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Here's a brief overview of everything happening in Texas Township this fall.



## FEATURED NEWS

- [Holiday Farmers' Market](#)
- [SAW Grant Award](#)
- [2017 Community Survey](#)
- [6th Street Park Update](#)



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## • [Library Access](#)

Closed on Friday

\*Passports by Appointment



Facebook



Email



Website



## 2017 Newsletter Schedule

January | [Print Newsletter](#)

April | [eNewsletter](#)

July | [Print Newsletter](#)

October | [eNewsletter](#)

## Texas Twp. Holiday Farmers' Market

Sat Nov 18 | 4-7pm | Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers' Market Pavilion



If you're looking to get into the holiday spirit and enjoy some



## Passports

Texas Township can assist both residents and non-residents with obtaining a passport. We process passports by appointment only. Click [here](#) to learn more about the passport process, associated fees, and required documentation.

## Passport Renewal Process

Ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers' Market Pavilion.

More than 30 local farmers' market vendors will be selling a wide variety of products, including all of the fresh, seasonal produce that Michigan has to offer this time of year. Even in November, when the days are short and the nights are cold, many farmers are still growing and harvesting fresh vegetables and storing others through the winter months. Shoppers can find products like apples, cranberries, potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, onions, greens, lettuce, brussel sprouts, plenty of baked goods, jams and jellies, sweets, local meats - including beef, pork, lamb, chicken and Great Lakes fish – as well as evergreen wreaths, Michigan wine, soaps, wool socks, and so much more!

Need to do some holiday shopping? This special market is a great place to buy fresh ingredients for Thanksgiving dinners, as well as holiday gifts. A market tote filled with Fresh on Q! goodies, a market gift certificate, or a bag of "Corners Coins" to spend at Texas Corners businesses all make great gifts.

In case there's a chill in the air, shoppers can also stop by the Market Information Table for free hot cocoa, hot local cider and locally-roasted coffee, compliments of the Farmers' Market Committee. Carolers will fill the market with holiday cheer, and the annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony will take place in the pavilion at 6:30 p.m. to kick off the holiday season.

The market proudly accepts credit and debit cards, as well as food assistance benefits, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) via the Michigan Bridge Card and Double Up Food Bucks. Visitors can learn more at the Information Table, located at the east end of the pavilion, about these programs or to swipe their cards in exchange for tokens to spend at the market.

Visit [www.texastownship.org/farmers-market](http://www.texastownship.org/farmers-market) or follow the



## Permits & Forms

[Building Permit](#)

[Electrical Permit](#)

[Mechanical Permit](#)

[Pool-Fence Permit](#)

[Fence Permit](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

**Oct 7** | Fire Prevention Open House

**Oct 9** | Township Board Meeting

**Oct 10** | Planning Commission Workshop

**Oct 23** | Township Board Meeting

**Oct 24** | Parks & Trails Committee Meeting

**Oct 24** | Planning Commission Meeting

**Oct 25** | ZBA Meeting

**Oct 26** | DDA Meeting

### November

**Nov 13** | Township Board Meeting

**Nov 14** | Planning Commission Workshop

**Nov 18** | Leaf Drop-Off Day

**Nov 18** | Holiday Farmers' Market

## Township Awarded SAW Grant



In 2014, Texas Township applied for a SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant through the State of Michigan. This grant provides substantial funding for municipalities to complete an assessment of their sewer and water infrastructure to determine any areas of potential weakness, areas for expanded connections, and more. After three years of not being selected, the township received notification that they have been awarded this \$600,000.00 grant. The Township's engineering firm, Prein & Newhof, will be conducting the assessment beginning in 2018.



**Nov 27** | Township Board Meeting

**Nov 28** | Parks & Trails Committee Meeting

**Nov 28** | Planning Commission Workshop

**Nov 29** | ZBA Meeting

**Nov 30** | DDA Meeting

### December

**Dec 11** | Township Board Meeting

**Dec 12** | Planning

Commission Workshop

**Dec 19** | Parks Committee Meeting

**Dec 19** | Planning

Commission Meeting

**Dec 20** | ZBA Meeting

**Dec 25** | Township Offices Closed

**Dec 28** | DDA Meeting

*Please visit [texastownship.org](http://texastownship.org) for more upcoming events.*

**View the 2017 Meeting Schedule**





ITC was one of the very generous contributors to our Phase II Trailway Project. We'd like to thank them for their support and recognize their commitment to Texas Township Parks and Trails.

Pictured here is a sign that ITC donated showcasing local flora on the trailway.

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## 2017 Township-Wide Community Survey

**Thank You To All Who Participated!**



In early 2017, the Texas Township Board voted to conduct a

partnered with Oshtemo Township and Comstock Township to share in the costs of the survey, and once again worked with Cobalt Community Research to complete the survey process. Cobalt Community Research was also assisted with the 2013 Community Survey.

In May, Texas Township finalized and distributed the 2017 Community Survey. 1,500 residents were selected at random to complete a paper survey. Additionally, each household was mailed a postcard with a unique I.D. code so that they could complete a volunteer survey. Of the 1,500 individuals in the random sampling group, 488 completed the survey. Additionally, 366 volunteers completed the volunteer survey. The total response was 854 surveys.

The Township Board was encouraged by the response and will utilize these results in their long-term planning and strategizing. Thank you to everyone who participated!

[View 2017 Community Survey Results](#)

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## 6th Street Park Update

**Site Preparation Underway for Anticipated Development Beginning in 2018**



The 6th Street Park project is undergoing extensive site preparation for the anticipated phased development beginning in 2018, pending award of a MDNR Land & Water Grant. The trees and berm along 6th Street have been removed to

installing a split-rail fence, gate, and temporary sign. If you are interested in learning more about corporate sponsorship or donation opportunities for the 6th Street Park, please contact Superintendent Julie VanderWiere at [julievw@texastownship.org](mailto:julievw@texastownship.org).

[View the Conceptual Designs](#)

## Capital Improvement Program

**View the 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program Projects**



To encourage long-term planning, the Township Board and Planning Commission oversee the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Every year, Committees and Departments submit two to five years worth of potential projects, which are then scored and ranked by the Planning Commission.

Submitted Projects include:

- *2018 Road Project Funding*
- *CBD Planning/Design/Traffic Study*
- *West Eagle Lake Sewer Extension*
- *Al Sabo Parking Lot Repair/Expansion*
- *CBD Placemaking*
- *9th Street & I-94 Overpass Sidewalk*

- [Expansion of Hope Cemetery](#)

### [View the Full List](#)

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the submitted projects and recommended that the Township Board approve all projects scoring 80 or higher. The Township Board is currently in the process of reviewing the projects and determining which projects they'd like to fund in 2018.

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## Resident Spotlight



We'd like to thank these four volunteers who were photographed cleaning up our brand new sidewalks. Thank you for helping to make Texas Township a bright and welcoming community!

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## Leaf Drop-Off Day

**Sat Nov 18 | 9am-12noon | 6321 S. 6th Street**





Every year, Texas Township hosts a Leaf Drop-Off Day at the 6th Street Park site. This year, Leaf Drop-Off will be held on Saturday, November 18th from 9am to 12pm. Please ensure that all leaves are bagged in recyclable leaf bags.

Additionally, yard waste less than 2" in diameter and less than 4' in length will also be accepted. There is no cost for this service, however, we do ask that you bring proof of residency (photo I.D.).

Please note that in an effort to minimize the cost to taxpayers, this is the only leaf service that Texas Township currently provides. Please do not put leaves in the roadway or in drainage basins as you may be held responsible for flooding damage.





Thank you to the LAUGH Organization for their generous donation from the LOL 5K to the Parks & Trails Committee!

## Ag Zoning Minimum Lot Size Changes

**Minimum Lot Size Increase from 2 to 3 Acres**



In 2017, the Township Board approved a Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Ordinance 321) that changed the minimum lot size of all parcels zoned Agriculture from 2 acres to 3 acres. This change was a result of the Township's desire to promote development within the Urban Growth Boundary and also to preserve agricultural land for its intended purpose.

# Cemetery Records Now Available Online

**View Available Burial Spaces & Locate Burial Information Online**



Clerk Linda Kerr recently worked with Prein & Newhof, the Township's contracted engineering firm, to develop cemetery maps that indicate which plots are available for purchase, which plots have been sold, and which plots have been filled. If you or your loved ones are interested in purchasing a burial plot, you may now visit [www.texastownship.org/cemeteries](http://www.texastownship.org/cemeteries) to view available spaces. These maps also have a corresponding database which allows users to locate burial records from the comfort of their own home. If you have any questions about the Cemeteries, you may contact Clerk Kerr via email at [lkerr@texastownship.org](mailto:lkerr@texastownship.org) or at 269.375.1591.

**View Cemetery Information**

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## Corners Coins

**The Downtown Development Authority's  
Newest Promotion**



**Purchase yours today at  
the Township Hall!**



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 of the 20+ participating businesses or at the Texas Township Farmers’ Market. These coins are now available for purchase to businesses and individuals alike.

Corners Coins are the perfect stocking-stuffers or gift basket addition for this upcoming holiday season! Promote Texas Corners and buy your Corners Coins today!

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## Major Developments

**Everything Happening in Texas Township!**



senior community. The facility is located at the southern end of Vineyard Parkway and contains 50 studio and one bedroom units. This residential complex is also within and in close proximity to Texas Corners shops and services. The projected opening is July of 2018.

- **Belle Meade**, a 48 unit 55+ gated cottage community is taking shape just south of Texas Square Mall as curb and gutter are currently being installed. The market rate cottage homes will offer 3-4 bedroom layout with beautiful landscaping and clubhouse. Within walking distance to Texas Corners shopping and restaurants. Estimated units will be available beginning late spring 2018.
- **Pink Lemonade**, a new retail boutique specializing in women's fashion, home decor and children's clothing will open in early October next to The Cheese Lady on Q Ave.
- **SURA Restaurant**, Korean BBQ, cocktails and sushi will be the offerings at the newest dining option at Texas Plaza. They will offer full service lunch and dinner menu. A Mid to late October opening is projected.

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## Library Access for Residents



Texas Township is served by four libraries, based on the school



access to the library. Other libraries do not have a millage, and as such, residents must purchase a membership.

For the libraries that do not have a millage, Texas Township has chosen not to pursue a library millage for that service as a millage for library service is actually much higher than the cost of an annual membership. Additionally, any Texas Township resident is able to purchase a membership to any library outside of their district.

- **Kalamazoo School District:** Residents of the Kalamazoo School District (Voting Precinct #3) have access to the Kalamazoo Public Library. This service is included in the library millage that residents of the Kalamazoo School District pay in their Winter taxes.
- **Portage School District:** Residents who live in the Portage School District (Voting Precinct #4 and part of #5) have access to the Portage Public Library. This service is included in the library millage that residents of the Portage School District pay in their Winter taxes.
- **Schoolcraft Community Schools District:** Residents who live in the Schoolcraft Community Schools District (The Southern portion of Voting Precinct #5) are able to purchase an annual pass for the Schoolcraft Community Library. Schoolcraft Community Schools doesn't have a library millage, and as such, the residents are required to purchase an annual pass.
- **Mattawan Consolidated School District:** Residents who live in the Mattawan Consolidated School District (Voting Precincts #1, 2 and 6) do not pay a library millage, and as such, do not have access to the Van Buren District Libraries. Anyone, regardless of which precinct they reside, are able to purchase a membership to the Van Buren District Library.

# Property Review

## 2018 Personal Property Review



This fall the Assessor Ted Gruizenga and his team will be conducting an on-site review with all Texas Township businesses submitting a Personal Property Statement.

Additionally, Assessor Gruizenga would like to remind all businesses submitting a **Small Business Taxpayer Exemption** that those completed **forms are due no later than February 10th. They will not be accepted and an exemption will not be given if the forms arrive late.** The forms will be mailed to all businesses later this fall. You must determine from the instructions whether you qualify for the exemption or not.

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## Winter Tax Bills

**Issued Dec 1, 2017 - Due Feb 14, 2018**

Property Taxes are based on your taxable value established by the township assessor on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. This is the value from which all millage are calculated.

In the summer, the township acts as the collection agent for the Kalamazoo County Operating Fund and State Education Tax as billed on the Summer Tax bills issued July 1<sup>st</sup> and due September 14<sup>th</sup> of each year.

district's operating and debt; the community college; your intermediate school district; the public library which serves Portage and Kalamazoo school districts; the County's Transportation, Juvenile Home, Housing Assistance and Public Safety Units; and our Township's millage and assessments for Operating, Fire Improvement, Road Maintenance, Lighting District and various special assessment districts.

As you can see, the winter tax bill is the "larger one" because of the many governmental and special units for which Texas Township is required to collect funds.

Winter Tax Bills will be issued December 1<sup>st</sup> requiring payment no later than Wednesday, February 14, 2018. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1% interest will be applied plus a 3% penalty will be assessed on all 2017 taxes outstanding.

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## Get Connected & Join A Committee

**Open DDA Position - Apply Today!**



[Learn More About Committee Vacancies](#)

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# Open House

Sat Oct 7 | 10am-1pm | Texas Fire Department



The Texas Township Fire Department is hosting a Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 7th from 10am to 1pm at the Texas Township Fire Department. This is a great event for the entire family and will feature:

- *Fire prevention information and education*
- *Opportunity to sit in Texas Township Fire Trucks*
- *Learn how an infrared camera is used for rescues*
- *See the “Jaws of Life”*
- *Kalamazoo County K-9 unit (if available)*
- *And more!*

[View Event Flyer](#)

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## Online Burning Permits

Apply for a Burn Permit From the Comfort of  
Your Own Home



Daily Burn Permits may be obtained online. Please take advantage of this convenient method as it will prevent a delay if we are 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



## 2017 & 2018 Road Projects

**Below are the approved 2017 road projects**

This Spring, the Township Board approved the following 2017



- General Crack Fill Road Maintenance
- Mystic Trail (Chip Seal/Fog Seal)
- Finnagen (Q to PQ) - HMA
- Texas Heights - HMA

However, these projects were completed under budget and the Township Board was also able to complete the following projects utilizing the remaining funds:

- **Texas Heights Avenue**- Interlochen Street to Cooper Harbor Street,
- **Interlochen Street** – Texas heights Avenue to Q Avenue
- **Mackinaw Court**- Interlochen Street to 300' east of 148 Interlochen
- **Tawas Avenue** – Interlochen Street to Keweenaw Street, Keweenaw Street – 149 Texas Heights Ave to Tawas Avenue for \$119,638 and
- **Sierra Madre Trail** – Appalachian Trail to 6th 150 Street
- **Teton Trail** – Mystic Trail to Sierra Madre 151 Trail for 67,266.00

The Road Committee is currently in the process of working with the Road Commission to determine the 2018 Road Projects.

## OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY ALERTS



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