



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



March 2019

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From the Administrative Services Office

Kalamazoo County Government and Kalamazoo Defender finalized a contract establishing a public defender office to represent indigent adults in criminal cases before the County. A media conference to showcase the partnership was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Kalamazoo Defender submitted a proposal in response to the County’s Request for Qualifications (RFQ), released on September 7, 2018. The RFQ was based upon a plan submitted by Kalamazoo County Government to the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), and approved by the State in May 2018. The plan proposed awarding a local nonprofit a contract to operate a public defender office that would represent indigent adults in the 9th Circuit and 8th District Courts. The County selected and has now contracted with Kalamazoo Defender for that purpose.

Kalamazoo Defender’s Executive Director and co-founder, Josh Hilgart, said, “We took great care to research the nation’s best practices and adapt them to the framework developed by the County. What distinguishes Kalamazoo Defender from many public defender models is our intent to represent each client holistically, addressing issues collateral to the criminal charge that might otherwise undermine a defendant’s effort to escape life on the margins, and, when convicted, avoid recidivism.”



From left to right: Commissioner Stephanie Moore, Board Chair Julie Rogers, Kalamazoo Defender Executive Director Josh Hilgart & President James L. Liggins

“The Board of Commissioners has talked about the need for a public defender’s office for decades,” stated County Board Chair Julie Rogers. “This partnership, while long over due, is a giant step forward for equitable justice in our community.”

Kalamazoo Defender will begin taking all assigned cases by July 1, 2019.

Gryphon Place Helping Those in Conflict & Crisis

For quick and easy access to community resources 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dial 2-1-1 or text 898-211. Up-to-date database with over 800 agencies and 1,400 programs; 2-1-1 assists with needs ranging from after-school programs to housing assistance, utility assistance, food pantries, mental health services, and other basic needs. Community Resource Advisors work with individuals to problem solve and determine the best program to help meet their needs. No problem is too small to connect with 2-1-1!

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

Register of Deeds
269-383-8970

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

Meredith Place
Meredith.Place@kalcounty.com
District 11

Meeting Dates & Times:

Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm
Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm

-  March 6th (Wednesday)
-  March 19th
-  April 2nd
-  April 16th

[Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes](#) <http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/>

Community Update Videos

Community Update videos from Board Chair Julie Rogers discussing recent KCG topics and upcoming Committee of the Whole and Board of Commissioners agenda and meeting information are available on line at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/board/communityupdates.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](#)

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.

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:

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@kalcountry.com.



I have a lot of old electronic devices. Where can I dispose of them?

A: Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center
 1301 Lamont Avenue
 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048
 (269) 373-5211



Hours of Operation:

Have a large load or long drive? Please check drop off hours before you hit the road. The HHW Center does close for certain Fairground events and Holidays.

Tuesday & Friday:	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	For additional information, visit the website at: http://www.kalcountry.com/hhw/index.htm
Wednesday	Noon - 6:00 p.m.	
Second Saturday of the Month (Except August and September)	8:00 a.m. - Noon	



Engagement Opportunities with Commissioners

Opportunities to meet with Kalamazoo County Commissioners over coffee. Discuss topics of interest, ask questions, be involved!



Commissioner Christine Morse
 District 9

Friday, March 1st, 2019
 10:00am – 11:00am

Rykse's Restaurant
 7141 W Q Ave
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009



Commissioner Meredith Place
 District 11

and

Commissioner Mike Quinn
 District 10

Saturday, March 9th, 2019
 9:00am – 11:00am



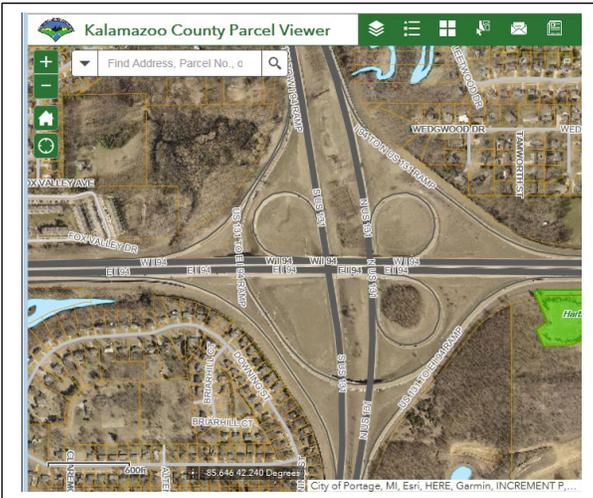
Water Street Coffee
 245 W Centre Ave
 Portage, MI 49024

Kalamazoo County Government Gets a New Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

From the Planning & Development Department

Kalamazoo County Planning and Development Department has a new GIS system which is being officially rolled out and is now available for use by the public and any Kalamazoo County employee. But just what is GIS and why do we have this website to begin with?

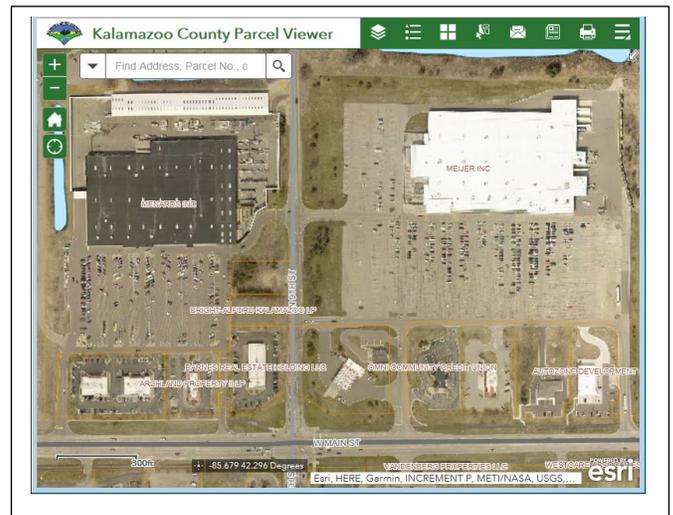


GIS, or Geographic Information Systems, is a common tool for querying and mapping a variety of data. Using your mobile phone or computer to find an address or get directions is the most common way everyone uses GIS at one of its most basic levels. Most data in the world can be tied to a location, be it a point on a map, a piece of property or a road segment between two intersections. GIS provides a way to collect, manage and analyze the data associated with these locations. It can include an address, a business name or even the temperature at that location. Maps are the most commonly associated product of a GIS, but GIS also provides problem solving capabilities since data from many different sources can be compiled and analyzed.

The [Kalamazoo County GIS application](#) helps anyone needing information on properties, such as property appraisers, officials issuing various permits, or just a property owner wanting a bird's-eye view of

their parcel. The system includes many different types, or "layers," of information, including County Commissioner districts, school districts, roads, parcels, railroads, plats, wetlands, soils, aerial imagery, parks and trails, just to name a few. These layers can be turned on and off as needed. Users can measure distances or areas and look up addresses, property owners and parcel IDs. Local government officials can use the system to help notify nearby land owners of any proposed zoning variances. The number of uses for the GIS are essentially endless!

Currently the GIS activities in the Planning department are focused on a few key items. Chris Bessert, the GIS Coordinator, is continuing to fine tune the new online GIS application and finding new ways to present the data to benefit County departments. The address point layer is one of the key layers Chris is maintaining, it is an integral part of the new Kalamazoo County Central Dispatch Authority system. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County is working with Chris to update both the traditional printed and digital official County Road Map. Additionally, the department fills mapping and data requests daily and provides maps in both hardcopy and digital formats for a fee.



If you have any questions on the County's GIS activities or would like more information about the new online GIS mapping application, please don't hesitate to contact the Planning department:

Lotta Jarnefelt, Director lmjarn@kalcounty.com (269) 384-8815

Chris Bessert, GIS Coordinator cjbess@kalcounty.com (269) 383-8814

[See the January 2018 newsletter article, Getting to Know the Kalamazoo County Planning & Development Department](#)

Intergovernmental Policy Academy Young Adults and the Justice System

Kalamazoo County Government and the City of Kalamazoo are working collectively to reconvene the Kalamazoo Criminal Justice Council as part of the Intergovernmental Policy Academy: Young Adults and the Justice System formed in 2018. The leadership includes representatives from the County, the City, Kalamazoo County District & Circuit Courts, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, realizing the strength is in collaborating experience and effort.

The initiative is supported by the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the National Conference of State Legislatures and national experts. It is part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge to generate policy reform for young adults in the justice system. The team will analyze data to develop policies and practices for early intervention, mental health and substance abuse screening and assessment, job training and workforce integration, and post-incarceration reentry through intergovernmental and jurisdictional communication and coordination to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities. The objective is to demonstrate alternatives to incarceration, create models for reducing unnecessary jail use, and to provide municipalities the tools and support for improvement.

The County and the City application to participate was initiated by Chair Rogers and supported by Mayor Hopewell. Their team is one of five teams selected in the nation. A prior criminal justice council was started in Kalamazoo County in 2000 and ran through 2006 until funding was eliminated.

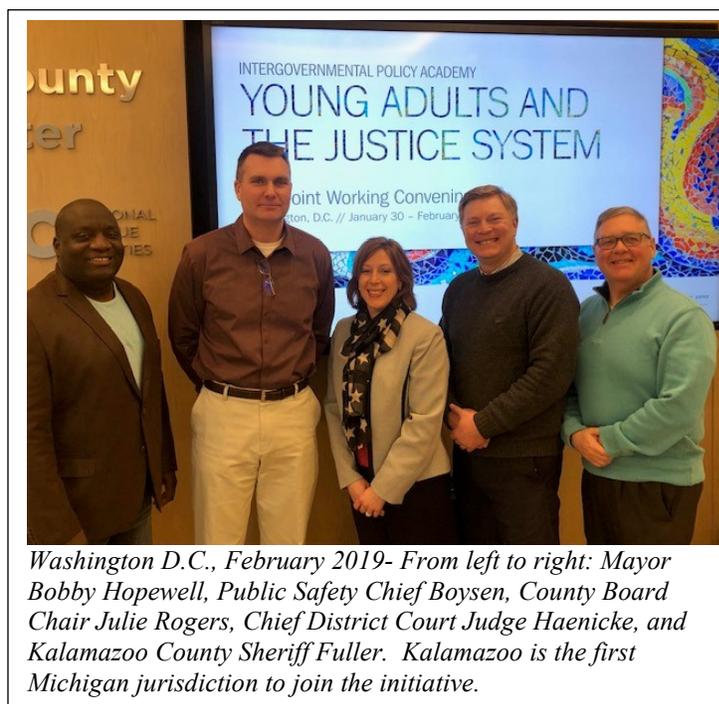
"I am thrilled to participate with these agencies", stated Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers. "We discovered we already have several valuable programs in place here that each other were not aware of. Improving communication and beefing up our data analysis will help identify what's working and further reduce the number of young adults in our jail, ultimately saving taxpayer dollars."

Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting stated it's about utilizing stakeholders outside the law enforcement community that will help the courts and jail make better decisions and identify systemic inequities.

Kalamazoo will work on implementing evidence-based action to decrease the number of young adults in our local jail, while improving intergovernmental communications to advance collaboration between the various agencies. Chair Rogers said the County will submit an update to the MacArthur Foundation in May. A meeting took place with the Intergovernmental Policy Academy in late February 2019 in Washington DC to discuss progress and hear best practices. All five teams will assemble in June of 2019 to share progress and discuss successes, barriers and further implementation. These recommendations will serve as an important pathway to working collaboratively with law enforcement on reforms to benefit youth and their communities.

"As communities, we must do everything that we can to help these young people find a different path in their lives," said Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell. We are grateful for this opportunity to strengthen the relationships with our local partners and learn from other communities and experts across the county. This is a critical piece of our effort to increase prosperity and opportunities in Kalamazoo".

For additional information, [see the June 2018 County Communicator](#) article on Young Adults and the Justice System.



Washington D.C., February 2019- From left to right: Mayor Bobby Hopewell, Public Safety Chief Boysen, County Board Chair Julie Rogers, Chief District Court Judge Haenicke, and Kalamazoo County Sheriff Fuller. Kalamazoo is the first Michigan jurisdiction to join the initiative.



Saturday, March 23, 2019
251 Mills Street | Homer Stryker Field

Gather at 9:00am | Registration
Walk begins at 10:00am

We Need Your Help to End Homelessness!

A 5K [Walk to End Homelessness](#) benefiting Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) will take place on Saturday, March 23rd, 2019. You can walk, run, or jog. Family friendly. Crowd friendly dogs are welcome too. The walk will take you from Homer Stryker Field, along the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, through downtown Kalamazoo to the Eleanor Family Shelter (8,760 nights of shelter are provided here annually), and back to the Homer Stryker Field.

Get Involved!

With your help, we can end homelessness in Kalamazoo County!

Participate, Advocate, Donate! The fundraising goal for this event is \$90,000.

Housing Resources Inc. believes every child deserves a home! HRI has dedicated its efforts to finding housing solutions for individuals in the midst of a housing crisis, as well as on behalf of the community at large. Our services are designed to stabilize homeless households and help those in jeopardy of losing their housing. HRI is a United Way Agency affiliated with United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region. 95 cents of every dollar donated to HRI directly supports people experiencing homelessness. Funds raised from this year's walk will benefit HRI in assisting people experiencing homelessness and provide services and financial assistance to ensure housing stability for socially or economically vulnerable persons. 95% of people assisted by HRI move from emergency shelter to permanent housing.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HousingResourcesKalamazoo/>

Website link: <https://www.housingresourcesinc.org/>



Kalamazoo County Government Blood Drive

Every time you give blood, you give at least one other person another day ... another week ... another year ... and another chance

[Make your appointment here!](#)

Tuesday, March 12th, 2019
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Kalamazoo County
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
269-383-8778

Summer Camp Scholarships

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is inviting families to apply to receive a Summer Camp Scholarship for up to \$250. It is designed to help families send their child with special health care needs to a summer camp of their choosing.

To receive an application, contact the Family
Phone Line at 800.359.3722
Applications accepted now through the end of
March 2019



Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[Women's Expo](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street
Friday, March 1st from 12:00 – 6:00pm
Saturday, March 2nd from 9:00am – 4:00pm

The Women's Lifestyle Expo is Kalamazoo County's premier event created for women by women. The Expo features businesses, communities, artists, workshops and celebrities from the greater Kalamazoo area.



[Kalamazoo Home & Garden Expo](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street
March 7th - March 10th Thurs., 12pm- 8pm; Fri., 12pm-9pm; Sat., 10am- 7pm; Sun. 11am-4pm

Southwest Michigan's premier home and garden event showcasing new building trends, products, ideas and inspiration! Admission: Adults \$10 at the door/\$8 in advance at Lake MI Credit Union & Harding's locations. Children 12 and under are free.



[Maple Syrup Open House](#)

W.K. Kellogg Experimental Forest, 7060 N. 42nd St., Augusta, MI
Saturday, March 9th 12:00pm - 5:00pm

The open house event will include activities for kids like tree “cookie” decoration, games, and sugarbush wagon rides and tours of the sugarbush where we'll talk about the history of maple syrup in Michigan and the how and why of it all. Best of all we will be selling Spartan Pure Maple Syrup! Get the family together and come on out and join us!



[19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade](#)

Downtown Kalamazoo, Burdick Street Mall
Saturday, March 16th at 11:00am

Join us for our 19th annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday March 16th, 2019. The parade steps off at 11:00 a.m. on the Burdick street Mall, at Michigan Ave. marching south down Burdick street, turning right on to Cedar street and ending in front of the Knights of Columbus hall. The parade goes on, rain, snow or sun.



[Kalamazoo County 4-H Horse Leaders Tack Sale](#)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street
Monday, March 18th 4:00pm - 8:00pm

The largest tack sale in Michigan with over 300 vendors. Featuring everything you need for your horse and farm! Admission: \$1 per person donation, children 5 & under free.



[25th Annual Kalamazoo County 4-H Benefit Auction](#)

Gull Lake High School, 7753 N 34th St, Richland, MI 49083
Saturday, March 23, 2019 – Registration starts at 9:00am; Bidding will begin at 10:00am

Many of the items will be listed on the Kalamazoo County 4-H Benefit Auction page (linked above). All proceeds help to support the Kalamazoo County 4-H program through scholarships to MSU Exploration Days, college scholarships, 4-H programming and more!





Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday March 10th
Turn your clocks ahead one hour

Change Your Clock
Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Change Your Batteries



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.

Southwest Michigan Job Fair, Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Thursday, March 14th from 10:00am – 2:00pm

Tired of submitting your resume and not hearing anything back? Talk directly with employers that are currently hiring for positions in every industry including finance, engineering, management, transportation, food and beverage, manufacturing, and more at the Southwest Michigan Job Fair. Admission is free.

Career Life Expo, Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Tuesday, March 26th from 12:00pm – 5:00pm

More than 100 local businesses and dozens of service agencies will be available to help people that are looking for work.

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](http://www.kalcounty.com/hrd)



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!