

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.

Spring/Summer 2004

The State of The Township

Highlights of 2003

By George L. Olson, Township Supervisor

The year 2003 was not unlike the previous year of 2002 in Saginaw Township. Previously, we described that year as one big roller coaster ride. Much of our economic woes were created by forces outside the Township and we had no choice but to hang on and take the ride. The 2003 year was not as wild as there were no dramatic highs or panicky declines in the Township's state of affairs. In fact, the roller coaster ride in 2003 was fairly level for us with only a few curves along the way. Just as in other communities, we have managed our reductions in State Revenue Sharing wisely and carefully, but how much more we can absorb remains to be seen.

Our Fiscal Picture: Against the background of having a new Governor who, in her inaugural year, was forced to make some very unpopular decisions in order to stabilize the State's economy, I am pleased to report that our Township's finances remain sound and stable. Coming into a new fiscal year, the Township's fiscal picture appears optimistic, but prudently cautious. We are holding our own, while maintaining the

grass roots philosophy that all Townships are based upon, namely we "never levy more than we need." For the 2004-2005 budget year, the Township's operating budget is projected to be 24.6 million dollars.

The general fund is the most often discussed fund. In actuality the general property tax levy upon Township property owners accounts for only about a fifth or 21% of the General Fund budget. The remainder of the General Fund derives its revenues from various user fees, penalties, fines, special assessments, interest and investments and, most importantly, from State Shared Revenue. For the coming year it is projected that State Shared Revenue will account for 44% of the General Fund budget. This represents a decline in State funding when State Shared Revenues used to make up more than half of the general fund revenues. This decline in revenue sharing has caused the Township to manage its funds much more carefully than ever before.

In light of the above, We the Township will not take on new projects for the coming year. Projects currently in progress will continue, but nothing new will be started. We have also extended by an additional year some of our multi-year purchasing programs such as cars and trucks.

Building Activity: In a year in which building activity was not anticipated to be as active as past years, we were pleasantly surprised to see 659 permits for construction. This represents an increase of 190 permits over the previous year. In terms of valuation, there was an increase of \$43,518,145 (compared to an increase of \$37,801,398 from the previous year). Residential development dominated this growth with 555 residential permits taken out in 2003. This represents an eight year high, while the number of new single family units represented a 10 year high. In spite of the sluggish national economy in 2003, housing activity remains high in Saginaw Township.

In terms of commercial building permits, commercial activity in 2003 was comparable to that of 2002. Township records indicate that 104 commercial building permits were taken out. The estimated construction value of these permits was about \$9,207,715. Planning and Zoning activity in 2003 was also slightly higher than last year. One of the most ambitious projects of 2003 for the Planning Department was the development of a Comprehensive Sign Ordinance that replaced the sign regulations previously in the Zoning Ordinance. (See page 2 for related story.) This effort took nearly 18 months with input from area merchants and representatives of the Saginaw Township Business Association. Although regulatory in nature, the Sign Ordinance was designed to reasonably satisfy the needs of the business community.

Our Planners continue their work on the various corridor design studies undertaken earlier for Bay Road, and the Bay and Tittabawassee business district. A variety of policies resulting from the design studies are currently in process of being implemented. The Cardinal Square Concept which was started in 2002, was further developed in 2003. The concept is now complete and a few aspects of the Cardinal Square Concept are now being implemented.

Fire Prevention: As always, the strength of the Department relies upon the dedication and commitment of its On-Call Firefighters, as well as the professional work demonstrated by its Fire Inspectors and Fire Educator. In 2003 the Fire Department responded to 712 emergencies, of which half occurred during the daytime hours. Fortunately, only 11% of the total emergencies encountered actual fire. The busiest fire station in 2003 was the McCarty Road Fire Station, which covers Bay Road and the northeastern part of the Township. *(Article continued on page 3.)*



A New Sign Ordinance - Only One Piece of the Puzzle

By: Rob Grose, Assistant Director of Community Development and Planning

In the Spring of 2002, Saginaw and Kochville Township Planning Commission began working to draft a coordinated sign ordinance. This project evolved as a result of several planning activities conducted by the Planning Commission over the past few years. These initiatives include the Bay Road and Tittabawassee Corridor studies along with the "Any Town USA" Design Charrett sponsored by the Saginaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission in the spring of 1999.

It was through these efforts that the Planning Commission and Township Board identified several goals of improving the appearance of our commercial corridors. Survey results from both corridor studies emphasized the need to address the appearance, safety and placement of business identification signs. Improving the appearance and function of our major thoroughfares is an important aspect in preserving Saginaw Township's economic prosperity in the region. Inherent in older communities, business areas typically deteriorate over time. Encouraging private and public reinvestment into these areas is crucial to their continued success and eventual survival.

Adopting new sign regulations is only one important piece of the puzzle. If we are to improve the appearance of our corridors, Saginaw Township will need to put forth several initiatives that encourage a positive and long lasting business climate. Developing an overall strategy to identify and address deficiencies in our commercial districts is crucial to maintaining our prominence in the region. To that end, the Planning Commission has been working diligently toward implementation of progressive land development regulations that benefit both the developer and community as a whole. Some of the new regulations, which have been developed and or adopted include:

- Reducing the number of parking spaces required for a commercial development so as to encourage more aesthetically pleasing parking lots and lower development costs.
- Enhanced landscaping standards within commercial districts. Such landscaping includes planting street trees along roadways and constructing landscaped islands within parking lots and adjacent to buildings.
- Drafted design guidelines for all residential and commercial developments. These design guidelines will shape the future of the Township by encouraging more architecturally pleasing projects.

Not only do the commercial property owners need to be proactive and supportive of enhancing the appearance of our corridors, so too must the Township. Saginaw Township must be proactive in this revitalization effort by providing positive leadership and financial support to ensure a successful outcome.

With that in mind, the Township Board adopted a new Sign Ordinance on January 26, 2004. One of the most significant changes in this ordinance relates to the Sign Ordinance being adopted as a General Ordinance rather than a Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of adopting the Sign Ordinance as a General Ordinance is that as a General Ordinance all signs must be brought into compliance by a given date; while amendments to the Zoning Ordinance creates a "legal non-conforming use" status.

The term "legal non-conforming use" is used to describe any sign which was lawfully erected and maintained prior to the effective date of an ordinance, or amendment thereto, that renders such sign non-conforming because it does not conform to all the standards and regulations of the adopted or amended ordinance. Typically, non-conforming signs may continue to exist until such time as they are structurally altered or changes. At that time, the sign would need to be brought into compliance with the new ordinance.

The Township Board adopted a 12 year amortization period for signs. At the end of that period, (February 26, 2016) all signs must be brought into compliance with the new standards.

Below is a summary of some of the most significant changes to the Sign Ordinance:

Sign Size

Zoning District	Prior Ordinance Size	Current Ordinance Size
B-1	Maximum 75 square feet (sq. ft.)	50 sq. ft.
B-2, B-3, B-4	Maximum 150 sq. ft.	64 sq. ft.
M-1	Maximum 150 sq. ft.	64 sq. ft.

****B-1 District current sign formula:** 1/4 sq. ft. for each lineal foot of lot frontage. Maximum of 75 sq. ft.

****B-2 through B-4 Districts current sign formula:** 1 1/2 sq. ft. for each lineal foot of building frontage or 1/2 sq. ft. for each lineal foot of lot frontage, whichever is greater, up to a maximum of 150 sq. ft.

Height

Zoning District	Prior Ordinance Height	Current Ordinance Height
B-1	24 feet	8 feet
B-2, B-3, B-4	24 feet	12 feet
M-1	24 feet	10 feet

- **Incentives.** Developers may now choose larger signage as a reward for placing a sign farther from the road right of way or for having a specified percentage of the sign made out of certain architectural materials, or for having landscaping installed around the sign.

- **Landscaping:** Ten percent (10%) bonus in size of one (1) sign when any freestanding or monument sign which is erected in a landscaped area. The landscaped area must contain a minimum of two (2) sq. ft. for each sq. ft. of the sign area. The landscape design must be approved by the Planning Commission or its designee.

(Article continued on page 3.)

(Article continued from page 1.) This station responded to over 300 emergencies. In terms of fire education and safety, 409 classes were conducted, involving 47,800 people last year. While the majority of the classes consisted of young elementary students, classes are available for all ages.

In our first year of enforcing the International Property Maintenance Code, the department responded to 59 complaints of property neglect and blight. The worst example of blight occurred when the Department compelled an apartment complex under threat of condemnation to conduct renovations due to severe life, safety, health, and fire issues. The vacant apartment complex was later re-opened after extensive work was done.

Police Department: The men and women of the STPD are committed toward keeping vigilance over the community, its shopping districts, and the many neighborhoods that make up the Township. Last year our police officers responded to 14,273 calls and logged over 250,000 miles responding to those calls. In spite of a tight economy which is affecting our region including Saginaw Township, the Police Department is managing to maintain its ongoing police programs, as well as participate in the new Homeland Security directives from the State and the Federal Government.

For 2003, Part One Violent and Property Crimes data compared favorably to the prior year of 2002, having one of the lowest crime rates in eight years. Traffic is an ongoing problem in Saginaw Township and last year Operation Red Light stopped 511 vehicles. The Police Department notes that larcenies remain low compared to the last several years. They credit this to the success of its Crime Prevention Unit, its Bike Patrol Officers, as well as the regular uniform Road Patrol.

Public Works: As one of the ten most urbanized Townships in the State, our Department of Public Services staff are continually busy maintaining public buildings, parks, and the numerous water and sewer utility lines that network throughout the Township. In addition to maintaining the Township's infrastructure, the Public Services Department also added an additional parking lot at Center Courts, built a youth football field at CanAmara Park, and replaced a new irrigation system at the Soccer Complex.

In the area of sewers, the Township currently operates within current design capacities. We are currently in the design phase of our Phase 2, Waste Water Treatment Expansion Project, which is expected to go into construction within the next few years. In the area of water, Saginaw Township draws its water supply from the City of Saginaw. The township also maintains a program of replacing old lead water pipes with new modern water pipes. While there is much discussion at present over the new rate study conducted by the City of Saginaw, the Township expects no adverse effects upon its residents within the near or distant future. The Township is operating well within the allotted water capacities that have been set by the City.

Looking ahead for 2004: Saginaw Township is continuing its campaign to maintain the quality of life and the high living standards that we have always enjoyed. With our population estimated at about 40,000 people living in many more households, the Township realizes that there is a need to maintain housing conditions and property standards for all to enjoy. For this reason, you will likely see increased enforcement of the Uniform Property Maintenance Code, and well as our other anti-blight codes that exist in the Township. Because of our limited staff, the Township welcomes the public input of areas where blight may exist and is yet to be discovered by our staff. As residents of Saginaw Township, I believe we all share a civic duty to help preserve Saginaw Township as a livable community.

In closing we are looking forward to serving the people of Saginaw Township in 2004. We remain optimistic about our economic situation, but as always we remain prudently cautious. We believe the Township is holding its own.

(New sign ordinance article continued.)

- **Setback:** Ten percent (10%) bonus in sign size for any freestanding or monument sign setback an additional amount from the proposed right of way line.
 - ◆ Sign located at proposed right of way = no bonus
 - ◆ 5 foot from the proposed right of way = 10% bonus
 - ◆ 10 foot from the proposed right of way = 20% bonus
- **Design:** A twenty percent (20%) bonus in sign area will be allowed if at least fifty percent (50%) of the total sign structure is comprised of brick, stone or architectural block.

The total bonuses allowed may not be greater than thirty percent (30%).

Sign Size with Bonus Provisions

Zoning District	Prior Ordinance Size	Current Ordinance Proposed Bonus Size
B-1	Maximum 75 square feet (sq. ft.)	66 sq. ft.
B-2, B-3, B-4	Maximum 150 sq. ft.	84 sq. ft.
M-1	Maximum 150 sq. ft.	84 sq. ft.

- ◆ **Temporary / Portable.** Each tenant space may have one portable sign for a limited period of 45 days per calendar year. This has been changed from 30 days per calendar year.

Please refer to our website at saginawtownship.org to review the sign ordinance in its entirety.

I would like to thank the Saginaw Township Business Association for their participation on the Sign Committee. The STBA representatives who served on this committee were very forthcoming with their thoughts and opinions. This process has evolved into what we believe will have a positive long-lasting effect on the Township for years to come.

Township Clerk Timothy J. Braun Takes a Retrospective Look at Twenty Years of Service



**Timothy J. Braun,
Saginaw Township Clerk**

Nearly twenty years ago the voters of our community gave me the opportunity to be a part of our township government. It has been an honor for me to serve our community as Clerk and as a member of our Township Board.

This Board and those of the past two decades have conducted themselves professionally with a genuine respect for one another as individuals. Our goal of trying to shape a better community was accomplished by working together to meet the needs of our citizens.

There are numerous projects and accomplishments the Board initiated, encouraged, or supported throughout the years. They include a wide variety of items for which township government is responsible. We worked closely with our Planning Commission to update the Master Plan on a regular basis. Our residential neighborhoods have significantly grown in number because our planners and local developers worked together cooperatively. Our business community has prospered as a result of the positive climate we helped to promote. The Sawmill Golf Course development and the Wal-Mart project on State St. are two examples of these efforts. In fact, the taxable value of property in our community has grown from \$463 million in 1984 when I began my first term as Clerk, to over \$1.1 billion today.

Our sidewalk program has continued to link the neighborhoods of our community and provide safe places for people to walk and exercise. Township wide trash pick up and curbside recycling were instituted. The Public Safety and DPS buildings were renovated. Fire Station #1 was constructed, and our other two stations were renovated. We have been able to furnish all of our departments with state of the art equipment that uses the latest technology. Yet, fiscal responsibility and prudent use of our tax dollars has always been at the forefront of everything we have undertaken.

Extensive infrastructure projects have also been completed. These include miles of sewer and water line improvements; construction of detention basins and CSO retention areas along Center Rd. and Weiss St.; building the artificial wetlands at the old landfill; completing Wastewater Treatment Plant expansions; supporting road reconstruction in Golfside and Edward Meyer subdivision; promoting road widening projects on Center, Shattuck, and Tittabawassee; and implementing our local road resurfacing program.

Major recreational projects have also provided wonderful opportunities for Township families. These include Gotto's Playground and the wading pool, the Playscape Park, the Soccer Complex, and most recently Center Courts.

All of these initiatives have been successful as a result of the talented and dedicated employees working on our behalf. We have been fortunate to have outstanding Township managers, department heads, and office staff who have worked to see these and other projects through to completion. I frequently receive compliments from citizens who have worked on a project with our employees, and they often comment on how professionally our employees conduct themselves.

I am also very proud of what we have accomplished in the Clerk's office over the years. We have worked diligently to improve the organization and administration of our elections, and working with the women and men who serve as our election inspectors we have done so. More than ten years ago, back in August of 1993, we joined other Clerks from across Saginaw County to purchase a new, modernized voting system - the optical scan system. Last summer the Secretary of State selected this optical scan equipment as the official voting system for our state. Over the years my Deputy Clerks and office staff have also worked to enhance the record keeping capabilities of the Township. The codification of our Township ordinances, the indexing of our Board resolutions, and the purchase of new software for our business license program are just a few examples of this effort.

As previously reported, I will not seek another term as Saginaw Township Clerk. Saginaw Township is a great place to live, work, and raise a family; and it has been a privilege for me to serve the citizens of this community. Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk's Office News...

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

2004 Elections

The annual school election will be held on Monday, June 14, 2004. The Primary Election is scheduled for August 3, 2004, and the General Election is scheduled for November 2, 2004.

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 be registered thirty (30) days prior to any election in order to be eligible to vote.

Election Consolidation

Governor Granholm signed the Election Consolidation bill into law on January 8, 2004. This bill will take affect in 2005. Beginning in 2005, there will only be four (4) scheduled election dates each year. The dates will be the fourth Tuesday in February and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, August and November.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Saginaw Township Police Department News

Reported by: Stephen C. Renico, Chief of Police

District Resource Officers

The District Resource Officers have been assigned and are busily working in the schools and the community. Assigned to the **South District** is **Ofc. Henry Reyna**; the **North District** is **Ofc. Brian Kanicki**; and the **East District** is **Ofc Chris Fredenburg**.

The officers are teaching the **T.E.A.M.** (Teaching, Educating, And Mentoring) in the elementary schools and the program has been well received by the students. In addition to their teaching responsibilities, the District Resource Officers also work with Neighborhood Watch groups, area businesses on prevention of common business crimes, and with apartment complexes through the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. All three officers are also certified in bike patrol and you will certainly see them on their bikes in your neighborhoods this spring and summer.

If you need to contact your District Resource Officer about a problem, call **793-2310** during normal business hours.

Citizens Police Academy

The fifth Citizens Police Academy is in the planning stages and should begin on the last Wednesday in August. The free 13-session program generally finishes in the first week of November and exposes interested residents to the inner workings of law enforcement. If you are a resident of Saginaw Township and want to see what police work is really like, contact the Investigations Division at **791-7226** during normal business hours and we will send you an application.

If you know anyone who has attended a previous academy, ask them if it was worth the time and effort - we're certain they will say yes. To see some photos of past academy sessions, log on to our web site at www.saginawtownship.org and click on the police link.

Larceny Season

Every year, we experience a significant increase in larcenies. There are several steps you can take that will reduce your odds of becoming a victim:

- ▶ **ALWAYS** lock your car no matter where it is parked.
- ▶ **NEVER** leave any 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.
- ▶ **ALWAYS** minimize what you carry in your purse - take only what you need.
- ▶ **ALWAYS** report any theft to your local police agency.



Operation Red Light

Citation and arrest totals for Operation Red Light for 2001-2003 are as follows:

<u>Citation/Arrest</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Red Light	54	98	124
Yellow Light	12	13	46
Seat Belt	125	78	44
Other	320	130	70
Verbal Warnings	419	205	155
Drunk Drivers	3	1	2
Suspended License	8	3	4
Other Arrests	6	8	4
Total Citations/Arrests	511	363	367

Operation Red Light continues to be one of the major traffic enforcement programs for the police department in Saginaw Township. We conduct these operations because of the volume of traffic we have and the high number of crashes we experience each year. It is interesting to note that, of the top ten crash sites in Saginaw County, eight are in Saginaw Township. They are:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Intersection</u>	<u>Crashes in 2003</u>
#1	State & Center	31
#2	Gratiot & Center	16
#3	Mackinaw & McCarty	13
#4	State & Hemmeter	13
#5	Bay & Shattuck	12
#6	State & Wieneke	12
#7	Bay & Schust	12
#8	Mackinaw & Tittabawassee	10

It is also interesting to note that during 2003, the Police Department investigated 182 crashes wherein the vehicle occupants suffered injuries. That is the lowest number of injuries reported since 1994 when there were 271 people injured in crashes in Saginaw Township.

We believe the reduction in crashes injuries can be directly attributed to the increase in seat belt usage. We encourage you to Buckle Up - It's the Law. Seat belts do save lives.

Crossing Guards Needed

The police department is always looking for dedicated citizens who are interested in part time work. The hours are somewhat flexible, the responsibility is significant, the pay is pretty good and you get to enjoy the great outdoors. If you think you might be interested in joining the Crossing Guard program, call us at **793-2310**. All applicants undergo a rigorous background investigation.

Important Phone Numbers

Police/Fire/Medical Emergency	9-1-1	Saginaw Township Police - Records	793-2310
Non-Emergency	3-1-1	Investigations Division	791-7226
		Police Administration	791-7225
		Crime Information Hot Line	791-7233

Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office News

Reported by: William J. McQuillan, Treasurer

Summer 2004 Tax Bills

Summer 2004 tax bills will be mailed on June 30, 2004. 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 Tuesday, September 14, 2004. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 15 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

Center Courts News...

Reported by: Melissa Thompson, Field House & Activities Coordinator

Summer Camps for Ages 3-12

Center Courts will once again offer several Summer Camps and Programs. These camps will range from ages 3-12. Camp information will be available in April so please check us out online at www.saginawtownship.org or call Center Courts at (989) 791-9860 to get more information.

Summer Hours

Starting June 1, 2004 Center Courts will be starting new summer hours. Please call Center Courts or check online before heading out for your daily workout.

Jason Richardson Camp

The 2nd annual Jason Richardson Camp will once again be held at Center Courts June 21 through June 25, 2004. For more information on Jason Richardson's Camp, check out his website www.jrichfanclub.com

Summer Camp Help Needed

Center Courts will be looking for Summer Camp help. If you are 18 or older and love to work with Kids, stop into Center Courts to pick up an application.

It's Never Too Hot or Too Cold to Walk at Center Courts!

Center Courts offers many activities to promote a healthy and fit lifestyle. Please join us and make exercise a part of your daily fitness routine.

Center Courts thanks everyone who uses the facility!

Saginaw Township Parks & Recreation News...

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

The Recreation Department will once again be offering several Spring & Summer programs for both youth and adults.

Registration will begin April 1, 2004 for the following programs:

- ❖ Golf Clinics - youth & adult
- ❖ Junior Golf Leagues
- ❖ 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 Musical/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



Department of Public Services News...

Reported by: Jerry Francis, Director of Public Services and 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 **begins June 1, 2004 and ends August 31, 2004.**

The Brush Site

The Brush Site (5790 W. Michigan) will open weekends beginning **Saturday, April 10 thru Sunday, May 23, 2004.** 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 (19 & 20), July (17 & 18) and August (21 & 22)** then weekends beginning **September 4th thru October 31, 2004.**

Yard Waste Curb Side Pick Up

Yard waste pick up will begin **Monday, April 5, 2004** and end **Tuesday, November 30, 2004.**

2004 Water Projects

The water main replacement on Shattuck Road from Badger Road west to Wieneke Road will take place in early spring. Bid deadline for the project is March 3, 2004. The project is slated for completion in early summer. Cost of the project is approximately \$445,000.

Zauel Memorial Library News...

Reported by: Alice Houlihan, Branch Manager

Come Check Us Out!

Spring and Summer are busy seasons here at Zauel. We have new and unique events and programs for both adults and children, covering a wide variety of interests. We are also working on building improvements and an exciting party to benefit all of Saginaw's libraries.

Zauel Library has been undergoing an interior redecoration project which will be complete this spring. We have a new color scheme for the walls, with the color planning donated by interior designer Linda Hoggard of Ethan Allan Furniture Galleries. The children's area has new and colorful children's furniture donated by our Zauel Friends Group, and the adult area has a new look as well. Please visit us to see our new look and learn how we can help you navigate the "information age."

"Hats Off to Libraries" Fund Raising Party

On April 30th, the Public Libraries of Saginaw will be hosting a fund raising party, "Hats Off to Libraries" to benefit all the branches in our system. Supervisor George and Mrs. Barbara Olson are Honorary Chairpersons for the event. All branches are participating in a matching fund grant from The Kresge Foundation of Michigan, and if we are able to raise \$150,000 from the community, the Kresge Foundation will match our funds with an additional \$50,000.

The party will take place a Hoyt Library, which is our main branch on Friday, April 30th from 6 to 9:00 p.m. Attendees will enjoy live music, a silent auction, literary surprises, and a chance to meet other library supporters in an award winning architectural treasure named *one of the finest library restorations in the United States!* (continued at top right)



Zauel Library News continued

Funds from the party will be placed in our Endowment Fund. Tickets are \$30.00 each. Please call Alice Houlihan at Zauel Library at **799-2771** if you would like to purchase tickets.

Annual Booksale at Zauel

Zauel Friends Group will be having their popular annual booksale here at Zauel on **April 29 and 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Summer Reading Program

Zauel's largest and most popular event, the annual Summer Reading Program, "**Discover New Trails at the Library**" will open on June 7 and end on July 24. The library encourages both adults and children to enjoy and deepen their reading skills by enrolling in the program. This summer is the second year that an adult program is being offered. Last year, adult enrollment numbers were limited, but this year, any adult who is interested can join. We hope to see you over the summer months!

Parent/Child Playgroup

Parent/Child Playgroup takes place from **September 14 until October 12**, on Tuesday mornings from **10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** This playgroup is an activity time for children **ages 1-3** years of age and a loving adult. Each week a different resource person is available to provide information and answers to parents' questions about their child's development, speech and language, nutrition, movement, and literacy. Toys, puzzles, music and art are included in the hours festivities. Registration is required for this program, and can be done in person or by phone. Registration will begin in August. Please call Miss Kathy at **799-2771**.

Pre-School Story Time

Pre-School Story Time takes place **Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m.** and **Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m.**, unless the library is closed. Children 3-5 years of age are welcome to bring their loving adults to story time featuring lots of stories, songs and fun for all.

If you have questions about Children's Department programs and services, or to register for children's programs, contact Kathy or Amy at **799-2771**.

When you have questions, who do you call?

Waste, recycling & yard waste pickup call Waste Management **752-4100** or Community Development Dept. **791-9850**

Burn Permits & Unlicensed/Inoperable Vehicles at an apartment complex - owner is tenant call Saginaw Township Fire Dept. **792-9691**

Abandoned/Unlicensed Vehicles found anywhere - no owner call Saginaw Township Police Department **793-2310**

Junk/Unlicensed/Inoperable Vehicles at a 1 or 2 family residential property call Code Enforcement **791-9865**

Grass (non residential) too long - Fire Department **792-9691**
Grass (vacant lots) too long - Department of Public Works **791-9870**
Grass (1 & 2 family residential) too long - Community Dev. **791-9850**

Complaint or question - not sure who to call? Call Saginaw Township Manager's office/Information office **791-9800**

Storm Water Pollution - What You Can Do To Help Protect Our Water Resources

Article by: Herb (Sonny) Grunwell, Assistant Director of Public Services & Russell Beaubien, Project Engineer at Spicer Group

Did you know that many of our daily activities can have an influence on the water quality of our local rivers, streams and the Saginaw Bay? To preserve and improve the water quality of our receiving streams and rivers, we must all become more environmentally conscious of our daily activities that directly influence the water that enters the storm sewers and drains in front of our homes and businesses. Please remember that the water entering the storm sewers in our community goes directly to our streams, rivers, and ultimately to the Saginaw Bay where we fish, swim, and enjoy other recreational activities.

The following preventative maintenance tips can assist all of us in preventing unwanted pollutions from entering our storm sewers:

Storm Sewer/Drain Pollution

Pollutants introduced into the storm drains in front of our homes and businesses have a direct impact on our waterways. This water pollution is a serious problem, not just for us, but for wildlife too. Some common types of pollutants include car washing detergents, vehicle fluids, herbicides, pesticides, paint products, oil, and garbage. Storm drain pollution accounts for a majority of the pollution entering our waterways. Changing a few of our daily habits will go a long way in helping to clean up our water. The following are a few suggestions:

Eliminating the Garbage/Litter

Garbage/Litter collects in ditches and waterways after storms. Please take the time to police or remove the litter from in front of your home or business and prevent it from entering the storm sewers.

Never Fertilize Before A Rainstorm

The fertilizer that you put on your yard prior to a rainstorm will get washed right down the drain along with your money. Use lawn fertilizers sparingly. Excess fertilizers flow downstream and often results in algae bloom in our streams and ponds.

Pick Up After Your Pet

Animal/Pet waste can contribute to fecal coliform problems in our recreational waters. Decomposing animal/pet waste removes the oxygen in the storm water creating additional problems for the aquatic species and plant life in our receiving streams and rivers. Please clean up pet waste and dispose of properly.

Proper Lawn and Garden Care

Fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide runoff is a major source of pollution into our waterways. Educating ourselves on the proper use these products is the first step in improving the water quality of our receiving streams and rivers. Having a beautiful, well maintained lawn is important to most people. Unfortunately, many people make the mistake of over caring for their lawns by applying too many fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. This practice cannot only be expensive but it can also create an unsafe environment in our yards, not suitable for recreation and pet use. Applying fertilizers and chemicals properly will result in a healthier lawn requiring less maintenance.

Mow High - Cut Back on Water Usage and Save \$\$

Keep your grass between two and three inches tall. Lawns that are mowed too short develop weak root systems and require frequent watering and maintenance. The roots of your lawn grow as deep as the grass grows tall. Taller grass has deeper roots that tolerate hot, dry conditions and also shades out weeds. Never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade each time you mow.

Spread Lightly - Use Less Fertilizers and Save \$\$ and Storm Water Pollution

Applying fertilizers and herbicides evenly and lightly on your lawn will produce a dense, pest-resistant turf. Less is best. A low-phosphorus, slow releasing fertilizer will produce the best results on your lawn. Avoid getting lawn chemicals on driveways and sidewalks because they will eventually runoff with water into the storm drains.

Proper Care for Automobiles - Prevent Spills and Leaks to Prevent Pollution

Automobile substances such as oil and antifreeze are contributing to the pollution to our storm drains and sewers. When it rains or snows, the fluids that are spilled onto driveways or that have leaked out of vehicles onto the road enter the storm drains and go directly to our water resources. Taking care of our vehicles, trying to prevent spills of toxics, and taking action with the little things that you can do in your everyday habits will help improve our increasingly polluted water supply. If a leak does occur, clean it up by using kitty litter or sawdust, then dispose of it in the trash.

Car Washing - Use Non-Toxic, Phosphate Free or Biodegradable Products

Use only soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled "non-toxic," "phosphate free," or "biodegradable." The safest products for the environment are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps. When possible, wash your vehicle on an area that absorbs water, such as gravel, grass, or loose soil. This will reduce the amount of runoff water entering the storm sewer.

Less Toxic Antifreeze - Protect Your Pets and Wildlife - Save the Environment

Most antifreeze products are very toxic and can be a health hazard to humans and pets. When possible, use a less toxic antifreeze made of propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol. This product is safer to use and safer for the environment. Contact your local service stations regarding the disposal of used antifreeze.

For additional information on storm water and what our community and others are doing to protect our water resources in the Saginaw Valley, please visit the Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority at www.saswa.org

"Serving You" Saginaw Township Fire Department

Article by: Saginaw Township Fire Chief Richard Powell

Until late in the 1950's, Saginaw Township residents and businesses depended upon the City of Saginaw for contracted fire protection. The expanding population of the Township, and the beginnings of its commercial and retail sectors in the fifties, and the cost of contracting with the City for fire protection, compelled elected officials and residents to explore establishment of its own fire department.

In 1957, Township Supervisor Rudy Zauel began the effort to create a fire department. This effort was completed when, in 1958, the Board formally adopted an ordinance creating the Saginaw Township Fire Department (STFD). The Board decided at that time to continue to have the Saginaw City Fire Department service the area immediately adjacent to the City boundaries (the areas from the city limits west to Center Road, north to Weiss and east on Weiss to Passolt). The remainder of the Township was to be serviced, at the inception of the department, from two stations.

Mr. Mel Pippert put a two bay addition on his garage located at 2820 Hospital Road and agreed to lease the building to the Township to house "Station No. 1" for the new fire department. "Station No. 2" was built by Louie Dankert, next door to his garage in the 3000 block of Bay Road, and leased to the Township. Both of these structures were ultimately purchased, in the 1960's by the Township and continued in service as fire stations for a number of years.

In 1958 a number of Township residents were recruited and began training for fire suppression activities. Earl Kastorf was selected Chief for the new organization. Chief Kastorf provided eight years' leadership while the Department members learned their new responsibilities.

Also in 1958, the Township Board began ordering apparatus and equipment for the Department. The Department's first fire engine was ordered from Howe Fire Apparatus and cost \$20,665.00.

Officially, the STFD began functioning on March 31, 1959. Department members, who numbered thirty-five, made their first fire run on April 11, 1959.

The new Fire Department, and the City's Fire Department, jointly serviced Township residents and businesses until October 1, 1961, when the City terminated its contractual relationship with the Township. In response to the termination, the Township built Station No. 3 near the corner of Center Road and Gratiot. At the end of 1961, the Saginaw Township Fire Department consisted of three stations, sixty personnel, three pumpers and one water tanker.

The Department was fortunate to have two capable, committed men serving as Chief Fire Officers from the mid 1960's to 1991. James Wackerly served as Chief of STFD from 1965 to 1966. Howard Ihrke was appointed by the Township Board to be Chief beginning in 1967. Chief Ihrke was responsible for overseeing the expansion of the Department's physical facilities and service capabilities. Under Chief Ihrke the Department also added fire inspection responsibilities, and hired the Department's first career employees, for the Township's nearly 2,000 businesses and 11,000 residential structures.

Department expansion continued with the building of Station No. 4, in 1974, at the Center and Shattuck intersection. This structure also housed the Township's Police Department and became known as the Public Safety Building. In 1981 a new Station No. 2 was constructed on McCarty Road and the property on Bay Road was sold. A new Station No. 1 was built on Shattuck Road in 1987. Station No. 3 underwent two remodeling and expansion projects, one in 1984 and the second in 1995. The Public Safety Building was enlarged and renovated in 1999 and the Fire Department's career staff began occupying the building.









The 2004 "edition" of the Saginaw Charter Township Fire Department operates as a "combination" organization. A full time staff consisting of the chief, a supervisor for fire prevention/code enforcement/education, training and readiness officer, one fire inspector/code enforcement officer, a public safety educator/code enforcement officer, a secretary/dispatcher, and data entry clerk provide administrative, public fire and life safety education, training, inspection, code enforcement, and investigative services to the community. Approximately 85 paid on call fire fighters, augmented by the career staff, provide fire suppression, water rescue, confined space and high angle rescue, and hazardous materials emergency response.

Today the Fire Department responds to nearly 700 calls annually. Operating out of three stations, the Department's fleet of vehicles consists of two 100-foot aerial units, one 65-foot quint, four engines, three squad vehicles and one command vehicle. The Department's Specialized Rescue Team and Hazardous Materials Team operate out of a uniquely equipped trailer and support vehicle.

With an ISO rating of 4, the Department proudly serves the Township's 29.4 square miles, 40,000 residents, and nearly 25,000 daily visitors. As one of Michigan's five largest combination Departments, STFD's motto of "Serving You" has become an integral mission for its members.

**Saginaw Township
 Government Newsletter**

**Your connection to: Government,
 Developments, Recreation, Planning...**

-  - pg. 1. State of The Township
-  - pg. 2. New Sign Ordinance
-  - pg. 3. New Sign Ord. & State of Twp.
-  - pg. 4. Retrospective Look
-  - pg. 5, 6 & 7. Department Reports
-  - pg. 8. Storm Water Pollution
-  - pg. 9. "Serving You" Saginaw Twp. Fire
-  - pg. 10. Township Facilities Calendar



Supervisor - George L. Olson **Clerk** - Timothy J. Braun **Treasurer** - William J. McQuillan
Trustees - Barbara N. Ewend, Steven G. Gerhardt, Richard T. Neiderquill, Mark A. Schaeff
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Township Manager - Ronald Lee **Editor** - Kimberly A. Stephan

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

TOWNSHIP FACILITIES 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
04/07 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/05 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/02 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/05 Twp. Offices Closed for Holiday	08/04 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/01 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/09 Twp. Offices Closed p.m. for Holiday	05/10 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/09 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/07 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/09 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/08 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/12 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/12 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/14 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/12 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/11 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/13 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/14 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/17 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	06/16 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/14 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	09/15 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/19 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	05/19 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/21 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	07/19 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.	08/18 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/20 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Conf. Rm.
04/21 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/24 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/28 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/21 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/23 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/27 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/26 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/31 Twp. Offices Closed		07/26 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.		