



Online Services

Early in 2016, we launched our newly redesigned website. In addition to improving our site layout, adding additional information and content, and offering a mobile-friendly site, our new website allows residents greater access to services than ever before. Below is a brief list of the items you can do - all from the comfort of your own home!

- **Lookup property assessment information**
- **Pay summer & winter tax bills**
- **Submit a Home Watch form**
- **Apply for a burning permit**
- **Submit an ordinance complaint**
- **Download commonly used tax forms**
- **View financial dashboard & CVTRS reporting**
- **Purchase an address sign**
- **Obtain a passport application form**

And more!

If you haven't yet, take a look at our new site. You may be able to find the information you're looking for outside of our normal business hours.

www.texastownship.org

Assessment Notices

In February, the Assessing Department will be mailing out the 2017 assessment notices. These notices indicate the True Cash Value, State Equalized Value, and Taxable Value of your home.

- **True Cash Value:** The TCV is the market value of your home; it may not match the actual selling price
- **State Equalized Value:** The SEV is half the TCV
- **Taxable Value:** The Taxable Value is the value used to calculate your property taxes. The Taxable Value will equal the SEV the year after you purchase your property but future increases are limited to the CPI or 5%, whichever is less.

When you receive your notice, be sure to check for your Primary Residence Exemption. The Primary Residence Exemption is a 100% exemption from the local school operating tax, provided this is your primary residence which is occupied by you and you do not rent out part of your home to another person or business.

Additionally, you may be eligible for special exemptions including:

- **Senior Deferments**
- **Poverty Exemptions**
- **Exemptions for certain 100% disabled veterans (new law: Public Act 161 of 2013)**
- **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit (eligibility further restricted in 2012)**

Residents do have the opportunity to appeal their assessment at the March Board of Review, which will begin on Monday, March 13th. If you have questions or concerns about your notice, or would like to appeal your assessment, please contact the Assessing Department at 269.375.1591. For more information, please visit www.texastownship.org.

Award-Winning Trail Officially Open to the Public

On October 24, 2016, the Township Board hosted a Grand Opening Ceremony for the Phase II Trailway. The Texas Drive Phase II Trailway, which spans 2.7 miles from the end of the Texas Drive Phase I trailway near Rota Kiwan to the roundabout at 12th Street and Milham, was constructed using grant monies from MDOT & MDNR. The construction of the trailway began in the fall of 2015, and was largely coordinated by VIRIDIS Design Group and Brenner Excavating.



In December 2016, Texas Township was notified that the trailway had been selected as the Project of the Year in the Quality of Life category by the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

When asked about the award, Township Superintendent Julie VanderWiere said, "This is a tremendous honor for Texas Township and the Township Board is thrilled to be able to offer such a phenomenal amenity to our residents who are looking for a place to walk, run, cycle, and more. We believe this trailway will not only improve the quality of life for our residents, but will quickly become a destination trail, bringing guests to the area, and building awareness of all that Texas Township has to offer. We are eager to see the positive impact this trail will have on both our residents and our local businesses."

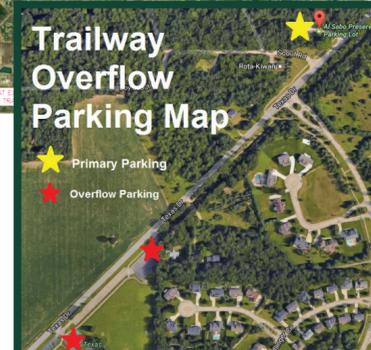
The trail is open for use Monday-Sunday during daylight hours. Limited parking is available at the Al Sabo Parking Lot (indicated in yellow on the adjacent map). Additionally, overflow parking is available at either of the Texas Drive Park parking lots (indicated in red). Parking along Texas Drive is discouraged due to safety concerns.

Please note that the Township will not provide snow removal in the winter months, so use appropriate caution.

To view detailed maps of the trail systems in Texas Township, please visit www.texastownship.org.

TEXAS DRIVE PHASE II TRAILWAY QUICK FACTS

- **Length:** 2.7 Miles
- **Start:** End of Phase I Trail near Rota Kiwan & Entrance to Al Sabo
- **End:** Roundabout at 12th Street & Milham
- **Funding:** MDOT & MDNR grants as well as public donations
- **Construction:** Fall 2015-Fall 2016



Texas Township Elects New Board of Trustees

On November 20, 2016, the newly elected Texas Township Board of Trustees took office. The new Board of Trustees were elected in the November 8, 2016 General Election and will serve a four-year term. Returning from the 2012-2016 Township Board are Clerk Linda Kerr, Trustee John Hinkle (now elected Supervisor), Trustee Trish Roberts (now elected Treasurer) and Trustee Wendy Mazer. Also beginning in 2017, the Supervisor will hold office hours on Tuesday mornings. For more information about the Board, please visit www.texastownship.org.

2016-2020 Texas Township Board of Trustees

- Supervisor:** John Hinkle **Trustee:** Don Boven
Clerk: Linda Kerr **Trustee:** Tim Brown
Treasurer: Trish Roberts **Trustee:** Nick Loeks
Trustee: Wendy Mazer

7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No 297

*** ECRWSSEDDM***
Postal Customer

Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor John Hinkle
jhinkle@texastownship.org



Clerk Linda Kerr
lkerr@texastownship.org



Treasurer Trish Roberts
troberts@texastownship.org

Texas Township Board Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday evenings at the Texas Township Hall (7110 West Q Avenue) at 6:00 p.m. and are always open to the public.

To view upcoming agendas or meeting minutes, or view Texas Township's CVTRS reports, please visit our website at www.texastownship.org.



Trustee Wendy Mazer
wmazer@texastownship.org



Trustee Don Boven
dboven@texastownship.org



Trustee Tim Brown
tbrown@texastownship.org



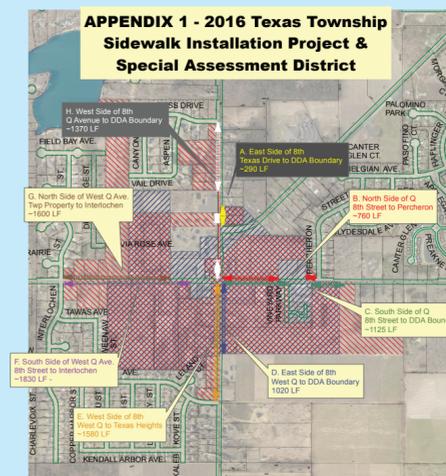
Trustee Nick Loeks
nloeks@texastownship.org

Sidewalks Constructed in the DDA

In 2013, Texas Township residents had the opportunity to complete a township-wide survey, which asked for feedback on community projects, infrastructure enhancements, and programs the community would like to see implemented over the next 5-10 years. One area of resounding feedback was to improve the walkability of the Township by connecting downtown businesses to neighboring developments.

During 2016, the Township Board and Downtown Development Authority worked diligently to develop a plan to achieve this request. In the summer of 2016, the Township Board approved the DDA Sidewalk Project and over the fall months, began construction of the sidewalks within the DDA. A majority of the sidewalks have been completed and the remaining sidewalks, including portions awaiting final easements, will be installed in the spring.

In 2017, residents will be able to walk through the downtown area and connect to the wide variety of restaurants, shops, and other local businesses that Texas Township is proud to offer. Please note the following map, which identifies the proposed location of the sidewalks.



2016 Winter Property Taxes Due February 14th

Your 2016 Winter Property Tax bill (and any unpaid Summer Taxes previously billed) is due in the Township Office no later than 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14th. Any payment placed in our Drop Box [located on the west side of the Township Hall parking lot] by 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15th will be recognized as an "on-time" payment. Any payments received after 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday February 15th will incur a 3% penalty on the total balance owed. We DO NOT honor postmarks, so please mail early if paying by mail.

Delinquent Taxes: Summer and Winter Taxes outstanding on March 1, 2017 will be transferred to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer. Beginning March 1st, please make your payment at the Kalamazoo County Treasurer's office located at 201 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007. We can no longer accept tax payments after 5:30 p.m. on February 28, 2017. Any payment placed in our Drop Box before 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 1st will avoid being turned over to the County as delinquent.

Paying Online: You may pay online at www.texastownship.org. Simply scroll down 2/3 of the page to the green horizontal band "Property Assessment and Tax Information - Click Here". Search by name, property tax I.D. # or address, and then select the "Tax Information" tab. After selecting the "Tax Information" tab, look to the right. You will see a pink colored oval with the heading "Amount Due". Underneath the \$ amount is a link to the payment processing system "Pay Now". Please note that the online payment processing company charges a 3% processing fee for the convenience of paying online. The township receives only the amount of the tax payment made, not any portion of the processing fee. For more information about your tax payment, or the breakdown of your tax bill, please visit www.texastownship.org.

The Treasurer's Department appreciates your timely payments! Please feel free to contact us with any questions at 269.375.1591.

Farmers' Market Winter Market

Just as wintery weather hit southwest Michigan on November 19, the fourth annual Texas Township Holiday Farmers' Market and Tree-Lighting Ceremony brought our community together for this festive, annual event. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the farmers' market and made this year's event another success!

Even though it was a chilly, wintery night, 29 market vendors and nearly 2,000 shoppers joined us for the special farmers' market to enjoy the fresh, seasonal products, holiday music and complimentary hot cocoa, coffee and hot cider – thanks to the Farmers' Market Committee. Shoppers filled their baskets and market totes with everything from seasonal produce, like greens, apples, potatoes and carrots, to meat, eggs, cheeses, jams and jellies, baked goods, Alpaca wool socks, hot soup, and Michigan wines, as well as Christmas trees and evergreen wreaths. Santa even made an appearance to spread some holiday cheer before the tree-lighting at 6:30 p.m.



We want to say a huge and very emphatic **THANK YOU** to everyone who made this event, and our 2016 farmers' market season, a success! Thanks to our amazing vendors and to all of the shoppers who came out to support us! And thanks to all of the volunteers who gave so much of their time and talents to make the market happen - Ann and Fred Bowman, Molly Buckham, Paul Cutting, Dave and Shari Groendyk, Linda Kerr, Larry and Lorrie Loeks, Larry Vanderbeek, and Vicki Vanderheyden! A special thank you to our Seed Supporters at the market, Chad and Emily Beutel, Ann and Fred Bowman, Dave and Shari Groendyk, Linda Kerr, Nick and Betsy Loeks and Rebecca Steele of Sinsational Cookie, for donating to the market last year. Their tax-deductible contributions are helping to raise additional market funds to purchase a PA System for the pavilion in 2017 to increase our emergency preparedness, as well as our capacity for special events.

In 2016, the farmers' market was again a central community gathering place for Texas Township and surrounding communities. Over the course of the season, 60 vendors sold at

the market, supporting and growing their local businesses, while nearly 3,000 shoppers came out each week during the peak summer season to buy from those vendors and enjoy this special, community event. The market also began accepting credit and debit cards centrally at the Information Table, as well as the food assistance programs in which it has participated since 2012. These programs have helped put more than \$17,000 in local food on the tables of families in our community since then, and the new credit and debit program brought more than \$7,500 in sales to make purchasing Fresh on Q! goods easier than ever.

The Texas Township Farmers' Market will kick off its ninth season on Saturday, May 13 – mark your calendars!

The market will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through May 13th through October 21st and on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. from June 6th through August 29th. Follow the market on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasTownshipFarmersMarket/> or visit our website at www.texastownship.org/farmers-market.

2017 Road Projects

Following careful review of the current township road conditions and the 10 year road maintenance plan, the Texas Township Road Committee and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County prepared a list of 2017 Road Projects, which were approved by the Township Board last November.

In an effort to ensure that the tax dollars committed to road projects are used efficiently, the Road Committee and Township Board placed a greater emphasis on road maintenance in 2017. Instead of high-cost Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) projects, the township is pursuing Crack Fill projects, which will prevent further damage to the roads until Chip Seal/Fog Seal can be applied. The Chip Seal/Fog Seal process uses a smaller aggregate, which will result in an HMA-like road for a fraction of the price. The township completed a test Chip Seal/Fog Seal project on Swallow Ave in 2016 and experienced very positive results. Please see below for a list of the projects taking place in 2017.

Location	Type	Cost
About the Township	Crack Fill	\$108,023
Mystic Trail	Chip Seal/Fog Seal	\$125,269
Finnagen (Q to PQ)	HMA	\$ 88,327
Texas Heights (off of 8 th St)	HMA	\$204,275
	Total	\$628,347



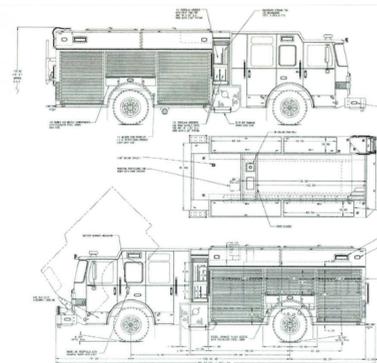
RCKC CONNECT | Road Project Notification System



To stay up-to-date with road construction projects and receive notifications about road closures in Texas Township, please sign up for RCKC Connect. This service, provided by the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, will send out email notifications when a road project is happening in your community.

Learn more at <https://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/>

Texas Township Fire Department Purchases New Fire Rig



To ensure the continued safety of Texas Township residents, the Township Board approved the purchase of a new firetruck. The new truck will replace Rescue Vehicle #1151 and greatly aid the Fire Department in their emergency operations. The Fire Department is finishing the customization of the designs and the construction process will take approximately nine months.

Fire Department Hydrant Marker Installation Program

Late last year, the Texas Township Fire Department, in conjunction with local Eagle Scouts, installed hydrant markers on all of the fire hydrants in Texas Township. These markers are crucial to enhancing hydrant visibility, especially in winter months.

Zach Zlomek, a local Eagle Scout, coordinated the efforts of 28 other volunteers and ensured that the project was a success. Over 500 service hours were required to complete this project. The Fire Department and Township Board would like to extend a special thank you to Zach and all of the volunteers who assisted in this project.

Household Hazardous Waste

The Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center, located at 1301 Lamont Avenue, is an excellent resource for Texas Township residents looking to dispose of paint, oil, fuel, batteries, and more. Texas Township's partnership with the HHW allows Texas Township residents to dispose of their materials in a safe manner, for no charge to the resident.

Kalamazoo HHW Hours of Operation

Tuesday & Friday | 8am-1pm
 Wednesday | 12pm-6pm
 Second Saturday of the Month | 8am-12pm

For a full list of accepted and non-accepted items, please visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm.



Fire Department Accepting Applications for Paid On Call FFs

The Texas Township Fire Department is currently seeking applicants for paid on-call positions within the Fire Department. If you are interested, please complete the application form available online and submit to the Fire Department.

For more information about becoming a Paid On Call Fire Fighter and the selection and training process, please visit our website at: <http://fire.texastownship.org/> or contact Fire Chief Chad Tackett at 269.375.4610 or ctackett@texastownship.org.



Shred Day

Mark your calendars now as Shred Day will only be held once in 2017! On Saturday, May 6th from 9am-12noon, Rapid Shred will once again be disposing of sensitive documents in a safe and secure manner in their mobile shredding truck, located at the Texas Township Hall. Please note that there is a 6 standard file sized box limit. There is no cost to participate in Shred Day, however, we do encourage participants to provide either a non-perishable food item, or cash donation, to the Mattawan Area Food Pantry.

Assessing Hours Change

Beginning January 1, the Assessing Department is now open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during normal business hours. If you have a question for the Assessor, please call ahead to schedule an appointment to ensure they are in the office and not working in the field.

Cemetery Sinking Fund

The Texas Township Board recently created a sinking fund for maintenance of monuments and foundations in Hope and Virgo Cemetery. If you would like to support the cemetery maintenance program, please contact Clerk Linda Kerr. All donations are tax-deductible and will be applied directly to the maintenance fund.

Purchase Dog Licenses Now Thru March 1st

The Township Office is selling dog licenses now through March 1st. All dogs in Kalamazoo County are required to be licensed after four months of age. Stop in with proof of a current rabies vaccination and get your dog's license today! After March 1st, licenses can be purchased at Kalamazoo County Animal Services.

- Altered License Fee: \$10
- Unaltered License Fee: \$40

Please note a 3% service charge applies to all credit card transactions.



Upcoming Events

- Winter 2016 Tax Deadline**
Tuesday, February 14th
- March Board of Review**
Appointments beginning Monday, March 13th
- May Election**
Tue May 2 | Polls Open 7am-8pm
- Shred Day**
Sat May 6 | 9am-12noon | Texas Township Hall
- Farmers' Market 9th Season Open**
Sat May 13 | 8am-12noon | Texas Twp. Pavilion
- Dumpster Days**
Begin Sat Apr 1 | 9am-12pm | 6321 S. 6th Street

Learn more about upcoming events and meetings online at www.texastownship.org.