



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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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.

Essential Services Remain Open at Health & Community Services

The COVID-19 outbreak represents an unprecedented and rapidly evolving time, and in order to combat the spread of the virus, Kalamazoo County Government is following Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order 2020-21.

Per the order and for at least the next three weeks, the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) essential services that sustain and protect health and life will continue, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No evening clinics will be held on Thursdays.

- Area Agency on Aging Region IIIA: this includes the Information & Assistance Hotline at 269- 373-5173 and the Long Term Care Ombudsman at 1-866-485-9393
- Clinic: by appointment only, limited STD testing and immunizations services. There will be no TB Tests including QFTs, titers or travel immunizations
- Environmental Health: Land, water, and wastewater, food safety, and laboratory services
- WIC: by appointment only
- Veterans Service Office: by appointment only
- Maternal Child Health: community workers and programs are available by telephone and email. Processing referrals continues.

Please be aware that calls from HCS employees may come from a number that says "private" or "blocked" in order to protect the privacy of employee's personal numbers while they work remotely.

"Basic public health needs must continue for our residents in Kalamazoo County, even during this global pandemic, to protect the health of all," stated Jim Rutherford, Health Officer. "The public should know if they are visiting our building there will be hand sanitizer available and social distancing in practice."

COVID-19 Resources:

- ☑ County updates: www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php
- ☑ Michigan updates: www.michigan.gov/coronavirus
- ☑ National updates: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference

Kalamazoo County Chair Julie Rogers, Vice Chair Tracy Hall, Commissioners Stephanie Moore and Michael Seals joined nearly 2,000 county leaders representing more than 40 counties from across Michigan for the 2020 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference. The event draws on the local experiences and expertise of commissioners from the 3,069 U.S. counties to craft policy initiatives for Congress and federal regulators.

County officials also spent time on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Michigan’s congressional delegation, including U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters to discuss federal priorities for the year, including funding for hospitals and local county health departments to fight coronavirus, pre-trial detainee health care and recidivism, election security, the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, broadband accessibility and revitalizing American infrastructure.

We are thankful our county commissioners could attend and advocate for much needed funding for many of these important challenges facing counties, and particularly around the emerging public health crisis.



Census Day 2020 – Let’s Do This!



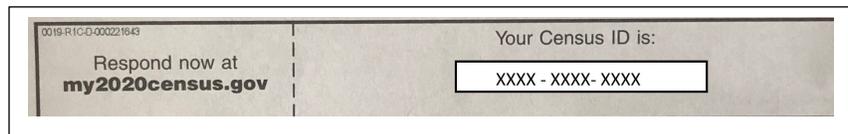
In mid-March, households began receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. April 1st is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020.

April 1st : Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways:

online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020. Everyone counts, all adults, all children and all babies! Your responses are kept completely confidential.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:

- Online →
- By phone: 1-844-330-2020
- By mail: If you are unable to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire online, a paper questionnaire will be mailed to you in early April for you to complete and mail back.



At a time when we're all keeping a little distance, we can still come together. Respond to the [#2020Census](https://www.census.gov/2020census) online today at [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020census.gov).

Earth Day 2020 – 50th Anniversary

Earth Day is April 22nd of every year and this year marks its 50th anniversary! The theme for Earth Day 2020 is **climate action**. The enormous challenge — but also the vast opportunities — of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.



Kalamazoo County Government at its December 3rd, 2019 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.

Although we are not able to participate in public Earth Day events, there are activities you can do as a family to adopt new earth-friendly practices. Get some fresh air and explore the bounty of the natural world, plant a tree, clean up your neighborhood, go on a nature walk, build a birdfeeder or birdhouse, bird watch! The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail is open! Take a hike or a bike.

There are so many so many ways to respect our planet. Show your children how to use water wisely, teach them (and yourself) to reuse and repurpose common household objects. Help your family embrace the idea of a lifelong dedication to making every day Earth Day. That's what the movement is all about.

An advertisement for foster care. On the left, a teal box contains the text: "RAISE HOPE & FOSTER DREAMS", "BECOME A FOSTER PARENT", "1-855-MICHKIDS", and "MICHIGAN.GOV/HOPEFORAHOME". On the right, a photograph of a young girl with her hands over her eyes, smiling, with a "MICHIGAN DHHS" logo at the bottom.

[Open Your Heart and Your Home](#)

In Michigan, there are approximately 13,000 children in foster care and 300 children who need an adoptive family. We need your help to provide a safe, nurturing home for these children until they can be returned to their families. When children cannot be returned to their homes, foster parents are often asked to provide permanent homes. For more information call: 1-855-642-4543 or visit the website at Michigan.gov

Kalamazoo County Government Receives Award of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 21st Consecutive Years

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Kalamazoo County Government by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental account and financial reporting. Kalamazoo County Government has received this award for 21 consecutive years!

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.

Severe Weather Preparedness

Today is a Good Time to Create Your Family Plan

Knowing exactly what to do during a tornado can save you and your family's life. Review what your plan is in the event of severe weather. Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can.

How to Prepare

Understand Watches and Warnings. Keep an eye out for bad weather, and stay tuned to a [NOAA Weather Radio](#), commercial radio, or television for information. NOAA Weather Radios with a tone-alert feature can notify you of dangerous tornado conditions, even in the middle of the night.

Learn How to Take Shelter. Flying debris is deadly during a tornado. Where you and your family are when a tornado happens changes the way you need to take shelter. Make a plan in advance.

Have a plan and supplies ready. Having a plan and supplies in place for you and your family before any emergency happens will make it easier to return to your normal life. Plan ahead of time for you and your family to make sure everyone knows the best place to take cover during a tornado no matter where they are. Come up with meeting places in and out of your neighborhood in case you're separated from loved ones during a disaster. Talking about and writing your plan together will give you the peace of mind that everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Visit [Michigan.gov](#) to learn best practices on [How to Create Your Emergency Plan](#) at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares/0,4621,7-232-65024---,00.html>



Lightning

Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Go Inside When You Hear Thunder or See Lightning!	Retreat to Dugouts, Sheds, Pavilions, Picnic Shelters or Other Small Structures
Find a Sturdy House, Building, Car With A Roof	Use or Touch Electronics, Outlets, Corded Phones or Windows
Stay Indoors For at Least 30 Minutes After You Last Hear Thunder	Go Under or Near Tall Trees, Swim or Be Near Water, Stand Near Metal Objects

 weather.gov/lightning

When people think of severe weather, they usually think of tornadoes. Straight-line winds, however, occur more often here in Michigan, and can affect a much larger area. These damaging winds can pour out of a thunderstorm at over 100 mph, and knock over semi-trucks, trees, and power lines. When a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, you should seek shelter immediately. Prepare for severe weather at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/miready>

Lightning can occur any time of year, but is more common in the warmer months. Whenever you have outdoor plans, check the forecast to see if thunderstorms are possible and have a plan to keep safe if you hear thunder or see lightning. More information at: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>

Another good resource to assist you and your family in creating a plan to be prepared in the event of a disaster, visit Do1Thing Emergency Preparedness at: <http://do1thing.com/>

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

-  April 7th
-  April 21st
-  May 5th
-  May 19th

[Meeting Agenda Packets & Minutes](#)

**Due to COVID, please check
the website for information on
how to view meetings and
when they will be held**

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 Closings:

[Due to COVID-19, view the
County Closures and how to
contact offices](#)

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](#)

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Kalamazoo County Government provides equitable programs and excellent services to promote the health and safety of everyone in Kalamazoo County.

Provide services which promote Health, Equity and Well-Being in Kalamazoo County

Deliver Consistent
High Quality Programs
and Services

Strengthen
Engagement in Our
Community

Build a Relationship
Focused Culture

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](#).