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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.

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 will be new to 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 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

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

February 5th
February 19th
March 6th (Wednesday)
March 19th

Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes
http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/

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:
http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/

2019 Public Meeting Notices
Public meeting notices for the 2019 year are posted as scheduled at:

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 Government
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance…
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.

Where can I get the Hepatitis A Vaccine in Kalamazoo County?

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

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.

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!
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/](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](http://www.kalcounty.com/eh/radon.htm).

Other helpful links:
- [Michigan Radon Information Page](http://www.kalcounty.com/eh/radon.htm)
- [Environmental Protection Agency - Citizens Guide to Radon](http://www.epa.gov/oust/radon)
- [World Health Organization Fact Sheet](http://www.who.int/ceh/radon/en/)

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Kalamazoo County Government  
*In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...*  
From the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department  
311 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo MI  
February 2019
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/
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 Gourdneck 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:

President’s 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-scenes 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.