



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

March 2018



COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!



Inside This Issue

- [From the Office of Administrator](#)
- [Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department Alert](#)
- [Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners](#)
- [Kalamazoo County Holiday Closings](#)
- [County Employment Opportunities](#)
- [Housing Resources Inc. Walk for Homelessness](#)
- [Family Fun In Kalamazoo County!](#)
- [Important Dates to Remember](#)
- [Poison Prevention](#)



From the Office of Administrator

Each year during the annual budget process, Kalamazoo County Government officials must attempt to match the needs of our officials, departments and the courts with the tight fiscal framework in which we operate. The budget created from this collaboration serves as an outline for how we can best use our resources to benefit the citizens.

In the pursuit of extraordinary governance, Administration and Finance have worked together to develop "The Citizens Guide to 2018 Budget". This short guide was created in an effort to keep citizens informed about the County's budget each year. As citizen input will become an important component in establishing budget priorities for 2019, our hope is that this document will serve as a resource to ensure that citizens have the necessary information to understand how County resources are currently allocated.

This document is available on the County website in the Finance Department section at [Kalamazoo County Citizens Guide to 2018 Budget](#).



Bitterly cold, subzero temperatures have overwhelmed Michigan this year contributing to higher than normal heating bills. Natural gas usage is up nearly 38% compared to last year along with increased electricity use to power furnaces, blowers, fireplace fans and space heaters. Assistance options are available that you may qualify for based on your income and other household factors – Visit [MI211.org](#) or dial 2-1-1. Or visit [Community Action Agency](#) on the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services website for information on utility bill and deliverable fuel assistance.



Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Your Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners

Your Kalamazoo County Elected Officials:



Contact your District Commissioner

[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

-  March 6, 2018
-  March 20, 2018
-  April 3, 2018
-  April 17, 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](#)

[Board of Commissioners Community Update Videos](#)



Board of Commissioners Community Update videos are posted each Monday prior to the Tuesday Board of Commissioners meetings. Chair Stephanie Moore highlights agenda items and discusses current County topics. The Community Updates can be seen on the [Kalcouny.com](#) website at [News and Events](#).

[2018 Kalamazoo County Courts/County Office closings](#)

~No Court or County Office closings in March

[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#) -- The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at <http://www.kalcouny.com/hrd>. - Veterans Encouraged to Apply!



Visit Kalamazoo County at these Job Fairs in March:

[Southwest MI Job Fair](#)
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
March 14, 2018
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[Kalamazoo Career Fair](#)
KVCC Texas Township Campus
6767 West O Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49003
March 21, 2018
Wednesday, 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Treasurer's Office Returns to the First Floor Location



The renovations that began last fall to the Treasurer's Office at the County Administration Building are complete and the staff have relocated from their temporary location on the third floor, back to the first floor location. The new office layout, cheerful décor, and larger counter area enhances the customer experience, providing a more personal and private setting. The staff appreciates the many benefits of their new space, including increased productivity, effective noise control and a cheery, bright atmosphere.



HOUSING RESOURCES INC

We Need Your Help to End Homelessness!

A 5K [Walk to End Homelessness](#) benefiting Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) will take place on Saturday, March 24th, 2018. You can walk, run, or jog! The fundraising goal for this event is \$85,000. **Participate, advocate, donate...** your help is needed!

Housing Resources Inc. believes every child deserves a home! HRI has dedicated its efforts to finding housing solutions for individuals in the midst of a housing crisis, as well as on behalf of the community at large. Our services are designed to stabilize homeless households and help those in jeopardy of losing their housing. HRI is a United Way Agency affiliated with United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region. Funds raised from this year's walk will benefit HRI in assisting people experiencing homelessness and provide services and financial assistance to ensure housing stability for socially or economically vulnerable persons.

There is no required registration fee to participate in the 5K Walk, however, if you desire a super cool, custom designed T-shirt, a \$35 donation minimum is requested. The first 300 Walkers get a free custom goodie bag with fun giveaways!

On site registration starts at 9:00 a.m. at Homer Stryker Field, 251 Mills St. Kalamazoo, MI. Coffee, food and live music available. The walk starts at 10:00 a.m. with a stroll along the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, through downtown to the HRI Eleanor Family Shelter and back to Homer Stryker Field. There are rest stops and restrooms along the way for this very family friendly event! *Crowd friendly dogs on a leash are welcome. Questions? Contact Galyn Barnum at 269-488-0913 or email gbarnum@housingresourcesinc.org.

Join us immediately after the Walk for bites and brews at Bell's! BBQ lunch at Bell's Brewery 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave. Bell's gives back to HRI 10% of your lunch purchase.

Join / Create a Team
or Donate to a Team

[CLICK HERE](#)

*Kalamazoo County shelters
provide more than 93,000
nights of shelter each year.*

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

It's a *very* busy month at the [Kalamazoo County Expo Center](#). There's a little of somethin' for everyone!!

[Women's Lifestyle Expo](#)

March 2nd & March 3rd Friday, 12:00p - 6:00p; Saturday, 9:00a - 4:00p
An annual two day extravaganza created for women by women!



[Kalamazoo Home & Garden Expo](#)

March 8th - March 11th [visit the website for times each day](#)
Southwest Michigan's premier home and garden event showcasing new building trends, products, ideas and inspiration.

[Kalamazoo Living History Show](#)

March 17th & March 18th Saturday, 9:00a - 5:00p; Sunday, 9:00a - 4:00p
43rd annual event with over 10,000 re-enactors from the French & Indian War through the Civil War.

[Kalamazoo County 4-H Horse Leaders Tack Sale](#)

March 19th 5:00p - 9:00p
The largest tack sale in Michigan with over 300 vendors. Featuring everything you need for your horse and farm.

[Spring Craft Show](#)

March 24th 9:00a - 3:00p
Join us for a great day of shopping unique crafts, artists, and vendors at this annual event.

[Kalamazoo Nature Center Maple Sugar Festival](#)

Saturday, March 10, 9:00am-5:00pm
& Sunday, March 11, 9:00am-5:00pm

Start your day with delicious pancakes smothered in real maple syrup! After breakfast join a maple sugar tour for a walk along a wooded trail with a KNC Naturalist where you'll learn about the process involved in turning sap into syrup. Visitors of all ages will enjoy LIVE animal programs throughout the day highlighting KNC's amazing Birds of Prey up close! Kids can stop at the activities and crafts stations for some added fun.



[18th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade](#)

Saturday March 17th, 2018 11:00am



Join us for the 18th annual St. Patrick's Day parade! The parade steps off at 11:00 a.m. on the Burdick street Mall, at Michigan Avenue, marching south down Burdick street, turning right on to Cedar street and ending in front of the Knights of Columbus hall. The parade goes on, rain, snow or sun.

The Irish American Club of Kalamazoo, the Quinn School of Irish Dance and Celtic Seasons have organized a Hooley, an authentic Irish Party, as a fundraiser for local families struggling with cancer. The 6th annual Hooley for Healing will be held on Saturday, March 17th at Bell's, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave, downtown Kalamazoo. The fun will begin at noon, immediately following the 18th annual St. Patrick's parade.



****Important Dates ****

March is:
Poison Prevention Month



March 11th
Daylight Savings Time Begins
#SpringForward

March 14th
St. Patrick's Day
#Irish

March 20th
Spring Equinox
#FirstDayofSpring

March 22nd
World Water Day
#Connect2Earth

March 18-24th
Poison Prevention Week
#BePrepared



National Poison Prevention Month



The American Association of Poison Control Centers supports the nation's 55 poison centers in their efforts to prevent and treat poison exposures. Poison centers offer free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 and online at www.PoisonHelp.org. This service provides a primary resource for poisoning information and helps reduce costly hospital visits through in-home treatment. Text "POISON" TO 797979 to save the poison control contact information in your smartphone.

[Kalamazoo County Government Health & Community Services](#) advises:

Drugs and Medicines

- Follow directions on the label when you give or take medicines.
- Keep medicines in their original containers.
- Keep medications in a safe location.
- Turn on a light when you give or take medicines at night so that you know you have the correct amount of the right medicine.
- Monitor the use of medicines prescribed for children and teenagers, such as medicines for attention deficit disorder.
- Follow the [federal guidelines](#) for disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired prescriptions.

Keep Young Children Safe from Poisoning

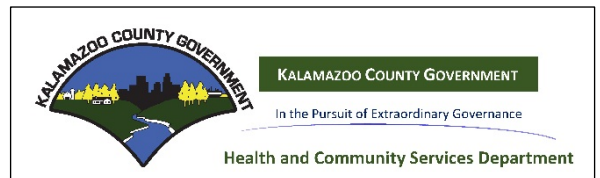
- Keep all drugs in medicine cabinets or other childproof cabinets that young children cannot reach.
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children.
- Do not call medicine "candy."
- Be aware of any legal or illegal drugs that guests may bring into your home.
- When you take medicines yourself, do not put your next dose on the counter or table where children can reach them.
- Do not leave household products out after using them; return them to a childproof cabinet as soon as you are done.
- Identify poisonous plants in your house and yard.

What to do if a poisoning occurs

- Remain calm.
- Call 911 if you have a poison emergency and the victim has collapsed or is not breathing.
- If the victim is awake and alert, dial 1-800-222-1222.

BE PREPARED

Put the Poison Help number, 1 (800) 222-1222, in your mobile phone, display it in your home and at work in case of emergency, or if you have questions. Calls are free, confidential, & answered by experts 24/7/365



Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department Alert



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 & what you would like to see.](#)

CONNECT TO ROAD COMMISSION OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY ALERTS



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?
Receive Message Alerts For:

- ◆ Road Construction
- ◆ Road Closures/Detours
- ◆ General Public News



RCKC CONNECT
BEING ALERT IS YOUR BEST FRIEND

To Sign Up Visit: www.kalamazooountyroads.com

Over the past month, the [Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office](#) has received a large amount of complaints from residents of theft from their mailboxes. Suspects appear to be targeting checks that are being mailed. The checks that are stolen are then forged and cashed for much larger amounts. Numerous suspects have been caught, but the problem still persists.

Thieves appear to be acting as mail carriers, driving from mailbox to mailbox in search of outgoing mail. Please be vigilant when mailing bill payments and if you see any vehicle that appears to be targeting mailboxes call the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office at 269-383-8821 x 3.

Blood Drive News



Every time you give blood, you give at least one other person another day ... another week ... another year ... and another chance

[Make your appointment here!](#)

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Kalamazoo County
Health & Community Services
Nazareth Complex
3299 Gull Rd.
Georgian Room
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

One Hour = Three Lives



Think Spring!

Follow Kalamazoo County Government

