



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



January 2019

Inside This Issue

- [2019 Board of Commissioners Swearing In Ceremony](#)
- [Contact Your Board of Commissioners](#)
- [County Services A-Z](#)
[Jury Services](#)
- [Master Gardener Training Curriculum Begins](#)
- [Ag Action Day](#)
- [Emergency Assistance Agencies in Kalamazoo County](#)
- [Animal Services Construction Update & Dog Licensing](#)
- [Family Fun In Kalamazoo County!](#)
- [25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service](#)
- [Employment Opportunities](#)
- [Subscribe to the County Communicator](#)

From the Administrative Services Office

Voters Elect Three New Kalamazoo County Commissioners

Beginning January 1, 2019, three seats on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners will be occupied by new people. Paul Haag (D) fills the vacant seat in District 2. Christine Morse (D) will replace Dale Shugars (R) in District 9. And Meredith Place (D) will replace Scott McGraw (R) in District 11.

The Board's major responsibilities include adopting the annual County budget, setting the County property tax rate, and assessing and establishing priorities on the many community needs, especially those related to health, education, welfare, mental health and the environment. The Board also makes appointments to citizen advisory committees.

The Swearing In ceremony for the 2019 County Commissioners was held at the Kalamazoo County Administration Building on Tuesday, December 18th, 2018. Judge Alexander Lipsey presided over the ceremony. Commissioners were sworn in by Clerk Timothy Snow.



2019 County Commissioners from left to right: Meredith Place, Mike Quinn, Christine Morse, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Paul Haag, Stephanie Moore, Tracy Hall, Ron Kendall, Roger Tuinier, and John Gisler.



Gryphon Place Helping Those in Conflict & Crisis

[Gryphon Place](#) has been serving our community since 1970 as the place where people turn when they **need help**. **People of all ages and walks of life call us when life gets tough. We listen and respond with compassion and empathy.** 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. Toll free 2-1-1 number: 1-800-563-5432

Kalamazoo County,
Michigan



County 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

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Stephanie Moore
Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com
District 1

Tracy Hall
Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com
District 3

Julie Rogers
Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com
District 5

Roger Tuinier
Roger.Tuinier@kalcounty.com
District 7

Christine Morse
Christine.Morse@kalcounty.com
District 9

Meredith Place
Meredith.Place@kalcounty.com
District 11

Paul Haag
Paul.Haag@kalcounty.com
District 2

Michael Seals
Michael.Seals@kalcounty.com
District 4

Ron Kendall
Ron.Kendall@kalcounty.com
District 6

John Gisler
John.Gisler@kalcounty.com
District 8

Mike Quinn
Mike.Quinn@kalcounty.com
District 10

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

Meeting Dates & Times:

Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm
Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm

-  January 8th
-  January 15th
-  February 5th
-  February 19th

Meetings are held at the:

County Administration Building
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue
2nd Floor in the Chambers
Kalamazoo MI 49007

The meetings can be viewed live or on demand at:

[Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes](#) <http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/>

2019 Public Meeting Notices

Kalamazoo County Government posts public meeting notices for the 2019 year as they are scheduled at:

http://www.kalcounty.com/public_notice.php

or from the home page of kalcounty.com along the top bar, select **Public Meeting Notices**. To better serve our customers and our community these public notices are posted for transparency and access to county activities and business.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Kalamazoo County Services A - Z

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



I received a questionnaire and notice to serve for jury duty but I can't find it. What do I do?

Answer: Contact -

Jury Services
227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-383-8952 - Jury Coordinators

Serving on a jury is one of the most important obligations of a Citizen of the United States and of Michigan. Our nation's founders believed that the right to a trial by a jury was vitally important to protect citizens from tyranny and government misconduct. It is so important that the right to a jury trial, by an impartial jury, is included in the Bill of Rights as the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution. Likewise, Michigan's Constitution also guarantees that a person accused of a crime shall have the right to a speedy, public trial, by an impartial jury. Since every citizen has a right to trial by jury, there is a corresponding obligation upon citizens to perform their "Jury Duty." Jury Duty should not be viewed as a burden or something to avoid, it is a meaningful and integral part of our Justice System.

In order to guarantee that a person receives his or her right to a trial by jury, there has to be a way to find people to potentially serve on those juries. In Kalamazoo County, it is the Jury Services Unit of the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court that plays an important role in making the Jury System work. In fact, the Kalamazoo County website (www.kalcountry.com) has an entire Jury Services section committed to answering questions such as reasons for excusal from service, qualifying exemptions, how to request a deferred date, maps to court locations, parking, security, proper attire, compensation and mileage reimbursement. Reporting instructions are posted for each court location explaining where and when to report. Kalamazoo County courts want to make the process of jury service as straightforward and anxiety free as possible. Serving on a jury should be a meaningful way to participate in our country's judicial system.



First All-Woman Jury, 1911

The second stage of the jury procedure, called "voir dire," is the process by which the court and the attorneys narrow the jury pool to select those that will decide the case. If ultimately selected, you may have down time where a book or Tablet would help pass the time while you are outside of the courtroom. Cell phones and electronic devices are allowed during this waiting period where you could listen to music or watch a movie in the jury assembly room. Please make sure you bring headphones or earbuds so that you don't disrupt other jurors.

When your opportunity to participate in the jury process occurs, it is important that you do serve. Studies have shown that jurors typically take their role as a juror very seriously. If a juror approaches their responsibility of decision maker with sincerity, a sound mind and a concern for evidence-based detail, they will fulfill their obligation. Most importantly, engage the process!

Kalamazoo County MSU Extension Master Gardener Training Program Begins Soon!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | **Extension**

Becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer

Love to dig in the dirt? Do you want to grow more of your own food but would like to know more? Love flowers, trees and shrubs and want to be able to make them flourish in your home garden? Think it would be great to make your community a prettier place to live through your volunteer work? You'll love the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Training Program. The Master Gardener training curriculum is only offered twice per year in Kalamazoo County and is starting soon! To find out more:

[Master Gardener Training Course - Kalamazoo County](#)

Date: January 24, 2018 - May 2, 2018
 Time: Thursdays from 5 - 9 p.m.
 Location: Kalamazoo RESA - Wile Auditorium 1819 E. Milham Ave Portage, MI 49002
 Contact: Linda Whitlock 269-383-8815 whitlo13@anr.msu.edu



The Giving Garden, in its 21st year of growing fresh produce to donate, is a volunteer project of the MSU Extension Master Gardeners in Kalamazoo County, in collaboration with Loaves & Fishes and Ministry with Community.

Ag Action 2019

Jan. 25, 2019
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
6767 West "O" Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49003
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ag Action 2019

Friday, January 25, 2019
 Kalamazoo Valley Community College
 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



One of Southwest Michigan's Biggest Ag & Home Horticultural Events!

Early Registration (by January 4th): \$25.00
 Registration: \$30.00

Pre-Registration for participants and vendors—<http://events.anr.msu.edu/Agaction2019/>

Join Michigan State University Extension educators & specialists for a full day of educational programs with a variety of sessions, including:

- Profitable Corn & Soybean Production
- Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Update
- Understanding Pesticide Use to Control Grape Pests & Diseases
- Forestry Management I: Managing Woodlots for Timber Production
- Is it Time to Broaden My Perspective on Vegetables?
- Soil Health-How it Affects Your Garden and You
- Updates on Rule & Reg Changes, Equipment & Remote Sensing
- Building Value from Cover Crops
- Market Outlook and Profitability Strategies
- Tree Fruit Pest Management
- Forestry Management II: Business of Woodlot Management
- Starting a Licensed Food Business
- How to Identify Trees Even in Winter
- Mosquito & Tick Ecology—Understanding for Control, Stewardship & Protecting Ourselves in the Field
- Drainage Management for Nutrient Retention
- Wheat Agronomy and Economics Update
- Worker Protection Standard Update
- Forestry Management III: Woodlots, Changing Pest Species and You
- Kids Will Eat That? How Farm-to-School Benefits Students & Farmers
- Septic Tank Maintenance & Well Head Protection for Homeowners
- Rain Soils, Solutions for Soaked Soils
- Identification Workshop—Weed, Insect & Landscape Plant Disease & Pest Management Game show

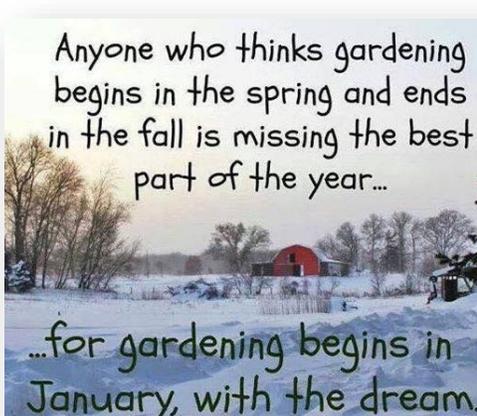
Trade Show Exhibition will be open 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Restricted Use Pesticide Exams will be given between 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**™ community college

Notice: If KVCC is closed on this date due to inclement weather, Ag Action Day will be cancelled.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Emergency Assistance Agencies in Kalamazoo County Help is Available!

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AGENCY LISTING



ENERGY/WATER SHUT OFF

Department of Human Services	322 Stockbridge	337-4900	Fill out State Emergency Relief application, must have copy of shut-off notice
Salvation Army	1700 S. Burdick	344-6119	Bring paperwork and DHS decision notice
Community Action Agency South Central Michigan		373-5066	Bring paperwork, DHS and Salvation Army decisions
Consumers Energy	Customer Service	(800) 982-0958	Account information, ESPP screen fax request

MEDICAL/PRESCRIPTIONS

Family Health Center	117 Paterson	349-2641	Mon – Thurs. 8a-8pm; Fri 8a-6pm; Sat. 9a-1pm
Portage Community Outreach Center	7130 S. Westnedge	323-1942 (Apt. required)	Must be a resident of Portage ~\$75.00 per year is their maximum assistance; 8:30a-4:30pm
Lending Hands of Michigan	5350 Ivanhoe Ct.	567-4381	Lends medical equipment free of charge

HOUSING

Department of Human Services	322 Stockbridge	337-4900	Fill out State Emergency Relief application and include copy of court papers
Housing Resources Inc.	420 Alcott, Suite 200	382-0287	Informational Open House: Wednesdays 4pm - 5pm, Or call for an appointment

OTHER AGENCIES/CHURCHES FOR ENERGY, HOUSING, WATER UTILITY, EMERGENCY NEEDS

Mt. Zion Church	120 Roberson	388-3111	3 rd Tuesdays of the month, 12am – 3pm
St. Catherine	1150 W. Centre	327-5165	Saturday 10-12noon, 1 st 10 families are assisted
Christian Resource Center	1833 S. Burdick	388-5054	Mon-Thurs, 12pm-2pm
St. Ann Catholic Church	12648 E. D Ave. Augusta, MI	731-0294	Mon. – Wed. 10am-12pm (Food assistance available); 490..04, 12, 41, 46, 48, 53, 60, 83 zip codes ONLY
St. Vincent DePaul	513 Eleanor St	388-4544	Tues-Fri 9am-3pm Please call for an appointment first (DHS/HRI Decisions)
Love, Inc.	4200 W. Michigan	353-6798	Mon & Wed 9-12; Tues & Thurs 9-2; Call 1 st

ASSISTANCE - GEOGRAPHICALLY SPECIFIC

St. Martin (Vicksburg/ Fulton/Mendon/Schoolcraft	5855 East W Ave., Vicksburg, MI	649-1629, ext. 70	Must be a resident of the community. Leave a message and someone will contact you
Comstock Community Center (Comstock resident)	6330 King Hwy.	345-8556	Comstock Public Schools resident
Portage Community Outreach Center	325 E Centre St.	323-1942	Portage Public Schools resident
South County Community Services	101 S. Main St. Vicksburg, MI	649-2901	Assisting Prairie Ronde, Pavilion, Schoolcraft, Brady, Wakeshma & Climax townships Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. & Wed 8-7pm

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

ARK	990 W. Kilgore Rd.	343-8765	10-17yrs. Old
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	448 N. Burdick	345-2974	Adult male, female, or family
Oakland House	1207 Oakland Drive	532-1270	Adult male or female
Next Door	1215 W. North St.	349-2119	Female (17-35 yrs) Call between 3:00-9:30 pm
Open Door	416 Ranney St.	345-1431	Male (17-35 yrs.) Call between 3:00-10:00 pm
HRI Family Shelter (Eleanor House)	420 Alcott	382-5609	Walk in appointment for Families
YWCA	353 E. Michigan	385-2869	Domestic violence victims & children

*Please note: **Most** agencies and churches prefer that you bring the shut-off notice or court date/papers, DHS decision notice, any other decision notices, proof of current income for all household members, ID or license, and Social Security numbers for all household members.



Energy assistance available

As colder weather arrives, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding low-income residents they can apply for emergency energy assistance either online or using paper applications. As of October 1st, people can apply for energy assistance year-round. That's different than in recent years, when people were required to apply only during the designated energy crisis season, which was from Nov. 1 to May 31. Anyone with questions about energy assistance can visit www.michigan.gov/mdhhs or contact your local MDHHS office.

Flu Shots Available!

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department

311 E. Alcott Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Mon., Tues.*, Wed., & Fri.:
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Thurs.:
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
(closed 1:00-2:00 p.m.)

*The third Tues. of the month the clinic is closed from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Construction Updates From Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement

This is an exciting time for the ASE staff and the citizens of Kalamazoo County as we watch many years of hope and dreams begin to become a reality. You can follow the [shelter construction updates](#) on the [kalcouny.com](#) website!

West View Parking Lot Pour Mid October



East Wall Mid November



West View Roof & Window Trim Mid December



Aerial South View taken 12-17-18



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.



Visit the [Animal Services & Enforcement](#) site on http://www.kalcounty.com/ac/dog_licensing.htm for fee information or call: (269) 383-8775. A [printable](#) dog license application can be obtained [here](#).

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[Echo Valley Winter Sports Park](#)

8495 East H Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49048

Call 269-349-3017 for times of operation the morning you plan on visiting

Echo Valley Kalamazoo's Premier Winter Sports Park where you race 60 mph down one of eight ¼ mile long tracks on ultra-fast toboggans. Enjoy the 500-foot tubing hill. The warming lodge offers a fireplace, snack bar and viewing platform. Tubes and toboggans are free with admission. Ice skate rentals are available. Open mid-December through February. Groups welcome.



[The Ice Rink At Millennium Park](#)

280 Romence Road, Portage MI

269-324-9200

The Ice Rink is open for the season and will remain open as weather permits through March 3, 2019. The large outdoor refrigerated rink features skate rental, skate sharpening, restrooms, lockers, and an excellent skating surface. Relax with a cup of hot cocoa, cider and refreshments by the fire pit. For hours of operation, either call or visit the website.

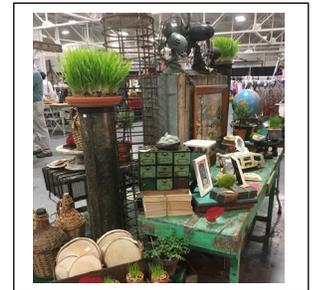


[Kalamazoo's Vintage Market](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

January 19 - January 20: Saturday, 9am - 4pm; Sunday, 10am - 4pm

This large vintage market is back for a two day show featuring antiques, salvage items, farmhouse decor, shabby chic, furniture, and more! Admission is free.



[Kalamazoo Chili Cook-Off 2019](#)

January 26th, 2019 - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Kalamazoo's Annual Chili Cook-Off is a free, community event and is how we've stayed warm on a cold Saturday in January for the past 14 years. It's our tradition to explore downtown, sampling chili recipes, and visiting new and familiar stores and restaurants. And, don't miss The Holly Jolly Chili Trolley, transporting chili tasters all over downtown so you don't miss a single one!



[Downtown Kalamazoo Restaurant Week](#)

January 26th, 2019, 5:00pm thru February 3rd, 10:00pm

Downtown Kalamazoo Restaurant Week allows restaurants to highlight what makes them truly special with a price fix menu at either \$10, \$25 or \$35. This allows for more innovative pairings, affordable food options and the chance to "hop" from place to place with the \$10 price fix. Menus are being updated daily, so come back and check out the week where your kitchen can close and you can treat yourself to a week of "food heaven."





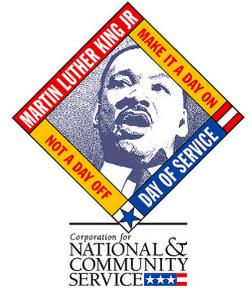
Kalamazoo County Office & Court Closings

All County Offices & Courts Closed:

New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1st, 2019

Courts Only Closed:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Monday, January 21st, 2019



25th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service - January 21st

The 25th annual MLK Day of Service will be held on January 21st. In recognition of Dr. King's legacy of service, Congress recognized MLK Day as a national day of service in 1994, encouraging people in the community to take a day on, rather than just another day off. Local organizations in and around the Kalamazoo community will be providing volunteer opportunities for the day for people to get involved. There will be other events to go along with this such as a walk/ride to MLK Park, community celebration, and more. We would love to have you join us in volunteering and celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Click here to see and sign up for volunteer opportunities. Click [here for details on the](#) events during MLK Day.



Kalamazoo County Communicator

At Kalamazoo County Government, we want to keep our residents informed of what's going on in 2017. It's a vehicle inside their local government. That's why we created the Kalamazoo County Communicator in 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.

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.

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



Be a Part of the Team!

[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 Encouraged to Apply!