



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

October 2017

COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

**We Are Kalamazoo
County Government!**



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From the Office of Administrator

Community Alert System for Kalamazoo County

On August 30th, Kalamazoo County Sheriff Richard Fuller announced the implementation of a Community Alert System for the citizens of Kalamazoo County. The Community Alert System will send phone messages, text messages and email alerts to all schools, large businesses, hospitals and media of any active situations that the citizens of the community need to be instantly made aware of. The Community Alert System does not replace the existing Red Alert System that alerts citizens of an active shooter. It provides the community with the next level of alert. There have been incidents in the recent past whereby a criminal was causing a serious concern for the community but was not an active shooter. The Community Alert System will be activated in those incidents. What this means for the citizens is more immediate awareness of a potentially dangerous situation so that proper attentiveness and vigilance can be practiced.

The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Kalamazoo Mortgage Hero Salute, a charitable organization that raises funds to support police, fire, emergency and veteran programs, who has committed to financing the system for the next five years.

Did you Know..?

**2-1-1 Gives More than Help.
It Gives Families Hope.**



2-1-1 can help with your child care needs by helping you find school readiness programs; find drop in child care programs; find child care referral programs; find child care expense assistance and find preschools.

Michigan 2-1-1 is a free, confidential service that connects you with local community-based organizations across the state offering thousands of different programs and services for people seeking answers. Dialing 2-1-1 or visiting your local [2-1-1 website](#) gives you quick and easy access to information about services in your community. If you need help for yourself, a neighbor, or a loved one, Michigan 2-1-1 can help. Call today.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



YOUR KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**YOUR KALAMAZOO
COUNTY
ELECTED OFFICIALS:**



Contact your District Commissioner

[Stephanie Moore](#), Vice 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](#), Chair
[District 9](#)

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

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

County Administrator:
Tracie Moored (269) 384-8111

County Clerk/ROD:
Timothy Snow (269) 383-8840

Sheriff:
Rick Fuller (269) 383-8821

Treasurer:
Mary Balkema (269) 384-8124

Prosecuting Attorney:
Jeff Getting (269) 383-8900

Drain Commissioner:
Pat Crowley (269) 384-8117

**Board of Commissioners
Meeting Dates:**

-  October 3, 2017
-  October 17, 2017
-  November 7, 2017
-  November 21, 2017

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

New Undersheriff Announced

Kalamazoo County Sheriff Richard C. Fuller, III is announcing the appointment of his new Undersheriff to replace retiring Undersheriff Paul Matyas.



Undersheriff James VanDyken

VanDyken began his career at the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office in January 1991 as a Corrections Deputy, assigned to the Jail Division until 1995 when he began an assignment as a patrol Deputy. As a patrol Deputy, he served as an evidence technician and field training officer. In 2001, Vandyken was promoted to Detective Sergeant where he served for 7 years. In 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant of the Investigations Section and in 2009 assigned as Lieutenant of the Field Operations Division when the Sheriff's Office restructured. In April 2016, Vandyken was named Captain of the Field Operations Division where he served until this appointment.

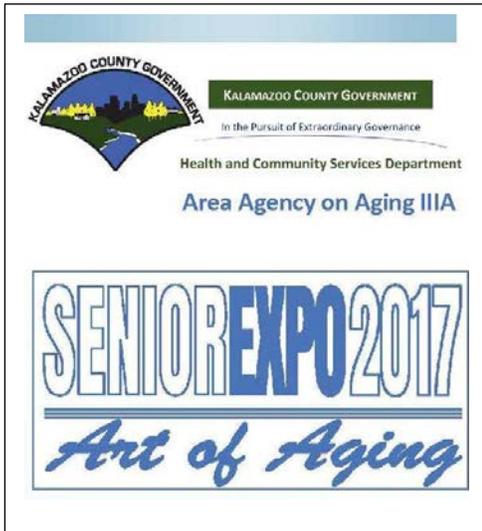
**Temporary New Location for the
Treasurer's Office**

The Kalamazoo County Treasurer's Office will be moving to a temporary location in the County Administration Building while they undergo security upgrades.

The Treasurer's Office will be closed to the public beginning Wednesday, September 27th at 3:00pm, and all day Thursday, September 28th while they move upstairs. The Treasurer's Office will reopen at 8:00am on Friday, September 29th in their new temporary space on the 3rd floor, Suite 303.

Phone calls to their main line will be sent to a recorded greeting informing callers that they are closed until Friday. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to Chief Deputy Treasurer, Megan Buwalda at 269-384-8124.





21st Annual Senior & Caregiver Expo
Area Agency on Aging IIIA
October 3, 2017 9:00am to 3:00pm
Kalamazoo County Expo Center

The 21st annual expo presented by the **Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging** features information and displays from many community resources and is not just for “seniors” but all adults including caregivers and professionals. **FREE** admission. Health screenings will be available. Flu and pneumonia shots will be available. Be sure to bring your medicare or insurance card if you plan to get shots. In the spirit of Celebrating Elderhood, and in keeping with our theme, Art of Aging, elder artists from the area will display their art at our Expo.

For more information call 269-373-5147 or email jgboni@kalcounty.com

Project Connect - Community Action Agency
October 11, 2017 -- Noon to 4:00pm at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center

Project Connect is a **FREE** day of services ranging from health/vision screenings, dental cleanings, family and child activities, legal assistance, budgeting, resume assistance, clothing giveaways, haircuts, veteran's services, and much more available to **all Kalamazoo County residents**. A hot meal will be provided. There will be **FREE** shuttle rides to and from the event. Admission is **FREE**. For more information contact Angela Anderson at 269-373-5163 or email: adande@kalcounty.com



Haircuts at the 2016 Project Connect



Enjoying a free meal - 2016 Project Connect

Call or visit [the website](#) to see if you qualify for assistance for these direct community services provided all year long:

“ If you are a Kalamazoo County resident in need of assistance to pay for deliverable fuel or a past-due/ shut-off notice on a utility bill, please give our agency a call. ”

Community Action Agency
 269.373.5066
Helping People, Changing Lives ...

- [Emergency Energy Assistance](#)
- Utility Shutoff Protection
- Deliverable Fuel Assistance (oil, propane, wood, coal)

[Home Weatherization Assistance Program](#)



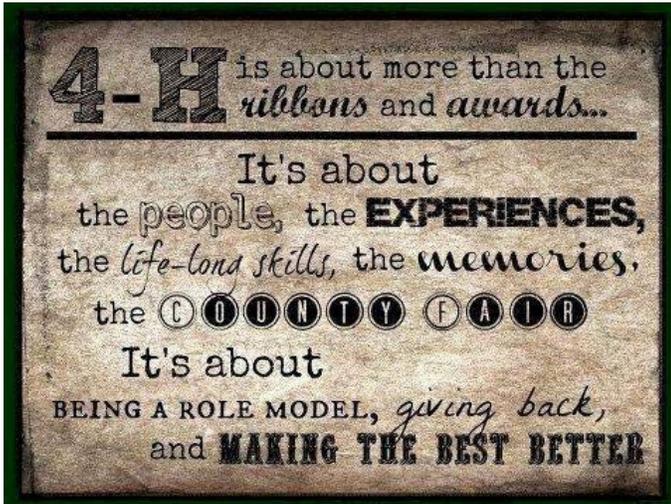
Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) Office:

Lots of news coming out of the Kalamazoo County MSU Extension office this month. The 2017 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair was an amazing tribute to the hard work of all the 4-Hers, the leaders and the volunteers. We are all looking forward to next year.



It's enrollment/re-enrollment time for the 2017/2018 Kalamazoo County 4-H program year. To enroll or re-enroll, families will need to log in to the 4-H database at <https://mi.4honline.com>. Information is provided on the website for new families enrolling, as well as families re-enrolling. If you need assistance, contact your community club leader or 4-H office for help. Some reminders:

- ❖ Any youth 5-19 years old as of January 1, 2018 will be eligible to enroll in the program
- ❖ Enrollment fee is \$20 and is payable to your community club
- ❖ Re-enrollment is due no later than November 1, 2017
- ❖ New members may join anytime during the year, however will not be able to meet fair participation requirements if enrolled after April 1, 2018



Volunteers are invaluable!! Adults who would like to be a 4-H volunteer will need to go through the Volunteer Selection Process prior to working with youth.
Be a Volunteer!

NEW 4-H PROGRAMMING ANNOUNCED: 4-H YOUTH DRONE RACING

4-H Youth Quadcopter Racing Program (aka drone racing)

The main focus of the program is to teach youth about the educational aspects of quadcopters including engineering, aerospace, and the marketability of youth to new careers. Outside of the educational aspects, the youth will learn skills about flying unmanned aircraft. Anthony Frontiera, Kalamazoo County 4-H Program Coordinator, has been working with the Kalamazoo Carbon Flyers, a local drone racing club, in order to bring one of the most unique youth activities to Kalamazoo County. The program is seeking youth 9-19 years of age who are interested in learning a variety of new skills. Contact your community club leader or the 4-H office for more information.



The MSU Extension office is moving !

When? The week of September 25th.

Where? The new MSU Extension office will be located at the:

Kalamazoo County Administration Bldg.
201 W Kalamazoo Ave
Suite 306 (3rd floor)
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 383-8830

4-H Contact Info:

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8867
bolhuisv@anr.msu.edu

Anthony Frontiera
4-H Urban Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8878
Frontier9@anr.msu.edu

Email:
msue.kalamazoo@county.msu.edu

Website:
<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/kalamazoo>

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office

Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver (PLS) is designed to help protect those vulnerable or “at risk” individuals with Alzheimer’s, Autism, Down Syndrome, dementia or other cognitive conditions who are prone to wandering. The Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office is proud to partner with Project Lifesaver International (the manufacturer of the equipment) and the Project Lifesaver Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps offset the costs involved.



Deputies trained in the PLS program provide and maintain small tracking devices for those prone to wandering. In the event that a caretaker or parent reports they are unable to find the person in their care, deputies will respond with tracking equipment, allowing them to rapidly zero in on the missing person and drastically reduce search times.

For more information on PLS:

- [Project Lifesaver International](#)
- [Contact KCSO Project Lifesaver Coordinator](#)

Project Lifesaver's Program has helped provide thousands of families peace of mind daily knowing that their loved one has protection and safety in case they wander.

Help for Today ~ **Team Hope Walk for Huntington’s Disease** ~ Hope for Tomorrow

Fall Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

VerHages Fruit Farm and Cider Mill

8619 West ML Ave., Kalamazoo MI
269-375-0153

A popular tradition for many families is a visit to [VerHages Fruit Farm and Cider Mill](#). Activities include a zip line, hayrides, pumpkin jumpin', apple train, pony rides, and more! There is also a cider mill, donut shop, country store and a snack shack, which serves homemade fudge! Rides and activities are only available on the weekend. Make sure to stop by the donut shop for a sweet treat.



Gull Meadow Farms

8544 Gull Road, Richland MI
269 629-4214

Kalamazoo Balloon Fest 2017
Oct. 27th - 29th

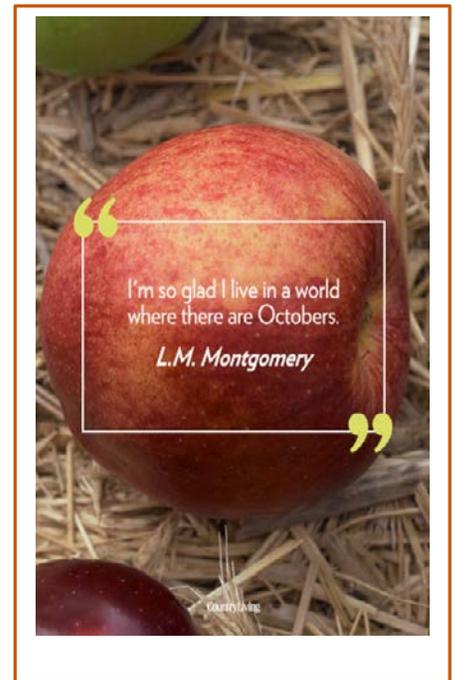


Fantastic Fall Farm Fun with activities for the whole family! Head over to the Back Forty for an afternoon of fun games and challenges including corn hole, steer roping, or zoom down our tube slide. Visit their furry farm friends, including our adorable Scottish highland cow named Shaggy, and two dozen friendly goats. Take a stroll through Pumpkin Lane where you can jump sky high on our jumping pillows, explore our labyrinth and other fun mazes, challenge one another to a duck race, and fly through the air on our zip cord! Don't forget to try out our 5 acre corn maze to see who can find their way out the fastest! [Visit the website](#) for directions, hours of operation and pricing information.

Gene the Pumpkin Man

22637 M-43 Hwy. West
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 668-2952

Gene the Pumpkin Man offers pumpkins and winter squash in a very colorful setting. Open from mid-September through November.



****Important Dates ****

October is :



National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 2nd –

National Child Health Day

Each child deserves to be the healthiest he or she can be. On National Child Health Day, we are reminded of all the ways children grow healthy and strong. From the food they eat to the words they hear, children require support and opportunities to grow.

Take a walk, play in a park

October 5th –

World Teacher's Day

United Nations' (UN) World Teachers' Day celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables children and adults to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society.

Teach your children well

October 6th –

World Smile Day!

Everybody wear one 😊

October 31st –

Halloween or All Hallow's Eve, an ancient celebration of the end of the harvest. Also a popular holiday for young and old involving dressing up in costumes, harvest parties, and 'trick or treating'.



National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

is a chance to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. Although breast cancer screening cannot prevent breast cancer, it can help find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat. Talk to your doctor about which breast cancer screening tests are right for you, and when you should have them. Did you know...

- Each year in the United States, more than 200,000 women get breast cancer and more than 40,000 women die from the disease.
- Some women who get breast cancer have no known risk factors and no history of the disease in their families.
- Men also get breast cancer, but it is not very common. Less than 1% of breast cancers occur in men.
- Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older, but breast cancer also affects younger women. About 10% of all new cases of breast cancer in the United States are found in women younger than 45 years of age.

Low-Cost Or Free Mammograms

Most insurance companies cover the cost of mammograms. Low-cost and free mammograms are also offered through national and community programs. Each October, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, many imaging centers offer mammograms at reduced rates. To find a certified mammography center in your area, visit the FDA website (www.fda.gov). Other resources that can help you:

[Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program](#) – Kalamazoo County

[Susan G Komen Michigan](#)

[National Breast Cancer Foundation](#)

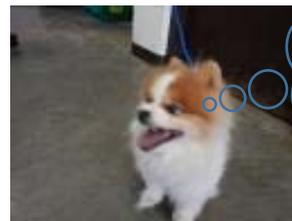
October is also **Adopt a Shelter Dog** month! If you are thinking about something warm and cuddly for the approaching winter, please visit the [Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement website](#). Other shelters with homeless dogs looking for loving humans include:

[Kalamazoo Animal Rescue](#)

[Kalamazoo Rescue Project](#)

[SPCA of SW Michigan](#)

[Kalamazoo Humane Society](#)



Ted the Pomeranian

Warm and cuddly? *I* like warm and cuddly!

Follow Kalamazoo County Government





Kalamazoo County Communicator

The purpose of the County Communicator is to make you, the constituents, businesses, and the community aware of the services and programs Kalamazoo County provides. And to make you aware of how you can make a difference in your community.

Subscribe here! Tell us what you think and what you would like to see.

