

the STAR

PUBLISHED BY THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS



7110 West Q Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

www.texastownship.org

269.375.1591

Office Hours: Mon - Thu | 7:30am - 5:30pm

Passports: By Appointment Only

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-SPRING 2016-

May 3, 2016 Special Election

Clerk Linda Kerr would like to remind all residents that on May 3, 2016, there will be a special election for residents to vote on two countywide proposals. The first proposal is a renewal of the Countywide Law Enforcement and Safety Millage. The second proposal

is for the renewal of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority. Ballot language for both of these proposals is below. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If you are interested and

qualify to vote absentee, please contact the Clerk's Office at 269.375.1591 to request an absentee ballot application form.

COUNTYWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SAFETY MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will permit the County to restore 1.4491 mills of the 1.5 mills for Law Enforcement, now expires for six (6) years (2016-2021). For the purposes of maintaining portions of the Law Enforcement and Safety functions for the citizens of Kalamazoo County in the areas of Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Circuit Court Trial and Family Divisions, District Court, Animal Services and Enforcement Department, and

Community Corrections, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in Kalamazoo County be increased by 1.4491 mills (\$1.4491 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on all taxable property in Kalamazoo County for a period of six (6) years, being 2016 to 2021, inclusive? It is estimated that 1.4491 mills would raise approximately \$11,879,000 when first levied in 2016.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY MILLAGE PROPOSAL

The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority was formed to operate and provide demand-response public transportation services within its geographic boundary and seeks authorization from the electors to levy up to 0.315 mills. Shall the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority levy a tax, for public transportation purposes, of up to 0.315 mills, being 31.5 cents (\$0.315) per thousand dollars (\$1000) of taxable value, on all taxable property within the geographic boundary of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority for a period of five (5) years, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021? It is estimated that 0.315 mills would raise \$2,508,188 in the first year.

2016 Election Calendar

March 8, 2016 - Presidential Primary

May 3, 2016 - County Special Election

August 2, 2016 - State Primary

November 8, 2016 - General Election



Where Do I Vote?

Precinct 1 - Calvary Reformed Church

Precinct 2 - Texas Township Hall

Precinct 3 - KVCC M-Tech Center

Precinct 4 - Southridge Reformed Church

Precinct 5 - Southridge Reformed Church

Precinct 6 - Calvary Reformed Church



TEXAS TOWNSHIP NOW HIRING ELECTION INSPECTORS

Interested in the political process? Looking to fulfill your civic duty while earning some extra spending money? Texas Township is looking for Election Inspectors to work the August and November elections. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk's Office at 269.375.1591. Applications are available online or at the Township Office.

Farmers' Market Kicks Off 8th Season

The Texas Township Farmers' Market will open for its eighth season on Saturday, May 7, 2016, kicking off another season of Fresh on Q! local foods and farmers market festivities.

This year's market will be open Saturdays, May 7 through October 15 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Tuesdays, June 7 through August 30 from 4 to 7 p.m., featuring up to 35 vendors each market selling their locally-grown and produced products, including seasonal fruit and vegetables, meats, eggs, cheeses, baked goods, preserves, hot and ready-to-eat foods, cut flowers, plants, and so much more.

When the market opens, shoppers will find fresh asparagus, greens, rhubarb, carrots, radishes, green onions and other cold-season crops. Many of the market's farmers have greenhouses or hoop houses,

allowing them to extend their growing seasons and harvest crops year-round. Breads, pies, jams and jellies, eggs, cheeses and meats are also available early in the season, and shoppers can even purchase breakfast right there to enjoy at the market. Looking to plant a vegetable or flower garden this year? Plants, herbs and flowers will be plentiful in the pavilion and ready to adorn yards, decks, patios and gardens.

The Farmers Market offers a unique opportunity to connect with local farmers and food business owners to learn how food is grown, raised or prepared, and it's a place where the whole community can come together to celebrate all the wonderful things Texas Township has to offer. The market also accepts Supplemental

TEXAS TOWNSHIP Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
May 7 - October 15

Tuesdays, 4 - 7 p.m.
June 7 - August 30

www.texastownship.org/farmers-market



Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits via the Michigan Bridge Card, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC Project FRESH and Market FRESH. Visit www.texastownship.org/farmers-market to learn more.

The farmers market proudly accepts:



2016 Road Projects

As part of our ongoing road maintenance, the Township Board has allocated both general and special assessment funds, towards the following road projects for the 2016 year. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County will begin work on these projects this spring. If you'd like to know when your road will be under construction, please contact the Road Commission at 269.381.3171.



2016 Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Road Projects		
Project Name	Total Estimated Project Cost	Notes
1st Street - P Ave to 2640 North of P Ave	\$17,617.00	HMA Wedging & Chip Seal
2nd Street - R Avenue to Old Q Avenue, Old Q Avenue - 2nd Street to Q Avenue	\$45,556.00	Crack Fill / HMA Wedging / Chip Seal
2nd Street - S Avenue to RS Avenue	\$18,454.00	MHA Wedging & Chip Seal
6th Street - S Avenue to Q Avenue	\$60,237.00	Crack Fill & Chip Seal
DNR Street - 1050' South of OP Avenue to OP Avenue	\$10,714.00	Crack Fill, Chip Seal & Fog Seal
East Crooked Lake Drive - 800' West of 7th Street at 2573' East of 7th Street, 7th Street - Q Avenue to Crooked Lake Drive East	\$109,069.00	HMA Overlay
O Avenue - 4th Street to 1203' East of 4th Street	\$11,081.00	Crack Fill, HMA Wedging & Chip Seal
PQ Avenue - West County Line to 3rd Street, PQ Avenue - 3rd Street to 4th Street, 4th Street - PQ Avenue	\$93,987.00	Crack Fill, HMA Wedging & Chip Seal
S Avenue - 8th Street to 12th Street	\$264,252.00	Bituminous Under Seal & HMA Overlay
Swallow Avenue - Finch Drive to 12th Street	\$23,901.00	Chip Seal & Fog Seal
RS Avenue - 6th Street to 8th Street	\$32,172.00	Crack Fill & Chip Seal
R Avenue - VanKal Road to 8th Street	\$19,139.00	HMA Wedging
Cracker Barrel Drive - 9th Street to 770' East of 9th Street	\$35,756.00	HMA Overlay - By Special Assessment
Project Totals	\$741,935.00	
ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL =		\$741,935.00

Township Board Approves Conceptual Designs for New Parks

On February 8th, the Township Board approved two conceptual designs for a new park at our 6th Street property, and a redesign of the existing Texas Drive Park. The Parks and Trails Committee, along with a special Park Steering Committee and Viridis Design, have been diligently working on developing two family-friendly park designs that feature amenities such as a splash pad, paved walking/running trails, tennis and pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts, and much more.

Now that the plans have been approved, the next step is to secure funding for this project. The Township Board is currently working on a grant application for the splash pad that, if awarded, would assist with a large portion of the cost for this phase.

The Township Board has already received an overwhelming amount of positive community support, and are eager to hear from all residents on the conceptual designs. If you have any feedback, especially on which portion of the park(s) you'd like to see implemented first, please reach out to Superintendent Julie VanderWiere.

Email: julievw@texastownship.org | 269.375.1591



View the expanded designs online at www.texastownship.org.

Texas Township To Launch New Website

Over the past several months, our team has been working actively to develop a new website that will offer greater usability for our residents, provide new features, streamline communication processes, and will be mobile-friendly across smartphones and tablets. In addition to this change, we are also launching a new program to index meeting minutes and agendas. If you are interested in receiving email alerts when new minutes are posted, please contact Deputy Clerk Brooke Hovenkamp at brookeh@texastownship.org or at 269.375.1591.

Assessor's Office - Parcel Reviews

Beginning in April, the Assessing Office will start reviewing 20% of our parcels. They do not need to enter anyone's home but will be measuring buildings and taking photos. By doing 20% each year, all of our records will have been reviewed over the next five years, which is a requirement of the State Tax Commission. Anyone in the field working on this review will have photo ID and all of the agencies (Sheriff's Dept. & Township Office) will be aware of the identity of these individuals, their automobile make & plate number.

Address Signs

Emergency Services such as the Fire Department, Ambulances, and Sheriff's Dept. rely heavily on address signs to quickly locate properties in an emergency. As such, Texas Township requires Premises Identification as part of the International Property Maintenance Code (Section 304.3). The Code states: *Buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.* Green reflective address signs can be purchased from the Texas Township Fire Department for only \$20 or at most hardware stores. To purchase an address sign, please submit an Address Sign Form (available online or at the Township Office) and payment to:



Oshtemo Med Drop-Off

Friday, May 6th | 9am-2pm | Oshtemo Township Hall

If you have any prescription or over-the-counter medications that need to be disposed of, Oshtemo Township will be hosting a Red Med Box Medication Drop Off event on Friday, May 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Oshtemo Township Hall. Red Med Box will dispose of the following medications free of charge:

- **Expired & unused medications**
- **Over-the-counter medications**
- **Medication samples**
- **Pet medications**
- **Medicated ointments, lotions, drops**
- **Unopened Epi-pens**
- **Liquid Medications**



For more information regarding this event, please contact the Oshtemo Township Hall at 269.375.4260.

Fire Department Awards Banquet

On Saturday, March 26th, the Texas Fire Department hosted their 2014/2015 Awards Banquet to honor and recognize the award recipients for the 2014 and 2015 years. The Township Board would like to congratulate and thank all of the Texas Township Fire Fighters for their dedicated service and commitment to the community.

2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Firefighter of the Year: FF/EO Michael VanderWeele

Recruit of the Year: Heather Doroh

Top 5 Responders of the Year:

- FF John Stubbs
- FF/EO Matt Dawson
- FF/EO Mike VanderWeele
- FF Heather Doroh
- Captain Robert Lohrberg

Lifesaving Awards

- Chief Michael Corfman
- Captain Robert Lohrberg
- Lieutenant Michael Miller
- Lieutenant David Ryder
- Lieutenant Donald Benthin
- FF/EO Michael VanderWeele (x3)
- FF Heather Doroh
- FF Michael Kimble
- FF Raymond Koole
- FF/EO Matthew Dawson

- FF/EO Ira Bilancio
- FF John Stubbs
- FF/EO Donald Koop
- FF/EO Ian MacLeod



2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Firefighter of the Year: FF John Stubbs

Recruit of the Year: Jacob Toth

35 Years of Service: Captain Robert Lohrberg

15 Years of Service: Lieutenant Michael Miller

15 Years of Service: FF Kristen Smith

5 Years of Service: FF Matthew Dawson

5 Years of Service: FF Ian MacLeod

Top 5 Responders of the Year:

- FF John Stubbs
- FF Heather Doroh
- FF Jacob Toth
- Lieutenant Donald Benthin
- Captain Robert Lohrberg

Lifesaving Awards

- Chief Chad Tackett
- Deputy Chief Jim Williams (x3)
- Captain Robert Lohrberg (x2)
- Lieutenant Donald Benthin (x4)
- FF Donald Koop (x3)

- FF John Stubbs
- FF Matthew Dawson (x2)
- FF Heather Doroh
- FF Ian MacLeod (x2)

Achievement Awards

- FF Donald Koop
- Aux Frank Zlomek

Meritorious Unit Citation –

Responding to extricating a fisherman who had fallen through the ice on Crooked Lake

Meritorious Unit Citation –

Responding to and suppressing a house fire on Kaleb Kove

Community CPR Awareness Class

Sat May 14 | 8am-12pm | Texas Township Hall

The Texas Township Fire Department and Pride Care Ambulance Services will be hosting a Community CPR Awareness Class on Saturday, May 14th from 8am-12pm. They will be conducting 30 minute demonstrations featuring a short instructional video and hands-on training on the proper way to administer CPR to someone in need. This is not a certified class, however, the public is encouraged to attend to learn the basic practices of CPR. There is no cost to attend and residents do not need to register in advance. To learn more about this CPR Awareness Class, please visit the Texas Township Fire Department website or contact Fire Chief Chad Tackett at 269.375.4610.



Hydrant Markers

The Township Board of Trustees has committed through their capital improvement program to purchase high visibility hydrant markers. They will be bolted directly to the hydrant assisting the fire department with locating fire hydrants when they are covered with snow. This summer the Fire Department will be installing 300 hydrant markers which currently do not have any sign or identification. The remaining markers are scheduled to be installed in 2017.

Shred Day - 6 Box Limit

We will be hosting our first Shred Day on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 9:00am-12:00noon at the Texas Township Hall. Due to the overwhelming success of the last event, we are implementing a restriction of six standard size filing boxes. There is no cost to participate in Shred Day, but we do ask that all participants consider providing either a non-perishable food donation, or cash donation, to the Mattawan Food Pantry.

Building Department Summer Inspections

The Building Department will be expanding their hours of inspection over the summer to accommodate the growth in construction. From March to October, the Building Department will be doing inspections on these days:

- **Building:** Monday through Thursday
- **Mechanical:** Monday/Wednesday/Thursday
- **Electrical:** Monday/Wednesday/Thursday

***Please note that all same-day requests must be scheduled by 10am

Building Dept. Launching AMG

In an effort to increase access and expedite the permitting and inspection process for contractors, the Building Dept. is in the process of finalizing and launching AMG. AMG will allow contractors to apply for select permits online, schedule inspections, track past permits, and more. Each contractor on file with Texas Township will be receiving a letter with instructions on how to set up and activate their AMG account. If you have any questions about AMG, please contact Deputy Clerk Brooke Hovenkamp at 269.375.1591.

Upcoming Spring Events

Spring Shred Day

Sat Apr 23 | 9am-12noon | Texas Township Hall

Township Open for Absentee Voting

Sat Apr 30 | 8am-2pm | Texas Township Hall

Special Election

Tue May 3 | 7am-8pm | Various Polling Locations

Oshtemo Med Drop-Off

Fri May 6 | 9am-2pm | Oshtemo Township Hall

Township Dump Day

Sat May 7 | 9am-12noon | 6321 S. 6th Street

Farmers' Market Kicks Off 8th Season

Sat May 7 | 8am-12pm | Texas Twp. Hall Pavillion

Community CPR Awareness Class

Sat May 14 | 8am-12pm | Texas Township Hall

Memorial Day - Township Office Closed

Mon May 30 - Offices will be closed all day

Township Dump Day

Sat Jun 4 | 9am-12noon | 6321 S. 6th Street

Learn more about upcoming events and meetings online at www.texastownship.org.

