

The Township Update

MISSION STATEMENT

To establish innovative, effective and efficient public policy and funding for services, fiscal management, community planning and development; to encourage internal and external communications.

Center Courts Opening Ceremony - You're Invited!

The facility will benefit everyone - from all walks of life
Plan your walking/jogging this Fall/Winter at the Center Courts!



George L. Olson, Supervisor

The official opening of the Center Courts Recreation & Fitness Facility will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2002. The ceremony will consist of music from the Heritage High School Jazz Ensemble and soloist LaToya Kennedy. Also on hand will be the award winning Heritage Pom Pon Squad. This event is intended to recognize all those individuals and institutions who generously supported the Township's effort to build a recreation facility, without raising taxes. Following the program, the facility will be open for public viewing throughout the day until 5 p.m. Once scheduling is established, the hours of operation are expected to be from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Progress Update: As this newsletter comes to your mailbox, the construction of the Center Courts will be nearing its completion date of late October. Sport league activities begins in early December of this year.

It was difficult to envision the size or potential of this recreation & fitness center until the actual building blocks, roof trusses and concrete floor was poured. As the building began to take shape, many people in the community soon began feeling the excitement and admiration of the project. More families and individuals became contributors of the project through donations to the **Supporting Wall** and to the **Buy-A-Brick** campaign. *"Like other successful projects that we have witnessed in our community, this one has 'snow balled' from a dream to a reality."*

Activities At The Center Courts: The facility will feature opportunities to play basketball and volleyball on the main floor. These two activities are among the most popular indoor sports for men and women of all ages. The second floor will feature a walking & jogging track to accommodate those looking to develop a regular fitness routine.

Activities Being Looked At: There have been additional inquiries as to what other activities might take place at the Center Courts. This is largely speculative at this time. Center Courts' staff will be developing programs and activities.

We hope to develop "Adaptive Sports" activities for the handicapped, particularly those who may be wheelchair bound. Working with the Field Neurosciences Institute, we are looking into providing a time and place for weekly Adaptive Basketball and Volleyball. In the Tri-County area, there are only two known sites that offer this activity.

Questions We Have Been Asked About the Project:

Is there a fee to play basketball or volleyball? There is no admissions charge during open play. League games will be covered by league/team dues that are currently collected.

Is this facility for residents only? This facility is funded by a State of Michigan Grant, and donations from several private foundations. One of the conditions of the funds is that the facility is available to the general public.

Did my taxes go up to pay for this building? The Township did not increase property taxes for this project. About half of the funds raised came from the Township General Fund and was saved or reserved for this project over the last three years. With the help of outside donations and a grant, the Township was able to stay within its means.

Will the building be supervised at all times? Yes. Saginaw Township will exercise zero tolerance when it comes to conduct and irresponsibility. Safety and security will be a major priority with staff. *(More questions and answers regarding Center Courts can be found on page 7.)*

A Survey Is Enclosed Regarding Recreational Vehicle Issues in Saginaw Charter Township

We are asking for your opinion on the subject

If you had three people in one room, would they all have the same meaning for the word "blight"? Funk & Wagnall's defines blight in varying ways. The most common definition is "A deteriorating influence or condition affecting use, development, and value, as of real estate."

In Saginaw Township, the word blight has been applied to other things, as well. Besides "junk & debris" and an unkempt appearance, does blight also mean RV's and trailers, boats and wave runners, work trucks or cars in various stages of repair? Recent events have led the Township Board to examine its policy in regulating these items. Do we regulate them at all? If we do, to what extent or level should the Township regulate?

The last time the Township addressed these issues was in the late 1980's when the current RV (recreation vehicles) regulations were developed. The existing RV regulation is found in the Zoning Ordinance (Ord. #423 as amended, section 302 - 10) and states:

The parking of recreational vehicles and equipment including travel trailers, campers, boats and similar recreational equipment is prohibited within the required yard areas of any "R" district, except recreational vehicles and equipment are permitted for periods not to exceed five (5) consecutive days, whereupon said vehicle shall be completely removed from the property for a minimum of eight (8) hours. The vehicle and/or equipment shall be parked on a dust free, weed free surface.

It is believed that this wording was the result of compromise involving considerable input from the public and attempted to provide for a reasonable use of a resident's property. However, through nearly 20 years of experience, the true application of this ordinance has shown that the wording made enforcement almost impossible. Consequently, staff was unable to comprehensively address RV's. In the meantime, the Township became the judge and mediator between residents who felt a need for more stringent rules and those who favor more relaxed policy.

On June 10, 2002, a contingent of residents attended the Township Board meeting to voice their concerns about RV's and blight. As a result, Township staff was directed to research ways to more closely and more aggressively control the storage and parking of RV's. A draft ordinance was developed, the Township Board was surveyed, and discussions ensued regarding their desires for the scope and magnitude of the new regulations. During this time, the Township also heard from an equally vocal number of people against RV regulation.

With people for and against, you can easily see the dilemma now facing the Township. **A decision was made to seek public input through the survey you will find inserted between pages 2 and 3 in this newsletter.** The results of the survey will help the Township form a more representative policy and will be incorporated into new ordinance language.

Please take a few minutes to complete the postmarked survey and return it to the Township by following the Business Reply Mail directions explained on the survey. No postage is required.

We Need Your Help!

Update of Saginaw Township's Sign Regulations

Article submitted by: Rob Grose, Assistant Director of Community Development & Planning

Over the course of the last few years, the Planning Commission has conducted two planning studies relative to improving traffic and safety, access, parking and appearance along the Bay and Tittabawassee Road corridors. These studies sought community input through various methods including public meetings, workshops and surveys. It was through these efforts that it became evident to the Commission that many of our residents and business owners felt that Saginaw Township's commercial corridors are visually distracting because of the signs, store facades, parking, traffic and utility poles.

Nationally, commercial corridors have been the subject of criticism for decades, yet the features that characterize these areas have not changed much over the years. All corridors share a number of common components. Among the characteristics that have come to typify the common commercial strip are:

- ◆ Numerous large freestanding and portable signs;
- ◆ Large expanses of unscreened surface parking;
- ◆ Little or no landscaping of public or private property;
- ◆ Few or no pedestrian improvements;
- ◆ Above ground utilities and overhead lights;
- ◆ Numerous poorly delineated and closely spaced driveway access points; and
- ◆ A generally uncoordinated approach to the design, location, and planning of various public and private improvements.

Visually, commercial corridors often lack a sense of organizational structure and this confusion reflects poorly on the community. Often, the development that occurs within a commercial corridor bears no relationship to a community's natural setting or the architectural styles present in the rest of the community. Moreover, commercial corridors often contain all the same national fast food franchises, gas station chains and large retail stores making one community's commercial corridor indistinguishable from the next. Visitors may be left with an impression that the community does not care about its appearance.

Strip commercial corridors are an outgrowth of our nation's reliance on the automobile as the dominant form of personal transportation. Not surprisingly, the signs and advertising devices used by the business establishments that line roadways are oriented to the street and directed at motorists. In their competition for the attention of the motoring public, merchants continually push the roadside visual envelope to its breaking point by erecting bigger, taller and brighter signs. The clutter generated by these signs is typically one of the worst features of a commercial corridor.

As with many elements of the corridor, the private side of the sign control equation is only part of the problem. Public road signs and traffic control devices also contribute to roadside visual problems. Forced to compete for valuable roadside space and the attention of motorists, these publicly owned corridor accessories are likely to be as poorly designed and overused as their private counterparts.

In an effort to address some of these concerns, the Planning Commission and Township Board adopted new parking standards earlier this year. These revised parking regulations help to reduce the number of parking spaces required for commercial properties while at the same time serves to enhance the appearance of parking areas by instituting new landscaping guidelines.

The Planning Commission feels that the next step in the process of improving the aesthetics of the community is to address the issue of signage. In Michigan, as well as throughout the Country, sign regulations have been the most controversial and most frequently litigated of all land use controls. Businesses in particular often take a dim view of stringent sign regulations being enacted in a community. Often times they have invested tens of thousands of dollars into their existing signs and feel that changing regulations for the sake of enhancing aesthetics is not warranted.

The Saginaw Township and Kochville Township Planning Commissions are working together to develop a new sign ordinance. By adopting similar sign regulations, both communities will promote a more unified appearance along the Tittabawassee and Bay Road corridors. Each community needs to take proactive steps to ensure that its businesses will remain economically strong and viable for years to come. Creating an environment that allows businesses to continue to prosper is extremely important to our merchants, residents, elected officials and the future of the Township as a whole.

A committee comprised of 18 individuals, nine (9) from Kochville Township and nine (9) from Saginaw Township, has been formed to help guide the communities through the process of developing new sign regulations. The committee consists of a cross section of business owners, residents and Township officials. While the draft is still in the early stages of development, both Townships have done some extensive survey work. Saginaw Township surveyed every commercial property owner, business owner and business tenant within the Township. Also, a random sample of 5% of the residents were surveyed. In total, 2,500 surveys were mailed.

In the near future, several public meetings will be held to obtain community input. It is important that the community participates in this process. Public input is crucial to developing a successful ordinance.

It is the Committee's goal to develop regulations that will be reasonable and fair for everyone. Obviously, a balance needs to be achieved. Both communities need to make the signs and landscape as pleasing as possible while still providing the merchants with the exposure they need to be successful.

Please visit our Web site www.saginawtownship.org and click on the Planning/Zoning section to see results of the survey.

You may also pick-up a copy of the results at the Saginaw Township Hall, 4980 Shattuck Road, between 8-5:00 p.m., M-Friday.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Saginaw Township Police Department News...

Reported by: Stephen C. Renico, Chief of Police

Nigerian Letter Scam

Investigators from the Michigan State Police and the FBI are warning residents to be aware of a criminal organization operating out of Nigeria and Canada. The group has been involved in a large-scale scam known as the "Nigerian Letter-Scam". Canadian police officials have identified 300 victims with individual losses ranging from \$52,000 to \$5 million.

Typically, victims receive a letter either by fax, mail or e-mail. The letters are allegedly from Nigerian civil servants who claim to have a legitimate right to large amounts of money in Nigeria. However, because of Nigerian law, they are forbidden to own a foreign bank account and need the assistance of the intended victim to set up an account in exchange for a portion of the funds.

The victim is asked to forward personal financial information, including banking information and copies of the victim's corporate letterhead and invoices so the money can be deposited directly into the victim's account.

Once the victim discloses that information, he/she receives a call that the funds have cleared Nigeria and are secure in a clearing house or mercantile bank in North America. The victim is supplied with a phone number of the bank where the funds are held and the calls are forwarded to a boiler room operation controlled by the perpetrators. The victim is told that before their portion of the money can be released, certain fees, taxes, etc., must be paid. Once the fees are paid, the victim is informed of additional fees and this goes on until the victim is broke. The fraudulent business deal is never consummated.

Anyone in Michigan with information regarding this scam is being asked to contact the Michigan State Police Computer Crimes Unit at (734) 525-4529.

Remember these two rules:

1. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
2. Never give personal or financial information over the phone to anyone who calls you.

District Resource Officers

Beginning this fall, the department will assign a District Resource Officer in each of the three patrol districts. Officers Jon Stinson, Elizabeth Collison, and Christopher Fredenburg will be assigned to work with residents, businesses, and schools on a variety of issues and community concerns. They will help residents establish and maintain Neighborhood Watch programs, assist apartment communities through the Crime Free Multi-Housing program and aid area businesses in preventing a variety of common business crimes.

In addition to these duties, the officers will be presenting a new program in the schools, which is designed to provide anti-drug, anti-gang, and self-protection information to students of all ages. This new program will replace the D.A.R.E. program, which was taught to fifth-graders.

For more information on available programs, please contact D/Sgt. Michael Berent at (989) 791-7226.

Crossing Guards

Want a fun part-time job that pays pretty well and puts you in contact with young people? The police department is looking for potential crossing guards. Each candidate must pass a background investigation. If you would be interested in applying, contact Sgt. Blake Andrews at (989) 793-2310.

Civilian Traffic Survey Team

A recent article in the Saginaw News gave many residents information on the Civilian Traffic Survey Team, our latest effort to control traffic violators in residential areas. The team is made up of four volunteers who have received training in the use of a hand-held traffic radar. They go into specified areas at designated times of the day and monitor the speed of motorists. If the motorist is exceeding the speed limit, a team member obtains the license number and the registered owner receives a warning letter in the mail. We then try to follow up using traffic enforcement officers with ticket books.

Crime Information Hot Line

If you would like to know what, if any, criminal activity takes place in your neighborhood, you can call the Crime Information Hot Line anytime at (989) 791-7233. A recorded message will provide you with a synopsis of criminal activity in each of the three patrol districts. As a reminder, the East District is east of Mackinaw, north of Weiss and south of Tittabawassee; the North District is west of Mackinaw, south of Tittabawassee, and north of State Street; the South District is the area south of State Street. In addition to hearing about criminal activity, you may also leave a recorded message on the Crime Information Hot Line if you have any comments or questions. We would like to hear from you.

Police Department Web Site

Looking for a web site that will provide you with good information about the police department and more, go to www.saginawtownship.org and click on the police department link. It contains information about the department and many of the programs that are available to residents. There is even a report form that you can download and fill out if you want to report some minor criminal activity.

Going on Vacation This Winter?

Please remember to leave lights on timers, notify a trusted neighbor and have him/her pick up your mail and newspaper and don't forget to arrange for someone to remove snow from your driveway. If you would like the police to drive by your home while you are gone, please call (989) 793-2310 during normal business hours a few days before you leave. We will place your address on the house check list and an officer will drive by and check your home periodically. There is no charge for this service.

Operation Red Light Continues

We continue to work Operation Red Light as personnel levels allow. In the first six months of this year, we scheduled the program 32 times but were able to actually conduct an operation only 26 times. During those 26 operations, 174 cars were stopped and we issued citations for the following offenses: Red light violations - 62, yellow light violations - 9, seat-belt violations - 36, other moving violations - 37, verbal warnings - 75, drunk driving arrests - 1. **We encourage you to buckle up and slow down.**

Saginaw Township Parks & Recreation News...

Reported by: Linda Buska, Assistant to the Director of Recreation

Center Courts

We are pleased to announce that the Recreation Department will soon be moving into the Center Courts building located at 3320 N. Center Road. We will begin moving our office just in time to hold our winter basketball and volleyball leagues in our new facility. The Center Courts facility will include two regulation size basketball and volleyball courts, two community meeting rooms and a walking/jogging track on the second floor. Outside the building we offer inscribed bricks located on both sides of the front entrance walkway. If you would like to purchase a \$25 or \$50 brick you may still do so by contacting the Saginaw Township Manager's office at (989) 791-9800.

Program Registration

Registration for the Fall/Winter programs will be held on the following dates:

Boys/Girls Basketball - (3rd - 6th Grade Boys and 3rd - 8th Grade Girls) October 1 through October 18, 2002

Men's Basketball - October 21, 2002 - November 8, 2002

Women's & Coed Volleyball Leagues - November 1 through November 15, 2002

9th - 12th Grade Basketball - December 2 through December 13, 2002

7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball - January 6 through January 17, 2003

A New Outdoor Walking/Jogging Track at the Soccer Complex

The Saginaw Township Soccer Complex at 3575 McCarty Road now has a outdoor walking/jogging track around the perimeter of the soccer fields. The 6 ft. wide asphalt track measures 4,400 ft., or 4/5 of a mile and is open to the public. The project was equally funded by the Soccer Association and the Township.

Pavilion Rentals

The Recreation office will start accepting reservations for the pavilions in Harvey Randall Wikes Recreation Complex, located on McCarty & Hospital Roads and Olson Park, located on Center Road beginning January 2, 2003. The pavilions are great for family reunions, graduation parties, etc.

For more information on any of our programs please call the Saginaw Township Recreation office at (989) 791-9860, or visit us on the Web at www.saginawtownship.org

Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office News...

Reported by: William J. McQuillan, Treasurer

Check out Saginaw Township's web site. Type in Saginaw Township in any search engine and up pops our home page. You can enroll to pay your water bill by linking to www.usedirectpayment.com and supplying the banking information from your checking account. Alternatively, you can fill out the form at the Treasurer's Office or Water Department. Either way, there is a direct withdrawal from your checking account on the due date each quarter at no additional cost to you. This procedure saves on postage, check fees and trips to the Treasurer's office.

You can also check the tax status of your home or business. As this is public information, you can check the tax status of any property in the Township. Don't be late paying your taxes as everyone else can check *your* tax status. Remember that taxes are due July 1 and December 1 of each year, although you are given 2 1/2 months to pay without penalty (until September 14 and February 14, respectively). Don't procrastinate - pay the taxes while they are fresh in your mind.

Saginaw Township Fire Department News...

Reported by: Richard Powell, Fire Chief

Please Practice Fire Safety

Consider this: A fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States every 16 seconds. A residential fire occurs every 74 seconds. Fires in our homes claim on average, annually, approximately 6,000 lives in our nation. In Michigan we record over 200 fire deaths each year. To protect your family, you should understand the nature of fire.

FIRE IS DARK. In television and movies, fire is often portrayed as a bright light, but fire is actually pitch black. You must memorize escape plans. Alarm models with an escape light can help light a pathway.

SMOKE FROM FIRE KILLS. Fire victims typically succumb to smoke inhalation before flames reach them. More fire deaths occur when people are sleeping - between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Many people believe - falsely - that they would awaken in a fire. But toxic gases actually put people into a deeper sleep.

FIRE IS INTENSELY HOT. This might seem obvious, but few understand that fire can cause the temperature to rise *several hundred degrees* in seconds. That degree of heat can prompt the human body to stop functioning and lose consciousness, making escape impossible.

FIRE IS FAST. A home can be completely consumed by fire in less than five minutes.

Being prepared can save the lives of your family. Discuss these important safety tips with your family today.

BEING PREPARED CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Create two escape plans from each room. Rehearse exiting each room quickly.

Young children often panic in fires, hiding in closets or under beds. Teach them to get out of a burning house immediately!

Choose a meeting place outside of your home to make it easy to account for all family members.

Never ignore an alarm! If it sounds, there's a reason.

Feel a door before you open it. If the doorknob or door is hot, don't open it. Use another escape route.

Close doors behind you to stall the fire.

Stay low. Smoke and heat rise.

Get outside immediately! Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's home. Give your address and full name. Stay on the line to make sure the operator has all the information.

Never go back inside a burning building for any reason!

OOPS! The Ameritech telephone directory issued June 2002, incorrectly did not list our non-emergency office phone number for the Saginaw Township Fire Department. Please make a note of the number. (989) 792-9691 We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused you.



Zauel Memorial Library News...

Reported by: Alice Houlihan, Zauel Librarian

The Children's Department will be presenting a variety of programs for young folks this fall and winter. The programs are listed below.

Mother Goose Times for 18-24 month olds and a loving adult will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. from November 5 through November 26, 2002. The library will offer Mother Goose Times again in February. Mark your calendar for February 4 through February 25, 2003.

Parent/Child Playgroup, for children 1-3 years of age and a loving adult will be held on Tuesday mornings, from 10:00 until 11:00 beginning March 4, 2003 and continuing through April 1, 2003.

Book Beat is our story time for school age children, featuring many stories and occasional crafts geared to appeal to grades 1-6. This story time is held (1) one Wednesday after school and (1) one Saturday morning each month.

Preschool Story Time is held each Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. and Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. for children 3-5 years of age.

Please call the Children's Department at Zauel Memorial Library for program details and registration information (989) 799-2771.

Zauel's Friends Group

Our Friends Group released ten thousand dollars of their proceeds to benefit the library at their Spring Meeting. Because of their generous gift, the library has ordered some much needed shelving to help with our growing lack of shelf space. We have also ordered a storage unit to allow us to organize our growing DVD collection so that DVD's are easily accessible to patrons. We are also adding much needed signage in some areas of the library. Our goal is to make our building more user-friendly for patrons.

A New Look for the Library

The staff of Zauel has rearranged part of the fiction collection to make it easier for patrons to locate fiction titles. In the past, we had many small separate areas for fiction, and one particular author might have had titles in two, three, or four different places in the library. Patrons reported that they found this confusing. With our new plan, the whole fiction area is now one cohesive collection, shelved, as always, by the author's last name.

Large Print Collections

We now have a much expanded and improved area for our Large Print collection. We are moving the large print books to a far more spacious area. The area offers comfortable seating, a table to rest books on as you browse, better lighting sources, and signage that is more readable. The new area is a warm, hospitable place for browsing, reading or deciding which of the many titles one wants to take home to read.

Please visit your library today! Call the Zauel Library for hours of operation and all other information: (989) 799-2771.



Department of Public Services News...

Reported by: Jerry Francis, Director of Public Services & Recreation

Construction Update on DPS Projects in Saginaw Charter Township

COMPLETED PROJECTS-SPRING/SUMMER 2002

Replaced 12 old water main crossings on Bay Road. This was done before Bay Road was repaved to avoid the chance of a main break which would have required digging up a new road.

Completed utilities at the Center Courts Site.

Replaced 5 water main crossings on Wieneke Road in preparation for road improvements.

Installed new sanitary sewer on a portion of Dale Road.

Utility work has been completed or is under way on six (6) new subdivisions.

Water main replacement on McCarty Road from Bay to Fashion Square Boulevard is scheduled for bid during the week of October 8, 2002.

NOTICE: Yard Waste curb side pick-up will end Tuesday, November 26, 2002 and resume Tuesday, April 1, 2003.

Brush Site

Brush site hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday on the specified weekends.

For the remainder of 2002, the site will be open on weekends beginning Saturday, September 7, 2002 thru Sunday, October 27, 2002.

Clerk's Office News...

Reported by: Timothy Braun, Clerk & Lori Vondette, Deputy Clerk

Did You Receive A New Voter ID Card?

The redistricting of the legislative districts in the State of Michigan caused all of the voters in Saginaw County to be sent a new voter identification card. This card is to be signed by the voter and kept in a wallet or purse. Besides being used for voting, many make use of the card as proof of citizenship when they cross the border traveling to Canada. If you have not received your new ID card there could be a couple of reason why. You may have moved and not registered at your new address, or you have recently married and not changed your last name on your voter registration. If you have not received a new card and believe you are registered correctly, please contact the Clerk's Office, and we will send you one.

Business License Renewals

Business licenses are renewed every year at a cost of \$10. A renewal form will be mailed out on December 1st and is due by December 15, 2002. If there is a change in ownership or address, a new business license application must be filled out with the Clerk's Office.

Check Out Our Website

The Clerk's Office publishes Saginaw Charter Township Board meeting minutes on the web. For information on business licenses, board minutes, voter registration, or election results go to:

www.saginawtownshp.org

General Election

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2002. We will be electing a new Governor and other legislative officials at the federal, state, and county levels. We urge you to remember to **VOTE** on November 5.

Fiscal Services News...

Reported by: Virginia Gottschalk, Director of Fiscal Services

UPDATE ON COST SHARING ROAD PROGRAM

In 1996, a program of matching one-third of the cost of improving our subdivision asphalt roads up to \$1,000 per parcel was initiated. The following is a tabulation of the program to date:

Number of subdivision parcels with improved roads under the cost sharing program:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOMES</u>
1997	427
1998	402
1999	152
2000	158
2001	42
2002	<u>153</u>
TOTAL: 1,334	

A limited amount of funding is still available for sharing the cost of improving asphalt subdivision roads. Please contact Township Manager Ronald Lee for further information at: (989) 791-9800.

YEAR ROADS /SUBDIVISIONS PAVED

1997	Reppuhn/ Sauk/ Hemstead/ Wahl Plat/ Twin Oaks/ Hepburn/ Greenfield
1998	Plainview/Dexter/ Hartford/ Deibel/ Henry/ Centennial/ Edgewood/ Coolidge/ Belair/ Gatesboro
1999	Bruce/ Markham/ Courtland/ Bock/ White Beech
2000	Westwood/ Golfview/ Allenhurst
2001	Pinecone & Boehm Subdivision
2002	Marywood Park/Center Court Subdivision/Sunnyview Park/Englewood Subdivision

Questions from the Community

This forum has been added to the newsletter in order to address questions asked of the Supervisor that may be of general interest to the stake holders of Saginaw Charter Township.

The following are questions recently asked about the new Center Courts recreation facility at 3320 North Center Road.

Q: Will the Center Courts be open to everyone or only the people of Saginaw Charter Township? Will there be a charge to use the facility?

A: The Center Courts will be open to everyone regardless of their address. All funding for the recreation facility to date has come from the General Fund, private donors, private foundations, and a State of Michigan Clean Michigan Initiative Program Grant. We are still asking for donations for inscribed bricks of \$25 or \$50. We also invite you to add your family name or organization's name to our Supporting Wall with donations of \$500 or more. Additional donations will be used to help purchase equipment and maintain the facility. There will also be team registration fees and community meeting room fees.

Q: Other than basketball and volleyball, what other uses will the Center Courts have?

A: A walking/jogging track is located on the second level. We also have two community rooms that can be reserved for public and private meetings. Details are still being worked out regarding fees and restrictions for the use of the community rooms. Individuals interested in reserving the rooms should call the Recreation office at (989) 791-9860.



Dioxin Study

Reported by: Ronald Lee, Saginaw Township Manager

[Commentary: It has been speculated for many years (and only recently confirmed) that there is possible dioxin contamination of the flood plain of the Tittabawassee River from the Dow plants in Midland down to its confluence with the Saginaw River. While Saginaw Township does not pretend to be an expert on this issue, we have studied the situation. The following is our perspective on the issue.]

Do We Have A Crisis, Or Don't We?? This pointed question was repeatedly asked of the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) last August at a press conference held in Bay City. Their answers were repeatedly vague and unclear. Finally a citizen asked, "Would you take your kids to the Riverfront Park in Freeland?" (DEQ's "round-about" response was to indicate their personal preference not to go there.)

In August, the State released their test results of dioxin findings in the Tittabawassee River. Like other particles and sediments that eventually settle out of receding or slow moving waters, dioxin tests were done only within the 100 year flood plain. There are positive findings of dioxin all along the River with higher concentrations found as you get closer to Midland's Dow plants. Dow has documented dumping dioxin in the River about 37 years ago.

The acceptable dioxin level is 90 ppt (parts per trillion). At Freeland Festival Park the highest reading was 3,400 ppt. At Immerman Park, the highest reading was 2,400 ppt. At our West Michigan Park, our highest reading was 970 ppt. According to DEQ, any reading above 1,000 ppt requires an action response. Our reading of 970 ppt places us at the "study level" with no action required. This means posting the property with signs designed by the County Health Department. The signs may include messages such as "wear shoes, wash hands, potentially hazardous, dioxin study area," etc.

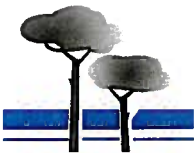
Is the River contaminated?...yes. Is it dangerous?...no one with authority from Dow or the State will say. Dioxin studies have speculated about possible links to cancer and other health ailments (such as blood sugar, skin, liver and hormonal disorders)? For this reason, many environmentalists have become alarmed and are screaming for action. Others want action out of fear of the unknown. Some have claimed to be ill or ailing for unknown reasons and want help.

An environmental action group has formed in Freeland. This group has asked if Saginaw Township would assist in forming an environmental group here for its residents. The Township's response is:

"THIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE. WE ARE TAKING OUR DIRECTION FROM THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT." As for who put the dioxin in the River, that is a matter for the DEQ.

To those individual riverfront property owners that may have health concerns, we encourage them to contact the County Public Health Department. For those with environmental concerns, we are directing them to both the Freeland group and to the DEQ. We do not see a need to form an environmental group when there is another only a few miles down the road.

Meanwhile, Saginaw Township's West Michigan Park will be posted per instructions from the County Health Department. Both patrons and employees who attend the park will be reminded to wear shoes when down in the flood plain and to wash exposed skin thoroughly upon leaving the Park. We are still endeavoring to understand what the real toxicology implications are.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



This schedule is subject to change. Please telephone Township Hall (989) 791-9800 to confirm meetings. A schedule of these meetings and other Township information is maintained on the Saginaw Township Website. www.saginawtownship.org

October	November	December	January	February	March
10/02 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	11/06 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	12/04 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	1/01 Twp. Offices Closed News Year's Day	2/05 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	3/05 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
10/09 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	11/11 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	12/09 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	1/08 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	2/10 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	3/10 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
10/14 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	11/13 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	12/11 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	1/13 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	2/12 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	3/12 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
10/16 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	11/18 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	12/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	1/15 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	2/17 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	3/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office
10/21 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	11/20 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	12/18 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	1/20 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	2/19 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	3/19 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
10/28 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	11/25 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	12/25 Township Offices Closed for Christmas Day	1/27 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	2/24 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	3/24 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
10/30 Deadline for RV/Blight Survey	11/28 & 29 Township Offices Closed for Thanksgiving				3/28 & 29 Art in-take for Annual State of The Arts Show

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Residents are asked to submit questions which may be informative for the general public.

Call: (989) 791-9800

Email: supervisor@saginawtownship.net

VISION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

A planned community identified with pride and excellence in living, medical care, regional/local shopping and recreational activities; where the quality of life is desirable and safe; where government is unobtrusive and economical yet effective and efficient in the management of land, infrastructure, services and recreation; which serves as a model for innovation and regional cooperation, welcomes diversity and focuses on the future.

Assessor...791-9810 Building...791-9850 Clerk...791-9830 Fire Dept. Non-Emergency...792-9691 Police Dept. Non-Emergency...791-9860 Treasurer...791-9840 Water & Sewer...791-9880 Enforcement...791-9865 Public Services...791-9870 Fiscal Services...791-9820 Recreation...791-9860

Supervisor - George L. Olson Clerk - Timothy J. Braun Treasurer - William J. McQuillan Trustees - Barbara N. Ewend, Steven G. Gerhardt, Richard T. Neiderquill, Mark A. Schaff, Saginaw Township Hall - 4980 Shattuck Road, P.O. Box 6400, Saginaw, MI 48603 Phone (989) 791-9800 Fax (989) 791-9815 Website - www.saginawtownship.org Email - manager@saginawtownship.net Township Manager - Ronald Lee Editor - Kimberly A. Stephan



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- pg. 1. You're Invited! Center Courts Opening
- pg. 2. RV Vehicle Issues & Survey (mail insert)
- pg. 3. Saginaw Township Sign Regulations
- pg. 4. Saginaw Township Police Dept. Report
- pg. 5. Parks & Recreation News
- pg. 5. Saginaw Township Fire Dept. News
- pg. 6. Zanel Memorial Library News
- pg. 6. Department of Public Services News
- pg. 7. Fiscal Services News
- pg. 7. Questions from the Community
- pg. 7. Dioxin Study

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