

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

May 24, 2024

Bill to require master plans to include housing

Township planning commissions would be required to consider local housing needs in developing or revising a master plan under legislation approved by a subcommittee this week. [House Bill 5557](#), sponsored by Rep. Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids), would also require the commission to be representative of the local unit of government's housing interests. The bill now moves to the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee.



We Listen to Our Clients

Check out our Cemetery Plot Finder!



House approves final four bills in asbestos abatement requirement changes

Legislation supported by MTA to amend the handling of asbestos and removal activities and how public entities can enter contracts for those performing those activities is a step closer to becoming law. This week, the House gave final approval on four bills, House Bills [4186](#) and [4188](#) and Senate Bills [225](#) and [226](#). The legislation specifically regulates how public entities enter into contract agreements with construction or demolition firms regarding asbestos removal activities. HBs 4186 and 4188 are pending signature by the governor and SBs 225 and 226 await concurrence by the Senate. Two additional bills in the package were previously signed into law—Public Acts 16 and 17 of 2024.

PREVENT WATER DAMAGE

The Michigan Township Participating Plan offers member entities a free water sensor kit.

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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

Now You Know lunchtime webinar:

June 5: [Blight Buster](#)

[The ABCs of the ZBAs:](#)

May 29: [Kalamazoo](#)



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LEARN MORE

[Election Prep: Beyond the Bureau:](#)

- June 17: [White Cloud](#)
- June 18: [Kalamazoo](#)
- June 19: [Frankenmuth](#)
- June 25: [Marquette](#)
- June 26: [Online](#)
- June 27: [Gaylord](#)

Bills to allow speed detection systems in school zones

A county or local authority may soon be permitted to place speed detection systems in school zones under legislation approved by a House committee this week. [House Bill 4921](#), sponsored by Rep. John Fitzgerald (D-Wyoming), would allow a county or local authority to install and use a speed detection system in a school zone on a highway or street under its jurisdiction—or with the permission of the Michigan Department of Transportation if the school zone is on a state highway or street. A violation of the bill’s provisions or a corresponding local ordinance would be a civil infraction subject to a fine of \$100 to \$150. The House will next consider the measure.



MTA QUICK LINKS

- [Answer Center](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Community Connection](#)
- [Webcasts](#)
- [Store](#)
- [Township Governance Academy](#)
- [Allied Service Providers](#)
- [NATaT](#)

2024 STC Updates courses offered

The State Tax Commission (STC) has released June and August dates for [2024 STC Updates classes](#), which all certified assessing officers must complete as part of their continuing education requirements for the Nov. 1, 2023-Oct. 31, 2024, renewal cycle. The June 17 course is available online through the STC’s Continuing Education Portal and can be accessed at <https://coned.mi-stc.org>.

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Upcoming Treasury webinar, recording available

- Register now for the next state Department of Treasury “Chart Chat” webinar. Held at 2 p.m. on May 30, the one-hour session will explore corrective action plans, numbered letters update,



MERS
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www.mersofmich.com

budget project tool, uniform actuarial assumptions and a Headlee overview. Register and submit questions in advance [here](#).

- A recording of Treasury's May 2 [Updates and Resources for Local Government webinar](#), which shared valuable information for townships on a number of infrastructure topics, is now available for those who were unable to participate or who would like to review the information provided. The webinar provided specific information on lead service line replacement, infrastructure financing (state revolving funds), the Asset Management Champions program, technical support from the Michigan Infrastructure Office and State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

* [Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



The advertisement features a blue and white color scheme. On the left, there are three overlapping screenshots of various website interfaces, including one with a 'PORTFOLIO' section. To the right, the STG logo is prominently displayed above the text 'SHUMAKER TECHNOLOGY GROUP'. Below this, the main headline reads 'CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE PORTFOLIO!' in bold, blue, and black text. At the bottom of the ad, a blue button contains the text 'MICHIGAN'S EXPERTS IN WEB DEVELOPMENT'.



MDOT lifts traffic restrictions to ease Memorial Day travel

With an estimated 1.3 million Michigan residents expected to travel 50 miles or more during the Memorial Day weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is suspending work and lifting traffic restrictions wherever possible this weekend to ease congestion and increase safety.

New Septic Replacement Loan Program available

Townships can share with their residents available assistance from the [Septic Replacement Loan Program](#), which provides low-interest financing options for loans up to \$50,000 to Michigan homeowners looking to replace their septic systems. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy has partnered with Michigan Saves to offer financing for the

replacement of failing or near-failing septic systems, in efforts to protect Michigan's water resources and safeguard the well-being of its residents. Visit MichiganSaves.org/Septic/ for additional information, to find a Michigan Saves authorized contractor and to begin the financing process for septic system replacement.

Grant funding, assistance opportunities for townships

- **[Clean Diesel Program](#)**. Townships seeking to replace diesel emission vehicles, engines and equipment with lower or no emission vehicles and equipment can [submit a request for proposal](#) for state funding until June 17. Projects should focus on all-electric technology, local government fleets, recycling vehicles, compost and food waste recovery vehicles, among other equipment. Direct any questions to (517) 290-5722 or ZbozienD@Michigan.gov.
 - **[Rail Crossing Elimination Program](#)**. Townships seeking federal funding from the Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program can join an informative session, [Crossing to Success: Navigating the Rail Crossing Elimination Program](#), on May 29. The RCE—a federal program available to states and communities for improving the safety and mobility of people and goods—is approaching its second application period at the end of May. In the program's first year, it provided \$570 million in grants to eliminate nearly 400 rail crossings in 32 states.
 - **[Water Technical Assistance](#)**. Townships, and drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities and systems can apply for free technical assistance services to help ensure all communities have access to clean and reliable water. The application is a rolling deadline.
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Reminders for clerks

- **May 27** is the deadline for clerks to electronically submit a [reimbursement form](#) for expenses that are attributable to the Feb. 27 presidential primary.

- **June 7** is the deadline to establish, move or abolish a polling place for the Aug. 6 election. Moving an early voting site or a polling location requires township board approval, notice to voters and notice of the change to be posted at the old polling location. Any polling places change must be updated in the Qualified Voter File.

Federal update for week of May 20

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.

MTA offices closed on Monday, May 27

The MTA Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on May 28.

