



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



January 2020

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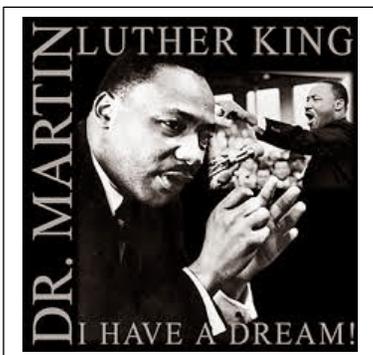
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Kalamazoo County's Commitment to Sustainability and Declaration to Address the Climate Crisis

In 2018, Kalamazoo County Government, through its Board of Commissioners adopted a Sustainability Policy. The policy states that “Kalamazoo County is committed to fostering a safe, secure future that conserves natural resources while meeting basic human needs and services. This commitment to a sustainable future will be a consideration in making public policy, developing public programs, operating public facilities, and delivering public services.”

From that policy, a Facility Standards Committee was created which recommends design standards and criteria for new buildings and major alterations of County facilities. This committee recommends standards to be used in the programming, design, and documentation of County buildings, such as its first solar array at the Healy Street Facility ([Nov 2019 Newsletter](#)) to decrease our carbon footprint while saving taxpayer money in decreased energy costs.

To further the sustainability commitment, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, at its December 3rd meeting, responded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by resolving to continue its efforts to develop a climate action plan that recognizes the climate emergency, by setting aggressive measurable goals and effective implementation. Kalamazoo County accepts a role of regional leadership and will partner with other anchor institutions to best utilize regional expertise and resources to meet shared sustainability goals.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” Join [Gryphon Place](#) and the City of Kalamazoo in this annual day of service, January 20, 2020. This event will kick-off at Kalamazoo City Hall at 8:00am with a continental breakfast and volunteer check-in, with service beginning at sites at 9:00am. In the afternoon, join others for a march that starts at 4:20pm from the Kalamazoo Transit Center to MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo. Attendees are encouraged to use Metro Transit to arrive at the march. Hot beverages will be served in MLK Park at 4:45pm.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office Offering 2020 Citizens Police Academy - Winter Classes starting in January!

Lieutenant Jeff Baker, coordinator of the Kalamazoo County Citizen's Police Academy has been awarded the Citizen's Police Academy Coordinator of the Year at the 2019 National Citizen's Police Academy Annual Conference. The National Citizen's Police Academy Association consists of coordinators from police agencies across the country.



The Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) is an eleven week program that meets once a week on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, beginning January 15th and running thru March 25th. The CPA allows residents to become educated on Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office procedures and the pressures associated within law enforcement. They seek and invite a diverse group of people that either live in, or work in Kalamazoo County, to apply. Requirements include that you must be at least 21 years of age, have no felony convictions, and have no misdemeanor convictions within the last 3 years. There is no cost to attend. The class is limited to 25 citizens. Applications will be available on the Sheriff's Office website at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/sheriff/Citizens Police Academy>

Online applications will begin on December 16th. The Citizens Police Academy was established to continue the positive movement in relationships between the residents of Kalamazoo County and their Sheriff's Office. The goal is to develop and enhance resident awareness and understanding of the police role in the community. Through this growing nucleus of responsible, well-informed citizens the challenges, practices, and myths about law enforcement will be brought into focus. Through these cooperative efforts all involved will be able to make Kalamazoo County an even greater place to live and work.



Class presentations consist of lectures, demonstrations, videos, computer presentations, and "hands on" participation. Walk through tours of the Correctional Facility, the Courthouse and Consolidated Dispatch are offered as well as participation in a "mock trial", a visit with the K9 team, and crime scene investigation techniques. Each participant is given the opportunity to ride with an officer for one shift. For more information on the Citizen's Police Academy and the selection process, please call the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office at 269-383-8725 or email Lieutenant Jeff Baker at jmbake@kalcounty.com.



2017 Citizens Police Academy visits the SWAT team.



Citizen Checking out the Equipment

Kalamazoo County Services Highlight on Maternal Child Health Division @ Health & Community Services

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

The **Maternal Child Health** division at Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services offers programs to women and their families. The overall goal of the Maternal Child Health division is to assist women and their families in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in our community.

The **Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program** assists women who qualify in obtaining breast and cervical care. **Children's Special Health Care Services** provides services for children and some adults with qualifying chronic medical conditions to cover the cost of medical care. The **Fatherhood program** aims to support fathers and restore the image of Fatherhood in our community. **Healthy Babies, Healthy Start** is an in-home family support program; the mission is to decrease infant mortality and racial disparities. The **Healthy Families America** program promotes child well-being and works to prevent abuse and neglect through home visiting services. **Nurse Family Partnership** works with first time moms to improve birth outcomes.



Contact Us: 311 E. Alcott St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, [269-373-5200](tel:269-373-5200) (HCS main line), [E-Mail](#)

To better serve its residents and community, Kalamazoo County Government is committed to conducting business in an open, transparent and accountable manner. Visit the www.kalcounty.com website to view the [Citizens Guide](#) and the [County Incentive Program](#) communications on the financial health of Kalamazoo County.



Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK) Receives Award of Appreciation

Juan Gonzalez, ISK Veteran Navigator presented Jeff Patton, ISK CEO with a certificate of appreciation from the 110th Wing Battle Creek Air National Guard Base MI for gratitude to Integrated Services of Kalamazoo for their show of support for the Service Members, Veterans and their families of the US Armed Forces in Kalamazoo County.

In the photo from left to Right: Erik Krogh, ISK Board Chair, Juan Gonzalez, ISK Veteran Navigator, Col. Daniel Whipple, and ISK CEO, Jeff Patton.

Your Community Needs You on Election Day!

If you are a registered voter, you are invited to help your community by becoming a poll worker. Precincts need your help to ensure a fair and orderly election process, AND you can earn between \$150 - \$165 per day!

What is a Poll Worker?

In Michigan, poll workers are called “election inspectors,” and they are paid to assist voters at the polls on Election Day. They assure that applications to vote are accurately completed, verify the voter’s identify, issue correct ballots, document important precinct information, assure the voters’ secrecy is maintained, and provide excellent customer service.

Some election inspectors manage the laptop and use special e-pollbook software to verify voter registration and issue the correct ballot. They also generate important reports and assist with the ballot reconciliation process.



Senior inspectors may be named precinct chair. In this leadership role, they manage a precinct and its inspectors. These people assign duties to fellow election workers; ensure that opening, closing, and quality check duties are performed; handle any issues that occur; and deliver reports and information to the city or township clerk at the end of the night.

Other inspectors are assigned to the absent voter counting board, a group that verifies ballot issuance, processes and tabulates ballots, and produces balance reports.

Who is Eligible to Become a Poll Worker?

Registered voters in the State of Michigan are eligible to work at the polls unless they have been convicted of a felony or election crime. A two-hour training class is required, and sessions are held at times to accommodate varying schedules. Additional training is provided for e-pollbook specialists and precinct chairs.



Applicants should have reliable transportation in order to arrive at the polls by 6:00 am and leave when duties have been completed after polls close. They should be physically able to assist with light precinct setup and teardown duties.

If possible, precinct inspectors should be available to work at elections held on March 10, May 5, August 4, and November 3. It is not a requirement to be available on each of those dates. While only November 3 is a paid holiday, County employees are encouraged to consider taking a vacation or personal day to help with elections that fall on other dates.

How do I Become a Poll Worker?

Obtain an election inspector application form online at the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#). Complete it and return it to your city or township clerk. If you’re willing to work in a nearby city or township, return it to Kalamazoo County Elections Specialist Sarah Joshi at 201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue; Kalamazoo, MI 49007 or sojosh@kalcounty.com.

Experience the difference between getting an “I voted” sticker and passing them out to thousands. Apply today!

Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing

Part 10 in the Series: **Power**

Do1Thing is a national program that has helped countless community members, families, and individuals prepare for emergencies and disasters. Do1Thing is a call to action. This is the tenth in a twelve-part series to assist you in organizing your family to formulate a plan for disaster and emergency preparedness. Visit www.do1thing.com for additional information.

Power. We count on electricity for heat, food, and medical needs. Many gas appliances even need electricity to run. A power outage is an emergency that often follows another emergency—like a hurricane, tornado, or winter storm. That makes it even more important to be prepared in advance.



Power Outage Safety

- Discard food if the temperature in your refrigerator exceeds 40 degrees for more than 2 hours.
- Stay away from downed power lines and anything they are in contact with such as fences or buildings.
- Never drive over downed power lines; they may be energized.
- Never use charcoal or gas grills inside a structure. You may be overcome by carbon monoxide.
- If you must use candles, be sure to use them safely. Never leave candles burning unattended.

do1thing
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Power

THE GOAL: *Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.*

We count on electricity for heat, food, and medical needs. Many gas appliances even need electricity to run. A power outage is an emergency that often follows another emergency—like a hurricane, tornado, or winter storm. That makes it even more important to be prepared in advance.

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

Acquire and learn how to safely use a portable generator.

Using a properly connected generator of adequate size during a power outage will reduce or almost eliminate the impact a power outage has on your life. Before you buy a generator, talk to an electrician about the size and type you need. Think about what you want your generator to run. Generators can be used to keep food cool, provide lights and electricity for phones and television, power furnace blowers and pumps.

Always run generators outside. Never use a generator inside a house, in a basement, or garage. Never use a cord from a generator to backfeed a circuit in your house.

The best way to use a portable generator is to connect it to your home using a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician. This will keep the power from overloading the wiring in your home. It will also keep the power from your generator from traveling back into the power lines, which can injure or kill people working on power lines, or can unexpectedly re-energize downed power lines near your home. You may also connect equipment directly to the outlets on the generator, but be sure that any extension cords are of the proper length and gauge to handle the power requirements.

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

do1thing.com

Have flashlights ready in an easily accessible place and check batteries in flashlights and radios.

When the lights go out, the safest way to provide emergency lighting is with flashlights or battery-powered lanterns. Keep flashlights with fresh batteries in several places throughout your home and check them for proper operation regularly. Always keep a supply of extra batteries. Think about buying a rechargeable flashlight. Batteries might be hard to find in a disaster.

Power Outage Safety

- Discard food if the temperature in your refrigerator exceeds 40 degrees for more than 2 hours.
- Stay away from downed power lines and anything they are in contact with such as fences or buildings.
- Never drive over downed power lines; they may be energized.
- Never use charcoal or gas grills inside a structure. You may be overcome by carbon monoxide.
- If you must use candles, be sure to use them safely. Never leave candles burning unattended.

Create a power outage plan – decide what you can do before, during and after a power outage to minimize the effect on your household.

BEFORE THE POWER GOES OUT:

- Fill empty space in freezer with containers of water. Frozen water will displace air and keep food cold longer. Remember to leave space in containers for ice to expand.
- Have at least one phone with a handset cord in your home. Many cordless phones will not work in a power outage.
- If you have an automatic garage door opener, learn how to use the manual release and open your garage door manually.
- Try to keep your car's gas tank at least half full. Many gas stations will not be in operation during a power outage. Fill up your tank if a major storm is predicted.
- Make sure you have a car or lighter plug cord for your cell phone.

- If you use special healthcare equipment like oxygen generators or dialysis equipment, notify your power company.

AFTER THE POWER GOES OUT:

- Unplug major appliances and electronics. When the power comes back on, there may be power spikes that can damage large appliances or delicate electronics.
- Do not open refrigerators or freezers any more than necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for approximately 4 hours, an unopened freezer will keep food frozen for approximately 24 hours.
- Use a battery-powered radio to stay informed.

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

do1thing.com

- Tasks:** ~Have flashlights ready in an easily accessible place. Check batteries in flashlights & radios.
~Acquire and learn how to safely use a portable generator.
~Create a power outage plan & determine what you can do to minimize the effect on your household.

Goal for the month: Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[Mindbender Mansion 2](#)

Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Wednesday, January 1st - 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Thurs., Jan. 2nd thru Sunday, Jan. 5th 9:00am – 5:00pm

Ends on January 5th, 2020! See it now! FREE!

Enter the wonderfully puzzling world of Mindbender Mansion 2, an eclectic place full of brainteasers, puzzles, and interactive challenges guaranteed to test the brain power and problem solving skills of even the most experienced puzzlers. Adults and children alike will enjoy challenging their minds as they try to master each of the 11 individual brainteasers and the three group activities in this fun and quirky exhibit.

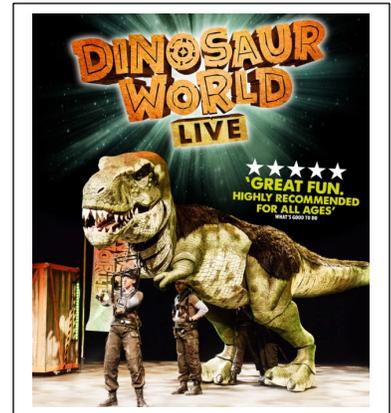


[Dinosaur World Live](#)

Miller Auditorium, 1341 Theatre Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Saturday, January 18th - 2:00pm

Dare to experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaur World Live in this roarsome interactive show for all the family. Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs. Meet a host of impressive creatures, including every child's favorite flesh-eating giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Triceratops, Giraffatitan, Microraptor and Segnosaurus!



[Kalamazoo Reptile and Exotic Animal Expo](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center North, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo

Saturday, January 18th - 10:00am - 3:00pm

Buy, sell or trade a variety of reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and other exotic pets, supplies & food. Admission: Adults \$5, Children \$2, Children under 6 free, Family Max - \$20. For more information contact Tony at 269-779-9851 or tonygcollison@gmail.com. Visit www.kalamazooreptileexpo.com.



[Traditional Archery Expo](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo

January 24th - January 26th, Friday, 12:00pm - 6:00pm; Saturday, 9:00am - 6:00pm; Sunday, 9:00am - 2:00pm

Featuring the nation's top Traditional Bowyers, Dealers and Traditional Craftsmen. Try out new bows and shop for all your traditional archery supplies. Plus broadhead displays, bowhunting displays, seminars, workshops, kid's shooting area, and a 12-target bow testing area. Admission: \$10.00 covers all weekend, Kids under 12 are free.



**Kalamazoo County,
Michigan**

County Numbers To Know

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport
269-388-3668

Administrative Services &
Board of Commissioners
269-384-8111

Animal Services & Enforcement
269-383-8775

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

Register of Deeds
(269) 383-8970

Road Commission
269-381-3171

Sheriff Department
269-385-6173

Treasurer
269-384-8124

Veterans Service Office
269-373-5361

Meeting Dates & Times:

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

-  January 7th
-  January 21st
-  February 4th
-  February 18th

[Meeting Agenda Packets & Minutes](#)

Board Meeting Location:

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

Meetings can be viewed live or
on demand at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings>

Community Update Videos

View highlights for the upcoming
meetings at:

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

**Kalamazoo County
Government Closings:**

New Year's Day -

January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr. Day -

January 20th



**Kalamazoo County
Board of Commissioners**

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary
Governance...



District 1

[Stephanie Moore](#)

District 2

[Zac Bauer](#)

District 3

[Tracy Hall, Vice Chair](#)

District 4

[Michael Seals](#)

District 5

[Julie Rogers, Chair](#)

District 6

[Jen Aniano](#)

District 7

[Roger Tuinier](#)

District 8

[John Gisler](#)

District 9

[Christine Morse](#)

District 10

[Mike Quinn](#)

District 11

[Meredith Place](#)

Census 2020 – Don't be Skeptical, Know What to Expect!

The Federal Trade Commission is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help you guard against potential census scams. Knowing how the [2020 Census](#) process works, what information you will — and won't — be asked for, and some red flags will help you spot and report scams.

The Process: In mid-March 2020, the Census Bureau will start mailing out (and, in some areas, hand delivering) invitations to participate in the 2020 Census. You should get yours by April 1. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

The Census Bureau has an important job: to count every person living in the United States. Starting in May 2020, census takers will start visiting homes that haven't responded to make sure everyone is counted. If you aren't home or can't come to the door, the census taker will come back up to six times. Each time, they'll leave a door hanger with a phone number so you can call to schedule a visit.

The Questions: The census questionnaire asks how many people are in the home at the time you complete the form; their sex, age, race, ethnicity; their relationships to one another; phone number; and whether you own or rent the home. For the full list of questions on the 2020 Census, visit [Questions Asked](#).

Want to Earn Extra Income While Making Sure Your Community gets the Funding it Needs?



The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. [Ready to find out more?](#)

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.

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



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 Kalamazoo County Government.

Click here to view current [openings on KCG Advisory Boards and Commissions](#).