



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

February 2018



COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!



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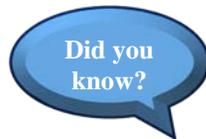
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From the Office of Administrator

The annual Kalamazoo County Government Organizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on January 9, 2018. The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, adopt the Bylaws that govern the Board, appoint commissioners to the various advisory boards and commissions, and to set the schedule of meetings for the upcoming year.

Kalamazoo County Commissioners elected Stephanie Moore as the Board's 2018 Chairwoman. Chair Moore was a Kalamazoo City Commissioner from 2007 through 2014, and has served on the county board since 2015. Her goals for the year ahead include exceptional customer service to the citizens, providing stability and unity for the county to better serve the community, healthy housing, and improved quality of life for underserved populations. Dale Shugars was elected Vice Chairman. We look forward to a year of extraordinary governance!



[MyFreeTaxes.com](#) Need to do your taxes and have a household income less than \$64,000? You may qualify for free tax preparation. Contact [2-1-1](#) to check eligibility and tax sites available in your area or online. [MyFreeTaxes.com](#) is an easy, safe, and free way to file your taxes online sponsored by United

Way and H&R Block. Just click File For Free and you'll be taken to the secure H&R Block software that has powered MyFreeTaxes since 2009. United Way promotes MyFreeTaxes to help support the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

Kalamazoo County Government's Health and Community Services at 3299 Gull Road will again be offering their **Wednesday Walk-In tax preparation clinics** from January 31st through April 17th in the Georgian room from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Another tax resource is the **Tax-a-thon / Show Me the Money Day** scheduled for January 31, 2018, from 9:00am-7:00pm. This is a free drop-off preparation service offered to those with household income of \$54,000 or below. Dial 2-1-1 or go to Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 South Rose Street, for a list of what to bring for tax preparation services.



Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Your Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners



Contact your District Commissioner

Your Kalamazoo County Elected Officials:

[Stephanie Moore](#), Chair
[District 1](#)

[Kevin Wordelman](#)
[District 2](#)

[Tracy Hall](#)
[District 3](#)

[Michael Seals](#)
[District 4](#)

[Julie Rogers](#)
[District 5](#)

[Ron Kendall](#)
[District 6](#)

[Roger Tuinier](#)
[District 7](#)

[John Gisler](#)
[District 8](#)

[Dale Shugars](#), Vice Chair
[District 9](#)

[Mike Quinn](#)
[District 10](#)

[Scott McGraw](#)
[District 11](#)

County Clerk/ROD:
Timothy Snow (269) 383-8840

Sheriff:
Rick Fuller (269) 383-8821

Treasurer:
Mary Balkema (269) 384-8124

Prosecuting Attorney:
Jeff Getting (269) 383-8900

Drain Commissioner:
Pat Crowley (269) 384-8117

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Dates:

Meetings start at 7:00pm

-  February 6, 2018
-  February 20, 2018
-  March 6, 2018
-  March 20, 2018



Not sure what district you're in?
Click on the District links above
for a detailed map.

Kalamazoo County Government, City of Kalamazoo, Portage, Township and Public School meetings can be viewed on demand at: [Public Media Network](#)

[Kalamazoo County Courts/County Office closings for the Holidays](#)



Presidents Day, February 19th – **Courts Only** Closed



[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#)

The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at <http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd>.

Veterans wanted and encouraged to apply

Visit Kalamazoo County at these Job Fairs in February:

[WMU Government and Nonprofit Fair 2018](#)

February 16th, 2018 · 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Western Michigan University, Bernhard Center East Ballroom
1922 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo 49008

[Career Life Expo is coming! More Than a Job Fair](#)

February 20, 2018 · 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Wings Event Center, 3600 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Sponsored by United Way & Michigan Works



Getting to Know the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County



Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

For over 107 years, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) has been keeping the county road system safe and accessible for public travel. The RCKC is governed by a five member Board of County Road Commissioners appointed by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. Consider the upkeep of 1,267 miles of road throughout the 576 square mile county. The primary road system consists of 449 miles; the remaining 818 miles comprise the local system. Along with maintenance operations, RCKC maintains 61 bridges, 22,295+ signs, 47 traffic signals and 41 flashing lights at intersections.

RCKC also considers applications and assigns permits for everything from putting in a private driveway to moving a house from one location to another on public roadways. The RCKC establishes guidelines, specifications and procedures for planning public roads, and utilizes a systematic approach to maximize the life of the road surface conditions. The goal is to maintain our roads in safe and good condition, making periodic investments in the pavement, rather than letting it deteriorate to a level that requires a major investment to bring it back to a good condition. Using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) system, data is incorporated into a road management program with GIS mapping technology called RoadSoft. The RoadSoft program is used to compile, store, and report on the road condition assessments. To learn more about the roads and bridges in Kalamazoo County and/or compare them with others across the state, visit the RCKC website at www.kalamazoocountyroads.com Road Data page.



RCKC has provided some useful tools to make travel safer and easier in Kalamazoo County. The **RCKC Connect** is an Alert Notification System used by the Road Commission to send alerts about road construction projects, unexpected road closures, detours and other important news. Visit the RCKC website at www.kalamazoocountyroads.com and go to the "RCKC CONNECT SIGN UP" link to create your account or use the QR Reader. Use the drop down menus to choose which notifications you want to receive. When a notification is issued, you will receive time sensitive messages notifying you of potential travel issues.

Another great tool is a collaboration of the RCKC and the [Kalamazoo County Planning & Development Department \(January 2018 newsletter\)](#) that makes some of its printed maps available on your mobile device free of charge using the free [Avenza Maps](#) app. Avenza mobile map app allows you to download maps for offline use on iOS or Android smartphones or tablets. Use your device's built-in GPS to track your location on any map, plot locations and photos, measure distance and area, and more. Once you have the app, you can download or purchase tens of thousands of maps worldwide. Search "Kalamazoo County" to find the County's maps or zoom in to the Kalamazoo area in the app to see all available maps show up with a marker. Some Avenza Map features include:

- Local content – local maps made in Kalamazoo County with local map data
- Easy to use – pan and zoom the map using pinch and drag movements on your screen
- Use map offline – available anywhere; no need for an Internet or cellular connection!
- View your location – on the map using the built-in GPS on your device
- Drop pins and record tracks – record locations and tracks and use in other applications, like Google Earth, Google Maps or a GIS program

“ We are very pleased to be recognized with these awards which speaks to the great RCKC team focused on public service and private/public partnerships to maintain our important road network in Kalamazoo. ”

Joanna I. Johnson, RCKC Managing Director

The RCKC is proud to be recognized as a leader in transportation and received a **2017 Project of the Year Award** for the Richland/Ross Townships G Avenue – 32nd Street to 37th Street in the category of Transportation-Less Than \$5 Million, and also a **2017 Project of the Year Award** for the South Burdick Street – Cork Street to Stockbridge Avenue in the category of Governmental Cooperation. The RCKC was also awarded the **2017 Award of Merit** by Asphalt Pavement Association of Michigan (APAM) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for projects 10,000-30,000 tons, providing the people of Michigan the Highest Quality Asphalt Pavement on Stadium Drive from 9th Street to US-131. Kudos RCKC!

Kalamazoo County Residents Urged to Get Vaccinated for the Flu

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department would like to remind residents that it is not too late to receive the flu vaccination. In order for the community to remain healthy and safe during this flu season, it is highly encouraged and recommended that residents receive the flu shot.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that can cause mild to severe infection in the nose, throat, and lungs. In some cases serious flu-related complications, like pneumonia, can lead to hospitalization and even death. A study conducted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) showed that among hospitalized flu patients the flu vaccination reduced deaths, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, ICU length of stay and overall duration of hospitalization (*Clinical Infections Disease (CID) Journal*).

The flu season typically starts in October and can last as late as May. Once you receive the flu vaccination, it can take up to two weeks for it to be fully effective. “It has been well documented that a flu shot makes flu-like symptoms milder, reduces the length and severity, and often prevents it completely for those who receive the flu vaccine,” said Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department.

People of every age including those in good health, are at risk of catching the flu. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older receive the vaccine. It is especially important for protecting those at high risk for serious complications, including:

You can find flu vaccination clinics near you by using the website: www.vaccinefinder.org. You can also contact your primary care physician or visit the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department’s Immunization Clinic at 3299 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. The Immunization Clinic offers daily walk-in hours for adults and children. For more information on the Immunization Clinic contact www.kalcounty.com/hcs or call (269) 373-5200. See the [informational videos](#) and [‘Influenza - What You Should Know’](#) questions and answers on the HCS website.

Kalamazoo County HCS Immunization Clinic

Adults: No Appointment Necessary; Walk-ins available all open clinic hours
Infants & Children: AM Appointments / PM Walk-in Availability
Call with payment/insurance coverage questions 373-5203

The HCS Clinic hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM
Thursday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.



From the Area Agency on Aging:



The AAA IIIA reminds us that new Medicare cards will be issued beginning in April of 2018 thru April 2019. The new cards will no longer have social security numbers on them to help protect your information and keep your identity secure. The new card won’t change your coverage or benefits. Here’s how you can get ready:

- Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs updating contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or call 1-800-772-1213.
- Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. You will never be asked to give personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.
- Understand that mailing everyone a new card will take some time. Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend’s or neighbor’s.

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

Winter Snow Party

Oakland Drive Park, 7650 Oakland Drive, Portage MI
Saturday, February 3rd 12 noon - 3 p.m.

A great opportunity to enjoy time with your family and friends, all while embracing the white wonders of Michigan outdoors. There will be many activities to enjoy such as sledding and a snowman building contest! Build, decorate and bring your own cardboard sled! Build and dress up the fanciest snowman! Prizes will be awarded for best in show for both contests as well as the fastest cardboard sled!

Cardboard sled contest begins at 1 p.m. with snowman building immediately following. When you need a warm respite from the activities, enjoy a bonfire with hot chocolate and coffee available for purchase. Hosted by the Portage Youth Advisory Committee, all ages welcome!



Air Zoo

6151 Portage Road
Portage, MI
(269)382-6555

The Air Zoo is a world-class, Smithsonian-affiliated aerospace and science museum with over 100 rare and unique aircraft & spacecraft, inspiring interactive exhibits, full-motion flight simulators, indoor amusement park rides, and hands-on, science-based camps and classes. Voted the "Best Place to Take Out-of-Towners" and "Best Place to Spend a Day with Your Family" three years in a row.



Kalamazoo Nature Center

7000 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 381-1574
Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm, and Sunday 1-5pm

There is always something new to do at the Kalamazoo Nature Center with featured programs every month for kids and adults. Our award-winning exhibits show you a new perspective on the world around you. There are 14+ miles of hiking trails that wind through some of the most special habitats in Michigan.



Shipshewana on the Road

February 17 - February 18, 2018
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Expo South, Main Expo
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street



This is a one-of-a-kind indoor market aimed towards the family that would like to find all their shopping needs in one place, at great prices and have some fun doing it! Admission: Adults \$4, Children under 12 are free. For more information call 269-979-8888.

**Important Dates **



February 2nd

Groundhog Day

A groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day to determine how much longer before spring arrives! Shadow or no shadow?
#ThinkSpring

February 14th

Valentine's Day

The day of the year when people express their love to a significant other by giving of flowers, chocolates, and Valentine's cards.
#BeMine

February 19th

President's Day

A federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president.
#PresidentsDay
#UniformMondayHolidayAct



Coffee with the Sheriff

Sheriff Fuller invites you to join him in open discussion on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 8am to 9:30am at the Cornerview Café, 643 Riverview Drive, Parchment, MI. The event is free and open to the public.



Richard C Fuller III – Kalamazoo County Sheriff



The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department is utilizing a new tool to engage residents in helping with crime investigations in their neighborhoods. Door hangers like the one pictured will be hung in areas where a crime is committed and deputies are searching for additional details.

The door hangers will encourage potential witnesses to come forward, and ask anyone with information that might help deputies to contact either the sheriff's office at 269-383-8748 or contact Kalamazoo Silent Observer at 269-343-2100. Information can also be reported online at:

www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

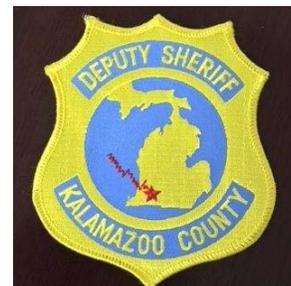
Silent Observer offers rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of offenders based on the information provided. Thanks go out to Advia Credit Union for their contribution to this effort!

[Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office is now on Facebook!](#)

Follow, Like, Share!

Keep informed of happenings at the Sheriff's Office and in our community:

- ~Weather alerts
- ~Attempt to identify wanted suspects
- ~News and events around Kalamazoo
- ~Public Safety Announcements
- ~Fraud and Scam Alerts
- ~Interesting stories from the police world



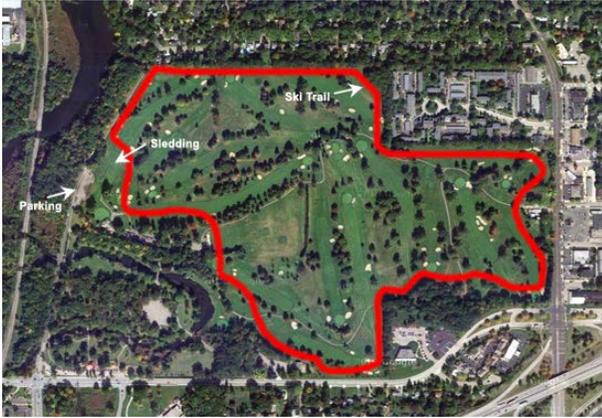
Also visit the [Sheriff's Office on the Kalamazoo County website](#) for jail and records information, crime data, recruiting and other special program detail.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Are you a fan of cross-country skiing?

Check out Milham Park Golf Course



The [Kalamazoo Nordic Skiers club](#) maintains a groomed trail on the Milham Park golf course, with both traditional x-country tracks and a skate lane. Trail conditions vary with snowfall and temperature. See the club's [Trail Conditions Report](#) for the latest information.



Kalamazoo County Communicator

The purpose of the County Communicator is to make you, the constituents, businesses, and community aware of the services and programs Kalamazoo County provides. And to make you aware of how you can make a difference in your community.

Subscribe here! Tell us what you think and what you would like to see.



Kalamazoo County Government

Mission: In the pursuit of extraordinary governance, Kalamazoo County Government provides equitable programs and excellent services to promote the health and safety of everyone in Kalamazoo County.

Provide services which promote Health, Equity and Well-Being in Kalamazoo County

- Deliver Consistently High Quality Programs and Services
- Strengthen Engagement in Our Community
- Build a Relationship Focused Culture

Follow Kalamazoo County Government

