



# County Communicator

## Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

### May 2019

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### Gryphon Place - Helping Veterans

2-1-1 is dedicated to supporting those who serve our country, including active members of the U.S. military, members of the National Guard and Reserve, veterans, and their families. Toll free: 2-1-1 or 1-800-563-5432.

## Kalamazoo County Government Honors All Veterans



This Memorial Day let us continue the tradition of honoring those who gave their lives for our country. Let us honor all those who have not given their lives but who continue to give of themselves and their families to keep our nation and its people secure and free. This includes the many soldiers and veterans who serve, as well as the loved ones who take care of them when they return.

Today and always, pay tribute to those who have died fighting for our freedom. This is the mission of Memorial Day: to reach out in support of all the soldiers and their families who have sacrificed so much for us.

Kalamazoo County Government is proud to have received the Silver Status as a "Veteran Friendly Employer" by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). Kalamazoo County is the first County-Level Government organization to receive this silver status. Veteran's are encouraged to apply!

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## Resident Budget Survey

**Your input makes our community better!**

Each year during the annual budget process, Kalamazoo County Government must attempt to match the needs of our officials, departments, and courts with the tight fiscal framework in which we operate. This yearly process focuses on the prudent long-term policies of the Board of Commissioners in order to support mandates, provide essential services and to protect public health, safety and welfare. We have also included an additional survey highlighting options to sustain the current level of operations for Consolidated Dispatch services equitably across the county. Kalamazoo County Government believes that resident input is an important component of the evaluation process and is seeking your assistance with assessing our budget priorities as they relate to County provided services. **Please take this brief survey.** A link is available on the home page of the [Kalcounty.com website](#) or:

<https://kalcounty.abalancingact.com/KCG-2020-Operating-Budget>



Visit [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com) and complete the Resident Budget Survey

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](mailto:Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com)  
District 1

Tracy Hall, Vice Chair  
[Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com](mailto:Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com)  
District 3

Julie Rogers, Chair  
[Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com](mailto:Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com)  
District 5

Roger Tuinier  
[Roger.Tuinier@kalcounty.com](mailto:Roger.Tuinier@kalcounty.com)  
District 7

Christine Morse  
[Christine.Morse@kalcounty.com](mailto:Christine.Morse@kalcounty.com)  
District 9

Meredith Place  
[Meredith.Place@kalcounty.com](mailto:Meredith.Place@kalcounty.com)  
District 11

**Meeting Dates & Times:**

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

-  May 7<sup>th</sup>
-  May 21<sup>st</sup>
-  June 4<sup>th</sup>
-  June 18<sup>th</sup>

[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](mailto:Paul.Haag@kalcounty.com)  
District 2

Michael Seals  
[Michael.Seals@kalcounty.com](mailto:Michael.Seals@kalcounty.com)  
District 4

Ron Kendall  
[Ron.Kendall@kalcounty.com](mailto:Ron.Kendall@kalcounty.com)  
District 6

John Gisler  
[John.Gisler@kalcounty.com](mailto:John.Gisler@kalcounty.com)  
District 8

Mike Quinn  
[Mike.Quinn@kalcounty.com](mailto: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:**

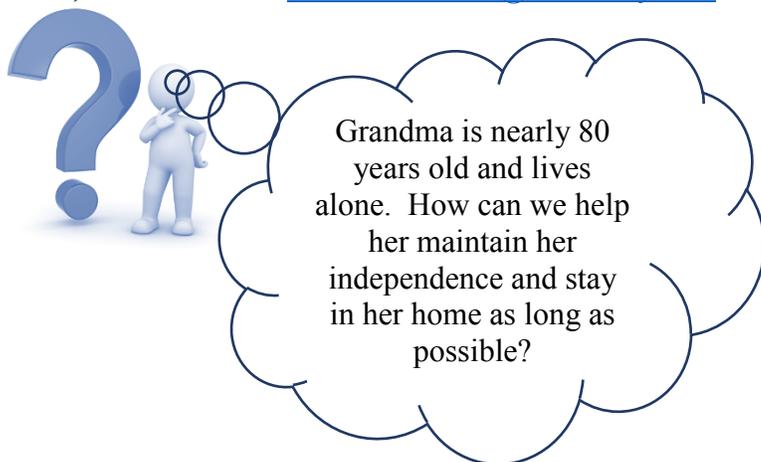
County Administration Building  
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Chambers  
Kalamazoo MI 49007

The meetings can be viewed live or on demand at:



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



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

Follow [Area Agency on Aging IIIA of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services](#)

### **A:** Area Agency on Aging Region IIIA **Choices For Independence Programs** (269) 373-5173

The Choices for Independence Programs (CFI) of the Area Agency on Aging IIIA is dedicated to promoting the dignity and independence of Kalamazoo County residents 60 years of age or older, who are unable to independently take care of their own needs. Care consultants who are registered nurses or social workers, work with potential participants and seek to find supportive and financially feasible means of support, tailored to meet the needs of each individual. These supports may include negotiating informal care, purchasing care from service providers or making referrals to programs that are more appropriate. To learn more about the CFI Program visit

#### **Learn more:**

<https://www.kalcounty.com/aaa/choices.html>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Amnesty Day to be held May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Kalamazoo area citizens will have an opportunity to deal with outstanding low-level nonviolent misdemeanor warrants and charges only, (if you already have a scheduled arraignment or Court date, Amnesty Day is not for you) with the goal of preventing incarceration. The City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kalamazoo County 8<sup>th</sup> District Courts, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department and the Kalamazoo County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual amnesty on May 17, 2019.

Here's what you need to do: Prescreening will be held from 1:00p to 5:00pm at the First Congressional Church located at 345 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49007. Use the main entrance to the church off Michigan Avenue (do not park in the Church's parking lot). Once you are screened, you will be directed to a courtroom at the Kalamazoo County 8<sup>th</sup> District Court at 227 W. Michigan Avenue, where participants' warrant and criminal cases will be addressed by Court staff and prosecutors. Criminal defense attorneys will be available to offer counsel to participants throughout the entire process. The Courts and prosecutors cannot promise that every case will be completed that day, but in those cases that cannot be addressed, participants will be provided with a future court date.

The Friend of the Court (FOC) will be available at the event but will **not** address outstanding warrants. The FOC will, however, be on site to provide information about ways an individual can remedy their case and avoid incarceration. Michigan Works! will also be on hand to organize various employers looking to interview interested participants for potential employment opportunities.

## Getting to Know the Kalamazoo County Director of Information Technology

Information Technology is one of the top challenges for any business or governmental entity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Leadership and management, maintenance, security, support, data classification and keeping up with the rapid technology advances is a formidable responsibility. Aasim Turk accepted that challenge when he joined Kalamazoo County Government as Information Technology Director in the spring of 2018.

Aasim has always had an interest in technology. His education in Information Technology began at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He received a bachelors in Computer Forensics (Information Security), then started his career as a Help Desk Analyst with the state of Minnesota, Department of Transportation from 2001 to 2003. He then moved to a direct mailing and marketing company and worked there as an IT Generalist, which included being the Help Desk Analyst, Database Administrator, Server Engineer and Active Directory/Exchange Administrator. For the next 12 years he continued to expand his knowledge base working as a Systems Analyst, a Help Desk Manager/QA Manager, and IT leadership and planning for various organizations.

In 2015, Aasim assumed a position with 1<sup>st</sup> Source Bank, a major regional bank with 82 branches and over 1,500 users, as Division Manager of Unified Communication. Aasim joined the Kalamazoo County Government technology team in April 2018 and his drive, his positive attitude, and expertise are highly valued.



A recent study found that nearly two-thirds of information technology professionals report a major IT transformation under way within their organizations, driven largely by efforts to deliver added value, enhance performance and increase security. Kalamazoo County Government (KCG) is no exception. Aasim's goal is to get KCG on the path to a more robust and innovative path within their technology solutions. His current opportunities are well on their way to upgrading the County technologies to align with the rest of the world and to provide IT solutions that best support organizational priorities.

Aasim's ability to lead and manage the organizational infrastructure is reflected by the professionalism and proficiency his staff demonstrates in their day-to-day interactions with county staff. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for the delivery of impactful, global enterprise initiatives through hands-on strategic IT operations management. Kalamazoo County Government looks forward to extraordinary things happening in technology!

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### Engagement Opportunity with County Commissioner



Take the opportunity to meet with Kalamazoo County Board Chair and District 5 Commissioner Julie Rogers over coffee. Discuss topics of interest, ask questions, be involved! Join Commissioner Rogers for a quarterly community coffee on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 11:30am at the Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo MI.



## Kalamazoo County ID Program Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE COUNTY ID PROGRAM HAS LAUNCHED. OVER 1,800 COUNTY IDS HAVE BEEN ISSUED. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING OTHERS WHO HAVE YET TO OBTAIN THEIR KALAMAZOO COUNTY ID

**MAY 2ND**  
11AM - 2PM

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
201 W KALAMAZOO AVE  
KALAMAZOO MI 49007  
WWW.KALCOUNTY.COM/CLERK/ID

GAMES! PRIZES! SNACKS!

The Kalamazoo County ID Program is intended to recognize all Kalamazoo County residents and enable them to connect with public safety, civic, and community services. Without a form of identification, a person is not recognized as a member of the community and not afforded the same opportunities as other community members. Having a form of credible identification enables people to become fully participating members of the community.

The County ID Program was instituted by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners to provide photo identification easily and cheaply, especially to those who are unable to obtain State ID, cannot afford the ID or wait the time it takes to obtain one. A generous grant was contributed by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for those applicants unable to afford the \$10.00 fee. Also, invaluable support for the program is offered by Kalamazoo College through work/study students who help staff the County ID office and provide needed research on statistical data and effectiveness.

ID cards are issued at the time of application and are available to every Kalamazoo County resident who can provide documentation of identity and residence. Since May, 2018, the Kalamazoo County Identification Card (ID) Program has issued over 1,800 identification cards to Kalamazoo County residents. More than 2/3 of the cards were issued to people who *do not have any other form of photo identification.*

Please join us on May 2, 2019, to help us celebrate our “birthday”. The celebration will be from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the County Administration Building at 201 W Kalamazoo Avenue. Bring a friend and if you do not already have your ID, get one then and show people you “love where you live!”



## Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Reminder & 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Fair

Runway 17/35, the Airport’s main air carrier runway will be rehabilitated in June of 2019. During much of this project, the Airport will be closed to commercial/airline traffic.

The projected start date is June 10<sup>th</sup>, with a completion date of June 26<sup>th</sup>. Check the Airport’s website at <https://flyazo.com> and stay tuned as more information will be provided as the rehabilitation project nears.

The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport will be commemorated at its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Fair on July 27<sup>th</sup>! Save the date and plan to join us for a day of fun!

# Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing

## Part 2 in the Series: Water

The Mission of Do 1 Thing is to move individuals, families, businesses & communities to prepare for all hazards and become disaster resilient

Being prepared for disasters and emergencies can seem like a big job. Many people don't know where to start, so they never start at all. With Do 1 Thing you can take small steps that make a big difference in an emergency. Do 1 Thing is a 12-month program that makes it easy for you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community for emergencies or disasters.

### Water

Whether you get water from a municipal water system or your home has a private well, your water supply depends on having power to operate the system. During a power outage—or any disaster that can cause a power outage, such as high winds, ice storm, or flood—you may find yourself without drinkable water.



**do 1 thing**  
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

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## Water

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**THE GOAL:** Have enough water on-hand for your family to last 3 days (72 hours). This should be about 3 gallons per person.

*Whether you live in the country or the city, your water supply relies on electricity to run the system. During a power outage you may find yourself without a way to get water. Your water supply can also become unsafe to drink. Both private wells and city water systems can be contaminated in a disaster.*

▶▶▶ CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH TO BECOME BETTER PREPARED:

**Purchase and store a 72-hour supply of commercially bottled water (or more – up to two weeks).**

A three-day supply for one person is 3 gallons of water (one gallon per person per day). Also include an extra one gallon for a medium size pet. That one gallon should last three days, but plan for more or less if your pet is very large or very small.

**1 day, 1 person = 1 gallon (or 128 ounces) = 7-20 ounce bottles = 4 liters**  
**3 days, 1 person = 3 gallons (or 384 ounces) = 21-20 ounce bottles = 12 liters**

During an emergency, you should drink at least two quarts (one half gallon) of water a day. Drink 3-4 quarts a day if you are in a hot climate, pregnant, sick, or a child. Some of the water in your emergency water supply will be used for cooking or washing.

If you buy commercially bottled water, it should be replaced once a year. Store your water in a cool, dark place to keep it tasting fresher longer.

*If supplies run low, never ration water. Drink the amount you need today and look for more tomorrow.*

THE MISSION OF DO 1 THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT **do 1 thing.com**

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**Bottle a 72-hour supply of water at home.**

If you get your water from a private well, disinfect your tap water before bottling. Place six drops of bleach for each gallon of water, shake well, then let sit for 30 minutes. If you get your water from a municipal water system, there is no need to disinfect tap water before bottling.

Replace your water supply every six months if you bottle your own water. Always sanitize bottles before refilling them. Store your water in a cool, dark place.

**SANITIZE BOTTLES BEFORE FILLING:**

1. Wash containers with dishwashing soap and rinse with water
2. Sanitize by washing a solution of 1 teaspoon of liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart of water on all interior surfaces of the container.
3. Let air dry for at least one minute

Use clear plastic bottles with tight sealing caps. Milk jugs don't make good water storage containers, they don't seal well, and water stored in them can sometimes develop a plastic taste. Only use bottles that originally had beverages in them (large plastic soft drink bottles work well). See the previous page to find out how much water you should have for your fam in an emergency.

**Learn how to provide a safe supply of drinking water for your household in a disaster.**

**WATER HEATER—DO NOT USE IF THE TANK OR FIXTURES HAVE BEEN SUBMERGED IN FLOODWATER!**

1. Turn off the gas or electricity to water heater (turn off electricity at the fuse or breaker box, turn off gas by locating the valve supplying the hot water heater and turning the valve handle so that it crosses—is not lined up with—the gas line).
2. Turn off the water intake valve (should be located near the water heater).
3. Open the drain at the bottom of the tank.
4. Turn on a hot water faucet (water will drain from the tank, not the faucet). Discard the first few gallons if they contain rust of sediment. Do not turn the gas or electricity back on until the tank is refilled.

**PIPES**

1. Turn off main water valve where the water comes into the house (usually near the water meter if you have city water).
2. Let air into the pipes by turning on the highest faucet in your house.
3. Get water from the lowest faucet in your house (never get water from faucets that have been submerged in floodwater).

**ICE**

If you have freezer space, consider freezing part of your water supply. This has the added advantage of keeping food in the freezer cooler longer during a power outage.

THE MISSION OF DO 1 THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT **do 1 thing.com**

**Goal for the Month: Have 72 hours (3 days) worth of water stored for your household.**

# Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

## [40th Annual Borgess Run for the Health of It](#)

Sunday, May 5, 2019 - start time: 8:25  
Nazareth Campus, 3427 Gull Road

Events all weekend. Visit the website for detailed information. Because of the tour of Kalamazoo, the crowd support and diversity of scenery, this 26.2 mile race is becoming one of Michigan's most popular marathons. Join in the fun whether you run, walk or just observe!



## [8th Annual Touch a Truck](#)

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am to 2:00pm  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo

This is a family friendly event where kids of all ages can touch and learn about unique vehicles such as fire trucks and police cars, large construction equipment, race cars, and other vehicles from those who build, serve and protect our community. With over 50 unique vehicles there will be something here for everyone!



## [35th Annual Dog Walk and K-9 Festival](#)

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Prairie View County Park, 899 E U Ave, Vicksburg, MI 49097

The Kalamazoo Humane Society is hosting its 35th annual K9 Dog Walk. All funds go to support the KHS programs including spay/neuter surgeries for dogs and cats, free pet food and cat litter, dog houses and straw for outdoor dogs, and safe sheltering for pets whose owners are involved in a domestic emergency.



## [The Color Run 2019](#)

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 10:00a  
145 E Water Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The Color Run is a five-kilometer, untimed event. At each kilometer mark, Color Runners are doused from head to toe in a different colored powder. Participants wear white at the starting line and finish the race plastered in color.



## [Master Gardener Plant Sale](#)

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm; Saturday, 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center South, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI

Fundraiser to support the Kalamazoo Master Gardener Program. Selling top quality perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets as well as hand-crafted gift items perfect for Mother's Day gifts. All plants grown in local greenhouses. Get your green on!!



## [Party in the Park](#)

Bronson Park Downtown Kalamazoo  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 10am – 11am

Party in the Park is one way Kalamazoo Public Library celebrates early childhood literacy and demonstrates that libraries = strong communities! Kalamazoo County preschoolers, their parents, teachers, and child care providers hear stories read by community leaders and costumed story book characters at this fun event.





## Kalamazoo County Office & Court Closings

**All County Offices & Courts Closed:**

Memorial Day Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Remembering on Memorial Day  
Thank You, Veterans!



## *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.



## A MATTER OF BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA.

You will learn to:

- ~manage falls as controllable
- ~set goals for increasing activity
- ~make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- ~exercise to increase strength & balance

**Must Pre-Register:**

Portage Senior Center  
320 Library Lane  
Portage, MI 49002

**269-329-4555**

Mondays, May 20<sup>th</sup> thru July 1<sup>st</sup>  
1:00pm to 3:00pm

### 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



### 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!

