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THE STAR

July 2024 eNewsletter

JUST A REMINDER THAT

WE'VE MOVED!

7227 WEST Q AVENUE
KALAMAZOO, MI 49009

FEATURED NEWS

- [Fire Station Renovation Project](#)
- [Woollam Preserve Soft Opening](#)
- [Crooked-Eagle Lakes Normal Lake Level Project](#)
- [6th Street Park Restroom & Pavilion Projects](#)
- [5-Year Recreation Plan Survey](#)
- [August 6, 2024 Primary Election](#)

7110 West Q Ave Facility Renovation Nearly Complete



Contact Us

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In early 2024, the renovation of the 7110 West Q Ave facility began. This project included three primary components:

1. Demolition of the previous Township Offices to increase greenspace & expand parking for the Farmers' Market
2. Create a dedicated training facility for the Fire Department
3. Increase the operational space for the Fire Department, with additional offices and shared workspaces

The Fire Department is in the process of moving into the new space and a few punch list items remain to be completed. The Township also plans to solicit bids to repaint the exterior of the Fire Station (not included in the renovation scope), and to re-roof the facility.

Arthur E. & Mildred H. Woollam Nature Preserve

Soft Opening Begins August 17th

Adjusted for 2024

February | eNewsletter

April | Print Newsletter

July | eNewsletter

October | Print Newsletter

Important Numbers

Building Department

269-978-0715

Fire Department

269-375-4610

Kalamazoo County

Dispatch

269-488-8911

Road Commission

269-381-3171

Drain Office

269-384-8117

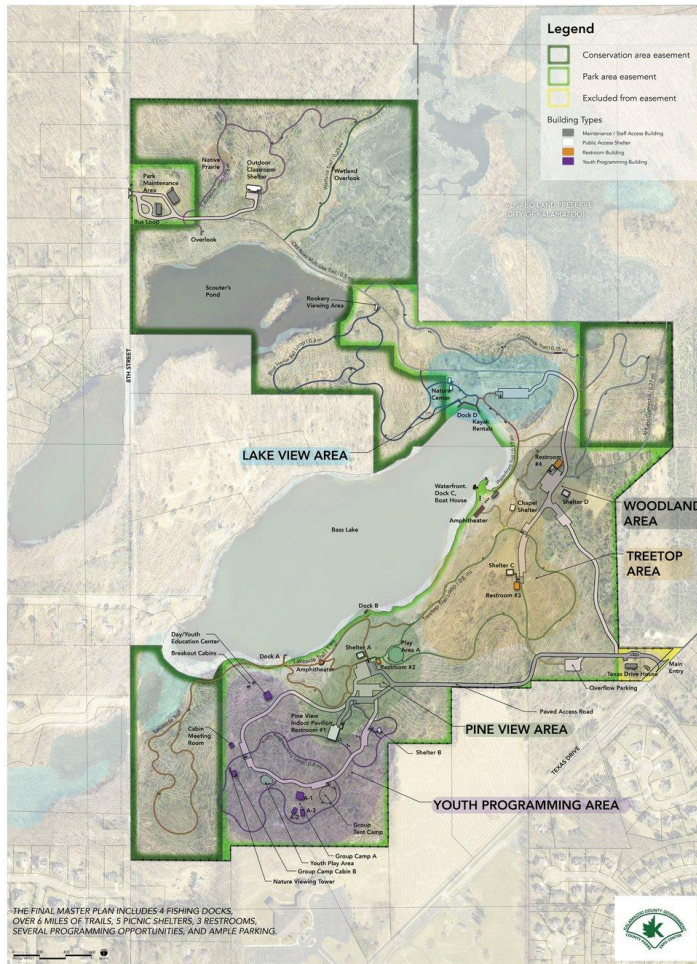
Passport Service Available By Appointment Only

Traveling somewhere in 2024? We can help! Texas Township offers passport service by appointment.

Appointments are available Mon - Thu and can be scheduled online at: www.texastownship.org/passports.

Note: We do not process passport renewals.

Schedule Now



On August 17th, the new Kalamazoo County Park - the Woollam Nature Preserve - will open to the public. Kalamazoo County will plan a "soft opening" for the remainder of the 2024 season, where the park will be open on weekends only from 9:00 AM to sunset. You will need a Kalamazoo County Parks pass (\$25 fee) to enter the site.

The Woollam Nature Preserve is located at the former Rota-Kiwan Boy Scout Camp, and encompasses 212 acres in Texas Township. This will be the seventh County park, featuring canoe and kayak rentals, fishing docks, walking trails, picnic shelters, and more. You can [view the Master Plan here](#).

Crooked and Eagle Lakes Legal Lake Level Project

July

July 21 | Concert in the Corners Featuring Kalamazoo Concert Brass

July 22 | Township Board Meeting

July 23 | Parks Committee Meeting

July 23 | Planning Commission Meeting

July 24 | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

July 25 | DDA Meeting

August

Aug 04 | Texas Firefighter's Association Annual Ice Cream Social

Aug 06 | State Primary Election

Aug 12 | Township Board Meeting

Aug 13 | Planning Commission Workshop Meeting

Aug 18 | Concert in the Corners Featuring The Bronk Bros

Aug 22 | DDA Meeting

Aug 26 | Township Board Meeting

Aug 27 | Parks Committee Meeting

Aug 27 | Planning Commission Meeting

Aug 28 | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

September

Sep 02 | Township Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

Sep 09 | Township Board Meeting

Sep 10 | Planning Commission Workshop Meeting

Sep 23 | Township Board Meeting

Sep 24 | Parks & Trails Committee Meeting

Sep 24 | Planning Commission Meeting



Please visit
texastownship.org for
more upcoming events.

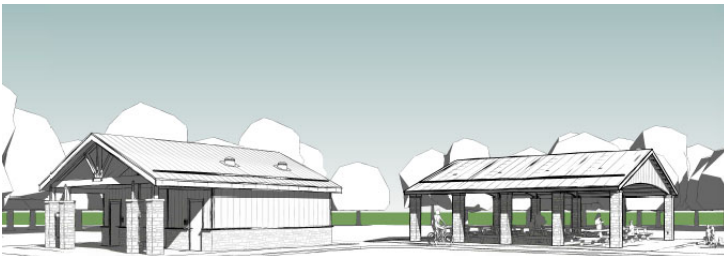
View the
Township
Calendar

The Crooked and Eagle Lakes Normal Lake Level project is underway with final equipment installation and start-up expected to be completed by early September. All pump station structures, piping and filter building are complete, including surface restoration.

Homeowners in the Crooked and Eagle Lakes Normal Lake Level Special Assessment District may see a decrease in their assessment amount based on the additional \$2.2M of State funding received for the project. Any potential rebates will be calculated after construction is completed.

**Public Safety
Reminder:
Keep Vehicles
Locked &
Remove
Valuables
From Inside**

6th Street Park Restroom Facility - Project Scope to Include New Pavilion



Construction of the 6th Street Park restroom facility is almost complete and will be open before the end of the year! Because the construction bid came in less than anticipated, the Township Board approved the addition of a 30'x40' open air pavilion structure (included in the 6th Street Park Master Plan) to the project scope. Both components can be completed with a 5% increase to the overall project budget, which will reduce future

by the end of the year.

5-Year Recreation Master Plan Update Survey

Survey Closes August 1



The Township is in the process of updating our 5-Year Recreation Master Plan and we are seeking your feedback on the quality/quantity of existing park facilities and where we should focus efforts and investment for the improvement and expansion of these facilities and non-motorized trailways.

Please consider participating in our online survey, which will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Paper copies are available at the Township Office during normal business hours. You can access the survey and view the existing Plan at: www.texastownship.org/rec-plan-update.

[Take the Survey](#)

Concert in the Corners



Don't miss out on our 2024 Concert in the Corners series presented by TemperaturePro! This year's line-up is top notch, with games and activities for the whole family. All events are free and open to the public. Please bring a lawn chair, or picnic blanket, and umbrellas and SPF are encouraged as shade is limited!

Sunday, July 21 | Kalamazoo Concert Brass
Sunday, August 18 | The Bronk Bros
All events held at Texas Drive Park | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

This series is made possible thanks to grant dollars from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, and support from our generous sponsors.



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

August 6th Primary Election

Be ready to vote in the August 6 Primary Election!

Michigan registered voters have several options when it comes to casting their ballots and making their votes count, thanks to the passage of Proposal 2022-2. This voter-passed legislation allows for nine days of early

Absentee Ballots are available 40 days before each election and can be mailed or issued directly at the Clerk's Office with valid photo ID. The office will also be open Saturday, August 3 from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM for absentee voting. Ballots must be returned by 8:00 PM on election day to the Clerk's Office in order to be counted, and may be returned via USPS Mail, using the 24-hour secure drop box at the flag plaza in the Township Hall parking lot, or at the Township Hall offices.

Want to vote absentee every election? Join the Permanent Ballot list by checking the box on your Absent Voter Ballot Application or online at www.michigan.gov/vote. Be sure to keep your mailing address updated for future elections if you're traveling (especially if you spend the winter in warmer climates!)

Early Voting, open 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM from Saturday, July 27 through Sunday, August 4th at these locations:

- Kalamazoo County Expo Center (2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048)
- Portage Parks & Recreation Department (320 Library Ln, Portage, MI 49002)
- Fetzer Center at WMU (2251 Business Ct, Kalamazoo, MI 49008)
- Douglass Community Association (1000 W Paterson St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007)

VOTE EARLY

IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY*

KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CLERK | REGISTER OF DEEDS

Pick the day that works best for you

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						JULY 27
JULY 28	JULY 29	JULY 30	JULY 31	AUGUST 01	AUGUST 02	AUGUST 03
AUGUST 04		AUGUST 06 <small>Election Day</small>				

Early voting sites are open
from 07/27 – 08/04, 9AM-5PM

kalcounty.com/vote
*Except Pavilion Charter Township Voters

Make sure your voter registration is up to date at the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.michigan.gov/vote! You can also preview your ballot, request an absentee ballot, and update your mailing address if you utilize a PO Box or will be traveling.

Interested in joining our Elections team as a poll worker? We're looking for Election Inspectors to work in the precincts on election day – elections would not be possible without the dedicated individuals who perform this important service! All Election Inspectors must attend mandatory training every two years to be certified, and the Township pays for both hours worked in the polls and training. Contact the Clerk's Office at elections@texastownship.org if you're interested in learning more about becoming an Election Inspector.

Farmers Market Season

Saturdays: 8 AM - 12 PM (Through Oct 19)

Tuesdays: 4 PM - 7 PM (Through Aug 27)



The Farmers Market has been seeing lots of growth in our numbers this season. We've seen new vendors and lots of new and returning customers to our market. It is so great to see friends and make new ones at the market each week, be outdoors, buy fresh and local produce, delicious meats, beautiful plants, and other wonderful specialty items. Our Saturday markets have been very well attended. We appreciate the Fire Department for their participation each week, and we know how much our families love seeing the firefighters each week as well as seeing children in the fire trucks as well.

at the market on Tuesday as we have wonderful food trucks each week and great vendors as well.

We are so wonderfully blessed to be sponsored by the DDA (Downtown Development Association) to host our musicians at each market! We are so fortunate to be able to host a full season of musicians, and so glad to have such great backing and support by the DDA to make our market more lively and exciting. There is often dancing that breaks out, and it's so fun to watch!

We have 2 big events coming up: Kids Day and Kids Night! Kids Night comes first and is July 23rd, and Kids Day is July 27th. We will have similar events on both dates: a photo wall, temporary tattoos, face painting, and a scavenger hunt through the market. Be sure to see Val and Abby at Market information for more information regarding these fun dates!

We have our wonderful tote bags on sale at each market for shopping with, and this small fee goes to help offset our budget for future entertainment and marketing. We will have one other opportunity for free totes during the season during Farmers Market Week (August 4-10).

Be sure to see us on Saturdays from 8am-noon and Tuesdays from 4-7pm at 7110 W. Q Avenue next to the fire station. We look forward to seeing you there!

Township Investing in Maintenance and Expansion of Non-Motorized Trailways

As part of the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan, the Township set aside funds for two projects to improve parking lots and non-motorized trailways and evaluate options for non-motorized trailway expansion.

Project #1: Improvements to Texas Drive Park Parking Lot & Phase I Trailway

Estimated Timeline: Work to begin after Labor Day

Scope of work will include crack filling, resealing & restriping the parking lot at Texas Drive Park with more extensive repaving at the middle entryway drive (near the Maple Hill Splash Pad) and to the driveway apron at the NE entrance to the park. Additionally, the Phase I Trailway

Project #2: Trailway Feasibility Study

Estimated Timeline: Fall/Winter 2024

The Township recently solicited an RFP for proposals to complete a feasibility study for the design and construction of the next phase(s) of non-motorized trailway. The intent of the Study is to identify and evaluate non-motorized route options between the destinations specified below, with public input as a key component of the evaluation process. Final recommendations in the Feasibility Study will be used to guide planning and development as the trail moves from concept to construction.

The Township Parks & Trails Committee and Township Board have prioritized four segments to focus on:

1. Texas Corners Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and 6th Street Park
2. Texas Corners Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to 12th Street via West Q Avenue
3. Segment A) 10th Street from Texas Drive to Q Avenue - including connectivity to existing trailway segment ending on Texas Drive across from Bentley Drive & Segment B) 10th Street from Q Avenue to Swallow Avenue
4. 12th Street from Queen Victoria Lane to Q Avenue

Township staff is in the process of reviewing the proposals received and we anticipate the project to begin in August or September. Please stay tuned for more information and upcoming public engagement opportunities!

Summer Taxes Due September 16th

Your summer property tax bill is due in the Township Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16th. Any payment placed in our Drop Box (located near the flag plaza) by 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 17th will be recognized as an on-time payment. Late payments will incur 1% interest each month.

Payment Options**ONLINE PAYMENT OPTIONS (Recommended)**

#1 Electronic Payment (No fee, and in most cases, immediate delivery). Contact your bank to utilize this option.

- Check (ACH) Payment - \$3 flat fee for each transaction up to \$10,000
- Credit Card: Third party convenience fee of 3% will be added

IN PERSON AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

Please bring the entire bill with your payment. We accept payments during normal business hours. For safety reasons, checks or credit cards are the preferred method of payment. There is a third party processing fee of 3% for all cards.

DROP BOX (Recommended)

A 24-hour secure drop box is located near the flag plaza. 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. Any payment placed in the drop box by 8:00 a.m. the next morning will be recognized as an on-time payment.

USPS Mail

Mail your payment to Texas Township Treasurer, 7227 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 or check dates are not accepted as on-time payment.** In all late-payment disputes, the Texas Township Treasurer's Office will rely on the receipt stamp applied by Township administrative staff.

Texas Township Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social & Children's Carnival

Sunday, August 4 | 12 PM to 2 PM

Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers' Market Pavilion



Please join us for the annual Texas Township Firefighters Association Ice Cream Social & Children's Carnival! Event highlights include - ice cream, carnival games, a silent auction, hot dogs and popcorn, fire trucks and the annual parade escorting Great Lakes Burn Camp campers and volunteers. They will be riding in a vast array of FIRE RIGS accompanied by a convoy of MOTORCYCLES. The parade will pass through Texas Corners around 1:15 p.m. Net proceeds from the event will be distributed equally between GREAT LAKES BURN CAMP and the Texas Township Firefighters Association. **A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND FUN FOR ALL AGES - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Severe Weather Notifications

emergency tornado sirens in place, there are several mechanisms in place for residents to be notified of severe weather:

1. Purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio monitor. These monitors stay silent until severe weather watches or warnings are issued for our area, then they alert with a tone and then voice messages.
2. Enable severe weather alerts on your mobile devices. Many weather apps such as Accuweather, provide severe weather alerts. One of the disadvantages of tornado sirens is that they frequently cannot be heard indoors, whereas many of us carry mobile devices both indoors and outdoors.

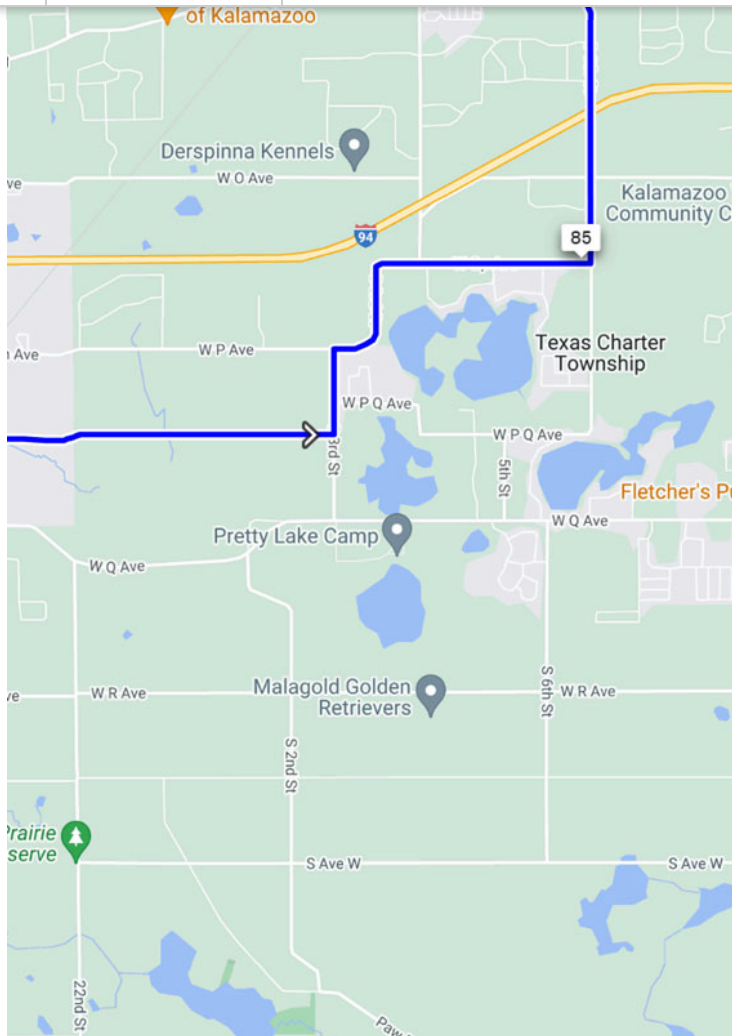
Consumers Energy - Neighborhood Meeting

We are aware that several areas of the Township are experiencing more frequent power outages. Township staff are working to schedule a community meeting with Consumers Energy so residents can express their concerns with CE staff and hear more about how Consumers Energy plans to address these issues. More details will be posted on the website and shared with neighborhood groups when available.

Make-A-Wish Bicycle Tour Passing Through Texas Twp on July 27th

Please be advised that Make-A-Wish Michigan is hosting their Annual Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour from July 26-28 and on Saturday, July 27th, riders will be passing through the Township from approximately 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be an estimated 350 cyclists spread out in smaller groups. Riders will be traveling along West PQ Avenue, 3rd Street, West OP Avenue, and 8th Street.

Please use caution when traveling through this area on July 27th.



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