



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



August 2019

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Commissioners in Attendance at Annual NACo Conference

Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers and Commissioner Stephanie Moore joined over 3,000 county officials from across the nation last month to work on key policy issues at the 2019 National Association of Counties Annual Conference (NACo).

Commissioners Rogers and Moore were part of a contingent of more than 40 commissioners and county administrators from across Michigan in attendance at this year's annual conference. The gathering, the largest single gathering each year of county officials, was held in Clark County, Nevada.

The conference featured working sessions on topics about how local governments can bolster services to the aging and using data to address family stability and public safety. Members also participated in voting to hone the [American County Platform](#), which guides NACo's work on Capitol Hill and with executive agencies.

NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments - rural, urban, large, small and everything in between. A nonpartisan organization, NACo assists America's 3,069 counties by amplifying our voices at the national level, connecting local and federal officials and providing tools to help us achieve local priorities. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters innovation, encourages intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and offers solutions to save counties and taxpayers money.

2019 Resident Budget Survey Results

Kalamazoo County believes that resident input is an important component of the evaluation process and appreciates the valuable feedback provided. Kalamazoo County Government (KCG) is pleased that participation doubled from the 2018 survey and we look forward to continuing to refine and increase participation in future years!

To view the entire survey results, please visit the Kalamazoo County website, Finance section for the complete report, or click here:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/finance/Resident%20Budget%20Simulation%20for%202020%20Budget%20Results.pdf>

Thank you Kalamazoo County Residents!

CALL 2-1-1

Speak with a live, highly-trained service professional. All calls are confidential

Accessible 24/7/365

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

-  August 7th (Wednesday)
-  August 20th
-  September 3rd
-  September 17th

[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 highlights 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 Citizen's Police Academy Receives National Recognition

Lieutenant Jeff Baker, coordinator of the Kalamazoo County Citizen's Police Academy has been awarded the Citizen's Police Academy Coordinator of the Year at the 2019 National Citizen's Police Academy Annual Conference. The National Citizen's Police Academy Association consists of coordinators from police agencies across the country.

Lieutenant Baker said it was a great honor to be recognized for the efforts put forth by everyone that is involved with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Citizen's Police Academy, and for the program to be recognized as one of the best in the country. Congratulations to Lieutenant Baker and to the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office! Those who have participated in the Academy in previous years all agree it is a lifetime experience you won't want to miss!



Registration for the 2019 Citizen's Police Academy Opens August 1st

The Citizen's Police Academy is an eleven week program that meets once a week on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, beginning September 4th and running thru November 13th. The Citizen's Police Academy allows residents to become more educated on Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office procedures and the pressures associated within law enforcement. They seek and invite a diverse group of people that either live in, or work in Kalamazoo County, to apply. Requirements include that you must be at least 21 years of age, have no felony convictions, and have no misdemeanor convictions within the last 3 years. There is no cost to attend. Applications will be available on the Sheriff's Office website at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/sheriff/> starting August 1st. The class is limited to 25 citizens. Register early!



The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy has been established to continue the positive movement in the relationships between the citizens of Kalamazoo County and their Sheriff's Office. The goal is to develop and enhance resident awareness and understanding of the police role in the community. Through this growing nucleus of responsible, well-informed citizens the challenges, practices, and myths about law enforcement will be brought into focus. Through these cooperative efforts all involved will be able to make Kalamazoo County an even greater place to live and work.

Class presentations consist of lectures, demonstrations, videos, computer presentations, and "hands on" participation. Walk through tours of the Correctional Facility, the Courthouse and Consolidated Dispatch are offered as well as participation in a "mock trial", a visit with the K9 team, and crime scene investigation techniques. Each participant is given the opportunity to ride with an officer for one shift. For more information on the Citizen's Police Academy and the selection process, please call the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office at 269-383-8725 or email Lieutenant Jeff Baker at jmbake@kalcounty.com. Don't forget to congratulate him on a job very well done!

Intergovernmental Policy Academy - Young Adults and the Justice System Update

In previous issues of the Kalamazoo County Communicator ([June 2018](#) and [March 2019](#)) it was reported that Kalamazoo County Government and the City of Kalamazoo collaborated and were jointly awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge grant. The team, consisting of representatives from the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, Kalamazoo County Courts, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's office, Kalamazoo City Council, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, the UpJohn Institute, and the Michigan State Legislature, recently reconvened with 4 other counties/cities from across the country to learn more from national experts in criminal justice reform.



(L to R) Bridget Timmeney, (Upjohn Institute), David Boysen (KDPS), Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers Mayor Bobby Hopewell

Several milestones established by the team have been realized. The first goal was reconvening the Kalamazoo Criminal Justice Council (KCJC) which last met in 2005. This reinvigorated group's primary goal is to improve interagency communication, examine best practices, and find ways to reduce recidivism as well as prevent crime in Kalamazoo county.

The second goal is to begin data analysis of 17-24 year olds in our jail, including their criminal charges, how long they were in jail, why they were in jail, their bonds, etc. The good news is that preliminary analysis indicates Kalamazoo County is well below the national average in terms of the number of such individuals in jail awaiting trial. We are pleased to announce the UpJohn Institute has agreed to partner with us, and assist with further data collection and analysis.

“Ultimately, I am encouraged by the incremental progress we have made so far,” stated County Board Chair Julie Rogers. “I am committed to continuing this work with our partners to decrease the number of young adults entering our criminal justice system and collaborate with community partners to further enhance opportunities for them.”

8th District Court Chief Judge Christopher T. Haenicke said, “Kalamazoo has a long history of innovation and collaboration when it comes to initiatives such as this. We are doing things right, but there is always room for improvement.”

Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging will be hosting a **FREE Matter of Balance** workshop starting Thursday, August 1st thru September 19th. The workshop will be held every Thursday from 9:30am to 11:30am at the Health & Community Services building at 311 E. Alcott Street. To register call 269-373-5021 or email kmmill@kalcounty.com

A Matter of Balance is an award winning, evidence-based program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who have concerns about falls. The program utilizes volunteer coaches to teach the eight two-hour sessions. Call today for more information!



Y Kalamazoo County Youth Fair

August 6-10, 2019



Superheroes, Fairytale, Farms & Animals!

Open 9AM – 9PM every day.
Daily admission \$6.00 Kids ages 6-12 \$2.00 Kids under 5 FREE!



The Kalamazoo County Youth Fair is dedicated to providing an affordable family event full of fun and educational experiences for you and your family!

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, August 6th - SCIENCE DAY

Wednesday, August 7th - FAIRYTALE DAY

Thursday, August 8th - PLANES TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES DAY

Friday, August 9th - THE BUZZ ABOUT BOOKS DAY

Saturday, August 10th - WESTERN DAY & VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DAY!

Nightly featured entertainment. All shows free with paid admission. Free parking. For a detailed fair schedule, entertainment lineup, 4-H shows and events, and much more, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/kalamazoocountyfair/>

<http://www.kalcounty.com/parks/fair/>




Veterans and Their Families Get In Free

Kalamazoo County Fair Expo Center
Saturday, August 10, 2019 12pm to 3pm
During "Veteran's Day" at the Fair
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo MI 49048

Free wristbands for the first 100 vets and families

Veterans and families will receive information about benefits and services including, healthcare, education, employment and quality of life. FREE ride wristbands for the first 100 veterans and their immediate family members including spouse and children under age 18. (up to 4 per family) Free admission to immediate family members only.

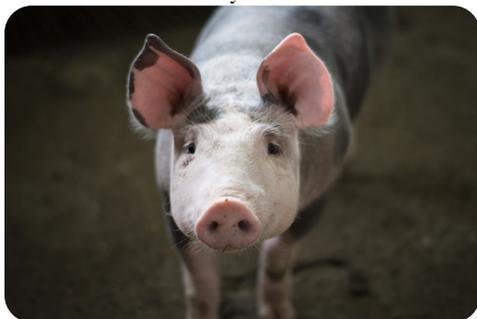
VA Mobile Healthcare Enrollment will be on site! Bring your DD214! If you don't have one, members of the MVAA will be there to help you acquire one

For more information find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/samivcat 

As part of the **Veteran's Appreciation Day on Saturday August 10th**, there will be a Veteran's Expo in the Expo South Room from 12pm-3pm. All Veterans are welcome, and we thank you for your service!



Kalamazoo County 4-H



Midway - Maple Leaf Amusements




\$10 CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS
Buy your Carnival Wristbands in advance at local Kalamazoo area Harding's Stores for \$10.00 each (Only available until 8/5. After 8/5 Wristbands are \$20)

Kalamazoo County Youth Fair
August 6-10, 2019

LEARN MORE 

Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing

Part 5 in the Series: **Work, School, & Community**

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 fifth 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.

Work, School & Community

Disasters can happen at any time. If you are away from home do you know where to find safe shelter locations? Do you know what the emergency procedures are for your child's school or for your workplace? Will people who count on you know what to do if you can't reach them? Know how to make sure you and your loved ones are safe in a disaster, no matter where you are.



do1thing
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Work, School, & Community

THE GOAL: Make sure the people who count on you are prepared for a disaster.

Disasters can happen at any time. If you are away from home do you know where to find safe shelter locations? Do you know what the emergency procedures are for your child's school or for your workplace? Will people who count on you know what to do if you can't reach them? Know how to make sure you and your loved ones are safe in a disaster, no matter where you are.

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

Make sure emergency procedures are in place for your workplace or school.

Talk to your employer about emergency plans for the building where you work. Think about other places that you and family members regularly spend time, like your child's school. Talk to administrators at those places about their emergency plans as well.

WAYS TO BE SAFE AT WORK AND SCHOOL:

- Make sure evacuation routes and tornado shelter locations are marked on a map and posted in the building.
- Hold emergency training and drills.
- Help create an emergency kit for the facility.
- Know where fire extinguishers and Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are located.

THE MISSION OF DO1THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT

do1thing.com

Give emergency kits to people who count on you (college students, elderly parents, etc.).

Put together basic emergency kits for people who may not be able to do so for themselves or for those who may not think of doing it for themselves. Show them what is in the kit and talk to them about disasters.

Make sure the kit meets their specific needs. For instance, if someone takes prescription medicine, include a list of medications and dosages. For a college student, make sure the kit is small enough to store in the space they have available.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Talk to your college student about how you will stay in touch if a disaster occurs. Make sure they understand that cell phones may not work during a disaster. Choose an emergency contact who does not live near you or the college. Arrange with your student to call that person if they can't reach you during a disaster.

Visit the website for your student's college to find out about the school's disaster plans and procedures. Some colleges will provide a phone number that you can call in an emergency. If you don't find the number on the website, call the admissions office and ask. Add the number to your emergency contact list. Make sure your student knows to call you if there is an emergency on campus. Also, ensure your student is registered for any emergency notification system on their campus.

INSURANCE

Talk to your insurance agent to find out if your policy covers your student's belongings while they are away at school. You may need to buy an additional renter's policy. Also check with your health insurance carrier to find out where your student can find covered healthcare at school.

The "Emergency Supplies" fact sheet has more information about making emergency kits for work and school.

Know how others in your community will respond in a disaster.

Talk to other people when you are developing an emergency plan for a school, workplace or organization. Get input from people who work there and other people who use the building. It is especially important to include people with disabilities. Think about asking your local police and fire departments to review the plan. Make sure that what you are planning won't interfere with emergency response.

Find out if your community has designated evacuation routes for floods, hurricanes, or other disasters. Include that information in your plans. Make sure that the plans you develop will work for everyone.

THE MISSION OF DO1THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT

do1thing.com

- Tasks:**
- ~Make sure emergency procedures are in place for your workplace and/or schools.
 - ~Give emergency kits to people who count on you (students, elderly parents, have one for pets too!).
 - ~ Know how others in your community will respond. Find out if your community has designated evacuation routes for floods, hurricanes, or other disasters. Include that information in your plans. Make sure that the plans you develop will work for everyone.

Goal for the month: Make sure the people who count on you are prepared for a disaster.

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[2019 Kalamazoo Rib Fest](#)

Arcadia Creek Festival Place, 145 E Water St, Kalamazoo, MI
Thursday, Aug 1st at 11:00am – Sat., Aug 3rd to 12:00am

The popular annual event features national and local rib vendors that sell ribs and chicken in outstanding barbeque sauces. Vendors will be offering side items and sweet treats to top off the food experience. The event includes national musical artists, local bands, plenty of fun activities including children's games, People's Choice Rib Competition, glitter tattoos and a fast-pitch tent.



[Kalamazoo Nature Center](#)

7000 N Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
August 4, 2019 - Free Summer Sunday!

The first Sunday of each month will offer **FREE** general admission and a chance for you to bring family and friends for a day of fun! Hike a trail, meet our live animal ambassadors, visit the DeLano Farmyard, and more! Our Visitor Center will have extended hours from 9 am - 5 pm, and the trails will stay open until 7:30 pm.



[Kalamazoo County Youth Fair](#)

Aug 6th - Aug 10th
Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St.



The Kalamazoo County Youth Fair is dedicated to providing an affordable family event full of fun and educational experiences for you and your family! Visit the kalcounty.com website for the [fair schedule](#) or [click here!](#)



[Pig Out](#)

Saturday, August 24, 2019 11:00am – 1:00pm
Central Park, 7800 Shaver Road, Portage MI **FREE**

The Portage Department of Public Safety is hosting their annual Pig Out event. This **FREE** back-to-school event provides kids with backpacks and school supplies needed for the new school year. There will be a cookout, local magician Brian Penny, face painting, games and much more! School supplies are available while supplies last. The Public Safety department is currently collecting K-8 school supplies (pencils, colored pencils, markers, rulers, etc.) for the event. Supplies can be delivered to the lobby of the Department of Public Safety by Friday, August 16.



[Ramona Beach Bonfire](#)

August 24, 2019 8:00 – 10:00pm
8600 S. Sprinkle Road, Portage MI 49002

Enjoy the warm summer night and a beach bonfire at Ramona Park Beach. Bring friends and family for this summer tradition under the stars. S'mores making material provided! **FREE.**



Free Sharps Collection Services Offered at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services

Kalamazoo County residents can now dispose of used hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets, more commonly referred to as “sharps,” at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department located at 311 E. Alcott Street. The collection site intends to provide residents a convenient and safe place for free, proper disposal of sharps in Kalamazoo County.

The sharps kiosk is located in the lobby of the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. Residents may dispose of their sharps containers during regular business hours of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, call the Health & Community Services Department at 269-373-5200 or visit www.kalcounty.com/hcs.

Residents of Kalamazoo County must bring their sharps in a tightly sealed, puncture-proof container. Approved containers consist of a medical sharps container, heavy-duty plastic laundry detergent jug with a tight-fitting lid, or metal or hard plastic coffee can with a secure lid. Sharps should not be mixed with other materials. No individual or loose sharps, milk jugs, plastic juice containers, plastic bags, or cardboard boxes will be accepted. Pills, liquids, and other medications will also not be accepted.



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.

Michigan Boating Safety Class Offered

A Michigan Boating Safety Class will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2019 starting at 8:30am (7 hour course). The class will be held in the Ziegler Motorsports Conference Room at 5001 Park Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. 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. You can pre-register for the class on the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s website at: <https://www.kalcounty.com/sheriff/contact.php?sc>



Find Us online!

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Visit our website at www.kalcounty.com You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, & LinkedIn.

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