



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

September 2018

COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

We Are Kalamazoo
County Government!



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From the Office of Administrative Services

There has been a lot of activity this summer at Kalamazoo County Government!

The Health & Community Services Department (HCS) moved out of the Nazareth offices they have occupied for the past 20 years to a new location at 311 East Alcott Street. All the same programs and services are available in a newly upgraded facility to better serve its customers. At the same time as their relocation, HCS responded to an immediate water response need due to PFAS contamination in the City of Parchment, Cooper Township and most recently Richland. Thank you to all the volunteers, workers and participants that helped to keep the residents informed, ample water supplies available, and wells tested. The collaboration between the municipalities during this time of crisis was well orchestrated and a testament to EOC preparation. For more information: www.kalcounty.com/hcs/pfasresponse.php

The independent audit firm, Rehmann Robson reported to the Board at its August 8th meeting that the County's financial statements are accurate and that a "clean" opinion on the accounting standards has been issued for the year ended Dec 31st, 2017. Paul Matz from the accounting firm concluded "This is something to be proud of." To view the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2017, click here:

<http://www.kalcounty.com/finance/2017%20kalamazoo%20county-fs%20final.pdf>

The Kalamazoo County Youth Fair was a community highlight again this year. We would like to thank MSU Extension and the 4-H program for their displays and competitions; the Parks Department for hosting, planning and maintaining the Fair; the Sheriff's Department patrols for providing security; and all the other county departments that exhibited and participated in making this annual event a success.

2-1-1 is a free and confidential service that helps people across the U.S. and in many parts of Canada find the local resources they need. We're here for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you are experiencing an emergency, disaster, crisis or need assistance with food, housing, health, employment, 2-1-1 is ready to help. Call 2-1-1 today. All calls are confidential.



Kalamazoo County,
Michigan



County Government

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

Contact your District Commissioner

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Board of Commissioners
Meeting Dates:**

Meetings start at 7:00pm

-  September 4th
-  September 18th
-  October 2, 2018
-  October 16, 2018

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

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

Commissioners in Attendance at Michigan Association of Counties Conference

Kalamazoo County Commissioners Julie Rogers and Tracy Hall attended the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) 2018 Annual Conference, "Community and Collaboration", in Frankenmuth on August 19th thru August 21st.



Commissioners Hall (left) & Rogers (right)

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) is an alliance of Michigan counties working to enhance county government through advocacy, shared services and education. More than 300 county leaders were in attendance at the event, which featured three days of policy workshops, addresses by Michigan political leaders, an Exhibitor Show with more than 30 vendors of products and services of interest to county officials.

Commissioner Julie Rogers was elected to the Michigan Association of Counties Board of Directors for an At-Large position. Congratulations Commissioner!

Find updates about Kalamazoo County Government

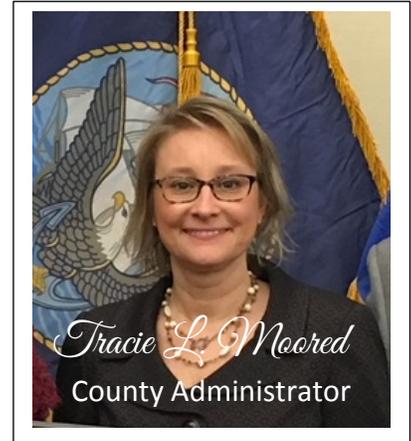
<https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyGovernment/>



Getting to Know Your County Administrator

Tracie Moored joined Kalamazoo County Government in 2008 as Finance and Internal Services Director/Controller. Ms. Moored has a master's degree in business administration strategic management and a bachelor's degree in accounting.

As the County Internal Services Director, Moored addressed organizational issues and priorities, and provided recommendations to the County Administrator and the Board of Commissioners. She worked closely with internal directors to provide critical training, education, and mentoring. She utilized visionary strategies to promote change and introduce organization restructuring to streamline operations and improve efficiencies. Moored prepared and presented the County's annual budget each year and received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Standard & Poor's raised Kalamazoo County's AA bond rating in 2015, making Kalamazoo County one of only seven counties in the state with a AA+ rating.



In
the
Pursuit
of
Extraordinary
Governance...

The Administrator's office is responsible for assisting the Board in meeting goals; developing annual budget recommendations; preparing agenda items for the Board of Commissioners; developing procedures to accompany Board policies; providing legal counsel in all legal County matters; coordinating the pursuit of the Board's legislative agenda; and providing administrative support. In late 2014, the serving Kalamazoo County Administrator announced their resignation. A search was executed to fill the position, however the county was unsuccessful in finding a candidate. By the fall of 2016 when it was evident a search to fill the position would leave the county without an administrator for another year, Moored decided to apply for the position. On November 29, 2016, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners voted to appoint Ms. Moored as County Administrator for a one-year contract.

For the first six months in the new job, Moored focused on the strengths and weaknesses of the county's internal organization. She felt the county was in need of a revitalized vision, along with improved communication between administrative staff and the Board of Commissioners. With that in mind, she coordinated the county's first good governance presentation and developed a new strategic plan. Moored introduced herself to the entire county staff through meetings with each department and established an annual county-wide, all employee engagement day. A county branding and monthly newsletter were developed, and transparency created through live streaming of the Committee of the Whole and Board of Commissioners meetings to enhance community awareness and engagement. In June of 2017, Kalamazoo County elected officials unanimously voted to offer Administrator Moored a three-year contract extension.

Moored has established herself as a key figure in Kalamazoo County Government, overseeing a multi-partner land swap in the west area of downtown Kalamazoo for a future County Services Building, negotiating a ten-year parking solution, launched work on building a new Animal Services facility, supported the move of the county Health & Community Services Department, refinanced bonds to save taxpayers \$3 million, and completed a number of internal projects. In 2017, the county was presented the Silver Status award by the State of Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency as a recognized veteran friendly employer and is the only county in the state with the silver-level recognition. The county was also the recipient of the Best and Brightest Award for its successful wellness program.

County Administrator Moored is "In the pursuit of extraordinary governance..." the County's new tagline, and we look forward to more good things to come at Kalamazoo County Government.

Kalamazoo County Services A - Z

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



Environmental Health
Health & Community Services
311 East Alcott Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 373-5210

Answer: Environmental Health in the Health & Community Services Department. They have a *new* location to better serve you at 311 East Alcott Street! Environmental Health is responsible for issuing permits and performing inspections of on-site residential and commercial water wells and septic systems. They also monitor public beach surface waters for E. coli bacteria, monitor public swimming pools and provide assistance with the municipal water supplies.

Food service facility inspections of fixed, mobile, and temporary establishments as well as promotion of food safety programs are other services provided by Environmental Health. And much more. Please visit the website at www.kalcounty.com/eh for additional information.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Kalamazoo County Government is hiring!

[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#)

The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at <http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd>.

Veteran's Wanted & Encouraged to Apply!



All County Courts & Offices will be closed in celebration of Labor Day
Monday - September 3rd

The 2018 Kalamazoo County Veterans Stand Down

will be held on Friday, September 21st from 9:00am until 1:00pm at the Salvation Army, 1700 S. Burdick Street. This is an annual event geared towards homeless and indigent veterans. It is a day where community resources come together to assist those who may need it. For more information visit the [Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office on Facebook](#) or the Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office at: <http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/veterans.htm>

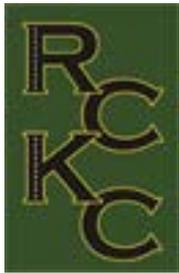
Bussing will be provided for veterans to and from the event by Kalamazoo Metro Transit. Show your ID card or DD214 to the driver and you will be on your way. Any veteran wanting to attend should bring identification like their DD-214 or Veterans Administration card to qualify for the free services.



We are extremely excited to once again be hosting this wonderful event! All veterans are welcome and thank you for your service.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government online!





Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) presented their 2017 Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners at the August 8th meeting. This report provides a citizens guide to the efforts by RCKC in public service and the many partnerships to provide over 199 projects and infrastructure maintenance operations. These efforts are on-going and continuously developed to meet the needs of our changing reality, while improving our infrastructure. The 2017 Annual Report summarizes projects, asset management, finances, revenues, state and federal transportation funds, local bridge funds, expenditures, award recognition and achievements. The 2017 report can be viewed by visiting the RCKC website at <https://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/publications.php>

Where Rubber Hits the Road: The Road Commission was awarded a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Scrap Tire Development Grant in Cooperation with Michigan Technological (MTECH) University. Estimated at 13,672 scrap tires to be recycled, the project took a lot of coordination, as it is an experiment. It was a global effort for a potential future process and market development. The project includes the use of new rubber technology never used before in the United States on W Avenue from the Schoolcraft Village Limits to Portage Road with hot rubber chip seal and hot rubber thin overlay. There will also be two conventional applications as control sections. Innovation does not come without complications and learning opportunities. The hot rubber chip seal trial beginning at Portage Road was the most challenging and took two days to accomplish. It was difficult for the asphalt distributor to properly apply the material. The hot rubber thin overlay was completed in one day. The asphalt mix was designed specifically for this project and placed at very high temperatures. It was successfully placed using typical paving operations.

“We would rather attempt to do something great and fail than to attempt to do nothing and succeed”,

Joanna Johnson, RCKC Managing Director



Poster Art Contest
Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day
Wednesday, October 10, 2018
 Awards Day is Wednesday, October 10th at 5:00 p.m.
 At the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC)

Traffic Crashes are the leading cause of death in the U.S.A. for people ages 3 to 34. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.

Kalamazoo County kids ages 4 through 12 are invited to enter artwork representing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities".

There will be winners in all three age categories. **Top Winner in Each Age Category Wins a BICYCLE AND HELMET.**

Age Categories:
 4 through 6 years old
 7 through 9 years old
 10 through 12 years old

Always Make Safety Your Top Priority
 "Wear protective gear. Seat belts in vehicles and helmets for cyclists greatly reduce injuries or deaths."
 "Don't speed or drive aggressively or impaired."
 "Know the rules of the road and obey all signs and signals."
 "Nearly 43 percent of drivers with cell phones under the age of 35 send or read text messages while driving."

RULES:

- Art **MUST** be on 8.5x11" paper.
 - Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage
- NO computer aided drawings
- ALL entries must be postmarked by **September 28, 2018** to be eligible
- Winner's names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the RCKC website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com
- Mail entries to:
 Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
 Attention: Selena Rizer, Administrative Assistant
 3801 East Kilgore Road
 Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Each entry **MUST** have this information on the back of the poster:

Child's First Name: _____
 Child's Last Name: _____
 Age: _____
 Home Phone Number: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____
 Parent's First Name: _____
 Parent's Last Name: _____

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
 3801 E. Kilgore Road
 Kalamazoo, MI 49001
 (269) 381-1373
 Fax (269) 381-1740
www.kalamazooountyroads.com

2018 Put The Brakes On Fatalities Poster Art Contest

The Road Commission participates in Toward Zero Deaths, a statewide safety campaign based on the national strategy on highway safety intended to influence driver behavior and improve safety for all users. The national initiative was designed to unit the country in moving toward zero fatalities for one full day by encouraging all users to obey all traffic laws, including buckling up, every ride; driving the posted speed limit; avoiding distractions while driving; bicycle safety; and always being safe and sober behind the wheel.

To support this effort, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County will have a poster art contest. Kalamazoo County kids ages 4 through 12 are invited to enter artwork representing their though on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities" by September 28th. Top winners in each age group will receive a bicycle and helmet. For rules, regulations and an application, click on the link below:

<https://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/userfiles/kcrc/file/Publication/s/Poster%20Put%20the%20Brakes%20on%20Fatalities%20Day%20-%20contest%20rules.pdf>

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

Hook, Line and Sinker Kid's Fishing

Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery
34270 County Road 652, Mattawan, MI 49071
September 1st, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

FREE! Learn how to fish for bluegill and bass at our Kid's Fishing Program!
This program is for kids between the ages of 3-16 years old. All equipment and bait is provided and it is free of charge!



39th Annual NSRA Street Rod Nationals North

Kalamazoo County Expo Center
September 7 - September 9, Friday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

See more than 2600 street rods, muscle cars, custom and specialty vehicles all thirty years old and older. Plus manufacturer exhibits, arts & crafts, vintage parts, swap meet, live entertainment, good food and a whole lot more!



Kalamazoo Mom to Mom Sale

Kalamazoo County Expo Center
September 15th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The biggest mom to mom sale in town this Fall. Find everything you need for the kids in one place at the fall sale including gently used kids clothing, toys, books, and furniture along with baby and maternity items! Sign up to sell or shop and save! Strollers welcome. Admission: Adults \$2, kids are free.



Kalamazoo Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Council (KCAN)

SUPERHERO FUNRUN

September 29th, 9:00a.m. - noon
Celery Flats, 7335 Garden Lane, Portage, MI 49024

Grab your side kick & your cape for the Super Hero 5K Run/Walk. This is a family friendly event to help raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention in Kalamazoo County. All ages welcome. Games, snacks, mascots and photo opportunities galore. All proceeds will be donated to the KCAN child abuse and neglect council.



Bronson Children's Hospital Run & Walk

September 30th, 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Children's Activities
10:00 a.m. – Run/Walk Begins

The parking lot on the corner of John and Lovell streets on Bronson Methodist Hospital's North Campus in downtown Kalamazoo.

This annual event supports child life, art and music therapy and other programs and services for young patients at Bronson Children's Hospital, the only children's hospital in southwest Michigan. Children's activities before and after the run & walk include hands-on demonstrations, costumed characters, and pediatric ambulance tours. The event is designed for both competitive runners and families who prefer a casual stroll. There are both 5K and 1-mile courses available.



The Mill at Vicksburg – Q & A Event Series Scheduled

Spared from the wrecking ball in 2014 and nominated to the National Registry of Historic Places, the Vicksburg Mill is ready to hum again. Paper City Development Director, Jackie Koney, will be hosting a free Q & A Event Series covering plans to restore the old Lee Paper Mill and invites all interested individuals to attend. Information on future events, project updates and Mill tour dates can be found at: www.VicksburgMill.com.

An article regarding the Vicksburg Paper Mill Project being awarded a Brownfield Redevelopment Grant and Loan was featured in the [June 2018 Kalamazoo County Communicator](#) newsletter. The funding for this project will be used for specific environmental activities to facilitate the redevelopment of the property and adjacent area. The property, located on West Highway Street, will be developed to include apartments, a brewery, restaurant, retail center, offices, arts community, museum and event spaces.

THE MILL
AT
VICKSBURG

► FREE EVENT ◀

Q&A EVENT SERIES

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT
THE LEE PAPER MILL RESTORATION PROJECT

Join Paper City Development Director Jackie Koney for a free Q&A event covering the plans to restore the Old Lee Paper Mill. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Make sure to tell your friends—we look forward to seeing you at one of these events!

► **EVENT DETAILS** ◀

TUESDAY · AUGUST 21 · 7–8:30 PM
The Distant Whistle Brewhouse

WEDNESDAY · AUGUST 22 · 7–8:30 PM
Jaspere's Pizza & Fine Italian Food

THURSDAY · AUGUST 23 · 3–4:30 PM
Village Hide-A-Way

MONDAY · AUGUST 27 · 7–8:30 PM
Main St. Pub of Vicksburg

TUESDAY · AUGUST 28 · 7–8:30 PM
Vickers' Lakeside Tavern

THURSDAY · AUGUST 30 · 3–4:30 PM
Village Hide-A-Way

TUESDAY · SEPTEMBER 4 · 7–8:30 PM
The Distant Whistle Brewhouse

WEDNESDAY · SEPTEMBER 5 · 7–8:30 PM
Jaspere's Pizza & Fine Italian Food

CAN'T MAKE ANY OF THESE EVENTS?
Visit WWW.VICKSBURGMILL.COM for information regarding future events, project updates, and Mill tour dates.

VINTAGE VIBRANT &

Follow Kalamazoo County Government online!





Kalamazoo County Communicator

At Kalamazoo County Government, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast 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.



The [5th Annual Gryphon Place Suicide Prevention Walk](#) will be held during National Suicide Prevention Month on September 29, 2018 (9:00am) at Bronson Park in downtown Kalamazoo. This 5K-cause walk will raise awareness for suicide prevention, allow people to connect with each other, and provide critical funds for Gryphon Place - 100% of the community-raised dollars stay here in the community, supporting the local programs and services we offer. We will be there, supporting suicide prevention one step at a time, and would love for you to join us.

safeTALK Training - September 7th & 21st

safeTALK is a half-day alertness training that prepares anyone age 15 or older, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide-alert helper. Over the course of their training, safeTALK participants will learn to:

- ❖ Notice and respond to situations where suicide thoughts might be present
- ❖ Recognize that invitations for help are often overlooked
- ❖ Move beyond the common tendency to miss, dismiss, and avoid suicide
- ❖ Apply the TALK steps: Tell, Ask, Listen, and KeepSafe
- ❖ Know community resources and how to connect someone with thoughts of suicide to them for further help

This training is typically offered for a fee of \$30.00, but is being offered free of charge for Suicide Prevention Month. Don't miss out on your chance to attend this training for free! [Register here](#)

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



On August 6th, the Health & Community Services Department will be at our new location: 311 East Alcott St.
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department has a new location to better serve you!

311 East Alcott Street