

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.

Saginaw Township Government Newsletter

SPRING/SUMMER - 2003



The Saginaw Charter Township Board. Seated, front row, L to R: Treasurer Wm. McQuillan, Supervisor George Olson, Clerk Timothy Braun. Standing, back row, L to R: Trustees - Steven Gerhardt, Barbara Ewend, Richard Neiderquill and Mark Schaeff.

Visiting Our Neighborhoods "Spring Tour"

The Saginaw Township Board is scheduled to tour the Township this Spring in response to the RV, Vehicle & Blight Survey. The purpose of the Survey was to discern what the community considers "blight" regarding RV's and vehicles parked on a property. The citizens of Saginaw Charter Township returned approximately 2,200 surveys which were tabulated and then compiled into a report. *The Saginaw Charter Township Recreational Vehicle Survey Results* report of January 27, 2003 is available at the Saginaw Charter Township Community Development and Planning office and also on the web at: www.saginawtownship.org/planning

The State of The Township Message

An Abridged Report on the Community for the Year 2002

By: George L. Olson, Supervisor

Introduction

As Saginaw Township brings to an end its 2002-2003 fiscal year, I would like to say that it has been a roller coaster ride for us all. Starting from the first shovel of earth that signified the construction of the Center Courts one year ago, our journey took us onward and upward with the excitement of building something for the people. And like a roller coaster car beginning its descent, we experienced an increasing momentum as the building began to take shape. As floors, wall and rooftop soon appeared, more citizens, institutions and patrons stepped forward to share in our excitement.

From time to time, this feeling of exhilaration would get interrupted throughout the year. Our good feeling would turn into uncertainty by such activities as the August Primary only to be followed by a hotly contested November Election. The leadership of our realigned district and this State was anybody's guess.

This feeling of uncertainty was further complicated by the threat of additional cutbacks in Revenue Sharing from the Governor's Office. Just as in other communities, we have managed our reductions in State Shared Revenues wisely and carefully, but how much more we can absorb in cuts is very hard to say. Meanwhile, the roller coaster is still moving.

Our Fiscal Picture

Most importantly, the Township's finances are in fairly good, stable health. I am pleased to report that we are fiscally holding our own, thanks to strong leadership and prudent oversight provided by our management team of Department Heads. As a rule, Saginaw Township does not levy more than it needs in order to carry on the daily operations and services of the Township, as well as to fund its long term plans and debt services. With all funds included, the operating budgets for the coming fiscal year will be \$23.8 million dollars. This figure is lower than the previous years' total of \$27.5 million dollars, which was higher because of the construction of the Center Courts.

The general Fund is the most often discussed fund. In reality, the General Property Tax Levy upon Township property owners accounts for only about one-sixth of the General Fund Budget. The remainder of the General Fund derives its revenue from various user fees, penalties, fines, special assessments, interests on investments, and from State Shared Revenue. *(State of The Township Message continued on page 2.)*

The State of The Township Message - An Abridged Report on the Community for the Year 2002 *Continued from page 1.*

It should be noted that State Shared Revenue accounts for more than half of our General Fund Budget.

In the face of losing almost \$200,000 in State Shared Revenue over the last two years we are forced to manage more carefully than ever before. While Saginaw Township has managed to weather these revenue shortfalls from the State, no one can say how additional State cutbacks will affect the Township. It depends on the amount to be cut.

Fortunately, about 80% of our State Shared Revenues are constitutionally guaranteed. The remaining 20% is statutorily provided. The statutory amount is what the Governor has authority to cut. Based upon the most recent recommendation of a 3% cutback by the Governor, Saginaw Township will likely have to tighten its belt and absorb this reduction.

However, anything beyond this decrease will be difficult to absorb. In light of this, the Township Manager and I have instructed all Departments not to take on new projects for the coming year. Projects currently in progress will continue, but nothing significantly new will be started. Various multi-year programs will be extended to an additional length of time. These are some of the ways we have stretched funds in the past, and we believe we can continue in this fashion.

Looking Ahead

Quality of Life Issues: At present, an unusual situation is facing Saginaw Township. It concerns balancing the new with the preservation of the old. This concerns our commercial districts as well as our residential districts. According to the revised U.S. Census figures, the population of Saginaw Township has grown to 39,936. This figure is similar to the early 1980's when the population of the Township was also 40,000. The major difference is people of today are now spread across a greater number of housing units with smaller household sizes. Our residents of today also have more cars, make more vehicular trips, tend to want newer things and have become more trendy shoppers. Times have changed and this modern lifestyle affects our community planning, police services, fire protection and even recreation services.

Saginaw Township is the fifth largest urban township in the State of Michigan and it continues to grow. Many new subdivisions and businesses have entered our community over the last decade. Retail commercial, both local and regional, continues to be our major identity and a destination point for many visitors. While prosperity is good; we are concerned for the older, established business areas and residential neighborhoods.

Over the last few years, we have been noticing signs of neglect and a lack of property maintenance. In some areas, we have seen long time neighbors meeting newer residents who live a more casual lifestyle, have a different attitude toward things and tend to be indifferent toward the appearance of their property. This indifference toward property can lead to neglect and neighborhood decline.

The Township is concerned about the issue of housing quality and property maintenance. Lack of maintenance on a building or property combines with clutter to produce blight. Staff has come to refer to these as "Quality of Life Issues." How do you control it? How do you rectify it? Steps need to be taken to preserve them and keep them viable.

Controlling Blight: Lately, the term blight has often been misinterpreted and generally meant to refer to anything that does not conform to someone's expectations. Unfortunately, with over 17,000 households and 1,600 businesses in the Township, there are many different expectations. What is blight? Is it an unkempt house or lawn...or an abandoned home....or an RV or a junked vehicle for saleor a missing window? Is it a rusty old sign with blown light bulbs...or a business canopy with blaring loud colors that distract people driving by?

Defining and controlling blight has been a common subject amongst staff for the last twelve months. This year, staff will address this issue and attempt to recommend new minimum standards of acceptability. While the final outcome may not satisfy all the people, hopefully it will be acceptable to a majority.

Spring Tour: Both staff and the Township Board are well aware of change in the Township. The challenge is how to "manage change and still maintain the old". This requires a first hand look at the issues, understanding their implications and being able to make educated, informed policy decisions. For that purpose, we are arranging the "Spring Tour". This is where members of the Board, accompanied by Department Heads, will travel throughout the Township in small groups. They will visit and view issues connected to community planning, utilities, code enforcement, police services and fire protection.

To read more about Building, Planning & Zoning, Police, Fire, Public Services and Recreation, please log on to the Saginaw Charter Web Site at: www.saginawtownship.org, or pick up a copy of the *State of The Township Message* at Saginaw Township Hall, 4980 Shattuck Road. To contact the Supervisor, call: (989) 791-9800.

In Closing

What the future will have in store for the Township is difficult to say. We are a reflection of the world around us and also its global economy. Operating costs have gone up in the face of rising health insurance, an older work force, expensive supplies, fuel costs and a pending war. However, we always try to look on the positive side and strive to convert a potentially bad situation into a good one. We are doing the best we can. Locally, I believe that the Township is very strong and able to manage the rough ride. The roller coaster ride may twist and turn before it levels out, but we will simply have to adjust for that when the time comes.

George L. Olson,

Saginaw Township Supervisor

C r e a t i n g a S e n s e o f P l a c e

C a r d i n a l S q u a r e

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

Most of us experience a community from its roadways. We spend an incredible amount of time behind the wheel of a car driving from one destination to another. Whether we are commuting to work, transporting our children back and forth to their daily activities, or merely taking a leisurely drive through the country, we are doing it on the road. Our society has a love affair with the automobile. Surprisingly, for a nation that professes to enjoy driving, we have not demanded that something be done about the appearance of the roadways that meander through our country.

Views from our vehicles tend to be uninviting and aesthetically displeasing. It is as if over the years we have become numbed by the experience of driving along a roadside that has been bought up, clear-cut, paved and franchised, that most of the time we don't notice the clutter and congestion that mars nearly every community in the country.

Inevitably, development activity within the Township combined with intolerable traffic conditions and roadside clutter has triggered demands from our citizens for more thoughtful planning and design of our roadways. Recognizing this fact, Saginaw Township, through its Planning Commission and Township Board, began developing strategies a few years ago designed to enhance the overall visual character of our corridors while still maintaining their primary purpose of effectively and efficiently moving motorists from one destination to another.

These efforts have culminated into the development of a joint task force comprised of representatives from Kochville and Saginaw Townships along with Saginaw Valley State University. This task force has met several times during the course of the last six months for the sole purpose of discussing how the geographic area shared by these entities can be better utilized and portrayed in a positive manner.

Throughout the discussions, several key factors surfaced including identifying an area that can be developed with a certain type of theme or image, thereby creating an orderly sense of place and character. The group has tentatively identified an area bordered by McCarty Road on the South, Freeland Road on the North, Davis Road to the East and Fortune Boulevard to the West.

Members of each Township Planning Commission and Township Board participated in a Visioning Session in early July of 2002. The purpose of the session was to help establish a name for the area. Participants were reminded that the concept of the plan is to create a link between Kochville Township, Saginaw Township and Saginaw Valley State University which will result in creating a unique area that draws on existing features and encourages a mixture of land uses which in turn will create an exciting and dynamic sense of place.

Names that received interest from the group included, Freedom Place, Market Square, Town Commons, Valley Center, Liberty Square, Logger Town, Unity Pointe, The Crossroads of the Valley, Union Square, Liberty Crossing, Uptown, Main Street and Cardinal Square.

A second meeting was held in late July to pair down the list and build consensus on a new name. The group was asked to consider three key points in their deliberation:

- ▶ Being consistent and choosing an identity that can be consistently applied and permeate every aspect of the area - from signs to streetscape to landscaping.
- ▶ Choosing a theme that promises something that can be delivered.
- ▶ Focus on giving people a reason to be here.

Participants were then divided into three subcommittees and charged with the task of ranking their top three choices with respect to names. After voting, the group reconvened and determined the top candidates as:

- ▶ Cardinal Valley / Square / Pointe
- ▶ Unity Pointe
- ▶ Unity Valley (or combination of Unity or Valley)

The end result of the meeting was an overwhelming response to the term Cardinal Square. A great deal of discussion ensued regarding whether or not too much emphasis is put on the University by using this term. Eventually it was agreed that the University is an emphasis in the area, and in fact, many people come to the area to attend university events, classes or as university employees. It was agreed that the University plays an important role in the development, growth and improvement of the area and that it is important to balance the needs of all involved groups - The University, Saginaw Township and Kochville Township.

It was further discussed that Cardinal Square, while local municipalities know it as the University's Mascot, will not be known to the general shopper who enters the area. To those individuals, they will see it as a cohesive identity as opposed to a university mascot. Much discussion followed and it was also agreed that there are additional ways to incorporate the identity of Cardinal Square by other means than the use of a Cardinal bird. When asked how this theme could be expressed and incorporated into different aspects of the area, responses included the use of the color red, a symbol of a bird, and a cardinal colored square.

The next step is to focus on drafting plans to improve the appearance of the area by upgrading its streetscape. Sidewalks, street lights, park benches, landscaping and a variety of other appearance items will be considered. Public meetings will be held to build consensus among the residents and business community and to solicit ideas on improving this area.

Saginaw Township is very committed to this process. We feel that Cardinal Square presents a unique opportunity to focus the resources of all three entities on enhancing the quality of life within our community.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Saginaw Township Police Department News...

Reported by: Stephen C. Renico, Chief of Police

Larceny Season is in Full Swing

Larcenies historically increase through the summer months and there are several steps you can and should take to reduce the chance of becoming a victim:

- ▶ Always lock your car no matter where it is parked.
- ▶ Never leave personal property in your car where it can be seen from the outside. If possible, secure the items in your trunk.
- ▶ Always park in well-lighted areas.
- ▶ Always lock your bicycle, no matter where you are.
- ▶ Never leave your purse in a shopping cart - always carry it with you.
- ▶ Minimize what you carry in your purse - take only what you need.
- ▶ If you do become a victim, report any thefts to the police.

Good Neighbors - The Best Defense

If you are concerned about neighborhood safety, get to know your neighbors - a good neighbor is the best defense against neighborhood crime. Studies show where neighbors band together, where neighbors know and respect each other, there's less crime.

You can start a **Neighborhood Watch Program** by calling the Crime Prevention Unit at **(989) 791-7226**. We will assist you and trained officers will provide a presentation for you and your neighbors at your request. If you live in an area that has an existing Watch Program but feel it needs a shot in the arm, call the Crime Prevention Unit and we will help you.

Part of what good neighbors do involves looking out for each other, particularly when your neighbors are on vacation. Check each other's homes, take in the mail and newspaper and keep an eye on landscape maintenance. If you are leaving for a few days and would like the police to drive by your home, call **793-2310** during normal business hours and we will put your address on a Vacation House Check list.

Things That Watch Members Should Look Out for and Report to Police:

- Someone screaming or shouting for help
- Someone looking in windows of cars or houses
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is home
- Cars, vans or trucks driving slowly through the neighborhood with no apparent destination or without lights
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child
- People on foot or bicycles at night acting suspiciously or who don't belong in the neighborhood.

If you see any of these activities or any behavior that makes you suspicious, call 911 immediately! Your call may prevent a crime.

Bike Patrol

Our Bike Patrol officers will be in your neighborhoods this summer. If you see a Bike Officer, take a few minutes to tell the officer about any problems you may be having in your neighborhood. The officers are assigned to patrol areas for a year or more and they have a vested interest in keeping your neighborhood safe.

Crossing Guards Needed

Looking for a part time job that offers flexible hours, good pay and lots of responsibility? Call the police department at 793-2310 and ask about the Police Crossing Guard program. We are always looking for dedicated citizens who are willing to watch out for our children going to an from school. Candidates for the program must pass a **RIGOROUS BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION**.

Important Numbers:

Saginaw Township Police	
Records	793-2310
Investigations	791-7226
Crime Information Hot Line	791-7233

www.saginawtownship.org/police

Speeders in Your Neighborhood?

If you have speeders in your neighborhood, you can call the police department at 793-2310 and ask that the Civilian Traffic Survey Team be sent to monitor the speed of motorists traveling on your street. The Team will measure the speed of the cars, obtain the license number of any violators and a warning letter will be sent from the police department. If the problem persists, a traffic enforcement officer will be sent to follow up - any violators will be ticketed.

Neon Lights On Vehicles Are Illegal

Neon lights, other lamps or reflectors can only be on a moving vehicle if they are both covered and unlit. Therefore, it is unlawful for a vehicle to have neon ground effects or other lights or reflectors unless the lights are both covered and unlit while the vehicle is driven on the highways or public streets of Michigan. Violators will be cited. (**Michigan Vehicle Code, section 698(4)**)

Center Courts News...

Reported by: Melissa Thompson, Field House & Activities Coordinator

Thank You for Your Support!

Center Courts would like to thank Saginaw Township for making us one of the hottest spots for recreational programs. Since our grand opening on November 12, 2002 individuals have come to utilize the walking track, volleyball courts and basketball courts. We have been able to provide programs for youth, adults and seniors. From Sporties to Shorties to the Old Timer League, the courts have been filled with all walks of life.

Family Day at Center Courts

Family Day at Center Courts started February 9, 2003. Hundreds of youth and their parents came to play basketball and volleyball. We will continue to offer Family Day on Sunday's from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

A Summer of Fun

Center Courts will be starting "A SUMMER OF FUN" Program. We are offering a **Fantasy Sports Camp** for grades 5-8, and a **K.I.D.S. (Keep Involved During Summer) Camp** for ages 4 & 5 (grades 1-4). Please call the Recreation Department at **791-9860** to find out more about our Summer Programs.

To find out more about our programs and hours, visit our website at www.saginawtownship.org or call **791-9860**.

Saginaw Township Assessor's Office News...

Reported by: David Kern, Director of Assessing

Homestead Affidavit

Public Act 237 of 1994 (**Proposal A**) provides for an 18.00 mill exemption from school operating taxes for those properties claimed and occupied as the owner's homestead. It is advisable that purchasers of existing or new homes review the homestead status of the property. Homestead Affidavit forms are available on-line at: (www.saginawtownship.org), or may be picked-up at the Assessor's office (4980 Shattuck Road). **May 1** is the filing deadline for claiming homestead status.

2003 Total Valuation

The total taxable value in Saginaw Township increased **3.6%** over last year. The State Equalized Value (SEV) increased **5%** (the taxable value is the basis for the tax levy). The previous year's changes were 5% and 6% respectively.

Miscellaneous Information

Six hundred and eighty-one (**681**) single-family dwellings sold during the 2002 calendar year featured an average selling price of \$147,600. The Township saw 151 new homes completed last year with the average size of 2,139 square feet (the average size of all dwellings in the Township equals 1,695 square feet). The appraised value of all new construction equaled **48 Million** dollars last year.

Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office News...

Reported by: William J. McQuillan, Treasurer

Summer 2003 Tax Bills

Summer 2003 tax bills will be mailed on June 30, 2003. They are all mailed on the same day, but it may take several days for the postal service to make all the deliveries. If you do not receive a bill by July 15, please phone our office at (989) 791-9840. Persons who recently moved or changed their mailing address should be especially alert. We try to forward tax bills that are returned to us, but we do **not** send second notices.

Taxpayers who have financial institutions pay their taxes (escrow accounts) will still receive the original tax bill. Each taxpayer should retain this copy for income tax purposes and their personal records. The escrow agent receives a copy of the tax bill and pays the taxes for you. If you want to ensure that they have received the correct tax amount due please contact them directly. The Treasurer's office will not be able to verify this information.

When paying in person, please bring the entire tax bill so that the top half can be stamped paid and returned to you for your records. If you mail the payment and do not need a receipt, please enclose the small bottom portion of the bill for our records. There is also a drop box by the front door (facing the corner of Center and Shattuck Rds.) for depositing payments after hours. We do **not** accept payment by credit card.

The deadline for summer tax payment is Monday, September 15, 2003. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. on September 16 a 1% interest charge will be added to the bill. An additional 1% will be added each month **beginning October 1**.

For any additional information, please feel free to phone our office at 791-9840. Most importantly, please call our office if you do not receive your tax bill by the middle of July. We welcome you to look up taxes on our website. www.saginawtownship.org

Saginaw Township Fire Department News...

Reported by: Richard Powell, Fire Chief

International Property Maintenance Code

To further protect the interests of its citizens and neighborhoods, Saginaw Township adopted the International Property Maintenance Code (IMPC) in June of 2001. The IMPC is a model code designed for governing the maintenance of existing buildings, residential and non residential, with clear and specific requirements. It provides minimum standards for supplying facilities with ventilation, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements and other physical conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe and fit for occupancy. The code also establishes criteria for condemnation of buildings unfit for human occupancy and procedures for the demolition of dangerous or otherwise uninhabitable structures.

The Fire Department's Prevention Bureau has been delegated the responsibility to administer the IMPC. The IMPC, the Township's fire code, the 2000 International Fire Code (IFC) and the Michigan Fire Prevention Code, Public Act 207, authorize uniformed fire officials the right to enter buildings or premises for the purpose of inspection, enforcement and performance of duties prescribed by codes. The IFC includes a continuum of fire prevention precautions, regulates fire resistive construction, building services, life safety systems and safe practices for commercial business operations and processes. The Property Maintenance Code, a companion to the IFC and the Michigan Building Code, addresses maintenance of all structures including commercial buildings, focusing on utilities, features that maintain human comfort and neighborhood standards. The IMPC empowers the code officials with the ability to uphold the aesthetic appeal of a community and therefore protect property values, which the citizens of Saginaw Township desire and deserve.

Since its adoption, the IMPC has proven to be beneficial in preserving the beauty of the Township. The code requires buildings to be kept neatly painted and clean, inside and out, downspouts in substantial condition, carports, paved drives and sidewalks in proper repair and refuse stored and removed properly. The IMPC also provides an avenue for lawn maintenance by establishing limitations on weed and plant growth. The IMPC was instrumental in the condemnation of the Rolling Green Apartment complex when numerous violations were cited: dilapidated terraces and fences, roofing in disrepair, windows that would not close and mechanical equipment improperly installed.

The Fire Department welcomes questions concerning the Fire Code and the Property Maintenance Code and offers home safety inspections, fire extinguisher training and fire prevention educational seminars. Please call **(989) 792-9691** for further information.



Zauel Memorial Library News...

Reported by: Alice Houlihan, Zauel Librarian

Adult Events

Zauel Library has several new programs and events coming up during the Spring and Summer.

For the first time in several years, we are again offering two different **Summer Reading Programs**, one for children, young adults and teenagers, and a new program for adults. Reading is a fun summer pastime at any age, and a great way to win a special library tee-shirt and other prizes. To sign up, go to any of the Saginaw Public Libraries branches. The program runs from June 9 to July 26.

Our Young Adult Librarian, Jill Coe, has organized a group of teens from our area to serve as a **Teen Advisory Group** for the library. They will share ideas as to what kind of materials they would like to find at the library, and how to make Zauel more "user friendly" for teens. They meet here at Zauel once a month, and welcome any teens who would be interested in joining.

Call Jill for details at (989) 799-2771.

Introduction to The Internet Classes

Internet classes will continue at Zauel during the spring and summer months. The class is held on the first Tuesday of each month, from 9:30 until 11:00 a.m. at Zauel. Classes are free. Call our information desk to sign up. 799-2771.

Annual Spring Book Sale

The Zauel Friends will hold their Annual Spring Book Sale here at Zauel on May 1, 2, and 3, 2003. They have a great selection of both hardcover and paperback books, videos, and CD's. All proceeds benefit Zauel Library.

Children's Events

First Grade Reading Celebrations - During the months of April and May, we will host our First Grade Reading Celebrations, inviting the Township public and parochial first graders.

Mother Goose Times - May 6-27 and August 12 through September 2 at 10:30 a.m. for children 18-24 months of age accompanied by a loving adult.

Summer Reading Program - The Calendar of Events for the summer will go out to schools and be available in the library at the end of May.

Playgroup - September 9 through October 7, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. for children 1-3 years of age accompanied by a loving adult. Resource Staff will answer parents' questions about literacy, child development, speech & language, nutrition, and movement.

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

Registration Information - For registration information regarding children's programs, please call Kathy or Amy at (989) 799-2771.

Department of Public Services News...

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

Alternate Day Sprinkling

Due to positive citizen cooperation in this program we have found that we can shorten alternate day sprinkling by one month. This year the alternate day sprinkling program will begin **June 1, 2003** and end **August 31, 2003**.

The Brush Site

The Brush Site (5790 W. Michigan) will open weekends beginning Saturday, April 12 thru Sunday, May 18, 2003. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. In addition, the site will be open the third weekends of June (21 & 22), July (19 & 20), and August (16 & 17), then weekends beginning September 6, thru October 26, 2003.

Yard Waste Curb Side Pick Up

Yard waste pick up will begin Monday, April 7, 2003 and end Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

**Saginaw Township Residents
Public Notice - Sewer Backups**

All sewer backups should be reported to the Saginaw Charter Township Department of Public Services (DPS). Department personnel will provide assistance in determining the cause and possible solution to your problem. A new Public Act (#222) establishes specific liability criteria involving municipal sewer systems. Pursuant to PA 222, residential and commercial dwellings experiencing a backup resulting in property damage **must** file a written claim within 45 days after the backup is discovered or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been discovered. Failure to provide the required notice will prevent any recovery of damages should the Township be found liable. Additional information pertaining to Public Act 222 along with appropriate claim forms are available at the Department of Public Services.

Clerk's Office News...

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

2003 Election

The only election scheduled for 2003 is the Annual School Election to be held on Monday, June 9.

Voter Registration

If you have recently moved to Saginaw Township and have not registered to vote either at the Secretary of State's office or the Saginaw Charter Township Clerk's office you must do so in order to be eligible to vote in any upcoming election.

Opening a New Business in the Township?

If you are opening a new business in Saginaw Township you are required to obtain a license for that business. The cost is only \$10 annually. A renewal form is sent out to all businesses the end of November every year. If there is a change in ownership or address of an existing business, an updated application should be filed with the Clerk's office.

Check Out Our Website

The Clerk's office publishes Saginaw Charter Township Board meeting minutes on the web. For additional information on business licenses, board minutes, voter registration, or election results go to: www.saginawtownship.org/clerk/HOME.htm



Saginaw Township Parks & Recreation News...

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

We Have Moved

We are pleased to announce that the Saginaw Township Recreation Department is now located in the new Center Courts facility located at 3320 N. Center Road. The Recreation office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Registration Will Begin April 1, 2003 for the Following Spring/Summer Programs:

- ▶ Golf Clinics - youth & adult
- ▶ Tennis Clinics - 4 yrs. through 17 yrs.
- ▶ Basketball Clinics - boys & girls
- ▶ Girl's Softball - ages 7 - 14 yrs.
- ▶ Men's/Women's/Coed Softball
- ▶ Beach Volleyball
- ▶ Senior Shuffleboard
- ▶ Horseshoe League
- ▶ Men's Morning Softball
- ▶ Stan Musial/Connie Mack/Mickey Mantle Baseball

Amusement Park Tickets

Discount tickets to the following amusement parks will go on sale beginning in mid-May:

Cedar Point Six Flags Worlds of Adventure
Michigan Adventure Kings Island

Pavilion Rentals

We are now accepting reservations for the pavilions in Harvey Randall Wickes Recreation Complex, located on McCarty & Hospital Roads and Olson Park, located on Center Road. These pavilions are great for family reunions, graduation parties, birthday parties, etc.

Spray Pool

The spray pool in Gotto Park will open in early June. The pool hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. seven days a week - weather permitting. Admission is free. Children must be 4 ft. tall or under to enter the pool.

Contact us for More Information

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

Fiscal Services News...

Reported by: Virginia Gottschalk, Director of Fiscal Services

The Township Board has Adopted the Budget for The Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2003.**Summary of Budgets:**

General and Special Revenue Funds	\$15,966,309
Enterprise (Water & Sewer) Funds	7,294,467
Capital Projects Funds	<u>589,071</u>
TOTAL	\$23,849,847

Details are available in the Fiscal Services Office and on the internet. www.saginawtownship.org

**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.

Q: Can I still purchase an engraved brick to be placed at Center Courts?

A: Yes! Bricks are still available for purchase and orders are coming in every day for the \$25 & \$50 engraved bricks. For information on ordering a brick, call the Manager's office at **791-9800**.

Q: What does it cost to rent a court and the Community Rooms at Center Courts?

A: Court prices are: 1/4 of Gym \$35 per hour. Full Court \$65 per hour. Community Room rental is \$35 one hour.

Q: What are Center Court's hours of operation? What number do I call to contact Center Courts?

A: Center Courts Spring hours (March 1 thru April 30) **Monday - Thursday are:** Open Gym 6-9:00 a.m. & 12-4:45 p.m. Basketball Leagues 5-10:00 p.m. Track Open 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. **Friday hours are:** Open Gym 6-9:00 a.m. & 12-8:00 p.m. Track Open 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. **Saturday hours are:** Open Gym 12-4:00 p.m. **Sunday hours are:** Open Gym 12-5:00 FAMILY DAY Track Open 12-5:00 p.m. The phone number is the same as the Recreation office number: **(989) 791-9860**. Center Courts physical address is 3320 N. Center Rd. (across from Heritage High School).

Q: When will the Can Amera Games be held this year and where will they be? When are tryouts for the games? Where can I get more information?

A: The Can Amera Games will be held in Canada this year on the weekend of **August 8, 9 & 10**. Tryouts begin the first week of May and a schedule will be printed in the Township Times. Schedules will also be distributed to the Recreation Department and area schools. After June 1 the Can Amera office will be open in the Saginaw Township Hall, 4980 Shattuck Rd. The number for the office is **791-9805**. Prior to June 1, questions can be answered by contacting Michele at: **791-9820**.

Q: Who do I contact to report a neighbor that is not maintaining his property due to (tall grass, trash in yard, structural problems)? Is my call kept confidential?

A: The Saginaw Township Fire Department's Property Maintenance Division is responsible for inspections concerning tall grass (at a resident's home) and property maintenance (attached to building) of a home or structure. You are under no obligation to leave your name to report a problem in your neighborhood. Call the Fire Department at: **792-9691**. To report trash in yard & unlicensed vehicles and set-back questions call the Code Enforcement Div. of Community Development/Planning at: **791-9865**. You are not obligated to leave your name.

Q: My neighbor's dogs bark all hours of the day and night. Who do I contact regarding this annoyance? How many dogs is my neighbor allowed to keep on his property?

A: If dogs are barking, call 9-1-1 and an officer will respond. Regarding the number of dogs on a property - call the Code Enforcement office at: **791-9865**. Call Saginaw County Animal Control for abuse or neglect of any animal at: **797-4500**.

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



April	May	June	July	August	September
04/02 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/07 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/04 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/02 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/06 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/03 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/06 State of the Arts Show Open House 2-5:00 p.m.	05/12 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/09 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/04 Offices Closed 4th of July	08/11 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/08 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/09 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/14 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/11 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/09 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/13 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/10 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/14 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/19 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	06/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	07/14 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/18 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	09/15 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.
04/16 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/21 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/18 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/16 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/20 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/17 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/21 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	05/26 Offices Closed Memorial Day		07/21 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.		09/22 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/28 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/27 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.				

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...793-2310 Zoning/Code Enforcement...791-9865 Public Services...791-9870 Fiscal Services...791-9820 Recreation...791-9860 Treasurer...791-9840 Water & Sewer...791-9880

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. & 2. The State of The Township Message
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