



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



November 2018

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!

## COUNTY COMMUNICATOR



### Inside This Issue

- [2018 State of the County](#)
- [Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners](#)
- [County Administrator's Reports](#)
- [Community Video Update for Upcoming Board Meetings](#)
- [Employment Opportunities](#)
- [County Services A-Z](#)
- [State General Election](#)
- [Senior Millage 'Saying Yes to Seniors'](#)
- [Getting to Know the Director of Animal Services & Enforcement](#)
- [Family Fun In Kalamazoo County!](#)
- [Community Events](#)
- [Subscribe to the County Communicator](#)



From the Administrative Services Office

### 2018 State of the County

Many municipal and community partners were in attendance at the 2018 State of the County address presented by Board Chair Stephanie Moore and County Administrator Tracie Moored, at the October 2, 2018 meeting of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

Administrator Moored outlined the County's financial strengths of its AA + bond rating, fully funded pension, low debt ratio and the self-funded major construction projects occurring over the next five years. Chair Moore reviewed 2018 accomplishments which included the County ID program, passage of the Senior and Homeless Millage, the transition underway of the Veterans Services program to Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, County Equity Training, the successful management of the PFAs Water Response, and the establishment of Kalamazoo County Government as a Trauma Informed Organization.

As Kalamazoo County Government looks to 2019, we look forward to increasing opportunities with local agencies and partners, to continue to improve our service delivery as we connect citizens to essential services. To view a video of the 2018 State of the County address, please visit the County's home page at [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com) and scroll down.

The **Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN)** has been established in Kalamazoo to educate people on suicide prevention and to build awareness so people know the best way to help a friend, family member or co-worker. Advocates say that is important, because people do not always see their doctors first, or at all, when they are contemplating suicide. The program launch was a call to action for the community. Anyone interested in getting involved with SPAN can contact [Gryphon Place here](#). The first work group meeting is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you or someone you know needs help, you can find more resources at or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255, totally free and confidential.

If you are experiencing a crisis  
call 381-HELP (4357)



Follow Kalamazoo County Government





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



*In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...*

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

[Vacant](#)  
[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](#), Vice Chair  
[District 9](#)

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

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

**Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Dates:**

Meetings start at 7:00pm

- November 7<sup>th</sup>
- November 20<sup>th</sup>
- December 4<sup>th</sup>
- December 18<sup>th</sup>

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](#)

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



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

[2018 Kalamazoo County Courts/County Office closings](#)

Veterans' Day observed, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Courts Closed

Thanksgiving Day and Day after Thanksgiving, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, all county offices and courts closed



[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#)

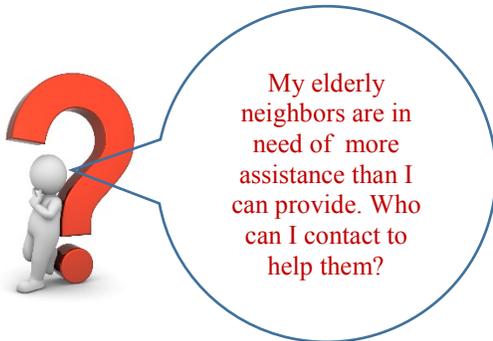
The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at <http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd>.

Veteran's Encouraged to Apply!



## 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](mailto:communications@kalcounty.com).



### **Answer: Area Agency on Aging Region IIIA**

If your neighbor is truly isolated, or if they need more services than neighbors and family can provide, get in touch with your local [Area Agency on Aging](#) and describe the situation to them. These agencies are the experts on what's available in terms of

- state, local, and federal benefits
- assistance programs to help seniors live safely at home
- health and wellness programs
- in-home care coordination
- adult day care
- senior housing options
- transportation

and many other services. Finally, remember that if you're ever worried about your neighbor's immediate safety—you haven't seen them in an unusually long time or they failed to return from an errand—you can request a wellbeing check from your local police department or sheriff's office. For more details related to services for adults in Kalamazoo County, please see the article on the [Kalamazoo County Senior Millage](#) approval on page 4.

### **Area Agency on Aging Region IIIA**

Adult/Senior Services; Older Adult Services  
Kalamazoo County Health &  
Community Services Department  
311 East Alcott Street \*New location\*  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
(269) 373-5147  
<http://www.kalcounty.com/aaa/index.asp>

### State General Election Day in Michigan

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Polls open from 7:00am - 8:00pm

A general election is between party nominees and any candidates without political party affiliation. The general election determines which candidates will occupy the office that is up for election. Statewide ballot proposals also appear on the general election ballot.

### [Complete Official Candidate Listing](#)

Get the complete list of 'who's running for what seat' here



State General Election Results will be available on the Kalamazoo County Government website at:

<http://www.kalcounty.com/clerk/elections/results.php>

## Kalamazoo County Voters “Say Yes To Seniors”

On August 7, 2018, voters in Kalamazoo County approved a Senior Millage to support the growing population of seniors over 60 years of age in Kalamazoo County, making Kalamazoo the 74<sup>th</sup> county of 83 in the State of Michigan to support the millage.



The Senior Millage levies a 0.35 mil. The tax will raise approximately \$2.82 million per year for six years, beginning with the December 1, 2018 levy and extending through 2023. The Michigan statute that authorizes a senior millage states that it is for people 60 and over in the jurisdiction that it covers. Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will administer the funds, while caring, competent local agencies will deliver essential services and programs to qualified seniors in our community.

Over 50,000 seniors reside in Kalamazoo County, which is nearly 20% of the population. While 17.5% of the county is estimated to be below the federal poverty level, of that number, 15.8% consists of the senior population. Data shows that many seniors receive 90% of their income from Social Security. Approximately 300 seniors in Kalamazoo County are on waitlists to receive essential services such as home-delivered meals, personal care, and homemaking chores. The millage will help reduce these waitlists which are expected to rise to an estimated 850 by the year 2030. Millage funding will provide critical services like assistance with daily care needs; home safety and repair (ramps, grab bars, railings); outreach to isolated seniors; volunteer and escorted transportation; elder abuse prevention; money management techniques; long-term care ombudsman; healthy living classes, and more. These services and programs will assist seniors to age in place with the safety, dignity, and quality of life they deserve.



The senior millage will help fund respite care for family members and caregivers, which means someone will come into the home to give the caregiver a much-needed break on a regular basis. The community will benefit from a variety of the services available as well.

Kalamazoo County is truly extraordinary and we thank you for being a part of our caring community!

<http://www.kalcounty.com/userfiles/boc/minutes/02-06-18cowpacket.pdf>

The Kalamazoo County Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition is a group of organizations, advocates and professionals who are dedicated to the elimination of elder abuse in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Elder and vulnerable adult abuse, neglect and exploitation are behaviors committed against an elder or vulnerable adult who is unable to protect himself or herself due to a mental or physical impairment or due to advanced age. Report Elder Abuse!

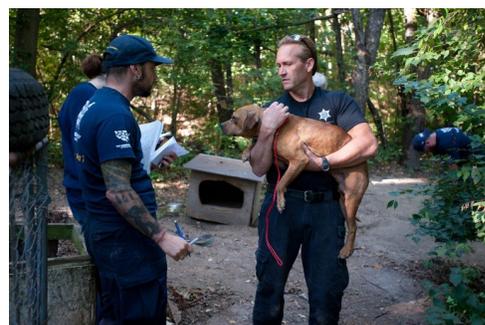




## Getting to Know the Director of Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement

What does it take to run a municipally mandated service for the planning, management and funding of an animal services and enforcement facility? Compassion and caring for animals; ability to educate the public on animal ownership responsibilities and enforcement of state and local animal laws; an understanding of budget and facility requirements needed to address the health and care of the 3,000+ animals it serves per year? It requires extraordinary governance like that provided by the Kalamazoo County Director of Animal Services & Enforcement, Steve Lawrence.

Lawrence joined Kalamazoo County in 2002, as a Kalamazoo County Animal Control Officer and within a year took on the responsibility of Director of Animal Services & Enforcement Department. As a child, Steve was captivated by wildlife and grew up in a family known in their town as the ones to bring injured or orphaned animals to. They would raise and care for them until they were strong and healthy enough to be released back into the wild. After high school, Lawrence moved to California and attended Humboldt State University where he graduated in 1984 with a degree in Wildlife Management. It was Lawrence's ambition to be a fish and game warden, however jobs in the field were limited so he moved to Southern California and for the next nine years, worked in law enforcement. In the summer of 1994, Lawrence moved back to Michigan to be closer to family and again pursue his passion for working with animals.



Steve Lawrence & investigators breaking up a local dog fighting ring in 2012

Along with the many functions required of Lawrence in the operation of Animal Services & Enforcement, the County and its Animal Services Advisory Council, have planned and are constructing a new animal services facility which is scheduled to open in July of 2019. It is being built on six acres of county-owned land on Lamont Drive, next to their current location. The expanded and improved facility will include space dedicated to adoptions, a veterinary exam and treatment room, a food preparation area, outdoor exercise space and a room for grooming.

Kalamazoo County is key in the partnership with multiple non-profits and rescue organizations and effectively works with many to provide the greatest impact for the county. The new shelter will greatly strengthen the engagement of residents and many animal resource partners, making it a real community center. Education and outreach will be improved, and partnerships will expand with volunteers, local non-profits, businesses and corporations. "The designed upgrades of the building will greatly improve the health and care of the animals housed in the shelter, and we look forward to helping healthy animals find their forever home," says Lawrence.



Recent view of new ASE facility construction from the east

Lawrence is a proven asset, and what few people know about him is that along with his passion for animals, is a passion for painting. In his spare time, he paints wildlife images in watercolor. His work has been applauded as original, detailed and unique, and is available at local art shops and art festivals throughout southwest Michigan.

Weekly updates about the [Shelter Construction on Kalcounty.com](http://Shelter Construction on Kalcounty.com) are available on the website. What can you do to help?  
**Be extraordinary! Volunteer, donate, advocate for animals in our community!**

# Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

## [21st Annual Christmas Boutique Arts & Crafts Show](#)

November 3, Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center South,

Come and visit the unique & talented artisans and crafters from cities throughout the Midwest for an extravaganza day of shopping for gifts. Admission is free.



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## [Kalamazoo Holiday Parade & After Parade Activities](#)

November 10, 2018

11:00am

11 a.m. Parade Start followed by After Parade Activities Downtown Kalamazoo - Traditional Parade Route including Lovell at Bronson Healthcare Parking Lot, to Park Street, to Michigan, to Pitcher, to Lovell

The After Parade, is scheduled for 12-4 pm. Currently, the After Parade Activities include:

- Touch a Truck: Kalamazoo Mall (10:00am – 2:30pm)
- Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus (and reindeer): WOODTV8 studio (12:00pm – 2:30pm)
- Family Fun Zone at Gazelle Sports 12pm - 2:30pm
- Family crafts using recycled materials: Kalamazoo Valley Museum (12:00pm – 4:00pm)
- Free Popcorn Treat Bags (first 50 kids): PopCity Popcorn
- USAF Band of Mid-America Performance: Union Cabaret Bar & Grill (12:30pm – 2:00pm)
- Kalamazoo Children's Chorus: Kalamazoo Valley Museum (1:00pm)
- Warren Miller Event, "Face of Winter": Kalamazoo State Theater (3:00pm & 8:00pm)
- Kalamashoegazer Music Festival: Bell's Eccentric Cafe (4:30pm)



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## [Holiday Expo & Craft Show](#)

November 17, Saturday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
November 18, Sunday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Expo Center

This is the BIG ONE! Over 200 booths to shop at this massive annual craft show. Something for everyone on your list! Admission is free.



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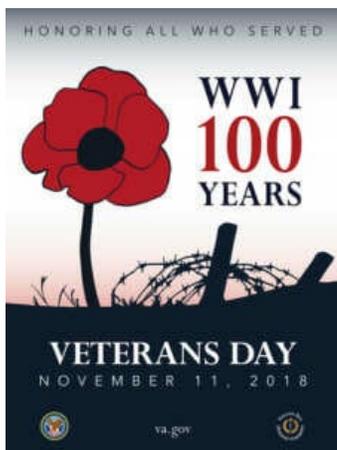
## [Bronson Park Tree Lighting Ceremony](#)

Friday, November 23, 2018 – 5:00pm – 7:30pm

Visit with Santa during the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bronson Park. Santa will be available from 6:20 pm to 7:30 pm.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### Veterans Day 2018

Sunday, November 11th, 2018

Designated as a Federal Holiday on Monday, November 12th, 2018

Kalamazoo County Government holds the Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony, co-sponsored with Kalamazoo Sunrise Rotary, each year on November 11th starting at 2:00pm at Rose Park Veteran's Memorial in the City of Kalamazoo to honor all veterans who served in the armed forces from our community. Please join us in celebration of our own heroes.

#### Things You Can Do:

-  Volunteer at a local VA facility
-  Thank everyone you know who has served in the armed forces
-  Take flowers to the grave sites of deceased military personnel
-  Make a donation of time or money to a local Veterans organization

### Veterans Day Women Empowerment Brunch

Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am–2:00pm

Kalamazoo Public Library downtown, 315 S. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI

In honor of Veterans Day, we cordially invite you to the 2018 Women's Empowerment Brunch, where we will raise funds to provide housing and assistance for homeless veteran women. Veteran service providers will be in attendance. Panel Discussion, vendors, door Prizes, veteran services and more.



### Kalamazoo County Courts Adoption Day 2018

Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Kalamazoo County Courts will finalize adoptions, hold parties for adoptive families, and educate the public about the adoption process



**MICHIGAN ADOPTION MONTH**

Giving thanks for families

NOVEMBER 2018

### National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week

November 10 – 18, 2018

One week before Thanksgiving each year, the [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) and the [National Student Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness](#) co-sponsor National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. During this week, a number of schools, communities, and cities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness.

#### What You Can Do:

- ❖ **Volunteer.** Pitch in at your area food bank or shelter.
- ❖ **Donate.** Support local programs with food, clothing, and money.
- ❖ **Educate.** Raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in your community.

[Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes](#)

[Ministry with Community](#)

[The Open Door](#)

[Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging Resources](#)

[Kalamazoo Gospel Mission](#)





Remember to turn your clocks back!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00am on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The clocks roll back an hour...yes, we get an extra hour of sleep that night!!

It's not too late to get your flu vaccination! Available at the Health & Community Services Department office located at 311 East Alcott Street (\*\*new location\*\*), Kalamazoo, on the following dates and times:

Monday, Tuesday\*, Wednesday, and Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

\*The third Tuesday of the month the clinic is closed from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

Most insurance plans will cover the cost for these vaccines, but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. For questions regarding the influenza vaccine, contact the Health & Community Services Immunization Clinic at 269-373-5203.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.kalcounty.com)  
You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, & LinkedIn.

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



### Kalamazoo County Government

Mission: In the pursuit of extraordinary governance, Kalamazoo County Government provides equitable programs and excellent services to promote the health and safety of everyone in Kalamazoo County.

Provide services which promote Health, Equity and Well-Being in Kalamazoo County

