

the STAR



7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
www.texastownship.org
269.375.1591

Office Hours: Mon - Thu | 7:30am - 5:30pm
Passports: By Appointment Only
f /chartertownshipoftexas

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JAN-MAR 2018

2017 Farmers' Market Holiday Market Recap

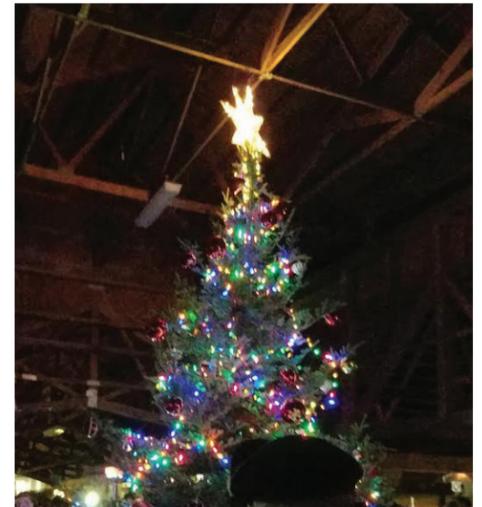
The fifth Texas Township Holiday Farmers' Market and Tree-Lighting Ceremony brought our community together on Saturday, November 18 for a festive, annual celebration of the season. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the farmers' market and made this year's event another success!

In spite of the chilly, wintery night, thousands of shoppers joined the 28 vendors 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 heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who made this event – and our 2017 farmers' market season – a success, including all of our amazing vendors and to all of the shoppers who came out to support the market, both at our special holiday market and throughout the regular season.

The farmers' market is the gathering place for our Texas Township community and neighboring areas. It brings nearly 60 vendors to the market over the course of each season, supporting and growing their local farms and businesses, while about 2,500 shoppers came out each week during the peak summer season to buy from those vendors and enjoy this special, community event.

The Texas Township Farmers' Market will kick off its tenth season on Saturday, May 12, 2018 – mark your calendars! The market will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through October 20, 2018 and on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. from June 5 through August 28. Follow the market on Facebook and Instagram or visit our website at www.texastownship.org/farmers-market.



Save the Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018 | Start of the 2018 Farmers' Market Season!

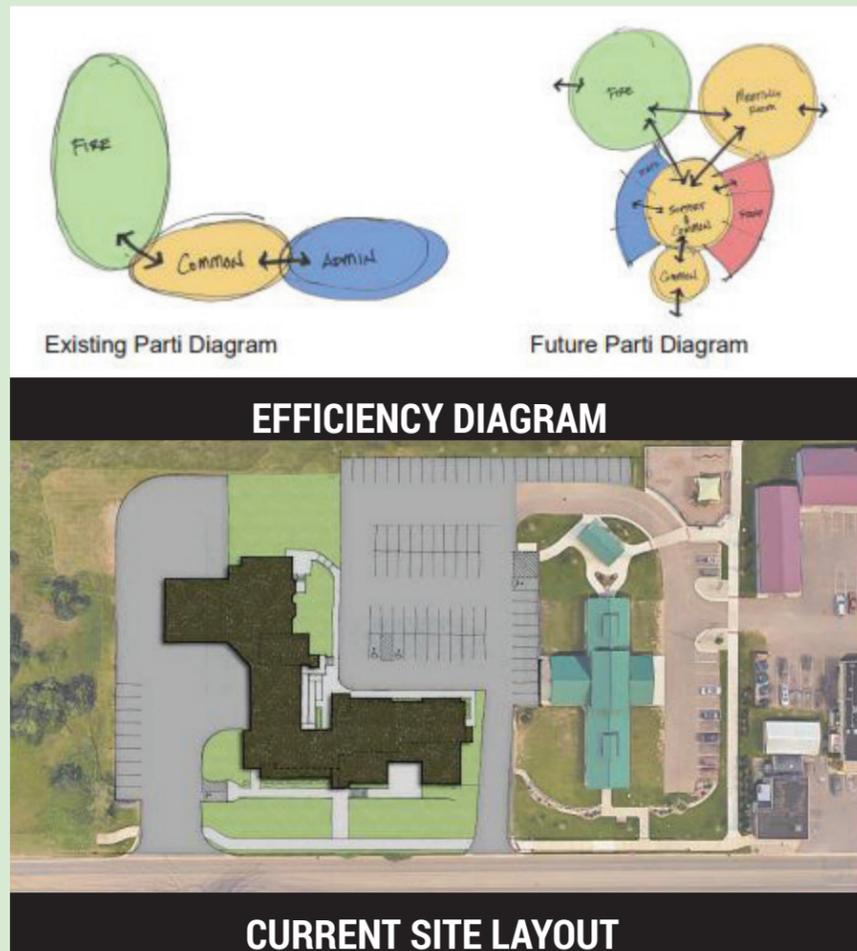
Township Hall Design Project Beginning in 2018

In 2016, the Township Board began evaluating the capacity and design of the current Township Hall. Over the summer of 2016, the Township Board conducted a feasibility study, which outlined several areas of inefficiency and limitation with the existing facility. At the conclusion of this process, the board decided it was time to solicit proposals from qualified architectural design firms to develop conceptual designs of a new/redesigned facility.

After interviewing several qualified firms, the Township Board hired Progressive AE, an architectural firm based in Grand Rapids, to work with staff, administration, and the community at large to develop a conceptual design of a new/redesigned township hall.

On February 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Progressive AE will be hosting a community engagement workshop to seek the input and insight of our residents regarding potential changes to the township hall. This workshop is open to the public and will be held at the Township Hall. We do ask that you RSVP early at www.texastownship.org. so we have an idea of how many will be attending.

We look forward to partnering with Progressive AE and our residents to design a facility that will maximize the efficiency of our operations and meet the needs of our community.



Winter Taxes Due On February 14th

Your 2017 Winter Property Tax bill (and any unpaid Summer Taxes previously billed) are due in the Township Office no later than 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14th. Any payment placed in our Drop Box (located on the west side of the Township Hall Parking Lot) will be recognized as an "on-time" payment. Any payments received after 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, 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!

On March 1, 2017 any outstanding Summer and Winter Taxes will be transferred to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer and payments must be made at their office (201 West Kalamazoo Avenue). If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 269.375.1591.

Mandatory Sewer Connections: What You Need to Know

On November 13, 2017 the Township Board adopted Ordinance 328, which requires all homeowners and businesses with access to an available public sanitary sewer system to connect to that system within a period of five years. Public sanitary sewer is the cleanest and safest way to treat wastewater and over the past forty years, the township has made a significant investment in extending the public sanitary sewer system to further protect the environment and water quality of Texas Township. This Ordinance will ensure that the systems that are currently in place are utilized to the fullest extent. However, there are some key factors that will determine who is required to connect and who is not. **First and foremost, you are only required to connect to public sanitary sewer if it is currently available in front of your home or commercial building.** You will also be required to connect if the system is extended and becomes available in front of your home or commercial building.

Homes & Commercial Buildings Constructed Before November 1, 2017

- If your home or commercial building was constructed before November 1, 2017 and is **located within 200 feet** of an available sanitary sewer system, you must connect within a period of five years.
- If your home or commercial building was constructed before November 1, 2017 and is **further than 200 feet** from an available sanitary sewer system, you are not required to connect.

Homes & Commercial Buildings Constructed November 1, 2017 or After

Any homes or commercial buildings constructed November 1, 2017 or after must be connected to an available sanitary sewer system, no matter the distance of the structure to the available service. (Example: If you construct a home that sits 1,000 feet from the roadway and the public sanitary sewer system is available in front of your home, you will be required to connect.)

Homeowners and businesses that will be required to connect to public sanitary sewer will receive a written notification from the Township Office in April of 2018. Upon delivery of this notification, the five year mandatory connection period will begin. If you have questions, please contact the Township Treasurer at 269.375.1591.

Fire Dept. Welcomes New Apparatus

At the end of 2016, the Township Board approved the purchase of a new fire engine to aid the emergency operations of the Texas Township Fire Department and ensure the continued safety of Texas Township residents. After nearly 12 months of construction, the new engine is finished! We are pleased to welcome this new addition to our fleet!



Ordinance Reminders

The Ordinance Enforcement Officer would like to remind all residents about a few common violations in Texas Township.

Parking in the Front Yard: The parking of boats, campers, snowmobile trailers, and such cannot be parked in the front yard. However, they may be parked on your driveway, side yard, or rear yard.

Accessory Buildings: Accessory buildings are allowed, however the Zoning Ordinance may limit the size and placement of an accessory building on your site depending on the zoning classification of your parcel.

Please contact the Planning Department at 269.375.1591 for your district's specific regulations.

The Township Board recently adopted Ordinance 327 to allow accessory buildings in the front yard of residential, agricultural and resource conservation districts. Applicants must follow two key requirements: Accessory buildings less than 900 square feet or 2% of the front yard buildable area, whichever is less, are permitted in front yards on non-riparian lots provided the applicable minimum front yard setback is doubled. Front yard accessory buildings over 900 square feet may be granted a special exception use in accordance with Section 36.4.2. See the Township website for further details.

Building Projects

If you are planning any building projects in 2018, please contact the Building Department prior to construction.

There are several projects such as a fence, shed, deck, or pool, that may be impacted by zoning regulations and we recommend that you consult with the Building Department prior to construction. They will also supply you with information on what permits may be required for your project.

If you are interested in doing any construction or additions to your home, we strongly encourage you to start your project with a phone call to the Building Department at 269.375.1591!

Approved 2018 Road Projects

As the snow begins to melt this spring, you may notice that some roads are in rough shape after the thaw. In the community survey that was completed in the summer of 2017, you, the residents, noted that roads are one of the top priorities the Township should be focusing on.

There are three types of roads presently in our Township: primary roads (the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County or RCKC is responsible to fund the maintenance), local roads (Township is responsible to fund the maintenance) and private roads (usually funded through condo fees).

Currently, the local road maintenance projects are funded through three sources.

1. \$60/parcel special Township assessment (included in your taxes),
2. \$150,000 from the Township general fund,
3. Participation (PAR) funds provided by the RCKC

PAR funds are monies given to the townships to help fund road maintenance projects. They are a dollar-for-dollar match up to an amount assigned by RCKC. We accomplish the match through the special assessment and general fund allocation. **The total amount we have budgeted to spend this year (including all funding sources) is approximately \$900,000.**

How roads are prioritized for maintenance

Each year the RCKC makes road maintenance recommendations to the Township. There are typically four options for road maintenance: crack filling, hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay, chip seal, and chip seal + fog seal. Your Township Road Committee is responsible for evaluating RCKC's recommendations and establishing a list of projects to present to the Township Board.

The local road maintenance projects adopted by the Township Board for 2018 are as follows:

Chip Seal

- RS Avenue - 2nd Street to 6th Street

Chip Seal + Fog Seal

- Applegate - Percheron and Belgian Ave.
- Pine Island Drive N
- Pine Island Drive S
- Rolling Pines subdivision
- Bay Ridge subdivision
- Timber Highlands subdivision
- Glenwynd St.
- Autumn Woods (various roads)
- The Glades Subdivision

HMA Overlay

- Mattawan Heights subdivision
- Atwater Ct.
- Rudgate (various roads)
- Paw Paw Lake Drive - RS Avenue to S Avenue

Several primary road projects (funded entirely by RCKC) in the Township are also scheduled for 2018:

- 9th Street - Cracker Barrel Drive to I-94 - HMA Overlay
- 3rd Street - Q Ave to P Ave - Chip Seal + Fog Seal
- 6th Street/PQ Avenue - N Avenue to 5th Street - Chip Seal + Fog Seal
- Q Avenue at 10th Street - New Traffic Signal

Please contact the Township office if you have any questions regarding road maintenance projects.

Township Board Evaluating 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Project Proposals

Each year, the various Boards and Committees in Texas Township submit capital improvement projects to the Planning Commission and Township Board for consideration of approval and funding. The CIP process assists the Township Board with guiding township development and prioritizing project funding. In 2017, the following projects were submitted for review and scoring to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommended that the Township Board approve and fund those projects receiving 80 points or greater. The Township Board is in the process of reviewing the projects and available funding to determine which projects they'd like staff to implement in 2018.

CAPITAL PROJECT SUMMARY LIST AND RANKING

Project Year: 2018-2019

Year	Department	Project Title	Project Ranking	Total Points
2018	Parks & Trails Committee	9 th Street & I-94 Overpass Sidewalk	T-6	93
2018	Parks & Trails Committee	6 th Street Park Phase I	T-6	93
2018	Parks & Trails Committee	Texas Drive Sensory Garden	17	68
2018	Parks & Trails Committee	Al Sabo Parking Lot	4	95
2018	Cemetery Committee	Expansion of Hope Cemetery	T-9	82
2018	DDA	CBD Planning/Design/Traffic Study	2	107
2018	DDA	CBD Fiber Network Installation	11	80
2018	DDA	CBD Placemaking	5	94
2018	Road Committee	Road Project Funding	1	114
2018	Fire Department	SBCA Fill Station Proposal	15	74
2018	Fire Department	Apparatus Bay-Infrared Heaters	8	84
2018	Fire Department	Building Improvements - Upgrade Plymovent System	12	79
2018	Fire Department	Needs Assessment Consultation	20	57
2019	Parks & Trails Committee	Texas Drive Park Splashpad & Playground	19	59
2019	Parks & Trails Committee	6 th Street Park – Acquire 46 Acres Fronting on 8 th St	T-9	82
2019	Parks & Trails Committee	Texas Drive Park – 8 Pickleball Courts	18	65
2019	Parks & Trails Committee	Texas Drive Park – Picnic Shelter & Walkways	14	76
2019	Fire Department	Parking Lot Repair/Seal & West End Drain Repair	16	69
2019	Administration	Township Hall Construction Costs	13	78
2018	Planning Commission	West Eagle Lake Sewer Extension	3	105

Winter Safety Tips From the Fire Dept.

Winter can be a dangerous season for motor vehicle travel. As such, the Fire Department has the following tips to keep you safe:

- Make sure you have appropriate winter/snow tires.
- Be extra vigilant to avoid a low fuel tank; refuel once your fuel tank is half empty.
- Prepare a winter survival kit to keep in your vehicle. Recommended items include: flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots, and first-aid kit.
- Load your vehicle with winter travel gear including an ice scraper/snowbrush, jumper cables, and road flares.
- Always maintain additional space with the vehicle in front of you.



Corners Coins Promotion Update

Last summer, the Downtown Development Authority launched "Corners Coins" - a promotion involving the sale of wooden tokens (valued at \$5.00) to promote local business in Texas Corners. Corners Coins have been a hit and both individuals and businesses have purchased and gifted the coins to friends, family, coworkers, employees, and more. If you are looking for a small gift idea, we encourage you to stop in the Township Hall and purchase your Corners Coins today! For a list of participating businesses, please visit www.texastownship.org/downtown-development-authority.



2018 Township Board Meeting Schedule

The Texas Township Board of Trustees meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted*) at 6:00 p.m. We encourage you to attend these meetings to learn more about what's happening in Texas Township! Below are the approved 2018 meeting dates.

January 8	July 9
January 22	July 23
February 12	August 13
February 26	August 27
March 12	September 10
March 26	September 24
April 9	October 8
April 23	October 22
May 7*	November 12
May 21*	November 26
June 11	December 10
June 25	<i>(No 2nd Dec. Meeting)</i>

Township Tributes

The Township Board of Trustees would like to recognize the following individuals who recently retired after serving on a Board or Commission for 9 years or greater. Thank you for your outstanding service and commitment to our community!

Clare Todd

Served on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1983-2017

Jodi Graham

Served on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1999-2017

Tim Peters

Served on the Board of Review from 2001-2017

Bill Saunders

Served on the Planning Commission from 2008-2017

2018 Election Dates



In 2018, Texas Township residents will have the opportunity to vote in the two (or possibly three*) elections, which will be held on the following dates:

- **May 8, 2018 | Local Election**
Only Kalamazoo Schools (Precinct 3) at this time
- **August 7, 2018 | State Primary**
- **November 6, 2018 | State General**

Polls will be open from 7am until 8pm, and this is the first opportunity Texas Township residents will have to utilize the new election equipment.

For more information please visit our website at www.texastownship.org/elections.

Dog Licenses Now Available

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.*



Winter Snow Removal



Please note that the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County is responsible for all snow removal on public roadways in Texas Township. If you have a question or concern about snow removal in your neighborhood, please contact the Road Commission at 269.381.3171.

You may also submit a service request online at the RCKC website: www.kalamazoocontyroads.com.

Additionally we'd like to ask all residents with public sidewalks to participate in winter maintenance and clear sidewalks adjacent to your home of snow and ice. These sidewalks provide safe routes to schools, bus stops, and other important destinations. The Fire Department would also appreciate your assistance in clearing any snow around fire hydrants located near your home. Clear access to fire hydrants is imperative so that in an emergency, firefighters may immediately attach the fire hoses that are used to fight fires.

Assessment Notices

The Assessor's Office will be mailing out assessment notices in February. These notices indicate the True Cash Value, State Equalized Value, and Taxable Value of your home.

When you receive your notice, be sure to check 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.

Residents do have the opportunity to appeal their assessment at the March Board of Review. 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. Please note that the Assessor holds regular office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



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www.texastownship.org



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