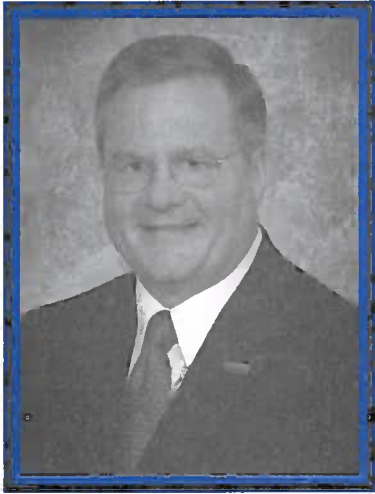


The Township Update

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.

FALL/WINTER 2006/07



Timothy J. Braun,
Saginaw Township Supervisor

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR CORE VALUES

As you read this issue of the Township Update, I'm confident you will agree with me that our community-wide belief in these four core values serves as the foundation for Saginaw Township being the special community it is.

I hope all of you have been enjoying our semi-annual community newsletter and find it informative. The previous two issues focused on the theme "Our Neighborhoods and Families". **In this issue we will reflect on the main focus of our community - its core values.**

As your Supervisor, one of my goals has been to keep Saginaw Township a great place to live, work, and raise a family. My goal has been to maintain and enhance all of the positive things about our community that make it so special.

I have always felt that any organization, including government, should be constantly looking for ways to improve the services it provides or the programs it implements. The organization's leadership should be constantly analyzing the things it does and looking for new and improved ways of delivering services. If an organization is not continuously looking for ways to improve, it is "standing still"; and if it is, then it is actually "slipping backward".

Given the tough economic times we are currently experiencing, local governments across the State are being asked to do more with less - reduced financial support from Lansing with no new taxes from the citizens of their communities. With these things in mind I asked our Township Manager, Ron Lee, to work very closely with each one of our department heads in preparing this year's budget.

To guide them in the annual budget process I identified and submitted to our Township Board and staff four core community values that I know the citizens of Saginaw Township have always believed in. (They are listed for you adjacent to this article.) In January we began our annual budget process. Manager Lee, Assistant Manager Rob Grose, Director of Fiscal Services Michele Gadd, and I began working with our department heads asking them to focus on these four core values as they prepared their budgets for this fiscal year. We said to them, "The ongoing work of your department and everything you are proposing as expenditures for the coming year should support and enhance at least one of these four core community values."

I believe that government, particularly local government, is about providing essential basic services and quality of life opportunities for its citizens. Your Saginaw Township Board of Trustees has always taken great pride in providing quality services to our families and all citizens as efficiently as possible. You, the citizens of our community, have come to expect this of us; and we are committed to meeting that expectation.

I have asked each department to focus the information it is providing you in this newsletter on our four core community values. They will share with you how the services they provide or the programs they have instituted are focused on the enhancement of these core values. As you read this issue of *The Township Update*, I'm confident you will agree with me that our community-wide belief in these four core values serves as the foundation for Saginaw Township being the special community it is.

Timothy J. Braun, Saginaw Township Supervisor

OUR CORE VALUES

▼
**Providing for a
Safe Community**

▼
**Promoting a
Neat, Clean,
Attractive
Community with
Beautiful
Neighborhoods**

▼
**Providing
Quality of Life
Opportunities**

▼
**Maintaining a
Professionally
Well Run,
Efficient
Government -
One that
Provides High
Quality Services
to its Residents.**

PROVIDING FOR A SAFE COMMUNITY

Saginaw Township Police Department



Our Commitment To Work Closely With Our Citizens & Businesses

Providing for a safe community is a core value of Saginaw Township, and the Saginaw Township Police Department is committed to providing safety within our neighborhoods, schools, businesses and community as a whole. As Americans, we at times have grown accustomed to it and may even have taken it for granted. Safety, a cherished quality of life, is something we must preserve and strive to enhance whenever possible.

As one of the departments of township government, the Saginaw Township Police Department strives to maintain a professionally well run and efficient department whose primary focus is to provide quality services to our residents. Your Police Department is committed to working closely with our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and community as a partner. Our goal is to develop strategies and programs that will foster safe environments for each of us to enjoy in our daily activities.

Our Patrol Officers are the first line of safety for our community. Their goals include responding to calls for service in a timely manner; helping those in need during times of emergency; monitoring traffic to ensure safety while traveling on the road; patrolling neighborhoods and subdivisions in an effort to prevent criminal activity; and keeping us safe during the night while we are at rest.

Our Detectives actively investigate reported crimes in an effort to hold responsible those suspects who have committed the crimes. The detectives work closely with the business community to detect and prevent fraudulent criminal activity from occurring. The Crime Information Hotline (791-7233) is an excellent source for citizens to learn about what crimes they can be on the watch for within their neighborhoods. **Citizens can be the "eyes and ears" for our police officers.**

The District Resource Officers play an active roll in working with all segments of the community in presenting programs designed to prevent criminal activity and to keep neighborhoods safe. These programs include: Neighborhood Watch; Crime Free Multi Housing (apartment complexes); Business Watch; Teaching, Educating and Mentoring (school program); Shoplifter Task Force; and crime prevention audits.

Providing Quality of Life Opportunities through education is also a core value of the Saginaw Township Police Department. Educating our citizens about safety and teaching them how to protect their homes and businesses is a service that we are committed to provide. If you have a question or are interested in learning more about crime prevention and safety, call us at (989) 793-2310. You can also visit our website at www.saginawtownship.org, or consider joining our **Citizens Police Academy** which meets each fall. We are here to serve you.

Together, we will strive to keep our community safe and one in which we can enjoy a great quality of life atmosphere!

Donald F. Pussehl, Jr., Chief of Police

Saginaw Township Fire Department



Our Focus To Prevent Fires Through Enforcement & Education

Our Township Supervisor and Manager are encouraging each department to search for ways to maintain, and more importantly, improve the quality of life in Saginaw Township. They have identified several core values that they would like each department to use as a conduit to lead us into the future. We use these core values that the citizens of Saginaw Township have recognized as important principles to help us set our department goals, understand how they will impact our budgets, and how we can work side by side to make this a better township. We will continue working together by sharing our resources and capitalizing on opportunities.

Expanding the Training Room is a project the Fire Department is currently working on at Station One (6171 Shattuck). The expansion will add much needed room for fire fighter training, and will result in a more friendly, efficient voting facility for the residents of Saginaw Township. Our current training room is too small to accommodate our ninety fire fighters who continuously use this room for their state mandated training. The training room is also used as Precinct 15 for elections for almost 1,400 voters. The Clerk's Office advised us that the Precinct continues to grow and is becoming cramped and awkward for our voters. By working together with the Clerk's Office, we realize the added space will serve to improve two important functions.

Fire fighters are required by the State to participate and test in over 250 hours of training including the topics of fire suppression, medical, hazardous materials, terrorism, extrication, and drivers training before becoming a state certified fire fighter. Even after they become state certified, they are still required to participate in monthly ongoing education and training. Last year our fire fighters recorded almost 7,000 hours of training. This is all done for the residents of Saginaw Township, making it a safe place to live, work and play.

Fire Inspections - Why do we do fire inspections? Any time someone visits a Saginaw Township business, we want to make sure the building is as safe as it can be. This is why we have three (3) state certified fire inspectors on staff. They work diligently to maintain and improve the level of safety in our businesses, churches, and schools. Assistant Chief Linda Schluchter along with inspectors Kevin O'Brien, and Rick Humphreys make up our fire inspection bureau. What are some of the things they are looking for when they do an inspection? They are looking for working alarm systems, working fire extinguishes, emergency lighting, exit signs, proper storage, and much more. The business owners in Saginaw Township have been very supportive of our efforts to conduct inspections, ultimately understanding and appreciating the benefits gained from their inspections.

Public Fire Education - Public fire education is an important service we provide to the community. If we can make people aware of the daily hazards they encounter, we are confident many accidents can be avoided. Many of you and your children are acquainted with public fire educator Mark Laux. Mark recently left for a great opportunity in another community, and he will be missed. Fortunately, Ryan Kunitzer has taken the reins as our new Public Fire Educator. Ryan will be introducing himself as he gets around the Township.

To contact the Fire Department, please call (989) 792-9691.

Jim Peterson, Fire Chief

MAINTAINING OUR BEAUTIFUL NEIGHBORHOODS

Our Neighborhoods Are Our Core - And Our Future

Because our neighborhoods are so important to the success of the Township, we are working to make it more attractive for people to stay in their homes, build additions, renovate their existing house, or buy new homes in our community.

As is evident throughout this fall's newsletter, "**core values**" remain a key element in guiding decisions rendered by your Township officials. A great deal of time has been spent by the Supervisor, Township Board, Manager, and department heads in developing, fine tuning, and implementing objectives that promote these core values. Many of these objectives involve improving the overall quality of life for our residents and promoting a neat, clean, attractive community with beautiful neighborhoods. Your Township Board is very committed toward achieving these two objectives.

With that being said, one underlying issue that continues to come up each and every day is **the strength and character of our residential neighborhoods**. Saginaw Township is considered a first ring suburb. As with many first ring suburbs throughout the United States, several of our older neighborhoods are going through a period of transition. Much of this transition is attributable to these older neighborhoods having small homes and lots. Although the average family size has declined from 3.38 in 1950 to 2.59 in 2005, society in general, has demanded larger homes on larger lots. An average size home constructed in the 1950's contained approximately 1,100 square feet and maintained a lot size of 60 feet in width and 120 feet in depth. Today's average home maintains close to 1,700 square feet and has a lot size of 80 x 130. An important factor for residents in our community to understand is that **37 percent of the homes in Saginaw Township were constructed between 1950 and 1969.**

Because our neighborhoods are so important to the success of the Township, we are working to make it more attractive for people to stay in their homes, build additions, renovate their existing house, or buy new homes in our community. As individuals and families in older neighborhoods seek to reinvest in their property, they are presented with many obstacles. One of the most difficult obstacles to overcome is complying with the building setback requirements set forth within the Zoning Ordinance. Constructing an addition onto an older home situated on a small lot becomes an extremely difficult, if not an impossible task. Given this hurdle, the property owner is then confronted with probably one of the most important decisions of their life. They must choose between remaining in their existing home given its current condition and size, or building/buying a newer home with the size and updated amenities desired. Many times, property owners choose the latter, which then leads to transition within the neighborhood. Long time residents, who have over the years taken pride in ownership and maintenance of their property, begin to seek other housing opportunities. Frequently, these opportunities lie in the north and west portions of the Township where newer housing is abundant. However, many residents tend to move to an adjoining community. **Saginaw Township is taking appropriate steps to encourage our residents to reinvestment in our older neighborhoods.**

Several steps can be taken to encourage residents to not only reinvest in their properties but, more importantly, take ownership of their neighborhoods. First, a project that the Community Development Department has just started to work on involves identifying these older neighborhoods and proposing reasonable setback requirements that are more consistent with their area. Changing long-time standards such as this will encourage residents to reinvest into their homes and serve to combat decline within our older neighborhoods.

Second, offering these older neighborhoods the opportunity to participate in our "**Local Road Resurfacing Program**" will undoubtedly lead to strengthening and enhancing our neighborhoods. This program provides an incentive to residents who wish to have their neighborhood streets resurfaced. The Township matches 1/3 of the total cost of a project, up to 1,000 dollars per household. Since 1997, over 2.6 million dollars has been invested in our local road system, including 800,000 dollars by the Township and almost 1.9 million dollars by its residents. As a result, we have found that significant reinvestment has been made by individual homeowners in their properties.

As indicated earlier in this article, a little more than 1/3 of the homes within the Township were constructed between 1950 and 1969. Not only have the homes become older and in need of some care, but infrastructure such as the roads, water lines, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines are 35 to 50 years old and are showing signs of age. Replacing and updating infrastructure is an extremely expensive and time consuming project. Saginaw Township has more than 241 miles of water lines and 182 miles of sanitary sewer lines that it is responsible to maintain. As our community grows older, replacing and properly maintaining this infrastructure becomes exceedingly important. Your Township Board and department heads have been proactive in preparing and implementing various capital improvement plans that guide the replacement of these improvements. Each year portions of infrastructure are replaced and the Capital Improvement Plans are updated.

It is important for our residents to understand that the Township Board is committed to maintaining the wonderful neighborhoods that we have and enhancing them through promoting reinvestment. Accomplishing these goals will undoubtedly lead to making our neighborhoods even better and will strengthen the quality of life for our residents and business owners.

Article by: Rob Grose, Assistant Township Manager

You can reach Rob Grose at: 989-791-9865, or email: rgrose@saginawtownship.net

PROVIDING QUALITY OF LIFE AMENITIES

Beautifying Our Neighborhood Parks

Promoting and maintaining a neat, clean, attractive community with beautiful neighborhood parks and modern playground equipment for our children is a top priority and core value for the Department of Public Services and Recreation Department. Starting this year, the Saginaw Charter Township Department of Public Services and Recreation Department with the support of the Township Board and Parks Commission, have initiated phase I of a multi-phase restoration process to improve the appearance of our parks and bring our playground equipment into compliance with current safety standards.

Saginaw Charter Township currently operates and maintains 15 park sites throughout our community. A majority of these parks were developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s with landscape and playground equipment dating back to that period. In the spring of 2005, we solicited the help of a playground safety consultant working for the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority to help us perform a thorough inspection and evaluation of our park sites and playground equipment. Fourteen pieces of playground equipment at seven of our park facilities were determined to be in non-compliance with current safety standards and were removed. Removing this equipment created a huge void in the recreational activities available for our children in several local neighborhood parks. This void served as a wake-up call that it was time for change, time to take a fresh look at our community's recreation plan, and reestablish priorities to address our current playground deficiencies.

As we move forward in 2006, Township staff will continue to work collectively with the Township Board and Parks Commission on the planning and funding of our park improvements. In addition, we are actively seeking donations and grant acquisitions as a source for funding. Through the efficient use of Township personnel and funds, we shall continue to pursue our goal and core value of providing a safe, clean, attractive, park environment for our children, local residents, and the general public.

2006 Improvements: Phase I of our park improvement program will include the installation of four "Neighborhood Park Play Structures" in the following parks and playgrounds:

- A. Berberovich Park – 5419 Lessandro.
- B. Briarwood Park – 4200 Clement Drive.
- C. Burkhaven Park – 5200 Vanalleo Drive.
- D. Wickes Recreation Complex (East) – 3599 Hospital Road.

The Mega Tower Play Structure project is slated for the Summer of 2007. This play structure is approximately 40' X 34' X 30' high and is specifically designed for children between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. The total cost of this project is \$81,000. We have recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation towards the cost of this project, and we are actively seeking donations to help offset the total cost.

Donations are being accepted by the Recreation Department, 3320 N. Center. Telephone (989) 791-9860.

Herb "Sonny" Grunwell,
Director of Public Services & Recreation

"Neighborhood Park Play Structure" (Berberovich Park – 5419 Lessandro)



Sewer Backups
Report immediately to
the Dept. of Public Services
(989) 791-9870

Township personnel will
provide assistance in
determining the problem
and possible
solutions.

**Curbside yard
waste pickup ends
November 28, 2006**

Yard waste includes
leaves, grass
clippings, twigs, and
sod without dirt.

Yard waste must be
in Kraft paper bags
or containers marked
with a yard waste
sticker.

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MAINTAINING A PROFESSIONALLY WELL-RUN, EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office

"Taxes? Ah, got a cousin in Taxes....he lives in El Paso."

(Paraphrased from the famous comedian, Groucho Marx.)

All kidding aside, the Treasurer's Office has embraced one tenet of the **core values**: "Maintaining a professional, well-run, efficient government that provides a high quality service to the residents." We have designed an expedient and hopefully more convenient way for our customers to do their business.

Beginning with the December, 2006 Tax bills, Saginaw Township will be accepting credit cards for payment of taxes: We have had a number of inquiries about using credit cards as an alternative to 1.) draining one's bank account all at once; and 2.) taking time off from work to personally come to the Township Hall and pay taxes. **Official Payments Corporation (OPC)** has been contracted to serve you by telephone and by internet. Simply provide them with the necessary information. To access OPC, go online to: www.officialpayments.com, or look for the **OPC telephone number** which will be printed on the December Tax bill which is: **(1-800-272-9829)** **Saginaw Township's jurisdiction code is #7030.**

You do not have to come to the Township Hall and you can call 24 hours of the day. In fact, we will tell you not to come to the office as our small staff is not set up to handle this type of transaction. **A convenience fee of 3% will be added to cover the cost of using OPC.** We have noticed this practice in a number of municipalities across the state, and OPC appears to be the credit card administrator of choice. Water and sewer bills can be paid by automatic withdrawal from your personal checking account. **To do this go online to:**

www.usedirectpayment.com, or you can complete a form available at the Treasurer's front office.

I would be remiss if I did not provide you with important business news. By the time you read this community newsletter, your Summer Taxes are late, if not paid by **September 14, 2006**. Taxes are still due, but a **(1%) late charge** will be applied. This late charge increases by an **additional (1%)** for each extra month the tax remains unpaid for a **maximum penalty of (6%)** if paid on or before **February 14, 2007**.

On February 15, 2007, all unpaid summer, 2006 Tax Bills and all winter delinquent bills are assessed an additional **(3%) penalty fee**. If not paid by **March 1, 2007**, all delinquent real property taxes are transferred to the Saginaw County Treasurer. We are done with that portion of the delinquent tax bill; however, all personal property taxes (business taxes) will remain the obligation of the Saginaw Township Treasurer to collect.

**To contact the Treasurer's office, please call
(989) 791-9840.**

William J. McQuillan, Your Township Treasurer

Saginaw Township Clerk's Office

The Clerk's office is busy maintaining updates to the voter registration file, business license program and minute books. The Saginaw Township's business license program requires businesses to renew their license every year at a cost of \$10.00. The purpose of the business license is to give emergency responders vital information. Renewal forms are mailed out December 1st, due and payable upon receipt. If there is a change in ownership or address, a new business license application must be completed and filed with the Clerk's office.

General Elections - The Clerk's Office is also responsible for the election process. Our challenge is to expedite the process and explain voting procedures in the most "user friendly" and understandable way possible. We do this by using the latest technology available to us, and through the training of many election workers who serve our 16 voting precincts.

Our election process could not function without our many professional and efficient election workers. They look at this job as both a duty and an honor to serve, and we *thank* them for their service. This is why Saginaw Charter Township maintains such well-run elections!

For the Tuesday, November 7th General Election, feel free to contact the Clerk's Office, **(989) 791-9830** to find out if you are registered to vote or where to vote. You can also go online at: www.michigan.gov/sos. You must be registered by **October 9, 2006**, in order to vote. **Remember: Voting is your right and your duty as a citizen of the community and this country.**

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

New Voting System In Place - Technology is working to increase opportunities to vote. The State of Michigan has provided each municipality with new voting systems. The new Optech Insight machines were used in the past two elections and the new AutoMARK was added in August. The Optech Insights are similar to the old voting machines so their appearance to the public was "transparent". The AutoMARK, is a new "touch screen marking device" for the disabled; however, anyone can use it. It is used as a companion to the Optech Insight machines. Each precinct has one available for voters to use. After selecting the candidates with the AutoMARK, the ballot is marked automatically and returned to the voter to process through the Optech Insight tabulator.



PROJECT V.O.T.E. - We have created this innovative program to "recycle" the original technology of electronic voting machines first used in 1994, by offering them free to various schools and local colleges. As a service to the community, we hope that it will enlighten young people and provide meaning to the voting process. The program is called **V.O.T.E.**, which stands for **Voting Opportunities Through Education**. Anyone interested in working with us to support this project is encouraged to contact the Clerk's Office at **(989) 791-9830**.

Using Technology to Communicate With You - The Clerk's office provides a multitude of information on its web page such as business licenses, permits, board minutes, voter information, and election results. **Go to:** www.saginawtownship.org

Shirley M. Wazny, Clerk
Lori Vondette, Deputy Clerk

OUR CORE VALUES - OUR VISION, OUR MISSION

Staying "In-Sync" With the Township Board

As you read the introductory comments from Supervisor Braun, I cannot emphasize enough what his message means to the Township, its residents and to the staff that help carry out that message. Now recognized as an "inner ring" suburb of Saginaw City, there has been growing interest toward protecting and enhancing the vitality and quality of life in Saginaw Township. We believe it is necessary in order that our community remain viable in the future, as it has in the past. This is important to the Township Board and openly summarized by Supervisor Braun as the Core Community Values. As Township Manager over a team of department heads, we are endeavoring to carry out the wishes of the Board in a unified manner.

Our Vision remains the same

- ▶ 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.

The Core Values - Beginning in 2005, a set of core community values or guiding principles were constructed. The core values were announced in 2006 in Supervisor Braun's State of the Township Address and were set into motion. The core values form the nucleus by which all Township departments carry out their work activities and programs. If a proposed activity does not satisfy any of the four core values, it is not funded.

Our Mission - What lies ahead may seem redundant to some, but meaningful to those bestowed with the responsibility of keeping Saginaw Township viable. Staff is currently developing a Comprehensive Five Year Capital Improvement Plan to help manage our future resources more carefully in light of diminishing state revenues and a slowly rebounding economy in Michigan. This Capital Plan will help us prioritize projects and schedule their implementation.

As you can see, a lot of work lies ahead for staff and the Township. We do this with dedication and devotion to the Township and to our residents. We do this because we believe it is the right thing to do.

Respectfully,
Ronald Lee,.....Your Township Manager

You can reach Ron Lee at: (989) 791-9800,
or email: rlee@saginawtownship.net

A Dynamic Community with High Expectations

Saginaw Charter Township is a dynamic community with high expectations for its neighborhoods, commercial areas, and governmental operations. Four "core values" were established to assist in achieving these expectations. All programs, budgets, and efforts use these ideals as a foundation. It is the goal of each department to provide the citizens and residents of Saginaw Township quality service.

Code Enforcement and Property Maintenance - This is one program that has stepped up efforts and gotten positive results. The community is divided into two districts with a code enforcement officer patrolling every street in the Township every two weeks. These officers look for violations to the zoning laws that regulate the use and development of land. They also regulate nuisances within the Township such as unsafe buildings, junk and debris, abandoned vehicles, accumulations of waste material, and yards and homes that are not maintained.

The property maintenance aspect of the program deals more with the outside appearance of homes and commercial buildings. The regulations found in the International Property Maintenance Code enable us to address concerns such as the length of grass, the condition of accessory structures, fences in disrepair, homes with severely peeling paint, and other conditions that might lend a blighting influence.

Appreciation Program - It is recognized that a great majority of the residents take pride in the condition of their homes and properties. A trip down most streets confirms this assessment. That is why this year Saginaw Township created an appreciation program with recognizes the accomplishments of citizens who have made a significant improvement to their residential or commercial property.

The code enforcement officers, or any member of the Community Development Department, are constantly on the look out for those properties where the owner's individual efforts improves their neighborhood as a whole. This could be an improvement to the home or to the property itself such as replacing roofing and siding or improving landscaping and lawns. A "before and after" picture is taken of the improvement and placed on a Certificate of Appreciation and presented to the owner of the property.

Teamwork Makes A Difference! Keeping our neighborhoods neat, clean, and attractive is a primary goal of the Department of Community Development and a Core Value of Saginaw Township. We are known by many names throughout the community depending on the focus of your involvement. These include the Building Department, the Planning and Zoning office, Property Maintenance, and Code Enforcement. We are diverse in operations and scope of responsibilities with a staff having unique experience, knowledge, and professional credentials.

These resources are maintained to assure that our Township remains a special place that is recognized as a leader in the area, a leader in beautiful neighborhoods, a leader in vibrant and prosperous commercial areas, a leader in quality of life opportunities, and a leader in local government.

We have found that the very best way to accomplish our mission and achieve the vision of the Township Board is to work with the citizens and help them be successful in their endeavors. For the proactive resident or business owner, we strive to find creative ways to comply with federal, state and local regulations.

Like any family, there are residents in Saginaw Township that sometimes need to be nudged into action, and yes, unfortunately, there are those times when we are forced to utilize a more formal enforcement technique to gain compliance. However, we must keep in mind that the intent of the departmental staff is to support the high standards that our residents have come to enjoy.

I invite any resident, business person, or property owner to contact the Community Development Department with their ideas for construction, development, redevelopment, remodeling, and property maintenance prior to making any financial commitments. Our knowledgeable and helpful staff can guide you through the process and offer insights for your benefits. **Come on in. We can help!**

Matthew Reno, Director of Community Development and Planning
To contact us, please call (989) 791-9850.

EFFICIENTLY KEEPING YOUR FINANCIAL RECORDS

Saginaw Township Assessor's Office

You may have noticed throughout this community newsletter a common organizational theme which links many of the various services provided to our Township residents by all departments. These are the **four core values**, as described by Township Supervisor Braun last Spring. (See Township website, bottom of page.) As a team effort, all departments are working within these guidelines. The staff of the Assessing Department, the keeper of all property records of the Township, particularly focuses on one of the four core values, namely **"Maintaining Professionalism and Efficiency in Government....in order to provide the high level of service expected by our residents."**

Over the years, the Assessing Department has made major advances in technology and records management. Originally operating with hand written documents, we now utilized state-of-the-art technology in providing assistance to property and business owners in the most expedient manner possible. What used to take hours in compiling data can now be done with the stroke of a computer keyboard. Our staff is state certified, and we strive to provide the public with the highest quality service possible.

Saginaw Area GIS Authority - One important technical advance is the Township's participation in the newly formed Saginaw Area Graphic Information Services Authority. This cooperative effort with other Saginaw County municipalities, enables records to be managed by a central data house. Created in 2004, one of the many features of the Authority includes a web site that displays individual property and tax information for each participating jurisdiction. The web address is www.sagagis.org, or you can also access the website through a link on the Assessors Page at www.saginawtownship.org. Saginaw Township updates the data on a weekly basis in an effort to better serve the public. Again, what used to take hours to gather data on a parcel can now be done in a matter of minutes.

What to Expect On Property Taxes - Looking Ahead:

We anticipate that property taxes will gradually increase even in a stable or declining market. In 1994 a property tax limitation initiative called Proposal A was approved by Michigan voters. Proposal A tied annual property tax adjustments to the Consumer Price Index. It also created a new value upon which property taxes are based - this new value is named the taxable value. The taxable value is a calculated value that bears no relationship to market value. The calculation of the taxable value is established by State statute. Each year the taxable value is adjusted (multiplied) by the consumer price index or CPI (after adjusting for physical additions and losses to the property).

Early residential sales studies indicate the average change in assessed values for the 2007 tax year will be small. However, last year's taxable value will be multiplied by the CPI regardless of the change of assessed value. This means that if the assessed value is either reduced or increased according to market studies, it will have no effect upon the taxable value. The taxable value will still increase by the percentage of this year's consumer price index.

To contact the Assessor's office, please call (989) 791-9810.

David Kern, Director of Assessing

From the Office of Fiscal Services

The core values as described by Supervisor Braun are the basic foundation upon which all efforts and energies expended by the Township are built. **In keeping with the fourth tenet of the values: "maintaining a professional, well-run, and efficient government (operation) in order to provide a high quality of service to our residents"**, the Fiscal Services Department maintains its professionalism and takes great pride in what it has accomplished over the past several years. For example, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending 3/31/06 was recently presented to the Saginaw Township Board. This technical financial report was prepared by the Township's Fiscal Services Office with assistance from our auditor, the Rehmann Group. Once again, we are pleased to report that we have received an unqualified opinion from our auditors. This means that we comply with generally accepted accounting principles in all material respects.

The Audit - Twenty-three (23) separate funds are reviewed in the audit. These funds are categorized as governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Examples of governmental funds would be the General, Police, Fire Operating, Fire Capital Improvement, Garbage/Rubbish, and Community Development. These funds operate on property tax collections, license and permit fees, charges for services, special assessments, and interest revenues. Two of the most recognized proprietary funds would be water and sewer operations. These funds represent business type activities with revenue generated through charges for services.

A Summary - Financial highlights summarized in the audit indicate that the assets of the Township exceeded its liabilities by **\$68,501,627**. Of this amount, **\$18,482,347** is available to meet ongoing obligations of the Township. Through wise and prudent management and control of our budgets, the Township was able to increase fund balances in a number of its funds. The General Fund added **\$125,777** to its fund balance. At the end of the fiscal year the unreserved fund balance for the general fund was **\$3,747,769**, which is approximately **73%** of total General Fund expenditures.

As we look forward - Being fiscally responsible with the public's money will become even more important. The Township will be challenged to provide more services without adding significant operating costs. Future projects will include continued water system improvements, updated sewer system planning, road improvements, traffic management initiatives, and revitalization of our commercial corridors. All of these are intended to support the core values of maintaining our neighborhoods and providing amenities. **To contact us, please call (989) 791-9820.**

Michele Gadd, Director of Fiscal Services

DID YOU KNOW?

The State Equalized Value for Saginaw Township....

2006 nearly \$1.5 Billion 1986 approx. \$488 Million

The Top Ten Taxable Values for 2006....

J G Saginaw (Fashion Square Mall including Penny's) \$20,819,540
 Consumer's Energy 15,140,000
 West Valley Plaza (Tittabawassee Fortune Blvd.) 6,007,653
 Fashion Corners (Bay & Schust) 4,438,514
 Camelot Place Apartments 4,336,200
 Fox Glen Apartments 4,317,993
 Sears 4,289,590 Green Acres Shopping Center 4,235,220
 B P Saginaw (Plaza at Gratiot & Center) 4,128,500
 AIG Baker - WalMart (on Brockway) 3,839,732

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Zauel Memorial Library

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the continuing support and appreciation you show for your library. We are committed to providing the citizens of Saginaw Charter Township with first class library services. This includes programming for people of all ages; current and classic materials in all formats available for loan; borrowing of materials we don't own from other libraries around the country; wired and wireless Internet access; a meeting room for community activities; a quiet study room, proctoring examinations; reader's advisory; and reference help. We are proud to provide the community with a neat and clean "place" where people can go and feel safe; a place for finding information; a place for study; a place for promoting life-long processes such as reading and learning; a place for community interaction; and a place that provides quality of life opportunities.

First Grade Reading Celebration During May and June the Children's Department recognized 363 Saginaw Township first grade students and their teachers, for their accomplishment of learning to read independently. Eight public and parochial schools responded to our invitation bringing their first graders to the library for stories, a tour, a puppet show, and refreshments.

Computer Classes The Public Libraries of Saginaw have assembled a "traveling lab" of 8 laptop computers for the purpose of teaching computer courses to the public. Taught by employees from the Information Technology Department, classes planned at Zauel for this fall and winter include Introduction to the Internet, Microsoft Word – Basics & Beyond, Introduction to Excel, and Beginning Resumes. For class times and registration information, please check our web page at: www.saginawlibrary.org, our monthly newsletter - *Library Links*, and posted flyers.

Mother Goose Story Time This is a weekly activity for children, 18 – 24 months of age and a loving adult. The fall session is scheduled for November 7 – 28. The winter session is scheduled to run from February 13 through March 6, 2007. All programs are scheduled on Tuesdays from 10:30 – 11 a.m. Please call the Children's Department at (989) 799-2771 for registration information.

TLC Playgroup This is a weekly activity time for toddlers, 1 - 3 years of age and a loving adult. The fall session is scheduled to begin September 12 and run through October 10. The winter session is scheduled for January 9 through February 6, 2007. All programs are held on Tuesdays, 10 – 11 a.m. with different resource persons to provide information and answer questions regarding child development, nutrition, movement, and literacy. Please call the Children's department for registration information.

Many Thanks We thank the folks at the Department of Public Services who worked hard to give our meeting room a much-needed face-lift including a fresh coat of paint and wainscot paneling for the walls. In addition, outdoor work, including painting and landscape improvements, have gone a long way toward improving the appearance of the building.

Thomas H. Birch, Head Librarian

Summer Reading Program

Nearly 4,300 people signed up for the 2006 Summer Reading Program. This was an increase of 36% over the previous year's program! The theme for the program was "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales." Activities included storytelling, magic, learning about insects, bingo, and an ice cream social. Much credit should go to the 31 volunteers who worked at the Summer Reading Program desk we set up this year in order to make registration and claiming rewards easier for participants. We were pleased to hold the Public Libraries of Saginaw Summer Reading Festival at Zauel at the conclusion of the Summer Reading Program on Saturday, July 22. Singer Josh White, Jr. and a talking pony entertained some 275 children.

Preschool Story Time

Our drop-in story time for children ages 3 – 5 years will be held every Friday morning at 10:30.

Teen Read Week

October 15 – 21. This year's theme is "Get Active @ Your Library". Teens are invited to visit Zauel and play Dance Dance Revolution on Tuesday, October 17, from 4:30 – 6 pm.

Brush Site

The brush site, located at 5790 W. Michigan will be open Saturdays & Sundays from September 16 - October 29, 2006, from 10 am to 6 pm. This site accepts brush and tree trimmings only and nothing larger than 6" in diameter. Sorry, no commercial haulers. One bundle of brush per week can be set out at curbside. The bundle should not measure any larger than 3x4 ft.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Saginaw Township Parks & Recreation

Promoting quality of life opportunities in Saginaw Township is a primary core value of our community. The staff members of your Recreation Department take great pride in providing our citizens with quality of life opportunities, and this is reflected in our programs and beautifully maintained facilities. Our department understands that maintaining a healthy, active community is an important value and our goal is to continue to implement this throughout our activities and events.

Saginaw Township Recreation offers several indoor activities at Center Courts to keep you and your family busy this winter. For the past four years Center Courts has provided a clean, safe environment for all citizens to enjoy. We are continuously expanding and improving our services by offering new recreational programs for people of all ages.

Saginaw Township Recreation is proud to provide you with the following activities for the 2006/07 winter season.

Fall/Winter Center Courts Hours

TRACK

Monday – Friday	6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OPEN GYM

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (18 & Over)

Monday – Friday
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Open to students 18 & under who live in, or attend a school in Saginaw Township)

Saturday - 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Family Day)
Sunday - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Family Day)

YOUTH

Center Courts Playgroup - This fun group is for toddlers under the age of 3. Work on your child's grasping skills with the many colorful balls or test their balance on our balance beam! Class meets both Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Cost: \$2.00 per visit or buy a 15 visit punch card for only \$26.00!**

Kids Gym - Supervised, structured, and FUN! This new and improved class lets your child burn off that extra energy while learning fundamental movements, through games and activities at the same time. Sessions are 4 weeks. Class meets both Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Ages: 4-6 **Cost: \$45.00 per child.**

Kids Sports Zone - This FUN! class is designed as a next step from Kids Gym. Children will work on their large motor skills while emphasizing their interest in sports. Sessions are 4 weeks. Class meets both Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Ages: 6-8 **Cost: \$45.00 per child.**

Youth Basketball - This league is for 2nd – 6th grade boys and 2nd – 8th grade girls. Teams will be formed by draft and play in a 10 game season on Saturdays at Center Courts. **REGISTRATION:** October 2nd – 20th. **Cost: \$30.00 per participant.**

Music For Munchkins - The Munchkin program is musical fun for you and your child with guitar, singing, dancing, finger plays, rhythm instruments, crafts and much more! Ages 2-5. **Call for class times.**

Karate For Kids - Master Howard Hannon will lead this Martial Arts Class that is geared toward building self-esteem and self discipline. Beginning class Tuesdays and Advanced class Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Cost \$42.00 per 6 week session.**

ADULT

Get To The Core - This class will provide you a variety of balance, core training, strength and flexibility exercises with the use of stability balls, 3-8 pound hand weights and variety of resistance bands. Join Jerilyn Schwarz, NETA Certified Instructor Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. for this great class. **Cost: \$75 for 25 classes or \$40 for 10 classes.**

Beginning/Intermediate Pilates - Join NDEITA Certified Kristine Schaeffer, for these great Pilates classes. Classes are Monday mornings; Intermediate 8:30 – 9:25 a.m. Basic 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. **Cost \$40.00.**

Yoga - This class combines stretching and strength building in a relaxed atmosphere. Classes are Monday evenings 6-7:15 p.m., Wednesday morning's 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., and Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dancing For Fitness - Come on into the gym and let loose as Sally Kipke leads you through a low impact fitness program featuring easy and fun dance routines for the **50 and over crowd!** Class will meet for 6 weeks Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ADULT LEAGUES

Men's Basketball - Registration for this 5 on 5 league is \$300. Sign up October 23rd – November 10th. League begins in December.

Woman's & Coed Volleyball Leagues - Women's Power league plays on Monday nights. Women's Recreational league plays on Wednesday nights. Coed plays Monday or Wednesday night. Registration will be held November 1st – 13th. **Cost \$90.00 per team.**



SPECIAL EVENTS!

3rd Annual Center Courts Halloween Show!



A new act will grace the gym floor this year. Ventriloquist Richard Paul will bring his **HA! HA! Halloween Show** to Center Courts on **October 28th** (Games begin at 5:30 p.m., show begins at 7:30 p.m.) to entertain all! Come for a night filled with ghouls, spooks, and **PRIZES!** Tickets are **\$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. Tickets on sale now at Center Courts!** Also it is not too late for you or your business to be part of this great show. Saginaw Township is still accepting donations for the show. Don't miss your chance to reach hundreds of families in the area!

For More Information Please Call Saginaw Township Recreation At (989) 791-9860, or visit us on the Web at www.saginawtownship.org











SAGINAW CHARTER TOWNSHIP
4980 SHATTUCK RD., P.O. BOX 6400
SAGINAW MI 48603

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Saginaw Township Government Newsletter

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

-  - pg. 1. Our Community, Our Core Values
-  - pg. 2. Providing For A Safe Community
-  - pg. 3. Maintaining Our Beautiful Neighborhoods
-  - pg. 4. Providing Quality Of Life Amenities
-  - pg. 5. Maintaining A Professionally Well-Run, Efficient Government
-  - pg. 6. Our Core Values - Our Vision, Our Mission
-  - pg. 7. Efficiently Keeping Your Financial Records
-  - pg. 8. Educational Opportunities For Everyone
-  - pg. 9. Recreational Opportunities For All
-  - pg. 10. Saginaw Township Hall Facilities Calendar

ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER



Supervisor - Timothy J. Braun **Clerk** - Shirley M. Wazny **Treasurer** - William J. McQuillan
Trustees - Florence P. Connolly, Steven G. Gerhardt, Richard T. Neiderquill, Amy J. Seaver
Saginaw Township Hall - 4980 Shattuck Road, P.O. Box 6400, Saginaw, MI 48603
Phone (989) 791-9800 Fax (989) 791-9815
Website - <http://saginawtownship.org> **Email** - manager@saginawtownship.net
Township Manager - Ronald Lee **Editor** - Kimberly A. Stephan kstephan@saginawtownship.net

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP HALL 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. <http://saginawtownship.org>

YARD WASTE PICK-UP 4/03/06 - 11/28/06 BRUSH DROP-OFF SITE 9/16/06 - 10/29/06 10/04 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 10/09 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 10/11 Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 10/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts 10/17 New Comers Club 9-11 a.m. Brd. Rm. 10/18 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 10/23 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 10/28 HA! HA! HALLOWEEN SHOW Trick-or-Treat hours 6 - 8 p.m.	11/01 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 11/07 Election Day Don't Forget to VOTE! 11/08 Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 11/13 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 11/14 New Comers Club 9-11 a.m. Brd. Rm. 11/20 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts Twp. Offices Closed 23 & 24 for Holiday 11/27 Twp. Brd. Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm.	12/06 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 12/11 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts 12/13 Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 12/18 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 12/20 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. Twp. Offices Closed all day on the 25th for the holiday Christmas trees will be collected during the month of January. Do not bag trees/no tinsel	Twp. Offices Closed all day on the 1st for holiday 1/03 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 1/08 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 1/10 Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. Twp. Offices Closed all day on the 15th for holiday 1/16 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts 1/17 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 1/22 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm.	2/07 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 2/12 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 2/14 Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. Twp. Offices Closed all day for holiday on the 19th 2/20 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts 2/21 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 2/26 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm.	3/07 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 3/12 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 3/14 Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 3/19 Parks & Rec. Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Center Courts 3/21 Planning Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm. 3/26 Twp. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Brd. Rm.
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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

OUR VISION

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.