



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

December 2019

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Gryphon Place #GivingTuesday December 3, 2019

You have the chance to double your impact this Giving Tuesday! Donate to Gryphon Place on December 3rd and your donation will be matched by our matching gift sponsors

For more info:
<https://gryphon.org/>

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!



Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Interested in Adopting a Pet?

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/>



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>, or view our adorable and adoptable pets from our Facebook Page at: <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.

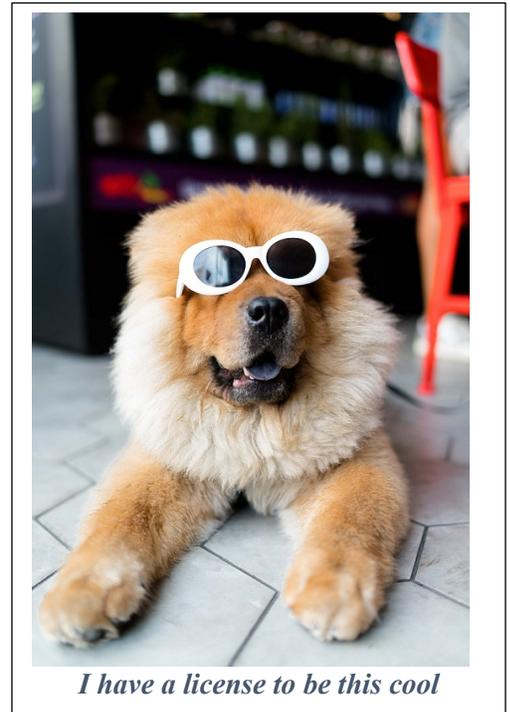
- 2. Apply for the animal:** We will need your driver's license, and you will be required to fill out an application at our office.
- 3. Pay and Take Home:** On the day the animal you have applied for becomes available, you may pay anytime between 8:00am to 11:00am and take it home as determined at the time of payment.

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

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.



Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

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.caascsm.org or through the [Community Action Facebook Page](#).

Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging (AAAIIA)

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 AAAIIA 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 AAAIIA 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 AAAIIA, 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 AAAIIA, 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.



Be Informed

THE GOAL: Make sure everyone in your household can receive, understand, and act on information received in an emergency.

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.

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

Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do when they hear emergency warnings.

Your community may have outdoor warning sirens (also called tornado sirens) to warn you in an emergency. These sirens are meant to let people who are outside know they should go indoors. When you hear the outdoor warning sirens sound in your area it is not safe for you to be outdoors. You should take cover inside a sturdy building and get more information from television, radio, internet, or by contacting a friend or family member.

Call your local fire department to find out if your area is covered by warning sirens, when they are tested, and when they would be activated. Make sure other members of your household know what to do when outdoor warning sirens sound.

Some communities have other ways of warning residents. They may call by phone, or send text messages or emails with emergency information. Check with your local emergency management or sheriff's office to find out what other warning systems are used in your area. Talk to family members about what to do when emergency information is given.

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

do1thing.com

Get a NOAA Emergency Alert Radio.

Weather can change very quickly. Severe weather may strike when people are sleeping or unaware of the forecast. This can be deadly if people do not seek a safe shelter. A NOAA emergency alert radio (sometimes called a weather radio) can turn itself on when an emergency alert is issued and warn you at any time - day or night.

Emergency alert radios can also be used to warn about other emergencies, such as a chemical spill. With the Emergency Alert Radio, you will be warned about dangerous situations in time to take shelter or other safe action.

Every home should have an emergency alert radio, just the way all homes should have a smoke detector. They can be purchased at stores that sell electronics. Prices start at about \$20.00. Most run on batteries or have battery back-up.

Make sure everyone in your household can communicate in a disaster.

The way emergency information is sent out in your community may not work for everyone. If you don't speak English well, or if you use an assistive device to speak or hear, make a plan now. Make sure you can get and give information in a disaster.

Communities may give information by television or radio, by automated phone call, text messages, email, or by sounding outdoor warning sirens. Police or fire may use loudspeakers to give information as they drive through the streets. Responders or volunteers may go door-to-door to talk to people directly.

If you think you may not be able to understand emergency information, identify someone (or more than one person) that you can contact for help in an emergency. Have more than one way to get in touch with them. Keep their contact information with you.

Emergency Information: Things to consider...

- Emergency news or weather broadcasts may not be close captioned.
- Information that is shown on screen may not be spoken aloud.
- Automated voices and voices over loud speakers may be hard to understand.
- Information comes quickly and the stress of a disaster may make it hard to understand or remember instructions.
- Words moving across the bottom of a television screen may move very quickly.
- The screen color or color of the text might make some information on television hard to read.

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

do1thing.com

- Tasks:**
- ~Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do when they hear emergency warnings.
 - ~Get a NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Emergency Alert Radio
 - ~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 Mayors' 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

[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>

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.

Provide services which promote Health, Equity and Well-Being in Kalamazoo County

Deliver Consistent
High Quality Programs
and Services

Strengthen
Engagement in Our
Community

Build a Relationship
Focused Culture



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](#).