From the Administrative Services Office

Board Authorizes Next Steps in Design of New Justice Facility

County Administrator Tracie Moored reported at the April 16th Committee of the Whole meeting that a land purchase agreement has been negotiated for a portion of the parking lot located on the SW corner of Church St. and Kalamazoo Avenue.

Administrator Moored identified that the next step in the process will include environmental review and discussions regarding the design scope. This project will consolidate the Michigan Avenue Courthouse and Crosstown Court location to create a convenience for our residents accessing judicial services.

Construction is targeted for next fall and is expected to be operational the spring of 2023. Stay tuned for project updates in future issues of the County Communicator.

Meet Up & Eat Up provides free summer meals to children. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs.

The program is open to any child 18 years old and younger, families are welcome to eat, all children are free. Adult meals are $2 per person. For more information, call 211, visit 211.org, text FOOD877877, and for locations visit: https://www.mi.gov/meetupeatup
Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance…

Stephanie Moore
Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com
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Tracy Hall, Vice Chair
Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com
District 3

Julie Rogers, Chair
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District 5

Roger Tuinier
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District 8

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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
- June 4th
- June 18th
- July 2nd
- July 16th

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/

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

Kalamazoo County Government
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance…

Kalamazoo, 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

June 2019

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Area Agency on Aging Senior Millage Update

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 74th county of 83 in the State of Michigan to support the millage.

A recent update on the impact of the approved senior millage was presented at the Kalamazoo County Committee of the Whole meeting on April 16, 2019, by Health & Community Services Director James Rutherford and Director of Older Adult Services, Samantha Carlson. The purpose of the millage was to address the unmet needs for services to seniors in our community to live comfortably and independently at home when possible. It prioritized safety for older adults living independently in their homes by addressing waiting list needs of care management through in-home services, expanded transportation services and home delivered meals in Kalamazoo County.

Another major focus has been to prioritize the safety of seniors by expanding the long term care ombudsman program to advocate for and protect recipient rights of individuals in long term care facilities. The County has also been able to promote and provide healthy living programs such as Matter of Balance to offset falls and increase activity levels in seniors; PATH – Personal Action Toward Health, for management of the challenges of adult diabetes; and Creating Confident Caregivers for those families dealing with dementia.

As reported at the Committee of the Whole, there is currently not a waiting list for older adults seeking home delivered meals in Kalamazoo County. The waiting list for AAA care management has decreased since implementation. Waiting lists are prioritized by need, and evaluated for urgency. Kalamazoo County is an extraordinary, caring community and we thank you for making it a better place to live in. If you or someone you know is in need of services for older adults, please visit our website at https://www.kalcounty.com/aaa/ or call 269-373-5173 to speak with a licensed, clinical social worker.
Samantha Carlson joined Kalamazoo County Government’s Health & Community Services Department in January of 2019 as the Older Adult Services Director at the Area Agency on Aging IIIA. Ms. Carlson comes to us from the West Michigan Cancer Center and has been a valued member of the AAAIIIA Older Adult Services Advisory Council for several years. She has practiced as a social worker in southwest Michigan for over twenty years and has tremendous respect for the services provided by the Agency on Aging.

Samantha Carlson, LMSW, OSW-C, ACHP-SW, received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in clinical social work at Western Michigan University, practicing in West Michigan since 1998. Programming includes Choices for Independence case management, Information & Assistance, Long Term Care Ombudsman Programming, Healthy Living Programming (Creating Confident Caregivers, Personal Action Toward Health, and Matter of Balance).

Ms. Carlson’s clinical and administrative practices focus on brief integrative therapy, family and patient goals; and patient centered care, empowering patients to participate in their healthcare and wellness. She is certified in clinical oncology social work and palliative care, and has spoken locally, regionally, and nationally regarding palliative care, psychosocial impact of cancer and blood disorders, volunteer management and ethics, cancer survivorship and pain management.

James Rutherford, Kalamazoo County Health Officer stated, “Kalamazoo County if very fortunate to have someone of Samantha’s caliber and experience”.

**Third Annual Centenarian Luncheon – May 23rd, 2019**

The Kalamazoo County 3rd annual Centenarian Luncheon was held Thursday, May 23, 2019 to celebrate the lives, legacy and longevity of all individuals who are 100 years of age or older. Eighteen centenarians were honored. Centenarian tributes, signed by Michigan legislators Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II, Senator Sean McCann, Representative Jon Hoadley, Representative Beth Griffin, Representative Matt Hall, Representative Brandt Iden, were presented by Melissa Fish, Legislative Aide to Rep. Hoadley. Assisting in presenting the tributes were Kalamazoo County Commissioner Julie Rogers, and Commissioner Kathleen LaTosch and Commissioner Kristie Zamora from the Michigan Commission on Aging.

The Centenarian Luncheon is part of Kalamazoo’s Celebrate Elderhood initiative, organized by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA, and the Older Adult Services Advisory Council. Joyce Ryan served as Chair of luncheon committee. The event was made possible through sponsor donations. The Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (KCASI) served as fiduciary.

Photo by Patti Stratton, LMSW, Area Agency on Aging IIIA.
Mark Your Calendars!

Downtown Kalamazoo June Jubilee

The official kick-off to summer in Kalamazoo starts June 7th thru 9th in downtown Kalamazoo with the June Jubilee! The weekend features many different events held in the downtown area. Browse juried art work from nearly 200 artists at the Arts Fair, enjoy a Concert in the Park, take in the sights and sounds of the Kalamazoo Do-Dah Parade and Art on the Mall, and be sure to join Kalamazoo Public Library’s Summer Reading Challenge. This is one weekend you don’t want to miss! Click here to learn more: June Jubilee Kickoff and the Downtown Development newsletter to stay tuned for more upcoming events!

Resident Budget Survey

Kalamazoo County Government is asking all residents to participate in a Resident Budget Survey. Your input regarding the 2020 Operating Budget makes your community even better! Have a voice in your government. Show your elected officials how you’d balance the budget. The deadline for the survey is June 7th. Take the survey here:

https://kalcounty.abalancingact.com/KCG-2020-operating-budget

Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport Runway Rehabilitation

Just a reminder that the Airport’s main air carrier runway will be rehabilitated and is projected to be closed to air carrier traffic from approximately June 10th thru June 26th. Check the Airport’s website at https://flyazo.com for details.

101st Annual Department Convention of the American Legion

Kalamazoo has been chosen to host the Michigan American Legion Annual Department Convention at the Radisson Plaza Hotel from June 27th – 30th. The Department Annual Convention brings Legionnaire delegates from around the State to conduct business and elect new officers for 2019-2020. Registration required.

It’s road construction season. Subscribe to RCKC Connect for road construction updates and closure alerts!

Subscribe here: https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736724005#/login

Emergency Preparedness – Do 1 Thing
Do1Thing is a national program that has helped countless community members, families, and individuals prepare for emergencies and disasters. Do1Thing is a call to action. This is the third in a twelve-part series to assist you in organizing your family to formulate a plan for disaster and emergency preparedness. Visit www.do1thing.com for additional information.

Sheltering

In a disaster you may be asked to either evacuate or shelter-in-place. In the excitement of an emergency, it can be difficult to focus on what you are doing. Know what to do to keep your family safe. Practice your tornado and fire safety plans. If your family has practiced, they will be more comfortable doing it when the emergency actually happens. When putting together emergency evacuation plans, consider the unique needs of all people, such as individuals with disabilities. Quick tips in assisting are to explain what is happening. Assist with evacuation as needed, and ensure the person they are not alone. Make a plan!

Tasks:
~ Determine the best storm shelter in your home and practice getting to it.
~ Learn how to safely shelter in place.
~ Make a Go Bag for emergency sheltering.

Goal for the Month: Know how to respond safely when instructions are given to evacuate or take shelter.
Hippie Fest
Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
June 1, 2019 12:00pm – 7:00pm

Hippie Fest is a grassroots festival where free-spirited people from across the country gather to celebrate peace, love, and all things groovy! Featuring live music, bohemian shopping, vintage hippie car show, DIY tie-dye, giant bubble garden, cirque performers, kids activities, delicious food, and so much more.

KIA Arts Fair
Bronson Park, Downtown Kalamazoo
Friday, June 7 - Artists in the park, 3:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, June 8, Artists in the park, 9:00am – 5:00pm
Children's activities noon-4:00pm

Kick off summer in Kalamazoo's Bronson Park. Nearly 190 jury-selected artists from across the country will offer beautiful artwork throughout the city's green, shady "central park." You'll find jewelry, photography, sculpture, painting, ceramics, glass, fiber, leather, and wood, along with music, food trucks, and family activities to make a great, art-filled weekend.

35th Annual Do Dah Parade
Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 11:00am

Do-Dah is a fun, innovative, and parody-filled parade that takes place in Downtown Kalamazoo. Participants use a parody to create a laughable and fun parade that will create conversation. Each year, participants are challenged to reinvigorate the meaning of “Do-Dah” (a parody based on a spoof or a satire of a person, place, event or thing). The parade has been part of the Kalamazoo landscape for 35 years. It's a tradition and it is the funniest parade.

Free Park Day at Kalamazoo Area Parks
Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

Bring your family, friends and neighbors to any of the Kalamazoo area parks and get free admission all day. There will be activities and free giveaways!

Maranda Park Party @ Bronson Park - 25th Anniversary!
Thursday, June 27th, 2019 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Bronson Park, Downtown Kalamazoo

Every year Maranda brings tons of FREE entertainment, attractions, prizes, and more for families throughout West Michigan! This year’s super fun attractions will include a super slide, climbing wall, giant obstacle course, and more. Every party will have the chance to win big prizes to fun places like Craig’s Cruisers, Cedar Point, Celebration Cinema, and other great places! Kids will also be able to snack on free ice cream and cheese curls. A free nutritious lunch is provided at 11:30am for all kids 18 years and under followed by the Park Party starting at 12pm.
12th Annual Event to create a community that celebrates the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity!

**Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th, 2019**

Arcadia Creek Festival Site
145 E Water Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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**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](http://www.kalcounty.com/newsletters.php)

Or through our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyGovernment](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.

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**FREE PARK DAY**

**FREE ADMISSION AT KALAMAZOO AREA PARKS!**

Ramona Park, Robert Morris Park,
Upjohn Park & Kik Pool, and River Oaks County Park
(Cold Brook, Marlin Glen, Prairie View, & Scotts Mill are also free)

**June 19, 2019**

**FREE GIVEAWAYS & ACTIVITIES**
(while supplies last)

**VISIT AT LEAST 2 PARKS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY!**

Bring your family, friends and neighbors! Spend June 19th at a Kalamazoo County Park and pay no admission fees.

Swimming, boating, splash pad, picnic shelters, camping, fishing, hiking, trails, disc golf and so much more!

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**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!**