

# THE STAR



## New Township Hall Construction Update

On December 18, 2023, the new Township Hall opened to the public. Over the past couple of months, staff have been unpacking and adapting to the new space while subcontractors have been finalizing punch list items. This 10,000 sq. ft. facility will support the needs of our growing community for years to come and provide a welcoming atmosphere for residents to interact with township staff and conduct business. Key improvements include barrier-free access, additional office space to support future staffing needs, improved meeting facilities with integrated audio/visual systems, and technology enhancements for modern business capabilities.

The Township held a Community Open House on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to welcome the public into the facility. This project began 2015 and we are proud of the final result. We'd like to extend our appreciation to the community, past and current Township Board members, and staff for their support, input, and work on this project. We'd also like to thank Progressive AE, Progressive SPR, and all of the subcontractors who made our new facility what it is today.



 Charter Township of  
TEXAS  
**COMMUNITY Open HOUSE**  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 4:30-6:30 PM

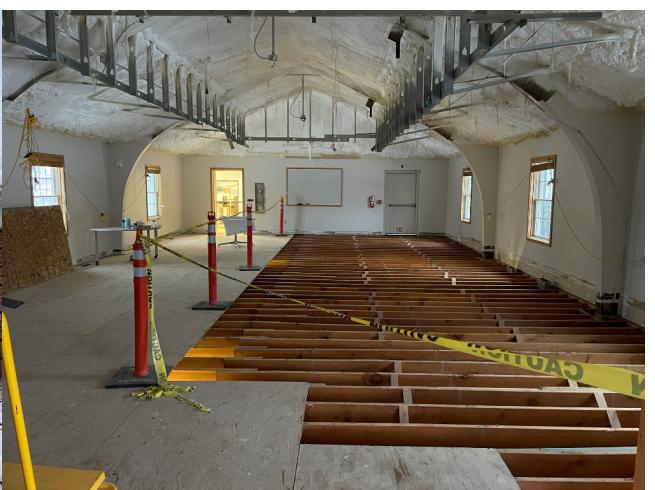


## 7110 West Q Ave Facility Renovation

Now that staff have moved into the new Township Hall, the second phase of construction at the old 7110 facility has begun. Phase II includes the following work:

- Demolition of the portion of the facility where the old staff offices were located; this will create additional greenspace and parking for the Farmers' Market.
- Renovation of the remaining space (where the upstairs board room and downstairs multi-purpose space were located) to create dedicated training space for the Fire Department, as well as additional office spaces for FD staff.
- Site work including realignment of the entry drive and parking lot improvements.

Prior to the start of demolition, the Township worked with Progress SPR, Taplin Group, and Analytical Testing to abate asbestos found in some ceiling and floor tiles. Following this abatement, demolition of the old staff offices was completed in early January. Unfortunately, once renovation work began, extensive termite damage was found in the board room and existing Fire Department office areas. Additionally, some mold was detected in the stairway leading up to the board room, where roof deficiencies led to water damage. The Township continues to work with Progressive SPR and the subcontractors to identify ways to resolve these issues and explore other measures for cost savings. Despite these setbacks, the project is scheduled to be completed prior to the Farmers' Market opening in May.



## Five-Year Recreation Plan Update

The Planning Department, Administration, and the Parks Committee are beginning to update the Township's Recreation Master Plan, which was adopted in January 2020. This Plan provides an outline for park development and prioritization of goals. One of the key components of the rec plan update is a community-wide survey, which will be distributed later this Spring. Households will be receiving a postcard with a link to complete the online survey to share feedback on what improvements they'd like to see at our parks. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

# Curbside Bulk Item Collection Begins April 15

Texas Township is once again partnering with College Hunks to offer one curbside bulk item collection service, which will start on April 15. 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 2023. 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 2023 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 12 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, April 14	Monday, April 15	Friday, April 19
2 - Green	Friday, April 19 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, April 21	Monday, April 22	Friday, April 26
3 - Yellow	Friday, April 26 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, April 28	Monday, April 29	Friday, May 3
4 - Purple	Friday, May 3 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, May 5	Monday, May 6	Friday, May 10

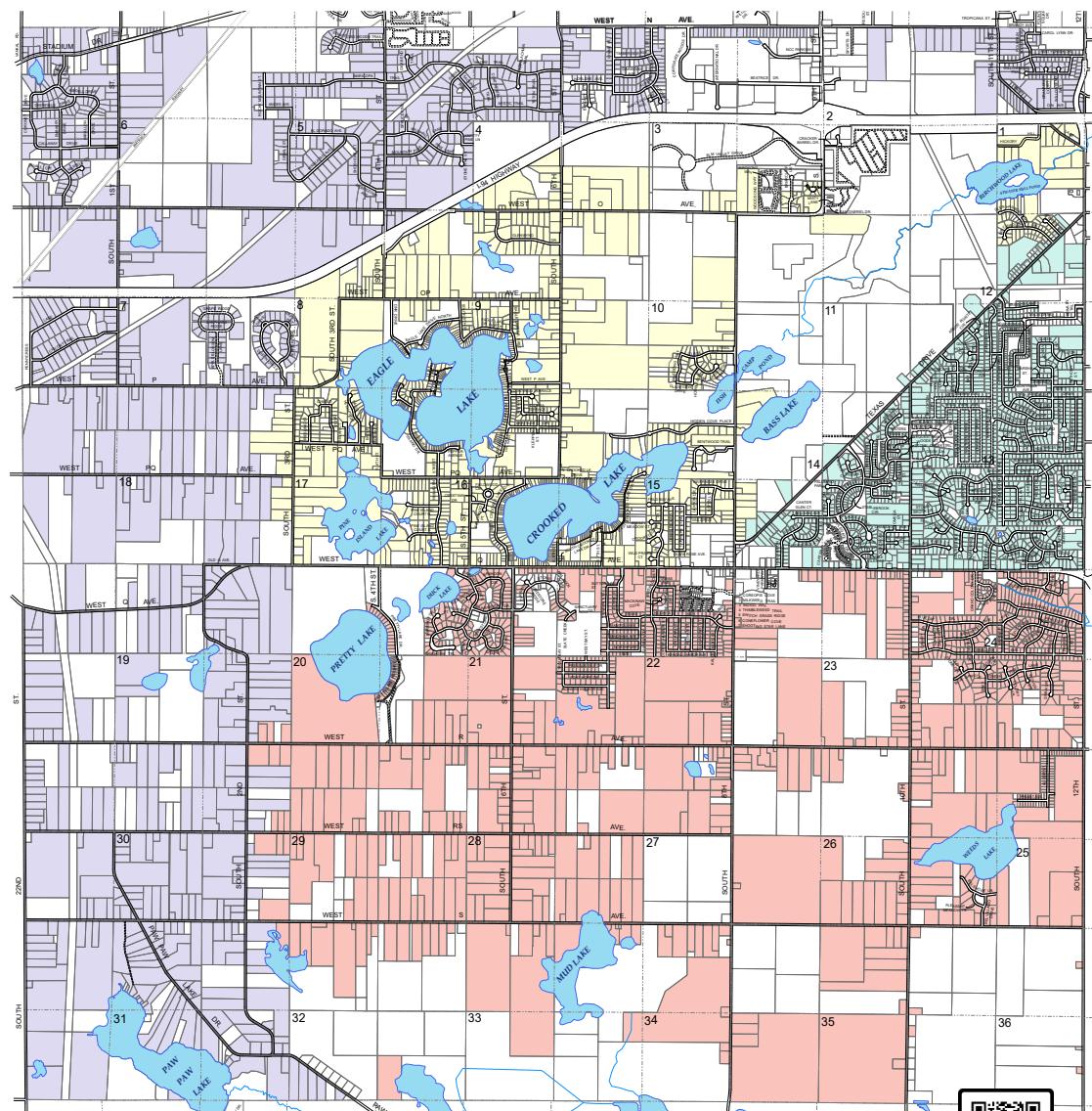
## Accepted Items

- 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

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



Online map available to find zone at [www.texastownship.org/curbsidecollection](http://www.texastownship.org/curbsidecollection).



Please be advised there are no "Dumpster Day" events planned for 2024.

## Electronics Recycling & Shred Day

**Saturday, April 20 | 9 AM - 12 PM**  
**Township Hall | 7227 West Q Ave**  
**PLEASE USE Q AVE ENTRANCE**

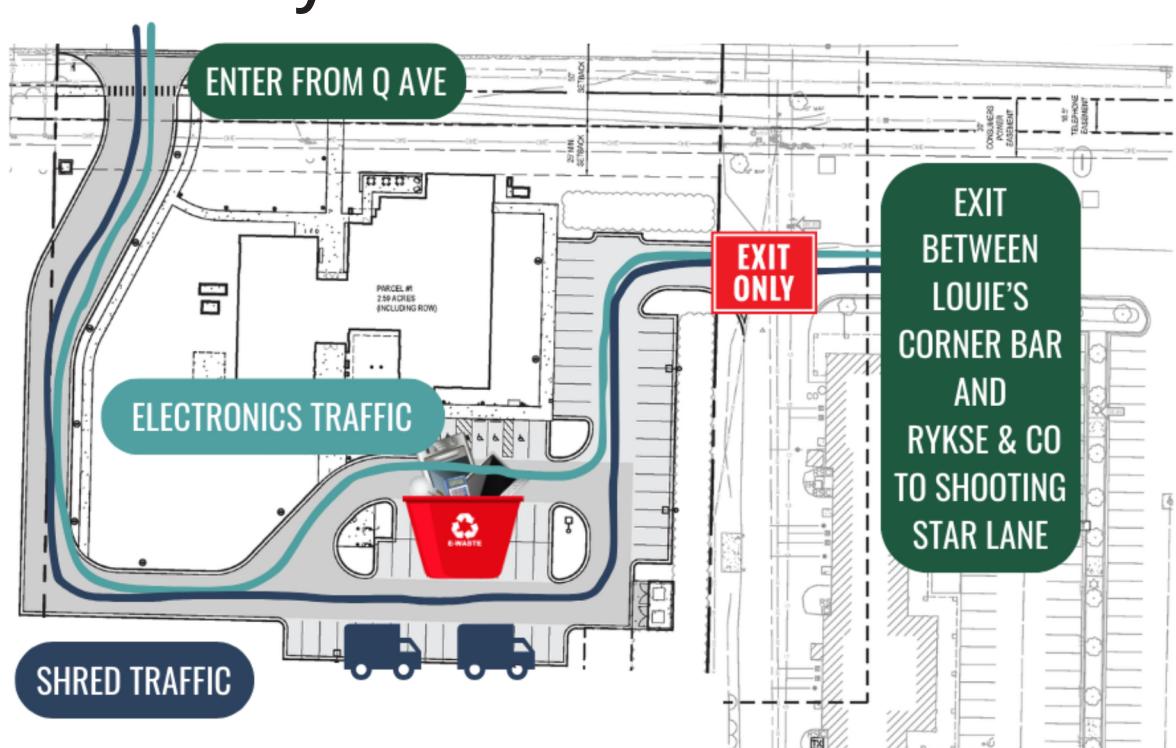
As a service to our residents, we annually host a combined Shred Day/Electronics Recycling Event for residents to dispose of sensitive documents and electronics in a safe and secure way.

### 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. **Items must be free of binders, bindings, and clips. No debris.**

### 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.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park Restroom Facility Under Construction

We are happy to share that the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park Restroom Facility is under construction! The project design was completed and construction bids were solicited last fall/winter. The low bid received from Adam Garland Construction was nearly \$200k less than the project budget. This facility is scheduled to be completed this May and open just in time for summer!

Since the project cost is substantially less than budgeted, the Township Board is evaluating adding an open air pavilion as part of the project scope. The pavilion was originally slated as part of Phase II development of the park, but has not been successful in achieving grant funding.



## Crooked & Eagle Lake - Lake Level Control Project Update

The Eagle Lake/Crooked Lake Lake Level Control project is proceeding as planned. The lakebed intake filters for both lakes were completed last fall. All piping at the Crooked Lake outlet (east side of Crooked Lake) has been installed and tested. The Crooked Lake pump station structure has been set; pumps, valves and electrical will be completed over the next 2 months. The filter building is nearing completion, with electrical, plumbing and setting of the filters to be completed. The Eagle to Crooked Lake section of the project will begin early to mid-March. Project completion is still scheduled for July 1, 2024.

## Riparian Ordinance Status

In February 2024, Planning Commissioners discussed survey results and the next steps in addressing one of their top priorities of 2024 - finishing a long-discussed draft of new riparian zoning ordinance language. The ordinance, which has been in the works since 2019, will create an ordinance that specifically addresses the zoning challenges of waterfront properties in the Township. Past drafts and discussions have considered regulations that restrict development and the removal of trees, while other discussed provisions sought to protect waterways by requiring any new landscaping that occurs adjacent to waterfront property to only include native plants.

To continue the Township's work creating an ordinance that addresses the unique geographical and geological characteristics of riparian properties while protecting property rights, the Township conducted an online survey in summer 2023 to collect additional information and validate feedback received during a 2023 Planning Commission listening session. The Township sent out over 600 mailers to riparian and surrounding property owners and further solicited participation on the Township's website. Over two-hundred seven (207) survey responses were collected by over a six-week period for a 35% +/- response rate.

Ninety percent (90%) of respondent were primary riparian (lakefront) property owners with 58% representing Eagle Lake, 25% representing Crooked Lake, 5% each representing Paw Paw and Pretty Lakes, and a handful representing Pine Island, Bass, Duck, Weeds, and Mud Lakes, and Birchwood Lake/Atwater Millpond and Fish Camp Pond.

Survey respondents were clear that protecting the natural shoreline, preserving views of the lake, maintaining (residential) structure height, and enforcing setback requirements were as important as balancing private property rights. Respondents were in favor of specific zoning standards that would retain existing structure footprints and permit the reconstruction of a structure should it be destroyed.

The Planning Department is now drafting language that reflects the input from the listening session and survey and will present a draft to the Commission in April for discussion. An opportunity to review the draft language and provide comments will be provided in late April and early May. Watch the Township website for further information and opportunities to participate in the discussion.

Updates can be found at [www.texastownship.org/riparian-ordinance](http://www.texastownship.org/riparian-ordinance).

## Pickleball Court Usage

The 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park Pickleball Courts are one of the highest utilized amenities within our parks system! We love to see you enjoying the courts, but we want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to play. The Township has received some concerns regarding sharing of the courts - so please be courteous and cognizant of those waiting to play. Here are a few reminders to ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience.

### Court Reminders

- Please use available paddle racks to organize upcoming play.
- No food, glass, or alcoholic beverages on the courts.
- Pets are allowed at the park but not on the courts.
- When others are waiting, please rotate players after each game.
- Proper footwear and attire is required - please bring your own equipment.
- Please help us keep the courts tidy and in good condition by disposing of trash.
- Help us in welcoming new players to the sport! We love to see the sport continue to grow and want the courts at 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park to be a welcoming place for all.



New wind screens courtesy of Kalamazoo Pickleball Outreach being installed this Spring

## 2024 Election Schedule

Michigan voters have even more options to cast a ballot and make their voice heard, thanks to the passing of Proposal 22-2 by voters in November 2022. This February, Texas Township residents and other voters across Kalamazoo County took advantage of short lines at the four Early Voting sites located throughout the county to vote in the Presidential Primary on the 27th.

Early Voting is similar to voting in the polls on election day – a voter is issued a ballot, marks their selections, then feeds the ballot into a tabulator to be counted. Jurisdictions across the county pooled their resources and partnered with the Kalamazoo County Clerk's Office to facilitate these polling locations. Early Voting is available two Saturdays before a State or Federal Election and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for 9 consecutive days.

Traditional, in-person voting on Election Day remains popular with voters, as does voting by absentee ballot. Join the Permanent Ballot list to have your ballot mailed to you before each election (make sure your address is updated, especially if you're traveling, as USPS does not forward ballots). With so many options, voting is easier than ever. Choose the option that works best for you, and VOTE!

### 2024 Election Dates

- May 7, 2024: Mattawan School District Voters only
- August 6, 2024: State Primary
- November 5: General Election

For more information on elections, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at <https://mi.gov/vote>

Interested in working in the polls, serving as an Election Inspector? Contact the Clerk's office at [elections@texastownship.org](mailto:elections@texastownship.org) or visit [texastownship.org/elections](http://texastownship.org/elections) to learn more or apply.

### Early Voting Sites:

Kalamazoo County Expo Center  
Portage Parks & Recreation Department  
Fetzer Center at WMU  
Douglass Community Association

# Farmers' Market Season Begins Saturday, May 11th

Opening day for the Texas Township Farmers Market is Saturday, May 11th, from 8am-noon. We have been getting ready for the season by planning lots of fun activities through the season, and looking forward to seeing new and familiar vendors throughout the 2024 season. Our Saturday market season always happens the weekend of Mother's Day, so it is the perfect time to plan the perfect meal, find goodies and specialty items, or pick up flowers or plants for the special Mothers in all our lives, and to also say hi to all our vendors and friends again!

Being in Michigan, we all know the weather can be unpredictable between now and opening day, and only time will tell what our farmers crops will look like for opening weekend through May, but remember that our early markets have lots of great root veggies like turnips, radishes, onions, and potatoes, as well as salad greens, micro greens, and beautiful plants and select flowers. We will eventually see rhubarb become prevalent as well! Baked goods, hanging flower baskets, maple syrup, popcorn, pizzas, and other wonderful offerings will be available too. You can start thinking about decorating your porches with woodworking items, flowers, and plants as well even while it's chilly, so cross your fingers for the warm weather to come and stick around soon. In addition to the Saturday markets through October 19th, shoppers should take advantage of our Tuesday night market starting June 4th, through August 27th, from 4-7pm. We look forward to exciting food trucks, great entertainment, and vendors familiar and new to fill our tables.

Other great offerings at our market include seasonal vegetables and fruit, pork, chicken, and other meats, baked goods and fresh bread, jams and jellies, honey, maple syrup, hot and ready to eat foods, a variety of mushrooms, freshly cut flowers, hanging plants, body products, popcorn, specialty candles, and so much more. Everything at the Fresh on Q! Farmers Market is grown or prepared locally, either by the vendors selling them, or a neighboring farm or business, and shopping at the farmers market supports our community and local economy. Feel free to subscribe to our e-newsletter, which goes out before each market to see what is in season, and which vendors will be at the market each week.

Our new market manager is Val Glasscock and she is thrilled to be involved this season! She has been a vendor with Rykse & Co for quite a few years, and brings a lot of exciting ideas to the table. She has been passionate about the Texas Corners Farmers Market since before she started at Rykse & Co, and is looking forward to making this a great season! Please feel free to introduce yourself to her at the Market Information table!

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. A large majority of our vendors also accept credit and debit cards.

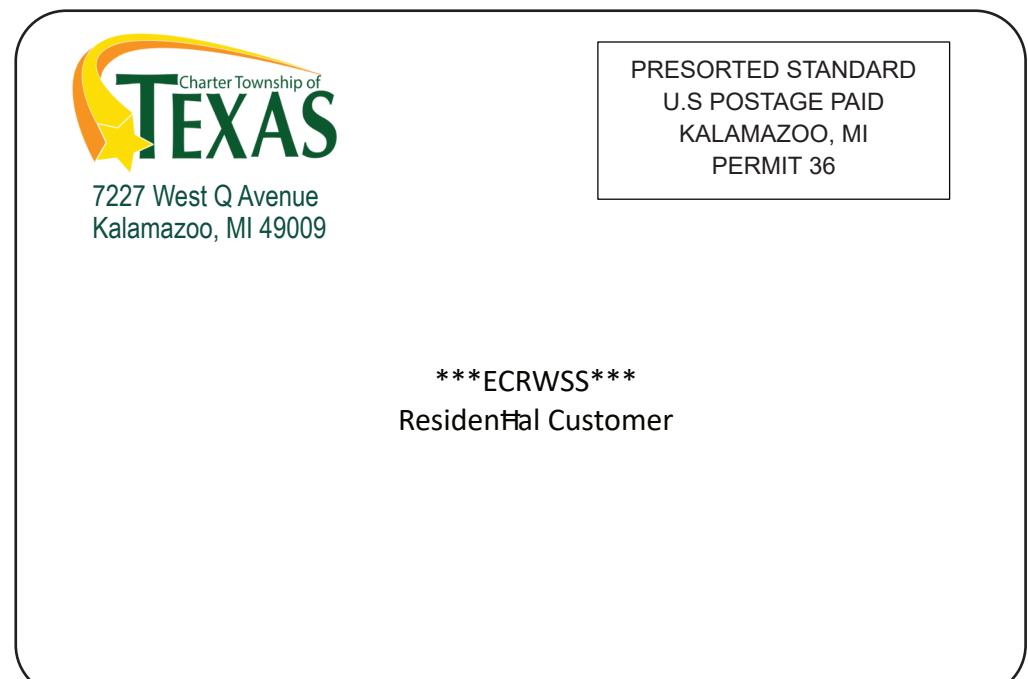
Visit [www.texastownship.org/farmers-market](http://www.texastownship.org/farmers-market) to learn more about the market and available payment options. Don't forget to follow the market on Facebook and Instagram (@texastwpfm) to see what's happening at market throughout the season.

The Farmers Market is located at 7110 West Q Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 in the Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers Market Pavilion, next to the Fire Station, across the street from the new Township Hall.

## Texas Corners Mac & Cheese Bake-Off Returns October 5<sup>th</sup>!



Learn more at [www.texastownship.org/concert](http://www.texastownship.org/concert)



## Texas Township Board of Trustees



**Supervisor Nick Loeks**  
nloeks@texastownship.org



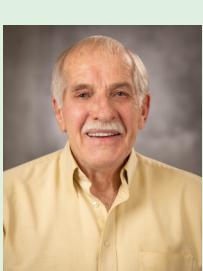
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**Trustee Michelle O'Neill**  
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**Erik J. Wilson, Superintendent**  
superintendent@texastownship.org

## 2024 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.

<b>Apr 08</b>	<b>Jul 08</b>	<b>Oct 14</b>
<b>Apr 22</b>	<b>Jul 22</b>	<b>Oct 28</b>
<b>May 06</b>	<b>Aug 12</b>	<b>Nov 11</b>
<b>May 20</b>	<b>Aug 26</b>	<b>Nov 25</b>
<b>Jun 10</b>	<b>Sep 09</b>	<b>Dec 09</b>
<b>Jun 24</b>	<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Dec 23</b>

To view upcoming agendas or meeting minutes, please visit [www.texastownship.org](http://www.texastownship.org).

## Township Superintendent

The Township Superintendent is appointed by the Township Board and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the township.