



Don't miss out on our
NEW Summer Offering
MOVIES IN THE PARK

← Thursday, July 23, 2015
 Big Hero Six

Thursday, August 20, 2015
 Guardians of the Galaxy →
 (see page 7 for details)



TODAY

Thomas Township Trailblazer Second Annual 5K Run/Walk

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

The second annual Thomas Township Trailblazer 5K Run/Walk was a huge success again. Approximately 150 people participated this year to raise funds for the long term maintenance of the trail. In order to hold an event like this one, you need the support of key sponsors. Thus, we would like to recognize and thank the following sponsors:

DIAMOND TITLE SPONSORS:

- Dow Corning Healthcare Industries (HIMS)
- Apple Mountain Resort

GOLD SPONSORS:

- Thomas Township Business Association
- Standard Electric Company
- Martin Chevrolet

SILVER SPONSORS

- Kiwanis Club of Thomas Township
- Home Depot
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Lee Tents
- Hometown Pharmacy/Brady Drugs

Another thank you goes out to all of our participants who ran or walked in the

race. This professionally timed race, provides funding for the long term maintenance of this beautiful trail. In its third season, the Thomas Township Trail has become a popular spot for walking, running and riding bikes.

Additionally, the race adds a family friendly activity to the Shields Summer Festival Weekend of activities. Many of the runners were able to finish the race and head over to the Lion's Club annual parade down Gratiot.

The whole event was just another reminder of the close knit community that we live in and the fact that we have a lot of opportunities to enjoy both our neighborhoods and the outdoors with facilities like this in our hometown.



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PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

Summer Lawn "Watershed" Care

What can you do to help keep our rivers and watersheds cleaner? Let's look at your summer chores or activities that have an impact on the stormwater runoff from your yards. Here is a list of what you can do to keep our rivers, streams, lakes and Great Lakes healthy:

1. When you fertilize your lawn or gardens use only phosphorus free fertilizers (As of January 1, 2012 a Phosphorus ban went into law in Michigan).
2. When applying fertilizers, keep a minimum 10 foot buffer zone from ditches or curbs. This prevents the fertilizer from getting into storm drainage systems.
3. Fertilize only in the fall for a healthy lawn in the spring.
4. When mowing your grass do not blow grass clippings into the street or ditch. Do not dump grass or leaves into storm drainage systems or county drains. When these materials decompose they take the oxygen out of the water that goes to our

rivers. These materials also add nutrients that cause algae growth.

5. Do not dump materials or liquids down the catch basins in our streets. All of these storm drains go directly to our rivers, streams, lakes and ultimately to our Great Lakes. What you dump in the drains is what you will be swimming or fishing in this summer. The Drains are only for the Rains!



2nd Annual Thomas Township Trailblazer Race Results

Female 10 and Under:

1. Makayla Ketzler
2. Maryn Hyatt
3. Adeline Schalk

Male 10 and Under:

1. Noah Graham
2. Isaiah Sova
3. Jack Corriveau

Female 11-15:

1. Talitha Nelson

Male 11-15:

1. Nicholas Anderson
2. Nathan Piwawalski
3. Wyatt Schalk

Female 16-19:

1. Lucia Gardey
2. Hope Lawry
3. Kylie Harris

Male 16-19:

1. Steven Marr
2. Billy Scharf
3. Kameron Carey

Female 20-29:

1. Natalie Yuchasz
2. Megan Brush
3. Coutney Hoffman

Male 20-29:

1. James Monaghan
2. Beau Hoffman
3. Andrew Wendling

Female 30-39:

1. Alissa Dark
2. Amber Godwin
3. Katie Schanz

Male 30-39:

1. Ric Moody
2. Justin Schalk
3. Doug Ludwick

Female 40-49:

1. Cindy Weisenberger
2. Renee Carey
3. Aileen Pettinser

Male 40-49:

1. Lee Bauer
2. Brian McQuiston
3. Alistair Warr

Female 50-59:

1. Teresa Martin
2. Korina Tucker
3. Paula Claus

Male 50-59:

1. Manny Sanchez (Overall #1)
2. Rick Keith
3. Mike Restifo

Female 60 and up:

1. Bobbi Allen
2. Marilyn Clark
3. Gloria Hubbell

Male 60 and up:

1. Lee Hubbell
2. Bruce Clark
3. Frank Johnson



2015 Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Guide

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. (989) 781-0151



DAY CAMPS

Thomas Township has six new and exciting week-long camp sessions left for this summer. Day Camp is for children ages 7-12. The Day Camp runs five days a week, (Mon-Fri) 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year each week will have its own new theme for campers to explore, while still offering some of the activities that they have come to love; swimming, train rides and crafts. This year's themes are:

July 6-10	Stars & Stripes
July 13-17	Outdoor Explorer
July 20-24	Roethke Olympics
July 27-July 31	Carnival Craziiness
August 3-7	Chef for a Week
August 17-21	Under the Sea

Fee: Resident \$110 Non Resident \$120

****Camp fees will be reduced by 25% for each child after the first child registered in the same week of camp.** This applies to Mini Camp as well.**

BEFORE & AFTER CAMP CARE

Before & After camp care is available for parents who need to drop off or pick up their children before the scheduled camp time is available. A counselor will stay with any children if they need to be dropped off early or stay late. Before & After Camp Care begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m. There is a \$30 fee per week per child for this service. All children **MUST BE REGISTERED AND PAID IN ADVANCE FOR THIS SERVICE**

MINI CAMPS

There is one more one week (Mon-Fri) session for children ages 4-6 being offered this year. It runs from August 10th through the 14th. The daily sessions run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This outdoor oriented day camp includes all the activities that Day Camp has to offer. All activities are geared to the age level of the children. There is a limit of 20 campers. Wednesdays are still cook-out days.

Fee: Residents \$80 Non Residents \$90

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

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.



SWIM LESSONS

Taught by certified water safety instructors according to the Red Cross Swim Program. Each session consists of eight lessons. (Monday-Thursday)

Fee: Resident \$45.00
 Non Resident \$50.00

Level I: Water Exploration

Ages 4-6, an introduction to aquatic skills & water safety.

Second Session July 6-16
 Third Session July 20-30
 Fourth Session Aug 3-13
 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Level II: Primary Skills

Ages 5-9 who have passed Level I or a skill test. Working on basic strokes & aquatic safety.

Second Session July 6-16
 Third Session July 20-30
 Fourth Session Aug 3-13
 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Level III: Stroke Readiness

Ages 6-10 who have passed Level II or skill test. Continue to work on strokes, water safety & diving skills.

Second Session July 6-16
 Fourth Session Aug 3-13
 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Level IV: Stroke Development

Those who have passed Level III or skill test. Endurance & confidence in the various strokes.

Third Session July 20-30
 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

****For open swim times, if there are NO swimmers in the pool at 8:00 p.m. the pool will close early for the night.****

POOL SCHEDULE

The pool will continue with it's summer schedule for recreational swimming Monday-Sunday. The pool will close on August 16, 2015. Swim Sessions are as follows:

Monday-Thursday 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
 Friday-Saturday-Sunday Noon-3:00 p.m.
 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Fees for all sessions:

Individual \$ 5.00
 Individual All Day \$10.00
 Family per session \$10.00

Season Passes:

Individual Resident \$ 55.00
 Individual Non Resident \$ 75.00
 Family Resident \$ 80.00
 Family Non Resident \$110.00

\$20.00 extra on family passes for each additional family member over 5. Season passes are available at the Township Office, 249 North Miller Road.

RIDE THE ROETHKE TRAIN

The train runs Tuesday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and every Saturday and Sunday through August 18th (when weather permits) from noon to 5 pm. If planning a family event or bringing out a group, it is always wise to call ahead to verify the availability of the train for your get together. For special group times call 781-0151.





SOCCKER LEAGUES

Fall soccer leagues for boys and girls in grades Y5's-6th grade will begin taking registration's July 20th and will continue through August 21, 2015. Fall soccer season runs September 12, 2015 through October 17, 2015.

Fees: Residents \$40.00
 Non Residents \$45.00

ARCHERY CLASSES-2016

Beginning Thursday, January 7, 2016 and continuing until February 11, 2016 Archery classes run every Thursday until March 14th:

Beginner 4:30 pm-5:30 pm
 Beginner 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
 Beginner 6:30 pm-7:30 pm
 Advanced 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

Classes for beginners work on safety, form, equipment and the fundamentals to becoming a good archer. Classes for advanced archers are based on using their equipment if they have it or using our advanced set up bows. We have both fully set up compound bows or longbows available for your use. Registration will begin on November 2, 2015 and run through December 18, 2015.

2015 HAUNTED TRAIN RIDE AT ROETHKE PARK

October 16th-17th and 23th-24th

From dusk to midnight you can ride the fright train. This ever popular attraction returns for another year of fright. Remember we are always looking for more ghouls and goblin volunteers. Call the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Department at (989) 781-0151 for more information.

2015 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRAIN AT ROETHKE PARK!

December 4-5 and December 10-11-12

Come ride the train and see lighted scenes created by local businesses and individuals who love Christmas lights! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event please call the Park Office at 781-0151. The Christmas Train runs from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



PICNIC IN THE PARK-CONCERT SERIES AT ROETHKE PARK

Join us for a summer picnic and FREE concert series at Roethke Park. Enjoy great music and many more special events on Tuesdays from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Rainout date will be August 25, 2015.

- July 7- Brush Street with Julie Mulady
- July 14- The Beets
- July 21- Butch Heath and Yesterday's Country Band
- July 28- The Rock Show
- August 4- Laurie Middlebrook Band
- August 11- CEYX
- August 18- The Bullseye Band



The History of Thomas Township in Review

THE EARLY SCHOOLS OF THOMAS TOWNSHIP

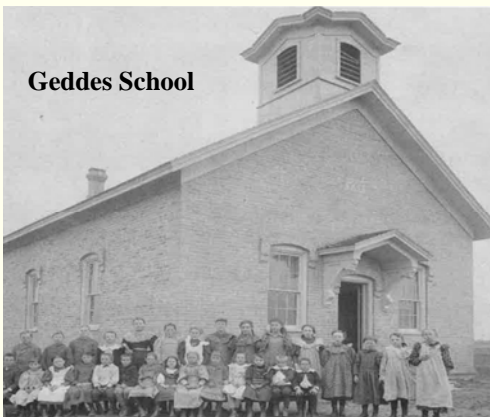
Even in the mid 1800's the residents of Thomas Township thought the need to educate their children was a high priority. Between 1856 and 1880 six school districts were created. The original six districts were; No 1—Liskow; No 2 F—Wiltse; No 3—Geddes; No 4—Grove; No 5F—Graham and No 8—Dice.

By 1880 there were 373 pupils and seven teachers all provided for on a budget of \$2,650. Liskow School, the first built in the Township in 1856 was located along the banks of the Tittabawassee River on the property that is now Owen Cemetery.

The second school district, built in 1860 was the Wiltse School. Wiltse was built in the northern part of the township on Tittabawassee Road and was a fractional district (hence the name No 2F), meaning it included children from part of Richland Township and Tittabawassee Township.

Next came the Geddes School which was built in the late 1860's. The school was located on Lone Road. This school was an extremely rural district and overcrowding never became a problem. It was consolidated with the Hemlock Rural Agricultural Schools in 1951.

In 1873 the Grove School District was built in a grove of oak, birch and maples trees on Gratiot Road. The school building itself was a wooden structure which lasted until 1925 when it burned by a fire. This school was replaced with a brick structure.



Geddes School

Sometime in the 1870's Graham School was built on the corner of Gratiot and Graham Roads. Originally built as a log structure, it was remodeled into a brick structure in 1812. The Graham district

was also a fractional district that included children from Swan Creek Township. Due to overcrowding, and by a vote of the people, Graham District and Hemlock Rural Agricultural Schools were merged together in 1951. The old school building was removed in 1958 to make way for the widening of Gratiot Road.



Graham School

The Dice School was built in 1867 in the small rural community of Dice which was in the northern part of Thomas Township on Dice Road. Through the years the Dice district was divided, with one section consolidated with Freeland and the other section consolidated with Hemlock.

Through the years, these six districts were consolidated down to four districts, with the high school aged children



Dice School 1912


bussed to either Arthur Hill High School or Freeland High School, depending upon geographical location. As the population of Thomas Township continued to grow, so did the population of the City and Saginaw County as a whole. In the early 60's it became apparent that the school districts in Thomas Township had outlived their functionality, and the City of Saginaw Schools did not have room for our high school students any longer. So, on June 13, 1966 by a vote of the people, Swan Valley School District was born.

Today, Swan Valley Schools total enrollment is about 1,756 with an operating budget of about \$15,000,000.

In the next issue of Thomas Township Today, we will be looking at the early churches of Thomas Township.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk*

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK



FROM THE CREATORS OF MONUMENTS MEN AND THE MONUMENTS MEN

Disney
BIG HERO 6

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Presents:
Movies in the Park, July 23, 2015
Roberts Park Soccer Fields
Miller Road Entrance
Admission is FREE

ADMIT ONE

Come on out to Roberts Park and enjoy two more FREE family friendly movies this summer.

Our July feature film, Big Hero 6, will be shown on Thursday, July 23, 2015.

Our August feature film, Guardians of the Galaxy, will be shown on Thursday, August 20, 2015.

Movies begin at dusk (about 9:15) and will be shown on a 25 foot screen complete with surround sound.

We are excited to bring these new events to Roberts Park.

We would love your feedback on this newest park program. Please feel free to send your feedback to Parks and Recreation Director, John Corriveau at park1@thomastwp.org.



MARVEL
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Presents:
Movies in Park
August 20, 2015 at Dusk
Roberts Park Soccer Fields
South Miller Road - Admission is FREE

SUMMER TAX BILLS

SUMMER TAX BILLS DUE TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ON JULY 1.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO DEFER YOUR SUMMER TAXES?

Summer tax bills should have arrived in mailboxes on or about July 1, 2015. They are due by September 14, 2015 to avoid penalties and interest. If you do not receive a summer tax statement, contact the Treasurer's office and request a copy. The Treasurer can be reached at (989) 781-0150.

Some property owners may defer payment of the summer tax until the time that winter taxes are due if one of the following apply:

- ...# The property is the principal residence of persons 62 years of age or older, or the surviving spouse of a person who was 62 or older at death, with a household income below \$25,000.
- ...# Persons with a disability that allows them to qualify for an extra personal exemption on the State income tax form.
- ...# Property that is classified or used as agricultur-

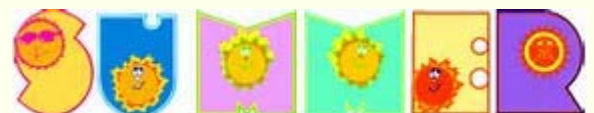
al property may qualify if the gross receipts of the farming operation are not less than the household income for the previous year.

Individuals who meet any of the above criteria for deferral must complete a form available through the Treasurer's office in order to receive the deferral. The deferral form must be completed each year **PRIOR TO OR ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2015.**

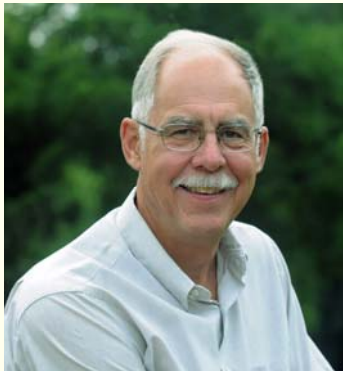
Deferral of summer taxes does not relieve the property owner from payment of the taxes. It only allows them to defer the payment until March 2, 2016 without penalties and interest.

If deferred, the summer tax amount due will not appear on your winter tax statement.

Vern Weber
Township Treasurer



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



In this quarter's "Meet Your Neighbor", I'd like to introduce you to David Sommers. David and his wife Edith have lived in Thomas Township since 1983. They have two adult daughters who graduated from the Freeland School District and Michigan State University.

David, an avid scuba diver since 1974, is the Dive Team Commander for the Saginaw County Sheriff Department Marine Division holding the rank of Lieutenant. This Marine Patrol division is a 17 member unit which is responsible for law enforcement on the waterways of the county and the water rescue and recovery team (scuba). David is also President of the Saginaw Area Water Rescue Recovery Team for the past 26 years. This 501(c)3 corporation is the underlying support organization for the Saginaw County Sheriff Department Dive rescue team. This unit also teaches boater safety to youngsters 12 to 16 years old.

David has been a member of the Thomas Township Fire Department since 1996, achieving the rank of Captain in 1999 for Station #2. He is a medical first responder, and has completed his Fire Fighter 1 and 2 training as well as Fire Officer 1, 2 and 3 education. As a member of the Special Rescue and the Hazardous Materials team he was named Fire Fighter of the year in 2000 and Fire Fighter of the year for 2001 by the Saginaw Exchange Club. He has received five American Red Cross Every Day Hero Awards.

As residents of Thomas Township who live along the Tittabawassee River, David and his wife Edith became quite concerned when the dioxin cleanup issue was raised. They started attending the public meetings to educate themselves about the issues being presented. David felt that this was important to protect his home and his family. When the Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination Community Action Group (CAG) was formed, he applied to be a member. At that time he was turned down, but became involved a couple years later as people dropped out. He became involved, and was responsible for updating their website www.saginawcag.org. In January of 2015 he was invited to join the CAG leadership team which subsequently led to him being named Presi-

dent.

As president, he works with a Secretary and Treasurer to deal mainly with the business side on the non-profit organization, and help lead the group. There is a professional facilitator that runs the meetings and takes care of smaller details and keeping the meetings on track.

The entire river clean up process has been going on for many years and can be very confusing. The CAG is meant to serve as an interface between the general public, including property owners along the river and other interested parties such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and DOW. The meetings were moved to Memorial Park in Freeland to make them more accessible to the residents as the cleanup moves into Saginaw County. He encourages people to attend the meetings and learn about the clean up process. As David stated "this process is literally happening in YOUR backyard. Please, get involved." You can find some answers at the CAG website www.saginawcag.org. All meeting dates and times are listed there as well.

I asked David how he likes living in Thomas Township, he stated, "During my career as a staff photographer with the Saginaw News, I had an opportunity to travel and work all over the Great Lakes Bay Region (formally known as Tri City Area). I dealt with the leaders of many communities and had an opportunity to see how they all work. We really like living in Thomas Township. I feel it is really well managed by staff that cares about the community. It has a nice mix of rural and a business uses."

David retired from the Saginaw News in 2009 after 30 years as a staff photographer, photo department manager and photo editor. Prior to that he worked as a staff photographer and television producer with the Dow Chemical Company. David was an Air Force combat photographer in Vietnam in the early 70's where he earned both an Air Medal and a Commendation Medal. After his return to the states, he was assigned to the Air Force Thunderbirds for two years as a team photographer. David was subsequently honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant.

David is a firm believer in helping ones community. David stated "over my career, I saw so many people helping their communities. I developed a philosophy that everyone owes something back to their community. This is what makes our, or any community work." David goes on to say that "for the most part, it is just plain "folks" just trying to help out."

David has taken that philosophy to heart, and we are glad that David and his family are a part of our community.

*Betsy Wietfeldt
Deputy Clerk*

Fire Department News

Annual Fire Department Awards

Annually, the Fire Department recognizes members of the department. We are thankful that the James Township Fire Department fills in for us while we hold the Awards Dinner, so that everyone can attend. Numerous fire fighters and officers were recognized for their extraordinary efforts this past year at the event.

- ..# James Nestell and Anthony Martin were introduced as our newest firefighters.
- ..# Several firefighters received pins for saving lives. Those receiving save pins were; Assistant Chiefs Joe Giacoletti and Lyle Cousins, Captains Brandon Rossi, David Sommers, Lieutenants Ryan Ludwick, Mike Fabish, Jason Grandy, Safety Officer Drake Parent, Crew Leaders Craig Simon, firefighters Don Ludwick, Derek Nikolai, Dominic Goergen, Drew Wagner, Tim Woodcock, Brian Leach, Casey Cichowski, Thomas Arn, Gary Salo and Medical Responder Jean Harken.
- ..# Don Ludwick was recognized as the Saginaw Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year!
- ..# Tim Gray and James Nestell received their Emergency Medical Technicians certifications.
- ..# Tim Woodcock and Drew Wagner completed the fire academy and hazardous material certifications.
- ..# Brandon Rossi was recognized for becoming a State of Michigan Certified Fire Instructor and Ryan Ludwick was named the Assistant Course Manager for the County Fire Academy.
- ..# The committee that designed every detail of our newest fire truck was recognized for all of the MANY hours they spent on the project, including using their own personal vacation time to ensure we selected a quality fire truck. This committee was lead by Assistant Chief Joe Giacoletti and included Captains Brandon Rossi, David Sommers, Lt. Jason Grandy, and Firefighters Jim Grove and Gary Salo. Great job men!
- ..# Service pins were issued for those having reached milestone years of service. 5 Years was Jean Harken, 10 years Dominic Goergen, 15 years Joe Giacoletti and Scott Rousseau, 25

years Don Ludwick, 45 years Gary Fuller. Congratulations to each of them!

In addition, each Fire Station's Officers recognize a firefighter from their respective station as serving in an exemplary manner.

For Station One this recognition went to Nicholas Chad. Nick has served since 2011, is



Assistant Chief, Joe Giacoletti; Nicholas Chad; Fire Chief Michael Cousins

an EMT and a member of the Special Rescue team. For Station Two, a team was given this award due to their working as an Engine team on a house fire which presented them with some unusual and significant obstacles. With their professionalism, they conquered the problem with skill and safety. Those receiving this award were: Capt. David Sommers, Lt. Jason Grandy, Firefighters Brian Leach and Jim Grove.



Jason Grandy, Brian Leach, Assistant Chief Lyle Cousins, Jim Grove and David Sommers

The highlight of the evening was the Fire Fighter of the Year Award. This award is selected by all members of the department who vote for the person who most deserves to be recognized. This year's Fire Fighter of the Year is Drake Parent. Drake has been a member of our Department since 2012, but came to us with 20 years of experience from two other County Fire Departments. He is a Fire fighter II, an EMT and is on the County Hazardous Material Team.



Drake has a positive attitude and gets along with everyone very well. Drake was recently promoted to the Department's Safety Officers role and is really making a difference in the quality of our training. Congratulations to DRAKE PARENT for this well-deserved honor!

We are lucky to have a great deal of absolutely awesome responders within our fire department. They have a true commitment to our community and serve our residents well. On behalf of the Residents, Board of Trustees, Township Manager and I, we thank

each and every member for their dedication to serving this community.

Gary Fuller Completes 45 Years of Service#

Gary Fuller was recently recognized for 45 years of service with the Thomas Township Fire Department! Gary currently serves as a fire fighter and as the long-time treasurer of our fire fighters' association.



Gary has earned the right not to go inside a burning building or dragging hoses. His primary roles now are driving the trucks and operating the water pumps, both of which are clearly critical roles within our department. Gary has served with a very positive attitude for many years..... in fact I don't think I have ever heard him say a negative word about anyone. He is just that kind of a guy. That is probably in part why he is so respected by his peers.

Gary began his department career with us when he joined the Fire Auxiliary back in 1970. When an opening came up on the regular department, he hopped on board. During his 45 year of service, he has served as Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief. He has also served on many committees throughout his years. Gary remains very active and is a true asset to this community. We are grateful to Gary for his time served and to his loving wife Sue for sharing him with us.

*Mike Cousins
Fire Chief*

DPW NEWS



It's summer!!! Many of us are getting ready to do work around the old homestead maybe its building a new fence, putting in new landscaping, or a paved patio, or any number of things that will require you to dig in your yard. Just remember your yard is home to Your underground utilities like water lines and sewer lines, buried electrical, telephone and TV cables, and natural gas services. All of these can easily be damaged by an inadvertent shovel, trencher or backhoe. Though damage can be fixed, each year untold injuries and loss of life also occurs. That is why utilities and communities have banded together and helped create the MISS DIG system.

MISS DIG is Michigan's statewide one-call notification system that was developed in order to provide excavators and the general public the ability to inform multiple owners of underground facilities of excavation with a single telephone call. MISS DIG is a not-for-profit, independent company that processes information from excavators and passes that information on to affected utilities. Individual utilities locate and mark the underground lines, wires and cables allowing you to safely dig in the area. Michigan Statute, Public Act 1974, requires anyone who engages in or is responsible for the planning or performance of any type of excavation, grading, demolition, cultivating, auguring, blasting, or boring to provide advance notice to MISS DIG by calling 811 or 1-800-482-7171 at least 3 working days before you dig. The call center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to take ticket requests.

So what happens when you call MISS DIG? The operator will ask your name, phone number and the name of the person doing the work. They will ask the geographical location of the work area, including the address and nearest cross street to the work site. They will ask what type of work is being completed; for example, installing a fence or building a deck. They will ask you when you plan to start the work. And they will ask what you would like to have marked-the entire front yard, on either side of your yard, etc. After you provide that information, a "ticket" will be generated and sent to the area utilities. The individual utilities will locate and mark their underground utilities that are located in the public right of way within 3 working days. Once marked, you can begin your work.

It is very important to wait until the legal start date and time assigned before beginning your underground work. Beginning work earlier can result in forfeiture of your rights and protections granted under Michigan law. MISS DIG will issue the earliest legal start date possible, usually three business days after you contact MISS DIG. A ticket remains valid for 21 calendar days after the legal dig start date requested on the MISS DIG ticket. It is, however, the excavator's responsibility to get the marks refreshed when needed. A ticket becomes invalid only if the work continues past 21 calendar days, or the locate marks are missing or need refreshing. In certain situations,

MISS DIG may issue a project ticket that will remain valid for 180 calendar days. Once marked, the utility is color coded as to what the utility is. If your yard is marked, please do not remove the markers until the underground work is completed.

RED MEANS BURIED ELECTRICAL WIRES
YELLOW MEANS BURIED GAS PIPELINES
ORANGE MEANS BURIED COMMUNICATIONS WIRES
BLUE MEANS WATER LINES
GREEN MEANS BURIED SEWER PIPES
PINK MEANS TEMPORARY SURVEYING

Thomas Township Veterans Display

Constructed as an honorable, lasting and continuous reminder to us all, the Veteran's display located at the Township's Owen Cemetery has continued to grow. This display honors members of the armed forces both past and present. 35 families have already purchased an engraved paver for their "Vet" and have had them installed within the reflection area of the display through this year. These Veteran's Pavers are available for \$ 35.00 each. This is not a fundraising endeavor. The cost simply represents the actual expense for the brick and engraving. Simply download a form from the Township's web site and return it to us, or visit us at 249 N Miller Rd. for assistance. You can also get additional information by calling (989) 781-0150, or by contacting us by e-mail at dpw@thomastwp.org.

Remember that our flag flies above the land of the free only because of the brave.....

*Rick Hopper
DPW Director*

In Other News

If you have a hydrant located in your yard, please make sure that plants and shrubs are at least 6 feet away from the centerline of the hydrant. This clear area is necessary so that the hydrant can be quickly located, hooked to and operated in emergency conditions. Thank you for your help.

Outdoor Water Restrictions

Annual Outdoor Water Use Restrictions will resume June 1st and continue until August 31st. Even addresses may use outdoor water on even dates, and odd number addresses on odd dates. Thomas Township greatly appreciates your cooperation as we conserve our water resources.

Police Department News

Welcome to summer!!! The nice weather has everyone busy doing outdoor projects and enjoying warm weather activities. This sometimes leads to distractions from other important tasks such as protecting ourselves from fraud, scams and identity theft.

Unfortunately, protecting ourselves has become almost a full-time job in today's society. Luckily, we can make keeping our records and identities safe with a few steps. Never give out a credit card number, expiration date or security code from the back of the card to someone that has called you. Often time's scammers pose as employees from the credit card company, asking you to verify any or all of these items because they believe a fraud has been committed against your card. The credit card company already **HAS** that information; they never need to verify it with you.

The most popular place to steal personal information is from your trash. All documents, including solicitations offering credit, should be shredded or burned. Any information requested by a solicitor should be viewed as a possible scam. Ask yourself, "What else could the information I'm giving be used for?"

As for Internet scams seeking to make you rich by holding money for a foreign government, person or group or claiming you won a contest or lottery they are always a scam. The old adage, "If it seems too good to be true it probably is" is still as accurate today as when the phrase was coined.

Finally, The IRS will never call you and demand that you make payment with a pre-paid credit card. This is always a scam!

Have a fun, safe and enjoyable summer!

Steve Kocsis
Chief of Police



Corrected Summer Fun Activities "At A Glance Calendar"

Calendar

THOMAS TOWNSHIP SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

MAY

1st Annual Family Fun Day.....Sun., May 17
Family activities; 11 am – 2 pm
Run For Windy 5K Race; 10 am

JUNE

Apple Mountain Summer Concert Series..... Fri., June 5
The Rock Show; 7 pm
Picnic in the Park Tues., June 16
Screaming Casanovas; 7 pm
Picnic in the Park Tues., June 23
Operation 13; 7 pm
Movies in the Park..... Thurs., June 25
The Goonies; begins at dusk
Shields Summer Festival..... Thurs.-Sun., June 25-28
Shields Parade..... Sat., June 27
11 am
Trash & Treasures..... Fri.-Sun., June 26-28

JULY

Picnic in the Park Tues., July 7
Brush Street with Julie Mulady; 7 pm
Picnic in the Park Tues., July 14
The Beets; 7 pm
Apple Mountain Summer Concert Series..... Fri., July 17
CEYX; 7 pm
Picnic in the Park Tues., July 21
The Yesterdays Country Band; 7 pm
Movies in the Park..... Thurs., July 23
Big Hero 6; begins at dusk
Picnic in the Park Tues., July 28
The Rock Show; 7 pm

AUGUST

Picnic in the Park Tues., Aug. 4
The Laurie Middlebrook Band; 7 pm
Picnic in the Park Tues., Aug. 11
CEYX; 7 pm
Picnic in the Park Tues., Aug. 18
The Bullseye Band; 7 pm
Movies in the Park..... Thurs., Aug. 20
Guardians of the Galaxy; begins at dusk
Apple Mountain Summer Concert Series.....Fri., Aug. 21
Dani Vitany and Ten Hands Fall; 7 pm

LOCATIONS

Apple Mountain Summer Concert Series: 4519 N. River Rd., Freeland

Picnic in the Park: Roethke Park, 400 Leddy Rd.

Movies in the Park: Roberts Park entrance, 455 S. Miller

Family Fun Day: Roberts Park, 455 S. Miller

Shields Summer Festival: Roberts Park, 455 S. Miller

Shields Parade: Begins at Shields Elementary, 6900 Stroebel Rd., travels along

Gratiot Rd., ends at Shields Men's Club, 605 S. Miller Rd.

Trash & Treasures: community-wide

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



2015 BRUSH DROP OFF 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: July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, September 12 & 26, October 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Yard Waste pick-up will continue until November 28, 2015