

the STAR

Charter Township of TEXAS
 7110 West Q Avenue
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009
www.texastownship.org
 269.375.1591
 Office Hours: Mon - Thu | 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Fri | 8:00am - 12:00pm
 Passports: By Appointment Only
 /chartertownshipoftexas

PUBLISHED BY THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS

SUMMER 2018

Farmers' Market Celebrates its 10th Season



The Texas Township Farmers' Market marks its tenth year in our community, and now is the time to celebrate during peak produce season – the time of peaches and sweet corn, melons, raspberries, green beans, cucumbers, heirloom tomatoes and so much more. Vendors' tables are overflowing with the harvest, and in addition to the bountiful fruits and veggies, shoppers can find fresh cut flowers, locally raised meats, eggs and dairy products, freshly baked breads and baked goods, specialty items, ready-to-eat foods and so much more!

The market is open Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. through October 20, while our Tuesday afternoon market wrapped up on August 28, just before Labor Day and the start of school.

The farmers' market is the gathering place for our Texas Township community and neighboring areas. It brings more than 50 vendors to the market over the course of each season, supporting and growing their local farms and businesses. The market also features many ways to pay, including cash, credit and debit, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Double Up Food Bucks, and WIC and Senior Project FRESH. Visit the Information Table at the East end of the pavilion for more information, to swipe your card for market tokens, or to purchase a Farmers' Market reusable bag.

Follow the market on Facebook and Instagram or visit our website at www.texastownship.org/farmers-market.

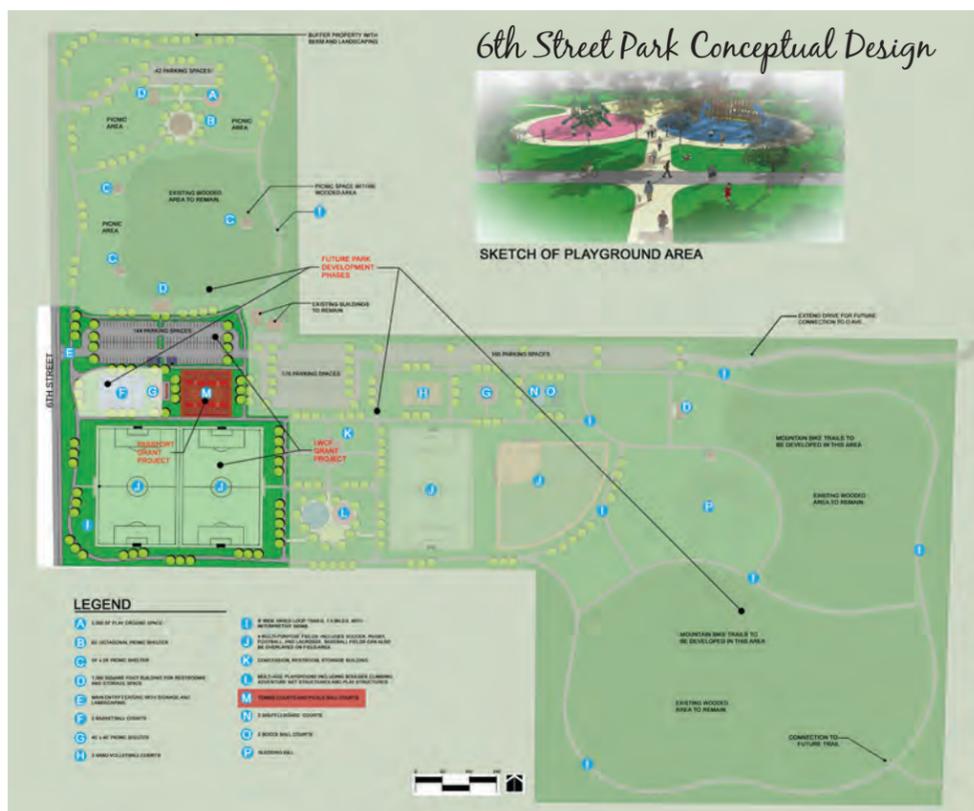
Save the date for the Holiday Farmers' Market - Saturday, November 17 from 4p-7p!

Parks Update

Texas Township was awarded a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water grant of \$150,000 with a township match of \$150,000 to construct two multi-purpose sports fields, walking trail around the fields and parking lot at our 6th Street Park (6321 S. 6th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009). We have hired Viridis Design Group as our prime professional to oversee the project. We plan on putting the project out to bid this fall with hopes to start construction in the Spring of 2019.

Additionally, in 2018, Texas Township also applied for a Michigan DNR Passport grant with the assistance of Pickleball Outreach, Inc., to construct eight pickleball courts also at the 6th Street Park. We hope to hear if the grant will be awarded in December.

Interested in renting a sports field at the Texas Drive Park or the Texas Drive or Farmers' Market Pavilion? Call our office at 269.375.1591 or learn more on the website at www.texastownship.org/parks-facilities.



Learn more at www.texastownship.org/parks-facilities

2018 Election Information

The August 7th Primary Election had a record-setting voter turnout in Texas Township and Kalamazoo County—thank you for voting!

Our next election will be the **November 6, 2018 State General Election**.

Polls will be open from 7am until 8pm, and voters will have the opportunity to utilize the new election equipment, including the new touch-screen Voter Assist Terminals.

Don't forget - the deadline to register to vote for the General Election is October 9!

Want to vote absentee? Come to the Township Hall to complete an application, or download it from www.texastownship.org/elections. The Township Hall will also be open Saturday, November 3 from 9:00a-2:00p to issue and process absentee ballots.

For more information, please visit our Elections page on the website at www.texastownship.org/elections.

Not sure if or where you're registered or where you vote? Find your voter registration information, polling location, and ballot sample at

www.michigan.gov/vote



Flooding Update

The Township staff and Board are aware of the many flooding and water issues in our Township, which has been one of the hardest hit areas in the region. With lake and groundwater levels at the highest recorded in recent history, we know that many of our residents are struggling.

Township officials have been working with residents, the Office of the Drain Commission, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, and other resource officials to assist in those areas most severely impacted. Since the flooding began in early spring, the Township has hosted three Board of Determination hearings with the Drain Commission to address flooding in residential areas.

Most of the surrounding areas have seen a significant reduction in flooded areas. Unfortunately, Texas Township has not.

Recently, the Township Board met with the Eagle Lake Association and Crooked Lake Association boards and a civil engineer specializing in hydrology from Prein & Newhof to discuss our current situation and investigate ways to provide relief now and to prevent future flooding crises. Stay tuned to future Board meetings for updates on that conversation as we gather more information. We appreciate everyone who has respected the "No Wake" requests on the lakes. This continues to prevent further property damage.

The Township is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), so our residents are eligible for flood insurance (which is separate from your home insurance policy). Those located in the flood plains, which have been identified in our Township as Eagle Lake, Duck Lake and Weeds Lake, qualify for a reduced insurance rate through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Road Updates

I-94 Bridge Construction

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be improving the 9th Street bridge over I-94. Construction includes deck repairs, railing replacement, addition of a sidewalk, slope wall replacements, concrete surface coating, and approach work. The Township has partnered with MDOT to construct a sidewalk on either side of the bridge.

This project will extend the life of the bridge and roadway, improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve the ride quality for motorists.

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS: There will be single-lane closures on I-94 and 9th Street.

The 9th Street ramp to westbound I-94 will be closed starting July 30. The posted detour will direct motorists onto eastbound I-94, then the northbound US-131 exit ramp immediately to the westbound I-94 entrance ramp to westbound I-94.

Traffic Signal at Q Ave and 10th St

Installation of the new traffic signal at West Q Avenue and South 10th Street has been delayed, with the anticipated start date for that project now being in September.

This installation is expected to take 4-6 weeks. Q Avenue will be open to traffic with single-lane closures.

Road Closures

Due to continued flooding, South 8th St at Harrison Lake (near TU Ave) and West S Ave (between 6th and 8th St at Mudd Lake) are closed for driver safety.

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) continues to evaluate both roads regularly, but it will not be able to do a thorough evaluation until the water recedes. Please follow the posted detours and do not attempt to move the barricades.

RCKC website: www.kalamazocountyroads.com



LOL5K Raises Funds for Texas Township Friends of Parks & Trails



The 4th annual LOL5k, hosted by LAUGH Inc., hit Texas Corners on Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 9 am.

The course featured a run through our busy Saturday morning 'Fresh on Q' farmer's market, live music, spirit stations, and great post-race refreshments! The race is an annual community event and is open to men, women, and children. Children under 10 years of age were invited to attend a free kids fun run, "The Little LOL", on Friday evening, August 10, 2018. Texas Corner's own Lafayette Creamery donated ice cream to each participant of The Little LOL on Friday evening, and the Texas Corners Brewing Company released a special LOL5k brew the Friday night of race weekend, August 10.

The first 500 participants in the LOL5k received a \$5 Corners Coin, funded by the Downtown Development Authority, to support local Texas Corners businesses. Visit www.texastownship.org/dda to see participating businesses and information regarding where and how the Coins can be spent. Corners Coins can also be purchased at the Texas Township Hall and make a great holiday gift, with more than 15 businesses participating in the program.

With more than 500 participants, 100 volunteers, and the strong support of our sponsors, the LOL5k has been able to give more than \$10,000.00 to the Texas Township Parks and Trails in past years for development and expansion. Proceeds from the 4th annual LOL5k will again benefit the Texas Township Parks and Trails and LAUGH Inc. programming.

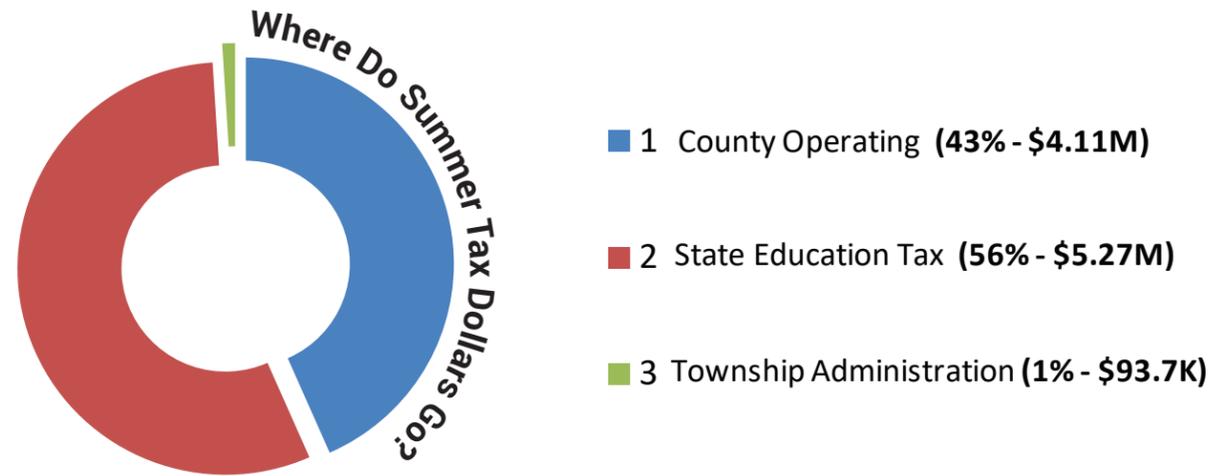
Visit www.texastownship.org/dda to see a list of businesses who participate in Corners Coins

Summer Taxes Due September 14th

Your 2018 Summer Property Tax bill is due in the Township Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 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 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15th will incur interest charges at a rate of 1% monthly.

We do not honor postmarks, so please mail early if paying by mail!

On March 1, 2019, 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.



Back-to-School Safety

With the summer months waning and fall on the way, the Township would like to remind residents of a few safety tips.

- Drive carefully in our community and in our neighborhoods. Don't speed, and pay attention to pedestrians and children playing. School will be back in session soon, and traffic safety is especially important with children boarding and unboarding school buses.
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended on a school bus, traffic must stop! The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Even with autumn on the way, temperatures are still very warm through the end of August and into September. Don't leave dogs or children in cars, which can reach dangerous, even fatal, temperatures quickly.



Mandatory Sewer Connections: What You Need to Know

In April, homeowners and businesses that will be required to connect to public sanitary sewer received a written notification from the Township Office with information about 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. The Township Board adopted this ordinance on November 13, 2017. Public sanitary sewer is the cleanest and safest way to treat wastewater, and over the past 40 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 ensures 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.)

If you have questions, please contact the Township Treasurer at 269.375.1591.

Township Welcomes New Staff

Texas Township welcomes several new staff members to our team:

- Rich McGrew, Building Official
- Jennie Miller, Planning/Zoning/Building Administrative Assistant
- Kayla Munch, Administrative Assistant

We wish to thank Bill Henderson, Kathy Multhaupt, and Karen Lochart for their years of service to the Township, and we wish them a happy retirement!



Pictured from left to right: Jennie Miller, Rich McGrew, Kayla Munch

Building Department Fees

At the July 9, 2018 meeting, the Township Board discussed and voted to adopt a new Residential Building Department fee schedule. This new schedule updates the fees based on the 2013 Bureau of Construction Codes Permit and Inspection Fee Schedule, which will simplify the process of calculating fees for various types of construction and square footages.

The Building Department fee schedule is available at the Township offices and is posted on the website at www.texastownship.org/building.

Questions about completing a building permit? Not sure if you need one for your next project? Contact the Building Department at 269.978.0715 to ask questions or schedule an inspection.

New Township Hours:

Effective April 30, 2018, the Township Hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Burn Permits

Recreational fires, as well as open burning of brush, leaves, and grass clippings, is allowed in most areas of Texas Township.

Each day prior to burning, you must obtain a permit online by calling the Fire Department at 269-375-4610 or completing the burn permit form online at textastownship.org/burning-permits. If you choose to call, you will have to first come to the Fire Station to review and sign the annual regulations.

The information contained in Texas Ordinance #206 (see textastownship.org/ordinances) must be followed at all times, or you will be in violation of the permit. Violations of the burning ordinance may result in the loss of burning privileges, fines and/or a civil infraction.

Dumpster Days

Texas Township offers a dumpster service to its residents on the first Saturday of the month from April-October (excluding July). This service is an excellent way for residents to dispose of extra household junk and debris.

The Dumpster Dates left this 2018 season are as follows:

- **Saturday, September 1st | 9:00am-12:00pm**
- **Saturday, October 6th | 9:00am-12:00pm**

Drop Off Location: 6321 South 6th Street | Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Please note that drop off is ONLY available on the dates specified above during the hours of 9:00am-12:00pm. Anyone who leaves items outside of the specified dates and times may be prosecuted. All residents choosing to partake of this service are required to unload their own vehicle, and there is a 10 minute time limit. Please note that a minimum fee of \$5 does exist (cash only please), but may increase depending on the size of the load.

To see a list of acceptable and unacceptable items for our Dumpster Day events, please visit www.textastownship.org/dumpster-service.

Need to get rid of hazardous materials? The Township contracts with the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Center to provide residents household hazardous waste disposal services for items like electronics, batteries, automotive products, cleaning products, and other hazardous items. Learn more at www.kalcounty.com/hhw.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ENEWSLETTER
Twice per year, the Township Newsletter will be distributed via email. To stay informed, please subscribe to The Star online at:
www.textastownship.org



7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor John Hinkle
jhinkle@textastownship.org



Clerk Linda Kerr
lkerr@textastownship.org



Treasurer Trish Roberts
troberts@textastownship.org



Trustee Wendy Mazer
wmazer@textastownship.org



Trustee Don Boven
dboven@textastownship.org



Trustee Tim Brown
tbrown@textastownship.org



Trustee Nick Loeks
nloeks@textastownship.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.textastownship.org.