New Kalamazoo County Animal Services Facility Opens!

Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement (ASE) is excited to announce the official opening of the new shelter at 1316 Lamont Street, just down the street from the old facility.

Approval on this long anticipated project was received in July of 2018 by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new ASE shelter took place in September of 2018.

The new animal shelter spans 16,510 square feet and can house up to 106 dogs and 74 cats at any given time. The new facility places emphasis on the health and care of the animals with a veterinary exam and treatment room, a grooming room, outdoor walking and exercise areas, a food preparation room, and two group cat rooms. A new HVAC system circulates 100% fresh air 8 times every hour. An entire wing is dedicated to adoption services with bright and cheery meet and greet rooms guaranteed to bond pets to their people. New office hours at the animal shelter will include Saturdays.

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners allocated $5,000,000 for the project budget, with final cost coming in at $4,800,000. Construction on the facility began in August of 2018. The new facility replaces the 6,000 sq. ft. shelter built in 1984, which lacked the space and current tools and technologies to accommodate the more than 3,000 animals it serves per year.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the new facility, please stop in!
Interested in Adopting a Pet?

Adopting an animal is a legal process in which the ownership of an animal is transferred from Kalamazoo County Animal Services to an individual or a rescue agency. All adoptable/available animals which go unclaimed by an owner may be adopted.

1. **Find a pet you want to adopt**: Our animals are advertised in many places. Check out PetFinder at [http://www.kcase.petfinder.com](http://www.kcase.petfinder.com), or view our adorable and adoptable pets from our Facebook Page at:  [https://www.facebook.com/kzooanimalservices](https://www.facebook.com/kzooanimalservices). The best way to look is to come in. Once here, get the animal out of its cage into a cheery meet and greet room, see how it interacts with you and make your decisions.

2. **Apply for the animal**: We will need your driver's license, and you will be required to fill out an application at our office.

3. **Pay and Take Home**: On the day the animal you have applied for becomes available, you may pay anytime between 8:00am to 11:00am and take it home as determined at the time of payment.

For additional information on adoption, licensing fees and hours of service please visit [ASE on kalcounty.com](http://kalcounty.com).

**Don’t Forget: Dog Licensing**

Kalamazoo County licenses must be renewed yearly between December 1st and March 1st, regardless of when the previous year's license was purchased.

- Michigan State Law requires all dogs to be rabies vaccinated and licensed at four (4) months of age.
- Dogs must be licensed within 30 days of obtaining ownership or within 30 days of the dog turning 4 months of age.
- Kalamazoo County license tags are sold to Kalamazoo County residents only.
- During the yearly renewal period (12/1 - 3/1), city/township offices, the Kalamazoo County Treasurer and most area veterinary offices sell dog licenses.
- Licenses must be purchased directly from Animal Services after March 1st, or if a citation was issued.
- Proof of current rabies vaccination is required to purchase a dog license. The rabies vaccination must be more than 30 days from expiration at the time of license purchase.
- After a dog is over 1 year of age, proof of spay or neuter is required to purchase a license at the altered rate.
- Licenses are not transferable to another dog.

Animal Services & Enforcement
1316 Lamont Street, Kalamazoo 49048
*new location down the street from the old facility*
269-383-8775
[https://www.kalcounty.com/ac/](http://www.kalcounty.com/ac/)
Census 2020 - Let’s get ready!

The 2020 Census is more than a count. It’s an opportunity—to get involved and to help shape the future of our community.

What is the 2020 Census?

The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. April 1 is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census. By April 1st, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the census. Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020.

Is my data safe? Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous: The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home.

Why is the 2020 Census important and how will it impact my community?

U.S. Census Bureau data helps communities respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments as well as provide new schools to ease overcrowded classrooms and new roads to ease overcrowded commutes. There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The results, collected once a decade, help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. The U.S. Constitution requires that electoral districts be periodically adjusted or redrawn to account for population shifts. Each decade, the census reveals where populations have risen or fallen. State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions handle the process of redrawing congressional district lines. The U.S. Census Bureau provides population counts to the states for this purpose. These are just a few of the ways a census impacts our community.

What questions will be asked?

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple and few. The Census Bureau will never ask you for:

- Your Social Security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your bank or credit card account numbers

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it’s a scam, and you should not cooperate.

How you can help

Everyone can play a role. The Census Bureau needs your help to raise awareness about the 2020 Census and the importance of an accurate count. The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. They are hiring people for five types of positions, from census takers to field office supervisors. For more information visit: https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html. Apply now!

Stay tuned to the next County Communicator newsletter for more information on the 2020 Census! If you have questions, please visit: https://2020census.gov/
Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan Opens New Kalamazoo Office

Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan held a grand opening of their new Kalamazoo office on October 29, 2019. The office is located at 4239 S. Westnedge Avenue in Kalamazoo with office hours from 8:00am to 4:00pm. To schedule an appointment or to talk to someone about services provided by Community Action, please call 877-422-2726. More information for Community Action of South Central Michigan can be found at www.caascm.org or through the Community Action Facebook Page.

Gift Basket Donations Needed for the Choices for Independence Program

It’s holiday time, and once again we pause and think about those in our community who may not have family or friends to remember them with a gift or visit. The AAAIII A will assemble gift baskets for Choices for Independence clients who are alone, and for whom this holiday gift may be the only one they receive. The AAAIII A hopes to be Santa’s elves to about 65 individuals and are accepting donations to fill the gift baskets. You can make a difference in someone’s life with this small gesture. Donations need to be received at AAAIII A, Health & Community Services, 311 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo MI 49001 by December 3, 2019. That’s not much time but it is doable!! New items only please. Suggested items (but not limited to):

- Gift cards: Meijer, Walmart, Harding’s, Target, Aldis
- Metro coupons
- Cat/Dog food, toys, & treats
- Dish cloths/Towels/soap/scrubbies
- Flashlights
- Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Outdoor Wear
- Socks (no slip), lap blankets, heating pads
- Magazines/Crossword/Word search (large print)
- Puzzles/Books, Brain games (large print)
- All Occasion cards or Thank you notes
- Mouthwash, Toothbrush, Floss, Toothpaste
- Hand lotion, body wash, deodorant, shampoo
- Washcloths, loofah or bath sponges
- Snow globes, poinsettias, holiday joy

If you have questions, call (269) 373-5258 or email jahaye@kalcounty.com. The Choices for Independence Program (CFI) is dedicated to promoting the dignity and independence of Kalamazoo County residents 60 years of age or older, who are unable to independently take care of their own needs. To learn more about the CFI or services provided by the AAAIII A, please visit our website at www.kalcounty.com.

Kalamazoo County Sheriff and State of Michigan Warn of Government Imposter Scams

Sheriff Fuller is warning Kalamazoo County residents that scammers are posing as government agencies in order to trick residents into giving up personal information and money to the scammers.

A good resource for the latest scam, posing as the state Office for Victims of Crimes, is linked below, but scammers have also posed as the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office, FBI, and IRS. These scammers are calling from local numbers and may suggest your social security number has been compromised and even provide a “case number,” but it is a fraud. Do not give them any of your personal information — and do not send them money.

https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-81903_20942-512391--,00.html
Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing
Part 9 in the Series: Be Informed

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 ninth 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.

Be Informed
Getting correct information during an emergency is the key to taking safe action. Someone in your household may not be able to receive, understand, or act on emergency information. Think about what special needs your household may have. Take action now to make sure everyone in your family will be safe in an emergency.

Tasks:
- Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do when they hear emergency warnings.
- Make sure everyone in your household can communicate in a disaster.

Goal for the month: Make sure everyone in your household can receive, understand, and act on information received in an emergency.
Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

**Holiday Gifts & Greens Sale**  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo  
**December 6 - December 7**  
Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm, Saturday, 9:00am - 1:00pm  

Sponsored by the Kalamazoo Garden Council, this is SW Michigan's finest holiday sale for beautiful fresh green centerpieces, live wreaths, mixed roping sold by the foot, and a wide selection of unique hand-crafted gifts for that special person. Children's workshop on Saturday from 10am-2pm. Admission is free.

**14th Annual Candy Cane Hunt**  
Mayors Riverfront Park, 251 Mills St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
**Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 12:00pm - 2:00pm**  

City of Kalamazoo’s Parks and Recreation Department will host its 14th Annual Candy Cane Hunt on Saturday December 7 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at Mayor’s Riverfront Park (251 Mills Street). Nearly 5,000 candy canes will be hidden around Homer Stryker Field for children to find. There will also be drawing names for gifts, doing arts and crafts, and visiting with Santa at the event.

**Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse Sale**  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo  
**December 12th - December 14th**  
Thurs., 11:00am-7:00pm; Fri., 9:00am-7:00pm; Sat., 8:00am-4:00pm  

Large book sale offering deep discounts. Admission is free. Reading is fundamental!

**Santa’s Workshop**  
Epic Center, 359 S Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Opens Saturday, November 30th thru Tuesday, December 24th  

The Epic Center, Downtown Kalamazoo, will be transformed into a magical trip up North to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. The kids can write letters to Santa, make a treat and best of all make a forever memory with family and friends.

**New Year’s Eve Fest – Downtown Kalamazoo**  
Tuesday, December 31st from 5:30pm – midnight  

New Year’s Fest is an all ages showcase of performing arts that takes place on New Year’s Eve in Downtown Kalamazoo. There are a variety of activities that take place including music, magic, comedy, exhibitions, fireworks and great food! There will be a ball drop and fireworks at midnight in Bronson Park.
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

Meeting Dates & Times:
Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm
Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm
- December 3rd
- December 17th
- January 7th
- January 21st

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

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

Kalamazoo County Closings:
- Christmas Eve Day - December 24th
- Christmas Day - December 25th
- New Year’s Eve - December 31st

Email your Commissioner:
Kalamazoo County
Board of Commissioners
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

- 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 Government
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Kalamazoo County Government provides equitable programs and excellent services to promote the health and safety of everyone in Kalamazoo County.

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

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.

To better serve its resident and community, Kalamazoo County Government is committed to conducting business in an open, transparent and accountable manner. Visit the www.kalcounty.com website to view the Citizens Guide and the County Incentive Program communications on the financial health of Kalamazoo County.

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

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 Kalamazoo County Government.

Click here to view current openings on KCG Advisory Boards and Commissions.