



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

May 2018

## COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!



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Honoring Our Public Servants  
 Connecting Citizens with Their Government  
 May 6-12, 2018



The week of May 6<sup>th</sup> thru May 12<sup>th</sup> is designated by Congress as Public Service Recognition Week and we find ourselves grateful for the opportunity to thank our public servants for all they do on behalf of our nation. Each and every day, we have the pleasure of witnessing firsthand their remarkable contributions and achievements. Whether times are good or difficult, they continue working to find innovative solutions to complex issues. Their hard work does not go unnoticed, and we want them to know that we are proud to serve with them.



Citizen Budget Survey

Take the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CitizenBudgetSurvey>

### [Citizen Budget Survey](#)

Please take this brief survey.  
7 questions, 7 minutes!

Your input makes our community better.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CitizenBudgetSurvey>

Each year during the annual budget process, Kalamazoo County Government must attempt to match the needs of our officials, departments, and courts with the tight fiscal framework in which we operate. This yearly process focuses on the prudent long-term policies of the Board of Commissioners in order to support mandates, provide essential services and to protect public health, safety and welfare. Kalamazoo County Government believes that citizen input is an important component of the evaluation process and is seeking your assistance with assessing our budget priorities as they relate to County provided services.

### The 24-hour HELP-Line: 269-381-HELP (381-4357)

Dial 381-HELP for help, even if you think there's no way anyone can help you. There is someone you can reach out to in those times when you feel desperate, overwhelmed, emotional, or hopeless. There is someone who will listen, who can help you sort through your thoughts, who can let you know where you can turn for help or can directly send help to you, or can show you compassion and empathy to help get you through the moment, the hour, the night.



Follow Kalamazoo County Government



**Your Kalamazoo County  
Elected Officials:**

**Your Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners**



Contact your District Commissioner

[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](#)

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:**

Meetings start at 7:00pm

-  May 1, 2018
-  May 15, 2018
-  June 5, 2018
-  June 19, 2018



Not sure what district you're in?  
Click on the District links above  
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](#)

[Board of Commissioners Community Update Videos](#)



Board of Commissioners Community Update videos are posted each Monday prior to the Tuesday Board of Commissioners meetings. Chair Stephanie Moore, along with fellow commissioners, highlight agenda items and discuss current County topics. The Community Updates can be seen on the [Kalcounty.com](#) website at [News and Events](#) and see it on [Kalamazoo County Government's Facebook](#).

[2018 Kalamazoo County Courts/County Office closings](#)

~Memorial Day, Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> All County Offices and Courts

[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>. - Veterans Encouraged to Apply!



# Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

Spring has finally arrived! And when the warm weather returns, so does the activity on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KVRT). Operated as a Kalamazoo County Park, the KRV Trail is free to use and offers something for everyone. Whether you're looking for a relaxing family stroll, a journey into nature, an extensive workout or a bike route to work—the KRV Trail awaits your visit.

The trail has a paved-asphalt surface that is 10-foot wide. Currently, there are 22 miles complete of this non-motorized trail. One stretch begins at 10th Street, heading east from the Kal-Haven Caboose and stretching 4.8 miles to Westnedge Ave. You can also enjoy a section that connects 35th St. in Galesburg to D Avenue, traveling through River Oaks County Park, Mayors' Riverfront Park, Verburg Park, along Riverview Dr., and heading north along Markin Glen County Park and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. These two segments are connected by a signed-route throughout downtown Kalamazoo, featuring the Arcadia Creek Festival Place as well as many places to eat and shop. As funds and property become available the trail will continue to grow, realizing a vision that has been in the works since 1991!

Many groups have returned to the Trail already this spring. Participation is encouraged and free! Or, start your own group. For questions, call 269-383-8778.

## ~ The Monday Morning Cruisers

Mondays at 9:00am

If you are looking for a group to bike with at a casual pace, we have the solution. Join us on Monday mornings for an easy ride along the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. Meeting points will rotate every two weeks, giving you an opportunity to experience all of the beauty of the KVRT. Check out the [Kalcouny website](#) for locations.

## ~ KRV Walking Club West

Tuesdays at 11:00am

Walking in a group increases your commitment to sticking to your routine, and it is a great chance to socialize and make new friends! Did you know that walking can reduce stress, help prevent heart disease, improve sleep, and help you maintain or lose weight? All levels and abilities are welcome and walking distances vary throughout the group. Meet on the KRV Trail, beginning at the 10th Street parking lot near the Caboose, two miles north of West Main.

## ~ Galesburg Family Walking Program

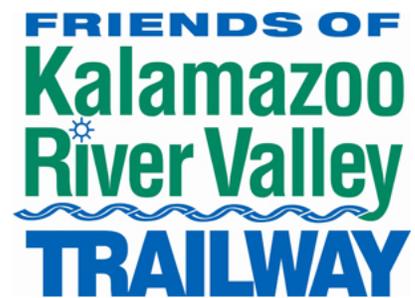
Thursdays at 3:25 p.m.

An after-school walking club on the KRV Trail. Walking can be fun and truly a great way for your family to bond and for everyone to get healthy and stay fit. Our 5-week walking program meets once per week and gives you the opportunity to experience the KVRT, socialize, stay active, and be outside! All levels and abilities are welcome and walking distances vary throughout the group. Pre and post-fitness tests are part of the program. Meet outside at the east end of Galesburg-Augusta Primary School, 315 West Battle Creek St, Galesburg. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult (unless they are enrolled and participating with the afterschool childcare program).

## ~ Spring Wildflower Golf Cart Tours

Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. and Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Provided in partnership with Friends of the KVRT, wildflower tours offered via golf cart for senior citizens and persons with a disability. This leisurely journey will allow you the opportunity to see and learn about our native spring wildflowers that grow along the trail. Golf cart space is very limited, and pre-registration for this program is required. Those wishing to walk are welcome as well. Meet near the campground area at Markin Glen County Park, 5300 North Westnedge Ave (park fee waived for participants).



**Receive your own sign on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail by becoming a Friend today!**

Would you like to have your own sign on the trail? Become a Friend of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail! [Click here](#) to see the flyer for more details.

## Kalamazoo County Identification Card Program

"Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law"  
~United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 6

In late 2016, former County Commissioner Larry Provancher brought a proposal forward to institute a countywide identification card program. The Board of Commissioners approved the proposal to look at the possibility of having an ID program for Kalamazoo County in December 2016. Many community people and groups supported Kalamazoo County moving ahead with such a program. A task force was created in early 2017 to research the possibility of creating an ID program for the County, which was co-chaired by newly elected commissioners Tracy Hall and Ron Kendall. The task force created several subcommittees to look at the various aspects of an ID program and gathered information from throughout the United States to present to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

On July 5, 2017, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners approved the creation of the Kalamazoo County ID Program and it was agreed that it would fall under the Clerk/Register's Office. Early 2018 was planned for the start of the program to give time for preparation, staff, location, forms and many other things related to the ID program to be put in place.

A grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation was awarded to have additional monies for advertising the program and to provide a means to assist people without available funds to obtain an ID card. Work continued by many members of the original task force in preparation for the beginning of the ID program, and we are now close to announcing the start of this venture.

The Kalamazoo County ID Program officially opens on May 3, 2018.

# Kalamazoo County IDs are coming soon!



### What is the purpose of a Kalamazoo County ID?

The Kalamazoo county ID is intended to recognize all Kalamazoo County residents and enable them to connect with **public safety, civic, and community services**.

Without a form of identification, a person is not recognized as a **member of the community** and not afforded the same opportunities as other community members. Having a form of credible identification enables people to become fully participating member of the community.

### Where can I apply?

Kalamazoo County Administration Building  
1st Floor County Clerks Office  
201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

### How do I apply?

To receive an ID card, you must be able to show proof of residency in Kalamazoo County and provide proof of identity. Applicants must produce documents totaling **300 points** following the ID program's point system to qualify for a county ID.

### How do I get enough points?

A. Provide documents worth at least 300 points from **Category A and B** and show proof of residency.  
B. Provide documents worth at least 400 points from **Category B** and show proof of residency.

### Example of the points system

Category A	Identity documents with a photo	US or foreign passport	200
Category 2 A&B	"Other identity documents" without photo	Social Security card	125
Category 3	Documents proving residence within Kalamazoo County.	Utility bill statement	

### What are the benefits of the ID program?

- Prove your identity to law enforcement
- Pick prescriptions up from the pharmacy
- Present additional identity credentials to the State
- Prove your identity when using credit cards
- Prove your identity for merchant transactions
- Present an additional identity credential to open financial accounts
- Cash checks at participating financial institutions

"Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law"  
~United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 6

<http://www.kalcounty.com/clerk/id/>

## MSU Extension Office

County Administration Building  
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue, Suite 306  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Email: [msue.kalamazoo@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@county.msu.edu)

Phone: (269) 383-8830



Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses.

### Commercial Soil Testing

Soil boxes for sample collection cannot be ordered online but can be purchased at the office at a cost of \$12 each. You'll receive a Soil Sample Information form to complete and send with your samples to the MSU Extension Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory. Test results will be interpreted by an agricultural Extension educator. To understand your soil test results go online at the MSU Soil Test.com (<http://msusoiltest.com>)

### Home, Yard and Garden Hotline

Got questions? Get answers! Call the toll-free Lawn and Garden Hotline: 1-888-678-3464 (1-888-MSUE-4MI)

- Hotline is staffed by MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators and Master Gardener volunteers.
- The Hotline is available weekdays 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. April thru October. The rest of the year it is available 9 a.m. - noon. When calling this number please make sure to use option #1 for the Lawn and Garden Helpline.
- Locally, the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Helpline may be reached at 269-384-8056 or email [mghelp@anr.msu.edu](mailto:mghelp@anr.msu.edu). Please leave a message and the Master Gardener volunteers will return your call or email.

### Home Soil Test Kit

Available to purchase for \$25 or order online at MSU Extension Bookstore [http://shop.msu.edu/product\\_p/Bulletin-e3154.htm](http://shop.msu.edu/product_p/Bulletin-e3154.htm) - Bulletin E-3154 Note: You must provide an email address as results will be sent directly to you via email. If you would like help interpreting test results, call our statewide Lawn and Garden Helpline at 1-888-678-3464, option 1 or Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Helpline at 269-384-8056.

### Master Gardener Plant Sale

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo County Expo Center South

Sponsored by Michigan State University Extension Kalamazoo County Master Gardeners, this public sale is a fundraiser to support the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener program. They will be selling top quality perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets as well as hand-crafted gift items perfect for Mother's Day gifts. All plants grown in local greenhouses. Admission is free. For more information email Linda Whitlock at [whitlo13@anr.msu.edu](mailto:whitlo13@anr.msu.edu)



# Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

## [Dog Walk & K-9 Festival](#)

Saturday, May 5th, 2018 • 9:00am to 2:00pm  
Prairie View Park, 899 East U Avenue, Vicksburg, MI 49097

Wiggle, wag or walk your way through a 2-mile paved nature trail to benefit the Kalamazoo Humane Society! Join us for world-class canine entertainment including Ultimate Air Dogs, and Doggie Dash Obstacle Course! We have activities and events for all ages such as face painting, bounce house, silly dog contests, doggie dash obstacle course, vendors, food and more!



## [Borgess Run For the Health of It](#)

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am  
(Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm: Kids Fun Run)  
Nazareth Campus, 3299 Gull Road

A community celebration of health featuring runs and walks of various lengths. Begin with the Kids Fun Run and the Medical Mile on Friday, May 4th at 6:00pm. The Kalamazoo Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K Run, 5K Run, and 5K walk will all be held Sunday, May 6th beginning at 8:00am. The Marathon and Half Marathon will use portions of the KRV Trail. For more information or to register visit [www.borgessrun.com](http://www.borgessrun.com)



## [Touch-A-Truck](#)

Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am-12:00pm Siren-free; 12:00-2:00pm general admission  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI

This is a family friendly event where kids of all ages can touch and learn about unique vehicles such as fire trucks and police cars, large construction equipment, race cars, and other vehicles from those who build, serve and protect our community. With over 50 unique vehicles there will be something here for everyone! Our community impact team will be on-site with a fun interactive station that focuses on healthy eating and physical activities to participate in. Admission: \$10 per Family or Adults \$4, Children \$2 (2 and under free).



## [Master Gardener Plant Sale](#)

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm; Saturday, 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center South, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI

Fundraiser to support the Kalamazoo Master Gardener Program. Selling top quality perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets as well as hand-crafted gift items perfect for Mother's Day gifts. All plants grown in local greenhouses. For more information contact Linda Whitlock at 269-383-8815 or email [whitlo13@anr.msu.edu](mailto:whitlo13@anr.msu.edu)



## [Kalamazoo Growlers 2018](#)

Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> - 7:05pm  
Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - 11:05am  
Homer Stryker Field, 251 Mills Street, Kalamazoo, MI

Let the games begin! Join the fun. Watch the Growlers take on the Lakeshore Chinooks! Growlers fans are going to be treated with a new element to the ballpark in 2018 with the recent addition of a new video board display coming to Homer Stryker Field. Bring the whole family.



**\*\*Important Dates \*\***

*Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>*

**Cinco De Mayo**

Commemorates the Mexican Army's unlikely victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862. In the U.S. the date has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture.

*Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>*

**Teacher's Day**

A special day that allows students to show respect and appreciation to their teachers.

*Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>*

**Mother's Day**

A celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

*Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>*

**Armed Forces Day**

A day to honor the men and women who serve the armed forces of the United States.

*Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>*

**Memorial Day**

Honoring our fallen heroes.



**Memorial Day - Remembering Our Fallen Heroes**



It is important for Americans to take time to remember the sacrifices that bought their freedom and to honor those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Participate in the National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 pm by taking the time to pause and reflect upon the meaning of Memorial Day. Home of the free, because of the brave.



**Red Med Box Medication Disposal  
Fast - Free - Secure**

Red Med Box is a program in Kalamazoo County that allows people to safely dispose of their unwanted or expired medications and their over-the-counter medications. It is a free service. It is secure. It is better for our environment. It helps to protect our community from medication abuse and addiction.

Red Med Box is also easy. All you have to do is collect the medications that you are no longer using or that have expired. Bring them to the nearest Red Med Box. Drop the medications into the box. And go. You will not have to check in with anyone or fill out any forms. It's just that simple! Here are some helpful hints as you use Red Med Box:

- Collect the medications in your home that are no longer being used or have expired. Do NOT keep old meds in your home or share them.
- Keep medications in their original packaging.
- Mark out your name with a black marker. Do NOT mark out the name of the medication. That way we know what it is when we are disposing the meds.
- All Red Med Boxes are located at local law enforcement agencies, so they are safe and secure.



Follow Kalamazoo County Government

