

THE STAR



Curbside Bulk Item Collection Begins April 24

Texas Township is once again partnering with College Hunks to offer one curbside bulk item collection service, which will start on April 24. The township will be divided into four zones and each zone will have five designated days for collection. The zone boundaries will remain largely the same as in 2022. This service is available for single-family homes and condominiums located within the Township. It is not available for vacant parcels, commercial or industrial buildings, apartments, or manufactured home communities.

How it Works

Residents can place accepted items at the curb the Friday through Sunday prior to the start of collection in their zone. Items must be at the curb by 11:00 PM on the Sunday prior to collection starting. College Hunks will stop at each qualifying household once during the collection period to pick up items left at the curb for recycling or disposal. Each zone will be completed within five days; most zones in 2022 were completed in three days. There is a three cubic yard limit per household (approximately the size of a pickup truck bed).

Collection Schedule

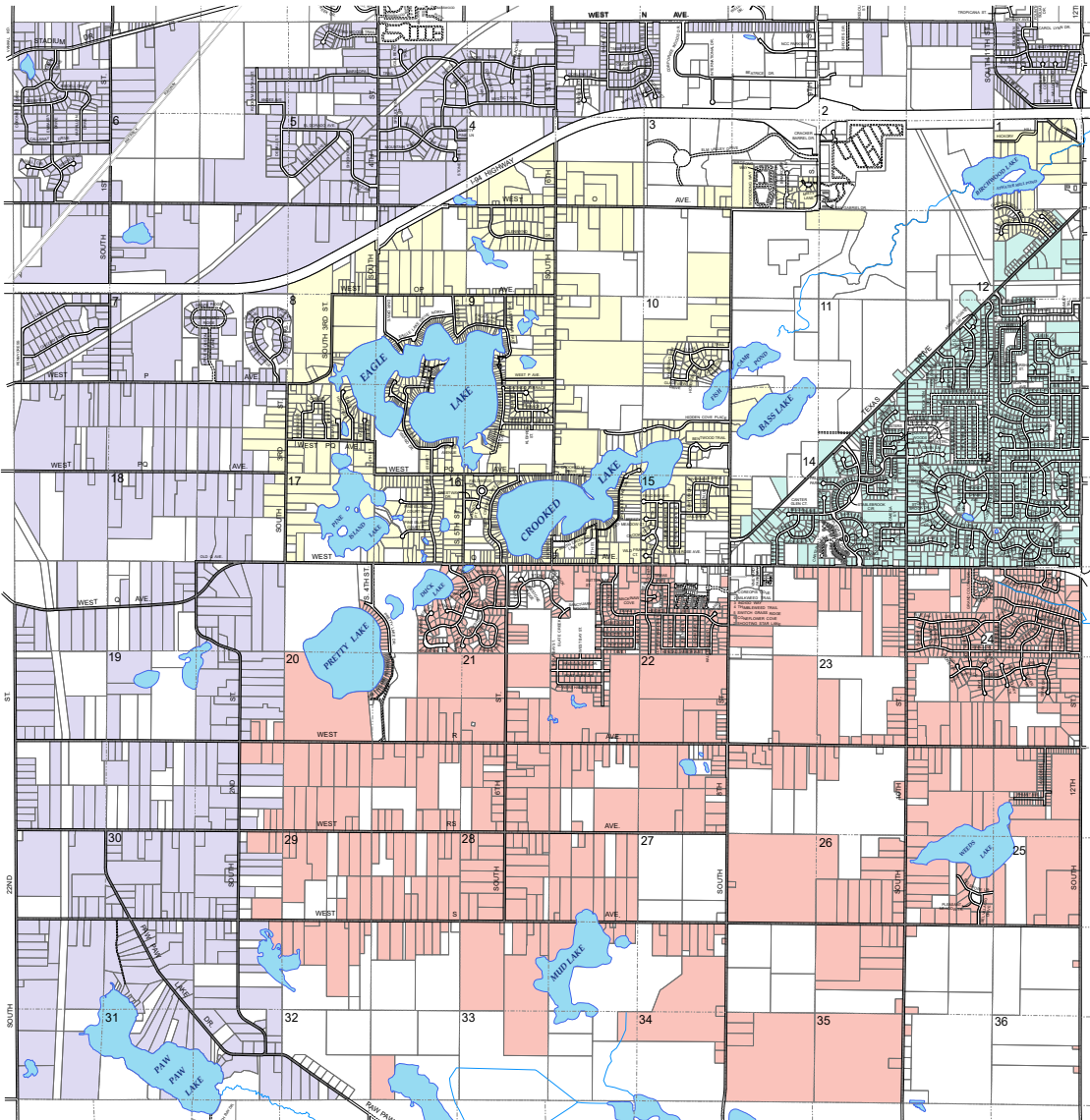
Zone	Place Items at Curb	Collection Begins	Collection Completed By
1 - Red	Friday, April 21 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, April 23	Monday, April 24	Friday, April 28
2 - Green	Friday, April 28 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, April 30	Monday, May 1	Friday, May 5
3 - Yellow	Friday, May 5 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, May 7	Monday, May 8	Friday, May 12
4 - Purple	Friday, May 12 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, May 14	Monday, May 15	Friday, May 19

Accepted Items

- Household doors and windows, furniture, mattress/box springs (must be wrapped), carpeting, toys, miscellaneous rubbish/junk
- Glass should be in a cardboard box or sturdy container & sealed
- Carpets must be bundled and 4ft or shorter in length
- Item cannot exceed weight that is safely transported by two people
- We recommend separating metals into a separate pile at the curb

Items Not Accepted

- Freon appliances (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, etc.)
- Electronics (computers, printers, monitors, accessories)
- Trees, stumps, yard waste, debris, brush
- Boats
- Pianos
- Televisions
- Tires, auto parts or engines
- Oil, gasoline, or antifreeze
- Batteries
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Chemicals, paints, solvents, pesticides, herbicides
- Concrete
- Medical waste



College Hunks will only be stopping at each qualifying household one time. Once a street has been completed, there will not be a second pickup. If items are not at the curb by 11:00 PM on the Sunday prior to collection starting, we cannot guarantee pickup.

At this time, there are no drop-off "Dumpster Day" events planned for 2023.

Fresh on Q! Farmers’ Market Season

Opening day for the Texas Township Farmers Market is Saturday, May 13th from 8 a.m. – 12 noon! We have been gearing up and are super excited for another Farmers’ market season in Texas Township for 2023. Our Saturday market season always starts right before Mother’s Day, so it’s the perfect time to get out and pick up groceries and gifts for the mothers in our lives and to say hi to all of our vendors and neighbors once again.

A lot of weather changes can happen between now and opening day, so only time will tell what crops will look like come May, but remember our early markets feature a lot more salad greens, root crops like turnips, radishes, onions, and potatoes. Hopefully we will have rhubarb, too! Maple syrup, baked goodies, fresh-cut flowers and hanging baskets will all be available, too, so start thinking about decorating your patio, deck, or front porch now! Our last few opening days have been pretty chilly, so let’s cross our fingers for some warmer weather this year.

In addition to the market’s Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through October 21, shoppers can stop by during the week on Tuesdays, starting in June, from 4 to 7 p.m. through August 29 except for Tuesday, July 4th in observance of the holiday.

Our market features 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, 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, and 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.

Don’t have 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.texas township.org/farmers-market to learn more. Don’t forget to follow the market on Facebook and Instagram (@texastwpm) to see what’s happening at market throughout the season. 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.



May 2, 2023 Special Election

Kalamazoo, Portage and Schoolcraft Schools – Precincts 3, 4 & 5

Voters in Precincts 3, 4 and 5 – mark your calendars for the Special Election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023! The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) is requesting a millage renewal in this election, which impacts voters in Kalamazoo, Portage and Schoolcraft school systems.

The Clerk’s Office is already preparing for next year’s election cycle. Proposal 2022-2, the “Promote the Vote” ballot initiative that passed in the November 8, 2022 General Election, will have some big impacts on voting in Michigan beginning in 2024. Some of those changes include nine days of early voting for state and federal elections, expanded no-reason absentee voting for all elections with one application, and state-funded postage for absentee applications and ballots. Voters can learn more about voting and elections at the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.mi.gov/vote.

Township Hall Construction Update

Anticipated Occupancy: Fall 2023

Framing of the new Township Hall continues. Despite some weather challenges, the project remains only two weeks behind schedule with a fall occupancy planned, pending no significant delays for HVAC equipment.

Phase II of this project includes the renovation of a portion of the 7110 W Q Ave facility to address water and drainage issues, expand the Fire Department’s operational space, including a new dedicated training room, and make minor upgrades to security, parking, and more. Construction documents for Phase II were finalized in March 2023 and the project is expected to go out for bid in April. It is anticipated that Phase II construction will begin after the completion of the new Township Hall.





CONCERT IN THE CORNERS

@ TEXAS DRIVE PARK

2023 SERIES PRESENTED BY




SPONSORS









SUNDAY
JULY 23
4-6PM

THE ICONIX
LIVE MUSIC, GAMES & FOOD FOR PURCHASE

SCHLITZ CREEK BLUEGRASS BAND

SUNDAY
AUGUST 20
4-6PM



[TEXASTOWNSHIP.ORG/CONCERT](https://www.texastownship.org/concert)

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council, administered by the Kalamazoo Arts Council Inc.

Electronics Recycling & Shred Day

Saturday, April 22 | 9am-12noon
Township Hall Parking Lot

As a service to our residents, Texas Township will be hosting a combined Shred Day/Electronics Recycling Event for residents to dispose of sensitive documents and electronics in a safe and secure way.

Shredding

A large shredding vehicle will be onsite to dispose of documents quickly. Please note that there is a six standard file sized box limit.

Electronics Recycling

The Township has partnered with Comprenew to provide this recycling service. We'll be collecting items such as old monitors, TVs, computers, and various electronic devices.

RFP for Design of 6th Street Park Restroom Facility Issued

On March 27, the Township Board approved the issuance of an RFP for design of an approximate 600 SQFT restroom facility at 6th Street Park. In Fall 2022, the township solicited an RFP but only received one response. The Township Board re-engaged the project this Spring and made a few modifications to the intended design - including the addition of a family/unisex restroom.

Proposals are due by 3:00 PM on Monday, April 17 and the Township Board is tentatively slated to review submissions at their April 24 meeting. The Township Board is eager to move this project forward and hopes to begin construction yet this year.



6th Street Multipurpose Fields Available for Rent

This April, the 6th Street Park multipurpose fields are being finalized for use. The fields at 6th Street Park are irrigated, striped, and available for rent.

Field 1: Soccer goals

Field 2: Combined soccer/football goals

If you know a team that is looking for a field to rent, please have them contact the Township Office at 269-375-1591.

Bench Donation Opportunity

The Township is currently seeking donations to sponsor two new benches at Texas Drive Park. These benches will replace the red wood benches surrounding the basketball court. If you are interested in sponsoring a bench, please contact the Township Office.



Riparian Ordinance Update

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, the Planning Department held a public listening session for the purpose of learning more about current riparian challenges and discussing the upcoming riparian ordinance process. There were approximately 25 in-person attendees and over 30 Zoom attendees. We'd like to thank all who attended and provided input on this process.

The Township has been discussing the need for updates to the current riparian regulations since before the flooding in 2018, when groundwater and lake levels did not recede following rain events as they had in years past. Now that the Township is in the home stretch with final permitting and eventual construction of a long-term solution, the Township Board has directed the Planning Department and Planning Commission to resume work on updating riparian regulations to protect lakes, ponds, and streams within the Township, in addition to centralizing the regulations within the Zoning Ordinance for simplicity.

This is a multi-month process with the next step being the circulation of an online survey to collect additional information and validate feedback received at the listening session. We anticipate this survey to be released in May/June 2023. There is also a strong possibility of a community workshop following the survey. The continued process is focused on engagement. It is unlikely that the Planning Commission will be reviewing any drafts of the ordinance until late Summer or early fall.

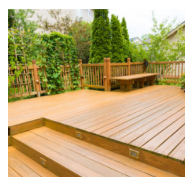
If you were unable to make it to the listening session and would like to provide input, please email Zoning Administrator, John Lovely, or mail/drop off a letter to Township Hall at your convenience. If you would like to discuss specific details regarding this process, please call John at 269-548-4305. Stay up-to-date with this project at www.texastownship.org/riparian-ordinance.

Home Improvement Project Planned This Summer?

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



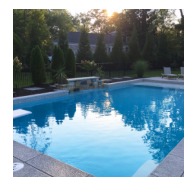
Deck



Roof



Fence



Pool



Outdoor Fireplace



Park Improvements Planned for 2023

The Township is in the process of implementing a variety of updates to our parks this Spring/Summer! Here’s a sneak peak at what is planned and what has been recently completed.

Texas Drive Park Swing Set Replacement Estimated install: April 2023	6th Street Park Multipurpose Field Goals Estimated install: April 2023	Maple Hill Splash Pad at Texas Drive Park Estimated opening: June/July 2023
Lighting & Security Upgrades at Texas Drive Park Completed March 2023	Texas Drive Park Pavilion Mural Estimated Install: May 2023	6th Street Park Restroom Facility Design to begin in 2023; Hopeful construction to begin before end of year

Burning Safety Tips from the Fire Department

As you start your spring cleanup, please keep in mind the following burning tips from the Fire Department to keep your family and neighbors safe!

Burning Debris

- Make sure you have permission to burn (burn permit)
- Keep your fire small and manageable
- Consider composting or recycling yard waste instead of burning
- Your fire should be at least 10 feet from logs, stumps or debris
- Make sure no tree branches are hanging over your firepit
- Fire break due to firewise landscaping

At Home


Consider using fire-smart landscaping – such as:

- Trimming low branches
- Mowing the lawn regularly
- Removing dead vegetation and brush
- Use nonflammable landscaping materials and high-moisture content plants
- Water plants, trees and mulch regularly
- Create nonflammable fuel breaks like driveways and walkways in your yard to stop the spread of wildfire

What's a clean fire?

Have you ever thought of what goes into a fire? Building fires with natural materials only like trees, brush or logs is important for protecting people and the environment. Here’s what you need to know:

- Burning trash and hazardous materials is illegal in Michigan (Public Act 102 of 2012)
- Burning items like plastic, foam, rubber, chemically treated wood and electronics releases cancer-causing chemicals into the air
- Ashes from burning inappropriate materials can contaminate soil and groundwater
- Dry, well-seasoned wood creates the least amount of airborne irritants



7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S POSTAGE PAID
KALAMAZOO, MI
PERMIT 36

ECRWSS
Residential Customer

Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor Nick Loeks
nloeks@texastownship.org



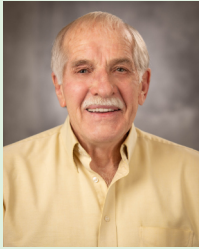
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2023 Meeting Schedule

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.

Apr 24	Jul 10	Sep 11	Nov 13
May 8	Jul 24	Sep 25	Nov 27
May 22	Aug 14	Oct 09	Dec 11
Jun 12	Aug 28	Oct 23	Dec 18
Jun 26			

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