

the STAR

PUBLISHED BY THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS



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Kalamazoo, MI 49009

www.texastownship.org

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

Passports: By Appointment Only

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JUL - SEP 2017



SHARE THE ROAD **SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**



Township Encouraging Motorists and Bicyclists to "Share the Road"

On June 26, 2017, the Texas Township Board passed a resolution supporting the "Share the Road" initiative in response to the increasing growth of the cycling community in Texas Township. The Township Board is committed to providing safe roads for bicyclists and motorists alike and encourages all users of the road, whether they be motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians, to practice safety, use extreme caution and obey all Michigan traffic laws.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration encourages all road users, including motorists and bicyclists, to respect each other and foster a safer transportation environment. Bicyclists on the roadway have the same rights, and responsibilities as motorized vehicles.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists:

- Always ride with traffic and follow the rules of the road.
- Do not ride more than two abreast.
- Ride on the trail, paved shoulder, bike lane, or bike route.
- Make it easy for drivers to see you by dressing in bright colors and wearing reflective material both in front and back.
- Equip your bicycle with appropriate lights and reflectors.
- Wear appropriate high visibility safety gear, including helmet.
- Watch for turning traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals when turning or slowing down.
- Watch for debris that might cause you to fall or swerve.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD RESOLUTION #17-11

- Whereas, The Charter Township of Texas Board of Trustees recognize the bicycle is a viable and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent form of recreation; and
- Whereas, Bicyclists and motorists share the same rights and responsibilities on the public right of way; and
- Whereas, Bicycling provides a long term, sustainable, low cost approach to travel; and
- Whereas, Texas Township road and trail system attracts hundreds of bicyclists each year from Southwest Michigan, providing economic, health, and scenic benefits to citizens of Michigan; and
- Whereas, These bicycling activities and attractions have great potential to have a positive impact on Texas Township's economy and to stimulate economic development by making the township attractive to businesses and citizens who enjoy the out of doors and healthy lifestyles; and
- Whereas, The demand for alternative modes of transportation has been growing dramatically over the last few years; and
- Whereas, Creating bicycle-friendly communities has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, to boost community spirit, to improve traffic safety, and to reduce pollution and congestion; and
- Whereas, The education of bicyclists and motorists as to the proper and safe operation of bicycles is important to ensure the safety and comfort of all users; and
- Whereas, Education of bicyclists and motorists will contribute to the safety of all, while equipping more citizens with the skills and confidence to use bicycles for commuting, exercising, recreation, and transportation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Charter Township of Texas Board of Trustees support the Share the Road initiative and the increased effort to educate all motorized and non-motorized users on how to safely share our roads in Texas Township.

Development Continues to Soar in Texas Township

Texas Township continues to be one of the most sought-after locations for residential and commercial developments in Kalamazoo County. Between 2016 and 2017, we have seen continued exponential growth in both residential and commercial developments. Our Planning and Building Departments have been busy, and based on the tables below, you can see why! Here's a quick look at some of the projects that were approved between January 2016 and June 2017.

Residential Developments			
Approved between January 2016-June 2017			
Development Name	Number of Units	Location	Status
Belle Meade	48 Single Family Residential Units	Q Ave & 8th Street	In Construction
Rose Arbor No. 4	14 Single Family Residential Units	North of Misty Creek Drive	In Construction
Applegate Trails Phase IV	17 Single Family Residential Units	Between 10th Street and Annandale	Approved
Applegate Trails South	28 Single Family Residential Units	Between 10th Street and Annandale	In Construction
Applegate Woods	36 Single Family Residential Units	Between 10th Street and Annandale	Approved
Applegate Pointe	29 Single Family Residential Units	Between 10th Street and Annandale	Approved

Commercial Developments		
Approved between January 2016-June 2017		
Development Name	Location	Status
Biggby Coffee Shop	8016 Vineyard Parkway	Open for Business
New Reflections Hair Salon	8065 Vineyard Parkway	Open for Business
Rykses Market & Co Restaurant	7141 West Q Ave	Open for Business
Dave's Glass - New 13,000+ SQFT Building	Corners Business District	In Construction
2 New Drive-Thru Restaurants (Subway & Starbucks)	Old Burger King Site on 9th Street	In Construction
Acupressure Massage	6565 & 6573 West N Avenue	Approved
Fit Body Bootcamp	6955 West Q Ave	Open for Business
Queen Nails	6931 West Q Ave	Open for Business
Vineyard Assisted Living	8170 Vineyard Parkway	Approved

5th Annual Texas Township Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social & Children's Carnival

Sun Aug 6 | 12pm-3pm | Texas Township Farmers' Market & Joyce I Neubauer Pavilion

Please joins us for the fifth annual Texas Township Fire Department Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social and Children's Carnival to be held Sunday, August 6, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Texas Township Farmers' Market & Joyce I Neubauer 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 a vast array of fire rigs in a convoy of motorcycles will pass through Texas Corners on Sunday, August 6th at approximatley 1:15 p.m. The social's offerings include ice cream and toppings, root beer floats, hot dogs, brats, and slushies. The children may select from face painting or glitter tattoos applied by two fantastic artists. 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. It is underwritten by monetary and in-kind contributions from area business owners and caring township residents. Whether you join as an attendee, contributor or volunteer for the day of the event, we appreciate your participation. It truly will be a feel good day!

For more information please contact Trish Roberts @ 269.217.2924 or troberts@texastownship.org.



Downtown Development Authority Launches New "Corners Coins" Promotion

The Texas Township DDA has developed a shopper incentive program called "Corners Coins" to help bring residents and visitors into Texas Corners to patronize area businesses. Corners Coins are 2" wooden tokens, worth \$5 each, and can be spent just like cash at any participating business or the Texas Township Farmers' Market.

These Coins will first be introduced at this year's LOL5K on Saturday, August 12. Each participant in the LOL5k will receive a \$5 Corners Coin, funded by the DDA, along with a map of the participating Texas Corners businesses and information regarding where and how Coins can be spent. Participating businesses will receive signage to display so patrons can easily identify if they are participating in the program.

We look forward to the positive impact that these Coins will have on downtown businesses! If you are a business-owner in Texas Corners and are interested in participating in the Corners Coins program, please contact Texas Township DDA Chair, Larry Loeks, at larry@deloofconstruction.com for more information.



Assessors in the Field This Summer



The Assessing Office would like to remind all homeowners that they will be in the field this summer measuring homes as part of their 20% review.

Please note that they will be wearing identification badges. If you notice someone outside your home that is not wearing any identification, please contact the Sheriff's Department.

Goodbye Barrels - Hello Sidewalks!



We are happy to announce that the DDA Sidewalk Project has been completed! This project, which was funded by the Township, DDA, and downtown business owners, spanned two seasons and resulted in approximately 11,931 lineal feet of concrete being poured. These sidewalks will provide a valuable connection from nearby neighborhoods to the downtown district. We encourage all residents to take a walk on the new sidewalks and visit all of the exciting new developments in Texas Corners.

New Election Equip. Arriving Soon



This Spring, Kalamazoo County selected ES&S as their vendor for new election equipment. The new equipment, which is being delivered this summer, will contain enhanced security features and provide a better experience for the voter on Election Day. Texas Township will begin acceptance testing and training once the equipment is delivered and voters in Texas Township will be able to see the new equipment while it is on display at the Township Hall during the months of mid-August and September.

2017 COMMUNITY SURVEY

Thank you to all who participated in the 2017 Community Survey - we look forward to reading your responses! The compiled survey results will be available online in mid-August.

Important Summer Property Tax Info

SUMMER 2017 PROPERTY TAX BILLS – DUE JULY 1ST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14TH

Your 2017 Summer Tax bills were recently mailed and are due and payable no later than September 14, 2017. In Texas Township the Summer Tax Bill contains billing for the State Education Tax (6.0000 mills) and County Operating (4.6810 mills). The amount you owe is tied to your taxable value which is established each year by the Township Assessor as of December 31 of the previous year.

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION (PRE)

If you have not already done so, please file your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) no later than November 1st. The Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) exempts a principal residence from the tax levied by a local school district for operating purposes, up to 18 mills. Principal residence means the dwelling that you own and occupy as your permanent home and any unoccupied adjoining or contiguous properties that are classified residential. Occupying means this is your principal residence, the place that you reside in as your permanent residence, and if absent intend to return. It should be the address that appears on your driver's license and voter registration card. Vacation homes, season homes, and income property are not occupied as your principal residence and may not be claimed.

APPLICATION FOR DEFERMENT OF SUMMER 2017 TAXES

We are currently accepting applications for Summer 2017 tax deferrals. The applicant must be 62 years of age or older or paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible serviceperson, veteran, widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. Under MCL 211.51 PROPERTY TAXES MAY BE DEFERRED UNTIL FEBRUARY 14, 2018, without penalty or interest, the due date of summer property taxes on their principal residence. To qualify, a household income cannot exceed \$40,000. Those that farm agricultural real property may also qualify. The deferment form must be completed and filed by September 14, 2017. On February 15, 2018 additional penalties and interest will apply.

Welcome Steve Deisler New Planning, Zoning and Development Administrator

We would like to welcome Steve Deisler, Texas Township's new Planning, Zoning and Development Administrator. Steve started his planning career at the City of Kalamazoo and most recently was President of Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated (DKI). Steve brings with him a wealth of knowledge related to planning, zoning, and economic development and we feel that Steve will be a fantastic fit here at Texas Township. Steve has already made tremendous progress in consolidating processes in the Planning Department and we look forward to his continued success. Residents may contact Steve by email at sdeisler@texastownship.org or by calling the Township Office at 269.375.1591.

Fire Department Accepting Applications for Paid On Call FFs

The Texas Township Fire Department is currently seeking applicants for paid on-call positions within the Fire Department. If you are interested, please complete the application form available online and submit to the Fire Department.

For more information about becoming a Paid On Call Fire Fighter and the selection and training process, please visit our website at: <http://fire.texastownship.org/> or contact Deputy Chief Jim Williams at 269.375.4610 or jwilliams@texasfire.org.



3rd Annual LOL5k Sat Aug 12 | 9am | Starting at Texas Drive Park

The 3rd annual LOL5k, is occurring in Texas Corners on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 9 am. The course will feature a run through our busy Saturday morning 'Fresh on Q' Farmer's Market, live music, spirit stations, and great post-race refreshments! The race is a community event and is open to men, women, and children. For children under 10 years of age, the LOL5k has a free kids' fun run called The Little LOL on Friday evening, August 11, 2017.

From the novice to the elite, the LOL5k welcomes all ability levels and continues to build and support a strong Texas Corners community! With over 450 participants, 100 volunteers and the strong support of our sponsors, to date we have been able to give the Texas Township Parks and Trails \$7,000.00. Proceeds from the 3rd annual LOL5k will again benefit both LAUGH programming and the Texas Township Parks and Trails.

Make sure to join in on the fun with your community, be active and enjoy the beauty of Texas Corners by registering at LOL5k.net.



Upcoming Events

Dumpster Day

Sat Aug 5 | 9am-12pm | 6th Street Park

Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social & Children's Carnival

Sun Aug 6 | 12pm-3pm | Farmers' Market Pavilion

LAUGH LOL5k

Sat Aug 12 | 9am | Starting at Texas Drive Park

Tire Drop Off Day

Sat Aug 19 | 9am-1pm | 6th Street Park

Dumpster Day

Sat Sep 2 | 9am-12pm | 6th Street Park

Summer 2017 Tax Deadline

Thu Sep 14 | Deadline to Pay Taxes

Borgess Flu Clinic

Thu Sep 21 | 12pm-2pm | Texas Township Hall

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

Special Notice
Please note that as of
May 8, 2017
Texas Township will
no longer combine
buildable parcels
for tax purposes.

Tire Drop Off Day Sat Aug 19 | 9am-1pm | 6th St. Park



On Saturday, August 19th, from 9am to 1pm, Texas Township and Oshtemo Township will be hosting a combined Tire Drop Off Day at the 6th Street Park (6321 S. 6th Street). Tires ranging in size from passenger vehicles to semi tires will be accepted. Drop-off fees range from \$3 to \$12, depending on size and whether the tire is on a rim. No oversized tires (i.e. tractor, loader, etc.) will be accepted. Please note that drivers will be responsible to unload their own vehicle. For more information, please visit our website at www.texastownship.org.

Texas Township Farmers' Market

Savor summer at the Texas Township Farmers' Market! Shop for fresh, seasonal produce, cut flower bouquets, locally-raised meats and eggs, baked goods, jams and jellies, honey, prepared foods, and so much more!

The market is open Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. through October 21 and Tuesdays, 4 - 7 p.m. through August 29, and each market features a unique group of vendors selling their locally-grown and locally-prepared goods. Check out the market's Facebook page or weekly e-newsletter to see what's in season and who's selling at the market from week to week.

In season right now: blueberries, raspberries, peaches, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, summer squash and zucchini, beans, cabbage, onions, herbs and more!

Knox Box Recommendation

When a medical emergency strikes, help is only a call away. However, for those who live by themselves or who have special mobility issues, what happens when they can't get to the door to let help in?

Knox-Box Rapid Entry System is a secure emergency access program developed for property owners and first responders. If a fire breaks out or there is a medical emergency, Knox Box products allow immediate entry into buildings and property without forced entry damage or delay. Property owners store entrance keys, access cards and floor plans in high-security Knox Box key boxes mounted near building and home entrances. Each Knox Box purchased by a property owner is keyed to a single master key, controlled by the Texas Township Fire Department.

While Knox Boxes are not required for residential developments, the Fire Department encourages all homeowners to consider investing in a Knox Box. For more information, please contact Fire Chief Chad Tackett at 269.375.4610.

Site Preparation To Begin at 6th St. Park

Texas Township has approved funds to begin working towards the future development of a new park at 6321 S. 6th Street. As you may recall, in 2015 the Texas Township Board approved the conceptual designs of a new 6th Street Park and a redesigned Texas Drive Park. Earlier this year, Texas Township applied for an MDNR grant, which, if awarded, would provide \$150,000 of grant funding for the first phase of construction for the 6th Street Park.

In order to prepare the site for future development once grant funding has been secured, the Township Board has approved the following site preparation projects, which will be completed yet this year.

- **Removal and relocation of utility lines**
- **Removal of the berm located at site entrance**
- **Seeding of grass and clearing of trees**
- **Installation of a split-rail fence & temporary sign**

We are excited to take this first step towards the development of the new 6th Street Park and look forward to the continued expansion of Texas Township's parks and trails systems.



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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



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Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor John Hinkle
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Clerk Linda Kerr
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Treasurer Trish Roberts
troborts@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, or view Texas Township's CVTRS reports, please visit our website at www.texastownship.org.



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