



Welcome to...
**Saginaw
Charter
Township**

WINTER 2018

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

(For any season...especially the HOLIDAYS)



Home Invasion (Breaking & Entering an occupied home)

THE BURGLARY BASICS:

The MOST important thing YOU can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a CRIME or ANY SUSPICIOUS activity. You are the "eyes and ears of your neighborhood". Remember you can always remain a pair of "anonymous eyes" if you chose, but if the police are not informed when suspicious activity is afoot then the chance of apprehension is substantially reduced. So often we hear from citizens that they don't want to be a bother and call. You are **not** a bother to us if you call 911 to report suspicious activity! We would much rather look into a matter at the time it's occurring then write about it after someone has been victimized.

Light up your residence, make the home look occupied!

Lock your doors at all times without exceptions!!

Call the Police when you see something suspicious!!!

If you leave for the holidays or are away from home for an extended period of time during the winter months, call our department and place your home on our House Check List. Officers will periodically check on your home, throughout their shifts, while you're away.

Top 10 Tips to Remember to Target Harden Your Home

1. Make your home look occupied.
2. Make your home difficult to break into. Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors!
3. Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
4. Keep your garage door closed and locked even during daylight hours.
5. Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away. Arrange with the U.S. Post Office to hold your mail or arrange for a friend or neighbor pick it up.
6. Arrange for your lawn to be mowed or snow to be removed if you are going away for an extended period.
7. Check the locks on your doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
8. Install deadbolt locks on all your exterior doors. Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open.

BECOMING A FIRE FIGHTER

Have you ever thought about becoming a firefighter? If you have, Saginaw Township may be the perfect fit for you. The Saginaw Township Fire Department is staffed with a full-time Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, two Fire Inspector/Public Fire Educators, a Training and Readiness Officer, an Administrative Assistant/Dispatcher, a part-time Clerk, and 70 men and women paid-on-call firefighters.

Saginaw Township has three fire stations, each station has two engines, a squad, and utility vehicle. Each station has approximately twenty-five paid-on-call firefighters fully trained and ready to respond. So, what is a paid on call fire fighter? The training and duties of a paid-on-call firefighter are the same as full-time firefighters, but paid-on-call fire fighters are not full-time employees and they respond from their homes when there is an emergency. On-call firefighters carry a pager that activates when there is an emergency

in Saginaw Township. When the pager activates, the firefighters respond to the station, staff the apparatus, and then respond to the incident. Each new paid-on-call firefighter is enrolled in a local fire academy which is governed through the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council. The fire academy meets two times a week for approximately five-months. The recruits are instructed, through classroom and hands-on training, the skills required to become a state certified Fire Fighter II. Firefighters are paid a stipend each month for responding to incidents, attending trainings and business meetings, and work assignments.

We are always looking for quality men and women to become firefighters. If you are looking for a rewarding experience helping others and your community, becoming a firefighter may be what you have been looking for. The comradery and satisfaction you will get from becoming a firefighter is incredible.



You must be 18 years old, a high school graduate, and have a clean criminal and driving record. There is no cost to become a firefighter, the only thing we require is your dedication and professionalism.

If you are interested in joining our great staff, please come to our headquarters building at 4930 Shattuck Rd., between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) and fill out an application, or if you have questions, please contact the **Saginaw Township Fire Department at 989-792-9691**.

Crime Prevention

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9. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks, bars or cut wooden rods (example - broom handle) are available for better security.



10. Consider using a Wi-Fi based home security camera on your front porch and having packages delivered to that location on your property. The doorbell camera system or motion detector flood light by RING along with other similar security cameras offered by NEST, ARLO & CANARY all have real time video surveillance you can watch on your cell phone while away from home. Some even allow you to speak through the camera system, but the most important thing would be the motion notification you receive so you can turn on the app on your phone and see that the package has been delivered or if anyone is attempting to steal it.

For additional Crime Prevention tips or to arrange for a Crime Prevention Specialist to conduct a security assessment on your home, contact the **Saginaw Township Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at: (989) 791-7210**.

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPROVED

Recently, state lawmakers gave the final approval to implement a secure online voter registration application through the Secretary of State's office. The measure was signed into law by Governor Rick Snyder on Thursday, November 15, 2018.

According to Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, "Our online services have

handled millions of transactions accurately and securely, and now is the time to allow Michigan residents the convenience of registering to vote online."

On November 8, 2018, the state Senate approved, with overwhelming bipartisan support, House changes to legislation that would create online voter registration.

Under the new legislation:

- Original voter registration applications could be submitted online using ExpressSOS.com
- The online voter registration system would automatically check that a potential voter is of the correct age and otherwise

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HOME OCCUPATION BUSINESSES

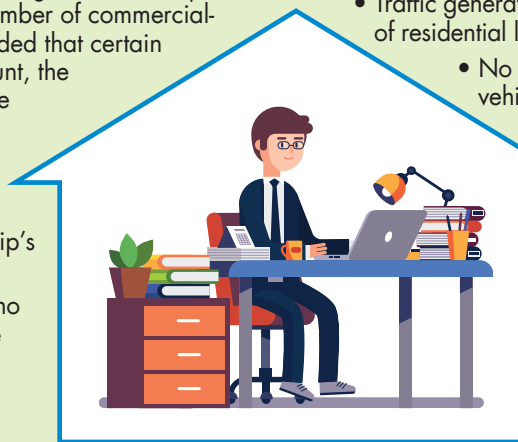
For multiple reasons, including enhancements of telecommunications and internet commerce, and also the expansion of the "gig economy," an increasing number of people seek to work from home. In Saginaw Township, residents are allowed to conduct a number of commercial-type activities from their homes, provided that certain restrictions are adhered to. At last count, the Township Clerk's office had 296 home occupation business licenses on file.

Some important notes about your home-based commercial activity (a full list of requirements can be found in Section 305.9 of the Township's zoning ordinance):

- A home occupation shall employ no more than one person other than those people residing on the premises.
- The home occupation must be operated entirely from the principal dwelling structure. A secondary entrance for the use is not allowed, nor may a detached structure (such as a garage or shed) be used for the purpose.
- In-person retail and/or wholesale sales are not allowed. Phone and internet-only retail sales are allowed.
- The operation of the home occupation may not occupy more

than 25 percent of the first-floor area of the dwelling.

- Home occupations may not generate noise, odor, or other factors beyond what is typical of a residential land use.
- Traffic generated by the home occupation must be typical of residential land uses and other dwellings in the area.
- No more than two patrons or business-related vehicles shall be present at the home occupation at any time.
- Home occupations may not have deliveries to their dwelling more than one per month, and these deliveries may not restrict traffic (this does not apply to step van vehicles like UPS or FedEx).
- A Saginaw Township business license is required of all home occupations.
- Home occupations are not allowed any outdoor storage.
- Home occupation addresses may not be advertised to encourage visits by customers or salespeople to the property.



As always, we encourage anyone interested in starting a home occupation to contact Community Development at 989-791-9865.

CHECK OUT WHAT SAGINAW TOWNSHIP RECREATION HAS TO OFFER



9th – 12th GRADE BASKETBALL

This competitive league will have teams formed by a draft after a skill drill session – individual registration only. The season consists of a 10-Game Schedule that will begin in January. This is the perfect way to keep high schoolers active during the winter time! Registration is open through December 21st (\$65).

7TH AND 8TH GRADE BASKETBALL

Separate leagues for Boys & Girls. This league is set up to help hone the skills of the players, as well as help them to establish an understanding of team work. Teams will be formed by a draft following a skill drill as this is individual registration only. This 10-game season will begin at the end of February. Early registration will be open January 3rd – 22nd (\$55). Space is limited - make sure to get in on early registration!

BOYS LACROSSE

Saginaw Township Recreation is offering 12U and 14U lacrosse leagues! This is an individual registration activity, and signing up guarantees a spot on a team! Registration includes tournaments, US Lacrosse membership, indoor practices and equipment, if needed. Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in America! Early Registration opens January 2nd – 24th! The season runs from March through May. Don't miss out on early registration.

GIRLS 5TH – 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

This is an introduction to volleyball and a way to develop skills, including passing, serving and the overall concept of the game. Leagues are split up between 5th/6th grade and 7th/8th grade. This is an 8-game season, and a skill drill session will be held to determine teams. Registration: January 3rd – February 1st (\$50).

ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Women's Power, Recreational and Coed Leagues
The Women's Power league will play on Monday evenings and the Women's Recreational and Coed leagues will play on Wednesday evenings. A seven game schedule will be played in each league along with a post-season tournament beginning in February. Registration will be held January 3rd– 24th. (Team Fee - \$97).

SENIOR BASKETBALL DAYS

This program is for those 50 & over looking to keep their game sharp in a non-competitive atmosphere! Senior Basketball Days are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00am-10:00am. Stop in and get your game on! Punch cards (\$20).

YOGA & CHAIR YOGA

Center Courts offers Yoga classes, taught by certified instructors, every week. Yoga has been proven to benefit moods, increase vitality, flexibility and strength, and improve health. Gentle-Flow Yoga is held every Monday evening from 5:30pm-6:30pm and Chair Yoga meets Wednesday mornings from 11:00am – 12:00pm. Punch cards or drop-ins available.

DANCING FOR FITNESS

Fun and low-impact, this program offers a way for individuals, particularly those over the age of 50, a way to help with strength and flexibility, and improve circulation while at the same time having fun! Bring your friends (or come and make new ones) with this fantastic class! Classes held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Center Courts. You can sign up for either twice a week (\$42) or three times a week (\$56).

Slow Flow PiYO

Slow Flow PiYo combines the muscle sculpting of Pilates and the strength and flexibility of Yoga. This class provides the same great benefits of PiYo but moves at a slower pace with modifications for each move. We use a chair, wall or our very own balance for this class! Classes held every Tuesday morning from 8:30-9:30am. Stop in and check it out – drop-ins welcome!

PICKLEBALL AT CENTER COURTS!

Pickleball is a fun and increasingly popular sport for all ages that combines table tennis, tennis and badminton. The game is played on a badminton size court using paddles and a wiffle ball. Equipment is provided if needed. Open play is held on Mondays (7am-10am), Wednesdays and Fridays (7:00am-12:00pm) and Sundays from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Punch cards or drop-ins available. Come join the fun!

MUSIC FOR MUNCHKINS

They say that music is one of the most stimulating things for a developing brain. That's why we are excited to offer Music for Munchkins with "Music Michele," so that both you and your child can have fun and learn about music and rhythm and creative expression together! This program is for ages 1 to 5 years. Class meets every Wednesday evening from 5:45-6:30pm and every Friday morning from 10:00-10:45am! Stop in soon to sign up for the next session (\$29) or drop-ins (\$10) are welcome!

CENTER COURTS PLAYGROUP

Ages 3 and under. Help establish your child's large motor skills by participating in this playgroup. Have fun running, jumping, throwing and catching, as well as helping them develop social skills and meet new friends! Held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.! Drop-in for only \$2. Come join the fun!

We offer online registration at
www.saginawtownship.org or find us on
Facebook at Saginaw Township Recreation!

For more information on any of these programs contact Saginaw Township Recreation at 791-9860.

Basement Remodeling

Now that the weather turned cold, you may be thinking of spending your spare time on an interior renovation project. With that in mind, a basement remodeling project fits perfectly.

However, there are a few things to consider before starting.



- Does your basement have enough height, many do not. A minimum of 7' ceiling height and 6'-6" under beams and ductwork are required.

- If your plan calls for removal of walls or construction of new walls a building permit will be required. Projects that include electrical, plumbing or mechanical system modifications will require a permit for each trade. Contact your local building department to apply for and secure construction permits prior to starting any work.

- Common problems with basement renovations are omitting the installation of fire-blocking/draft-stopping in concealed spaces, the lack of lateral support at new window openings and products that are used as an interior finish that are not approved to be used as such.

The more information/details of your basement remodeling plans you give to the building department, the better we will be able to assist you to create a safe living space in your basement before you start.

Ray Hausbeck
Building Inspector

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP TAXES



Winter taxes are payable December 1 through February 14, 2019.

After February 14, a 3% penalty fee will be assessed until February 28.

Beginning March 1, unpaid property taxes will be payable to the Saginaw County Treasurer, 111 S. Michigan. Summer 2018 taxes are also payable to Saginaw Township until March 1. We do not send second notices for Summer taxes.

If your taxes are paid through an escrow account, please keep the tax bill for income tax filing.

Taxes are payable in person at 4980 Shattuck Rd.

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Saginaw Charter Township

4980 Shattuck Road
 P.O. Box 6400
 Saginaw, MI 48608-6400
 Phone: (989) 791-9800
 Fax: (989) 791-9815
www.saginawtownship.org
 Business Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

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

To subscribe to our digital newsletter and for other important information, please visit us at www.saginawtownship.org

facebook.com/saginawchartertownshipgovernment
facebook.com/saginawtownshippolicedepartment
facebook.com/saginawtownshipfiredepartment
facebook.com/saginawtownshiprecreation
twitter.com/saginawtownship

WINTER CODE ENFORCEMENT BASICS

As winter comes upon us in Mid-Michigan, the Saginaw Township Code Enforcement officers would like to remind residents of property owner requirements and expectations for the next few (snowy) months:



- Temporary structures, including snow fencing and protective mailbox boards, need to be removed by April 1. (They are allowed to be installed starting November 1 of each year.)
- Parking on lawns is not permitted during any time of the year, including when snow is on the ground. Vehicles must be parked on a hard, improved surface.
- Sidewalks in front of your home or business must be kept passable. While shoveling your sidewalk is not specifically required, a user must be able to pass safely on a sidewalk within the public right-of-way.
- On a related note, please be sure not to block sidewalks with plowed snow. If you or a contractor plow your driveway, be sure to clear the resulting trail or piles of snow so that the sidewalk is passable.
- The Mid Michigan Waste Authority has ceased yard waste pickup until April 1, 2019. (Yard waste is picked up from April through November during the year.)
- Saginaw Township's brush drop-off site is now closed for the season but will reopen in the spring.

We thank everyone in the community for working to keep our township safe and clean throughout the year!

Saginaw Twp. Taxes

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or by mail (P.O. Box 6400, Saginaw, MI 48608-6400). Make checks payable to Saginaw Township Treasurer. If you pay in person, please bring the entire bill so that we may stamp the upper portion paid for you. If you pay by mail, your cancelled check is your receipt. Credit cards are accepted at the Treasurer's office or online with a 3% fee to the credit card company.

Payments may not be made over the phone. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box for payments is located at the main entrance of Saginaw Charter Township Hall, facing Shattuck and Center roads.

The Saginaw Township offices will be closed on December 24, 25, & 31, 2018; January 1, & 21, 2019 & February 18, 2019.



Preventing Frozen Pipes

Freezing temperatures can damage exposed water lines in your home or business. Plumbing that is exposed to the open air or non-heated areas is the most vulnerable to freeze damage. Taking the following precautions will help eliminate unnecessary expenses associated with frozen pipes:

- Wrap exposed faucets and pipes with insulating materials, rags, newspapers, or electric heat tape.
- During periods of extremely cold temperatures, temporarily keep a trickle of water running from the faucet located at the highest point in your home or business. The trickle should be a steady stream about the size of the lead in a pencil.

Thawing a frozen pipe:

- Never use an open flame to thaw a frozen pipe. **You could start a fire.**
- Use gentle heat such as a heat lamp or hair dryer and keep away from combustible materials.
- Wrap the frozen pipe in rags or towels and pour warm water over them until the water is flowing again.

In the event of a frozen pipe, immediately shut the water off at your service meter in your home or business and contact a plumber for emergency repairs to the piping. If you are unable to shut the water off at your service meter, please contact the Department of Public Services. Water maintenance personnel will shut the water off at the road and provide guidance on resolving your emergency.

**Department of Public Services:
 989-791-9870, weekdays from
 8:00am. - 5:00pm.**

Online voting

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eligible to vote by cross-referencing the voter registration application information through the state's driver licensing and state ID files

- Signatures would be captured through the Secretary of State's driver licensing and state ID database
- It cannot be used by people without a valid driver's license or state ID

Currently, registration forms must be completed and mailed to your local clerk with your original signature.