



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

WINTER 2017



**HOLIDAY
SHOPPING
SAFETY TIPS**

**FROM YOUR FRIENDS
AT THE SAGINAW
TOWNSHIP POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Shopping Safety

- S**tay alert and aware of your surroundings. Criminals are always looking for the easiest target and if you look confident and prepared there is a greater chance that a criminal will avoid you. We tend to be in a rush during this time of year and sometimes fail to stay vigilant for our own safety.
- ✓ Try to avoid excessive talking or texting on your cell phone and pay attention. When possible put your back against a wall and have a clear line of sight for people approaching you.
 - ✓ Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
 - ✓ Dress casually and comfortably.
 - ✓ Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
 - ✓ Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
 - ✓ Always carry your driver's license or identification card, along with only necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
 - ✓ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If you do carry cash, keep it in your front pocket.
 - ✓ Pay for purchases with a credit card when possible & remember to contact the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
 - ✓ Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.

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NEWS from Fire Chief Jim Peterson



One of the issues facing the fire service all over the country is the dwindling number of volunteer and paid on call fire fighters. A decade ago, municipalities had full rosters, but not today. Saginaw County has lost hundreds of fire fighters over the last two decades, and the future doesn't look any better.

Saginaw Township has a paid on call fire department, meaning our fire fighters work other jobs and respond when they are available. They receive a stipend for each response, training, and meeting they attend. This system works extremely well for us, but the numbers are not what they once were. We are fortunate to have adequate staffing, but we are always looking for people willing to make the commitment. Initial training is approximately 300 hours not including fire runs, training, work details, and business meetings. We are blessed to have over seventy dedicated fire fighters that have, and continue to serve Saginaw Township.

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Fire Chief

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The fire department operates out of three fire stations with anywhere from twenty to thirty fire fighters at each station. Each station has two engines/trucks, a squad vehicle, and a utility truck. All fire fighters are State Certified Fire Fighter II and Hazardous Materials Operations Level. We are fortunate to have exceptional fire stations equipped to handle the modern day fire service, large apparatus bays for the trucks, spacious meeting rooms, updated kitchens, and nice locker rooms for the fire fighters.

Last summer we renovated fire station three on Center at Gratiot and added on to the meeting room and storage area. Construction was complete in August bringing the station up to date. If you are interested in becoming a fire fighter, please call 792-9691.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Saginaw Township Fire Department receives many 911 calls from residents who say their smoke or carbon monoxide detectors are going off. When a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector activates in the case

of an emergency, you will hear a **LOUD** beeping noise. In the case of smoke alarms, the beeping will be a constant noise. For carbon monoxide alarms, the beeping will sound four times, then a five-second pause, and beep again four times; this pattern will continue. If your smoke alarm activates, call 911 and exit the building, even if you don't see smoke. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas that you will not be able to see. If the carbon monoxide alarm activates, call 911 and exit the building.

Usually, when a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector beeps/chirps (about once every thirty seconds), it means the battery needs to be replaced. Even if your smoke alarm is hard wired to your electrical



system, it should have a battery backup. When that battery is getting low, the alarm chirps to let you know. So when the chirping starts, replace the battery. If you're not sure how to do it, contact the manufacturer, ask the

clerk at the hardware store, or call our non-emergency line at the fire department for advice. A beeping/chirping alarm may also indicate a defective detector. If the beeping/chirping sound does not go away after replacing the battery, the unit may need to be replaced.

- Know the difference between a low battery/defective detector beeping sound and the loud beeping sound of an emergency alarm.
- Smoke detectors should be replaced every ten years.
- Carbon monoxide detectors should be replaced every seven years.
- Change batteries when you change your clocks.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 792-9691.

Shopping Safely

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- ✓ Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps or having to use your hands to defend yourself.
- ✓ Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- ✓ It is very easy to feel generous or want to help others who ask for it but remember not to feel bad about saying no when asked for money and always keep your distance from strangers and watch that this is not a distraction to allow another criminal to grab your purse or belongings.
- ✓ If you are the victim of a crime where the assailant takes or demands physical property **DO NOT RESIST** and give them the property.
- ✓ If you are the victim of a crime where the assailant attempts to abduct or assault you (physically or sexually) it is best to fight, yell for help, and flee from the perpetrator as fast as possible.
- ✓ If you have to fight for your life or must physically protect yourself; remember to focus on strikes to areas like the eyes and groin and if you have to use force make each strike, punch or kick the hardest and most forceful strikes you have ever used.
- ✓ Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car & set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- ✓ Avoid parking next to vans, large vehicles with obstructed views past them or cars with tinted windows.
- ✓ Never leave your car running while it is unoccupied or with children inside.
- ✓ Don't leave packages or valuables visible in your car. Lock them in the trunk or hide them from view.
- ✓ Have your car keys easily accessible prior to going to your car. It is best to have them on their own key ring so if they are lost only the car keys are lost.
- ✓ Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- ✓ Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area and something does not feel right. CALL 9-1-1 and have an officer assist you or check out the suspicious vehicle or individuals.
- ✓ If you feel uncomfortable, ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location or walk to your car when other patrons are in the lot.

Vehicle safety

- ✓ When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- ✓ Avoid driving alone or at night. If you must shop at night, park in well-lit areas.
- ✓ Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.



PAYING TAXES

Property taxes are due February 14, 2018, after which a penalty fee and interest will be added. After March 1, 2018, all delinquent real property taxes are paid at the Saginaw County Treasurer's Office. All delinquent personal property taxes are to be paid at the Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office.

You can now pay your water bill or taxes by credit or debit card. A 3% fee is added by the company, Point & Pay. Card payments cannot be accepted by phone, but you can pay by card in person at the Treasurer's Office (with the 3% fee added). To pay online, please use the link at saginawtownship.org.

You can also pay by check, cash, or money order. There are drop boxes by the circular drive, one for water bills and one for taxes. Please clip your payment stub to your check or use an envelope.

When paying in person, please bring the entire bill so we can stamp your half for your receipt, and keep the small half for our records.

CHECK OUT WHAT SAGINAW TOWNSHIP RECREATION HAS TO OFFER:

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. This 10-game season will begin at the end of February. **Early registration will be open January 3rd-22nd**, and is individual registration only. Space is limited, so 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 8th-25th!** The season runs from March through May. Sign up before it's too late, and don't miss out on early registration.

9th-12th GRADE BASKETBALL

This competitive league will have teams formed by a draft after a skill drill session. A 10-Game Schedule will begin in January. This is the perfect way to keep your high schoolers active during the winter time! **Registration is open through December 21st!**

GIRLS 5th-8th GRADE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

This is an introduction to volleyball and a way to develop and hone 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.**

ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE Women's Power, Recreational and Coed Leagues

The Women's Power leagues 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-22nd.**



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 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Chair Yoga meets Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.**

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 are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11 a.m.** at Center Courts. You can sign up for either twice a week or three times a week.

PiYo Live!

PiYo is a low impact/high intensity workout which combines the muscle sculpting of Pilates and the strength and flexibility of Yoga. This class will get your heart rate going as it features various styles of Yoga and Pilates in continuous movement and flow from one exercise to another. **Classes held every Monday/Wednesday morning from 8:30-9:30am and Tuesday/Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Drop-ins welcome!

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 9-10 a.m.**

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 whiffle ball. Equipment is provided if needed. **Open play is held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7-10 a.m. and Tuesdays from 12-4 p.m.**

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. **Class meets every Wednesday evening from 5:45-6:30 p.m. and every Friday morning from 10:00-10:45 a.m.!**

SNAPOLGY AT CENTER COURTS! Ages 4-12 years

What is Snapology? Snapology provides a fun, interactive environment for children to learn and create design concepts using LEGO bricks, K'Nex and technology. **Classes will be held every Saturday from January 6th-February 17th** at Center Courts. Each week children will engage in a different theme based build. They will use teamwork to build a creation and see their theme come together by the end of each class. Classes are designed for children of all ages and building abilities to build together. Drop-ins 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 10-11 a.m.!**



2018 Business & Rental License Renewals

On December 28th, Saginaw Township Clerk's Office will send out renewals for business licenses and rental licenses. These licenses provide the Township with emergency contact information along with the type of business and the addresses of rentals. The number of rental licenses increased from 512 to 530 for 2017 and there are over 1600 businesses in Saginaw Township. Of the 1600 businesses, almost 300 of those are home occupations. There is a long list of the types of home businesses and a few are listed below:

- On-line services
- Lawn care/Snow removal
- Builders/Contractors
- Child care providers
- Cleaning/Janitorial services

If you have a home occupation business in your house or are planning on starting one, the Township Ordinance requires an application be filed at the Clerk's office with an annual fee of \$10. For a copy of the application please contact the Clerk's office at 791-9830 or go to the website – www.saginawtownship.org

Coming Soon

The Clerk's office will be offering online fillable applications and payments in the near future for business & rental licenses along with outdoor event permits and peddler/solicitor permits.

We now offer online registration at www.saginawtownship.org!

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



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

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www.saginawtownship.org

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facebook.com/saginawtownshipfiredepartment

facebook.com/saginawtownshipprecreation

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Mailbox Boards

Many Township property owners have performed temporary repairs of their damaged mailboxes in anticipation of the next large snowfall of the season while looking ahead to the spring when a more permanent re-installation can be performed. From their website at <https://www.usps.com/manage/know-mailbox-guidelines.htm>, the U.S. Postal Service offers the following construction advice and dimensions.

"Because of varying road and curb conditions, the Postal Service™ recommends that you contact your local postmaster for approval of the location of your mailbox before you put it up. Put a roadside mailbox where a carrier can safely reach inside without leaving the truck. That means positioning it about 41" to 45" off the ground and back about 6" to 8" from the curb. In the absence of a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance." You can contact the USPS, locally, at (989) 771-5793.

Subsequently, this would also be the perfect time to review the Township's regulations for the installation of "Mailbox Boards" or those structures that you may see installed next to the mailboxes and intended to provide protection from plowed or blowing snow.



"Mailbox Boards" are defined as temporary structures designed to protect property during the winter months. These structures shall be installed/erected only during the winter and shall be removed by April 1. Said structure(s) shall only be as large as necessary to function properly and installed in such a way as to not obstruct view or create a traffic hazard.

Ref. - <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=13567> – Ordinance #423 as amended, section 303(1).

Holiday Light Recycling Drive

– MMWA's holiday light recycling will run through Jan 15, 2018. Drop off your unwanted holiday lights at Saginaw Township Department of Public Services at 4870 Shattuck. Please visit

www.recyclemotion.org for more drop-off locations and other program details or contact MMWA at (989) 781-9555.

Curbside Christmas Tree Disposal

– Residents can put their fresh Christmas trees to the curb by 7 a.m. on their regular trash day throughout the month of January. Ornaments, tinsel, garland, and other decorative items do not need to be removed, and trees can be put to the curb with or without a tree bag. Trees that are frozen to the ground or covered with snow will not be collected until they can be safely accessed by the driver. Large or heavy trees may



have to be picked up by the bulk truck, and in those cases, trees will be collected within two days of the resident's regular service day. The service applies only to real Christmas trees that have been used as indoor holiday décor. State law prohibits yard waste and vegetation from being disposed of in the landfill; however, the ban does not apply to Christmas trees.

Holiday Trash Delay

– The Christmas and New Year's holidays will cause a delay in trash and recycle pick-up in Saginaw Township. Normal pick-up in Saginaw Township is

Monday (south of Weiss Street) and Tuesday (north of Weiss Street).

Questions? Call MMWA!

If you need to report a missed pick-up or other service issue, please call (989) 781-9555 before 5 p.m. the day after your service day. Remember, trucks start collecting at 7 a.m. Routes can change for many reasons, so your collection time may vary, which means all materials should be at the curb by 7 a.m.

Inclement Weather – Winter is here and with that comes icy and snowy roads. Roads that are found to be impassable when a truck goes by will not have collection service reattempts until your next regular service day the following week. In the event that collection is canceled in the entire township, MMWA will alert residents via its website, Facebook page & televised on MBC25, WEY125, & FOX66.