



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



October 2018

We Are Kalamazoo
County Government!



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COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

From the Office of Administrative Services

Construction Begins On New Kalamazoo County Animal Shelter

On Wednesday, September 5, 2018 Kalamazoo County Government put shovel to soil in the formal ground breaking ceremony of the new Kalamazoo County Animal Shelter. This long anticipated project received final approval by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners on July 17, 2018. County Administrator Tracie Moored initiated the ground breaking celebration to officially announce commencement of construction on the new facility. Ms. Moored stated, "This is truly an example of extraordinary governance." County Vice Chair Dale Shugars thanked his fellow commissioners, the Animal Services Advisory Board and county staff for working together to make the project a reality.

[ASE Groundbreaking Ceremony cont'd Page 3](#)



Help2Vets Program. 211.org is here to help you navigate the extensive benefits and services available to you, including health care support, financial assistance and counseling, legal assistance, and educational support. We can put you in touch with agencies that can help you and your family relocate to a new city or a new home, cope with the stress and logistics of a deployment, or transition back into civilian life. Call 2-1-1 today!



Kalamazoo County,
Michigan



County Government
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

Contact your District Commissioner

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

[Stephanie Moore](#), Chair
[District 1](#)

[Roger Tuinier](#)
[District 7](#)

[Kevin Wordelman](#)
[District 2](#)

[John Gisler](#)
[District 8](#)

[Tracy Hall](#)
[District 3](#)

[Dale Shugars](#), Vice Chair
[District 9](#)

[Michael Seals](#)
[District 4](#)

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

[Julie Rogers](#)
[District 5](#)

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

[Ron Kendall](#)
[District 6](#)

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Dates:

Meetings start at 7:00pm

-  October 2nd
-  October 16th
-  November 7th (Wed.)
-  November 20th

Not sure what district you're in? Click on the District links 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 Government is hiring!

[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 Wanted & Encouraged to Apply!



Visit the new [Administrator's Report](#) on Kalcounty.com!



[Community Update Videos](#) for the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners meetings are available on line.

Construction Begins on New Kalamazoo County Animal Shelter (cont'd from page 1)

Kalamazoo County Animal Services Board Chairperson, Sue Brodasky, who joined the Animal Services Advisory Board in 2006 indicated that building a new shelter has been an ongoing topic of conversation. She indicated, "This project is overdue. It is with great pride and a true sense of accomplishment that it is being realized today." Brodasky congratulated Kalamazoo County administration, commissioners, staff, and volunteers for a job well done realizing this much needed enhancement for Kalamazoo County.

The existing 6,000 square foot Kalamazoo County Animal Shelter was constructed over 33 years ago. The new shelter will comprise 15,552 square feet and will house up to 106 dogs and 74 cats at any given time. The new facility will place emphasis on the health and care of the animals. It also provides a wing that is solely dedicated to adoption services, includes a veterinary exam and treatment room, a food preparation room, a grooming room, outdoor walking and exercise areas, and two group cat rooms. The new Animal Shelter will be located at 1316 Lamont Avenue. The project budget is \$5,000,000 and construction will be completed in July of 2019. [See the article in the June 2017 Communicator Newsletter.](#)



Kalamazoo County Animal Services and Enforcement Director Steve Lawrence stated, "The designed upgrades of the building will greatly improve the health and care of the animals housed in the shelter. We are very excited to have facilities dedicated for adoption, and are looking forward to helping healthy animals find their forever home."

Kalamazoo County Services A - Z

Each month we will feature a county service or program 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@kalcounty.com.



Office of Emergency Management
Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office
1500 Lamont Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
(269) 385-6137
<http://www.kalcounty.com/em/>

Answer: Office of Emergency Management

September was National Preparedness Month. Emergencies can happen at any time. Being prepared saves lives! Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone right away. If you have not organized a plan, now is the time. The best way to make you and your family safer is to be prepared *before* an emergency occurs.

Download the [Family Preparedness Guide](#) from the [Kalcounty.com website](#) and make your plan. Another available resource to help in negotiating emergency preparation for your family and home can be found at [Ready.gov](#). Get your kids on your team too! Learn how to help your children cope during and after a disaster. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/kids> to find best techniques. Learn more about building a kit and making a plan.



Our Mission is coordination of the Mitigation of, Preparedness for, Response to, and Recovery from Natural and Human-Made Disasters within Kalamazoo County.

Getting to Know the New Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management Director



Mike Corfman was recently appointed as Director of Kalamazoo County's Office of Emergency Management. Mike brings over 30 years of public safety, military, and private business experience to the office.

As a teenager, Mike began his career in public safety participating in the Boy Scout's Explorer program. Upon graduation from high school, Mike enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and completed over 4 years of active service followed by 26 years in Reserve service. Once leaving Coast Guard active duty, Mike was employed by a local 2-way radio shop doing radio repair and installation on emergency vehicles. His contacts through the public safety sector encouraged him to join the local volunteer fire department, where he rose through the ranks to Lieutenant. After a few years working at the radio shop, Mike was hired by Muskegon Fire Department where he served as a dispatcher, transitioning to the Muskegon Central Dispatch due to a merger of services. The community in which Mike was a volunteer firefighter was expanding their full-time staff and he was hired on and assigned as Captain/ Fire Marshal, eventually promoting up to Battalion Chief/Training Officer.

An opportunity presented itself in Kalamazoo County at the Comstock Township Fire Department where Mike was hired as Fire Chief in 1993. When Texas Township was interested in hiring their first full-time fire department employee, Mike was appointed as Fire Chief in 1996 where he served until 2013. At that time a nationwide business consulting firm offered Mike an opportunity to join their group and he left public safety to operate their local office. Mike continued to volunteer with the Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management during this time as well. In 2016 Mike jumped back into the fire service when the City of Portage was seeking a Fire Training Officer. When the Director of Kalamazoo County's Emergency Management expressed an interest to retire in 2018 Mike was selected to fill the position.

Mike retired from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as a Senior Chief Maritime Enforcement Specialist. During his service with the U.S.C.G. he deployed around the globe, including 3 tours to the SE Asia/Arabian Gulf area for operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom and, among others, to support Hurricane Katrina operations in the U.S. Mike served as Chairperson of the Kalamazoo County Disaster Committee/Local Emergency Planning Committee for nearly 20 years, and as Vice-Chair of the Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association for nearly 10 years.

UnderSheriff VanDyken stated,

“It was an easy decision when tasked with hiring an emergency management director. I have known Mike Corfman personally and as an EOC. He is a trusted leader.”

Mike is credentialed as a Chief Fire Officer by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, and is licensed as an Emergency Medical Services Instructor/Coordinator. He is a member of a number of professional Fire and Emergency Management organizations, the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association, American Legion, and the Coast Guard

Tactical Law Enforcement Association. The County welcomes Mike!

Visit the [Office of Emergency Management](#) on the [kalcounty.com](#) website and follow on [Facebook](#).

The Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), is a division within the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office.



Kalamazoo County Senior & Caregiver Expo

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI
Tuesday, October 2nd from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The 22nd annual SENIOR EXPO, organized by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA, is set for Tuesday, October 2nd. This free community event is for older adults, caregivers and their families. The event will be held at the Expo Center on Lake Street from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Our major sponsors will be Borgess/Ascension and Bronson, who will have flu shots available with your insurance card. Pneumonia vaccines, memory screens, and non-fasting health screens will be provided free. For more information call 269-373-5147 or email jgboni@kalcounty.com.



Project Connect 2018

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI
Wednesday, October 10th, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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.

Walk to Defeat ALS * Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis *

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Celery Flats, 7328 Garden Lane, Portage MI

Check starts at 10:00am, walk starts at 11:00am 1.5 miles

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. ALS usually strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70 and approximately 20,000 people in the US have the disease at any given time. Although there is not yet a cure or treatment that halts ALS, scientists we fund through our global research program have made significant progress in understanding what causes ALS. Contact Amanda Robertson, amanda@alsa-michigan.org



**Together we work
toward a cure**

SW Michigan Team Hope Walk for Huntington's Disease

Sherman Lake YMCA, 6225 N. 39th Street, Augusta, MI.

October 28, 2018 - 1:00pm, registration starts at 12:30pm

Join us for the 3rd Annual Team Hope Walk for Huntington's Disease. All participants will receive a Team Hope Event T-shirt, lunch, water & apple cider. Raffle prizes and auction items will be awarded after the Walk. Family Friendly! Huntington's Disease (HD) is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It deteriorates a person's physical and mental abilities during their prime working years and has no cure. Every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of carrying the faulty gene that causes HD. Today, there are 30,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 250,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease. Many describe the symptoms of HD as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's - simultaneously. Help raise awareness and money for those families who are affected by Huntington's Disease. You can register to walk or donate money at www.hdsa.org/thswmi. Contact Sara at sara.boers@att.net for additional information.

TEAM HOPE WALK FOR HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE SUNDAY OCTOBER 28 th , 2018 AT SHERMAN LAKE YMCA CHECK-IN 12:30 PM WALK 1:00 PM WWW.HDSA.ORG/THSWMI	WHAT IS HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE? Huntington's disease (HD) is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It deteriorates a person's physical and mental abilities during their prime working years and has no cure. HD is known as the quintessential family disease because every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of carrying the faulty gene. Today, there are 30,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 250,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease. The Huntington's Disease Society of America is the premier nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by HD. From community services and education to advocacy and research, HDSA is the world's leader in providing help for today and hope for tomorrow for people with HD and their families. TO REGISTER ONLINE AND START FUNDRAISING GO TO: WWW.HDSA.ORG/THSWMI	TEAM HOPE WALK DETAILS DATE SUNDAY October 28, 2018 LOCATION SHERMAN LAKE YMCA - 6225 N 39 th ST AUGUSTA, MI CHECK-IN 12:30 PM WALK 1:00 PM CONTACT SARA BOERS 269.381.7725 EMAIL SARA.BOERS@ATT.NET ALSO FEATURING: RAFFLES, KIDS CORNER, FOOD & FUN WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS AND MORE! SPONSORSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE SARA BOERS 269.381.7725 DEB BOYD 269.629.5452 WE WALK RAIN OR SHINE!
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November 6th - VOTE! It doesn't matter who you vote for...it matters that you vote.



The final day to register to vote in the State Gubernatorial Election is Tuesday, October 9th. Elections are important and every vote matters. Make sure you have a say in the future of our city, state, and country! Voting is quick and easy. If you are not already registered, you can register to vote at the City Clerk's Office (241 West South Street), the County Clerk's Office (201 W Kalamazoo Ave), or at the Michigan Secretary of State.



County Clerk Tim Snow and City of Kalamazoo Deputy Clerk Shelby Moss receiving voter registration forms from WMU representatives of the WeVote project



Kalamazoo|Battle Creek International Airport

AZO has an improved [website](#) to serve you better.

And check out the new [cost calculator](#)! Get the true cost of flying Kalamazoo|Battle Creek International Airport versus other airports with a cost calculator factoring in air fare, time, fuel and parking.

Fly Home,
Be Home



It's time to (re) enroll for the Kalamazoo County 2018/2019 4-H program year. Families will need to log into the 4-H online database at <https://mi.4honline.com/>. For new members there is a family guide to building the family profile and adding family members prior to logging in. This is a step by step guide to help make sure that all enrolled family members are entered correctly.

Reminder of upcoming changes to Michigan 4-H Age Policy:

The new 4-H programming year is finally here, and with it comes changes to the Michigan 4-H Age Policy. Beginning September 1, the Michigan 4-H Participant Age Policy reflects a younger beginning age for 4-H members. The new age for 4-H members is 8 to 19 years old, continuing to use January 1 of the program year as the date of calculation. The 4H Cloverbud experience will remain available to youth ages 5-7.

Questions? Contact:

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

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County



[Farm-ToberFest!](#)

Delano Farms, 555 West E Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Saturday, October 6, 12-8pm

Celebrate the harvest season by enjoying all that DeLano Farms has to offer! Visit KNC's DeLano Farms on Saturday, October 6 from 12-7pm for, music, horse drawn wagon rides, arts & crafts vendor, food and spirits, and fun activities for all ages. Stroll along the lantern-lit "Trail or Treats" and meet woodland characters along the way with treats for the kids.



[Olde Tyme Harvest Festival](#)

Scotts Mill County Park, 8451 S. 35th Street, Scotts, MI
October 6 - October 7

Hayrides to the pumpkin patch, Corn shocks for sale, Pumpkins for the kids, Husker shredder, and more. Admission: \$5 per vehicle. For more information call Al at 269-223-0003 or Marian at 269-779-1972.



[St Luke's Animal Fair](#)

Sunday, October 7th, 2:00pm – 5:00pm
247 W. Lovell, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Free! Is that a camel in Kalamazoo?! Children will enjoy face painting, carnival rides, and the petting zoo – right in the city. Families will enjoy music, local vendors and food trucks will be on hand for the event.



[Kalamazoo's Ultimate Indoor Garage Sale](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center
Saturday, October 13th, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The largest garage sale anywhere with over 200 booths available! Find everything from home decor, electronics, clothing, baby and kids, collectibles, antiques, and more. Admission: Adults \$2, Kids are free.



Fall Fun in Kalamazoo County – apples, hayrides, corn maze, pumpkins, donuts, cider & more!



[Gull Meadow Farms](#)

8544 Gull Road, Richland MI

[Soil Friends Farm & Market](#)

1701 N 33rd St, Galesburg, MI



[Verhages Fruit Farm & Cider Mill](#)

8619 West ML Ave, Kalamazoo MI

KPS OneCard is an innovative collaboration with one goal – a Kalamazoo Public Library card for every Kalamazoo Public Schools student.

Create Readers. Create Learners.



All Kalamazoo Public School (KPS) students are *automatically enrolled* at the beginning of the school year. For students grades 6-12, their student ID will also serve as their KPL library card. OneCard provides participating KPS students, faculty and staff the following benefits:

- Access to all KPL print, audio/visual and online materials including:
- KPL academic databases for research, classes, college information and more
- Access to KPL language services with Rocket Languages
- Downloadable ebooks, audiobooks, music, magazines, movies and more
- Access to computers with internet at any KPL location
- Access to KPL’s state-of-the-art digital studio, The Hub
- Access to KPL’s newly revitalized Teen Studio
- Access to fun and educational programming for all ages
- All fines and fees for current KPS students with a KPL library card are waived upon enrollment
- Reduces potential barriers associated with registering for a library card, visiting KPL and accessing its collections

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



volunteer
do good, feel good

24- hr Domestic Violence Hotline: 269-385-3587

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Kalamazoo

24- hr Sexual Assault Hotline: 269-385-3587