participate....

**Trash Pick up during
Shields Fest Week**

Due to the congestion caused by the rummage sales during Shields Festival week, trash pick up begins overnight on Thursday June 25th, 2015.



THOMAS TOWNSHIP TRAILBLAZER 5K RUN/WALK

We cordially invite you to participate in the second annual "Thomas Township Trailblazer 5K Run/Walk". This event is to support the maintenance and future improvements to the Thomas Township Trail. It will be held on **Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.** and will follow the new Thomas Township Trail starting at Swan Valley High School, on O'Hern Road. Awards will be presented to the first and second place finisher in each division. Watch upcoming newsletters and our website for registration times.

Sponsorships are also available if you would like to sponsor the event. Your sponsorship will help to defray some of the costs. Additional proceeds will be used specifically on the trail.

Sponsors will be represented on the race t-shirt and all publications.

There are four (4) levels of sponsorship available to you:

Diamond Sponsorship: \$2,000 and up (receive 4 free race entries)

Major Sponsorship: \$1,000-\$1,999 (receive 2 free race entries)

Minor Sponsorship: \$500-\$999 (receive 1 free race entry)

General Sponsorship: \$100-\$499 .

Booth space will be available at the race for sponsors. We would like all sponsorships to be received by May 1st, 2015. If you have any questions, please call the Thomas Township Office at (989) 781-0151 or email parksdirector@thomastwp.org. Sponsorship forms are available on our website.

From the Assessing Department

Your 2015 Assessment Notices will be in your mailbox the last week of February, 2015. **THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE OF WHAT YOUR ASSESSMENT (SEV): TAXABLE VALUE (TV) AND PRE EXEMPTION WILL BE FOR 2015.**

If you have questions about your assessment notice, you should contact the Assessor as soon as your assessment notice arrives in the mail. DO NOT WAIT, as you may lose your opportunity to appeal these values.

There is only one time in the year that your assessments can be protested, and that is at the March Board of Review. The 2015 March Board of Review will meet March 9th, 10th and 11th (call for times).

If there is not an error in your assessment, and you wish to appeal the values, which the Assessor has placed on your property, you ***must*** attend

this March Board of Review.

If the March Board of Review does not agree with your appeal, you may then protest to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; however, ***YOU MUST FIRST APPEAL YOUR ASSESSMENT TO THE LOCAL MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW.***

The Thomas Township Assessor can be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00p.m. at 989-781-0150.

Thank you,

Will Gast
Thomas Township Assessor

From the Treasurer

Do You Know Where Your Tax Dollars Go?

Listed below is a tax bill detail for an average home in Thomas Township. The only amount of your tax bill that the Township gets to keep for general operations is listed below as LOCAL OPERATING.

This amount is equal to about 2.60% of your total winter tax bill. Local Operating (general fund) is the amount of money the Township receives to operate everything in the Township except the Library, the Water Department and the Sewer Department. While the Public Safety millage (9.55% of tax bill) and the Fire millage (1% of tax bill) offsets the majority of the Police Department and Fire Department expenses, the General Fund must still supplement a large percentage of their operation. This holds true for the Parks and Recreation Department as well.

The Township Library also receives its operating income from a local millage, which was voted in by Thomas Township residents. About 3.0% of each tax bill goes to operate the public Library in Thomas Township.

The remaining 82% of your tax bill is sent to various OTHER taxing jurisdictions such as the County of Saginaw, Delta College, solid waste pick up and the local Schools.

TAX DETAIL		
Taxable Value:	69,600	RESIDENTIAL
State Equalized Value:	69,600	Class: 401
PRE/MBT %:	100.0000	
		Mort Code:
Taxes are based upon Taxable Value. 1 mill equals \$1.00 per \$1000 of Taxable Value. Amounts with no millage are either Special Assessments or other charges added to this bill.		
DESCRIPTION	MILLAGE	AMOUNT
EVENT CENTER	0.22500	15.66
HOSPITAL DEBT	0.44000	30.62
MOSQUITO CONTROL	0.49930	34.75
CASTLE MUSEUM	0.19970	13.89
COUNTY PARKS	0.16150	11.24
LAW ENFORCEMENT	0.33940	23.62
SENIOR CITIZENS	0.43000	29.92
ANIMAL CONTROL	0.15000	10.44
SHERIFF SERVICE	1.00000	69.60
DELTA COLLEGE	2.04270	142.17
INT SCH SAG	0.14550	10.12
SPECL ED SAG	1.94170	135.14
SCH DBT SWAN VAL	7.00000	487.20
SCH OPR SWAN VAL	18.00000	EXEMPT
LIBRARY	0.60000	41.76
<u>LOCAL OPERATING</u>	<u>0.94370</u>	<u>65.68</u>
<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>	<u>2.00000</u>	<u>139.20</u>
FIRE	0.25000	17.40
LGT-ARDIS DR	0.00000	41.25
TRASH	0.00000	124.30
Total Tax	36.36850	1,443.96
Administration Fee		12.78
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		1,456.74

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Police News

Winter Police News Lock Your Car

Recently, there has been a rash of thefts from automobiles throughout the west side of Saginaw County, including Thomas Township. Although a few of these larcenies have involved force to enter the vehicle, such as breaking a window or prying open a door, the vast majority of the vehicles were unlocked. I've heard thousands of times, "We don't have any problems in our neighborhood." Past performance is never a good indicator of future events!

Protecting yourself is a matter of habit and although not a guarantee, there are things you can do to greatly decrease your exposure. First and foremost always lock your vehicle. Don't leave personal items such as cell phones, I-pads, wallets and other items that have personal identifiers in or on them in your car. This could easily lead to a case of identity theft. Don't leave money or other valuables in your car. If you must leave any of these in the car for a short period put them in a glove box, console or preferably the trunk and always lock the car. Did you know most larcenies from vehicles happen in the owner's driveway?

Like the billboards say, "LOCK IT OR LOSE IT."

Steve Kocsis,
Chief of Police

2015 Board of Trustee Meeting Dates

January—5	July—6
February—2	August—3
March—2	September—14
April—6	October—5
May—4	November—2
June—1	December—7

Community News

Thomas Township Trailhead Building

This past summer, the Township was honored to be selected to receive the Saginaw Community Foundation's 2014 community granting the amount of \$25,000 to support the construction of a multi-purpose Trailhead Building adjacent to the Thomas Township Trail near Shields Drive. The grant was made possible as a result of Kay Wejrowski, Swan Valley High School Librarian, submitting the grant application on behalf of the Township. The grant provided the seed money to encourage more community involvement leading to the late Tom McDonald Senior family designating it as their preferred project to honor their father and grandfather.



Donations from family and friends on behalf of Mr. McDonald exceeded \$31,000,

thereby providing enough funds to make the dream a reality.

Our local Thomas Township Kiwanis Club picked up from there by volunteering to start framing the structure this past month. They will be continuing to work on it through the winter with the hope that it will be ready for use in the spring. Rick Keith, architect with Wolgast Design, donated his skills to design the building and give direction to the Kiwanis work crew. The new building will provide a much needed bathroom for trail users. Additionally, it will have an air compressor for bicyclists to fill their tires,

water fountains, pavilion with picnic tables and even a dog watering station. We hope you will be able to join us this summer when we plan to dedicate the new building in honor of Tom McDonald Senior.



Fire Department News

The question often arises, "how are medical calls handled in Thomas Township when I call 911"? We are frequently asked, why do both MMR and the fire department respond to a medical call? Are they both needed? Is it a duplication of services? Does this cost me more?"

In a condensed version, I am going to try to address these and other questions I have received over the past couple of years. When you call 911 and state that you have a medical emergency, the nature of your call as stated at this point will dictate if the fire department rescue squad is dispatched or just Mobile Medical Response (MMR) Ambulance Service. If at the time of the call it is determined to be of a high level emergency, 911 will immediately send the fire rescue unit along with MMR. If it is not determined to be a high level response, the call is transferred over to MMR Dispatch Center known as Med Com. The MMR dispatcher will then begin a series of questions which are used to determine the severity/type of medical priority you have. While MMR dispatch is questioning you, the ambulance is also being dispatched to help you.

The dispatch person is the key in this process, as is the caller relaying the correct information when calling 911 with an emergency. If the ambulance is dispatched and the emergency level increases, the medical responders increase their response to a light and siren response. If the emergency is deemed less urgent, a non code response (no lights or siren) is initiated. This decision comes from MMR dispatch to the ambulance and fire department. This decision making process, is supported by the Saginaw Medical Control Authority who

oversees all medical issues within Saginaw County. There is a list of questions the medical dispatch person must ask, and based upon what the caller tells dispatch determines whether or not there is a true emergency. If the MMR dispatcher says, based on the caller's answers to the predetermined questions, it is not an emergency, responders cannot respond with lights and siren. If we do, we face possible disciplinary action from the County Medical Director's Office. All medical responders within Saginaw County fall under this office's authority.

This process not only attempts to direct our resources to where they are needed most, it also keeps our response calls down. This is important for a paid-on-call department. Our department responds to life-threatening medical emergencies, just this year alone, we saved at least four lives! I would have to think every one of those individuals and their families would say we are needed.

In my opinion, there is not really a duplication of services. We do not respond to all medical emergencies. We are sent only to the high priority calls, which mean there is a life threatening need for our response. If the ambulance arrives on scene before us and they determine the local rescue squad is not needed, they will radio back to dispatch and cancel us.

Does this cost you more? No, the response from your fire department is a service we provide through the general fund and the millage you pay on your taxes. Residents of Thomas Township will not receive any billing for our services unless it is a hazardous material response. This is what your tax dollars pay for. I hope this answered some of your questions. If I can help you with any other questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours for a Safe Community,
Michael Cousins Fire Chief

TWO RETIRE FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Thomas Township Fire Department recently saw the retirement of Warren Wyatt and Rodney Romain. In honor of their retirement, an open house was held at the end of November for the two of them and John Wunderle, whom we recognized in our last newsletter.

It was with great honor that we were able to recognize each of these men who have given so much of their time to the betterment of the residents we serve.

Warren spoke about the beginning of his career, when then Fire Chief Ken Gauze approached him to help with the Fire Auxiliary. Warren helped form and lead this group until joining the regular membership in March 1967. During Warren's tenure, he served as Lieutenant, fire investigator and was involved in many extra activities and took as much pride in his pancake flipping skills as well as running the base radio as our dispatcher.

Rodney joined the Fire Auxiliary and department in March 1968. During his tenure, he made his legacy while attending the County Fire Association meetings and many other departmental functions. As with all members, the spouses and families play an active role by supporting their husbands and fathers. Both of these families provided so much support through the years. We are grateful to each one of these men for their years of service.

On behalf of the residents, the Township Board, Manager, members of the fire department and myself, THANK YOU WARREN and RODNEY for your years of service!

*Michael Cousins,
Fire Chief*

Parks and Recreation Fall and Winter Happenings

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Commission Members and Staff

Scott Branch, Chairman, Angela Alworden,
Craig Blower, Craig Monahan,
Bryan Mrozinski, Carly Rusch,
Dean Rusch

Staff:
John Corriveau, Director
Stacy Hable, Secretary

Parks Office is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Multi-Sports Clinic

In an effort to better serve a wider range of sports enthusiasts, we will be offering an ALL NEW multi-sports clinic. These clinics will offer a more in-depth look at the sports your children will be playing when they get to the middle school and high school age.

This clinic will feature 3 different sports areas, that will showcase drills taught by High School athletes who play those sports. The following sports will be broken into sessions; Softball/Baseball, Football and Soccer. Each group will work on form, agility, and FUN. More specifically;

- « # Throwing Form for Softball/Baseball
- « # Passing/Dribbling a Soccer Ball
- « # Agility and ball handling for Football

Each participant will take part in all three sports.

The Clinics will be on Saturday beginning February 1, 2015 and run for six weeks. 4-5 year olds will run from 9:00am-10:15am and 6-7-8 year olds will run from 10:30am-11:45am.

Registration is taking place now and will continue until January 23, 2015. Don't forget you can register online. A \$10 late fee will be charged after January 23, 2015. All Clinics will take place at the Swan Valley High School Gym.

ATTENTION **CO-ED SOFTBALL & CO-ED VOLLEYBALL** **PLAYERS!!**

We are looking to open two new recreation programs. A summer co-ed softball league running May through July, with a post season tournament. If you or anyone you know is interested in the co-ed softball league, please contact the parks office at 781-0151 or email park2@thomastwp.org.



We currently have a co-ed sand volleyball league but in addition we want to also offer co-ed volleyball leagues during the fall and winter sessions. Please contact office for further information.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Is there an adult or senior citizen recreational program you would like to see offered in Thomas Township? We would like to hear from you. Any suggestions, ideas or feedback are appreciated. Please contact the Parks office at 781-0151 or email park2@thomastwp.org

REMEMBER, ONLINE registration is available for Parks and Recreation Programing. When using the online registration system to register for Parks and Recreation Programing, 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. If you have not received a confirmation of payment, you are not registered. Some program sizes are limited, and make sure the form you are using is not out of date.



WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS **ARCHERY PROGRAMS**

Archery classes began again on January 8th at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club. Classes are for both beginner and advanced archers. The class is a six week program taught every Thursday. Students learn about recurve, compound and crossbows. Instructors are certified through USA Archery and the NFAA.

To give each student individual attention class size is limited to 12 students, so please sign up early! The next class, which begins February 19, 2015 is taking registrations now until classes are full. A third session will begin April, 9, 2015 with registration continuing until classes are full.

Cost is \$40 per resident student, \$45 per non-resident student, each student also receives a free T-Shirt. 4th-6th.

CHRISTMAS TRAIN AND FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

I want to thank everyone who came out and supported the 2014 Christmas Train and Festival of Lights. It is hard to believe this is the 4th year of the event already! The event has grown every year and this year Mother Nature gave us some good weather



for people to come out and enjoy the event. For the first time we had a Title Sponsor for the event: Team One Credit Union!! Thanks to all our friends at Team One for helping make the event even better. BUT hold on, we also need to thank the Thomas Township Business Association for also sponsoring the event, once again the community support from local businesses and organizations helps make our events successful. Thank you once again Team One Credit Union and Thomas Township Business Association for your continued support.

We also need to thank the businesses and individuals who helped set up the lights and make the train ride so enjoyable and beautiful.

Team One Credit Union (Title Sponsor)
Thomas Township Business Association (Sponsor)
McDonald Ford Freeland
Stanley Steamer
Dow Corning Health Industries Materials Site
Wolgast Restoration
Corriveau Family
Skiendziel Family
Thomas Township Kiwanis Club
Shields Lions Club
Klucks Nursey
Holy Spirit
Hopevale Church
Hemlock Semiconductor
Saginaw Community Education Center
Swan Valley Schools
Knights of Columbus Council 8808
JJ's Country Style Café'

A special thanks to our friends at Domagalski Photography who supplied free pictures with Santa Claus to everyone who attended this event!



MORE FROM PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE HOURS

The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Occasionally, the park office will be closed when the park staff has to leave the office. In those cases, the main office staff will assist you with questions and registrations. Phone number (989) 781-0151.

SWINGIN' SENIORS

The Swingin' Seniors meet the first Wednesday of the month for a pot luck luncheon and bingo. Join in the fun. Meetings are at noon at the Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive.

2015 PAVILION RENTALS

It's time to reserve your pavilion for the 2015 season. Residents only can rent in January. In February, we open up the registration process to non-residents. The fee for any of the four pavilions is \$50 for Thomas Township residents; \$80 for non-residents; and \$100 for companies. There are three pavilions at Roethke Park and one at Roberts Park.

GIRL'S BASKETBALL

Girl's basketball leagues are forming for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 4th, 5th, 6th grades. Girl's in 4th grade can choose to play up with the 5th and 6th graders or down with the 2nd and 3rd graders. Sign up continues until January 23, 2015. Saturday games begin February 21, 2015 at Swan Valley High School. Player fees are \$40 for Thomas Township residents and \$45 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. The draft for girls in 4th-6th grades is January 31, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Swan Valley High School Gym. Shirts will be provided.

YOUTH FLOOR HOCKEY

Floor hockey will again be offered to Y5's-K and 1st-2nd-3rd graders. Other age groups will be as follows: 1st - 2nd - 3rd and 4th - 5th - 6th. The six week season begins on February 21, 2015. This program is held on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School and is for

both boys and girls. Floor hockey is recreational in nature and there are no practices or standings kept. Fees are \$40 for Thomas Township residents and \$45 for non-residents. Shirts will be provided.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

Adult volleyball teams can sign up for the spring league for women either recreational or power and men's power begin in March and games begin in April. Games are held weeknights at the Swan Valley Schools. There is a \$125 team fee and \$10 player fee for Thomas Township residents and \$15 for non-residents.

WINTER FUN IN THE PARKS

SLEDDING

There is a lighted sled hill at Day Park on South River Road for your winter sledding FUN!

ICE SKATING

There are two ice rinks in Community Park behind the Township Office buildings at 249 North Miller Road. Due to the unpredictable Michigan winter weather, and the fact that the temperature tends to climb during the day and fall at night, we cannot guarantee the quality of the ice. One rink is for hockey and one is for leisure skating. Please pay attention to the "Rink's are closed signage" if it is up. You will see the signs primarily after the rinks have been flooded and are not frozen solid or after a natural thaw. We close the rinks to ensure your safety on the slushy ice.

These winter activities are not monitored by Township Staff, so parental supervision is mandatory for the safety of all participants.





Well, another summer has come and gone! As we move into the fall, your Public Works will be busy flushing and winterizing all the fire hydrants located throughout the Township. This is a normal maintenance function that is extremely important to ensure the fire hydrant in your area works properly if needed in an emergency. As those flushing activities begin, you may see cloudy water from your home's water taps. This is a normal occurrence, and is typical of flushing activities. If your water appears discolored or is cloudy, simply run your water taps for a short period. It is amazing how fast the year goes by. Just yesterday, the spring flowers were blooming, now all the leaves are gone. This time of year, we all seem to look back at ourselves and reminisce so this article will highlight the efforts of the Department of Public Works over this past year.

Public Works operates and maintains the water distribution system that includes over 130 miles of water mains, 950 fire hydrants, 2,115 valves, and services 4,702 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From December 2013 through November 2014, we helped provide 930,971,000 gallons of water (or an average water use of 2,550,605 gallons per day). Over the past year, staff repaired or replaced 278 water meters, and installed another 11 for new customers. And, your Public Works staff responded to 1,154 water related issues for the year that includes 102 "Check for Leaks" or follow-up requests, helping residents and business owners alike find the causes of high water uses through leaky fixtures and water services. These efforts saved those customers potentially thousands of dollars in wasted water use.

The Public Works staff also operates and maintains the sanitary sewer system that includes over 67 miles of sewer mains, 700 manhole structures and 15 sewage pumping stations located throughout the Township. The sewer system services 3,336 residential, commercial, or industrial customers. From December 2013 through November 2014, we discharged 426,963,000 gallons of sewage, or an average of 1,169,762 gallons per day for treatment and disposal.

Besides the maintenance and operation of the water and sewer system, staff also provided 1,378 underground utility locations through the MISS DIG system, and responded to 862 different customer requests for the year.

Buildings and facilities generally fall within the

responsibilities of the Public Works Department too. This year staff performed landscape maintenance, painting and cleaning services to 7 different buildings or grounds including the Township's Owen Cemetery. We also inspected over 25 miles of sidewalk and performed preventive maintenance on 33 sidewalk pads by removing tripping hazards. (These efforts saved residents and businesses the cost of having to replace the sidewalks at their expense). Public Works staff replaced the Gratiot Road Banners numerous times over the course of the year, and of course completed the Holiday decorations seen throughout the Township. A special shout out goes to our temporary seasonal help this year that consisted of Mark, Dave, Blake and Zack. Without their hard work, Public Works would not have been able to accomplish the little extra things that make Thomas Township a great place to live.

On the construction front, we rehabilitated an aged sewer pump station located on East Gloucester. This station serves the middle area of Thomas Township and was upgraded with safer, more energy efficient equipment that is designed to service the sewer system for the next 25 years.

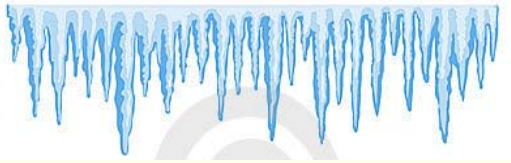
Staff is putting the final touches on the new Columbaria located at Owen Cemetery. This unit will provide individual niches for cremated remains, with the niches going on sale shortly after the first of the year. Residents interested in purchasing gravesites or niches can contact us anytime during normal business hours.

What's up for next year? We plan on possibly rehabilitating 20 manhole structures in the sewer system and upgrading the pump controls and alarm telemetry systems on 6 sewer pumping stations. We are planning on adding to the water main piping system to further bolster reliability, specifically around the North Miller Road area in conjunction with the Miller Road reconstruction efforts later next summer. Additional work will include upgrading a portion of the water meters that are currently in service. The new upgrades will allow our staff to more easily obtain the water meter readings without going into homes and businesses. And finally, as usual, your Public Works Staff will continue to streamline our efforts and work hard to ensure that Thomas Township continues to be a great place to live, shop, work and play.

Thanks for your continuing support; it is a privilege to work for you.

Your Thomas Township Public Works Department

THOMAS TOWNSHIP
249 NORTH MILLER ROAD
SAGINAW, MI 48609-4896



2015 BRUSH SITE DATES

Brush may be taken ***by the homeowner*** to the Township brush drop off site located at the northwest corner of Gleaner and Frost Roads. No stumps, leaves, grass or commercial brush will be accepted. The site will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., on the following dates; April 4, 11, 18; May 2, 16; June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 8, 22; September 12, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24.

Yard Waste pick up will begin again the first pick up of April, 2015