2020 Annual Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners held their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 7th, 2020. Chair Julie Rogers, District 5, continues her term as Board Chair for the year remaining in 2020, and Commissioner Tracy Hall, District 3, was reappointed for another year to sit as the Vice Chair on the Board. Commissioner Hall was first elected in January of 2019 as Vice Chair.

The Board's major responsibilities include adopting the annual County budget, setting the County property tax rate, and assessing and establishing priorities on the many community needs, especially those related to health, education, welfare, mental health and the environment. The Board also makes appointments to citizen advisory committees.

The schedule for upcoming 2020 Board Meetings was established and Board of Commissioner Bylaws & Rules of Procedures were temporarily approved.

Kalamazoo County Government looks forward to another year of service to deliver consistent high quality programs and services, to strengthen engagement in our community, and to building a relationship focused culture.

Older Adult Community Needs Assessment for Kalamazoo County

The Older Adult Services of Kalamazoo County Government Health & Community Services Department (Area Agency on Aging IIIA) is conducting an Older Adult Community Needs Assessment for Kalamazoo County. The purpose is to evaluate services and programs in order to address the needs of older adults with the greatest social and economic need. Visit www.kalcounty.com for the survey or take the survey here!

The Area Aging on Agency invites you to attend a community forum about older adults’ services and supports.
Craig Williams took the helm as the new Kalamazoo|Battle Creek International Airport Director on January 6th, 2020. Williams served as director of the Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint, MI from 2014 until 2019. He also worked as director of operations and facilities for the Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority in Fort Wayne, IN. In addition to his work in Flint and Fort Wayne, Williams worked as a senior aviation consultant for the airport consulting firm Reynolds, Smith, and Hills, as well as working for two trade associations, the American Association of Airport Executives and Helicopter Association International. Williams holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration, with a concentration on Transportation Policy and Logistics from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Aviation Administration from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN. We welcome Mr. Williams to Kalamazoo County!

In December 2019, Colleagues International, a volunteer driven diplomacy organization whose purpose is to bring international visitors to Kalamazoo to promote intercultural and professional exchange, invited Kalamazoo|Battle Creek International Airport, Sheriff Richard Fuller and County Board Chair Julie Rogers to participate in one of their cultural exchanges, Firefighting in America-Iraq.

Chair Rogers, Interim Airport Director Amanda Woodin, and our local AZO airport firefighters met with Iraqi firefighters to share ideas and strategies. Healthcare for fire, police and emergency responders was also a topic of discussion. One of our international guests’ favorite part of the tour was viewing the equipment in the snow! “I was honored to be a part of this cultural exchange. It really showcases our similarities more than our differences,” stated Chair Rogers.

Ms. Woodin added, “Our firefighters and the Iraqi’s exchanged a lot of information regarding how each approaches rescue and firefighting efforts on airports. It was amazing how similar many requirements are. A majority of the Iraqi’s that were here utilize Oshkosh rigs, just like we do.” These firefighters were on a US tour with stops in Washington DC, New York City, Phoenix AZ, and Detroit MI. AZO was the only stop with an airport tour. In addition, they toured fire stations and emergency services in each city, including Kalamazoo Public Safety, Portage Fire Division, Pride Care Ambulance, and South County Fire Authority.

Sheriff Fuller participated in an exchange with delegates from Poland and discussed human trafficking, internet and phone scams, and jails systems. Sheriff Fuller stated, “Our team takes great pride in sharing how Law Enforcement is done in the United States. One of the things we find interesting is the astonishment Law Enforcement professionals from around the world express when they see how clean and quiet the Kalamazoo County Jail is. We have hosted visitors from all over the world including Egypt, Russia, Poland, and countries throughout the Middle East, to name only a few. The exchange of ideas is always good.”
Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA
Healthy Living Programs Schedule for Winter/Spring 2020

Kalamazoo County’s Area Agency on Aging is housed in the Kalamazoo County Government under the Older Adult Services Division. Programming assists older adults and their caregivers access services, participate in health education classes, provide support for individuals living at home independently, advocacy, elder abuse prevention, and more. Registration is required, space is limited; attendance and materials are free to attendees. For more information on fall prevention classes, call 269-373-5021 or email.

**A Matter of Balance Class Schedules**

A Matter of Balance (MOB) acknowledges the risk of falling but emphasizes practical coping strategies to reduce this fear. This program is implemented by a certified Master Trainer.

Class goals are:

- Promoting a view of falls and fear of falling as controllable
- How to fall well! What to do if you fall
- Setting realistic goals for increasing activity
- Changing the environment to reduce fall risk factors
- Promoting activity to increase strength and balance
- Eight classes focused on patient centered care

Who should participate?

- Individuals over the age of 60
- Worried about falling
- Motivated to stay active and prevent falls

**Portage Senior Center**, 320 Library Lane, Portage
  - Mondays, February 3rd - March 23rd from 1:00pm to 3:00pm  (Register at Portage Senior Ctr 269-329-4553)

**Vineyards Assisted Living**, 8170 Vineyard Parkway, Kalamazoo (Texas Township)
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 18th - March 12th from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

**WMU School of Medicine Unified Clinics** (3rd Floor), 1000 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo
  - Wednesdays, March 11th – April 29th from 9:30am to 11:30am

**Parchment Community Library**, 401 S Riverview Drive, Parchment
  - Thursdays, March 26th – May 14th, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm  (Register at Help Desk 269-343-7747)

**Personal Action Toward Health (PATH)**

Empowering older adults to live beyond chronic medical conditions and regain quality of life! Individuals and caregivers can sign up and attend free of charge. This program is implemented by a certified Master Trainer. Regain control of personal wellbeing despite chronic health conditions!

**Portage Senior Center**, 320 Library Lane, Portage
  - Mondays, April 27th – June 8th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

**Creating Confident Caregivers** (Dementia Caregiver Education & Support)

Get up-to-date education on dementia; validation on barriers and challenges of caregiving; connect with other caregivers; skills for managing caregiver stress; caregiver resources to manage dementia related behaviors; skills for self-care while caring for others.

**Oakland Centre**, 2255 W. Centre St., Portage
  - Wednesdays, Mar 25th – April 29th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY CLERK / ROD
Kalamazoo County Performs Well In Election Risk Limiting Audit Pilot

On Thursday, December 5, 2019, the 14th pilot of the new risk-limiting audit was performed on the November 5, 2019 election in Kalamazoo County with excellent results.

Risk-limiting audits have emerged nationally as the preeminent method for confirming election results. They use statistical methods to perform a comprehensive check on the accuracy of reported election results and to detect anomalies, possibly tied to human error or manipulation. Using a mathematical formula, auditors in each locality will randomly select ballots to confirm that the ballot tabulators correctly tallied election results.

The method first was implemented by the state of Colorado, where elections are run at the county level and the vast majority of voting occurs by mail. Michigan is exploring ways to adapt these audits to its own highly decentralized elections structure, in which 1,530 city and township clerks administer both in-person and by-mail voting in more than 4,800 precincts, with county clerks also playing a role in canvassing election results.

Michigan began working last year with national experts to study and define risk-limiting audit methodology for states with individual precincts. Michigan first conducted pilot audits after the November 2018 midterm election in the cities of Kalamazoo, Lansing and Rochester Hills. Further pilots were conducted after the May and August 2019 elections. The nationally recognized Brennan Center for Justice noted that the results of early pilots showed that “risk-limiting audits are an effective tool that can be implemented in Michigan, by Michigan election officials, using Michigan-certified voting systems.”

In Kalamazoo County, two different races were audited at the same time, the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency ballot proposal and the City of Kalamazoo’s Mayoral election.

Every ballot container used on November 5, 2019 was delivered to Oshtemo Township, including those from the Barry County and Calhoun County areas of the KRESA District. On December 5, 2019, 30 city and township clerks and deputy clerks, were instructed on how to perform the audit by Bureau of Elections staff. Audit software selected specific random ballots to audit. Teams tallied the vote and the data was entered into the software. For the pilots, a 5% risk limit is the goal.

In the KRESA election, the risk limit was an astonishing 0.000065275468098118. In the Kalamazoo City Mayoral election, the risk limit was an incredible 0.000186622519468139%. These risk limits are by far the lowest of any pilot conducted to date. These numbers indicate that the November 5th elections conducted in Kalamazoo County had an exceedingly low risk of any human or electronic error or manipulation.

Kalamazoo County should be very proud of its election system from Election Systems & Software as well as the city and township clerks and election inspectors that together ensure that high quality elections are conducted.

Poll workers are in need in Kalamazoo County!

Election coordinator Sarah Joshi of Kalamazoo County estimates that nearly 250 people are needed countywide. Applicants must have reliable transportation, average computer skills, excellent people skills and must be a registered Michigan voter to be eligible. An approximate daily rate of pay for a pollworker, dependent upon each local jurisdiction, runs around $150 to $165 per day.

Applications can be obtained on the Kalamazoo County website at: https://www.kalcounty.com/clerk/pdf_files/Elec_Inspecte_e-App_131809_7.pdf

Applications can be dropped off at the respective city or township clerk’s office.
Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing
Part 11 in the Series: Emergency Supplies

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 eleventh 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.

Emergency Supplies. Any emergency is easier to handle when you have prepared ahead of time. Put together an emergency kit with important items to keep at home, and a go bag with items you will need to take with you if you evacuate. Think about what you and your family would need in a disaster. You can make kits for your home, car or workplace. Emergencies can happen anywhere. When severe weather is predicted, make sure your car has a full tank of gas. You don’t want to wait in line for gas if you are told to evacuate. Some storms may also knock out electricity, causing gas stations to close.

Emergency Supplies
THE GOALS: Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home in a disaster.

Any emergency is easier to handle when you have prepared ahead of time. Put together an emergency kit with important items to keep at home, and a go bag with items you will need to take with you if you evacuate. Think about what you and your family would need in a disaster. You can make kits for your home, car or workplace. Emergencies can happen anywhere.

Gather your emergency supplies in an accessible place.

Have a go bag ready if you have to shelter in place or evacuate your home. Your go bag can be part of your emergency kit, just make sure it is in a bag or easy to carry container and that it is easy to get to.

THINK ABOUT THESE ITEMS FOR YOUR GO BAG:
- Battery powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Lightweight blankets
- Emergency information, including insurance policies
- A list of medications and correct dosage, and doctor’s names
- Personal items such as toothbrushes, soap, extra glasses, etc.
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- Change of clothing
- Nonperishable snacks
- Books, cards or magazines to pass the time

Tasks:
- Gather your emergency supplies in an accessible place
- Create an emergency supply kit for your pet, your car, and your workplace or school.
- Stash some cash in case ATMs or credit card machines are not usable in a disaster.

Goal for the month: Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home in a disaster.
Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

**Prairie View County Park**  
899 East U Avenue, Vicksburg, MI 49097

**Kalamazoo County Parks** are beautiful and full of fun and adventure even in the middle of winter. Prairie View Park, located on the shores of Gourdneck and Hogsett Lakes is a pristine setting for sledding, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and hiking. It comes with a warming shelter too! Kalamazoo County Annual Park Passes for 2020 are on sale now at all of the parks or in the Parks Office for $25 ($20 senior discount). A one-time daily vehicle pass is $5. Call 269-383-8778 for more information! Kalamazoo County Parks are open 7am-Sunset, 7 days a week.

**Shipshewana on the Road**  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo  
**February 8th and February 9th**  
Saturday, 9:00am - 6:00pm, Sunday, 10:00am - 5:00pm

For the past two decades, Shipshewana On The Road Gift, Food and Craft Show has brought the most interesting, most innovative, most creative and just plain awesome products to our customers.

**Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery**  
34270 County Road 652, Mattawan, Michigan 49071, (269) 668-2696

The Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery is hosting free snowshoe hikes and you're invited! Borrow some snowshoes from the Visitor Center or bring your own for a fun walk on **Saturdays (Jan 11th thru Feb 15th) at 10:30 AM**. This free event is aimed at families with kids aged 5 or older. Not enough snow? No problem. The team will offer a guided winter hike instead.

**Winter Snow Party**  
Oakland Drive Park, 7650 Oakland Drive, Portage MI  
**Saturday, February 1st, 12 noon - 3 p.m.**

Enjoy sledding and a snowman building contest! Build, decorate and bring your own cardboard sled! Build and dress up the fanciest snowman! Prizes will be awarded. Cardboard sled contest begins at 1 p.m. with snowman building immediately following. Enjoy a bonfire with hot chocolate and coffee available for purchase. Hosted by the Portage Youth Advisory Committee, all ages welcome!

**The Little Mermaid at Chenery Auditorium**  
714 S. Westnedge, Kalamazoo MI 49007  
**Saturday, February 29th at 1:00pm and 6:00pm**

Ballet Kalamazoo presents their next fairytale ballet story of "The Little Mermaid" on Saturday, February 29th at 1:00pm and 6:00pm at Chenery Auditorium. Regular Tickets $10 Children $15 Adult
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
269-373-5200

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

- February 4th
- February 18th
- March 4th
- March 17th

**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 Court Closings:

**Monday, February 17th**
President’s Day

**This is the Kalamazoo County Courts only, all other KCG offices will be open**

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

Follow Kalamazoo County Government
The **2020 Census** is a massive undertaking. It requires counting a diverse and growing population in the United States and the five U.S. territories. To do this, the U.S. Census Bureau must:

- Make an accurate list of every residence in the U.S. and five U.S. territories—including houses, apartments, dormitories, military barracks, and more.
- Get a member of every residence to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail in March & April of 2020.
- Follow up in person with homes that have not responded.

**Collecting Responses:** There are three ways that the Census Bureau will initially collect responses from people for the 2020 Census: **online, by phone, and by mail.** By April 1, 2020, you will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home. Starting in May 2020, the Census Bureau will begin following up in person with homes that have not responded to the census.

**Counting Everyone in the Right Place:** To ensure a complete and accurate count, the Census Bureau counts people at their usual residence, which is the place where they live and sleep most of the time, with a few exceptions. People who do not have a usual residence should be counted where they are on Census Day (April 1, 2020). For additional information visit: [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)

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**Engagement Opportunities with Commissioners**

Opportunities to meet with Kalamazoo County Commissioners over coffee. Discuss topics of interest, ask questions, be involved!

Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers and City of Kalamazoo Commissioner Jeanne Hess will host an informational joint coffee hour from 11:00am to 12:15pm on Saturday, February 1st at Brite Eyes Brewing, 1156 S. Burdick Street in Kalamazoo.

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**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](http://www.kalcounty.com)
You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, & LinkedIn.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government

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**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](http://25advisoryboardsandcommissions) at Kalamazoo County Government.

Click here to view current openings on KCG Advisory Boards and Commissions.