

THOMAS TOWNSHIP KIWANIS CLEAN UP GRATIOT ROAD

**Thomas
Township Board of
Trustees**

Bob Weise
Supervisor

Vern Weber
Treasurer

Edward Brosofski
Clerk

Tom Radewahn
Trustee

Mike Thayer
Trustee

Ellen Ryder-Petre
Trustee

Dave Sommers
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



Our local Thomas Township Kiwanis Club took some time out of their evening on April 20th to pick up trash along Gratiot Road from Graham Road to Kenely Road. The club has been

keeping this stretch of highway clean for 30 years now through the State's "Adopt-A-Highway" program. Under the program, they are allowed to pick up trash along either side of the highway; however, it does not permit them to do anything in the median for safety reasons. The Club does three cleanups each year; in the spring, summer and fall. They are always looking for help. You don't have to be a member to help with keeping your community clean. Many times Swan Valley High School students volunteer their time to assist the Kiwanis with cleanup work. Terry Rock has been the team leader for this Kiwanis Community Project throughout the 30 years. Terry says, "that the Club participates in numerous projects every year,



though he really enjoys doing this particular project as it has such a visible impact upon his community." On average, the Club mem-

bers pick up around 25 bags of trash each time they go out. It's interesting to see the variety of things that people discard along the highway. They regularly find tires, building material and license plates, along with all of the fast food paper products. This year, Kiwanian Steve Witt found a car door in front of Crooked Creek Golf Course.



A couple of years ago, one member actually found a \$20 bill, which of course led to a celebration at a local eatery. The Thomas Township Kiwanis Club has 35 members and meets weekly for breakfast and a short presentation every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot. Visitors are always welcome. You can contact the club by email at KiwaniisThomasTwp@gmail.com or on Facebook.

*Russ Taylor
Township Manager*

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2016 Business Of The Year Recipients

Thomas Township Announces 2016 Business of the Year

The Thomas Township Planning Commission has selected the 2016 Business of the Year. Each year the Thomas Township Planning Commission reviews and inspects licensed businesses, churches and organizations that are located in the Township. Based on criteria involving the overall appearance, maintenance, and condition of the property the Planning Commission votes to select who will receive the honor. Members of the Planning Commission met with the winners and honorable mention businesses to congratulate them on their achievement. The Business of the Year award is given to the business that has shown that they take pride in their business and maintain an eye-appealing lot.

The 2016 Business of the Year award was presented to Fullerton Tool West (11489 Sunshine Drive). Fullerton has brought many new jobs to our area and built a very attractive site for doing business. Fullerton has taken the time to really get to know our Township since they broke ground in May of last year. Fullerton Tool has continued to keep their business appealing to look at not only from the road but to all who enter its doors. Congratulations Fullerton Tool and the Curry Family.



Pictured left to right: Dave Sommers (Planning Commission Member), Patrick Curry (President, Fullerton Tool West), Nick Hammond (Marketing Manager, Fullerton Tool West)

Thomas Township would also like to recognize Swanhaven Manor (300 Kennely Road), Apple Mountain (4519 N. River Road) and Shields Comfort Care (9140 Gratiot Road). These businesses are all Honorable Mentions for the 2016 Business of the Year Award. Like many business throughout our community, these businesses worked hard to maintain their properties and run a successful operation within Thomas Township. This award is not only for businesses. Non-profit organizations, as well as churches can receive the award.

Swanhaven Manor: Honorable Mention



Pictured left to right: Rod Iamurri (Planning Commission Chairman), Lynn Van Tonne (Swanhaven), Claudia Anderson-Jones (Swanhaven) and Dave Sommers (Planning Commission Member).

Apple Mountain: Honorable Mention



Rod Iamurri (Planning Commission Chairman), Russ Chanin (Apple Mountain) and Dave Sommers (Planning Commission Member).

Shields Comfort Care: Honorable Mention:



Pictured left to right: Rod Iamurri (Planning Commission Chairman), Hamza Sikander (Shields Comfort Care), Dave Sommers (Planning Commission Member) along with a group of residents from Shields Comfort

*Jennifer Root
Community Development Staff*



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
Will Gast, Assistant Director
Stacy Hable, Secretary

Parks Office is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (989) 781-0151



Haunted Train

Roethke Park will once again be hosting the Haunted Train Ride and Haunted House. Come on out and get your fill of fright on October 14-15 and 21-22. The Train will run from dusk until everyone has rode! Usually we try to end by 11:30pm.

The Haunted Train ride has been operated at Roethke Park for over 30 years and continues to be a huge event that we look forward to each year. Volunteers are always needed to run skits during the event. Your organization, family or just people who love Halloween can come on out and help. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please call our office at (989) 781-0151 and find out how you can help.



Christmas Train and Festival of Lights

The fifth annual Christmas Train and Festival of Lights will be held at Roethke Park on December 1-2-3 and December 8-9-10. The Roethke Express will ride the winter wonderland each night from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come on out and enjoy our bonfire, have some s'mores and of course visit with Santa Claus.

The Christmas Train and Festival of Lights is a fantastic family event, sponsored by the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation. This event couldn't be done without the help of our area businesses and local families who come out and decorate a Christmas scene for you to enjoy!

If your family, business, church or civic group would like to participate, please call us at (989) 781-0151.



ONLINE REGISTRATION:

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. If you have not received a confirmation of payment, you are not registered. Some program sizes are limited.

Parks and Recreation Fall and Winter Programs

BOYS AND GILS BASKETBALL CLINICS

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 like to encourage the participants in the basketball clinics to attend the local high school games and cheer on their instructors



as they play. Deadline to register is November 18, 2016. Games will begin January 7, 2017. Cost is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Boy's Basketball leagues are forming for 2nd-3rd grades and 4th-6th grades. Registration deadline is

November 18th. Draft day is December 3rd at Swan Valley High School for grades 4th-6th. 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. Player

fees are \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. Please call (989) 781-0151 if you would like to coach a team.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

A girls basketball league is offered for grades 2nd-4th and 4th-6th. Registration for this league ends on January 20, 2017. All games begin on February 11th. All girls will be assigned a coach who will set up practices during the week. Games are held on Saturdays at Swan Valley High School. Player fees are \$40 for resi-

dents and \$45 for non-residents. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program You can call (989) 781-0151 to volunteer.



FLOOR HOCKEY



Recreational floor hockey leagues will be forming in January of 2017. Games will begin February 18, 2017, at Swan Valley High School. Registration deadline will be Friday, January 20, 2017. All kids playing floor hockey will be required to wear gym shoes and wear a mouth piece.

This co-ed league is a recreational league, with no standings kept, and there will not be any practices. The two leagues will be Y5's-Kindergarten and 1st-2nd -3rd grades. Cost to play is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non residents.

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation

249 North Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609

(989) 781-0151

www.thomastwp.org

AN EVENING IN THE PARK

An Annual Park Fundraising Event

The 2016 Evening in the Park event was held August 15th at Roethke Park. Thomas Township Parks and Recreation's annual fundraiser is a time to thank all those that have given to Thomas Township Parks and Recreation and also to donate towards the Parks. At the event the second Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame inductee was named, Mr. Terry Rock. Thomas Township Parks and Recreation depends on the work of so many people in our community who volunteer to coach, work events, help raise money and who just give back. A special thank you to Terry and everyone who helps make everything we do better!



We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event so successful:

Hemlock Semiconductor Operations LLC
The Thomas Township Business Association
Kluck's Nursery
Bob and Mary Jo Wiese
Ron and Ellen Petre

Don and Janet Emeott
Vern and Yvonne Weber
Terry and Peggy Rock
Jack and Connie Rehman
Craig and Deborah Monahan
Brett Monahan
Michael and Carla Zietz
Mike Grillo
Steve and Deborah Witt
Kiwanis Club of Saginaw-Thomas Township
Standard Electric
Sandy Hirschman
Thomas Township Fire Fighters Association
Frank and Tina Gulczinski
Russ and Sue Taylor
Mike and Chris Cousins
Leddy Electric
Spicer Group
Don and Angie Scherzer
Ann and James Curran
Martin Chevrolet
Bierlein Company
Bob and Ann Murphy
Tom and Sally Kluck
Shields Lions Club
Shields Men's Club
Lorraine Ruppel
Tom Radewahn and Mid Valley Insurance
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Busch
Pat and Alice Wurtzel
Dr. and Mrs. L.W. Leddy
Ed and Nancy Brosowski
Mike and Linda Thayer
Terry and Donna Ross
Jack Visuri
Thomas McIntyre
Angela Alworden
Dean Rusch

Once again, thank you to all the people who make this event possible and the community who continues to support our Parks and the programs we offer!

John Corriveau
Parks and Recreation Director

THOMAS TOWNSHIP ARCHERY PROGRAM



The Thomas Township Parks and Recreation will continue to offer archery classes in the winter. Thomas Township now has three USA Archery and National Field Archery certified instructors on staff.

Registration is taking place now through Friday, December 2, 2016 for both Beginning Archery and Explore Archery (formally advanced archery) classes. Beginning Archery is for everyone ages 8 years on up through adult! Explorer Archery is for archers who have their own equipment or have passed our beginner class and can shoot 20 yards with accuracy. Our equipment is available for use if you don't have your own equipment. Students in the Explorer group will still be honing their skills through games designed to offer a fun yet challenging experience in archery.

Classes will begin on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, 1500 North Gleaner Road. Classes continue for six weeks. Classes available this winter are:

Beginner	4:30 pm-5:15 pm
Beginner	5:15 pm-6:00 pm
Beginner	6:00 pm-6:45 pm
Beginner	6:45 pm-7:30 pm
Explorer Archery	7:30 pm-8:15 pm

A huge thank you goes out to the Saginaw Field and Stream Club who have been great supporters of our pro-



gram, and let us use their facilities for our program. Without them, we wouldn't have such a great program.



**Sidewalk
Snow and Ice Reminder**

Now that leaves are starting to fall from the trees, it won't be long before snow and ice follow. So it's time to have a conversation about sidewalk safety. Thomas Township has a great number of walkers, runners, and bike riders that use the sidewalks on a daily bases. The number of walkers goes down as the temperatures fall, but not as much as you may think. On most days you can still find residents of Thomas Township getting in a mile or two in the dead of winter. Keeping that in mind, every winter as the first snow falls residents and businesses that have sidewalks in front of their property need to know what their responsibility is for keeping them clean.

After a snowfall, all residents and businesses must ensure that the sidewalk is cleared within 48 hours of the storm. Because Michigan weather is so unpredictable and sometimes it snows for days at a time, it is important to clean your sidewalk as soon as possible so it does not get packed down from an accumulation of several snow falls or from the walkers that use them.

More and more residents young and old are using sidewalks to get around and for exercise. In fact did you know that Thomas Township has over 10 miles of sidewalks connecting subdivisions, businesses, parks, libraries, and schools?

If you use the sidewalks, make sure the next time you see someone shoveling them that you express your gratitude and tell them you appreciate what they are doing. Their efforts are a benefit to the entire community, from children walking to school, to those who use them for exercise. If you have a question about the snow removal ordinance, call the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at 989-781-0150.

*Connie Watt
Code Enforcement Officer*

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

There's a good chance if you have never met Terry Rock, you probably know his voice. Not only is Terry called the "The Voice of Delta College" he has also been the Swan Valley football announcer for 25 years with his memorable high pitched "First Down" call. Terry's time and dedication to the community doesn't end there. He has been involved with the Thomas Township Parks & Recreation Board, Kiwanis Club, PRIDE, Hidden Harvest, as well as the Ecumenical Food Pantry at the local 1st Presbyterian Church. Most recently, he was selected as this year's inductee into the Thomas Township Parks Hall of Fame.

"Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy." This is something that was instilled in Terry by his mother and he sincerely hopes he has instilled it into his kids and grandkids as well. During his time as Public Relations Director for Delta College he did plenty of volunteer work and it pushed him even farther into the realm of community service. During Terry's 38 years with Delta College he was instrumental in helping Delta become the first college to use radio as a way to advertise. Terry also spent 24 years on the Thomas Township Parks & Recreation Board, 20 of which as President, where he was very influential in starting the "Taste of Thomas Township" fundraiser (now known as "An Evening in the Park") as well as envisioning the bandshell at Roethke Park and getting the donations to accomplish it. Though Terry no longer serves on the board, he still donates time to the Parks Department.

In addition to his time on the Parks & Recreation Board, Terry is also a member of the local Kiwanis Chapter where he has served as four time President and most of the rest of his time as Secretary. Terry also served as President for two of his nine years with Saginaw PRIDE. Among his many duties on PRIDE was the Friday Night Live Concerts where he would work every weekend during the summer to organize and put on the shows. Eventually, he wanted to be able to spend that time with his family and stepped down from the board because Terry believes that you should only serve on a board when you want to, then step down and let new blood take over.

Two of his favorite volunteer programs are Hidden Harvest and the Ecumenical Food Pantry. The two programs are both essential in Saginaw. Hidden Harvest

provides over 2.5 million pounds of food a year to local programs and shelters, one of which is the Ecumenical Food Pantry. There are eleven churches involved in the Ecumenical Food Pantry and they help between 500-600 people per month. Terry is just one of the Co-Directors of the Food Pantry and he couldn't feel more rewarded. "It makes you feel good to help people less fortunate." That is how Terry describes his work and would hope that the younger generations can be more involved in community service and feel that same rewarding feeling.

*Jennifer Root
Community Development Staff*



Parks and Recreation Director John Corriveau presenting Terry Rock with his award.

Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Terry Rock, the second person inducted into the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame. Terry is well known throughout Saginaw County but his true passion was always working with parks and recreation and making his community better.

The purpose of the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame is to honor and recognize those persons from Thomas Township who have made exceptional contributions to the Thomas Township Parks system, or recreation programs, through community service, coaching, as a business, being an outstanding citizen, or related endeavors.

*John Corriveau
Parks and Recreation Director*

November 8, 2016 General Election

STRAIGHT PARTY BALLOT CHOICE TO REMAIN ON THE BALLOT

Early in 2016 I sent out a letter to all voters over the age of 60 who were not already on our permanent absent voter list. At that time I gave everyone the option of signing up for an absent voter ballot, due to the fact that at that time the straight party ticket choice had been removed from the ballot. Also at that time there was the possibility of numerous State proposals that could have potentially made the November, 2016 ballot one of the largest ballots in recent time.

Due to court action, the straight party ticket choice will be on the

November ballot and there are NO State proposals on the November, 2016 ballot, making this ballot one of the smallest November ballots in the past twelve years.

If you are in need of an absent voter ballot, applications can be obtained, at the Thomas Township Clerks office, 249 North Miller Road, Saginaw, MI 48609, or you can call the Deputy Clerk, Betsy Wietfeldt at (989) 781-0150 and an application for a ballot can be mailed to you. Please don't wait until the last minute, as mail service does take longer to get the applications and ballots back and forth in the mail.

If you need to check your regis-

tration status, the Michigan Voter Information Center was created for you to find out if you are registered, to find out where you vote and to look over the ballot for the precinct where you vote. To get to the Voter Information

michigan.gov/vote

Center, go to:

If you are not online, please feel free to call the Deputy Clerk, Betsy Wietfeldt at (989) 781-0150



*Ed
Brosofski,
Township
Clerk*

FROM THE TREASURER

Winter Tax Bills to Arrive by December 1, 2016

Winter property tax statements are scheduled to be mailed to you on or around December 1, 2016. If a property tax statement has not been received by December 5, 2016, please contact the Deputy Treasurer, Korina Tucker at (989) 781-0150 or by email at treasurer@thomastwp.org to request a copy.

For your convenience, a drop box is available by the south side of the Township office building for making payments after hours. The drop box is checked each morning that the Township holds business hours and all payments are considered received on that day. All payments must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2016, to be considered paid in 2016.

If your property taxes are paid by an escrow account, you will receive confirmation of payment in

the form of a paid property tax receipt. If you do not receive a paid tax receipt, you may want to contact your bank and make arrangements for payment.

*****REMINDER*****

When paying in person, bring the entire tax notice with you (both top and bottom portions) and our staff will mark the top portion paid for you as your receipt.

*Vern Weber
Township Treasurer*

DOG LICENSES FOR SALE

Dog licenses are available at the Township Office from December 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

P.A. 195 of 1969, Sec. 6 requires the owner to show proof of valid rabies vaccination including the expiration date to obtain a dog license. Dog licensees will not be issued without the required rabies vaccination information.

*Deidre Frolo
Director of Fiscal Services*

DPW NEWS



This year has continued to place drinking water the national spotlight. News stories about lead contamination in older cities like Flint to ground water pollution coming from a former military installation that is threatening Lake Huron highlights how important on safe drinking water is. And, while making sure that our water is safe to drink, most of the world lacks a reliable water source for drinking water.

The earth is home to a lot of water, but 97% of the world's entire supply is seawater. Another 2% is captured in polar ice caps. This leaves just 1% of all the water in the world as drinkable fresh water. Even though pollution and maintaining safe drinking water standards are important, another important issue is conservation and making sure that the 1% of drinkable water we have is used wisely.

According to the U.S. Department of Interior, the average U.S. household of four uses 293 gallons of water per day. And for every 10 gallons of water used, 9.5 gallons is simply wasted down the drain. This means that every year, hundreds of billions of gallons of water are wasted nationwide through inefficient water use or faulty or broken plumbing fixtures. This waste adds unnecessary costs to customers and impacts both water and sewer utilities through wasted energy consumption, chemical and treatment costs and manpower. Here are some statistics:

- ... Toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, (providing your toilet is fairly new or has been replaced since 1995). Have a toilet installed before 1995? You use 6 gallons per flush!
- ... Have a leaky toilet? A running toilet will use up to 2 gallons per minute. That could be 2,800 gallons per day and is the same as having 39 of your favorite relatives living in your home.
- ... How about that long shower you like to take. Showers use between 2.5 and 7 gallons per minute. 20 minute shower-140 gallons of water.
- ... Bathing the kids? Baths use between 28 and 36 gallons per bath.
- ... Cleaning the sink or tub? Maybe shaving? A running faucet uses between 2 and 3 gallons of water per minute.
- ... Have a dripping faucet? 1 drip per second unchecked and you wasted 5.5 gallons per day.
- ... Did you know that an older washing machine uses between 25 and 55 gallons; or that a dishwasher uses 15 gallons per load?

- ... Did you brush your teeth today? On average, you used 3 gallons, most of it wasted down the drain. And that is each time!
- ... Watering your flowers and grass? You're using around 10 gallons per minute.
- ... How about this...drink two cups of coffee per day, a glass of water in the middle of the night, a couple of glasses of lemonade on a nice summer day; have a cup of soup at lunch, boil up some pasta for dinner and finally wash down the antacids after reading the latest election news and you used a gallon and a half of water!

Every time our staff reads your water meter, we look for large, out of the ordinary water use. Not only does it reflect in a larger water bill, it's a pretty good indication you have something that is leaking in your home or business. When we spot it, we try and notify you so you can address the issue, or arrange an appointment with our staff to help you find a leak. Every month, scores of customers are assisted this way.

If you happen to get a letter from the Township about a high water use, contact us. We will be more than happy to help determine if you have a leak problem or not. Look for leaks on your own. Listen for a running toilet. If you suspect a silently leaking toilet, try placing some food coloring in the tank of the toilet and see if, over time, the color shows up in the bowl. Look for dripping faucets. And if you find something, fix it.

Want to help conserve? Here are some tips.

- ... Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or shave.
- ... Take short showers instead of baths.
- ... Install water-saving accessories in your bathroom, like low-flow shower heads and low-flow or dual-flush toilets.
- ... Immediately repair leaks in faucets, toilets and other plumbing.
- ... Replace older, water-consuming appliances like dishwashers and washing machines with those that are more efficient. Look for appliances tagged with the "Energy Star" label. (These appliances are vetted to the government's standards of efficiency).
- ... Scrape -rather than rinse- your dishes before putting them in your dishwasher.
- ... Run your dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- ... Pour water at tap temperatures and store in the refrigerator to cool instead of running the faucet until you get cool water. Likewise, use a sink-based instant water heater to heat water, or loop your hot water piping rather than running faucet until you get hot water.

Continued on page 10, column 2

POLICE NEWS

Cooler, and shorter days, high school sports and school buses..... It must be fall! As we get back into the swing of the school year and all of the activities associated with it our lives become more hurried and time is at a premium. Those leisurely late evening walks or bike rides are now taking place at dusk or after dark.



Remember to always wear light colored clothing and some kind of reflective apparel so you can be seen. This goes for bike riding as well as walking. Remember to ride with traffic and obey all traffic laws. When

walking walk against traffic, the reason for this is so you can get off the travelled portion of the road when traffic approaches. Never assume a driver, especially in the twilight hours or after dark, can see you. Bikes should have reflectors on all sides and some type of front and rear facing lights. Please don't take chances with your safety.

Also, be mindful of school buses, they carry our most precious resource, our children. We hope you enjoy the fall weather, activities and everyone has a safe and joyous fall.

*Steve Kocsis
Chief of Police*

Thomas Township Trick or Treat Hours

OCTOBER 31

5:30-7:30

conserve Water, Continued from page 9

- ... Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems for your plants rather than a sprinkler.
- ... Water lawns and gardens in the coolest part of the day, such as the early morning.

Remember, water is a finite resource. We have all the water we will ever have. We cannot make more. We have to clean and reuse water time and time again. We need to be conscious of the water we use and we must protect the resource so that clean, drinkable water is always available.

Veteran's Display

Remember that Monday, November 11th is Veteran's Day. Thomas Township has a dedicated a display where you can honor your Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard Veteran by adding an engraved paver that would be included into the display. You can download a paver order form from our website at www.thomastwp.org or by visiting the main Municipal Offices located at 249 North Miller Road.

Remember that freedom isn't free. We live in the land of the free only because of the brave.



Outdoor Water Restrictions

The annual outdoor water use restrictions have been lifted for 2016. Thomas Township greatly appreciates your cooperation as we continue to conserve our water resources.

*Rick Hopper,
DPW Director*



Fire Department News

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK AND CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES! NOVEMBER 5th, IS COMING FAST....

Overnight on November 5th to November 6th at 2:00 am, daylight savings time comes to an end and we change our clocks back one hour. The Thomas Township fire department as well as other fire departments nationwide strongly encourages you to **CHANGE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES!**

Twice a year we ask you to do this same thing! And, the easiest time to remember to do this, is when daylight savings time begins and ends. The fire fighters in Thomas Township support this campaign by putting their own money on it! With the funds they earn during our annual pancake breakfast, they purchase smoke detectors to give away in a grant type of program. This way no tax dollars purchase smoke detectors for "personal use".

How the program works; during a normal shift at either of our "local" pizza shops (**Eudici's and Little Caesars**) our crews will randomly select various orders within Thomas Township, and follow the pizza delivery guy right to your home. If you have a working smoke detector, WE BUY THE PIZZA! If your smoke detector doesn't work or you don't have one, we will supply you with a properly working smoke detector!

These life saving devices are the best and cheapest insurance you can get to protect your family. At the same time we encourage you to change your smoke detector battery; we also encourage you to **CHECK YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR**. If your carbon monoxide detector is operated by batteries, check and change them as well. The carbon monoxide detector is another device that is worth every penny spent to protect your life.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that has properties that can literally kill you! As you may recall, we had a very close call recently here in our own Township with high levels of carbon monoxide. If you have any questions, please call our Fire Prevention Bureau at 781-4141.

Test Your Detectors Today!

Michael Cousins
Fire Chief

THOMAS TOWNSHIP GATEWAY SIGN

If you drive west on Gratiot Road over the Tittabawassee River bridge, you have probably noticed the flags and stakes in the ground between Heritage Insurance and the Wash World Car Wash. They are marking the location of the new Gateway sign and support structure that will be built there soon welcoming drivers to Thomas Township. Gratiot Road is not only the central business corridor in our community, but it is also the main entry point to our Township for thousands of vehicles each day. Signifying this location as the entrance to Thomas Township is a key way of getting people to associate the name with the community.

As Thomas Township has grown and developed, the Township Board recognized years ago the importance of trying to enhance the visible identity of our community, especially our business district where over 30,000 vehicles pass through each day. The Board has also tried to implement this strategy in an affordable manner through a series of small changes that have collectively started to show results. Sidewalks were installed about twenty years ago. Business signage requirements were changed fifteen years ago to reduce and lower signs along the corridor. Several driveway openings have either been closed or realigned throughout the years. Unnecessary street signs and poles have been removed as opportunities came up over the years. Streetlights were installed about seven years ago. Similarly, the pillars and fencing enhancements to property frontages were introduced at about the same time.

The Gateway sign has been in the planning stages for three years now, so we are excited to anticipate the construction actually beginning soon. The sign itself will be attached to a series of eight stone pillars with black fencing in between. The sign will be enhanced with lighting and a backdrop of three flag poles for our National, State and Township flags. The new gateway sign will be a definitive reminder to drivers that they are entering our community. Hopefully, with the sign and the other enhancements mentioned earlier, people will continue to see Thomas Township as a great place to live and do business. We realize that it is not going to result in any major psychological shift in the public's view of our community, but we also know that it takes a lot of little steps to reach any goal. This sign is simply one more step taken in that direction.

Russ Taylor
Township Manager

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



2016 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: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Yard Waste pick-up will continue until November 26, 2016