



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT



In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

December 2017

COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!



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From the Office of Administrator

Annual Holiday Parade and United Way Campaign

This year, Kalamazoo County Government collaborated with the City of Kalamazoo in a friendly competition in support of United Way. County Administrator Tracie Moored and Kalamazoo City Manager Jim Ritsema joined forces in a show of unity in the 56th Annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 11th. The competition involved the most pledge cards turned in by employees in the first week of the campaign. The City caught the leading edge however employees from both municipalities extended their contributions and support of their community!

Find out about the many ways United Way benefits our residents and community. Visit the [Michigan 2-1-1 website](#). Get Connected. Get Answers.



County Administrator Tracie Moored & City Manager Jim Ritsema

New & Improved Kalamazoo County Website (www.kalcounty.com)

The County's website is in the process of being modernized and simplified. As part of the first phase you will see a new Home Page, a new menu system, new navigation tools and a full screen width and responsive design to fit any size device. Other new features include a "News & Events" page that houses this newsletter, recent events articles and calendars; a "How Do I..." section for quickly determining how to get a marriage license, birth certificate, how to calculate or pay property taxes and other services a citizen might be looking for; and, a Global County Events Calendar. There is also the ability to change the size of the font of the pages in case you can't find those readers ☺



Throughout the site conversion there will be a blend of the old and the new while each department is updated. Tell us what you think! We are interested in how we can make your visit to kalcounty.com better. Send your thoughts [here](#).

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Your Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners



Contact your District Commissioner

Your Kalamazoo County Elected Officials:

[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 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:

-  December 5, 2017
-  December 19, 2017
-  January 2, 2018 (Annual)
-  January 16, 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](#)

Kalamazoo County Courts/County Office closings for the Holidays



- Christmas Eve Friday, December 22, 2017
- Christmas Day Monday, December 25, 2017
- New Year's Eve Friday, December 29 - **Courts Only Closed**
- New Year's Holiday Monday, January 1, 2018



[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#)

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

- Apply separately for each listed position as indicated.
- Please do not send your resume via E-mail.
- Pre-employment criminal background checks and drug tests are required for ALL positions.
- Credit background checks may be required for certain positions.
- Veterans Wanted - Veterans Encouraged to Apply



Whether you are looking for a job, seeking additional training, or preparing for an interview making sure you're ready for the job is very important. [Kalamazoo County Community Action Agency](#) recommends these sites for more information:

[Michigan Works!](#)

[Pure Michigan Talent Connect](#)

Getting to Know the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission (KCPAC)

In and about Kalamazoo County you will find over 100 public art installations and cultural expressions in the most unlikely of places. Art and cultural experiences are encouraged in Kalamazoo County to promote tourism and create local economic opportunities. The Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission also recognizes that successful efforts to revitalize the community and mainstreets depends on something deeper than simple economics. Art is a powerful tool that evokes social change. Without uttering a single word, artists can enlighten, educate and affect change around the world.

The Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission (KCPAC) was founded in 1981 under an Urban Cooperation Act agreement between Kalamazoo County and the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage. The Commission, consisting of volunteer members, advocates for and supports public art by providing recommendations and resources which establish best practices for public art projects.

A recent exhibition brought to Kalamazoo through a collaboration of the KCPAC and local public agencies titled **'Slices of Heaven'** is on display at the Arcadia Creek Festival Place through May of 2018. The feature is a creation of Floridian artist Craig Gray, whose philosophy is simple, "create art from Earth." The sculpture is a 10' tall steel and stucco artwork of stacked orange slices. The inspiration for Gray's work is the disappearing roadside tourist attractions, the local fascinations that have been bypassed since the development of interstate highway systems. 'Slices of Heaven' has also been displayed in Chicago, Tennessee, California and Florida. Funding for the artwork was made possible by the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Department, Downtown Kalamazoo Inc., and a private donor.



Slices of Heaven by Craig Gray



The Inside Out Project: We Are Edison

“ The use of public art to spark conversation and contribute to a sense of community and place is well known. ”

Martha Aills, KCPAC Chair



Portraits of residents of the Edison Neighborhood by photographer Fran Dwight

Another artistic beautification to grace our community is **'The Inside Out Project: We Are Edison'**. The project is an independently coordinated local effort by the Kalamazoo County Land Bank to bring a renowned international art project to the Edison neighborhood. Edison resident and photographer, Fran Dwight, took over 90 photographs of people who identified as part of the "We Are Edison" theme. The photos were enlarged and pasted on buildings and in windows in the Washington Square area. The portraits are meant to showcase the diversity of people and places in Edison, inviting the community to celebrate itself, and to beautify spaces that have been or currently are vacant. This undertaking was inspired by French street artist "JR", whose concept of showing the world its true face in black and white spread globally after his appearance at the 2011 TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conference. LISC Americorps project coordinator Anna Lee Roeder, along with Vibrant Kalamazoo, the Edison Neighborhood Association and many other partners in the Edison neighborhood collaborated to bring this design to our community. Fran Dwight was granted the [Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative \(KADI\) Immediate Needs Minigrant](#) by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo for her work on this project.

KCPAC provides ongoing assistance with art in public spaces and parks in Kalamazoo County. The Commission offers support for proposed public art projects, the Bronson Park Master Plan, and the next overall strategic initiative. We all appreciate and look forward to KCPAC projects to come! Contact the KCPAC at publicart@kalamazooarts.org or visit their website: www.kalamazooarts.org.

About the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#)



What is it? The Weatherization Assistance Program provides free, energy-saving services to reduce the energy costs and improve the comfort and safety of eligible, low-income households. Energy-saving measures performed by the Weatherization Assistance Program typically include weather stripping and caulking, insulating walls and ceilings, repairing or replacing heating systems, switching to efficient lights, and cost-effective measures following state and federal guidelines. The program also evaluates participating homes for potential natural gas and carbon monoxide threats from combustion appliances. Thanks to the program, households commonly reduce their energy bills by 15-30%, making more money available for other pressing household needs, such as food, housing and transportation.

Who is eligible? Households of low-income U.S. citizens and qualified aliens whose income does not exceed [Federal Income Guidelines](#) may be eligible. Both homeowners and renters may be eligible. Households that received Michigan Department of Health and Human Services cash assistance (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in the last 12 months are automatically income-eligible for services.

How do I apply?

Start by calling 269-373-5066. We will add your name to a waiting list and mail you an informational packet. When it is your turn to complete an application, we will notify you by mail.

Winterization Tips: Weather, it's mild & mellow or wet & wild, take action!

- **Change Furnace Filters** - it's easy to forget, but it's important to replace or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy demand.
- **Run ceiling fans in reverse** - Counterclockwise rotation produces cooling breezes, while switching to clockwise makes it warmer. Air pooled near the ceiling is circulated back into the living space—cutting your heating costs as much as 10 percent!
- **Turn Down Your Water Heater** - While many conventional water heaters are set to 140 degrees Fahrenheit by installers, most households don't need that much steam, and end up paying for it - in dollars and the occasional scalding burn. Lowering the temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (or lower) would reduce your water heating costs by 6 to 10 percent.
- **Dodge the Drafts**- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, drafts can waste 5 to 30 percent of your energy use. Start simple and adopt that old Great Depression fixture—the [draft snake](#), which you can easily make yourself. Just place a rolled bath towel under a drafty door, or make a more attractive DIY draft snake with googly eyes, felt tongues and the like. You can use any scraps of fabric, even neckties, and fill with sand or kitty litter for heft.
- **Turn Down the Thermostats** - It's easy to forget to turn down the heat when you leave the building, or at night when you are sleeping, but doing so is one of the surest ways to save money. For every degree you lower the thermostat during heating season, you'll save between 1 and 3 percent of your heating bill.
- **Put Up Some Plastic** - For just a few dollars, pick up a window insulation kit at your local hardware or discount store.





Area Agency on Aging Region III (AAAIIA)

Gift Basket Donations Needed for Choices for Independence Program

It's holiday time, and once again we pause and think about those in our community who may not have family or friends to remember them with a gift or a visit. The [AAAIIA](#) will assemble gift baskets for Choices for Independence clients who are alone and for whom this holiday gift may be the only one they receive. The AAAIIA hopes to be Santa's elves to about 55 individuals and are accepting donations to fill the gift baskets. You can make a difference in someone's life with this small gesture. Donations need to be received at AAAIIA, 3299 Gull Road (Nazareth), Wing 2, Room 316, by **December 13th**. Suggested items (*but not limited to*):

Gift cards: Meijer, Walmart, Harding's or Target
Metro coupons
Cat/Dog toys & treats
Dish cloths/Towels
Flashlights
Gloves, Hats, Scarves
Socks (no slip), lap blankets, heating pads

Magazines/Crossword/Word search (large print)
Puzzles/Books (large print)
All Occasion cards or Thank you notes
Mouthwash
Hand lotion, body wash, deodorant, shampoo
Washcloths, loofah or bath sponges
Snow globes, poinsettias, holiday joy

If you have questions call 269-373-5258 or email jahaye@kalamazoo.org.

The [Choices for Independence Program](#) (CFI) of the Area Agency on Aging IIIA is dedicated to promoting the dignity and independence of Kalamazoo County residents 60 years of age or older, who are unable to independently take care of their own needs. To learn more about the CFI or services provided by the AAAIIA, please visit our website at www.kalamazoo.org.



Don't forget: Dog Licensing

- Kalamazoo County dog licenses must be renewed yearly between December 1st and March 1st, regardless of when the previous year's license was purchased.
- Michigan State Law requires all dogs to be rabies vaccinated and licensed at four (4) months of age.
- Dogs must be licensed within 30 days of obtaining ownership or within 30 days of the dog turning 4 months of age.
- Kalamazoo County license tags are sold to Kalamazoo County residents only.
- During the yearly renewal period (12/1 - 3/1), city/township offices, the Kalamazoo County Treasurer and most area veterinary offices sell dog licenses.
- Licenses must be purchased directly from Animal Services after March 1st, or if a citation was issued.
- Proof of current rabies vaccination is required to purchase a dog license. The rabies vaccination must be more than 30 days from expiration at the time of license purchase.
- After a dog is over 1 year of age, proof of spay or neuter is required to purchase a license at the altered rate.
- Licenses are not transferable to another dog.

Visit the [Animal Services](#) site on Kalamazoo.org for fee information or call: (269) 383-8775. A printable dog license application can be obtained [here](#).

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[Art Hop](#) Friday, December 1st

Downtown Kalamazoo

5:00pm-9:00pm

FREE

Art Hop is a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo - an evening of art exhibits and events, one of the great things to do in Kalamazoo. It's a free event held on the first Friday of every month, it is something you can do alone, with friends or with family that's fun, interactive, and a great way to explore our downtown. And you don't have to be an "artist" to enjoy it.



[Holiday Gifts & Greens Sale](#)

Friday, December 1st 9:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday, December 2nd 9:00am – 1:00pm

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, North - 2900 Lake Street

FREE Admission

SW Michigan's finest holiday sale for beautiful fresh green centerpieces, live wreaths, mixed roping sold by the foot, and a wide selection of unique hand-crafted gifts for that special person. All at affordable prices! Children's workshop on Saturday from 10am-2pm. Sponsored by the [Kalamazoo Garden Council](#)



[Bronson Winter Farmers Market](#)

Tuesdays, starting December 5, 2017 thru March 20, 2018

10:30am – 2:00pm

Bronson Methodist Hospital, SkyCourt Café, 601 John Street

Fresh Michigan produce at Bronson every Tuesday for the Winter Farmers Market



[Candy Cane Hunt](#)

Thursday, December 9th 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Homer Stryker Field, 251 Mills St., Kalamazoo

FREE

Bring the little ones out and join the annual Candy Cane Hunt featuring nearly 5,000 candy canes dispersed throughout Homer Stryker Field. Names will be drawn for gifts, create crafts and visit with Santa. Hosted by Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation



[Kalamazoo Valley Museum - Let It Snow](#)

Saturdays, November 25, 2017 - December 23, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

230 North Rose Street, Kalamazoo

\$3/ticket

"Let It Snow" is a treat for the eyes and ears, featuring festive full-dome video images choreographed to classic Christmas music. Enjoy seasonal tunes by Frank Sinatra, Chuck Berry, Burl Ives, and Brenda Lee, and a finale by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Great for kids, parents, and grandparents!



Important Dates



December 5th –

International Volunteer Day

A recognition of the positive solidarity of volunteers around the world who answer calls in times of crisis, helping to save lives today
#VolunteersActFirst

December 18th –

Michigan Blood Drive

Michigan Ave. Courthouse
9am to 2pm
Save a life

December 21st –

Winter Solstice

Longer days, shorter nights

December 25th –

Christmas Day

Joy to the World!



Holiday Travel Tips



- **Arrival:** Plan to arrive at the ticket counter no less than 90-120 minutes prior to your scheduled flight. During peak holiday travel, allow 2 hours for ample time for check-in, security and arrival at the gate.
- **Parking:** Make a note on your parking stub as to where you parked and take it with you for reference on your return.
- **Identification:** Passengers 18 years or older must present a photo ID at the ticket counter. If you do not have a photo ID, two other forms of government issue ID such as social security card, voter registration or state issued identification will be considered.
- **Packing:** Know what's in your bags, be certain there are no prohibited items. Certain items and substances are restricted from checked or carry-on luggage. Visit the [TSA website for a complete list \(http://www.tsa.gov\)](http://www.tsa.gov). You are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes in your carry-on bag and through the checkpoint. These are limited to travel-sized containers that are 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. Pack items that are in containers larger than 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters in checked baggage.
- **Did you know you can ask about what you *don't* know?** [AskTSA](#), on Twitter or Facebook Messenger, is available 365 days a year to answer any security-related travel questions. Did you forget your ID or lose something at security? AskTSA can help! Want to know what you can bring on a plane? Just send AskTSA a photo and they'll let you know! It's amazing how fast you'll get an answer.

For further questions about our airport, email info@azoairport.com, tweet to us at [@AZOairport_Kzoo](https://twitter.com/AZOAirport_Kzoo) or call (269)388-3668.

[If You See Something, Say Something™](#). Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement and/or airport security.



Kalamazoo County Communicator

The purpose of the County Communicator is to make you, the constituents, businesses, and 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! We are interested in how we can improve the newsletter to provide more information you would like to see.



Follow Kalamazoo County Government

