

the STAR



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

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SUMMER 2019

Texas Township Flooding Update

Flooding and high groundwater continue to be a problem in Texas Township and surrounding communities. The Township has been working for more than a year with lake association representatives, impacted residents, legislators, public safety and government agencies to pursue a short-term solution, which is currently in progress, and has begun conversations about a long-term solution.

The Department of Environmental Quality (now known as Michigan Environment, Great Lakes & Energy, or EGLE) issued a permit on March 29th which allows pumping 2,000 gallons per minute out of Crooked Lake into the wetland near Bentwood, where it makes it way to the natural outlet at Bass Lake and downstream. Pumping commenced from Crooked Lake on May 23rd after the filtration system and construction of the pipeline were installed. Pumping began from Eagle Lake into Crooked Lake the next week on May 30. With normal rainfall, the short-term project is expected to take 18 months to reach the drawdown goals.

To fund this short-term pumping project, the Township Board created the Flood Mitigation Special Assessment District on March 25th. All property owners in the district were notified by mail of their assessment amount, which will be collected with Winter 2019 taxes. The total amount can be paid off in full without interest by February 14th, 2020 or can be paid over three years with 1% interest. See below for more information about payment options.

After evaluating the results in the first month of pumping, Crooked Lake was responding more positively to pumping than Eagle Lake. In an effort to create equal drawdown, the Township Board authorized project engineers to increase the pumping rate of Eagle Lake into Crooked Lake, not to exceed 1,300 gallons per minute, at its meeting on July 8th. Lake levels, precipitation and pumping rates are updated weekly on the Flooding Crisis page of the website, www.texastownship.org/flooding.

Several roads are closed in Texas Township due to water over the road. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is stressing to the public that it is not safe to move or remove barricades or drive around them; they are in place to protect the safety of the motoring public and road maintenance operators. Even when you don't immediately see water, equipment or road maintenance operators, it is not safe to disregard the traffic signs and barricades.

Thanks to all who have volunteered time and resources to bag sand for impacted residents! We must continue to work together to see this project through.

The Township Hall building project is currently on hold while the Township is addressing critical flood issues. If you'd like to see proposed plans, they can be viewed in the December 2018 Planning Commission packet on the website.

www.texastownship.org/flooding



The filtration device was installed before pumping to ensure no invasive species, including zebra mussels or their larvae, can pass from Crooked Lake downstream.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ENEWSLETTER



To receive regular updates on the flooding, as well as other Township events, subscribe to The Star ENewsletter

www.texastownship.org/newsletter

Flood Mitigation Special Assessment District

If you own property or a residence in the Flood Mitigation Special Assessment District, you received a Notice of Assessment after the April 22nd public hearing that includes your parcel number(s) and the amount due.

Options for payment include:

1. **Pay the assessment in full** before February 14th, 2020 to avoid a 1% interest charge on the outstanding balance.
2. **Pay in installments.** Assessments will be billed in three equal installments on the 2019, 2020, 2021 winter tax bills. An interest rate of 1% will be applied on the outstanding balance beginning February 15th, 2020.

Please note the balance of assessment, including any accrued interest charges, may be paid off at any time.

Road Closures due to flooding include: (as of July 18, 2019)

- P Avenue – 3rd Street to 4th Street
- P Avenue – 3rd Street to Main Street in Mattawan
- PQ Avenue – 3rd Street to 5th Street
- O Avenue – 4th Street to 6th Street
- N. Eagle Lake Drive – E. Eagle Lake Drive to South 5th Street
- S Avenue – 6th Street to 8th Street
- S Avenue – 8th Street to 10th Street

Emergency Stabilizations have taken place on Treasure Island Drive, North Eagle Lake Drive and O Avenue near Glynwyn Drive.

Visit www.kalamazooocountyroads.com for updates.

Fresh on Q! Farmers' Market Celebrates 11th Season

Farmers' market season is in full swing in Texas Township! This time of year, vendor tables are filling up with the bounty of the summer season, like cherries, blueberries, raspberries and tomatoes, with sweet corn anticipated by the end of the month. Locally-raised meats are ready for the grill, fresh-cut flowers await a centerpiece spot on the table, and baked goods and specialty items

In addition to the market's Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., shoppers can get Fresh on Q! during the week on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. through August 27th. This weekday market is the perfect spot to get fresh ingredients to take home for dinner or enjoy a picnic with the family from the food trucks and prepared food vendors at the market each week. The Saturday morning market runs through October 19th, with the Holiday Farmers' Market and Tree-Lighting scheduled for November 23rd.

Both markets feature local farmers and food businesses selling their seasonal fruit and vegetables, meats, eggs, baked goods, preserves, honey, hot and ready-to-eat foods, cut flowers, plants, Michigan wine and so much more. Everything at the Fresh on Q! Farmers' Market is grown or prepared locally, either by the vendor selling it or a neighboring farm or business, and shopping at the market supports our community and local economy. Subscribe to the e-newsletter which goes out before each market to see what's in season and what vendors will be there each week or follow the market on Facebook and Instagram.

Don't have cash? Don't worry! The market also accepts credit and debit cards, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits via the Michigan Bridge Card, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC Project FRESH and Market FRESH. Visit the Information Table at the east end of the pavilion to learn more or to swipe your card in exchange for market tokens to spend with vendors. Visit www.texastownship.org/farmers-market to learn more.



On Saturday, August 10, 2019, LAUGH will be hosting the 5th annual LOL 5k in Texas Corners. The course will feature a run through our busy Saturday morning Fresh on Q! farmers' market, through the corners and the beautiful Applegate neighborhood community. Loaded with live music, spirit stations, and great food, the race is open to men, women, and children! Join us for our Little LOL, a kids' fun run Friday evening, August 9th, 2019.

Each year, LAUGH makes a donation to Texas Township Parks and Trails and has donated more than \$13,000 over the past five years.

Learn more or register now as a participant or a volunteer at www.lolsk.net.

Texas Township Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social & Carnival

Sunday, August 4 | 12 - 3 p.m. | Joyce I Neubauer Farmers' Market Pavilion

Please join us for the seventh annual Texas Township Fire Department Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social and Children's Carnival to be held Sunday, August 4th, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Joyce I Neubauer Farmers' Market Pavilion. The net proceeds from this event benefit Great Lakes Burn Camp and the Texas Township Firefighters Association.

Great Lakes Burn Camp (GLBC) provides a unique experience that promotes healing, self-esteem, confidence, and general well-being for burn injured children. Texas Township Firefighters Association provides community education programs on fire safety and supports firefighting career education through the Boy Scouts of America Explorers Program. The annual parade escorting Great Lakes Burn Camp campers and volunteers, riding in an array of fire rigs in a convoy of motorcycles, will pass through Texas Corners during the event at approximately 1:15 p.m.

In addition to ice cream and toppings, the carnival features a bounce house, fire brigade bucket toss, house of fire balloon board, firefighter duck pond, treasure hunt, disk drop and fire hose experience. All participants will have a variety of prizes from which to choose. The event is completely organized and staffed by volunteers from the Texas Township Firefighters Association, Township officials and staff as well as community volunteers.

For more information, please contact Don Koop at dkoop@texasfire.org or Frank Zlomek at fzlomek@texasfire.org.



Upcoming Events

- August 3 - Dumpster Day
 - August 4 - Texas Township Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social & Carnival
 - August 10 - LOL5K Run
 - August 27 - Last Tuesday Farmers' Market
 - September 2 - Labor Day (office closed)
 - September 7 - Dumpster Day
 - September 16 - Last Day for on-time Summer Tax Payments
 - October 5 - Dumpster Day
 - October 19 - Last Saturday Farmers' Market
 - October 26 - Tire Drop Off Day
 - November 5 - Election
 - November 23 - Holiday Farmers' Market & Tree-Lighting Ceremony
- For a full list of events, visit www.texastownship.org/calendar



Parks and Trails Grow in the Township

Township projects at the 6th Street Park are underway, with construction of two multi-purpose sports fields, a walking trail around the fields, and a parking lot. The project is funded in part by a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land and Water grant.

Unfortunately, the MDNR Recreation Passport Grant that the Township submitted for to install pickleball courts was not funded. The Parks & Trails Committee is currently investigating other funding options, including crowd funding, to move the project forward.

The City of Kalamazoo is investigating the feasibility of placing a water tower at the 6th Street park, which will help improve water pressure for Township residents, as well as surrounding areas, and was identified as a need in previous surveys. The City is also working with the Township to pave the Al Sabo parking lot off Texas Drive.

Eagle Scout Carter Borton researched, planned and recruited volunteers to complete a gaga pit at the Texas Drive Park as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Check it out during your next trip to the park!

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.



Carter Borton completed the gaga pit at the Texas Drive Park for his Eagle Scout Project.

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 this year. The Board approved funding in the 2019 budget, and the Township Board selected McKenna to lead the Master Plan process.

A newly created Steering Committee kicked off the Texas Township Master Plan update process on July 11th. Next steps include creating a website and an online survey to gather community feedback on the vision for the entire community. There will be public input opportunities throughout the 12 month process. Key community meetings will take place in the fall, winter, and spring at a variety of locations around the community.

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.



Burn Permits and Recreational Fires

A recreational fire means the burning of logs, brush, charcoal and other similar materials for the purpose of food preparation or recreation.

A daily permit is not needed for a recreational fire. Recreational fires are allowed in all areas of the Township. For a complete list of detailed guidelines and restrictions, refer to the Recreational Burning Ordinance on the Township's website.

Here are some of the general guidelines for recreational fires.

- Fires allowed when weather permitting. No fires during severe drought or high winds (over 10mph).
- Fire size restricted to no more than five feet in diameter and five feet in height.
- No closer than 30 ft of a structure or combustible material unless in a BBQ pit or unit.
- A method of extinguishing: Connected garden hose, buckets with water, shovels, or fire extinguisher.
- The fire must be constantly attended by a person who can utilize extinguishing equipment and must be fully extinguished after use and when not attended.

Open burning of leaves and brush is allowed in most areas of the Township by obtaining a daily permit.

There are two ways to obtain a daily permit.

1. Online Daily Burn Permit: Each day prior to burning, visit www.texastownship.org/burning-permits to complete the online application. If your street isn't found, you may be living in a no-burn area. Go back to the Burning Permit page to view the no-burn area map. During times of weather related burn bans, the online system will indicate that and no permits will be issued.
2. If you do not have access to the online system, you must still obtain a daily burn permit by telephone. Prior to burning for the first time each calendar year, you must come into the Township/Fire Department and read and sign the annual burning guidelines. Once you have, you will need to call the Fire Station at 269.375.4610 each day you plan to burn prior to burning. In the event that the Fire Department is involved in an emergency event, it's possible that no one may be available for a number of hours, so please attempt to call until someone is reached.

For detailed information on burning, please refer to the Burning Ordinance online at www.texastownship.org/ordinances under General Ordinances.

Building/Zoning Permits

Doing a summer project? Did you get your building or zoning permit? Many common projects, like remodels, re-roofs, sheds, barns, decks, fences and pools require a permit and inspections. Contact the Building Department at 269.978.0715 or visit www.texastownship.org/building or www.texastownship.org/planningzoningdevelopment for more information.



Shed or Barn



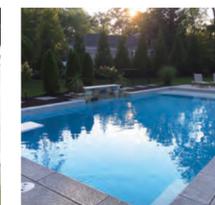
Deck



Re-roof



Fence



Pool



Outdoor Fireplace

Summer Taxes due September 16

Your 2019 Summer Property Tax bill is due in the Township Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16. Any payment placed in our Drop Box (located on the west side of the Township Hall Parking Lot) by 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 17 will be recognized as an "on-time" payment. Late payments will incur 1% interest each month.

Payment options for 2019

- **In Person** – by cash, check or by credit card. Credit card payments incur a 3% third party convenience fee.
- **Mail** – we do not honor postmarks, so please mail early.
- **Drop Box** – located on the west end of our parking lot.
- If using bill pay through your financial institution, please allow 10 business days for processing and delivery.

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

1. **OPTION #1 - CHECK (ACH) PAYMENT** - \$3.00 flat charge for each transaction up to \$10,000; if over \$10,000, a \$10 fee is charged.
2. **OPTION #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.

Dumpster Days

Texas Township offers a dumpster service to its residents on the first Saturday of the month from April-October (excluding July) at the 6th Street Park, located at 6321 South 6th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Upcoming 2019 Dumpster Dates are as follows:

- **Saturday, August 3rd** | 9:00am-12:00pm
- **Saturday, September 7th** | 9:00am-12:00pm
- **Saturday, October 5th** | 9:00am-12:00pm

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.

Please visit www.texastownship.org/dumpster-service for more information on acceptable and not acceptable items and other places to dispose of specific items.

Tire Drop Off Day

Texas Township will be hosting a Tire Drop Off Day at the 6th Street Park (6321 S. 6th Street) on Saturday, October 26th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Tires ranging in size from passenger vehicles to semi tires will be accepted. Prices are as follows:

Passenger Vehicle	Semi Tires
• \$3 Each	• \$10 Each
• \$5 If on a rim	• \$14 If on a rim

Drivers will be responsible to unload their own vehicle. No oversized tires (i.e. tractor, loader, etc.) will be accepted. Please note that this is a tire drop only, not a regular dumpster day. If you have any questions, please contact the Texas Township Hall at 269.375.1591.



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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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