

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
f /chartertownshipoftexas

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WINTER 2019

Flood Mitigation Funding Town Hall Meeting



At recent Township Board and Flooding Task Force Meetings, there has been conversation about holding a Town Hall Meeting to discuss funding options to pay for the cost of the flood mitigation. The expected cost for the short term solution is significant, and the Township must determine how and from what sources the project will be funded. Therefore, the stakeholders need to develop an appropriate formula to fund the short term solution as soon as possible.

To facilitate a conversation among the Township Board and Texas Township residents about the funding options, a Flood Mitigation Funding Town Hall meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) Dale B Lake Auditorium** (6767 W O Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009).

To read more about the flooding crisis, including weekly Flood Update e-newsletters, Flooding Task Force meeting summaries, the flood study report, and more, visit the Flooding Crisis page of the Township website at

www.texastownship.org/flooding

Parks and Trails Update

Projects at the 6th Street Park are underway, with plans for construction of two multi-purpose sports fields, a walking trail around the fields, and a parking lot to commence in the Spring of 2019. As part of the Township's Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water grant.

The Township also submitted for a MDNR Recreation Passport Grant earlier this year to install pickleball courts at that park and is awaiting word from the state on whether or not that project will be funded. Thanks to the Pickleball Outreach Organization for their support, as they pledged matching grant funds to support this project.



The City of Kalamazoo is investigating the feasibility of placing a water tower at the 6th Street park as well and is in the process of reviewing the area to ensure it is suitable. This tower will help improve water pressure for Township residents, as well as surrounding areas, and was identified as a need in previous surveys.

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



Thanks to LAUGHinc and the LOL 5K who donated \$3,000 to our Parks and Trail Committee! Their event has helped thousands of runners experience what we love about Texas Township and Texas Corners, and we appreciate their donations over the past four years to support our parks!

Winter Taxes due February 14

Your 2018 Winter Property Tax bill (and any unpaid Summer Taxes previous billed) are due in the Township Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 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 8:00 a.m. on Friday, 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, 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.

NEW online payment option for 2018 – Electronic Check Processing

Visit www.texastownship.org; Under *Quick Links*, select *Assessing & Tax Info*. In left column select "Current Tax Payment", follow instructions.

OPTION #1- CHECK (ACH) PAYMENT - \$3.00 flat charge for each transaction up to \$10,000.00; if over \$10,000.00, a \$10 fee is charged.

#2-CREDIT CARD – third party convenience fee of 3% on total amount paid will be added. The Township does not earn any revenue from ACH or credit card transaction fees.

2019 Road Projects

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 or special assessments).

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 local 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 \$992,448. Please note road projects and project totals are subject to change, as 2019 pricing for asphalt has not yet been established.

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 Township Board reviewed and voted to accept this list at the December 10, 2018 meeting.

Other updates:

Please note that S Avenue will be closed between 8th Street and 6th Street through the winter, and RCKC plans to evaluate the damage and plan for improvements in the spring.

Chip Seal/Fog Seal:

- Eagle Heights Drive - PQ Ave to 1,590' North of PQ Ave
- Eagle Terrace - PQ Ave to 707' North of PQ Ave
- Hidden Cove Place - 3,009' West of 8th St to 8th St
- Chateau Estates
- Rudgate

HMA Overlay:

- Crooked Lake Drive West - Q Ave to PQ Ave
- Colony Woods
- Maplewood Farms

Several primary road projects (funded entirely by RCKC) in the Township are also scheduled for 2019:

- 8th Street - Q Ave to O Ave and R Ave to S Ave - HMA Overlay
- 3rd Street - P Ave to OP Ave - Chip Seal/Fog Seal
- 5th Street - PQ Ave to Q Ave - Chip Seal/Fog Seal
- 12th Street - Texas Drive to near Parkview - Chip Seal/Fog Seal
- OP Avenue - 3rd St to 6th St - Chip Seal/Fog Seal

Township Hall Building Update



Progressive AE has been meeting with Board and staff throughout the year working on plans for the new Township Hall building. They presented the site plan at the December 18, 2018 Planning Commission meeting and will be coming back with some modifications in 2019.

Currently, this building project is on hold while the Board is making a determination on the feasibility of moving forward with the project while addressing critical flood issues.

Plans can be viewed in the December Planning Commission packet on the website, and revisions will be posted for a future meeting dates.

2019 Board Meetings

Meetings: 2nd & 4th Monday | 6pm
Committee of the Whole: Prior to the second meeting of the month | 5pm

**Meeting date adjusted from normal rotation*

January 14	July 8
January 28	July 22
February 11	August 12
February 25	August 26
March 11	September 9
March 25	September 23
April 8	October 14
April 22	October 28
May 6*	November 11
May 20*	November 25
June 10	December 9
June 24	(No 2nd Dec Meeting)

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 more than 10 years. Thank you for your outstanding service and commitment to our community!

Richard Craven

Planning Commission member, 2001- 2018

Greg Opdyke

Zoning Board of Appeals member, 2007 - 2018

Robert Smith

Board of Review member, 1996 - 2018

Community Safety Reminders

Winter Driving

Use care when driving on snowy or icy roads, and always maintain additional space with the vehicle in front of you.

Prepare a winter survival kit to keep in your vehicle – recommended items include: flashlight, batteries, a blanket, water, gloves, boots, and a first aid kit.

Pedestrian Traffic

With more sidewalks in the Corners and increased walkability, we're seeing much more pedestrian traffic crossing the roads to visit other businesses and the pocket park. Remember to slow down and exercise extra caution at the intersection of Q Ave and 8th Street at the pedestrian crosswalks.

School Safety

Slow down and use caution when school buses have their yellow lights flashing, and stop for red flashing lights!

Watch for children playing outside, especially in neighborhoods and near schools, parks and daycares, and use caution when driving in those areas.

Parks and Trails

Parks and trails are open from dawn to dusk, though some facilities may be closed during the winter. Please treat these common areas with respect so that everyone in our community can enjoy them.

When using the trail system, it's always a good idea to walk or bike with a friend for safety.



Building Department

Effective January 1, 2019, the Building Department will begin requiring 2 hard copies and 1 electronic copy of building plans being submitted. Commercial building plans or residential plans for more than 3,500 sq. ft are required to be sealed.

Just a reminder – you can also utilize our online system to apply and pay for permits or schedule inspections. Please call Jennie if you would like to be set up for this process 269.978.0715.

Farmers Market

Thanks to all the residents who came out for the Holiday Farmers' Market and Tree-Lighting Ceremony on November 17th - it was our biggest turnout yet!

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Fresh on Q! Farmers' market season, which will kick off on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.,
May 11 - Oct 19 &
Tuesdays, 4 - 7 p.m., June 4 - Aug 27**

Community Support

Thanks to all our residents who donated to our Mattawan Food Packs Peanut Butter & Jelly drive! We collected 41 peanut butters and 33 jellies! Mattawan Food Packs delivers food packs to students each Friday to ensure they have food over the weekend and has been making a difference in our community since 2011.

Our staff, Board and Committee members also adopted a family in Texas Township for the holidays, providing food and gifts.

Mandatory Sewer Connections

Ordinance 328, adopted in November 2017, 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

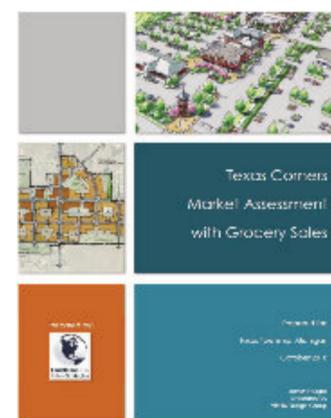
- If your home or commercial building was constructed before November 1, 2017 and is located within 200 feet of an available sanitary sewer system, you must connect within a period of five years.
- If your home or commercial building was constructed before November 1, 2017 and is further than 200 feet 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.)

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

Texas Corners Market Study



LandUse USA presented the final report of the Texas Corners Retail Market Study/Gap Analysis for the Corners Business District (CBD) to the Downtown Development Authority Board on November 22, 2018. Local businesses, developers, property owners and commercial realtors are encouraged to review the study to see the potential commercial opportunities in the CBD.

Some of the key findings included: 1) a market for a small specialty grocery store in the 10,000 to 14,000 sq. ft. Range; and 2) marketing strategies focused on capturing the impulse shopper, targeting infill tenants, allowing larger signage for retailers, building on success of restaurants in the district, stopping the leakage of sales from the township to surrounding areas, and building better connectivity and marketing to KVCC students.



Master Plan Update

The Township last developed a comprehensive Master Plan in 1999. It has been updated several times and is due for a full review in 2019. The Board approved funding in the 2019 budget, and the Township will be seeking a consulting firm through a Request for Qualifications in the coming months.

The Township will also be seeking input from stakeholders across the Township to ensure the process is inclusive and brings together a diverse group of residents and business owners. This group representing all facets of our community, from our agricultural sector to neighborhoods to the Corners Business District, will help develop a Master Plan and provide a vision for the Township's growth.

If you are interested in participating in the Master Plan update, contact Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Director, Steve Deisler, at 269.375.1591 or by email at sdeisler@texastownship.org.



Snow Removal

Please note that the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is responsible for all snow removal on public roadways in Texas Township. If you have a question or concern about snow removal on your road or 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.kalamazooountyroads.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.



Dog Licenses

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: \$15**
- **Unaltered License Fee: \$45**

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



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Twice per year, the Township Newsletter will be distributed via email.

To stay informed, please subscribe to The Star online at

www.texastownship.org

7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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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, please visit our website at www.texastownship.org.



Trustee Wendy Mazer
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Trustee Don Boven
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Trustee Tim Brown
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Trustee Nick Loeks
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