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.

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!
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 more pedestrian traffic crossing the roads to visit other businesses and the 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.

Park 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.

2019 Road Projects
There are three types of roads presently in our Township: primary roads (the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County or RCRC 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. $600/piece special Township assessment (included in your taxes),
2. $150,000 from the Township general fund,
3. Participation (PARR) funds provided by the RCRC

PARR 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 RCRC. 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 RCRC 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 RCRC’s recommendations and establishing a list of projects to present to the Township Board. The Township Board reviewed and voted to accept this list on the December 10, 2018 meeting.

Other updates:
- Please note that 5 Avenue will be closed between 8th Street and 6th Street through the winter, and RCRC plans to evaluate the damage and plan for improvements in the spring.

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 real estate 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 flood of new uses along Q Avenue, and promoting the holiday season through special events and marketing to KWCC students.

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 expanding 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 public 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.

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 submitted. Commercial building plans or residential plans for more than 3,500 sq. ft are submitted. Commercial building plans or residential plans for more than 3,500 sq. ft are submitted. Commercial building plans or residential plans for more than 3,50 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 jelly! 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 2013.
Our staff, Board and Committee members also adopted a family in Texas Township for the holidays, providing food and gifts.

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 potential changes 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 financial factors.
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

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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 Godyke
Zoning Board of Appeals member 2007 - 2018
Robert Smith
Board of Review member 1996 - 2018

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 Desler, at 269.375.1591 or by email at sdesler@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

Trustee Wendy Mazer
wmazer@texastownship.org

Trustee Don Boven
dboven@texastownship.org

Trustee Tim Brown
tbrown@texastownship.org

Trustee Nick Loeks
nloeks@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.

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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.

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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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