



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

November 2017

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!



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## COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

### From the Office of Administrator

In the pursuit of extraordinary governance, the Kalamazoo County Government Board of Commissioners, at their meeting of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, unanimously approved the 2018 General Operating Budget valued at \$90 million.

The Budget Workbook can be found on line at:

[www.kalcounty.com/finance/2017 Budget Workbook](http://www.kalcounty.com/finance/2017 Budget Workbook)

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

### Did you Know..?

That the United Way **MISSION UNITED** enables military veterans and their families to successfully acclimate back to civilian life. Veterans can face challenges transitioning from active duty, and too many find themselves homeless, jobless, or unable to access treatment for substance abuse, brain injury, or other physical and mental health issues.

**MISSION UNITED** can connect you and your family to any of the following services in your local area, including:

- Employment Services •Legal Assistance •Education •Health Care •Stable Housing

Founded by a veteran, **MISSION UNITED** has already helped over 12,000 veterans obtain the services they and their families need. Free confidential help for veterans is always available by calling 2-1-1. It's accessible 24/7 and helps people across North America find the local services they need.

Visit the [Mission United website](#) for more information.



Follow Kalamazoo County Government



## Your Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners



Contact your District Commissioner

## Your Kalamazoo County Elected Officials:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Board of Commissioners

#### Meeting Dates:

- November 7, 2017
- November 21, 2017
- December 5, 2017
- December 19, 2017

County Administrator:  
Tracie Moored (269) 384-8111

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

## Kalamazoo County Courts/County Offices closed for November Holidays



All Kalamazoo County Courts are closed on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veteran's Day (which falls on Saturday).

Kalamazoo County Courts and Administration offices closed on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## [Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#)

The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at [www.kalcounty.com/hrd](http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd)

- Apply separately for each listed position as indicated.
- Please do not send your resume via E-mail.
- Pre-employment criminal background checks and drug tests are required for ALL positions.
- Credit background checks may be required for certain positions.
- Veterans Wanted - Veterans Encouraged to Apply



## [MICareerQuest](#) Community Open House and Career Fair

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm-7:00pm

Kalamazoo County Parks, 2900 Lake St., Main Expo, Expo South & Expo North

Explore over 100 different careers at MICareerQuest Southwest career and job fair. Open to the public. Many companies will be onsite taking resumes and applications for employment. **Admission is free.** For more information contact Kathy Spackman at 269-250-9303 or [kathy.spackman@kresa.org](mailto:kathy.spackman@kresa.org)

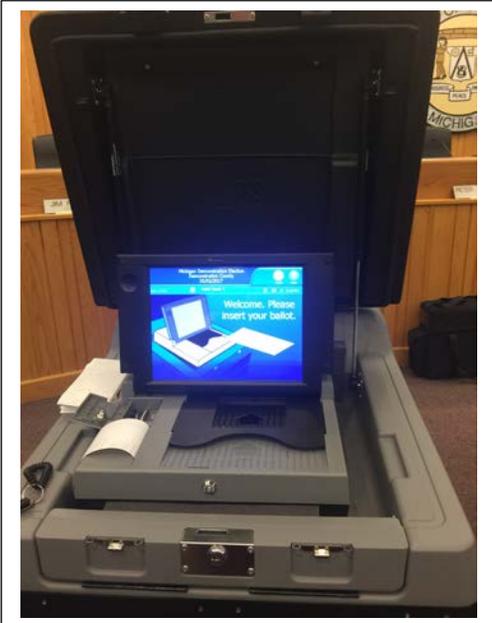


*Timothy Snow*

### Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register

#### New Election Equipment Coming Your Way!

The next time you go to vote, be prepared to see some new things in your precinct. Beginning with the November 7 City Election/Special Election, you will see new voting devices.



Through funding from the Help America Vote Act and the State of Michigan, Kalamazoo County entered into an agreement with Election Systems & Software to provide new tabulators in each of the 108 precincts in the county. The new device is called the DS200 and is very easy to use. Voters will be seeing a good sized color monitor on the tabulator that will provide information should there be a problem with the ballot. For example, if you vote for too many candidates in a particular office, the DS200 will show you which offices were overvoted, how many votes were cast in the office, and how many are allowed to be cast. The voter can touch the button to return the ballot, and a new ballot can be issued. This is just one of the exciting new things on the tabulator.

Voters will not notice any changes in procedures, and the ballot will be only slightly different than it was before. The best part about the new ballot is that the ovals are much easier to see.

Another piece of new equipment is the Voter Assist Terminal, called ExpressVote. This device replaces the AutoMARK ballot marking machine. Voters who have difficulty with vision or other types of disabilities will find the ExpressVote very easy to use. This device provides the voter a large screen

on which to vote for desired candidates and issues. The ExpressVote uses special paper, and prints the voter's choices on it, along with a barcode. The printed sheet, called a card, is then inserted into the DS200, where it is tabulated along with all other ballots.

All the features of this new equipment can't be covered here, but your local city or township clerk can answer your questions, as can the [County Clerk's Office](#). The best way to learn about the new voting equipment is to go vote on November 7 if you live in areas that have an election (see accompanying story below).

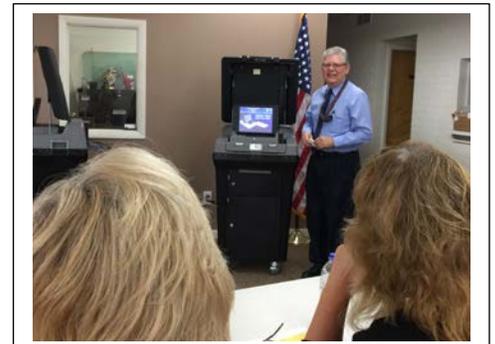
Election Inspectors are being trained on the equipment now and will be prepared to assist all voters on November 7.

#### City Elections And Special Elections On November 7

If you live in certain areas of Kalamazoo County, you will have an election on November 7. Here is a summary of where elections are being held and what will be on the ballot.

- The City of Kalamazoo has an election for Mayor and City Commission. Three Commissioners will be elected to 4 year terms. There is 1 candidate on the ballot for Mayor, as well as 2 write-in candidates. There are 5 candidates for City Commissioner.
- The City of Parchment is electing 4 City Commissioners from a field of 6 candidates.
- The City of Portage is electing a new Mayor and 3 members of the City Council. There are two candidates for the office of Mayor and 8 candidates for City Council.

(continued on next page)



## City Elections And Special Elections On November 7 (cont'd)

- Alamo Township has placed a millage question on the ballot to ask for funding for emergency services.
- Pavilion Township has also placed a fire department millage question on the ballot.
- Voters in Vicksburg Community Schools are being asked to renew its 18 mills on non-homestead property. Vicksburg Schools includes parts of the following Townships: Brady, Pavilion, Schoolcraft, Wakeshma as well as a small portion of the City of Portage.
- Otsego Public Schools will vote on a bond proposal. While Otsego Schools is primarily in Allegan County, voters in parts of Alamo, Cooper and Oshtemo Townships reside in the Otsego School District.



If you need an absentee ballot, please contact your local city or township clerk.

More information about the upcoming election, as well as voter registration information, go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). This is an excellent website that can provide answers to many questions that voters may have.

Results from the November 7 election will be posted on the Kalamazoo County website, [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com).

## Smart911 – What is Smart911 and Why is it Important To Me?

**What is it?** Smart911 is a service that can benefit all citizens in any type of emergency. Smart911 lets you create a profile linked to your phone number that allows emergency responders to find you faster and gives them information that could help save your life, the life of a loved one, and even the life of your pet.



On October 16<sup>th</sup>, all Kalamazoo County public safety jurisdictions; the Sheriff's Department, Kalamazoo Public Safety, Portage Public Safety and WMU Police joined together to bring Smart 911 to our community. It is an emergency personal safety website that allows you to register your personal information, including your address, your car, all the members of your household, the pets in the house, any medical information emergency crews need to know, and emergency contact information. If you have to call 911, especially from a cell phone, dispatchers can see your Smart 911 profile and assist you in a reduced response time. If you have to call 911 and cannot speak due to a medical issue, or your home is on fire, or your home is broken into, your profile is automatically displayed on the dispatcher's screen and they will be able to respond faster and more efficiently than if that information is not on hand.

**Who does this help?** For all citizens, there is always the risk of unplanned accidents or events. Whether in a vehicle or in your home, even the most basic details such as the address association with a mobile phone can be available to 9-1-1 and response teams can send help faster. Consider those individuals with physical or developmental disabilities, and persons with medical conditions. For active seniors living alone a Safety Profile can provide peace of mind that in the event of a 9-1-1 emergency the details on their home and medical need is immediately available. Caretaker information can be listed and they will also be contacted in case of a 9-1-1 emergency.

Smart911 respects your privacy and wants to ensure your trust in the service. Information is never sold or shared with third parties or marketing organizations. Smart911 utilizes the highest standards in physical and computer security technologies and conducts regular audits to ensure all information held in Smart911 is kept secure. Your information is made available ONLY to 9-1-1 call takers and responders ONLY in the event you call 9-1-1. You are able to edit your profile as needed and remove the account entirely if you so desire.

Register today. The life you save may be your own! [Smart911](http://Smart911)

## Kalamazoo County Wellness Program Named as Best and Brightest in Wellness!

In the pursuit of extraordinary governance, Kalamazoo County Government began its Employee Wellness Program in 2006. As outlined in the County's strategic plan, the Wellness program "...provides services which promote the health, equity and well-being..." of our employees.

As a result of our efforts, Kalamazoo County Government's Wellness Program, "Living Well", has been recognized as one of the most influential and trend-setting organizations throughout the state of Michigan and is proud to have been named a 2017 Best and Brightest in Wellness organization. Kalamazoo County Government will be honored at the Best and Brightest in Wellness Symposium and Awards Gala.

The mission of the Kalamazoo County Wellness Program is to provide Kalamazoo County Government employees responsive, innovative, and cost effective services which enhance emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual health throughout the workday and beyond. Our (free) programs are designed to educate, inspire and empower Kalamazoo County Government employees to live a happier, healthier, more fulfilling life during the workday and beyond. In 2016,



the program offered over 40 classes/programs for employees and their families, with an overall employee participation rate of 53%. Of those employees that participated, 84% rated the program positively!



Kalamazoo County Government continues its dedication to making the County's workplace, employees and the community a healthier place to live and work. Kudos Kalamazoo County!!

## Health and Community Services Department

### Flu Vaccine Public Service Announcements from Kalamazoo County

#### Influenza (FLU) Vaccine Available Starting October 1st!

The Health and Community Services Clinic hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 8:15am to 4:00pm

Thursday - 10:00am to 6:00pm



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 or visit: [HCS Website](#)

The Center for Disease Control reports:

For the 2017-2018 flu season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends *annual influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older*. If you have questions, talk to your doctor or other health care professional.

Vaccines are also available at local community centers, senior centers, hospitals, churches and super market clinics just to name a few. The shots are free for those covered by Medicare Part B and Plus Blue. Community members with Medicare need to bring proof of Medicare coverage.

# Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

## Kalamazoo Wings Hockey

Wings Stadium, 3600 Vanrick Dr., Kalamazoo

A Kalamazoo tradition since 1974, the Kalamazoo Wings delivers professional hockey and a thrilling fan experience at every home game. Not free, but not bad. A season of family fun! Click here for a [schedule](#) of games.



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## Fall Family Campfire and Owl Prowl

Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Schrier Park, 850 W Osterhout Road, Portage

**FREE**

Celebrate autumn with the whole family and learn how animals are preparing their families for winter. Snuggle up to a campfire, meet a live owl and go on an owl-prowl night hike. Hosted by Portage MI Department of Parks & Recreation



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## 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Parade ★ With a special tribute to our Veterans

Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 11:00am – 12:30pm

Downtown Kalamazoo at Michigan Avenue

**FREE**



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## Holiday Expo & Craft Show

Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am-4:00pm

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> - 10:00am-4:00pm

Kalamazoo County Parks, 2900 Lake St., Main Expo & Expo South

This is the BIG ONE! Over 200 booths to shop at this massive annual craft show. Something for everyone on your list! Admission is **FREE**. For more information contact Lorie Money at 269-903-5820 or email [lorie.money123@gmail.com](mailto:lorie.money123@gmail.com)



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## Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bronson Park

Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm – 7:30pm.

Downtown Kalamazoo, Bronson Park

**FREE**

The City of Kalamazoo's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! Santa Claus will be there, the trees will be lit, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' will be read by City officials.



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## Santa's Workshop 2017

Opens November 25<sup>th</sup> - Thursdays through Sundays

The Epic Center, 359 S Kalamazoo Mall

**FREE**

The Epic Center will transform the second level atrium into a magical trip up North to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. Kids can write letters to Santa, make a treat and best of all make a forever memory with family and friends. Presented by the Art Council of Greater Kalamazoo. Catch a ride on the Holly Jolly Trolley too!



**SANTA'S  
WORKSHOP**

## \*\*Important Dates \*\*



November 5th –  
**Daylight Savings Time Ends**

*Rollback*

November 7<sup>th</sup> –  
**Election Day**

*Vote!*

November 11<sup>th</sup> –  
**Veterans' Day**

*Home of the free because of the brave*



November 16<sup>th</sup> –  
**American Cancer Society  
Great American Smokeout**  
*Give 'em up*

November 25<sup>th</sup> –  
**Thanksgiving Day**  
*Give Thanks Always!*



## Veteran's Day



On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect. On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was commemorated for the first time. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed this day should be "filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory".

Kalamazoo County Government holds the Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony, co-sponsored with Kalamazoo Sunrise Rotary, each year on November 11th starting at 2:00pm at Rose Park Veteran's Memorial in the City of Kalamazoo to honor all veterans who served in the armed forces from our community. Please join us in celebration of our own heroes.



### Things You Can Do:

- ✚ Volunteer at a local VA facility
- ✚ Thank everyone you know who has served in the armed forces
- ✚ Take flowers to the grave sites of deceased military personnel
- ✚ Make a donation of time or money to a local Veterans organization

Please visit the [Veterans Service Office](#) on the Kalamazoo County website for resources and services available to our veterans.

**National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (HHAW)** is held each year the week before Thanksgiving. This is a time for us all to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and work toward a world where no one has to experience hunger or homelessness. As a society, we have the resources and knowledge to end hunger and homelessness - we just need the collective will to make these ideas a reality.

**Here's How You Can Help**  
**Volunteer. Donate. Educate.**

[Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes](#)  
[Ministry with Community](#)  
[The Open Door](#)  
[Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging Resources](#)  
[Kalamazoo Gospel Mission](#)



**Volunteer.  
Donate.  
Educate.**

## *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.

