



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



April 2019

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Gryphon Place Helping Those in Conflict & Crisis

Help Starts Here. Our programs help those facing life challenges whether you are in crisis, don't know where to find help, or in need to resolve a conflict.

Dial 2-1-1, or toll free:
1-800-563-5432.
Accessible 24/7. All languages. Confidential.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference

Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers, Commissioner Stephanie Moore and Commissioner Michael Seals joined nearly 2,000 other county leaders in Washington, D.C. for the NACo 2019 Legislative Conference on March 2nd thru March 6th. County leaders outlined several key federal policy priorities including:

- ♦ Promoting county infrastructure priorities in a comprehensive infrastructure package
- ♦ Supporting the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs, which honor federal commitments to public lands and timber counties
- ♦ Promoting mental health, substance use disorders treatment and criminal justice reform, and
- ♦ Boosting broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local zoning authority.

As part of its policy advocacy, NACo launched an updated “[Counties Matter](#)” campaign to illustrate counties’ vast role in advancing America’s policy priorities at the local level. NACo also launched a new and improved [County Explorer](#). The tool allows users to map data at the county level and now works on mobile devices.

Board Chair Julie Rogers stated, “We had great meetings with Congressman Upton, Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters discussing county priorities including infrastructure funding, promoting mental health and substance use disorder treatment for those in our jail, and veterans issues. The NACo legislative conference is a great opportunity to advocate for county issues.”



From left to right: John Shay, Ottawa County; Commissioner Seals, Kalamazoo County; Orrin Bailey, Kinexus; Commissioner Doucette, Alger County; Board Chair Julie Rogers, Kalamazoo County; Congressman Fred Upton; Commissioner Moore, Kalamazoo County; Commissioner Stan Ponstein, Kent County.

Kalamazoo County is well represented at the national level with Chair Julie Rogers serving on NACo’s Health Steering Committee, Commissioner Moore serving on Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee and the Large Urban County Caucus, and Commissioner Seals serving on Veterans and Military Services Committee. We appreciate their service.

Kalamazoo County, Michigan



County Numbers To Know

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport
269-388-3668

Animal Services & Enforcement
269-383-8775

Board of Commissioners
269-384-8111

County Clerk
269-383-8840

Drain Commissioner
269-384-8117

Equalization
269-383-8960

Friend of the Court
877-543-2660

Health & Community Services
Information & Assistance
269-373-5173

Office of Prosecuting Attorney
269-383-8900

Parks Department
269-383-8778

Planning & Development Dept.
269-384-8112

Probate Court
269-383-8666

Road Commission
269-381-3171

Sheriff Department
269-385-6173

Treasurer
269-384-8124

Veterans Service Office
269-373-5361

Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Stephanie Moore
Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com
District 1

Tracy Hall, Vice Chair
Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com
District 3

Julie Rogers, Chair
Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com
District 5

Roger Tuinier
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District 7

Christine Morse
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District 9

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District 2

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District 4

Ron Kendall
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District 6

John Gisler
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District 8

Mike Quinn
Mike.Quinn@kalcounty.com
District 10

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

Meeting Dates & Times:

Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm
Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm

-  April 2nd
-  April 16th
-  May 7th
-  May 21st

Meetings are held at the:

County Administration Building
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue
2nd Floor in the Chambers
Kalamazoo MI 49007

The meetings can be viewed live or on demand at:

[Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes](#) <http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/>

Community Update Videos

Community Update videos from Board Chair Julie Rogers discussing recent KCG topics and upcoming Committee of the Whole and Board of Commissioners agenda and meeting information are available on line at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/board/communityupdates.php>

Are you interested in getting involved in county government? Join an Advisory Board or Commission!

The Kalamazoo County Government Board of Commissioners values residents who are interested in serving their community. There are more than [25 advisory boards and commissions](#) at KCG. Click here to view: [current openings on KCG Advisory Boards & Commissions](#)

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Kalamazoo County Services A - Z

Each month a county service or program is featured to better serve you! A directory of [Services from A - Z](#) is also available on the Kalamazoo County website. If there is a particular service or program you'd like to learn more about, send an email: communications@kalcountry.com.



Where can I access reliable, up-to-date health data specific to Kalamazoo County residents that will provide guidance to the community partners and stakeholders to address the needs of the community

A: Visit the Kalamazoo County **Data Hub** on the KCG website:

<http://www.kalcountry.com/hcs/datahub/>

The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department uses a variety of data sources to monitor the health and well-being of Kalamazoo County residents. This site brings these data sources together to make this information more accessible to the community. The data is organized by determinants of health (clinical care, health behaviors, and social determinants of health) and health outcomes (morbidity and mortality).

The Data Hub features special reports such as the recently released [2019 Kalamazoo County Drug and Opioid Epidemic Brief & Report](#), a detailed look into the opioid epidemic and its impact in Kalamazoo County. The report delves deep into the prevalence of prescribing practices, accidental overdoses and deaths, and future steps to address the problem.

“Prioritizing treatment for opioid addiction is essential to reversing the tide of opioid-related deaths,” states Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director, Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department. Dr. Nettleton adds, “Addiction is not a moral defect. It is a long-term, relapsing and all-too-often deadly disease of the brain that affects not only the lives of addicted individuals—but their families and relationships as well.”

Additional information that can be found on the Data Hub includes health and social determinants, clinical care access and availability, health outcomes such as mortality and morbidity statistics. Weekly influenza trends are reported along with county health statistics on population, poverty, maternal and infant health, leading causes of death, cancer, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. Kids County provides information about the children of Kalamazoo County, including demographics, economic well-being, education, family and community, health and safety.

Health is a combination of experiences and exposures. Components of the past influence present and future health. The characteristics of the communities in which we live, adequate housing, adequate public transportation, quality education, access to and availability of quality health care, and safe places to exercise and play are essential ingredients to a healthy life. Visit the Data Hub and discover how to improve the quality of your life and your community!



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

Kalamazoo County Health
& Community Services
311 E. Alcott Street
Kalamazoo MI 49001



Getting to Know Kalamazoo County Government

April is National County Government Month

National County Government Month, held each April, is an annual celebration of county government. The National Association of Counties (NACo) recognizes 3,069 U.S. counties. All states except Connecticut and Rhode Island have functioning county governments. Alaska and Louisiana call their equivalent political units boroughs and parishes. County governments in the United States are chartered under state constitutions or laws and are tailored to the needs and characteristics of states, local areas, and their communities.

All county governments are on the front lines of delivering vital services to residents and serve nearly every American every day. Urban, suburban and rural — counties work with states, the federal government and other public and private partners to keep our communities healthy, safe and vibrant.

Kalamazoo County was organized by an act of territorial legislature and approved by the Governor in July of 1830. Today, the County of Kalamazoo, the ninth most populous county in the state of Michigan, encompasses an area of approximately 576 square miles with the 2017 estimated census population of 262,985. The County is composed of 15 townships, five villages, and four cities. The County seat is located in the City of Kalamazoo, which is the largest municipality in the County.

The County is governed by the County Board of Commissioners which consists of 11 members. The County Board is responsible for establishing policies, adopting the budget, appointing committee memberships, and hiring the County Administrator and Corporation Counsel. The Administrator/Controller is responsible for carrying out the policies set forth by the County Board and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the County. The County Board is elected on a partisan basis every two years from districts of approximately the same size. The other five elected officers of the County are elected on a partisan basis serving four-year terms.

The County provides a full range of municipal services. These services are either mandated by the state statute or authorized by the County Board. These include legislative, judicial, public works, public safety, health, welfare, cultural, recreation, transportation, public improvements, and general administrative services.

Counties keep us moving, keep us connected, keep our communities clean, and keep us safe and healthy. To learn more about the functions and contributions of counties in our communities, watch the [Counties Matter](#) video produced by NACo.

To learn more about Kalamazoo County Government, its departments, services and programs, please visit our website at:

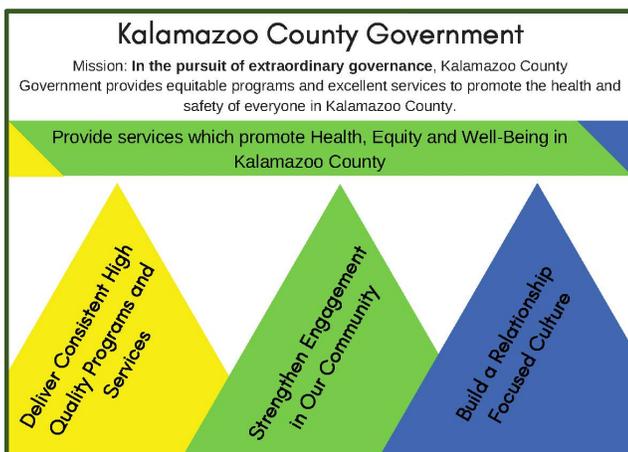
www.kalcounty.com

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyGovernment/>

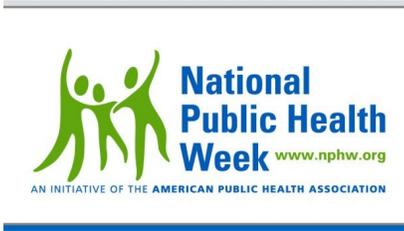
Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



National Public Health Week: April 1st thru April 7th, 2019

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners join [Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department \(KCHCS\)](#) to proclaim April 1st – April 7th as National Public Health Week (NPHW). Kalamazoo County Government (KCG) proclaims a safe and healthy community is sustained through public health measures such as vaccination, childhood lead poisoning prevention, access to safe and healthy food, and provision of clean drinking water.



KCG recognizes the importance of good health among its residents as a key factor in building a strong economy and an environment for all people to participate in the opportunities, benefits, and responsibilities of society.

Public health, along with many partners, ardently works to create a community where all residents are supported to be successful and where social justice and health equity have become pillars of county works and collaborations.

Join us in observing NPHW 2019 and become part of a growing movement to create the healthiest nation in one generation. During the week, Kalamazoo County Government will celebrate the power of prevention, advocate for healthy and fair policies, share strategies for successful partnerships and champion the role of a strong public health system.

Battle Creek Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center Chosen To Host the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

The Battle Creek VA Medical Center has been selected to host the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival celebration and grand finale stage and art show talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music. The event will be held from Monday, October 28th thru Sunday November 3rd, 2019 at Miller Auditorium in Kalamazoo.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a week of learning, friendship, and celebration of the healing power of the creative arts, which culminates in an art exhibit, creative writers meet-and-greet, and live stage show. Art workshops, writing seminars, and excursions throughout the host city are also offered to participants during their week at the festival. Creative art therapy has been proven to help people improve their mental and emotional states by encouraging expression in a non-threatening way. Veterans Affairs medical facilities use the creative arts as an effective rehabilitative therapy to help veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities.



This annual competition, co-presented by the American Legion Auxiliary and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, recognizes the progress and recovery made through art therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability, or life crisis. The competition includes categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are categories in writing as well as the performing arts of dance, drama and music. Local creative arts competition first place winning entries advance to a national judging process and first, second and third place entries in each category are determined.



Because of the therapeutic benefits the creative arts provide to veterans, the American Legion Auxiliary has remained committed to being a co-presenting sponsor with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs since 2000. ALA members across the country donate \$25 million in volunteer hours annually to the festival each year. ALA members assist veterans with art projects, fund travel,

support publicity, help with stage productions, and much more throughout the year.

Mark your calendars, join the festivities and support our veterans! Visit the [NVCAF on Facebook](#) and also view some amazing video highlights from [National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events](#).

Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 8th – 14th

Michiganders have already been subjected to an ample supply of severe weather in 2019. Winter brought extreme temperatures in the form of a polar vortex that shut down schools and businesses for several days in late January. High winds, blowing snow, power outages, ruptured water mains, and road flooding were just a few of the conditions. The promise of spring right around the corner allows us all to heave a sigh of relief. But let's also be aware and prepared for the severe weather and natural disasters that have the potential to arise with the onset of warmer weather.

Being prepared for disasters and emergencies can seem like a big job. Many people don't know where to start, so they never start at all. Each month in the County Communicator, will feature a step for you and your family to work through in developing your own family emergency preparedness plan.

[Do 1 Thing](#) is a 12-month program that makes it easy for you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community for emergencies or disasters. When individuals in our community are prepared, emergency responders can help more people. In turn, when people are more prepared themselves, they can help their neighbors. The Do 1 Thing program works because each unique step-by-step approach makes it easy for families to get started preparing for disasters and emergencies.

The concept of Do1Thing entails doing "1thing" each month so that by the end of the year, you and your family have a complete emergency plan. The program breaks emergency planning down into small and easy steps to help alleviate the stress of doing everything at once. Make the whole family a part of this process. Let's do this! First step, [make a plan.](#)



do 1 thing
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Make a Plan

THE GOAL: Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk.

Disasters change things. When an emergency happens you may have to decide what to do very quickly, while you are worrying about what might happen. By planning ahead, it will be easier to make the right decisions when the worst happens.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH TO BECOME BETTER PREPARED:

- Learn what disasters can happen in your area and decide what you will do in a disaster.**

It is important to know what types of disasters can happen where you are. Is your home in a floodplain? Are you in an area that has earthquakes? When are tornadoes most likely to happen? Knowing what disasters could happen can help you know how to be prepared and what to do. Contact your local American Red Cross or emergency management office to learn more about the disasters in your area.

Meet with your family or household members. Discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work, and play. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team. If a family member is in the military, plan how you would respond if they were deployed.

TALKING ABOUT DISASTERS

Talking about disasters can be scary, especially with children, or with someone who may have difficulty coping with daily life. Be open and positive. The unknown often causes more anxiety than knowing the facts. Listen to what the individual has to say, learn how they feel and what they may be afraid of. Older people and people with disabilities may worry that asking for help during a disaster will take away their independence. Talk about different options for assistance and make a plan with them.

THE MISSION OF DO 1 THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT.

do 1 thing.com

Take steps now to prevent damage to your home in a disaster.

Once you know what disasters could happen in your community, there are things you can do to lower your risk of injury or property damage. Here are some suggestions:

<p>TORNADO Add a tornado safe room to your home, or add extra protection to an existing room to keep your family safe in a tornado. Look for FEMA publication 320 for more information.</p>	<p>FLOOD Elevate your home above the base flood level or take steps to floodproof. Elevate your utilities above the base flood level. Make sure you have adequate flood venting. Use flood-resistant building materials when you build or remodel. Taking steps like these can lower your flood insurance rates.</p>
<p>HURRICANE Install hurricane shutters. Keep trees around your house trimmed to prevent damage from falling branches. Secure your soffits to make sure that they won't provide a way for wind and water to get into your home. Make sure entryway doors have three hinges and a deadbolt lock.</p>	<p>EARTHQUAKE Secure your furniture, appliances, and water heater to walls and floors. Install safety catches on cabinets and cupboard doors. Make sure your appliances are connected with flexible connections. Consider using a safety film on your windows or installing laminated glass to prevent injuries from broken glass.</p>
<p>WILDFIRE Use fire-resistant building materials like shingles and siding. Cut back branches and brush within 30 feet of your home. Keep firewood at least 30 feet away. Check into the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise program for more ideas.</p>	

For more information on any of these projects, or other things you can do to protect your home and family, contact your local sheriff's department or emergency management office.

- Plan what to do if you have to evacuate.**

<p>Choose two places for your family to meet. One should be right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire. The other should be outside of your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate.</p> <p>Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there. You may choose to go to a hotel, stay with friends or family in a safe location, or go to a shelter. Hold evacuation drills at home. Practice getting out of the house quickly, and drive your</p>	<p>planned evacuation route. The more you practice, the more confident you will be if you really have to evacuate.</p> <p>Plan ahead for your pets. Due to health concerns, pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation route in case a designated pet shelter is not available. Contact your local humane society or animal shelter to ask if pet emergency shelters will be opened in a disaster.</p>
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THE MISSION OF DO 1 THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT.

do 1 thing.com

Disasters change things. When an emergency happens you may have to decide what to do very quickly, while you are worrying about what might happen. By planning ahead, it will be easier to make the right decisions when the worst happens. Watch for Part 2 of our Do1Thing series in the May 2019 County Communicator and on [our Facebook page.](#)

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

Annual [Kalamazoo County Park Passes](#) on sale now. Year Round Family Fun!

Swimming, fishing, water park, boating, camping, sledding, skating, soccer, sunshine...

Annual passes can be purchased at any of the parks, or at the Kalamazoo County Parks office located inside the Expo Center at 2900 Lake St, or over the phone with a credit card by calling (269) 383-8778. Passes can be used at all five Kalamazoo County Parks and are good for the calendar year.

- ~\$5 daily vehicle admission
- ~\$25 annual vehicle pass
- ~\$20 senior/discount annual vehicle pass



[April 22nd – Earth Day 2019: Protect our Species Campaign](#)

Participate, Advocate, Donate. Earth Day Network is asking people to join the Protect our Species campaign.

[12th Annual Green-a-Thon Portage Celery Flats](#)

Saturday, April 13th from 11:00am to 3:00pm

This family-friendly Earth Day festival is open to all and includes exhibits, games and giveaways such as seedlings. Food will be available for purchase. Numerous local vendors and organizations will be present.

[Kalamazoo Nature Center](#)

Saturday, April 20th at 9:00am

Earth day 5K run and Kids Raccoon Run. This fun and challenging run/walk features some of KNC's most beautiful trails, including steep hills and forest views.

[Kalamazoo Earth Day Festival 2019](#)

Saturday, April 20th from 12:00pm to 5:00pm
Bronson Park · Kalamazoo

The Kalamazoo Earth Day Festival is a day focused on protecting our beautiful planet. Join us in enjoying music, art installations, games for all ages, educational speakers, exhibits, & vendors at our yearly event!



[22nd Annual Egg Hunt](#)

Saturday, April 20, 2019 - 2:00pm to 4:00 pm
Mayors' Riverfront Park, 251 Mills Street, Kalamazoo

Join the City of Kalamazoo Department of Parks and Recreation and the JCI Kalamazoo at the 22nd Annual Egg Hunt! The Egg Hunt presented by Kellogg Community Credit Union is a family friendly free event that features an egg hunt divided into 3 age groups (0-3, 4-6, 7-9). When you register at the event, you will be entered to win Special Prizes! There will also be crafts, face painting, and the always popular visits with the Bunny!



[22nd Annual Spring Art & Craft Sale](#)

Saturday, April 27th from 9:00am to 4:00pm
Sunday, April 28th 10:00am to 4:00pm
Kalamazoo County Main Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo

22 years of fine made and handcrafted, homemade art & craftworks from Michigan and 5 close states. Admission and parking are free.





A MATTER OF BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. *Sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA.*

Must Pre-Register:
269-649-2901
Vicksburg United Methodist Church, 217 S. Main Street
Vicksburg, MI

So. County Community Center
April 2nd thru May 3rd
Tuesdays & Fridays
1:00pm to 3:00pm

You will learn to:

- ~manage falls as controllable
- ~set goals for increasing activity
- ~make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- ~exercise to increase strength & balance

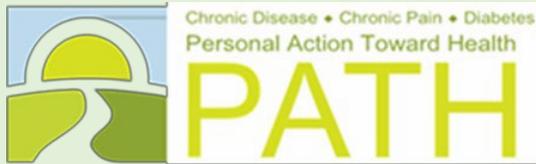


Kalamazoo County Communicator

At Kalamazoo County Government, we want to keep our residents informed of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Kalamazoo County Communicator in 2017. It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scene glimpses at how government works. You can find the

Kalamazoo County Communicator on our website at <http://www.kalcounty.com/newsletters.php>

Or through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyGovernment>. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, email communications@kalcounty.com with the subject line "send me the Communicator". That's also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.



DIABETES PATH: 6 Weeks to Better Health

For adults who have diabetes and the challenges that go with it. Get the tools to better manage your symptoms, talk with doctors, and improve your health. Family members, friends, caregivers.

Must pre-register by April 5th. Call 269-329-4555

Location: Portage Senior Center
320 Library Lane, Portage, MI

Classes held on Mondays
April 8th – May 13th
1:00pm to 3:30pm

Sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA. For questions: Kelly Milliman at 269-373-5021

Find Us online!

Whether you're looking for jobs, the latest news and events at Kalamazoo County, or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us.

Visit our website at www.kalcounty.com
You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, & LinkedIn.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Be a Part of the Team!

[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd)



The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at:

<http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd>.

Veteran's Encouraged to Apply!