



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance



December 2018

We Are Kalamazoo County Government!

COUNTY COMMUNICATOR



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From the Administrative Services Office

Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority Goes Live!



Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (KCCDA) completed the official transition of their five Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to one centralized entity, the Kalamazoo County Emergency 9-1-1 Service System, on October 31, 2018. The consolidation unites Portage Public Safety, Kalamazoo Township Police Department, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, and Western Michigan University Public Safety centers under the same roof to service the entire Kalamazoo County area. This consolidation is the result of many years of research and consideration, and brings KCCDA's mission to fruition:

Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority's (KCCDA) mission is to create, operate, maintain, and equip, a single and separate entity, which is an efficient and non-duplicative way of providing cost effective, and efficient public safety dispatch and public safety answering point services for the residents and visitors of Kalamazoo County.

The need for jurisdictions to consolidate emergency dispatch services has long been recognized as a means to create greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and provide a higher level of inter-agency coordination and service. The determining factors in the consideration for consolidation included feasibility, technological and financial viability, and the ability to provide improved service to the EMS agencies, our residents and our community. The merger of the five PSAPs facilitates faster response times, expanded service levels through increased coordination and interoperability, better training and certification opportunities for dispatchers, and augmented communications equipment and technology. **(cont'd on page 2)**

Need to find a service in your community? Gryphon Place 2-1-1 Information and Referral service provides quick and easy access to information about health and human service agencies in Kalamazoo County. Community Resource Advisors work with callers to assess their needs, determine their options and provide appropriate programs/services, give support and advocate for the caller as needed. Whether a person needs help locating a specific service or is having trouble securing basic needs, we can help. You can Dial 2-1-1 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are confidential and answered with respect, empathy and compassion.

Toll free 2-1-1 number: 1-800-563-5432. Prefer to text? Text your zip code to 898-211 to get started.



The new **non-emergency** phone # for Central Dispatch is: **269-488-8911**.

9-1-1 remains operational for **all emergencies**.

(cont'd from page 1)

"This is the greatest governmental collaboration in Kalamazoo County's history," said Jeff Troyer, Executive Director of Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority.

The Kalamazoo County Emergency 9-1-1 Service System through the use of established protocols is strategically designed to ensure that citizens in need of emergency, health, and social services are matched safely and quickly with the most appropriate resource.

Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority has established effective risk management by combining the five PSAPs and aligning its 9-1-1 system closely with public safety responder agencies, public and community health agencies, and establishing formal communication links with both the media and the public to provide immediate coordination in the case of natural disasters or large-scale emergencies. Just another example that we are in the pursuit of extraordinary governance in Kalamazoo County!

TIPS AND GUIDELINES FOR CALLING 9-1-1

IS A PERSON HURT OR IN DANGER? - DO YOU NEED THE POLICE, FIRE OR AMBULANCE?

Have you ever wondered whether to call 9-1-1? Since 9-1-1 is for emergencies only, it helps to understand when to call and when not to call. An emergency is any serious situation where a law enforcement officer, fire fighter, or emergency medical help is needed right away. If you are unsure of whether your situation is an emergency, go ahead and call 9-1-1. The 9-1-1 call taker can determine if you need emergency assistance and can route you to the correct location.

IF YOU DO CALL 9-1-1, EVEN BY MISTAKE, DO NOT HANG UP THE PHONE.

9-1-1 call takers are trained to get the most important information as quickly as possible to get help on the way to an emergency situation. In an emergency situation, allow the call taker to ask you all the questions they need in order to get help there in the timeliest manner before you hang up or leave the phone. If you happen to call by accident, stay on the line until you can tell the call taker that you called by accident and there is no emergency. This saves the call taker from having to call you back and confirm there is no emergency or possibly sending police with lights and sirens to check your address for an emergency.

WHEN CALLING 9-1-1 DO YOUR BEST TO STAY CALM AND ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

Staying calm can be one of the most difficult, yet most important, things you do when calling 9-1-1. It is very important that you stay as calm as possible and answer all the questions the 9-1-1 call taker asks. The questions 9-1-1 call takers ask, no matter how relevant they seem, are important in helping get the first responders to you as fast as possible.

HELP THE 9-1-1 CALL TAKER HELP YOU.

Listen and answer the questions asked. By doing this, it helps the call taker understand your situation and will assist you with your emergency until the appropriate police, fire or medical units arrive.

KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE EMERGENCY.

The wireless 9-1-1 caller must be aware that the 9-1-1 center that answers the call may not be the 9-1-1 center that services the area that the wireless caller is calling from. Look for landmarks, cross street signs and buildings. Know the name of the city or county you are in. Knowing the location is vital to getting the appropriate police, fire or EMS units to respond. Providing an accurate address is critically important when making a wireless 9-1-1 call.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO CALL 9-1-1.

Be sure they know what 9-1-1 is, how to dial from your home and cell phone, and to trust the 9-1-1 call taker. Make sure your child is physically able to reach at least one phone in your home. When calling 9-1-1 your child needs to know their name, parent's name, telephone number, and most importantly their address. Tell them to answer all the call takers questions and to stay on the phone until instructed to hang up.



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, Chair Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com District 1	Vacant District 2
Tracy Hall Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com District 3	Michael Seals Michael.Seals@kalcounty.com District 4
Julie Rogers Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com District 5	Ron Kendall Ron.Kendall@kalcounty.com District 6
Roger Tuinier Roger.Tuinier@kalcounty.com District 7	John Gisler John.Gisler@kalcounty.com District 8
Dale Shugars, Vice Chair Dale.Shugars@kalcounty.com District 9	Mike Quinn Mike.Quinn@kalcounty.com District 10
Scott McGraw Scott.Mcgraw@kalcounty.com District 11	Not sure what district you're in? Click on the District links for a detailed map.
<p>Meeting Dates & Times:</p> <p>Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  December 4th  December 18th  January 8, 2019  January 15, 2019 <p>Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes</p>	<p>Meetings are held at the:</p> <p>County Administration Building 201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue 2nd Floor in the Chambers Kalamazoo MI 49007</p> <p>The meetings can be viewed live or on demand at:</p> <p>http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/</p>

2019 Public Meeting Notices

Kalamazoo County Government posts public meeting notices for the upcoming 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.



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.



I just married and my new spouse has a child from a former relationship that I would like to adopt. Where do I file for adoption in a case like that?

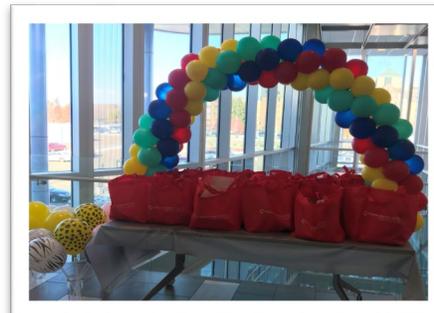
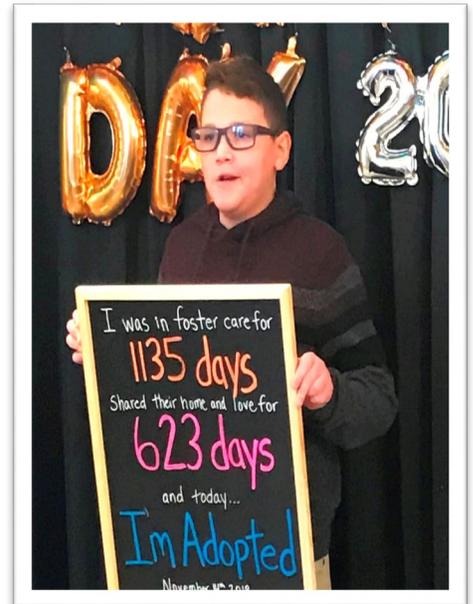
Answer:

A Petition may be filed at the Circuit Court Family Division, 1536 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 269-385-6041



Kalamazoo County Celebrates Annual Adoption Day Event!

On November 14th, 2018 the 9th Circuit Court celebrated it's annual adoption day event welcoming 23 children into their new forever families. It was a joyous occasion full of hope, laughter, and first family photos.



It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year Be Prepared



Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, ice, snow, high winds, or a combination of all of these conditions. The [How To Prepare For A Winter Storm](#) guide from FEMA and MSP is designed to help you properly prepare for a winter storm and know how to protect yourself before, during, and after one.

Planning and preparing can make a big difference in safety and resiliency in the wake of a winter storm. The ability to maintain or quickly recover following a winter storm requires a focus on preparedness, advanced planning, and knowing what to do in the event of a winter storm.



Another great resource for *every* driver in the family is the [Winter Driving Safety Video](#). The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Michigan State Police (MSP) have partnered together to produce a video with information on how roads are maintained each winter and the actions motorists should take now to be prepared for inclement driving conditions. The video is a 'must see' and covers new technologies available to drivers:

- New winter maintenance technologies, such as equipment that gathers atmospheric data and [camera images from plow trucks](#),
- How drivers can see what plow truck operators see through the [Mi Drive travel information website](#), and [see snow plow trucks' position on state routes in real time](#),
- Information on how to prepare your vehicle for winter driving, such as making sure tires are in good condition and that all snow and ice has been cleared from your vehicle before heading onto the road,
- Why drivers should give plow operators extra space, and consider staying behind them in winter storms,
- The use of green lights on plow trucks,
- Michigan's Move Over Law, which requires motorists to move over for stationary emergency vehicles with their lights activated or slow down and pass with caution if it is not possible to safely change lanes, and
- Other reminders for winter driving, such as avoiding distractions, using headlights during winter weather, and leaving extra space between vehicles.

And lastly, a word on [Holiday Safety And Crime Prevention](#) tips from The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office.

- Carry only what you need. Extra cash, credit cards, checks, jewelry and other items should be left at home. Carry what you need and keep purses and wallets in front of you.
- Don't be overburdened with packages. Request the store hold purchases until you are done shopping, or place your purchases in the trunk of your car as you shop.
- Shop with others. If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90% less than when alone.
- Ask for an escort. Many retailers have security personnel. Ask for an escort to your vehicle if you are uneasy.
- Be prepared. Have your keys in hand when walking to your vehicle. Carry a whistle or personal alarm.
- Plan ahead. Choose areas to park where lighting is good and activity is high. Valuables in your vehicle should be kept out of view. Be sure to lock the car at all times.
- For home deliveries, consider having your holiday packages delivered to your place of employment or to a neighbor who will be home during the day.



The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and Kalamazoo County Government wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Data Hub

A Community Resource available online
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (KCHSC) is excited to announce the launch of a new community resource called the [Kalamazoo County Data Hub](#). The Data Hub is available for everyone to explore information that reflects the health occurrences and outcomes in Kalamazoo County. The goal is for the community, partners and stakeholders alike to utilize this resource in order to support their work.

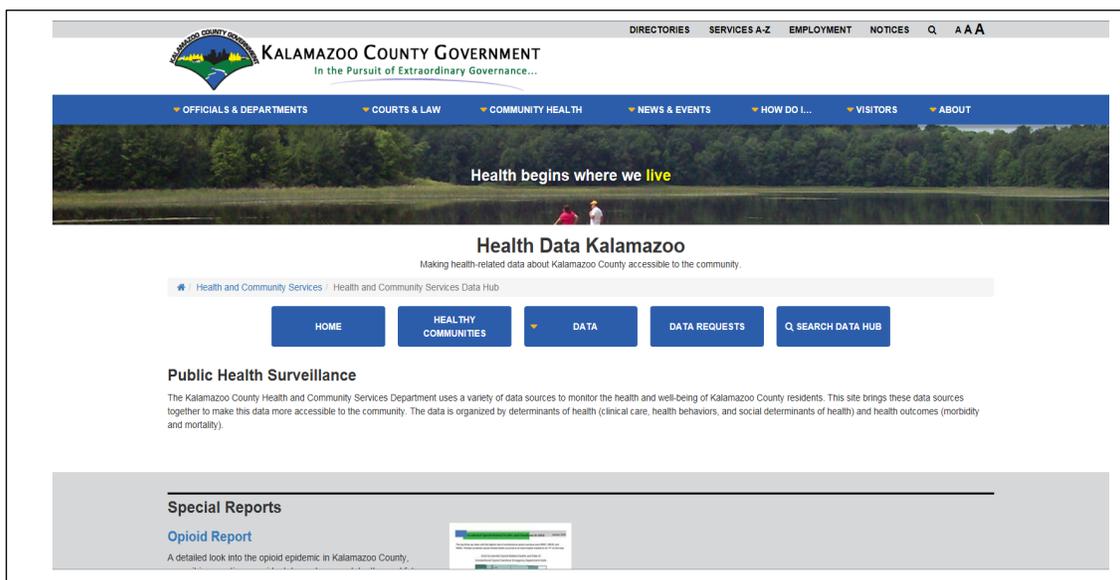
KCHCS is a large, multifaceted organization with numerous services, programs, and sponsors. There is a lot of collaboration within the community that is fueled by data specific to Kalamazoo County. KCHCS envisioned a centralized location for the multitude of data that has been accumulated to support and highlight work being done, and envisioned a utility that would make this information easily accessible. The Data Hub has achieved that.

“The data hub is a tool for the community to use that will help facilitate evidence-based decision making, which in turn will improve the health of all Kalamazoo County residents.”

The Data Hub is a dynamic database and reflects historical information, current data and new reports, which will be vetted to ensure the data is reliable, timely and specific to Kalamazoo County. The process utilizes all pertinent experts and leadership at Health and Community Services. The Data Hub will also highlight special community-specific health reports, such as the opioid report and weekly influenza trends.

Mary Franks, KCHCS Epidemiologist

The Data Hub provides residents, non-profit organizations, grant writers, health organizations and anyone seeking data for evidence-based decisions easy access to Kalamazoo County-specific data. If residents cannot find the data they are looking for, need additional information or have questions about the data listed in the Data Hub, then they call fill out a Data Request Form online: (<http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/datahub/datarequest.php>). When completing a data request form, be as specific as possible about the purpose of the request, the type of information needed, and anything else that will facilitate getting the correct data to you as quickly and efficiently as possible.



Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[Kalamazoo Nature Center's Buy Local Art & Gift Fair](#)

7000 N. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 9 am - 4 pm

The Buy Local Art & Gift Fair is not your ordinary art fair! More than 50 local artisans transform the Visitor Center with their creative displays and top quality work. Visitors enjoy chatting with the artists and vendors, surrounded by the beauty of the winter woods. KNC supports buying local and gives back to the community by offering FREE ADMISSION to both the Art & Gift Fair and KNC's beautiful winter trails.



[Candy Cane Hunt](#)

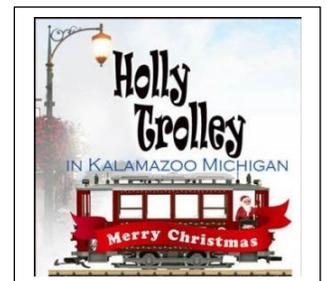
December 8th – Noon until 2:00pm
Homer Stryker Field

Candy Canes, Crafts, and Santa! Join the Parks and Recreation Department for the 13th annual Candy Cane Hunt on Homer Stryker Field for fun and Holiday festivities. We will have seasonally themed crafts, food and drink, and drawings for gifts. Please bring your unwrapped toy to benefit the Toys for Tots program here in West Michigan. All kids that donate a toy to the Toys for Tots will receive an additional 2 entries for the Santa Sack drawing (limit 1 prize per child).



[Holly Jolly Trolley](#)

The Holly Jolly Trolley travels around downtown Kalamazoo to provide people with easy access to parking lots, stores, restaurants, and more. Bring your friends and family and ride in the heated comfort of an old-style trolley. The ride is free! For hours of operation, visit the website. <https://downtownkalamazoo.org/events/holly-jolly-trolley>



[Public Skate & Open Hockey](#)

Wings West, 5076 Sports Drive (West N Ave & 9th Street), Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Admission is \$7 and Skate Rental is \$3. Tots (age 4 and under are FREE of admission).
Tuesday thru Friday, 11:30am - 1:30pm
Saturday, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Sunday, 1:45pm - 3:30pm

**Dates and times are subject to change due to hockey tournaments and special events. Please [click here](#) to check the ice schedule for updated times or cancellations



[New Year's Fest Downtown Kalamazoo](#)

Monday, December 31, 2018
7:00 PM – 11:59 PM

New Year's Fest is an all ages showcase of performing arts that takes place New Year's Eve in downtown Kalamazoo. There are a variety of activities that take place including music, magic, comedy, exhibitions, fireworks, and great food! New Year's Fest's vision is to be a premier event that introduces the greater Kalamazoo community to the performing arts by providing an array of quality, unique artists and activities. Special events that night will include live entertainment, downtown hayrides, and of course, the lighted ball drop!



Kalamazoo County Office & Court Closings



All County Offices & Courts Closed:

Christmas Eve, Monday December 24th
Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25th
New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1st

Courts Only Closed:

New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31st



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.

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!