

The Township Update

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2001



Township Supervisor
George L. Olson

A Community Recreation & Fitness Center For All Ages!

Picture a place in the community....not just any place, but a place to come to when you have some free time and you want to use it wisely.... a place to come and work off the stress of the day.....a place where you can exercise alone or be with people, young or old,....a place to regain your fitness and have fun in the process.....a place to re-energize your mind, body and spirit. This is the vision of the Community Recreation & Fitness Center....a center for all ages!

"We are closer to our dream than ever before," says Supervisor George L. Olson. Out of a \$2.5 million dollar construction goal, the Township has raised all but about \$100,000. *"Additional funds will also be needed after construction to furnish and accessorize the facility,"* says Olson, noting the expensive cost of sports and athletic equipment.

The facility is designed as a multi-purpose facility with the main uses to be fitness oriented. A majority of Township recreation programs will be conducted there, and will have the ability to expand in ways it has not been able to before. The building will host gymnasium courts for basketball and volleyball, two multi-purpose meeting rooms and a second floor walking/jogging track. Upon completion, the Township Recreation Office will relocate into the building in order to provide daytime oversight. An evening supervisor will also be on hand.

The building will have the potential to accommodate other activities throughout the year. In addition to the current programs, examples of expanded programs could be a morning or daytime basketball program for second and third shift workers. A youth volleyball program is also speculated for the future. The multi-purpose rooms could host meetings, fitness/aerobics sessions and various group activities for young and old. Weekend basketball and volleyball tournaments could be held on the courts. Additional opportunities for expanded summer clinics for various sports, including the Can-Amara Games are a strong possibility.

"We see this type of building as a much needed facility in the Community," says George Olson. *"Schools across the State are under strong pressure to provide Title IX opportunities in school sports activities for both genders. Unfortunately, not many schools of today were designed with Title IX in mind and our local school district is no exception. Hence, they have to make fit all their expanded programs into time slots and spaces that we once freely used. Our dream of a 'field house' only a few years ago quickly became a real necessity for us."*

While details are still in the planning stages concerning future operations, the remaining goal in this phase of the project is to raise the last \$100,000 to meet the construction goal, and to raise another \$100,000 to properly furnish and equip the building. *"Staff and the Fund Raising Committee have done a great job, and I also welcome help from individuals and families from the Township to lend a personal hand, as well,"* says Olson.

Various ways in which the Township can receive donations marked for the Field House or Community Recreation/Fitness Center are being developed. Examples are: Memorial cards and envelopes are being printed for families and individuals who would like to donate as a memorial in memory of a beloved one...a memorial wall is planned. Also, Bricks are being offered at \$25 each with the name of a donor. The bricks will be placed in the front of the building. Additionally, join The Supporting Wall....a wall showing contributing donors of varying amounts from \$500 up to \$50,000.

Lastly, a new name is being sought for this facility. Various names have been submitted, but the Township is open to additional ones, as well. *"People have asked me to consider calling it anything from 'The Court House, Center Court to the Sport Barn', but I still want to know what people would like to call it,"* Olson said.

For further information on how you can be a donor/supporter, or if you have a name to suggest, call Ron Lee, Township Manager at (989) 791-9800, or email at RLee@saginawtownship.net



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 communication;



The State of the Township Message

An Abridged Report On The Community For The Year 2000,
By: George L. Olson, Supervisor



Some say the Year 2000 was the official end of our previous millennium and the conclusion of the fabulous 1990's, Saginaw Township experienced a decade of growth and prosperity. We have now come to the end of our Year 2000 Fiscal Year, and it was another good year. You may be asking yourselves; "Is this the end of a great period, or will our Odyssey through good times continue?" We are pleased to report that Saginaw Township is very much alive, healthy, robust and eager to step forward into our future.

Last year was another good year for the Township. We recorded a total of 512 new building permits for construction worth about \$36,512,847 in taxable value. Residential development was again the major basis of this growth, accounting for 80% of all approved permits. This is equal to 425 residential building permits worth nearly \$23 million dollars.

In spite of our residential growth, commercial activity continues to be our key symbol of prosperity and regional prominence. As commercial goods and services tend to locate where people settle. Fashion Square Mall, under its new ownership, continues to stand out as our flagship of the region, and Bay Road still maintains its strong regional presence. Our other commercial corridors, namely State Street and parts of Tittabawassee Road are also growing in stature by offering new commercial opportunities for those seeking new investments.

It is normal to be concerned about the recent store closures that we have seen along the State Street and Bay Road corridors. These include; Frank's Nurseries, the Office Depot and J.C. Penney at Green Acres Plaza. We are concerned, but not alarmed as this is a normal occurrence in the business world [with companies periodically repositioning their stores or competitively downsizing their operation]. Still, we believe that the vitality of the State Street and Bay Road corridors will serve to attract new investment. For example, on Bay Road, Leath Furniture is now the new home of medical & professional offices by Dr. Shaheen. On State St., Coffey's Pub is now the Timbers Restaurant and A.J. Wright, a parent company of both Marshalls and T.J. Max has leased the former J.C. Penny building at Green Acres Plaza. And T.G.I. Fridays is coming to the corner of Fashion Square Blvd. & Tittabawassee Road.

In terms of Public Safety, our Fire and Police Departments are here to serve, protect and to educate the public about preserving life and property. Over the past year, the Fire Department provided fire safety training to over 56,000 persons at area homes, the Mall, in the schools and other institutions. The Fire Department has also completed its first year of implementing its Property Maintenance Program, a program to assist property owners in maintaining their property values. Got a problem? Call the Fire Department.

The Police Department is pleased to report an 8% decrease in serious crimes. Also down are burglaries, larcenies and aggravated assaults. One of the reasons for the reduction in burglaries and larcenies is the combined efforts of the Road Patrol and Bike Patrol. Last summer, our Bike Patrol assisted the Crime Prevention Unit in apprehending over 20 individuals that were breaking into cars. Finally in light of recent events in California and other parts of the country, I want you to know our School Liaison Officers are actively working in the schools with the young people.

In spite of a shaky national economic trend in the later half of 2000, Saginaw Township is fortunate to remain in a positive, healthy financial condition. Compared to a tax base of \$670 million dollars in the early 1990's, the Township's tax base is now over the \$1 billion mark.

I believe there are two reasons for our good condition: One is the growth of our tax base from residential and commercial expansions that have occurred in our community during the entire 1990's. The second is the Township's ability to manage carefully and wisely. We are proud of this and we shall continue to strive for excellence in maintaining a high standard of fiscal planning and management.

It is hard to predict the future for Saginaw Township. Major economic slow downs now being felt around the country are expected to make their way into the Saginaw Valley area this year. However, our tax base remains viable and strong. Our State Shared Revenues are also expected to see an increase with the coming release of the Year 2000 U.S. Census numbers.

Looking ahead into the coming year, "We are always optimistic for the future but equally vigilant over what we have accomplished." Quality of life is important here and we always strive to build on it. To this end, the Township has invested a lot in community planning. As part of its master planning efforts, the Township Planning Commission has worked hard on corridor plans along Tittabawassee & Bay Roads. This year, we expect to begin another corridor study for State Street.

Saginaw Township tries to assist in local road improvements. Over the last four years, the Township has helped 27 subdivisions or neighborhoods with matching funds to resurface their local roads. This program has been a huge success. Last year, five subdivisions had their roads resurfaced. We are not certain how long this program will continue before the funds run out, but we are here to help. *(Continued on page 3.)*



Have you met the Township Board?

They are: Seated from left; William J. McQuillan, Treasurer, George L. Olson, Supervisor, Timothy J. Braun, Clerk. Standing from left Trustees; Steven G. Gerhardt, Barbara N. Ewend, Richard T. Neiderquill and Mark A. Schaeff.

(Continued from page 2.)

The State of Michigan also plans to repair and resurface both Gratiot Road (M-45), and State Street (M-58) this year. M-46 is a much larger project extending from Merrill eastward through the City of Saginaw. The section of M-46 running through our township will be repaired first from April through June. Afterwards you will see construction work on this road east and west of us. State Street resurfacing will commence after the 4th of July and into August. Everything is "weather permitting."

This past year, the Township participated in the Saginaw County Vision 2020 effort. This is an attempt to have people from all walks of life in the County come together to assemble a "Vision" for the next twenty years. It is a very ambitious undertaking, and hopefully progress will be made in the coming years.

Our participation with Vision 2020 is an example of the Township's interest in cooperating and collaborating. There are some issues in which we totally wish to participate. However, there are other items such as tax base sharing in which we simply will not. It must be emphasized that true cooperation or collaboration is driven by a need, or an issue...a single item. This has produced single purpose responses such as the creation of the Saginaw County Solid Waste Authority, 911 Authority, Gang Crime Task Force, BAYNET, and Northwest Utilities Authority, to name a few. We all agree that metropolitan collaboration is essential on matters of sewer & water utility planning, transportation & highway planning, and even economic development. There is mutual benefit for all in these matters. In terms of Fire and Police services, the Township voters have spoken with dedicated property millages. These services are regarded as well managed and effective institutions in our community.

Another issue of local concern is the upcoming county wide millage question concerning the old Saginaw Civic Center, which if passed, will become the new Saginaw Event Center, leased and operated by the County Building Authority. It is my personal opinion that this facility is very much needed, and essential if the greater Saginaw area and its downtown is ever to regain its prominence in the Saginaw Valley. A millage would set into motion a chain reaction of good things...such as County Building Authority involvement, a professional management firm to operate the facility, many positive feelings and a whole lot of excitement about things to come! [The Township Board on March 12, 2001 passed a Resolution in Support of the Saginaw Event Center.]

In Conclusion, I want to emphasize that Saginaw Township is enjoying another great year. Many good things occurred in Saginaw Township during the Year 2000, for which we are extremely pleased. We remain the "Place of Choice To Be". Our vitality is self evident and we are ready to receive new ventures from any direction. Meanwhile, we continue to wisely plan our future, and carefully manage our resources.

Fence Regulations in Saginaw Charter Township

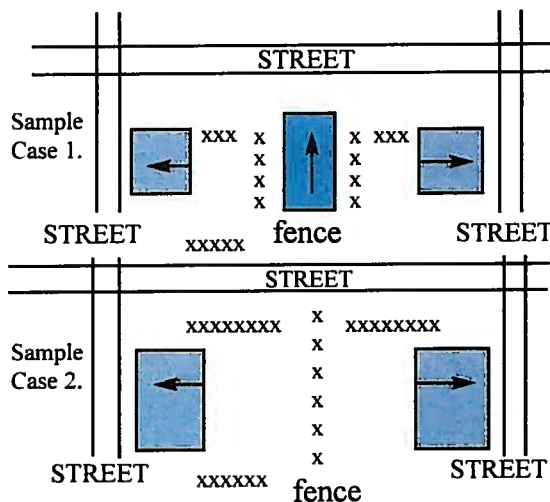
By: Rob Grose, Assistant to the Director of Community Development and Planning

Each spring, the Community Development Department receives numerous complaints from residents regarding property owners who have constructed a fence in violation of Township standards. The purpose of this article is to inform residents of Township fencing requirements as it pertains to their properties.

Prior to the construction or establishment of a fence, wall or screen, a permit must be obtained from the Community Development Department at a cost of \$10.00. The purpose of the permit is to ensure that the fence is installed in a location that complies with Township requirements. At the time a permit is applied for, the property owner or contractor is required to submit a drawing of their property which shows the location of the home and any improvements situated on the property, as well as the proposed location of the fence.

On a corner lot, a fence wall or hedge planting cannot exceed a height of three (3) feet in the front yard of any zoning district. No fence or wall can exceed a height of six (6) feet in any residential zoned district.

Under no circumstances shall barbed wire or similar fencing types that are likely to cause injury to persons be used in any residential district.



Sample Case 1: No fence over three feet in height can go beyond the front of the neighboring house in situations like this example where the neighboring home is facing a different street.

Sample Case 2: Where neighboring homes face in opposite directions without another home in between, a fence over three (3') feet in height can extend from the back corner of the home to the proposed right of way line, provided it meets the conditions stated under corner lot fence regulations.

"I would encourage anyone wishing to install a fence, to contact the Community Development Department. My staff and I will be more than happy to meet with you at your home to discuss the appropriate areas in which a fence may be located." Rob Grose, Assistant to the Director of Community Development and Planning.

Planning & Zoning phone: (989) 791-9865
Website: www.saginawtownship.org

DEPARTMENT
BY
DEPARTMENT REPORTS

"The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000"

By: Matthew Reno, Director of Community Development and Planning

In September of 2000, President Clinton signed into public law the *Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000* (RLUIPA, 106-274). This law appears to limit a local government's ability to impose certain regulations on houses of worship, meetings and festivals or other events held with a stated religious purpose.

It is agreed that government should NOT stand in the way of religious establishment or practice. In fact, this is the leading statement of the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution - first, in front of freedom of speech and press. I do not believe, however, that this is what the RLUIPA is about. The RLUIPA seems to target the application of land use regulations such as zoning, parking, and signage.

It is not the purpose of this article to dissect, analyze, and make statements on the true meaning of RLUIPA. Only time and the judicial system will provide us with its legal application. Rather, RLUIPA has provided the Community Development Department a topic by which a dialogue may be initiated regarding the application of local ordinances in general.

An opinion of RLUIPA would indicate that construction codes cannot be applied to a church. Knowing that the stated goal of the building code is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and the public welfare we are faced with a question. As you enter ANY place of worship, do you want to believe that your family is afforded, at least, a minimum level of safety from hazards such as fire and structural failure?

A continuance of this thinking means that church properties would be exempt from zoning regulations. In extreme situations, this could mean the erection of billboards and unregulated parking lot lights and traffic in residential neighborhoods. Regardless of any faith or religion, do you want your home protected from non-residential type annoyances?

The bottom line is that as citizens and residents we must live, work, and play together. When regulations that protect us when we cannot protect ourselves are exempted from certain entities, problems occur that tend to tear our community apart. Our basic tenet is that there should be regulations in place to provide for our general welfare and that these regulations be uniformly applied. It appears that RLUIPA, while perhaps well intended, will remove some of these protections.

Director of Community Development and Planning, Matthew Reno, can be reached by calling the Saginaw Township Community Development Office at: (989) 791-9850.

Zael Memorial Library News...

Reported by: Trish Burns, Zael Head Librarian



Zael Children's Head Librarian Kathy Thornhill makes Story Time an exciting adventure during Preschool Story Time.

The Zael Children's Department offers a variety of activities for children and their families.

Mother Goose Time

Mother Goose Time is a story time for children 18-24 months of age who can attend with a loving adult. The program includes songs, fingerplays, flannel board stories and lots of fun. It is offered four times a year in four week sessions.

Preschool Story Time

The Preschool Story Time is an ongoing, drop in story time for children three to five years of age. It is held each Thursday night at 7:00 and Friday morning at 10:30, and includes stories, songs and fingerplays.

Parent/Child Workshop

The Parent/Child Workshop is offered twice a year in five week sessions, to families with children one to three years of age. It's a time for parent and child to play together, as well as a time for parents to meet and ask questions of specialists in different areas of child rearing, such as child development and speech and hearing. It's also a time for parents and children to interact with others in a play environment.

Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program gives children a chance to read through the summer vacation, in order to keep up their reading skills. We host different programs each week. Depending on the week, we might host a scavenger hunt, a magician, or Bingo-along with the reading program. The Summer Reading Program starts around the time school lets out for the summer, and runs through the end of July.

DVD Movies Now Available

If any of you received DVD players for Christmas, we're happy to announce that we are now collecting movies in DVD format. Currently, we have a collection of both classics and first run feature films. They check out for three days and cost only \$1.00 to rent. The collection is small at the moment, but we're adding new titles each week. Please come in often this spring and check out our new materials.

Questions regarding any of our programs and services can be answered by calling (989) 799-2771. Don't forget to look us up on the web, too. www.saginawlibrary.com



Clerk's Office News...

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

Census 2000 Update

The national return rate for the 2000 Census was 67% as compared to 65% in 1990. The State of Michigan's return rate was 71%. The US population is 281,421,906 while our Michigan population is 9,938,844. This is an increase of 6.9%. Even though our population increased, Michigan will be losing one federal representative because the population went up significantly in other regions of the country. Nevada and Arizona had the highest percentage increase with 66.3% and 40% respectively. The final totals should be available sometime in March 2001. There is a web site which will provide you additional information, and it may be accessed at www.census.gov

Elections

Tim Braun, Clerk, and Lori Vondette, Deputy Clerk, are both involved in the Saginaw County Clerk's Association which is made up of the clerks and their deputies throughout Saginaw County. The Association includes cities, townships, and villages in the County, and it meets quarterly. At the last meeting a decision was made to use the optical scan voting equipment for all countywide elections.

As a result of the Florida election problems, Candice Miller, Secretary of State, has directed the Bureau of Elections to look at ways of improving elections statewide here in Michigan. There are 5,376 precincts in the state of Michigan. Of those, 3,006 precincts use the optical scan, 1,443 use the punch card system, 693 have various lever voting machines, 137 use a paper ballot, and 97 use the direct recording electronic voting system (touch screen).

As a county we have expressed to the Bureau of Elections that we feel the optical scan is the best system. This system is user friendly, and the results are printed immediately with the push of a button.

A countywide election in regard to the Saginaw Civic Center is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2001. The Annual School Election will be held on Monday, June 11, 2001.

Don't Forget to Vote!

- ▶ The deadline for registering to vote in the Tuesday, May 8, 2001 election is Monday, April 9, 2001.
- ▶ The deadline for registering to vote in the Monday, June 11, 2001 election is Monday, May 14, 2001.

Check Out Our Website

The Clerk's office publishes Saginaw Township Board Meeting Minutes on the web. For information go to:

www.saginawtownship.org

989 Central Michigan's New Area Code Begins April 7, 2001

The existing 517 area code will be divided into two separate area codes: 517 and 989. All communities in the southern portion of the existing 517 area code, including Lansing, will keep the 517 area code. The northern portion of the existing 517 area code, including Saginaw, Midland, Bay City, Mount Pleasant, Alpena and West Branch will change to the new 989 area code.

For more information just call 1-800-378-2222. Information is also available at www.codefinder.com or www.nanpa.com

**Saginaw Township Police Department News...**

Reported by: Stephen C. Renico, Chief of Police

Larceny Season

The summer months are historically busy months for larcenies from cars. We encourage you to ALWAYS remove any valuables from your cars and ALWAYS lock your car, even if it is in your driveway or your garage. Remember to close your overhead garage door too. We will be working hard to make this a safe and fun summer for everyone in Saginaw Township. Chief Stephen Renico advises, "Crime reduction requires a community effort. The police cannot do it alone. We need the help of every citizen if we are to keep Saginaw Township a great place to live, work, and play. We will be implementing some department-wide changes during 2001 to improve our service delivery. We hope to involve the citizens to a greater degree in the protection of their neighborhoods and businesses."

Crossing Guards Needed!

Are you looking for a way to earn extra money and at the same time enjoy the responsibility of assisting our youth? We are looking for a few reliable people who meet our criteria for this important mission. The rate of pay is \$7.35 per hour, and the fresh air and sunshine is free! If you are interested in applying, or require further information, please call the STPD at (989) 793-2310.

Township-wide Community Policing

This year, the police department is moving to a team policing concept which will see patrol officers assigned to districts for a year at a time. They will be teamed with detectives and each team will be charged with the responsibility of reducing crime in their assigned districts. If you live in the area east of Mackinaw Road, you are in the **East District**. If you live west of Mackinaw and north of State Street, you live in the **North District**. If you live south of State Street, you are in the **South District**.

Crime Information Hot Line

We will soon have a tape recorded Crime Information Hot Line available. That number is (989) 791-7233 and you will be able to call to find out what crimes have been reported in your district. In addition, the police department's website is up and can be accessed from the Saginaw Township home page, www.saginawtownship.org. We will be providing crime statistics and crime prevention tips as well as information on the Citizens Police Academy. The site will be updated regularly.

Citizens Police Academy

If you are a resident of Saginaw Township and would be interested in attending the next Citizens Police Academy, stop by police headquarters at 4930 Shattuck and pick up an application. The next academy will be in the fall of 2001. The exact dates are not yet determined. Class size is limited and on a first-come first-serve basis. Each applicant must pass a background investigation. Our first academy began in January and finished in March. The attendees all had a good time and learned a lot. The officers who taught in the academy enjoyed the experience as well.

Bike Patrols to Begin

With warmer weather approaching, bike patrol officers will be out in the neighborhoods once again. Our bike patrol has been very successful and we are confident that 2001 will be an even better year. From April to November 2000, Saginaw Township bike officers spent over 237 hours covering 1,556 miles on patrol.

Saginaw Township Fire Department News...

Reported by: Richard Powell, Fire Chief

Life And Fire Safety Education

For the past two decades the Saginaw Township Fire Department has had an active building inspection program that aimed at assisting owners in creating a fire safe environment for employees and customers. In the mid 1990's the Township Board approved creation of a Life Safety and Public Fire Educator position within the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The Fire Department believed it was necessary to expand our safety and prevention activities beyond the occasional educational offering previously available to our citizens. Beginning in 1998 a concerted effort was initiated to target the most vulnerable members of our population, the very young and the elderly, for fire and life safety programs.

Today the Fire Department operates **Learn Not To Burn** programs in cooperating day care centers throughout the Township. The **Risk Watch** program is offered in early elementary classrooms in both public and private schools. There are available a number of safety programs that are regularly offered in senior citizen centers and housing complexes. In the year 2000 these programs reached nearly 6,400 residents of the Township.

Additionally, the Department presents specially developed programs for small and large employers that focus on safe work habits in the business environment. A new program is being offered in high schools for college bound students that deals specifically with fire safety in college dormitories.

The emphasis for all of the Fire Department's public fire and life safety education programs is, naturally, the development of personal habits that reflect concern for life and property protection. The Department will work with any employer, business or organization to craft a safety and education program that meets your needs. If interested in developing such a program please call the Fire Department at **792-9691** and ask for our Public Fire Educator.

We want you to be safe! We are only a telephone call away.

Ten EASY Steps to Home Fire Safety

1. First and foremost, have plenty of working smoke detectors, one in each bedroom on each floor and at the top of stairs. Early notification is necessary for escaping safely. To prevent smoke inhalation always sleep with bedroom doors closed.
2. Plan your escape and practice fire drills in the home. Designate two ways out of each room. Windows must open easily for emergency escape. Bedrooms on the second story should have escape ladders. And please, NEVER make sleeping rooms in the basement unless your home has approved rescue windows.
3. Remember to stay low and go! Crawl below smoke in order to survive. Hot fire gases bank down from the ceiling and rapidly fill a structure. The most habitable air will be close to the floor.
4. Plan a special meeting place for your family to gather outside the home. Designate a tree, the mailbox or some location a safe distance from the house for the family members to meet. *(Continued on upper right.)*

(Ten EASY Steps continued from bottom left.)

5. Teach your children how to use the 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home if there is a fire. Children must give their name, address and telephone number and communicate the nature of the problem to the emergency operator.
6. Respect electricity! Never overload electrical outlets with multiple plug adapters or extension cords. Avoid placing cords in areas that will cause tripping. Never run cords under furniture, rugs or doorways. Unplug appliances when not in use - never leave coffee pots, curling irons or clothing irons plugged in and unattended.
7. Never leave the room when cooking. Keep pot holders, kitchen towels and other combustible materials away from cooking surfaces. In the event of a fire, cover the pan, use baking soda or a compatible fire extinguisher, never apply water.
8. Keep fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage, utility room and by basement stairs and teach the family how to use them. They should be easily accessible and serviced annually to insure proper working order.
9. Have your furnace and fireplace routinely serviced by qualified contractors. Never store combustible materials within three feet of your furnace, water heater or fireplace. Burn only aged hardwoods and make sure fire is extinguished before you go to bed.
10. Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children. This also applies to smoking materials and candles. Children are curious and experiment by imitating adults. Practice fire safety so your children learn good habits!

Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office News...

Reported by: William J. McQuillan, Treasurer & Kathy Metropoulos, Deputy Treasurer

Summer 2001 tax bills will be mailed on or about June 30, 2001. 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 June 15, please contact our office. 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. Failure to receive the bill does not exempt a property owner from paying late interest charges.

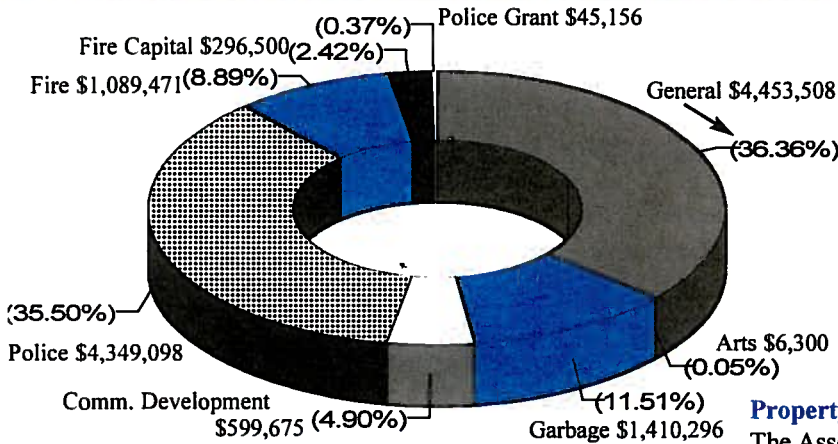
Taxpayers who have financial institutions pay their taxes (escrow accounts) will still receive the original tax bill. Each taxpayer should retain this copy for income tax purposes and their personal records. The escrow agent receives either a computer disk, listing, or copy of the tax bill. If you want to ensure that they have received your tax amount due please contact them (by phone or by mail) personally. 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 part of the bill for our records. There is also a drop box by the front door for dropping in payments after hours. We do not accept payment by credit card. When making water bill payments, it is also very important to bring in the bill.

The deadline for winter tax payment is Friday, September 14, 2001. Interest charges will begin on September 15. For any additional information, please call our office at **(989) 791-9840**. Most importantly, please call our office if you do not receive your tax bill by the middle of July. Thank you.



General & Special Revenue Funds Budget



Fiscal Services News...

Reported by: Virginia Gottschalk, Director of Fiscal Services

2001-02 Fiscal Year Budget

The Township Board adopted its 2001-02 Fiscal Year Budget for General and Special Revenue Funds in the amount of \$12,250,004. This is a decrease of .1% over the previous year. The previous year's budget was higher due to over \$450,000 in McCarty Road reconstruction costs.

This year's road budget of \$123,000 includes a top coat for Mitchell Road, reconstruction of the Frost Drive at Baines intersection and extension of Lawndale at the Playscape Park.

Assessing Office News...

Reported by: David Kern, Director of Assessing

Property Reviews

The Assessors Office is currently conducting a complete review of all residential property. Staff appraisers will be driving by and photographing properties throughout the year. This process is part of the Assessors Office converting to new software that will allow for digital photos and sketches of each property and for more accurate appraisals. This project should be completed by the 2003 tax year.

If you built a new home in 2000 or started a new home as of 12/31/2000 and occupy the home on May 1, 2001 you may qualify for a Homestead Exemption from Local School Operating Taxes levied in July of 2001. Qualified homestead properties are exempted from 18.0 mills of school operating tax, which equates to a 42% property tax saving. Please contact the assessors office for additional information.

Statistics as of 12/31/2000 for Residential Property in Saginaw Township

- ▶ 10,540 total single family dwellings as 12/31/2000
- ▶ Largest home has 7,884 total square feet
- ▶ The average size home built in 2000 is 2,036 total square feet
- ▶ 484 total duplexes and the average size home has 1,669 total square ft.
- ▶ The average sale price in 2000 was \$134,400
- ▶ 613 total single family dwelling sales in 2000
- ▶ Average 2000 total summer & winter taxes for a single family home \$1,614
- ▶ Saginaw Twp's taxable value comprises 25.3% of the Saginaw County total

Saginaw Township Parks & Recreation News...

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

Spring/Summer Registration begins April 2, 2001 for the following programs:

- ▶ Golf Clinic - 9 yrs. through adult
- ▶ Tennis Clinic - 5 yrs. through adult
- ▶ Basketball Clinics - boys & girls
- ▶ Girl's Softball - ages 7 - 14 years
- ▶ 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	Detroit Zoo
Kings Island	Michigan Renaissance

Pavilion Rentals

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

Sawmill Golf Cards

The 2001 discount cards to the Sawmill Golf Course will be available to Saginaw Township residents beginning in April. The card entitles you to a 25% discount on green fees, Monday through Thursday only.

Spray Pool

The spray pool in Gotto Park will open in early June. The pool hours are 11:00 a.m. - 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 & Recreation

Planned Project Construction - Spring/Summer 2001

- ▶ Replacement of 12" watermain on Center Road from north of State St. to Weiss St.
- ▶ Begin phased replacement of outdated telemetry at Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ▶ Construction of restroom facilities at Soccer Complex.
- ▶ Construction of Community Recreation and Fitness Center at the Olson Recreation Complex.

NOTICE: Yard Waste Pick Up will begin Monday, April 2, 2001 and end November 27, 2001.

The Brush Site will be open on weekends beginning Saturday, April 14 thru Sunday, May 20, 2001. The hours are 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. In addition the site will be open the third weekend of June, July and August, and then weekends beginning September 8, 2001 thru October 28, 2001.
















Annual alternate day lawn & garden sprinkling program will begin May 15, 2001 and extend to September 15, 2001.



**Saginaw Charter Township
 Government Newsletter**

Your connection to:

Government, Developments, Recreation, Planning

-  A Community Recreation & Fitness Center - pg. 1
-  Supervisor's State of The Township Message - pg. 2
-  Fence Regulations in Saginaw Township - pg. 3
-  Religious Land Use - pg. 4
-  Zauel Memorial Library News - pg. 4
-  Clerk's Office News - pg. 5
-  Central Michigan's New Area Code - pg. 5
-  Saginaw Twp. Police Department News - pg. 5
-  Saginaw Twp. Fire Department News - pg. 6
-  Ten Easy Steps to Fire Safety - pg. 6
-  Treasurer's Office News - pg. 6
-  Fiscal Services News - pg. 7
-  Parks & Recreation News - pg. 7
-  Assessing Office News - pg. 7
-  Dept. of Public Services News - pg. 7

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.

Community Calendar

This schedule is subject to change. Please telephone Township Hall at (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
04/04 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/02 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/06 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/04 Planning Mtg. Cancelled	08/01 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/03 Twp. Offices closed all day
04/09 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/06 Art Show	06/13 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/04 Twp. Offices closed all day	08/08 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/05 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/11 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/09 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/18 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/11 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/15 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/10 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/13 Twp. Offices Closed after 12:00 p.m.	05/14 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/18 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	07/16 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	08/20 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	09/12 Brd. of Appeals 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	05/16 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	06/20 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	07/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office	08/20 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	09/17 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office
04/18 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/21 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Rec. Office		07/18 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.		09/19 Planning Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
04/23 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.	05/28 Twp. Offices closed all day				09/24 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.
	05/29 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Brd. Rm.				

George L. Olson Supervisor Timothy J. Braun Clerk William J. McQuillan Treasurer Barbara N. Ewend Trustee Mark A. Schaeff Trustee Steven G. Gerhardt Trustee Richard T. Neiderquill Trustee