

The Township Update

Saginaw Township Government Newsletter

Spring/Summer 1999

Growth...A Two-Edge Sword

Reported by Saginaw Township Manager Ronald Lee

Saginaw Township rebounded in the 1990's by recording its greatest increase in the number of plats, building permits, housing starts and commercial development of any decade. Part of this rebound was due in part to the social trends of the decade such as a declining household size requiring many more dwelling units to accommodate the same number of persons, plus the additional influx of new residents. On the other hand, our population is estimated to be about 40,000 people by the year 2000, a stable growth of 6.25% for the decade.

Even though our population growth is stable, our real growth has been physical in terms of lands cleared for development, new home construction and businesses started. Visually, this has been where all the "hustle and bustle" has been seen and experienced.

Growth is good. It signifies our community's viability as a desirable place to call home, to go to work, to play, and most of all, to raise a family and educate our young. Growth on the other hand is a two-edge sword. While it is good to know that growth means progress and prosperity, growth also has a "dark side." Cars, traffic and worn out roads soon take its toll on one's patience and outlook on the community. Sometimes it can overshadow our appreciation for the quality of life that we have come to enjoy. This is why Saginaw Township continually seeks to work with growth in an orderly, manageable manner, rather than simply control it.

Presently, the Township is dealing with growth on three fronts: working with developers to achieve the best amenable, but least intrusive site plans; working throughout the community to restore safe, passable roadways; and working with other adjacent communities to formulate a coordinated plan of development for our commercial corridors such as Bay and Tittabawassee Roads.

In an effort to help traffic and repair our roadways, some major road projects are slated for Saginaw Township. Temporarily, they will have an impact on both our residents and on people traveling east



Saginaw Twp. Manager,
Ronald Lee

and west through our community. This year, the Saginaw County Road Commission will be widening parts of North Center and Tittabawassee Roads, as well as resurfacing the remainder of North Center Rd. south to the Tittabawassee River Bridge. They also plan to resurface part of McCarty Rd. Meanwhile, the State of Michigan will be resurfacing and partially widening Midland Rd., south of State St. Road closures will affect Center Rd., north of the CSX Railroad, and Tittabawassee Road. We hope the temporary inconveniences will be short lived.

We are planning carefully. As the accompanying article on coordinated planning by Rob Grose explains, Saginaw Township is working closely with its neighbor, Kochville Township to plan and manage wisely the eventual development of the Tittabawassee Rd. corridor. Many lessons of land use planning were learned from developing Bay Road. We hope to avoid the bad lessons.

Tittabawassee Road Corridor Study

Reported By Assistant Director of Community Development and Planning Rob Grose

Throughout the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with several property owners and developers concerned about the manner in which the Tittabawassee & Bay Road Corridor is developing. Their main concern relates to the volume of traffic these corridors are experiencing and the difficulty their customers, clients and employees have in getting from one destination to another.

The problems associated with this highly traveled corridor will only increase as it continues to redevelop and grow. It is imperative that township officials, business people and property owners understand that the factors which initially fostered the Bay & Tittabawassee boom, namely traffic volumes and easy access, can also bring about its decline. With traffic volumes reaching extremely high levels, these corridors are experiencing problems which tend to cause congestion, delays, and accidents. Actual decline in business can occur as people decide to avoid this area and seek other alternative destinations.

In an effort to maintain this areas strong position in the

Corridor Study continued from page 1.

region, the Township has initiated a study of Tittabawassee Road that will focus on issues such as traffic, aesthetics and future development. Steps will be taken to bring the business community, residents, township officials and other governmental agencies together for the purpose of identifying problems, developing strategies, and drafting a plan of action for improving this corridor.

Saginaw Charter Township in cooperation with the Kochville Township, Tittabawassee Township and the Saginaw County Planning Department seek citizen's opinions about a number of issues regarding Tittabawassee Road from Midland Road to I-675. In an effort to gather input from the general public a series of meetings were held at the Horizons Conference Center located at 6200 State Street.

If you have any questions regarding the outcome of these meetings, or wish to comment, please contact the Community Development Department at (517) 791-9865.

Community Development

Reported by Saginaw Township Community Development Director Matthew Reno

Commercial Redevelopment

Saginaw Charter Township is in the midst of a commercial redevelopment including one of the Township's oldest commercial corridors, State Street. For the past few years, commercial development and redevelopment has been primarily along Bay and Tittabawassee Roads which included the construction of the West Valley Shopping Plaza. During the 1998/1999 construction season, State Street has seen many changes including the following:

- West Wood Plaza including Wal-Mart, GKC Theaters and a multi-unit retail plaza.
- Remodel of the former Ethan Allen building into several retail shops including Chuck's Golf Exchange.
- Landmark Insurance located at 4343 State Street.
- Walgreen Drug Store located on the southeast corner of State and North Center Roads.
- Relocation and development of Mannion Hardware, Westwood Party Store, The Print Shop, etc.
- Demolition and reconstruction of Taco Bell located just west of North Center Road.
- Redevelopment of the former K-Mart plaza to The Horizon's Conference Center.
- Demolition and reconstruction of the Amoco gas station located on the southwest corner of State and North Center Roads.
- Several new business relocating in the Green Acres Plaza including Toddler Toggs.

Department of Public Services

Reported by Director of Public Services & Recreation Jerry Francis

Construction Update on DPS Projects In Saginaw Charter Township

Under Construction: The 2.6 million dollar Phase I Expansion of

the Township Wastewater Treatment Plant is on schedule for completion in May 1999.

New Construction: Slated for Spring Starts - -

Replacement water main on Center Road from Brockway Road to State Street - estimated cost \$224,000.

Replacement water main on Burnham Street from Albert Street to Vincent Street - estimated cost \$61,000.

Leachate collection system at the closed landfill site at South Center Road and West Michigan Road - estimated cost \$340,000.

Alternate Day Sprinkling

This years alternate day (odd/even) sprinkling program will Saturday, May 15, 1999 and run through Wednesday, September 15, 1999. This program permits those who live at an even numbered address to sprinkle on even numbered days and those with odd numbered addresses to sprinkle on odd numbered days.

Brush Site

The brush drop off site is located at 5790 W. Michigan, next to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The hours are 10:00 a.m. thru 6:00 p.m. **Saturdays and Sundays only.** The site will accept brush and tree trimmings only, and nothing bigger than 6" in diameter.

The spring and summer dates for 1999 are **Saturdays and Sundays, beginning April 17 thru May 16.** The site will also be open **June 19 and 20, July 17 and 18, and August 21 and 22.** The fall dates for the site will be **Saturdays and Sundays, beginning September 11 thru October 31.**

The brush site is only open to Saginaw Charter Township residents and identification is required. In 1998, (879) residents took advantage of this service bringing in (1281) loads of brush and trimmings for disposal.

Lets Talk Trash

In 1998 the solid waste stream from Saginaw Township amounted to 17,752 tons. This averaged out to 1.55 tons for each of the 11,207 residential units that are picked up. This compares to 1.54 tons per unit in 1997. The 1998 average of 1.55 tons per pick-up breaks down to .88 tons delivered to the landfill, .21 tons of recyclables and .46 tons of yard waste.

Waste Management

Saginaw Charter Township is a member of the Saginaw Area Solid Waste Management Authority, (SASWMA) which currently has 26 member communities with 60,825 residential customers. The Authority prepared a solid waste bid package in 1994 that took effect January 1, 1995. Since that time, due to lower trash assessments, Saginaw Township residents have saved \$675,000. The current contract prices are locked in until December 31, 2004, which means that members of The Authority will continue to enjoy some of the lowest rubbish rates in the State for an additional 5 years.

Saginaw Township Fire Department

Reported by Saginaw Township Fire Chief Richard Powell

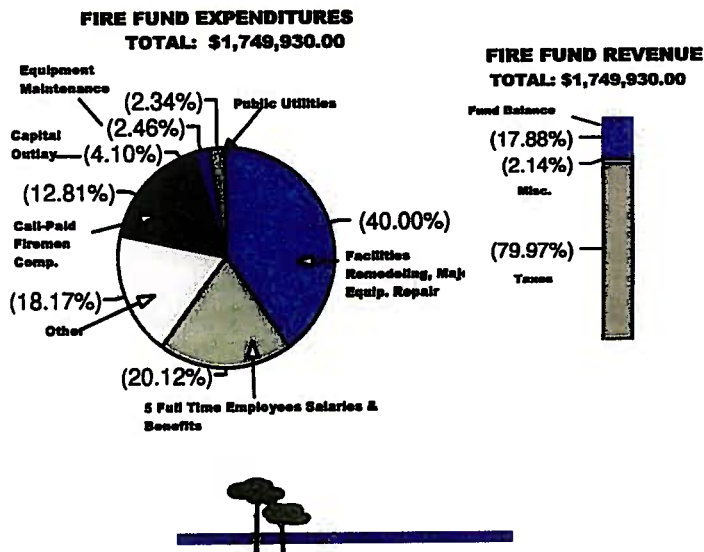
Residents of Saginaw Township are served by a "combination" fire department. Our current organizational structure includes six individuals who make up our "career" staff; men and women who are employed full time by the Township. These people provide administrative, training, inspection, public fire and life safety education, and investigative services.

Emergency response capabilities are provided by eighty-five "paid, on-call" personnel. These individuals "work" for Township residents only when a call for some type of assistance is received. Our on-call personnel are members of the fourth largest combination department in Michigan.

Financial support for the department comes via a special assessment on taxable property in the Township. Currently a total of 1.6 mills is levied to support our fire department. This levy will raise 1.4 million dollars for fire department activities in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

One major project being supported by the millage is the renovation and expansion of the public safety building. Due to a number of limiting factors, the Township Board approved altering the building to move all police services to one floor and adding approximately 3,000 square feet of new space for the fire department. Approximately \$700,000 will be spent on the facility, with half the necessary funds coming from previous year fund balance and the remainder from millage collected in 1999-2000.

The operations of the fire department is supported by a \$1,049,000 budget. Nearly one-fourth of this supports the on-call firefighters (part-time wages and benefits). Approximately one third of the budget supports the full-time staff. The remaining forty-five percent of the levy provides support for the four stations, the eleven pieces of apparatus, maintenance of equipment and facilities, and equipment and training for personnel who serve Saginaw Township residents and visitors.



Saginaw Township Treasurer's Office

Reported by Saginaw Township Treasurer Daniel M. McConnell and Deputy Treasurer Kathy Metropoulos

Did you know Saginaw Charter Township mails over 15,000 tax bills each tax season? Over 12,000 are for residential property and 1,857 are for commercial. Saginaw Charter Township bills taxes twice a year.

Summer tax bills will be mailed on or about June 30, 1999. They are all mailed on the same day, but it may take several days for the postal service to make all the deliveries. If you do not receive a bill by July 15, please contact our office at 791-9840. Persons who recently moved or changed their mailing address should be especially alert. We try to forward tax bills that are returned to us, but we do not send second notices.

Taxpayers who have financial institutions pay their taxes (escrow accounts) will still receive the original tax bill - this is our policy. 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 they are responsible for. If you want to ensure that they have received your tax amount due, the only way is to contact them (by phone or by mail) personally. Please do not contact the Treasurer's office, as we 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 (facing Shattuck Road) for dropping in payments after hours. We do not accept payment by credit card.

The deadline for summer tax payment is Tuesday, September 14. Whenever the due date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will become the deadline. Senior citizens (62 or older) whose household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$25,000 may be eligible for deferral of summer taxes. That is, they can defer payment (without interest) until February 14 of the coming year. An application form must be filed with our office by September 15 each year in order to defer summer taxes.

Vision Statement

A diverse community of excellence in living, regional/local shopping and leisure time activities; where the quality of life is pleasing, desirable and safe; where government is limited, yet effective and efficient in the management of land resources, infrastructure, services and recreation; a community which serves as a model for innovation and regional collaboration.

Saginaw Township Police Department

Reported by Saginaw Township Police Chief Stephen C. Renico

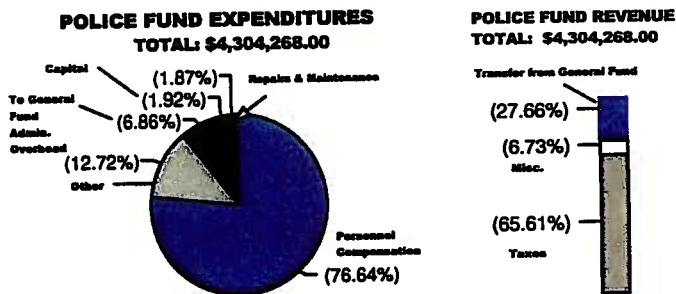
The Police Fund, which is generated by a three mill levy, pays for 44 sworn officers, and a civilian support staff of three full time persons and two who work part time.

Personnel levels for the department were determined several years ago by former police chief Kenneth Ott. At that time, Chief Ott determined that several more positions were needed on the department and that additional millage would be needed to pay for the increase in personnel. A committee was formed and studied the issue and the request for three mills was placed before the voters who approved it.

The passage of the millage allows the department to accurately forecast revenues well into the future. The job then becomes containing costs in an effort to stay within the limits of the available resources. The department works closely with the Saginaw Charter Township Fiscal Services Department and the Manager to project future expenditures and to find creative ways to reduce costs.

Currently, revenues generated by the police millage are greater than the department's expenditures. The excess revenue is kept in the police fund balance, much like a savings account. It is critical that we build a large fund balance while we can. While our revenues increase each year, our expenditures are increasing at a faster rate and projections indicate the department's expenditures will match its revenues sometime around 2005. That means we will be spending more than we are collecting and to balance the budget, we will have to make up the balance out of the "savings account".

Saginaw Township has one of the finest police departments north of Detroit. It is made up of creative hard-working individuals who deliver quality service to the community. We intend to continue delivering top quality law enforcement services to our citizens well into the next century and we constantly strive to find better and more cost effective ways to do so.



Operation Red Light

The police department is continuing their enforcement of *Operation Red Light*. Chief Renico cautions motorists who are tempted to ignore red lights at intersections, "Officers are out there and you may be the next to get stopped! Slow down, drive safely and wear your seat belts!"

Crossing Guards Needed!!

The police department is accepting applications for school crossing guards for the 1999/2000 school year. If you are seeking a satisfying part time job that gets you out doors, pays fairly well, and allows you to interact with some really great school children, please contact Sgt. John Wood or Sgt. Tom Millerick at 792-2310 during normal office hours.

All applicants will be carefully screened.

False Alarm Ordinance

If you have a burglar or fire alarm in your home or business, a Township ordinance requires you to have a permit to operate the alarm. If your alarm is newly installed, you should call the Saginaw Township Clerk's office at 791-9830 for information on obtaining a permit.

The ordinance allows each homeowner or business a total of two (2) false alarms in a calendar year. The third, fourth, and fifth false alarms in a calendar year are billed at \$35.00 each. The sixth and any subsequent false alarms are billed at the rate of \$50.00 each. If you have an alarm system and are experiencing problems with false alarms, we urge you to contact your alarm installer to get the problem corrected. You may also call the Crime Prevention Unit at 791-7226 for information.

Failure to return False Alarm Notices sent to you by the police department or failure to pay your false alarm fees will result in revocation of your permit to operate the alarm system. Operating an alarm system without a permit is a misdemeanor offense in Saginaw Township.

Saginaw Township Zael Library

Reported by Zael Librarian Trish Burns

Zael Memorial Library Offers Internet Access

The fastest growing, and fastest changing, service that Zael Library offers is that of a technical nature. The library provides word processing, children's educational games, and Internet services. Zael has several word processing programs available for patrons to use. Currently, the library provides Microsoft Word and Works, as well as Corel WordPerfect. Eight PC's in the adult area and four in the children's section provide access during all hours the library is open.

The games in the children's area are chosen both for their educational purpose and their visual appeal. The games range from identifying letters and numbers for toddlers, to setting up a simulated wagon train ride through the Old West for the fourth graders on up, to building a simulated future city for the older students.

The Internet provides an unbelievable amount of information that really brings a global reach to our library. Patrons of all ages are invited to use this tool to their benefit. During peak usage hours, a technical page is available to provide assistance for computer users.

Saginaw Township Parks & Recreation

Reported by Assistant to the Director of Recreation Linda Buska

Amusement Park Tickets

Discount tickets to the following amusement parks will go on sale beginning in mid-May:

Cedar Point	Sea World
Michigan Adventure	Detroit Zoo
Kings Island	Michigan Renaissance

Pavilion Rentals

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

Sawmill Golf Cards

The 1999 discount cards to the Sawmill Golf Course are now available to Saginaw Township residents. 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 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week - weather permitting. Admission is free. Children must be 4 ft. tall or under to enter the pool.

Program Registration

Registration is open for the following spring/summer programs:

- Golf Clinics - 9 yrs. Through adult
- Tennis Clinics - 5 yrs. Through adult
- Basketball Clinics - boys & girls
- Girls Softball - 8 & under through 18 & under
- Beach Volleyball
- Horseshoe League

For More information on any of these programs please call the Saginaw Township Recreation Office: 791-9860

Clerk's Office News

Reported by Saginaw Township Clerk Timothy J. Braun and Deputy Clerk Dana Muscott

Election Information

The only scheduled election in Saginaw Charter Township for 1999, is the Annual School Election which will be held on Monday, June 14, 1999. The last day for new registrations or changes to your present registration will be May 17, 1999. Please make these changes in the Clerk's Office or any Secretary of State's Office before the cut off date. REMEMBER TO VOTE - JUNE 14, 1999!

Business Licence Information

Starting a new business in Saginaw Charter Township? You need to have a business license to start your new venture. The fee is \$10.00 annually and is payable to the Township Clerk. Any questions, please call 791-9830.

Who Can Be An Election Inspector?

a Precinct Election Inspector for Saginaw Charter Township must be a qualified and registered elector of Saginaw County, have a good reputation, and have sufficient clerical abilities to perform the duties of the office. An election inspector cannot serve if he/she or any member of his or her immediate family is a candidate for the election. An election inspector must attend a school of instruction provided by our office. If you are interested in applying for a position as an election inspector, please stop by the Saginaw Charter Township Clerk's Office to fill out an application.

Census 2000

The United States Constitution mandates a census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Community leaders use it for everything from planning schools and building roads to providing recreational opportunities and managing health-care services. Beginning mid-March 2000, census questionnaires will be delivered to your house. About 83% of residents will receive the short form, which will take approx. 10 minutes to complete. Please fill out the survey and return it to the Census Bureau - this is very important to Saginaw Charter Township.

It is very important to each community to count every one that is a resident. Each person counted means dollars from the Federal Government to the State of Michigan, and then the money is allocated to local units of government. For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or, call (1-214-967-9524).

Fiscal Services

Reported by Fiscal Services Director Virginia Gottschalk

General Fund

The General Fund expenditures for administration have been stable for many years and are expected to remain stable. The areas of greatest growth in recent years have been in outdoor recreation and library services. The demand for these leisure time services has been met at the current level using existing revenue sources. Meeting the demand for indoor recreation programs would require construction of a Field House which lacks funding under today's available resources.

Future Challenges

Some of the challenges to be met in the near future are in the areas of water and sewer capacity. Our water and sewer services are provided by several facilities which are operated for the joint benefit of cooperating local units. As the number of homes and businesses continues to grow, in our Township and in the Saginaw metro area, these aging water treatment and sewage treatment facilities will have to be upgraded and enhanced to meet the needs of our existing customers as well as our new customers.

Saginaw Charter Township
4980 Shattuck Rd., P.O. Box 6400
Saginaw MI 48603

Saginaw Township Government Newsletter

Your connection to: Government
Developments, Recreation, Planning

Inside this issue:

- Growth...A Two-Edge Sword (pg.1)
- Tittabawassee Rd. Corridor Study (pg.1)
- Community Development Report (pg.2)
- Department of Public Services (pg.2)
- Fire Department Report (pg.3)
- Treasurer's Office Report (pg.3)
- Police Department Report (pg.4)
- Zauel Memorial Library Report (pg.4)
- Parks & Recreation Report (pg.5)
- Clerk's Office Report (pg.5)
- Fiscal Services Report (pg.5)
- Community Calendar (pg.6)

Community Calendar

May: 10 & 24 Board Mtg. ■ 5 & 19 Planning Mtg. ■ 12 Board of Appeals ■ 31 Twp. Offices Closed.

June: 21 Board Mtg. ■ 2 & 16 Planning Mtg. ■ 9 Board of Appeals ■ 26 & 27 (7-11 Soccer Classic).
■ June 14 Annual School Election. Don't forget to vote!

July: 5 Twp. Offices Closed ■ 19 Board Mtg. ■ 7 & 21 Planning Mtg. ■ 14 Board of Appeals.

August: 7 & 8 Can-Amara Weekend ■ 16 Board Mtg. ■ 4 & 18 Planning Mtg. ■ 11 Board of Appeals.

September: 6 Twp. Offices Closed ■ 13 & 27 Board Mtg. ■ 1 & 15 Planning Mtg. ■ 8 Board of Appeals.

October: 11 & 25 Board Mtg. ■ 6 & 20 Planning Mtg. ■ 13 Board of Appeals.

November: 8 & 22 Board Mtg. ■ 3 & 17 Planning Mtg. ■ 10 Board of Appeals
■ November 25 & 26 Twp. Offices closed.

George L. Olson
Supervisor

Timothy J. Braun
Clerk

Daniel M. McConnell
Treasurer

Walter W. Loth
Trustee

William J. McQuillan
Trustee

Patrick J. McGraw
Trustee

Barbara N. Ewend
Trustee

PHONE: 791-9800 FAX: 791-9815

Email: SAGCTWP@concentric.net

Website: WWW.SAGTWP.ORG

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: KIM STEPHAN