



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



February 2019

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From the Administrative Services Office

The annual Kalamazoo County Government Organizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on January 8th, 2019. The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, adopt the Bylaws that govern the Board, appoint commissioners to the various advisory boards and commissions, and to set the schedule of meetings for the upcoming year.

Chair Julie Rogers



“ I am committed to continuing the work of moving Kalamazoo County forward, including providing great services to our residents in the pursuit of extraordinary governance. ”

~ Chair Julie Rogers

Vice Chair Tracy Hall



The Board elected Commissioner Julie Rogers as Chair. She was first elected to the Kalamazoo County Commission in 2012, and is in her 4th term serving residents of District 5. Rogers was the liaison on the Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the Economic Development Authority for 11 years, and the Workforce Development with MI Works Southwest! for 6 years. She currently serves on the Kalamazoo County Public Arts Commission and the Board Appointments Committee, and will be new to the Davis-Olmstead Drain Board. Chair Rogers has been elected to the MI Association of Counties (MAC) Board of Directors and is serving a 5th term on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Health Policy Steering Committee. Rogers is one of 25 elected officials nominated to the national Women in Government Class of 2019 leadership program. Rogers’ goals for the year ahead include continued pursuit in constructing a County services building; officially joining the national opioid MDL class action lawsuit; extraordinary management of our programs to decrease homelessness; and reducing the number of young adults in our jail through criminal justice reform.

Commissioner Tracy Hall was appointed as Vice Chair. Hall is serving her 2nd term as County commissioner for District 3. Hall has served as an alternate for the Animal Services & Enforcement Advisory Board and Discover Kalamazoo. She also served on the Public Housing Commission, the County ID Program and SMART Counties. She will continue to serve on Discover Kalamazoo, the Public Housing Commission, and officially begins serving on the Board Appointments Committee, the City of Kalamazoo Local Development Finance Authority and Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee.

Gryphon Place Helping Those in Conflict & Crisis

Need help with 2018 tax preparation? Kalamazoo Public Library is offering free income tax preparation and electronic filing for individuals/families with household income under \$55,000 in 2018, prepared by IRS-certified community volunteers. Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-563-5432, to make an appointment or for more info.

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, Vice Chair
Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com
District 3

Julie Rogers, Chair
Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com
District 5

Roger Tuinier
Roger.Tuinier@kalcounty.com
District 7

Christine Morse
Christine.Morse@kalcounty.com
District 9

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District 11

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District 2

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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

-  February 5th
-  February 19th
-  March 6th (Wednesday)
-  March 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/) <http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/>

2019 Public Meeting Notices

Public meeting notices for the 2019 year are posted as scheduled at:
http://www.kalcounty.com/public_notice.php

Are you interested in getting involved in County government? Join an Advisory Board or Commission!

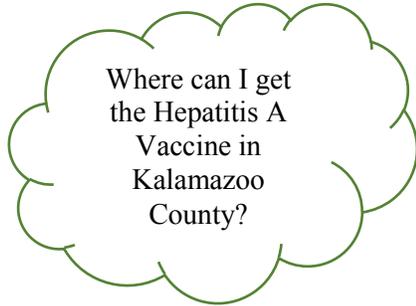
The Kalamazoo County Government Board of Commissioners values residents who are interested in serving their community. There are more than [25 advisory boards and commissions](#) at KCG. Click here to view: [current openings on KCG Advisory Boards & Commissions](#)

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@kalcounty.com.



Answer:

[Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services](#)
(Local Health Department)
311 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: (269) 373-5203.

For more information on the Hepatitis A outbreak or for assistance when paying for vaccines, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdhhs and www.aimtoolkit.org

Click here for:

[Hepatitis A Fact Sheet](#)

[Available options if you don't have insurance and can't pay for a vaccination](#)



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM Hepatitis A

HOW IS IT SPREAD?



Forgetting to wash hands after using bathroom or changing diaper



Having sex with infected partner(s)



Eating or drinking foods contaminated by Hepatitis A

It can also be spread by sharing food, drink, drugs, toothbrushes, and utensils with someone infected with Hepatitis A

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



Yellowing of eyes and skin (jaundice)



Fever



Nausea or throwing up

Other symptoms include: dark pee, pale poop, stomach pain, feeling tired or loss of appetite
If you have symptoms, see your doctor.

HOW DO I PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HEPATITIS A?



Wash your hands with soap and warm water after using the bathroom or changing diapers and before eating and preparing food.



GET VACCINATED IF YOU ARE HIGH RISK FOR GETTING HEPATITIS A!



For more information and outbreak area locations, visit www.michigan.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak

What is happening in Michigan?

There is a large outbreak of hepatitis A throughout different parts of Michigan. People in the outbreak areas are at risk for serious illness, with nearly 9 out of every 10 people hospitalized after getting sick. In some cases people have died. Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver disease. It is easily spread when a person eats, drinks or touches contaminated substances that have been exposed to the stool (poop) from an infected person. People who already have certain medical conditions, such as chronic liver disease, are at an even higher risk of getting sick. There is no medication to treat hepatitis A, but it can be prevented. The best way to prevent hepatitis A is to get vaccinated.

If you do not have Medicaid or private insurance, or your private insurance does not cover immunizations, or you do not have ANY insurance at all, chances are good you will qualify for a free hepatitis A vaccine at your Local Health Department. Call ahead to confirm eligibility. (269) 373-5203



Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport Celebrates 90 Years of Service!

The first known usage of the term "airport" appeared in a newspaper article in 1919, in reference to Bader Field in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This one word and the desire for expeditious travel might have been the inspiration for an airport in Kalamazoo. This ambition prompted the purchase of 383 acres of land in 1926 where the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport now stands. Scheduled air service began between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, and the first regular air mail service started in July, 1928.

In February 1929, the field was licensed as the first municipal airport in Michigan. It was named Lindbergh Field in honor of the famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh.



The first airline service was initiated at the Airport in May 1944 and followed with service by many small airlines until 1955 when North Central Airlines began daily service from Kalamazoo to Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois. In 1958, a new terminal was constructed to replace the old building that had housed passengers since the 1920's. In 1961, an air traffic control tower and additional runways were built as passengers using the facility and the number of flights in and out of Kalamazoo continued to grow. The consistent growth necessitated a terminal expansion in 1979, increasing the building from 12,000 to 30,000 square feet.

In 1982, it was determined the City of Kalamazoo should no longer bear the full cost of operating the airport and in 1984 the City transferred ownership to the County of Kalamazoo.

The County recognized the need for increased service at the Kalamazoo County Airport and in 1989 the terminal was completely renovated with the addition of an enlarged boarding area, a new baggage claim area, and a ramp expansion. Over the next several years, passenger traffic went from 200,000 to 500,000, dictating the need for a parking lot expansion of over 300 long-term spaces.

David Reid is the current Director of the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport, a position he has held since early 2014. Joining the County in 1994 in the Airport Operations Department, he has over 25 years of aviation experience working in both the airline and airport side of the industry. He is a native to the Kalamazoo area (Richland), earning a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Management from Western Michigan University in 1991.



David Reid, A.A.E.
Airport Director

Reid is an Accredited Airport Executive thru the American Association of Airport Executives, and sits on numerous aviation boards, including the Michigan Association of Airport Executives Board of Directors, WMU's Aviation Advisory Board, and Discover Kalamazoo's Advisory Board to name a few. He lives in Portage with his wife Sue, and has four children.



Today, the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport is served by 3 major airlines that fly hundreds of passengers each day to major hubs with worldwide connections. The airport is self-sufficient and has a significant economic impact on Southwest Michigan. The goal of the AZO staff is to continue to provide a variety of safe, reliable commercial air transportation services to its customers, and to adequately adapt and expand to meet their needs.

Runway 17/35, the Airport's air carrier runway, was last rehabilitated in 1998. As current pavement approaches its end of life, the Airport has plans to rehabilitate the runway in June of 2019. During much of this project, the Airport will be closed to commercial/airline traffic. The projected start date is June 10th, with a completion date of June 26th. Stay tuned as more information will be provided as the rehabilitation project nears.

The 90th anniversary of the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport will be commemorated at its 3rd annual Air Fair in July 2019. Please join us in celebration of this milestone!





KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

From the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department
311 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo MI

Free Short-Term Radon Test Kits Available

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department recommends residents take the time to test for radon in their homes. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, causing more than 20,000 deaths annually in the United States. Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is naturally released from rock and soil. Radon gas can enter homes through the foundation resulting in an increased risk of exposure to radon radiation.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates 1 out of 15 homes in the US have elevated radon levels. Kalamazoo County is considered a Zone 1 County, which means that average radon levels are expected to be above the EPA's recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L (*picoCuries per Liter*). During January and February, and while supplies last, Kalamazoo County residents may pick-up a **free** Short-Term Radon Test Kit at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, located at 311 E. Alcott Street.

“ Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon since there are no warning signs or symptoms from exposure. This is an important public health issue. We encourage residents to use the months of January and February to learn about radon and take action to know their radon levels in their home, ”

~ Vern Johnson, Environmental Health Division Chief for the Kalamazoo County HCS Department.

There are also Long-Term Radon Test Kits that test the air for at least 3 months and up to 51 weeks. The Long-Term Radon Test Kits provides an average radon level exposure in the area tested. These are available online from the State of Michigan Healthy Homes Section at <http://cgi.radon.com/sub/mi/>. Short-Term Radon Test Kits are also available for purchase year-round for \$10.00 at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department.

To learn more about radon, contact the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department at 269-373-5210 or visit <http://www.kalcounty.com/eh/radon.htm>.

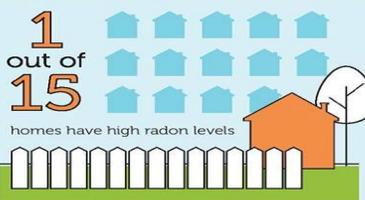
Other helpful links:

[Michigan Radon Information Page](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency - Citizens Guide to Radon](#)

[World Health Organization Fact Sheet](#)



<p>Protect Your Family from Radon</p>  <p>Radon is in the ground naturally. But sometimes it gets into homes through cracks in the floors or walls.</p>	<p>Radon is a gas that you can't see, smell, or taste — but it can be dangerous. It's the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.</p> <p>1 out of 15 homes have high radon levels</p> 
<p>Radon and Smoking: A Dangerous Combination</p>  <p>If you live in a home with high radon levels, smoking raises your risk of lung cancer by 10 times.</p>	
<p>Take the First Step</p> <p>There's good news — you can protect your family by testing your home for radon.</p>	
<p>Learn more by calling the National Radon Hotline: 1-800-SOS-RADON</p>	 <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health</p>



MICHIGAN 4-H CAPITOL EXPERIENCE - This conference is for **ALL high school students in Michigan**. 4-H Capitol Experience is an annual four-day conference that helps prepare youth for active citizenship by focusing on civic engagement and public policy held in Lansing March 17th thru 20th. Join Michigan teens speaking out on the topics that matter to them in education, agriculture, health, crime, jobs, equality and the environment. Scholarships available. Registration deadline: February 22, 2019 – www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/



**Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience
March 17–20, 2019**

4-H Capitol Experience is a four-day conference held in Lansing that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. The program is open to ALL high school students in Michigan. Each year, 75 to 100 students take action on issues that matter to them and learn how they can have an influence on state government and laws.

After choosing current issue areas (options below), participants interact with legislators, tour Michigan's Capitol, meet with state agency staff, lobbyists and other state-level experts, discover how policy is made, and explore various careers in public policy. Recreation is included in the schedule. At the end of the conference, the teens leave with an understanding of the impact that their voice can have on policy and their communities — now and in the future.

Choose Your Issue Area

Participants will choose their top three issue areas and will learn about one. They will work with other teens to draft a bill related to their issue and will go through a legislative simulation. Issue group choices include:

- Agriculture
- Civil Rights
- Education
- Environmental Quality/
Natural Resources
- Health
- Human Services
- Government Reform &
Transparency
- Jobs & the Economy
- Law Enforcement
- Technology

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Extension

Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Jackie Martin at 734-222-3877 by February 10, 2019 to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

Location, Registration & Cost

The Okemos Conference Center provides lodging for the program and also serves as the program headquarters. Tours and agency visits take place at the State Capitol, Michigan Supreme Court, and surrounding areas.

**\$360 4-H members
\$380 Non members**

Contact your local MSU Extension or Farm office to inquire about scholarship opportunities.

The registration fee includes most meals, lodging and material fees.

Registration deadline: February 10, 2019
Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HCapEx/>

For more information visit:
msue.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_capitol_experience



Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[Prairie View County Park](#)

899 East U Avenue
Vicksburg, MI 49097
Phone: (269) 649-4737

[Kalamazoo County Parks](#) are beautiful and full of fun and adventure even in the middle of winter. Prairie View Park, located on the shores of Gourneck and Hogsett Lakes is a pristine setting for sledding, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and hiking. It comes with a warming shelter too! **Kalamazoo County Annual Park Passes for 2019 are on sale now** at all of the parks or in the Parks Office for \$25. A one-time daily vehicle pass is \$5. Call 269-383-8778 for more information! Kalamazoo County Parks are open 7am-Sunset, 7 days a week.



[Winter Snow Party](#)

Saturday, February 2nd, 12:00 noon – 3:00pm
Oakland Drive Park (7650 Oakland Drive)

Enjoy time with family and friends, all while embracing the wonders of the Michigan outdoors. Enjoy sledding and a snowman building contest! Build, decorate and bring your own cardboard sled! Build and dress up the fanciest snowman! Prizes will be awarded for best in show for both contests as well as the fastest cardboard sled! Cardboard sled contests begin at 1 p.m., with snowman building immediately following. When you need a warm respite from the winter activities, enjoy a bonfire with hot chocolate and coffee available for purchase. The event is hosted by the Portage Youth Advisory Committee and all ages are welcome.



[Kzoo Baby & Family Expo](#)

Sunday, Feb 17th from 10:00am – 3:00pm
Radisson Plaza Hotel, 100 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A free event for the whole family. Pregnancy thru age 10. The fun has already started! 50+ exhibits, magic show, face painting, drum & dance, princesses & superheroes, door prizes and much more.



[Portage Winter Blast Half Marathon, 10K & 5K](#)

Sunday, February 24th, 2019
All running events start and end at Loy Norrix High School, 606 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

The 7th Annual Winter Blast Half Marathon 10k and 5k, is presented in partnership with Komen Michigan, Kalamazoo Area Runners (KAR), and the City of Portage. Join us in this extraordinary community celebration of health and wellness. Proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen Michigan whose bold goal is to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50% in the U.S. by 2026.





Kalamazoo County Office & Court Closings

Courts Only Closed:

Presidents' Day - Monday, February 19th



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.



Kalamazoo's Loaves and Fishes will be implementing a new service model that began on January 1, 2019. In the new model, clients will be able to schedule a pantry appointment once every calendar month and will receive three additional self-managed visits that can be used anytime throughout the year. Loaves and Fishes no longer accepts referrals from a caseworker or third party for extra pantry visits. Clients have more flexibility to schedule extra visits without going through a caseworker and still can have up to 15 pantry visits/year. If you have questions regarding this change, please call 269-343-3663.

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!

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.