

THE STAR



Maple Hill Auto Group “Makes a Splash” with \$100k Donation to Splash Pad

Township Just Over \$50,000 Away From Fundraising Goal

The Township Board, in partnership with the Parks & Trails Committee and Texas Township Friends of Parks & Trails, would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Maple Hill Auto Group, who generously pledged \$100,000 to the “Make a Splash” campaign. This is the largest private contribution in Township history and is a catalyst in helping to make this project a reality.

On December 13, the Township Board committed an additional \$150,000 in ARPA funding for this project, which leaves us with just over \$50,000 left to reach our fundraising goal!

If this goal is met by June 2022, the design phase of the project could start in mid-2022 and construction could begin in late 2022 or early 2023. Our fundraising goal is in sight and we need your support to break ground in 2022!

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN - All donations are 100% tax-deductible

Scan the QR Code



Donate online at www.texastownship.org/splashpad

Text SPLASH to
202-858-1233

By Check

Please make checks payable to Texas Township Friends of Parks & Trails with “Splash Pad” in the memo line and mail to the Township Office



**THANK YOU TO
OUR TITLE
SPONSOR**

 **Maple Hill auto group**
driven by trust and integrity

AND OUR OTHER MAJOR SPONSORS (as of 12/13/21)



consumers
credit union

MEC
MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS



**Ron & Peggy
Shepherd**


MIKE & SHARON
SEELYE FAMILY FOUNDATION
SERVING THE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY



**Linda Kerr
Lininger Family**

Clare Todd

Dave & Shari Groendyk

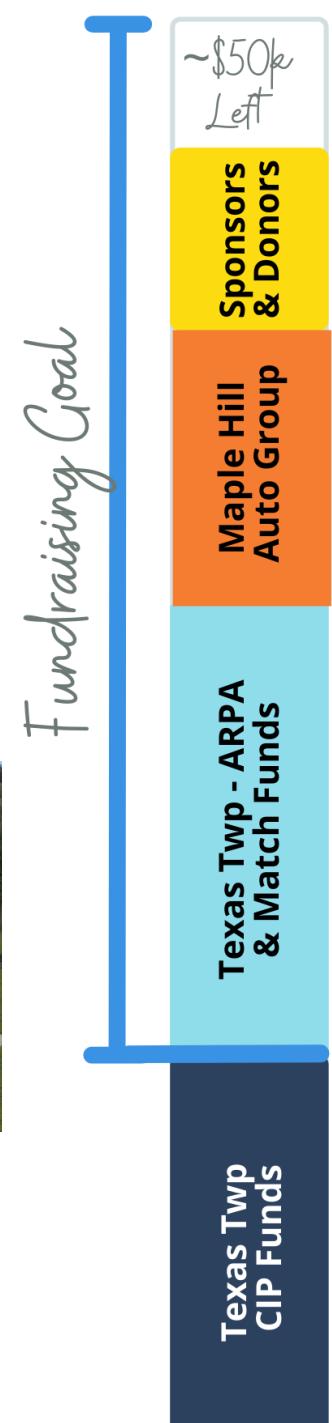


MINDSET
little Gym
Serious Fun.

Belle Meade

Texas Corners Cleaners
The Trish Roberts Family
Emily, Chad, Rosie, Lizzie & Michael Beutel
Brianna & Andy Franks

GOAL - \$400,000



We're Moving! Site Selected for New Township Hall

We are pleased to announce that the Township Board has selected the site for the new Township Hall! The new Township Hall will be constructed on the vacant site just West of Texas Square Mall (behind Louie's Corner Bar). This decision was largely based on feedback received through our community survey.



Earlier this summer, the Township Board initiated a Request for Proposals for vacant sites within Texas Corners. With the assistance of our design firm, the Township Board evaluated four parcels submitted as part of the RFP.

A large factor in the site selection was the ability for the Township to help facilitate the development of the Ring Road, providing greater connectivity in Texas Corners. As part of the Master Plan, the Ring Road is set to connect across this parcel. And ironically enough, this same location was strongly considered for the Township Hall 20 years ago!

Project Details:

- The Farmers' Market Pavilion and Fire Station will remain at their current location
- The Township Hall will be placed on the new site, but exact placement hasn't yet been determined
- Construction timeline is still to be determined

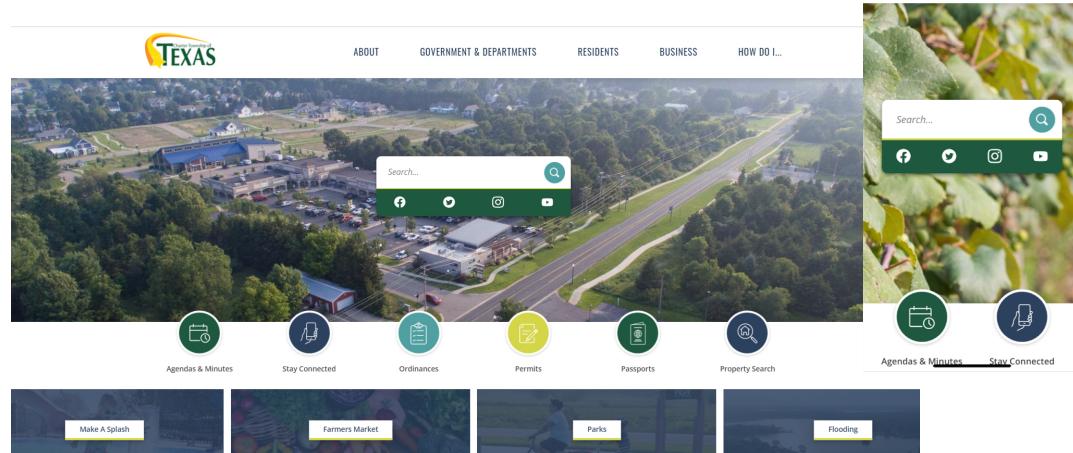
The land purchase is contingent upon a few items being finalized by closing. We remain hopeful that we can break ground on this project in 2022.

New Website is Now Live

Our new website is now LIVE! You can still find us at www.texastownship.org, but our content is refreshed and we have a lot of new functionality to offer. To stay up-to-date with everything happening in the Township, you'll want to create an account, which allows you to subscribe to email and/or text notifications for relevant news and meetings of your choice.

Create your account at <https://www.texastownship.org/list.aspx>.

We'd appreciate it if you'd take a few minutes to complete our online survey about your user experience. <https://bit.ly/3DL8djr>.



Fire Department Operations

"I'm here to serve my community" says Kris Smith, a 15 year veteran of the Texas Township Fire Department. The Fire Department serves our community in Texas Township by responding to fires, vehicular accidents, EMS calls, hazardous materials, and doing fire prevention and public education and more. The Fire Department is located at Texas Corners next to the Township Hall. All the apparatus and equipment is housed here with adjacent crew quarters, which include a locker room, overnight quarters, kitchen, and a communication room.

The Texas Township Fire Department is funded by a dedicated millage and general fund monies, which supports eight full-time employees and a group of paid and fully trained on-call staff. The attitude of the staff is summed up by Chief Chad Tackett who said, "Even on a bad day, this is the best job in the world."

More information on the Fire Department and requirements and applications for on-call positions may be found at www.texastownship.org/fire-department

Building Department Now Offering Plumbing Inspection Services

The Building Department is now offering internal plumbing inspection services. John Dobberteen, the Township's new Plumbing Inspector, will perform plumbing inspections three days per week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This will increase the availability of inspections for our residents, businesses, and contractors as the State was only able to provide inspections twice per week.

If you have an open plumbing permit with the State of Michigan, the State will continue to provide inspections until final approval. However, new plumbing permits can be applied for at the Township Office, or online at www.texastownship.org/building. The Township will perform inspections on all permits obtained with the Building Department.

New Park Entryway Signs

If you've driven by 6th Street Park or Texas Drive Park recently, you may have noticed our new entryway signs. These signs were purchased to replace a temporary sign at the 6th Street Park, and an outdated sign at Texas Drive Park. We'd like to thank SignArt for the design & installation work and Deloof Construction for their generous donation of the stone.



Community Events Pilot Program

In 2022, the Township is launching a special events pilot program to help cultivate a “Connected Community” as prioritized in the Township’s Strategic Plan. During the pilot program, we anticipate organizing one or two community-wide events.

We are seeking your input on what event(s) you’d like to see organized as part of the pilot program. Share your thoughts via our online survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/8RJBJDY.

If you are interested in helping to plan or organize a community event, please contact the Township at info@texastownship.org.

FEMA Grant & Long-Term Flooding Project

Texas Township was awarded a FEMA HMGP grant in the amount of \$772,275.00 with a match of \$257,475.00. This grant award will assist in funding the long-term flood mitigation project for Eagle and Crooked Lakes. While this grant award will not completely cover the cost of the project, it will most certainly help to decrease the cost for those properties included in the special assessment district. The Project Engineers from Prein & Newhof will be able to better determine a cost once the final design is complete.

Prein & Newhof has submitted the EGLE permit application. Due to the complexity of the project, the permit application was not determined complete at first submission. Prein & Newhof is working with EGLE Staff to provide the required documentation to consider the application complete. The Township has already requested a public hearing for the permit application, so once it has been determined complete a public hearing will be scheduled. The Township, Prein & Newhof and Kalamazoo County Drain Office are working to obtain the last few easements that will be required for the project. The goal is still to be able to start construction of the project in late summer early fall of 2022.

The Township submitted a letter to Governor Whitmer asking for assistance in expediting the EGLE permit process as we understand properties are still in danger of flooding, from winter melt and spring rains, without the ability to pump water out of the lakes. Representative Morse and Senator McCann also provided a letter of support for the flood mitigation project. We will continue to work through this project as expeditiously as possible.

Planning Department Staffing Update

We are currently seeking a full-time Planner/Zoning Administrator to join our team. This position was vacated on December 10. While we search for a replacement, Julie Johnston has agreed to continue to assist the Township in a consulting role. During this interim period, we have limited in-office availability. The best way to contact the Planning Department is by email at planner@texastownship.org. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to fill this key position in our organization.

Restroom Facility Coming to 6th Street Park

Design work is underway for a new restroom facility coming to 6th Street Park.

Construction of the facility is intended to start in the Spring and be completed by fall. The Township is pursuing a pre-engineered structure to reduce costs for the project. Bidding is expected to begin in early 2022.



Dog License Renewal

Kalamazoo County Animal Services and Enforcement (KCASE) and Township encourage you to purchase or renew your 2022 dog license(s) online. Visit ase.kalcounty.com to update your contact information, upload proof of sterilization and updated rabies certificates, add a photo of your dog, and provide payment, all without leaving the house.

Dog licenses are also available for purchase at the Township Hall until March 1.

License Fees

- \$15 for spayed/neutered dogs or dogs less than a year old
- \$45 for dogs that are not spayed/neutered

Documents Required

- Current rabies vaccination certificate
- Proof of spaying/neutering from your veterinarian (only required for new license purchase)

Park Snow Removal Pilot Program

This winter, the Township is launching a pilot program to remove snow from the walking paths at Texas Drive Park and the 6th Street Park. A portion of each parking lot will also be plowed as part of this program. We want to ensure that residents have a safe space to enjoy the outdoors, even while temperatures are dropping. Please keep in mind that these are not priority areas and as such, may experience a slight delay in maintenance.

Winter Taxes Due Tuesday, February 14

Your winter property tax bill is due in the Township office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14th. Any payment placed in our Drop Box (located on the west side of the Township Hall Parking Lot) by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15th will be recognized as an “on-time” payment. Late payments will incur 1% interest each month.

Payment Options

OPTION #1: USPS Mail - Mail your payment to Texas Township Treasurer, 7110 W Q Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Please include your payment and the bottom portion of your tax statement. If you would like a receipt, please provide an email address or a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Postmarks are not accepted. In all late-payment disputes, the Texas Township Treasurer’s Office will rely on the receipt stamp applied by Township administrative staff.

OPTION #2: E-CHECK & CREDIT CARD - Visit texastownship.org/taxes and click on the pay online link to pay with a debit or credit card. A processing fee of 3% is charged by the online vendor (Point & Pay). Select E-Check and the online vendor fee is \$3.00.

OPTION #3: ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS

Check with your financial institution to inquire about online bill pay. Please allow **1-2 weeks** for receipt of your payment by the Texas Township Treasurer’s Office.

OPTION #4: DROP BOX

A 24-hour secure drop box is located at the west end of the township hall parking lot. Please include your payment and the bottom portion of your tax statement. If you would like a receipt, please provide an email address or a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

OPTION #5: IN-PERSON AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE

2022 Elections

Mid-term elections are coming up – make sure you're ready to vote! Save the date for the below 2022 elections:

- **May 3, 2022 | Special Election (Tentative countywide election)**
- **August 2, 2022 | State Primary**
- **November 8, 2022 | State General**

What will be on the ballots?

In addition to millage requests and proposals, the following offices will be on ballots for the Primary and General Election: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, US Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, State Board of Education, UM Board of Regents, MSU Board of Trustees, WSU Board of Governors, State Supreme Court Justice, Precinct Delegates, and County Commissioners

How can I make sure I'm ready to vote?

Verify or update your voter information, sign up to receive absentee ballot applications for every election, find your polling place, see what's on your ballot and more at the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC), www.mi.gov/vote.

Want to vote by absentee ballot?

Contact the Clerk's Office at elections@texastownship.org or visit the MVIC to request an absent voter ballot application. Remember, an application MUST be received for each election before you can receive a ballot.

Interested in being an Election Worker?

Election inspectors, or poll workers, are a vital part of the democratic process, ensuring free and fair elections for all. Serving as an election worker is a paid position, and all election workers are trained on election processes and proper protocols.

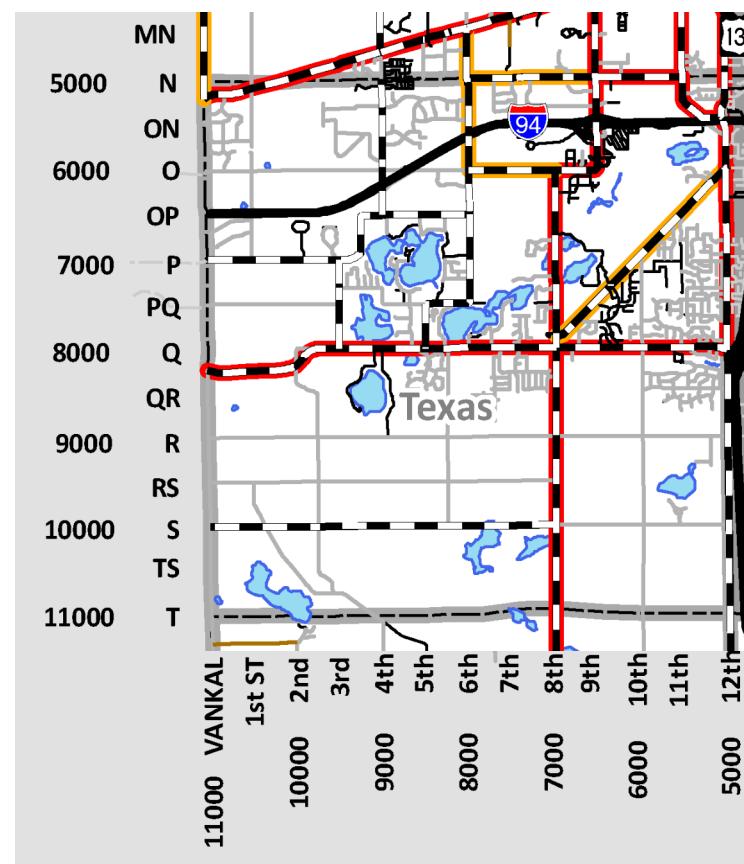
If you're interested in being an election inspector or want to learn more, please contact Clerk Emily Beutel at 269-548-4308 or emilyb@texastownship.org.



Winter Snow Removal

While the arrival of winter appears to be delayed this winter, snow is on the way! Please keep in mind the following snow removal recommendations to keep our community and neighbors safe:

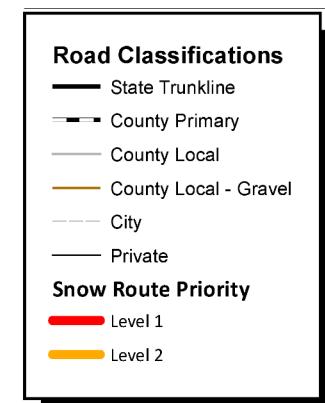
- Please clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to your property
- Remove snow from any fire hydrants adjacent to your property. This is essential to ensure quick and easy access to connect fire hoses in the event of an emergency.
- If you notice a neighbor who might need assistance with winter maintenance, please lend a hand if you are able.
- The Township is subject to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County's policies on snow removal. Primary roadways are first to be cleared after accumulation, followed by secondary/local roads. You can view a map of snow routes below. If you have a complaint about snow removal on your street, please contact the Road Commission at 269-381-3171.



The Snow Route System

The RCKC has designated a special network of roads within the county as a snow route system. Snow route roads receive our first attention. When winter weather affects road conditions, our goal is to provide the maximum level of service to the greatest number of people as quickly as possible. This network includes more than 286 miles.

Everyday service is provided to priorities A, B and C during snow events. Every other day service is our goal for plat streets, dead-end and cul-de-saq roads. (If a storm is long lasting or a second storm starts before clean-up on priorities D and E have been completed, crews will return to priorities A, B and C.)



Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor Nick Loeks
nloeks@texastownship.org



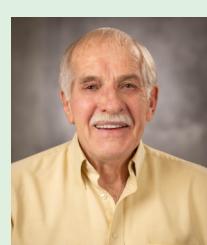
Clerk Emily Beutel
emilyb@texastownship.org



Treasurer Trish Roberts
troberts@texastownship.org



Trustee Wendy Mazer
wmazer@texastownship.org



Trustee Don Boven
dboven@texastownship.org



Trustee Linda Kerr
lkerr@texastownship.org



Trustee Barb Hammon
bhammon@texastownship.org

2022 Meeting Schedule

Township Board Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Township Hall and are always open to the public.

Jan 10	May 9	Sep 12
Jan 24	May 23	Sep 26
Feb 14	Jun 6	Oct 10
Feb 28	Jun 20	Oct 24
Mar 14	Jul 11	Nov 14
Mar 28	Jul 25	Nov 28
Apr 11	Aug 8	Dec 12
Apr 25	Aug 22	Dec 19

To view upcoming agendas or meeting minutes, please visit www.texastownship.org.