



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



July 2019

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From the Administrative Services Office

New Justice Facility Building Update

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners has authorized to move forward with construction of a new justice facility which will be located next to the Kalamazoo County Administration Building downtown. Preliminary meetings have occurred focusing on concepts and design. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2020. A Request For Proposal for Construction Manager will be released in mid-July with a selection date in September.

Reminder: Parking availability near the County Administration Building can be challenging while construction projects around the building are in progress. The Kalamazoo County Employee lot on the SW corner of Park Street and Kalamazoo Avenue is available and open for parking as needed. It is a short walk to the building and parking is free. Access to the lot is available from Kalamazoo Avenue and Eleanor Street. There are also handicap accessible meters on Rose Street next to the Administration Building.

Happy Birthday America *and* Kalamazoo County!

Kalamazoo County was organized by an act of territorial legislature and approved by the governor in July of 1830. *#189YearsStrong!*

Dialing 2-1-1 is the first step in accessing a broad range of local health and human services. 2-1-1 Michigan and Gryphon work with individuals to assess their needs, determine their options, and provide appropriate programs and services.

- 2-1-1 can assist with a number of needs, ranging from after-school programs, housing assistance, tax scheduling, food pantries, mental health services, and more
- Text your zip code to 898-211 for easy 24/7 service via text Chat online and receive assistance through our website from 4-10 pm

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
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

-  July 2nd
-  July 16th
-  Aug 7th (Wednesday)
-  Aug 20th

[Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes](#)

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:

<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](#)

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@kalcounty.com.



Who needs a Michigan Boating Safety Certificate or license, and how do you get one?

A: Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department

1500 Lamont Street, Kalamazoo
[269-383-8821](tel:269-383-8821)

Registration is free:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/sheriff/contact.php?ssc>

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 8:30 a.m.	Michigan Boating Safety Certificate Class (7 hour class)	Ziegler Motorsports Conference Room - 5001 Park Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Saturday, July 27, 2019, 8:30 a.m.	Michigan Boating Safety Certificate Class (7 hour class)	Ziegler Motorsports Conference Room - 5001 Park Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Saturday, August 10, 2019, 8:30 a.m.	Michigan Boating Safety Certificate Class (7 hour class)	Ziegler Motorsports Conference Room - 5001 Park Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Boating Safety Class – This class introduces its students to the structure and operation of a boat, covers the basic legal requirements of owning and operating a watercraft, discusses how to stay safe on the waterways, and teaches the basic rules of navigation. Students who successfully pass the exam at the end of the class will receive a boating safety certificate.

Boaters under the age of 12 must have a Michigan Boating Safety Certificate and be under direct supervision by someone 16 years or older to operate a motorboat.

Boater education is also required for all persons born after December 31, 1978 who are at least 14 years of age and who wish to operate a personal watercraft (PWC) on Michigan waters. For more information on boat license requirements, consult the [Michigan boating laws and regulations](#).

Enforcement

Michigan law enforcement officers patrol the waterways to make your boating experience safe and pleasant. Cooperate with them by following the laws and guidelines.



All vessels must be equipped with a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person on board or being towed. Michigan law requires all children under 6 years of age to **wear** a USCG-approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel while underway.



To get information on:
[Special Local Watercraft Controls - Kalamazoo County](#)

Programs of Excellence in our Community

Kalamazoo Youth Mobility Fund

Partnership creates free public transit for Kalamazoo Public School high schoolers.

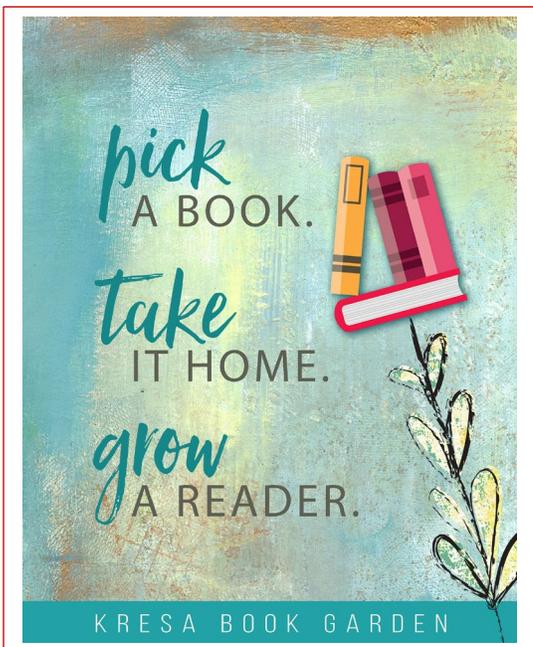
With the financial support of the Foundation for Excellence's new "Youth Mobility Fund," The City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Metro and Kalamazoo Public Libraries are partnering in order to remove one of the top challenges to youth development in Kalamazoo: transportation. The Youth Mobility Fund vision is simple: beginning with distribution of school IDs for the 2019/2020 school year, any KPS high schooler with a valid school ID can board a Metro bus anywhere in the system, tap the ID on the farebox, and ride for free an unlimited number of times.

The initiative is envisioned as removing a main barrier to educational, employment, social and cultural opportunities for youth. Cards will also continue to be useful as library cards per the existing partnership with Kalamazoo Public Libraries One Card program. This will also leverage countless youth development initiatives in the city and supercharge educational opportunity generally. Over time, the program will seek to expand to be as comprehensive of youth and young people in the city as available resources allow. For more information: <http://www.kmetro.com/youthmobility>



Keep Your Kids Reading this Summer - KRESA Book Gardens offer free books!

Over the last twelve years, Michigan reading proficiency has declined, making us the 41st state in the nation. We are facing a literacy crisis! Recent efforts from various stakeholders have provided all districts in the state of Michigan to build momentum, including Kalamazoo County.



Critical research illustrates the importance of literacy interactions in a child's home. Kalamazoo County is identified as a book desert meaning that only 21-30% of homes contain 100 or more books. In order to address this shortage, we created the KRESA Book Garden to get books into the hands and homes of children. This is just one of many ways that the KRESA Instructional Center is promoting literacy in Kalamazoo County.

The goal of the KRESA Book Garden is to replenish the book desert in Kalamazoo County. Our plan is to place book gardens throughout Kalamazoo County based on the percent in which students in a given area are considered at-risk. The KRESA Book Garden is simply a way to get books into the hands of youth.

To plant gardens and grow readers, KRESA is asking for new and used books that are in good shape. They are also in need of book shelves. Donations of new and gently used books can be dropped off at KRESA, 1819 E Milham Ave, Portage, MI 49002. For a list of book garden locations call 269-250-9200 or for information, email bookgardens@kresa.org

Kalamazoo County Government Board of Commissioners has proclaimed July 11, 2019, as Summer Learning Day! A time to reflect

on the importance of keeping youth learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year ahead.

Getting To Know Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center

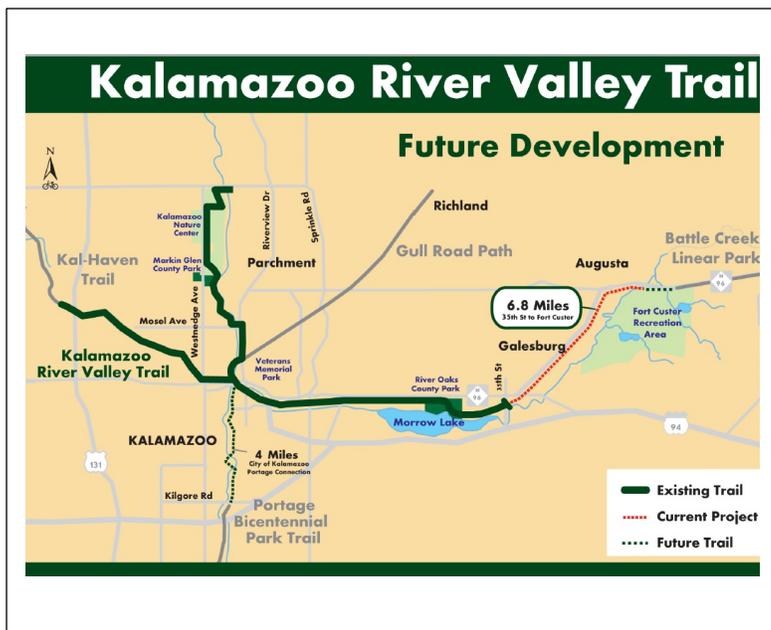


David Rachowicz has served as the Director of Kalamazoo County Parks and Expo Center since December 2004 and he works with a team of 14 full-time and 45 seasonal employees to provide outstanding parks and visitor experiences. In addition, the County Parks Department is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers on the Park Commission, County Park Foundation, The Friends of the KRV Trail, and individuals that work at specific parks or on projects. Kalamazoo County Parks operates five county parks, the

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRV Trail). In 2018, Kalamazoo County Parks had more than 1.9 million visits at the seven locations, generated 18,597 hotel nights in Kalamazoo with an economic impact of over \$18 million. In addition, a major goal of Kalamazoo County Parks is the conservation and preservation of Kalamazoo County Park's 1400 acres.

A current project of the Parks Department is the completion of the 30 mile Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. Today, 22 miles of the KRV Trail are complete and the County Parks Department also operates 8 miles of the Kal-Haven Trail in Kalamazoo County. The trail had over 300,000 uses in 2018 and connects the Kal-Haven Trail, the City of Kalamazoo, Parchment, Cooper Township, Oshtemo Township, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Comstock and Galesburg.

Construction of the next segment of trail, 2.4 miles through Galesburg is scheduled to begin in 2019 and will be complete in 2020. This project budget is approximately \$1.5 million and is funded through MDOT Grants, MDNR Grants, and through private donations. The remaining 4.4 mile segment of trail from Galesburg to Augusta is planned for 2021/2022 and this will complete the Kalamazoo to Battle Creek portion of the KRV Trail. This will also connect 75 miles trail from South Haven through Battle Creek and over 140 miles of trail in total.



The 5 Kalamazoo County Parks each offer unique natural and historical features. From the historic grist mill at Scotts Mill County Park to the remains of the County Poor Farm at River Oaks County Park, you can step back in time. Enjoying the 2.5 miles of waterfront at Prairie View Park, riding the Maple Hill Mountain Bike Trail at Markin Glen County Park, exploring the trails and nature at River Oaks, or spending time at the one of the three beaches or two campgrounds are just a few of the natural experiences at the parks.

Rachowicz takes pride in working with the staff and volunteers to provide these outstanding natural experiences located just minutes away in Kalamazoo County. With summer underway, we

welcome everyone to come out and explore the wonderful Kalamazoo County Parks and the many unique events at the Expo Center.

Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing

Part 4: **Food**

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.

Food

An emergency food supply doesn't have to sit on a shelf, ready for disaster to strike (although it can). It can be part of the food you use every day. The key to a good food storage plan is to buy ahead of time. Replace items before they run out. Buy items when they are on sale. A large duffel bag or plastic tub with a lid makes a great storage place for an emergency food supply. Make sure your family, including pets, will have what they need when disaster strikes.



do1thing
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Food

THE GOAL: Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household for three days without outside help.

An emergency food supply doesn't have to sit on a shelf, ready for disaster to strike (although it can). It can be part of the food you use every day. The key to a good food storage plan is to buy ahead of time. Replace items before they run out. Buy items when they are on sale. A large duffel bag or plastic tub with a lid makes a great storage place for an emergency food supply. Make sure your family, including pets, will have what they need when disaster strikes.

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

Buy a three-day emergency food supply for your household.

Put aside a three-day supply of food for disasters. You probably have a better idea than anyone else how much food you and your family members would need for three days. Follow the BUS rule to help you. BUS stands for balance, usability, and shelf-life.

1. BALANCE
You may already buy food that provides a balanced diet for your family. A balanced diet includes a variety of foods from each of the basic food groups. This is especially important for people with certain health conditions. Also include high energy foods (such as nuts and protein bars) and comfort foods (such as graham crackers or chocolate).

2. USABILITY
Choose items that don't need to be cooled, heated, or need a lot of water. Examples include canned or dried meat, dry cereal, and canned vegetables. Make sure you have a manual can opener if you plan to use canned goods.

3. SHELF LIFE
Look at the expiration date listed on the food item. Use and replace foods before the expiration date.

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

do1thing.com

Take steps to make sure food in your refrigerator and freezer will stay safe.

During an extended power outage, temperatures in your fridge and freezer will begin to rise, even if the doors stay closed. As the temperature rises, harmful bacteria may begin to grow on your food.

If the temperature in your fridge stays above 41 degrees Fahrenheit for more than four hours, perishable food items (milk, lunch meat, mayonnaise based salads, poultry items, leftovers, etc.) may be unsafe to eat.

If the temperature in your freezer stays above 41 degrees Fahrenheit for more than one to two days, food may be unsafe to eat. Food that still contains ice crystals should be safe. Always check the color and odor of food, particularly meat when it is thawed. If it is questionable throw it out (make sure it is discarded where animals can't get to it).

TAKE STEPS NOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR PERISHABLE FOOD REMAINS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE:

- Install a thermometer in your fridge and freezer.
- If you anticipate a power outage, such as a winter storm, reduce the temperature of your fridge and freezer. The colder your food is the more time it takes to thaw.
- Keep containers of ice in your freezer to keep the temperature down.

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT:

- Cover the fridge or freezer in newspapers and blankets. Keep vents clear in case the freezer starts operating again.
- Avoid opening the door to the fridge or freezer.
- Use dry ice, if available. Identify a source for dry ice in advance and remember that if the power outage is widespread, there may be a lot of competition for this resource.

If you don't know the temperature of your fridge or if the fridge was off for more than four hours, the food should be discarded. Eating perishable food that has not been kept cold can cause food poisoning, even if it is refrozen or cooked. When in doubt, throw it out!

Make sure you can meet any special dietary needs in your household.

Some people are on special diets for health reasons. There can be serious effects if the right food is not available during a disaster. If you use special equipment, like a blender, food scale, or feeding tubes, make sure you take those with you. Think about keeping extra equipment at a friend or relative's home in case you have to evacuate.

Talk to your healthcare provider or a nutritionist about nonperishable menu options that can be used if you can't get to a grocery store, or that can be prepared at an emergency shelter. Keep a description of your medical condition and the diet in your emergency kit.

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

do1thing.com

- Tasks:** ~ Put aside a three-day supply of food for disasters
~ Take steps to make sure your perishable food remains as safe as possible
~ Make sure you can meet any special dietary needs in your household

Goal for the Month: Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household (including your pets) for three days without outside help.

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

Take the Family Camping

Kalamazoo County Parks

Imagine sunshine, swimming, playgrounds, fishing, hiking, campfires, s'mores, splash pads, rest & relaxation!

Call the Parks Office at 269-383-8778. Reservations can also be made in person at the Parks Office located at 2900 Lake St. Office hours are Mon-Fri from 8am-5pm.



2019 Kalamazoo Blues Festival

Arcadia Creek Festival Place

Friday, July 12th & Saturday, July 13th

26th annual Blues Festival sponsored by the Kalamazoo Valley Blues Association returns to Arcadia Creek Festival Place! The festival offers an ample lineup of accomplished blues musicians. Food and vendors will be on hand.

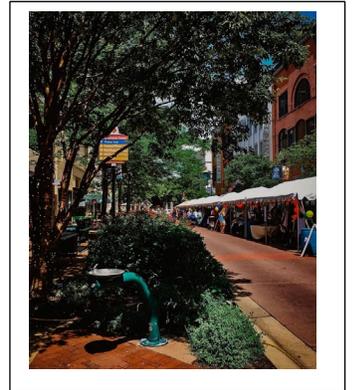


Downtown Kalamazoo Sidewalk Sales

Downtown Kalamazoo

July 25th thru July 27th, 10:00am – 6:00pm (open to 8:00pm on Friday)

Downtown Kalamazoo Sidewalk Sales offers more than savings this summer. Shop, eat, listen to live music and enjoy family fun games outdoors on the Kalamazoo Mall. Plenty of parking in the ramps and on the streets.



4th Annual Air Fair and Airport 90th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, July 27th from 10:00am to 3:00pm

5235 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 49002

Our 4th annual Air Fair is a free family friendly event! It will be a day full of games, giveaways, planes, food, and more. This year, we're celebrating our 90th Anniversary. Come hang out with us! Free parking, free entry!



Local Farmers Markets are open! Fresh from the farm, support local!



Douglas Farmers Market, Tues., 3:00-6:00pm <https://douglassfarmersmarket.wordpress.com/vendors/>

Kalamazoo Farmers Market, <http://pfcmarkets.com/>

Portage Farmers Market, Sundays 10am – 2pm www.FarmersMarket.portagemi.gov

Richland Farmers Market, <https://richlandwafarmersmarket.com/>

Schoolcraft Farmers Markets, Wednesdays 3:00-6:00pm <http://schoolcraftumc.com/index.html>

Texas Township Farmers' Market <http://www.texastownship.org/community/farmers-market/>

Vicksburg Farmers Market, Fridays 2:00-6:00pm <http://www.vicksburgfarmersmarket.com/>

July 2019 Kalamazoo County Courts/County Office closings



All Kalamazoo County Courts/Offices closed for Independence Day, Thursday, July 4th

Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers has weekly chats with Ken Lanphear of WKZO.com, AM590, 106.5FM, Thursday mornings at 7:10 for community updates and information. Kalamazoo County Sheriff Fuller also chats weekly on WKZO on Wednesday mornings, at 7:10am. Tune in get the latest on KCG. These podcasts are available later at: <https://wkzo.com/podcasts/the-morning-show-with-ken-lanphear/>



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.



**Kalamazoo County
Government Blood
Drive**

Tuesday, July 9th from 9:00am to 2:00pm
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo MI 49048

[Time slots available, sign up here.](#)

1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives...please give

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



**SAFE
KIDS
KALAMAZOO
COUNTY**

Kids Are Fragile
install, and use your child restraint
correctly every time



Safe Kids Coalition Car Seat Check Up
Friday July 7, 2019
from Noon - 4 p.m.
Westwood Fire Station
1310 Nichols Rd, Kalamazoo ■ MI

For more information, call (269) 341-8830

Car seats replacement may be recommended for the safety of your child.

- Child **MUST** be present - for seat replacement
- **MUST** have vehicle with lap/shoulder belt available for child needing booster seat.
- We reserve the right to limit the number of car seats per family.
- No appointment necessary, first come, first served.

