

THE STAR



Curbside Bulk Item Collection

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the College Hunks team for providing curbside bulk item collection service as part of our pilot program. The College Hunks team Collected over 360,000 pounds of items in an average of three days per zone! As we evaluate how to move forward with disposal services/events, we would like your feedback on how you felt the pilot program went and what you would like to see offered in the future. Based on the amount of items collected and time required, the total cost of the pilot program was just under \$60,000.



**Scan the QR code to participate in the online survey.
Please submit your response by August 1.**

Survey accessible at: www.surveymonkey.com/texascurbssidecollection.

Learn more about the program at texastownship.org/bulkcollection.



Featured Items

- Curbside Bulk Item Collection Survey
- Concert in the Corners
- Summer Taxes Due Sep 14
- Township Hall Project Update
- Long-Term Flood Mitigation Update
- Noxious Weeds/Lawn Maintenance

Join us for Concert in the Corners!

Saturday, July 9 | 3-6PM | Texas Drive Park



The poster features a large stylized guitar body in the background. On the left, there's a QR code. The text on the right includes the Charter Township of Texas logo, the event name "CONCERT IN THE CORNERS" in large red letters, the location "TEXAS DRIVE PARK", and the date "SATURDAY, JULY 9 | 3PM". Below this, it says "Featuring: KALAMAZOO CONCERT BAND 'FOUR TONES' & CONCERT BRASS 3-4PM and MOONSHOT BAND 4:30-6PM". A small QR code is also present at the bottom left.

On Saturday, July 9, the Township is hosting our first ever "Concert in the Corners" event at Texas Drive Park. This FREE, family-friendly event will feature live performances from the Kalamazoo Concert Band "Four Tones," Kalamazoo Concert Brass Ensemble, and Moonshot Band, a popular cover band playing hits from the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's to today. You won't want to miss this event!

Performance Schedule

3:00-4:00PM - Kalamazoo Concert Band
4:00-4:30PM - Intermission
4:30-6:00PM - Moonshot Band

No tickets are necessary. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket; alcoholic beverages are not permitted inside Texas Drive Park. In the event of inclement weather, Southridge Church will be the backup rain location.

Light concessions will be available for purchase. We encourage you to grab dinner at one of our local Texas Corners restaurants after the show!

Learn more at www.texastownship.org/concert.

Township Hall Project - Construction Update

Design of the new Township Hall is nearing completion. The new, approximately 10,000 SQFT facility will feature additional office spaces to accommodate future staff expansion, added meeting spaces, upgraded audio/video improvements to enhance the hybrid meeting experience, and more. Additionally, the site is poised to help facilitate development of the Ring Road, reducing traffic on Q Avenue and offering greater connectivity within the Corners Business District.

The project is slated to go before the Planning Commission in July for site plan approval and we anticipate the bid process to commence in late July/early August. Our hope is that construction can begin yet this year.

In the meantime, the Township is moving forward with site prep work and will be clearing the portion of the site that will be utilized for the new Township Hall & offices (nearly 60% of the 4.25 acres). The Township is working with Progressive AE to finalize construction estimates by mid to late July.



Farmers Market Season Has Arrived!

Saturdays | 8AM-12PM | Through Oct 15
Tuesdays | 4-7PM | Through Aug 30

Farmers' market season is in full swing in Texas Township! This time of year, vendor tables are filling up with the bounty of the summer season, including blueberries, raspberries, cherries, and peaches. For vegetables, we will have fresh greens, cucumbers, green beans, zucchini, squash, and tomatoes! Locally raised meats are ready for the grill, fresh-cut flowers await a centerpiece spot on the table, and even Michigan wine and hard cider are available.



The Tuesday weekday market is the perfect spot to get fresh ingredients to take home for dinner or to enjoy a picnic with family and friends from the food trucks and prepared food vendors at the market.

Both markets feature local farmers and food businesses selling their seasonal fruit and vegetables, a variety of mushrooms, meats, eggs, baked goods, preserves, honey, maple syrup, hot and ready-to-eat foods, cut flowers, plants, butterfly kits, Michigan wine and so much more. Everything at the Fresh on Q! Farmers' Market is grown or prepared locally, either by the vendor selling it or a neighboring farm or business. Shopping at the market supports our community and local economy. Subscribe to our e-newsletter which goes out before each market to see what's in season and which vendors will be there each week.

Didn't bring cash? Don't worry! The market also accepts 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. Visit the Information Table at the east end of the pavilion to learn more or to swipe your card in exchange for market tokens to spend with vendors. Visit www.texastownship.org/farmers-market to learn more. Don't forget to follow the market on Facebook and Instagram (@texastwpfm) to see what's happening and what's in season each week.

The Farmers' Market is located at 7110 West Q Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 in the Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers' Market Pavilion, next to the Township Hall.

Summer Taxes Due Wednesday, September 14

Your summer property tax bill is due in the Township office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 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 Thursday, September 15th will be recognized as an on-time payment. Late payments will incur 1% interest each month.

Payment Options

OPTION #1: E-CHECK & CREDIT CARD - Visit texastownship.org/taxes and click on the pay online link to pay by e-check, debit or credit card. The processing fee is \$3.00 for e-check or 3% for debit/credit card payments.

OPTION #2: 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 #3: 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 #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

Long-Term Flood Mitigation

In May 2021, Kalamazoo County Circuit Court set the Normal Lake Level for Crooked Lake at an elevation of 895.12 and for Eagle Lake at an elevation of 899.26. The Court also designated the Kalamazoo County Drain Office as the Agency having Authority to maintain the Normal Lake Level. The Township, Lake Associations and stakeholders continue to work with the Drain Office on the long-term flood mitigation project. The original plan of utilizing a horizontal well with gravity flow piping to permanently connect Eagle to Crooked Lake and Crooked Lake to Bass Lake through the wetland was determined to be too much of a risk. Prein & Newhof developed an alternate plan which is very similar to the short-term flood mitigation project. This plan utilizes a lake filter bed and mechanical pumping to connect Eagle Lake to Crooked Lake and a filter bed and mechanical pumping plus the filtration equipment to pump from Crooked Lake to Bass Lake through the wetland. This plan has already been proven to work by the short-term project and as a result is projected to be permissible through EGLE. The cost of the project is expected to increase significantly due to the change in design.

Prein & Newhof is finishing up the project design and is working on submitting the EGLE permit. The expectation is to put the project out to bid late summer/fall in order to commence construction in fall/winter of this year. Much of the project can be constructed throughout the winter months, with the exception of the areas within the road right of way. Due to the change in the project design, a new FEMA HMGP grant application must be submitted. It is anticipated that the grant will be re-awarded for at least the same amount of grant funds originally awarded.

The flood mitigation efforts in Texas Township continue to be a true testament to what can be accomplished when all the stakeholders, public and private, work together.

Reporting Streetlight Outages

Most streetlights in Texas Township are maintained by Consumers Energy. If you notice a streetlight outage in your area, please report it directly to Consumers Energy. Consumers Energy has new mapping functionality that allows you to see if a streetlight outage has been reported, if a streetlight is under repair, and you can receive estimates on when repair will be completed.

Check on the status and/or report outages at: streetlights.consumersenergy.com.

Planning Department Staffing Update

Since December, the Township has been working to fill the Planner/Zoning Administrator vacancy. This is a key position within our organization - especially as the Township continues to experience substantial growth. Many communities are experiencing similar challenges in filling this position. After a holistic review of the department, factoring in the growth the Township continues to experience, the Township Board is looking to restructure the department. This restructuring includes hiring a full-time Zoning Administrator, and hiring a firm to oversee the higher-level, complex functions of the department.

In the interim, the Township has redirected various functions of the role to other staff, and former Planner Julie Johnston continues to assist as the Interim Planner/Zoning Administrator. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

6th St. Park Restroom Facility On Hold



The construction of a restroom facility at 6th Street Park is still on hold. Only one bid was received for the project, which significantly exceeded the budgeted funds. The Township is working to determine how best to move forward with the project. It is likely that the project will be going back out to bid later this Summer.

Building/Zoning Permits

Doing a summer project? Did you get your building or zoning permit? Many common projects, like remodels, re-roofs, sheds, barns, decks, fences and pools require a permit and inspections. Contact the Building Department at 269.978.0715 or visit www.texastownship.org/building for more information.



Shed or Barn



Deck



Re-roof



Fence



Pool



Outdoor Fireplace

You'll Soon Find Texas Corners on Social Media



The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is in the process of developing a social media presence to highlight everything happening in Texas Corners. This page will provide information on new businesses, current promotions, news, and upcoming events. Stay tuned for more details!

Maple Hill Splash Pad Project Update

Earlier this Spring, the design work for the Maple Hill Splash Pad was completed. This was a large undertaking requiring input from the Parks & Trails Committee, Township Board, Planning Commission, and project stakeholders. We'd like to thank VIRIDIS Design Group for their work on this exciting project!

The project went out to bid in late May and on June 9, 2022 the Township received two bids for the project. Unfortunately, the construction industry remains extremely volatile, which is impacting numerous projects. Both bids for the splash pad exceeded the initial project budget. The Township is working through the post-bid interview process and determining next steps. Please stay tuned for more details.



Fire Dept. Seeking Paid-on-Call Firefighters

The Fire Department is seeking paid-on-call firefighters to assist with providing high quality fire protection and emergency medical services. State certified training is provided at no cost to the applicant; paid-on-call firefighters are compensated on a per run basis.

Requirements

- At least 18 years of age
- Energetic and physically fit
- Township residents (or residing within 2 miles of Texas Township boundaries)



To apply, please contact info@texastownship.org.

2022 Elections

Are you ready to vote?

Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) at www.michigan.gov/vote to verify or update your voter registration information, find your precinct, see what's on your ballot, request an absent voter ballot, find voter resources and more.

For the August 2 Primary Election, remember to "stay in your lane" when voting your ballot! You must vote in only ONE party section in the partisan portion of the ballot. You cannot "split your ticket" – if you vote in more than one party section, none of your partisan votes on the ballot will count.

Visit MVIC or www.texastownship.org/elections for more information on elections and voting in this year's elections.

Redistricting

If you are registered to vote in Texas Township, you can expect to receive a new voter information card in the mail due to statewide redistricting.

Following the 2020 Census, district boundary lines for United States Representative, Michigan State Senate, Michigan State Representative, and Kalamazoo County Commission were redrawn to have a balance of population.

No changes have been made to Township precinct lines. You will continue to vote at your same precinct.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at 269-375-1591.

Spongy Moth Control

Spongy moths are an invasive pest of many forest and shade trees in Michigan. MSU Extension has some great information on how to control spongy moths around your home or property.



View the article at:
<https://bit.ly/3zRg1Rk>

Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor Nick Loeks
nloeks@texastownship.org



Clerk Emily Beutel
emilyb@texastownship.org



Treasurer Trish Roberts
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Trustee Wendy Mazer
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Trustee Don Boven
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Trustee Linda Kerr
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Trustee Barb Hammon
bhammon@texastownship.org

Noxious Weeds & Lawn Maintenance

Last year, the Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 361, to control noxious weeds and manage uncontrolled vegetation in the Township. The goal of this ordinance is to protect public health and safety through the removal of noxious and nuisance vegetation; maintain and enhance property values; improve and preserve the aesthetic appearance of residential neighborhoods, commercial properties, and Township streetscapes; and promote the protection of native vegetation.

Responsibilities to Property Owners

1. Destroy all noxious weeds found on their land.
2. Cut and remove uncontrolled plant growth or uncultivated vegetation three feet from either the edge of the road pavement or back of the curb, or three feet from the back of the sidewalk, if present, and maintained so uncontrolled plant growth or uncultivated vegetation does not impede visual clearance of roadways.
3. Maintain lawn areas below a height of eight inches.
4. Manage duff and yard waste, particularly during the fall season (Oct-Dec), to minimizes impacts, such as transference of leaves to neighboring properties and the attraction of pests

Common Types of Noxious Weeds

- Ragweed
- Poison Ivy
- Poison Sumac
- Nettle
- Bittersweet Night Shade

Online Resource: MSU Extension Noxious Weeds List

<https://bit.ly/3HEvMNv>

Fireworks Safety

As you prepare for your Fourth of July celebrations, please keep in mind the following requirements and safety recommendations related to fireworks. The State of Michigan allows consumer fireworks use for Fourth of July celebrations on the following days and times:

- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 PM | July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 PM

Please keep in mind the following safety precautions to keep your families and those around you safe!

- Ensure people and pets are out of range before lighting fireworks
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishaps
- Douse spent fireworks in a bucket of water before discarding them into a trash can
- Please be respectful of your neighbors. Fireworks and the noise associated can negatively affect others (or their pets); let your neighbors know your intentions so they can plan accordingly.
- Don't try to re-light "duds" or pick up fireworks that have not ignited. Wait 20 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water.



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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.

Jul 11	Sep 12	Nov 14
Jul 25	Sep 26	Nov 28
Aug 8	Oct 10	Dec 12
Aug 22	Oct 24	Dec 19

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