



Welcome to...

Saginaw Charter Township

Winter 2013

New Guidelines Designed to Make Redevelopment Easier on State Street

During the course of the last six months, Township staff has worked closely with the State Street Corridor Improvement District and the Planning Commission to prepare new design guidelines.

Several meetings were held, open to the public and advertised to businesses and property owners along State Street. The intent of the meetings was to ensure that those properties and businesses potentially impacted by these changes were allowed an opportunity to review and participate in the drafting of the ordinance.

The guidelines created will apply to all properties within the defined corridor improvement district - including those locations which may not be directly located on State Street proper. These guidelines will apply to all developments - multiple family, commercial and industrial.

The guidelines are designed to give the property owner options. All development will incorporate at least one identified streetscape element (fencing, stone columns, columns and fencing or a stone knee wall). In particular, it recognizes and protects the east side of State Street, from Hemmeter Road to the City of Saginaw and its existing residential character. This is accomplished through architectural and design guidelines.

Moving west past Hemmeter Road, the design guidelines provide additional flexibility. Setbacks in this area are provided on a sliding scale. The shorter or smaller the setback (the distance between the parking area or building area and the sidewalk) the greater the number of streetscape elements which will need to be provided within the setback.

The sliding scale of the setbacks allows smaller parcels to redevelop without seeking a variance, provides property owners the ability to customize their sites physical appearance to *(continued on page 2)*

Manager's Word

This time of year is full of cookies, family celebrations, parties, and maybe even a bit of overindulgence.

Every New Year is a chance to do things better, be healthier, and start fresh once again. This year, Saginaw Charter

Township is proud to be continuing our collaboration with the Saginaw YMCA. This December we partnered with the YMCA to promote the "12 Days of Fitness." It is a great program that offers drastically reduced fees to try up to 20 different fitness *(continued page 2)*



In This Issue...

| |
|------------------------------------|
| State Street - Cover |
| Library Winter Break Hours - 2 |
| Winter Safety Tips - 2 |
| Crime Mapping- 2 |
| Recycling Tips - 3 |
| Clerk's Office News - 3 |
| Recreation Schedule - 3 |
| Winter Reminders - 3 |
| Holiday Fire Safety Tips- 4 |
| Master Plan Update - 4 |
| Weather Outlook - 5 |
| Township Contact/Meeting Dates - 5 |

(From Manager) classes at Center Courts and the Saginaw YMCA.

We are excited to keep this relationship growing. This January we will be working with the Saginaw Y to bring an early morning bootcamp to Center Courts. Center Courts is a jewel within the Township, and we are proud of the recreational programs that are offered. However, we think we can do even better. If you have any ideas for the types of programming or recreational offerings that should be available at Center Courts, please let me know. Maybe you've visited a recreation center in a different community. Maybe you are a Y member now and have some ideas and best practices to share. Email me with your suggestions at rgrose@saginawtownship.net

Zael Library Hours

The library will be closed on **Tuesday, December 24th** and **Wednesday, December 25th**; along with **Tuesday, December 31st** and **Wednesday January 1st**. Other than the days previously mentioned, the library's hours remain the same.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-9
Wednesday 12-9
Friday and Saturday 9-5

Winter Safety Tips

From the Saginaw Township Police Dept

The community seems to see an increase in home invasions or burglaries around the holiday season. Prevention is the key. Report any suspicious activity to 911 immediately. Always secure your doors with deadbolts utilizing strike plates with 3 inch screws. A strong deterrent is to give the impression that your home is occupied by putting lights on timers and leaving a radio or television on. Consider lighting the exterior of your house while away. Motion sensor lights are a great way to illuminate your house. If you are going to be out of town for an extended period of time, notify the Saginaw Township Police Department. We will add your home to the vacation watch list. For a one on one crime prevention home inspection and survey, make an appointment with one of the department's Crime Prevention Specialists by calling 791-7210. Have a safe Holiday season.

New Crime Mapping Information

Saginaw Township Police Department is pleased to announce a new source of crime information for citizens and business owners. The police department has begun utilizing CrimeDar, an online crime mapping tool, to provide up-to-date mapping of criminal activity and police related incidents occurring in Saginaw Township.

The new website, <http://www.crimedar.com/saginawtownship-michigan>, will allow citizens and business owners to easily view the incidents and learn what is occurring within their neighborhoods or business districts. Chief Pussehl believes that this additional information will allow citizens to become better informed and prepared to report any suspicious activity that they may see within their neighborhoods.

The police department's goal is to hold the criminals accountable for their actions and to prevent criminal activity before it occurs. Community members working together with their police officers can help make this happen. The police department appreciates your efforts in helping to prevent crime within your neighborhoods.



(continued from State Street) their own preference while still working toward a coordinated streetscape for State Street.

In addition to the well publicized meetings during the writing of the ordinance, two public hearings were held: October 16 and November 20. The Township Board adopted the design guidelines at their meeting on December 16. For more information regarding the State Street Corridor please visit www.recreatestate.org or call Community Development at 989-791-9865.

Recycling Tips

from the Department of Public Works

Trash pickup in Saginaw Charter Township will be on schedule for the weeks of December 23rd and December 30th, Monday and Tuesday.

Please remember to keep fire hydrants clear of any snow to allow firefighters easy access should a fire arise.

Christmas tree pickup: Christmas trees are collected the first 3 weeks of January. Please remove all decorations from trees and wreaths before putting at curb. These include:

Tinsel
Garland/ribbon/bows
Ornaments
Lights
Hooks
Tree stand
Ropes
Tree bag
Tree skirt



Winter Reminders

From Community Development

As we enter the winter season, it is always best to stay mindful of the needs of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in and around our homes and businesses. We must consider the effects of piling snow upon other people's property and near fire hydrants, which can impede firefighter access to hydrants in the event of any emergency. Winter weather conditions make it tough enough to get around, but with a little forethought and effort, we can help make our travels a bit safer.

Saginaw Township Recreation

- Winter Happenings

Center Courts - Michigan winter is here once again. Center Courts and the Recreation Department are offering a variety of activities to help speed winter along.

December Center Court Hours

TRACK

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Monday - Friday | 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |

COURT TIME

Monday & Wednesday & Friday (18 & over)
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Thursday & Friday (students)
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday (family day)
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Several fitness classes are available during the winter months. These include **Fit & Firm-Cardio Workout**, **Dancing for Fitness**, **Pilates & Barre** with Nancy Silk, **Yoga** and **Chair Yoga**.

Registration for High School Basketball is going on through December 20th. Registration for 7th & 8th Grade Girls and Boys Basketball will begin on January 3rd.

We also have ongoing registration for **Music for Munchkins** and our **Center Courts Playgroup** is a big hit with boys and girls 3 & under.

Clerk's Office News

Look for you Annual Business or Rental License Renewal in the mail at the end of December.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Holiday Fire Safety Tips

The holiday season is one of the most dangerous times of the year for household fires. Take note of these tips to reduce your risk.

Christmas Trees: It takes less than 30-seconds for a dry tree to engulf a room in flames, according to the Building and Fire Research Laboratory of the National Institute for Standards and Technology. A Christmas tree is almost explosive when it goes.

Tip: Keep trees well watered, keep away from heat sources like a fireplace or heat vent. A heat source was too close to the Christmas tree in one of every five of fires.

Cooking: According to the U.S. Fire Administration, cooking is the top cause of holiday fires. The most common culprit is food that is left unattended.

Tip: Never leave food unattended. If you have to leave the kitchen, take something with you as a reminder such as an oven mitt or a spoon. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher that's rated for all types of fires. If you are planning to deep-fry your holiday turkey, do it outside on a flat level surface at least 10 feet away from the house. Make sure the turkey is thawed first before putting it into the hot oil.

Candles: The incidence of candle fires is four times higher during December than during other months. According to the National Fire Protection Association, four of the five most dangerous days of the year for residential candle fires are Christmas / Christmas Eve, New Year's / New Year's Eve, and Halloween. Candles started 9% of home Christmas tree structure fires.

Tip: To reduce the danger, keep at least one foot of space between the candle and anything that can burn. Set candles on sturdy bases or cover them with a hurricane globe. Never leave flames unattended. Before bed, walk through each room to make sure candles are blown out. Consider flameless LED candles.

Fireplaces: Soot can harden on chimney walls as flammable creosote, so before the fireplace season begins have your chimney inspected to see if it needs cleaning.

Tip: Screen the fireplace to prevent embers from popping out onto the floor or carpet, and never use flammable liquids to start a fire in the fireplace. Only burn seasoned wood, not wrapping paper. When cleaning out the fireplace, put embers in a metal container and set it outside to cool for 24 hours before disposal.

Decorative lights: Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Electrical problems were factors in one-third (31%) of home Christmas tree structure fires.

Tip: Never use lit candles to decorate the tree, always inspect the light strings and throw away cracked or frayed wires or sockets. Don't run more than three strings of lights end to end. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Saginaw Township Offers Opportunities for Public to Guide Master Plan Update

Saginaw Charter Township wants to hear input from the community as part of the update to its Master Plan. The Township is launching a survey that is accessible from saginawtownshipsurvey.com "The survey is brief and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete," said Township Manager Rob Grose. "We want to hear from those who live, work, and go to school in Saginaw Township, and other interested parties that want to make a difference in the Township. The Planning Commission believes input from the Saginaw Township community will be a critical factor to the success of this planning effort." The online survey will be available until the end of the year.

The Township is also offering an at home opportunity to provide input. "The Quality of LIFE" Game was created by the Township to provide a "meeting in a box" for residents, business, and other stakeholders to provide their thoughts, opinions, and hopes for the Township without having to come to a public meeting. The board games are available at Township Hall in the Community Development Department. The game moves players around a board, asking questions regarding development, redevelopment, and quality of life issues. Once residents have played the game, they are to return it to the Township so the results can be included in the plan.

The Township began the Master Plan update process earlier this year, and it is expected to be completed in early 2014. The main purpose of a Master Plan is to guide and enable a community to establish a future direction for its development. The updated Master Plan will offer a future land use map, goals, and action items that will be used to guide planning and zoning decisions in the future.

Saginaw Charter Township has been working with a Michigan-based planning firm, Spicer Group, whose home office is in the City of Saginaw, to assist with the Saginaw Township Master Plan update process. If you have any questions about the Township's update to its Master Plan, if you would like a hard copy of the survey to complete, or if you would like a game board, please contact Bridget Smith, Assistant Director of Community Development, at (989) 791-9865.



Saginaw Charter Township

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 Saginaw, MI 48608-6400

Phone: 989-791-9800
 Fax: 989-791-9815

www.saginawtownship.org

Business Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm



Cold Weather on the Horizon



Source: <http://www.farmersalmanac.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2014-USFA-Winter.jpg>

The Farmers' Almanac tells us that below-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation will set the stage for the Midwest and Great Lakes to receive lots of snow.

Upcoming Township Meetings & Dates

Township Hall Closed Dec. 23-25 and Jan. 1.

- Jan. 8, 7 p.m. - Board of Appeals
- Jan. 13, 7 p.m. - Township Board Meeting
- Jan. 15, 7 p.m. - Planning Commission
- Jan. 20 - *Martin Luther King Day (Closed)*
- Jan 27, 7 p.m. - Township Board Meeting
- Feb. 5, 7 p.m. - Planning Commission
- Feb. 10, 7 p.m. - Township Board Meeting
- Feb. 12, 7 p.m. - Board of Appeals
- Feb. 17 - *Presidents' Day (Closed)*
- Feb. 19, 7 p.m. - Planning Commission
- Feb. 24, 7 p.m. - Township Board Meeting

For a complete list of calendar dates and times, please visit our website [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to Subscribe to our newsletter email list.

Or visit our website:
www.saginawtownship.org

facebook.com/saginawchartertownshipgovernment

twitter.com/saginawtownship

Township Contacts

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| Assessing | 791-9810 |
| Clerk's Office | 791-9830 |
| Community Development | 791-9865 |
| Department of Public Services | 791-9870 |
| Fire Department | 792-9691 |
| Fiscal Services | 791-9820 |
| Manager/Supervisor | 791-9800 |
| Parks and Recreation | 791-9860 |
| Police Department | 793-2310 |
| Treasurer | 791-9840 |
| Water Department | 791-9880 |