Kalamazoo County Master Plan Receives Daniel Burnham Award

The Kalamazoo County Master Plan was awarded the 2019 Michigan Association of Planning’s Daniel Burnham Award for Comprehensive Plan at its annual conference on September 25th. The award honors group achievement in the planning profession that advances the science and art of planning.

The goal of the Kalamazoo County Master Plan was to engage each municipality; identify and confirm the Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission (KMCPC), County Administration’s, and County Commissioners’ understanding of local issues; educate the municipalities about countywide and significant trends; and provide a compelling document with data, resources, and useful information.

The Kalamazoo County Master Plan is a guide and foundation for local land use policies designed to unify and join communities based on their commonalities and provide an additional resource for information and data. The Plan is truly inclusive as it reflects common goals, objectives and strategies, and planning best practices for leaders and decision-makers within the greater Kalamazoo area to follow. Congratulations goes out to the County’s Planning Department and the KMCPC! The Plan is available at: https://www.kalcounty.com/planning

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Update

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services urges Kalamazoo County residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites following numerous cases of confirmed Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Southwest Michigan, some resulting in fatalities. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases with a 33% fatality rate in people who become ill and a 90% fatality rate in horses that become ill.

Early symptoms of EEE include the sudden onset of headache, high fever, chills, body and joint aches which can progress to a severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Permanent brain damage, coma and death may also occur in some cases. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should visit their physician’s office. Persons younger than age 15 and over age 50 are at greatest risk of severe disease following infection.

To avoid mosquito bites, Michigan residents should follow these steps:

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered product to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer’s directions for use.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Know that peak biting hours are from dusk to dawn.
Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance…

Stephanie Moore
Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com
District 1

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Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com
District 2

Julie Rogers, Chair
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District 3

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District 9

John Gisler
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District 10

Mike Quinn
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District 11

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
- October 1st
- October 15th
- November 6th (Wednesday)
- November 19th

Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes
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 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

Follow Kalamazoo County Government
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.

For more information visit the kalcounty.com website: https://www.kalcounty.com/clerk/marriage_licenses.htm

**A: Office of County Clerk**

County Administration Building  
201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Suite 103  
Kalamazoo MI 49007

To obtain a marriage license in Kalamazoo County, the application process is done through the Kalamazoo County Clerk’s Office. The information for the application is entered online (click here). After the online portion is finished and you have secured the confirmation number (ON-YYYY-####) you must appear in person at the County Clerk’s Office to complete the process. This is generally done after observing a required 3-day waiting period.

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**Commissioner Engagement Opportunity**

Kalamazoo County Board Chair and District 5 Commissioner, Julie Rogers, is holding a Community Coffee on Thursday, October 10th at Sarkozy’s Bakery, 350 E. Michigan Avenue, Suite 100 in downtown Kalamazoo from 9:00am to 10:00am. Discuss topics of interest, ask questions, be involved!

**New Commissioner Appointed to District 6**

Jennifer Aniano (D) was appointed by the Board of Commissioners as the new District 6 commissioner, which serves Cooper, Richland and Ross Townships. Ms. Aniano is an English teacher at Loy Norrix High School and serves as the local teacher union’s vice president and board chair for the Kalamazoo Education Association.
**The 23rd annual SENIOR EXPO** organized by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA, is set for **Tuesday, October 1st**. This free community event is for older adults, caregivers and their families. The event will be held at the Expo Center at 2900 Lake Street from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The major sponsors will be Borgess/Ascension and Bronson, who will have flu shots available with your insurance card. Pneumonia vaccines, memory screens, and non-fasting health screens will be provided free. For more information call 269-373-5147 or email jgboni@kalcounty.com.

**SW Michigan Team Hope Walk for Huntington’s Disease**
Sherman Lake YMCA, 6225 N. 39th Street, Augusta, MI. October 6, 2019 - 1:00pm, registration starts at 12:30pm

Join us for the Team Hope Walk for Huntington's Disease. Raffle prizes and auction items will be awarded after the Walk. Family Friendly! Huntington’s Disease (HD) is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It deteriorates a person’s physical and mental abilities during their prime working years and has no cure. Every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of carrying the faulty gene that causes HD. Help raise awareness and money for those families who are affected by Huntington's Disease. You can register to walk or donate money at www.hdsa.org/thwsawi. Contact Deb at deb@hdsa.org for additional information.

**Project Connect, Wednesday, October 23rd from 12:00 – 4:00p** is a FREE day of services ranging from health/vision screenings, dental cleanings, family and child activities, legal assistance, budgeting, resume assistance, clothing giveaways, haircuts, veteran's services, and much more available to all Kalamazoo County residents. Project Connect will be held at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds at 2900 Lake Street. A hot meal will be provided. There will be FREE shuttle rides to and from the event. Admission is free. For more information contact (269) 441-1630.
County Clerk Tim Snow Discusses the November Ballot and 2020 Election Preparations

County Clerk and Register of Deeds Tim Snow spoke to the Climax Rotary Club on August 28th to discuss items on the November ballot and preparations for 2020 elections, including advancements in access and security.

In November, the cities of Kalamazoo, Parchment, and Portage will elect top leaders. KRESA and St. Joseph ISD tender questions regarding funding for career and technical education programs; a Plainwell Schools bonding proposal relates to building and equipping facilities; and Wakeshma Township seeks increased funding for fire department and first responder services.

In Portage, the school district seeks renewal of a building and site sinking fund tax levy, while the library requests a funding increase for general purposes.

Clerk Snow addressed security as a top priority for State and local election officials, and discussed some of the ways that the elections personnel, processes, and equipment ensure the integrity of election results. Some of these security measures include Michigan’s decentralized system, programming being conducted on a hardened network, the extensive encryption measures taken at each point of information transfer, and regularly performing post-election audits.

Clerk Snow, who serves on Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson’s Election Security Commission, is intent on providing confidence in election results. Kalamazoo County currently participates in a pilot project at the state level that aims to make risk-limiting audits the norm in Michigan. This audit method has been developed over the past decade by representatives from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California – Berkeley, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and the Brennan Center for Justice and is endorsed by the American Statistical Association, the National Science Foundation, and election integrity groups nationwide. Michigan is a recognized leader in security and transparency best practices, and these audits will help provide voters with increased confidence in election results. Visit the Kalamazoo County website for a list of November 2019 Candidates and Proposals.

Kalamazoo County Government
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...
Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing  
Part 7 in the Series: Family Communication Plan

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 seventh 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.

Family Communication Plan

Today we have more ways to speak with one another than ever before. We are used to staying in touch with cell phones, internet, and email, but disasters can change things. These devices may not be available. Cell phone towers quickly become overloaded with people trying to reach friends and family. If the power is out at your home, cordless phones, internet, and email will not work either.

Tasks:  
~Have a phone with a cord and car charger for your cell phone standing by in case of a power failure  
~Develop a plan for how your family will stay in touch during a disaster  
~Program ‘In Case of Emergency’ numbers in to all family cell phones  

Goal for the month: Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.
**1st Annual SkeleTour**

Bates Alley, Kalamazoo Mall, Downtown Kalamazoo  
Saturday, October 5th, 2019 - 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Downtown is getting a little spooky and a lot silly! In October, downtown streets will be adorned with specially-crafted, one-of-a-kind skeletons for the first **SkeleTour Downtown Kalamazoo**! From wild and wacky, to spooky and eerie, these life-sized skeletons reflect local businesses and organizations unique to Kalamazoo. SkeleTour begins Saturday, October 5th with a kick off party on Bates Alley which will be lined with kids activities, live music, magic, clowns, jugglers and a professional pumpkin carving demonstration. Take a ride on the **Trolley of Terror** around downtown to enjoy the wide variety of skeletons.

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**Olde Tyme Harvest Festival**

Scotts Mill County Park, 8451 S 35th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Saturday/Sunday, October 5th & October 6th

Hayrides to the pumpkin patch, corn shocks for sale, pumpkins for the kids, husker shredder, and family fun for everyone.

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**Kalamazoo's Ultimate Indoor Garage Sale**

Kalamazoo County Main Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo  
Saturday, October 12th - 8:00am - 3:00pm

126 garage sales all under one roof! Find everything from home decor, furniture, antiques, baby gear, clothing, collectibles, and more! Early bird admission from 8-9am $5. General admission from 9am-3pm $2. Kids are free.

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**Kalamazoo Craft Fair**

Kalamazoo County South Expo  
Saturday, October 12th - 9:00am - 3:00pm

Get your home ready for Fall and Halloween, many amazing artists and crafters participating! 100 booths to shop. You can even start your holiday shopping. Admission is free.

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**Monster Mash**

Ramona Park, 8600 S. Sprinkle Rd, Portage, Michigan 49002  
Saturday, October 19th  4:00pm - 8:00pm

Don’t miss this wildly popular Monster Mash at Ramona Park! The event includes trick-or-treating, inflatables, a spooky hayride, fun shows, on-site pumpkin carving demonstrations, and much more. Food trucks will offer food concessions for purchase. Parking is available on-site at Ramona Park.
It’s Enrollment Time at Kalamazoo County 4-H!

Many people think 4-H is just for kids who live on farms or those interested in raising and selling animals – but that’s not true! Offering a diverse range of topics and interest areas, 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. Each year more than 200,000 young people, ages 5-19, explore what interests and excites them as they grow with Michigan 4-H. In program areas ranging from science and technology to clothing and textiles, and so much more, 4-H provides fun, educational opportunities that empower young people with skills to lead for a lifetime and become the foundation for future success. Learn more About Michigan 4-H. Enroll online here: https://mi.4honline.com

Questions? Contact:
Veronica Bolhuis
Kalamazoo County 4-H Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8867
bolhuisv@msu.edu

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-scenes 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.

Be a Part of the Team!

Veteran’s Encouraged to Apply!
The most recent listing of open positions available within the County can be found at:
https://www.kalcounty.com/hrd

Questions? Contact:
Veronica Bolhuis
Kalamazoo County 4-H Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8867
bolhuisv@msu.edu

Find Us online!

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