



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



October 2019

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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 (KMPC), 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 KMPC! 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,
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

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

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
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District 9

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District 11

Vacant
District 2

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District 4

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Jennifer.Aniano@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.

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](#) <http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/>

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:

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!**

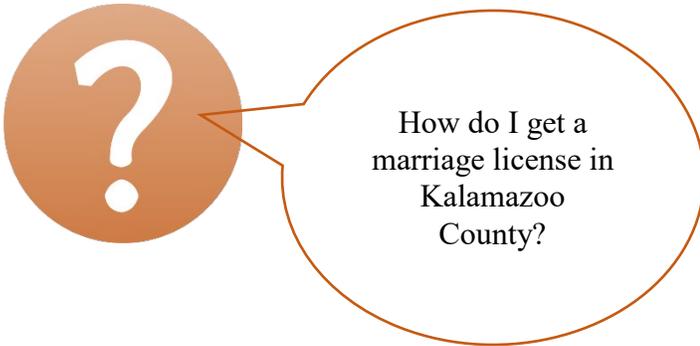
The Kalamazoo County Government Board of Commissioners values residents who are interested in serving their community. There are more than [25 advisory boards and commissions](#) at KCG. Click here to view: [current openings on KCG Advisory Boards & Commissions](#)

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



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.



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.

For more information visit the kalcounty.com website:

https://www.kalcounty.com/clerk/marriage_licenses.htm

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.

Kalamazoo County
SENIOR EXPO
Area Agency on Aging IIIA

Join us for the
2019 Senior Expo:
Tuesday,
October 1
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
2900 Lake St
Kalamazoo, MI

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/thwswmi. Contact Deb at deb@hdsa.org for additional information.

TEAM HOPE WALK

The Team Hope Walk program is HDSA's signature grassroots fundraising campaign to support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of everyone affected by Huntington's disease.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!	Battle Creek/ Kalamazoo Team Hope Walk
Join us for Music, Raffles, Entertainment, Food, Family & Fun!	WHEN: Sunday, October 6, 2019
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT:	WHERE: Sherman Lake YMCA
Deb Boyd	6225 North 39 th St – Augusta MI 49012
269-629-5452	DETAILS:
dboyd@hdsa.org	Check In: 12:30 pm
	WALK- Starts: 1:00: pm
	FEE: *Includes T-shirt & Lunch
	WALK- \$20.00
	Family of Four - \$50.00
	WE WALK RAIN OR SHINE
	RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
	TO REGISTER VISIT
	www.hdsa.org/thwswmi

What is Huntington's Disease?
Huntington's disease 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. Each child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the faulty gene. Today, there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease. The symptoms of HD are described as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's – **simultaneously**.

Project Connect
of
Kalamazoo County

When: Wednesday,
October 23, 2019
12:00Noon - 4:00PM

Where: Kalamazoo County
Fairgrounds 2900 Lake Street,
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Contact: For more information
call (269)441-1630

Connect to **FREE** Services

- Food Boxes
- Education
- Employment
- Clothing
- Housing
- Finances
- Free Lunch
- Health
- And MORE...

Kiwanis Living Hope COMMUNITY CHURCH **ASK** FAMILY SERVICES **LISC** Kalamazoo Helping neighbors build communities **Catholic Charities** Choice of Kalamazoo

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.



2019 National Veterans Creative ARTS Festival



The 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Exhibition will be hosted by WMU's Miller Auditorium on Sunday, November 3, 2019. The Art and Writing Exhibition will be open from Noon - 1:45pm with the Stage Show Performance at 2:00pm. Join us in recognizing the creative accomplishments and achievements of our Nation's Veterans! Free and open to the public.

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.



do1thing
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Family Communication Plan

THE GOAL: Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.

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.

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

- Have a phone with a cord and a car charger for your cell phone standing by in case of a power failure.**

Phones with cordless handsets won't work in a disaster because they need more electricity than they can get from the phone jack. Old fashioned phones with a cord connecting the handset to the base will work even in a power outage. Make sure you have at least one phone with a cord in your home in case of a power outage.

Keep a car charger for your cell phone in your vehicle. If the power is out in your home, you can still charge your cell phone in your car.

If you don't have a landline and you use a cell phone as your home phone, remember that cell phone towers may be tied up with calls in an emergency. However, a text message from your cell phone may get through when a phone call doesn't. Make sure everyone in your family knows how to send and receive text messages.

Remember, never call 911 to get information about what is going on in an emergency. Only call 911 if you are injured or need help.

do1thing.com

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

Develop a plan for how your family will stay in touch during a disaster.

Develop a plan so you can stay in touch with your family in a disaster. Include phone numbers for all family members and those who can give you extra help, such as caregivers. Also include all work, school, and daycare phone numbers, if applicable. A wallet-size form you can use to write down this information can be found at www.ready.gov. Be sure each family member has a copy of your communication plan. Post the communication plan by a phone in your home, and include it in your go bag as well.

OUTSIDE THE AREA CONTACT

Local phone calls and long distance calls work on different circuits. When local circuits are overloaded, you may still be able to make long distance calls. Choose someone outside of the local calling area to be your "outside the area" contact. Make sure all family members carry this phone number with them. If something happens when your family is not together and you are not able to reach each other, each family member can call the "outside the area" contact and leave a message for the others.

Safe and Well

The Red Cross Safe and Well program is a way for families to keep in touch when they are separated in a disaster. Visit the website at www.safeandwell.org now and show family members how it works.

Make the website address part of the emergency information every family member carries. If you are separated from each other in a disaster, make sure everyone knows to go to the website to enter information about themselves, and how to find information on others.

Program In Case of Emergency (ICE) numbers into all family cell phones.

If you are hurt and can't talk, first responders and hospital staff may not know how to contact your family right away. If you have a cell phone, you can provide the phone numbers for your emergency contacts to first responders and hospital staff.

1. Create a new contact in your cell phone's phone book.
2. Name the contact ICE.
3. Enter all phone numbers for the person you would like to have notified in a medical emergency.

do1thing.com

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

- 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

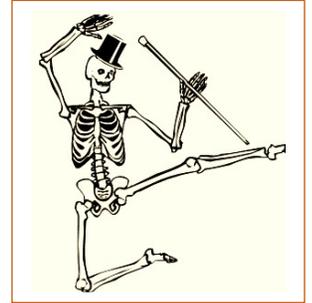
Goal for the month: Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

[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.



[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.



[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.



~ and ~

[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.



[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-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.

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



Be a Part of the Team!

[Employment Opportunities at Kalamazoo County Government](#)



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>