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Here's a brief overview of what's happening in Texas Township this spring.

THE STAR

Spring 2021 eNewsletter

FEATURED NEWS

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We're updating our distribution list so we can deliver news that is of most interest to you. To ensure you don't miss out on important updates, please update your preferences via the link below. You may receive two emails as part of this process. Please check your spam filter for security confirmation emails.

[https://texastownship.us11.list-manage.com/profile?u=c108c446ab97f8390415632e7&id=baaca0ec6c&e=\[UNIQID\]&c=702a939363](https://texastownship.us11.list-manage.com/profile?u=c108c446ab97f8390415632e7&id=baaca0ec6c&e=[UNIQID]&c=702a939363)



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Facebook

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2021 Newsletter Schedule

January | Print Newsletter

April | eNewsletter

July | Print Newsletter

October | eNewsletter

Office Remains Open For Business

Occupancy Limits in Lobby & Entryway for Safety of Visitors and Staff

The Township Offices are open to the public. Appointments for most services (with the exception of passports) are not required. However, as vacation usage becomes more prevalent during peak spring/summer months, we do recommend you call our office to ensure availability of staff. The lobby and entryway is limited to two visitors at a time to ensure social distancing; masks are required for all staff and visitors. The last thirty-minutes of the normal workday is dedicated to sanitizing the office for the safety of staff and visitors.

Current public availability is as follows:

- Monday - Thursday: 8:00am to 4:30pm
- Friday: 8:00am to 11:30am

Please also note that while the Township Office was closed to the public for a brief period of time in March of 2020 (in accordance with State of Michigan Executive Orders), township staff has remained working in the office throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Remote work options are limited due to the township's IT infrastructure.

Township Hall Project

Township Board is Seeking Feedback on Proposed Relocation to Texas Drive Park



The Township Board is currently seeking resident feedback on a proposed new township hall and relocation of the Township Offices to a portion of Texas Drive Park.

Proposed Plan - New Township Hall

The current proposed plan is to construct a new 10,000 sqft facility on the SW corner of Texas Drive Park, utilizing

NUMBERS

Building Department

269-978-0715

Fire Department

269-375-4610

Kalamazoo County Dispatch

269-488-8911

Road Commission

269-381-3171

Drain Office

269-384-8117

Passport Service Now Available By Appointment Only

Traveling somewhere in 2021? We can help! Texas Township is once again offering passport service by appointment.

Appointments are available Mon - Thu from 9:00am to 4:00pm and can be scheduled online at: www.texastownship.org/passports.

Note: We do not process passport renewals.

[Schedule Now](#)

Flood Mitigation Efforts Still Underway

[Read Recent Flood Updates](#)

Proposed Plan - Existing Facility

A portion of the current facility would be utilized for expanded Fire Department operations and the portion containing the Township Offices would be demolished to provide additional parking space for the thriving Farmers' Market and downtown businesses.

[View the Proposed Site Schematic](#)

[View the Proposed Building Concept](#)

The Township Board has evaluated numerous options for site relocation, but has found other sites to be cost-prohibitive (approx. \$300-400k to acquire land).

The Township Board circulated a community-wide survey to gather input on site selection, planned park amenities, and more. **Survey responses received by April 19 will be included in final reporting to the Township Board.**

[Click here](#) to learn more about the proposed project.

[Complete the Survey](#)

May 4, 2021 Election

Special Election for Precincts 3, 4 & 5



The Clerk's Office is preparing for the upcoming May 4, 2021 Special Election, which includes a ballot proposal for KRESA for voters in Precincts 3, 4 and 5 only (Kalamazoo, Portage and Schoolcraft schools).

Check your voter registration information, see your ballot, request an absentee ballot and more at www.michigan.gov/vote.

[Michigan Voter Information Center](#)

The Township Hall will be open Saturday, May 1 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. for absentee voting, and polls will be open Tuesday, May 4 from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. for in-person voting at

virtually through the end of April. At the end of April, the Township Board will re-evaluate meetings based on current COVID-19 conditions.

April

Apr 03 | Dumpster Day

Apr 12 | Township Board Meeting

Apr 13 | Planning Commission Workshop

Apr 19 | Township Hall Community Survey Response Deadline

Apr 22 | DDA Meeting

Apr 23 | Special Township Board Meeting - Strategic Planning Session #1

Apr 24 | Special Township Board Meeting - Strategic Planning Session #2

Apr 26 | Township Board Meeting

Apr 27 | Parks & Trails Committee Meeting

Apr 27 | Planning Commission Meeting

Apr 28 | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Apr 29 | DDA Special Meeting

May

May 01 | Shred Day

May 08 | Farmers' Market Opening Day (tentative)

May 10 | Township Board Meeting

May 11 | Planning Commission Workshop

May 24 | Township Board Meeting

May 25 | Parks & Trails Committee Meeting

May 25 | Planning Commission Meeting

May 26 | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

May 27 | DDA Meeting

May 31 | Township Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Fresh on Q! Farmers' Market Opening



The "Fresh on Q!" Farmers' Market will tentatively open its 2021 season on Saturday, May 8 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will be taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These include requiring vendors – and shoppers – to wear masks, providing hand sanitizer at entry points, and practicing social distancing.

Things will look different in the farmers' market pavilion when we start this season. The market will begin with fewer vendors spaced throughout the building to increase distancing efforts. We are requiring that everyone take precautions and wear face masks while at the market and use hand sanitizer frequently. Please limit your shopping party to one person and refrain from bringing children to the market at this time. We hope that as the season progresses, we will be able to make the market feel and operate like it has in the past as a central place for our community to gather.

In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the website at www.texastownship.org/farmers-market to see a list of vendors who offer online sales and drop-off or delivery service to minimize shopping time and contact.

Tuesdays will tentatively begin June 1 and be open 4 to 7 p.m. through August 31.

The market will continue to accept 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.

Stay tuned to the website and the market Facebook

Tuesdays Begin (*tentative*)

Jun 08 | Planning Commission

Workshop

Jun 14 | Township Board Meeting

Jun 22 | Parks & Trails Committee Meeting

Jun 22 | Planning Commission Meeting

Jun 23 | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Jun 24 | DDA Meeting

Jun 28 | Township Board Meeting

Please visit texastownship.org for more upcoming events.

View the Township Calendar



Permits & Forms

[Building Permit](#)

[Electrical Permit](#)

[Mechanical Permit](#)

[Zoning/Land Use Permit](#)

Splash Pad Project

Township Board Supports Crowdfunding Plan

In March, the Parks & Trails Committee approached the Township Board about re-engaging the Splash Pad Project. The project began in 2014/2015 as part of the conceptual park design process for Texas Drive Park and the 6th Street Park. In 2015, the township applied for an MDNR grant to fund a substantial portion of the proposed project, which is intended to be installed at Texas Drive Park. Unfortunately, the grant was not awarded and due to lack of available funding, the project was put on hold.

The Parks & Trails Committee began discussing the project as part of their 2021 project prioritization. They approached the Township Board for support in creating a subcommittee and pursuing crowdfunding for the project. The current estimated cost of the project (which has been reduced in size so it's compatible with similar structures in other communities) is \$300,000-\$350,000. The Township Board was in full support of their efforts and committed to funding \$100,000-\$150,000 of the project. Over the next couple of months, the Splash Pad Subcommittee will be establishing donor levels and releasing information on how businesses and residents can contribute to the project. All donations will be tax-deductible.

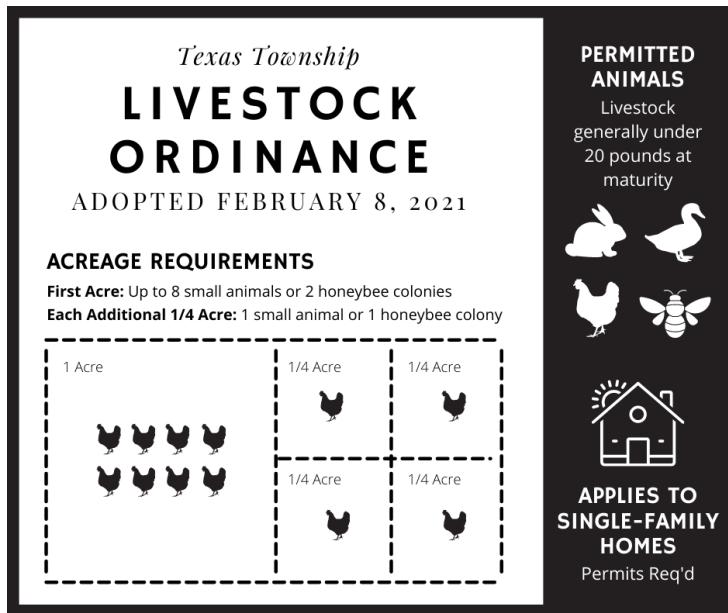
We are excited to resume work on this community project, which will enhance our parks and provide a space for families to safely gather outdoors.

Livestock Ordinance Adopted

As the desire for more sustainable living, and organic less processed foods has become more prevalent, urban or "backyard" farming has increased. Direct access to fresh food often includes a wish for small farm animals like chickens. While there are many benefits to backyard farming, there can also be undesirable consequences that must be considered.

To support residents who wish to grow some of their own food, the Township has adopted an ordinance called

opportunity to have small livestock and honeybees for their private use while providing minimum standards that help limit adverse impacts to neighboring properties. Some highlights of the ordinance include:



Shelters and enclosures are required with specific setback standards, and a waste management plan must be submitted to the Township.

For those properties located within platted subdivisions or site condominiums, a Special Exception Use permit is required from the Township Planning Commission. The keeping of livestock and honeybees in these types of developments requires an extra level of review to maintain residential character and good neighbor relations. If you are considering adding small livestock or honeybees to your single-family home, please review the Ordinance below or contact the Township Planning Department at planner@texastownship.org to get the particular regulations for your property.

[View the Livestock Ordinance](#)

American Rescue Plan Township Funds

At this time it is our understanding that the township will be receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan. While a preliminary figure of \$1.7M has been announced, this

Dumpster Days



Texas Township offers dumpster service to its residents several times per year. This service is an excellent way for residents to dispose of extra household junk & debris.

The 2021 Dumpster Dates are as follows:

- Saturday, April 3 | 9:00am-12:00pm
- Saturday, August 7 | 9:00am-12:00pm
- Saturday, October 2 | 9:00am-12:00pm

**Dumpster Day Location: Texas Drive Park
6603 Texas Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009**

[See What's Accepted](#)

Shred Day

Sat May 1 | 9am-12pm | Texas Township Hall



As a service to our residents, Texas Township hosts a Shred Day for residents to dispose of sensitive documents in a safe and secure way. We contract with Rapid Shred, who provides a large shredding vehicle to dispose of documents quickly. **Please note that there is a six standard file sized box limit.** There is no cost to

Kalamazoo County Purchases Rota-Kiwan

Plans Underway for Public Park

On March 17, 2021 Kalamazoo County purchased the former 212 acre camp Rota-Kiwan in Texas Township. The property will become the newest Kalamazoo County Park and will be named the Arthur E. & Mildred H. Woollam Nature Preserve. Now that the purchase is complete, Kalamazoo County Parks will begin the process of evaluating existing buildings and facilities and developing a master plan that will provide a vision for the future of the preserve. The recreation uses will be nature based and will utilize some of the existing facilities and new attractions will also be constructed. With over 60 buildings on the site, we are fortunate that some will be repurposed. Restrooms, picnic shelters, indoor meeting space and youth camp facilities are some of the existing buildings that may be reused. Opening the site for public use will be dependent on completion of master plan, capital improvements needed, and funding available.

At the April 8 Park Commission Meeting the Park Commission will begin planning for this exciting future. The future uses of the park will be focused on the incredible natural resources. Nature based activities may include hiking, picnicking, group picnic facilities, youth camp facilities, playgrounds, use of Bass Lake, and other passive recreation uses. The park will not include organized sport fields or facilities or other uses that will require large disturbance of the natural resources. In partnership with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the property will also be protected by a conservation easement that will protect the property from non-park uses and will preserve the parks unique natural resources.

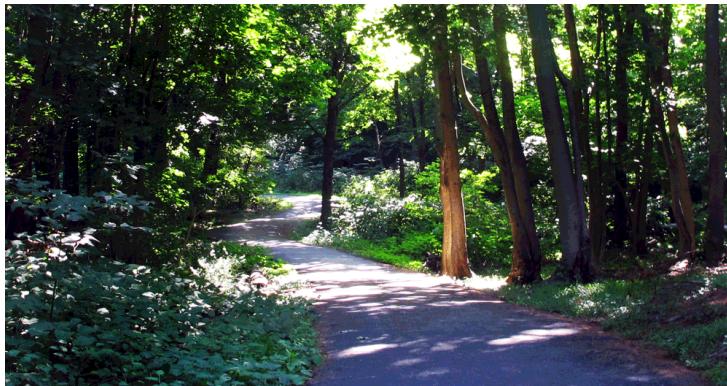
Next Steps:

- Evaluating and Documenting Natural Conditions of the property
- Evaluate existing structures, utilities, and physical infrastructure
- Partner with Parks Foundation for fundraising to improve the property
- Complete Master Plan – includes public participation
- Begin capital improvement projects

For those interested in participating in the planning process, you can email parks@kalcounty.com or call Kalamazoo County Parks at (269) 383-8778. Updates will also be posted at: www.kalamazooountyparks.com

Phase II Trailway

No Street Parking Allowed on Texas Drive



For the safety of all trail users and nearby residents, parking on Texas Drive is prohibited when using the Phase II Trailway or Al Sabo Preserve. There is parking available at the entrance to the trail in the Al Sabo Parking Lot, and overflow parking is available at the Texas Drive Park. Please use one of these two parking lots if you plan on using the trail.

[Overflow Parking Map](#)

Strategic Plan

Planning for the Future of Texas Township

This Spring, the Township Board will begin work on a new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan establishes priorities and objectives for the township to complete over the next five years. The [last plan](#) was adopted in October 2014 and established eight priorities, most of which have been implemented.

The strategic planning process will be led and facilitated by Dr. Lewis Bender, who has helped numerous municipalities develop plans to address the unique challenges in their respective communities.

meetings on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24 to facilitate this process. The board will be working with administration, department heads, and key committee representatives to establish strategic direction and goals for the next five years.

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

In the State of Michigan, cities and townships serve as the tax collection authority. We collect and distribute tax revenue to a variety of entities including the State of Michigan, Kalamazoo County, School Districts, Libraries, and more.

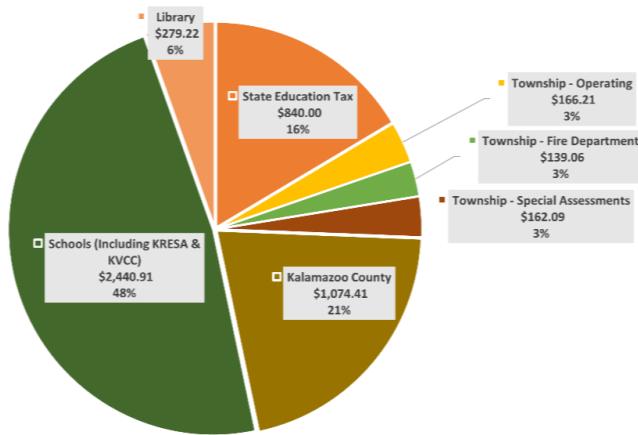
Below is a snapshot of where your tax dollars go. This example is based on a home located in Portage School District with an assessed value of \$140,000 and a principal residence exemption of 100%. *Figures vary based on school district and applicable special assessment districts*

While (in this example) the township collects \$5,101.90 in annual tax dollars, only ~9% of what is collected is actually retained by the township (\$467.36). The remaining 91% is passed on to other entities.

2020 Personal Tax Breakdown Example

Assessed Value: \$140,000 | Principal Residence Exemption: 100%

School District: Portage Schools

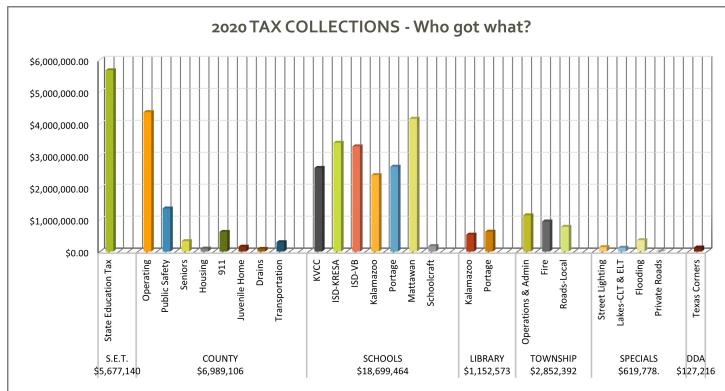


Tax Breakdown Example Detail

- Schools (Including KRESA & KVCC): 48% (\$2,440.91)
- Kalamazoo County: 21% (\$1,074.41)

- **Township - Operating:** 3% (\$100,211)
- **Township - Fire Department:** 3% (\$139.06)
- **Township - Special Assessments (Road Maintenance & Street Lighting):** 3% (\$162.09)

Additional Tax Collection Information



[2021 Estimated Revenue-Expenditure Chart](#)

Burn Permits



Daily Burn Permits may be obtained online. Please take advantage of this convenient method, as it will prevent a delay if the Fire Department is at an extended emergency scene. By obtaining the burn permit online, you will also save a trip to the station and be able to review the annual burning regulations.

Online Burning Permits

Sewer Maintenance Fee Implementation

SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater) Grant. The **SAW Grant** program is designed to help communities develop an asset management program for stormwater and wastewater collection systems.

From 2017 through mid-2020 the township conducted a physical inspection and evaluation of our sewer system. As a recipient of the SAW grant, the State of Michigan required Texas Township to implement a surcharge to enable the township to fund the maintenance, repair and replacement identified as necessary by the engineers.

On October 26, 2020, Baker Tilly Municipal Accounting with the help of Prein & Newhof Engineering, presented the results of the inspections, identified pipes and equipment that needed future repair or replacement and recommended a sewer maintenance fee beginning at 20% for all users of the system.

At the November 23, 2020 Board meeting, a 15% incremental maintenance fee was adopted, to be initiated by the City of Kalamazoo beginning in 2021.

The maintenance fee will help avoid using general fund dollars for a system utilized by less than one-half of our properties. The following capital expenditures are anticipated:

YEAR	Project Cost	YEAR	Project Cost	YEAR	Project Cost	YEAR	Project Cost
2021	\$219,600.00	2026	\$340,900.00	2031	\$346,100.00	2036	\$250,100.00
2022	\$1,146,600.00	2027	\$328,700.00	2032	\$396,000.00	2037	\$255,100.00
2023	\$396,100.00	2028	\$359,800.00	2033	\$4,678,800.00	2038	\$2,224,497.00
2024	\$338,200.00	2029	\$327,800.00	2034	\$571,536.00	2039	\$265,400.00
2025	\$315,100.00	2030	\$524,500.00	2035	\$245,200.00	2040	\$270,700.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS 2021-2040		\$ 13,800,733.00					

2021 Road Projects

Below are the approved 2021 road projects

Rehabilitation Projects (HMA Overlay)

- Riesling Street – PQ Avenue to Chianti Circle + Chianti Circle – PQ Ave to Riesling Street
- 10th Street – R Avenue to Q Avenue
- 10th Street – Q Avenue to Texas Drive
- Bel Villagio Drive – S Ave to Bel Shore Lane +
- Bel Shore Lane – 659' West of Pleasant Meadow Trail +
- Pleasant Meadow Trail – Bel Shore Lane to Bel Villagio Drive
- O Avenue – 4th Street to 6th Street
- Treasure Island Drive – Pepper Avenue to 2544' north of Pepper Avenue*

- Woods Drive – Treasure Island Drive to 934 North of Treasure Island Drive*
- Finnagen Street – PQ Avenue to Pepper Avenue

***Subject to lake levels**

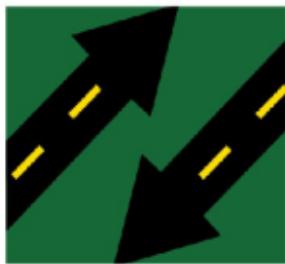
Preventative Maintenance Projects (Crack Fill, HMA Wedging, Chip Seal/Fog Seal)

- 2nd Street – RS Ave to R Ave
- 10th Street – 5,280' South of S Ave to R Ave
- Hickory Hill Lane – 1,531' West of 12th Street to 12th Street
- Selah Court – PQ Ave to 652' north of PQ Ave
- Pine Island Court North – 1,016' East of Finnagen St to Finnagen St
- O Ave Deferral (2020 Project)

For information on road closures related to these projects, please contact the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County at (269) 381-3171 or register for [RCKC Connect](#), a notification system for road construction and road closures in your area. Curious about Chip Seal/Fog Seal? Read the [RCKC brochure](#).

[See the Full List of Road Projects](#)

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