



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kalamazoo County ID Program to celebrate 5th anniversary

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds Meredith Place invites residents to a public celebration of the 5th anniversary of the Larry Provancher Kalamazoo County ID program Friday, May 5, from 4 to 7 p.m.

“In its first five years of operation, the County ID card has successfully helped over five thousand Kalamazoo County residents be recognized and connect with services,” said Place. “We invite the public to celebrate these milestones and pick up their own ID at the event’s on-site mobile unit.”

The community is welcome to attend the anniversary celebration at El Concilio, located at 930 Lake St. in Kalamazoo, featuring food from Teresa’s Kitchen and Tacos Gorditas Santos; ice cream from Mi Pueblo; live mariachi music, a bouncy house, and games for the whole family.

The Kalamazoo County Identification Card is a photo ID available to Kalamazoo County residents ages 11 and up. The ID recognizes all Kalamazoo County residents and enables them to connect with public safety, civic, and community services. Without a form of identification, a person is not recognized as a member of the community and not afforded the same opportunities as other community members. Having a form of credible identification enables people to become fully participating members of the community.

“Government-issued identification has become a norm across the country. The absence of an ID makes it difficult to do many of the essential tasks that the rest of us take for granted,” said Dr. Francisco Villegas, Chair of the ID Program Advisory Board and Associate Professor of Sociology at Kalamazoo College. “This project materialized through the efforts of countless community organizers in Kalamazoo who saw the need to address the inequities and exclusions inherent in the way the state has formulated the criteria to receive a Michigan ID.”

In March 2023, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners renamed the program the “Larry Provancher Kalamazoo County ID Program” in honor of the late County Commissioner Larry Provancher, who championed the program’s creation during his time in office. Despite his passing in October 2022, his legacy lives on through the lives impacted by the County ID every day.

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