Kalamazoo County Government Launches First Solar Array Project

Kalamazoo County Government held a dedication event for its first solar array project at the Healy Street Center, 1421 Healy Street, Kalamazoo on October 10, 2019. The Healy Street facility was selected as the optimal site for the solar project after a review of rate structures and electrical use loads for each County facility. The project contains approximately 400 - 100% silica (sand) panels that are toxin free and environmentally safe, and consist of a 149.65 kW fixed system, projected to produce 201,889 kWh, reducing energy consumption by 70%.

Kalamazoo County Government’s sustainability budget policy details a commitment to fostering a safe, secure future that conserves natural resources while meeting basic human needs and services. This commitment to a sustainable future is an important consideration in operating public facilities and in making choices and standards on behalf of County residents. Kalamazoo County worked with the Kalamazoo Township Planning Board to obtain a variance that would accommodate such a project.

Kalamazoo County Government began exploring the possibility of a solar project in early 2018 and worked with Helios Solar LLC to assess possibilities. This solar installation is projected to result in significantly reduced CO2 emissions over the 25 warranted life cycle of the solar panels. A fixed solar array system means virtually no additional maintenance costs over the system lifetime.

Chair Rogers, Commissioner Gisler, Administrator Moored, Vice Chair Hall, Commissioner Bauer, and Commissioner Place
Election Day in Kalamazoo County

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, and most precincts in Kalamazoo County will have candidates and questions on the ballot. So what do voters need to know?

Mayor Hopewell will not seek another term in the City of Kalamazoo; his successor will be one of four candidates vying for the top position. Additionally, eight candidates are running for three seats on Kalamazoo’s City Commission. In the City of Portage, the incumbent mayor and three incumbent City Council members are up for election without opposition. Meanwhile, four candidates are running to fill three open seats in the City of Parchment. In addition to city council and commission races, Kalamazoo County voters will see a number of questions on their ballots. An overview:

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency will ask voters to approve one mill ($1.00 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for the next 20 years. If approved, they expect to raise more than $8.2 million “to encourage the operation of area career and technical education programs.” Similarly, voters in the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District will be asked to weigh in on a proposed 1 mill tax for 10 years—an expected $2.3 million—“to be disbursed to a consortium of school districts operating an area career and technical education program.”

Portage Public Schools seek a five-year renewal of a .5 mill sinking fund tax for the purchase, construction, and repair of school buildings, and the Portage District Library is requesting .5 mill for 10 years to provide for general library services and improvements. Schoolcraft Community Schools voters will see a $39.9 million bond question on their ballot—an estimated millage of 4.53 mills for 30 years—for new and improved buildings and facilities, while voters in the Plainwell Community Schools district are being asked to approve .55 mill for 30 years to fund similar purposes.

Wakeshma Township voters will decide whether to approve 1 mill for 10 years to fund fire department operations and first responder services.

Polls will be open on election day from 7:00am – 8:00pm. Voters can verify their registration status, check their precinct location, and preview their ballots online at Michigan.gov/vote. Absentee ballots are available, and new this year is the ability to request an absentee ballot without having to provide a reason. Send a written request for an absentee ballot application to the appropriate city or township clerk.

Check election returns on election night at https://www.kalcounty.com/clerk/elections/results.php County Clerk Tim Snow and Elections Coordinator Sarah Joshi are available to answer your questions about this or other elections. Contact them by calling 384-8080.
Veterans Day 2019 - Monday, November 11*, 2019

The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Sunrise and the Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office with support from the Kalamazoo Veterans Events Committee invite the community to the 2019 Kalamazoo County Veterans Day Ceremony. The Kalamazoo County Veterans Day Ceremony will be held outside at the Rose Park Veterans Memorial (East Michigan Avenue at King Highway). Parking is available for the event on Harrison Street and across King Highway. (Inclement weather location: Kalamazoo Valley Museum, auditorium, 230 North Rose Street. Free parking is generously provided in the parking structure. Bring your parking ticket to the Museum.)

The program includes excellent speakers, music and poetry. In addition to honoring Veterans of all eras, this year’s program will pay tribute to Robert L. Cook, a Marine and dynamic leader of Veterans, who was the individual most responsible for the creation and continued support of the Rose Park Veterans Memorial, which is being renamed in his honor. This year we will present the first annual Kalamazoo Veteran of the Year Award. Music will be provided by Mr. Scott Thornburg, Ms. Grace Kalafut, and the Kalamazoo Pipe Band. Rabbi Harvey Spivak will deliver the invocation. Everyone is invited to come and honor our Veterans!

Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission to Open Housing for Veterans

The Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission (KCPHC) announced at a press conference on October 25th, the renovation and creation of transitional and emergency housing for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Kalamazoo County. The KCPHC has leased and is currently renovating the Keystone House on Stockbridge Avenue which will consist of 6 bedrooms, one which is accessible for disability, a wheel chair ramp and other amenities that will provide safe, affordable, accessible housing to veterans in need.

“The year-long dialogue initiated by the KCPHC with veterans, service providers, community members and citizens led the KCPHC to the conclusion that veteran’s transitional housing is an absolute necessity,” stated David Artley, Chair of the KCPHC. “Further, as conversation continues with our partners, additional efforts will be made”.

The Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission was established in 2002 by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. The KCPHC is a housing authority to provide safe, affordable housing to those in need in Kalamazoo County. The Keystone House is scheduled to open in January 2020.
Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers joined a Michigan contingent of nearly 80 county leaders on October 3rd at a Washington D.C. White House Conference ‘State Leaders Day’ to discuss greater cooperation between local and federal leaders.

The Michigan visit, held in conjunction with delegations from Ohio and Kentucky, is part of an ongoing effort by the Trump administration to solicit local views on public policy challenges. Michigan’s first such visit to the White House came in the summer of 2017.

“I appreciate the invitation extended to local county officials. This is the second time I participated in policy talks at the White House and hope the discussions positively shape federal policies that affect counties,” stated Chair Rogers.

Commissioner Stephanie Moore, District 1, was also in Washington D.C. attending the National Organization of Black Women Officials (NOBCO) Board of Directors meeting. Commissioner Moore was also in attendance at the 11th Annual Black Women’s Roundtable (BWR) “Women of Power” Policy Forum with a standing-room crowd of nearly 300 attendees.

Commissioner Moore stated, “Serving on the NOBCO/NABCO board is a great benefit to the overall work of Kalamazoo County, particularly when dealing with PFAS, Indigent Defense and Diversity & Inclusion.”

New District 2 Commissioner Appointed

County commissioners voted to appoint Zachary Bauer to the board’s vacant District 2 seat at the Board of Commissioners meeting on October 1st. The District Commissioner represents the Milwood, Edison, Southside and some of the Vine neighborhoods of Kalamazoo. Bauer currently works as program officer focusing on affordable housing and economic development through nonprofit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).
Emergency Preparedness – Do 1 Thing  
Part 8 in the Series: Get Involved

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 eighth 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.

Get Involved

It takes more than police, fire and EMS to respond to a disaster. It takes people who are committed to neighborhoods, churches, schools and volunteer organizations. When people are willing to work together for the good of others, communities are stronger. People who are involved are the key to a disaster resilient community. They are willing and able to look out for themselves and others. A resilient community is one that can withstand a disaster and get back to normal quickly (even if normal isn’t the same as it was before). Remember, community preparedness starts at home. If you know that your family is prepared at home, you will be better able to help others in your community.

Tasks:
~Connect with an isolated individual in your neighborhood or start a neighborhood organization
~Promote emergency preparedness in your community
~Become a volunteer in your community (CERT, Red Cross, Neighborhood Watch, etc.)
Kalamazoo Valley Museum
230 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo 49007
Open seven days a week M-S 9-5pm, Sundays & most holidays 1-5pm

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is FREE. It is three floors of hands on exhibits and programming experiences based on history, science and technology. The Museum hosts six major traveling family-friendly exhibits per year on many topics. Regularly changing exhibits; hands on crafts programs, monthly special events and programs; Newer Innovation Science Exhibit, Innovation Lab with many demonstrations; State of the Art planetarium; 2300 year old mummy; two major annual festivals including Storytelling and Fretboard, and new Statewide Astronomy Night, iconic yellow Checker Cab and much more!

2019 Kalamazoo Holiday Parade
Saturday, November 16th starts at 11:00am

11 a.m. Parade Start followed by After Parade Activities. Downtown Kalamazoo - Traditional Parade Route including Lovell at Bronson Healthcare Parking Lot, to Park Street, to Michigan, to Pitcher, to Lovell

Holiday Parade Post Party Events
~Santa Sitting  ~Free yummy treats at various local vendors
~Touch a Truck  ~State Theatre, Warren Miller’s “Face of Winter”

Just to name a few, visit here for complete list:

Holiday Expo and Craft Show
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo
November 23rd & November 24th
Saturday, 9:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday, 10:00am - 3:00pm

This is the BIG ONE! Over 250 booths to shop at this massive annual craft show. Something for everyone on your list! Admission is free.

Bronson Park Tree Lighting Ceremony
Bronson Park, Downtown Kalamazoo
Friday, November 29, 2019 – 5:00pm – 7:30pm

Visit with Santa during the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bronson Park. Santa will be available from 6:20 pm to 7:30 pm.
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

**County Numbers To Know**

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport  
269-388-3668

Administrative Services &  
Board of Commissioners  
269-384-8111

Animal Services & Enforcement  
269-383-8775

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

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**Meeting Dates & Times:**

Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm  
Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm  
- November 6th (Wednesday)  
- November 19th  
- December 3rd  
- December 17th

[Meeting Agenda Packets & Minutes]

**Board Meeting Location:**

County Administration Bldg.  
2nd Floor in Chambers  
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo MI 49007

Meetings can be viewed live or on demand at:  
https://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings

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**Community Update Videos**

View highlights for the upcoming meetings at:  
https://www.kalcounty.com/board/communityupdates.php

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**Kalamazoo County Closings:**

Veterans Day - November 11th  
Thanksgiving Day - November 28th  
Day After Thanksgiving - November 29th

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**In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...**

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District 1  
**Stephanie Moore**

District 2  
**Zac Bauer**

District 3  
**Tracy Hall, Vice Chair**

District 4  
**Michael Seals**

District 5  
**Julie Rogers, Chair**

District 6  
**Jen Aniano**

District 7  
**Roger Tuinier**

District 8  
**John Gisler**

District 9  
**Christine Morse**

District 10  
**Mike Quinn**

District 11  
**Meredith Place**
**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 the Kalamazoo County Communicator was created 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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**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

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**Remember to turn your clocks back!**

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00am on Sunday, November 3rd, 2019. The clocks roll back an hour …yes, we get an extra hour of sleep that night!!

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**Flu Shots Available**

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Immunization Clinic
311 E. Alcott Street
Kalamazoo MI
269-373-5203