

Officials

Ronald E. Reid, Supervisor - Supervisor@ktwp.org
Donald Z. Thall, Clerk - Clerk@ktwp.org
George E. Cochran, Treasurer - Treasurer@ktwp.org

Trustees

Pamela Brown Goodacre – Goodacrepd@ktwp.org
Donald D. Martin - Martindd@ktwp.org

Fall Edition 2013

Editor

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If this is your first newsletter by email, chances are you recently received an email from tech@itright.info letting you know you've been added as a registered user to Kalamazoo Charter Township. This was just part of the process of adding you to the email list to receive the newsletter. If you picked up a copy of the newsletter at the township and would like to receive it by email click the register button just under the flag on the home page of our web site.

James Yonker, Named Township Assessor

When 18 year old Jim Yonker started working part time in the maintenance department washing police cars and mowing for Kalamazoo Township, he had no idea what his future held. It wasn't long before an opportunity opened for someone to do photography for the assessing department. Jim was willing and available and took the job. By December 10, 1984, he was working full time in assessing. Jim learned as he worked attending classes and seminars until he attained the titles of Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer (3) and Michigan Certified Personal Property Examiner. When Ruth Blake retired earlier this year, there wasn't any candidate more qualified for the position than Mr. Yonker. According to Supervisor Reid, "Jim is extremely competent and one of the most pleasant people you could choose to work with."

Township Board Approves Non-discrimination Ordinance

"An ordinance to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo through the prohibition of discrimination; and to provide for civil sanctions and civil remedies for violation of this ordinance."

On July 22 the Kalamazoo Township Board unanimously adopted the ordinance banning discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, height, weight, marital status, familial status, citizenship, physical or mental disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or genetic information. The ordinance applies to housing, public accommodation and employment. The full text of the ordinance, (#573), can be found on the Township web site.

Robert VanderKlok Wins Prestigious State Planning Award

Robert VanderKlok, Chairman of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo Planning Commission, will be awarded the 2013 Helen S. Willis Outstanding Commissioner Award by the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP/APA Michigan) at its annual conference, *Planning Michigan*, on October 2, 2013.

MAP is recognizing Bob for his willingness to go above and beyond for his community and for stepping in when his community has needed him most. Bob's tenure has spanned nearly 32 years and included over 700 planning commission meetings and more than 300 ZBA meetings. Bob is being honored for his longevity, his dedication, his understanding of good land use principles, and his constant advocacy and dedication to sound planning principles within Kalamazoo Township.

Township Police Department and Kalamazoo Public Schools Renew Partnership

Kalamazoo Township and the Kalamazoo Public Schools are jointly funding a police officer in Kalamazoo Central High School. Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice said, "I appreciate the partnership with the Township Police on this important initiative." Township Police Chief Tim Bourgeois said "We are pleased to renew this partnership. The value of this relationship goes well beyond basic security."

Sidewalks Being Planned for North Drake Road

Sidewalks are being planned for North Drake Road in front of Kalamazoo Central High School. This is a joint project of the Charter Townships of Kalamazoo and Oshtemo with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. The Road Commission is applying for Federal Transportation Alternative funds to construct a sidewalk and non-motorized trail on Drake Road from Grand Prairie Road to Ravine Road. It's planned that the work will be done in conjunction with other improvements to Drake Road in 2014.

Survey Mailed to 1,500 Residents of Kalamazoo Township

Every few years you have the opportunity to influence your local government with your vote. Kalamazoo Township is giving people another chance to make a difference by filling out a survey that asks their opinion on a number of topics that impact day to day life in Kalamazoo Township. Recipients of the survey have the chance to grade the township on the way taxes are being spent, the quality of roads, the services of the police and fire departments, along with several other issues that affect quality of life.

On September 20 the survey was mailed to 1,500 randomly selected residents of Kalamazoo Township. If you are one of the people who received the survey in the mail, you're asked to please fill it out and return it promptly in the envelope provided. The survey results will be tabulated by Cobalt Community Research, and the results will be made available on the Kalamazoo Township web site by mid November.

If you were not among those who received a survey, it is available on line, and you are free to complete the survey and return it to the Township. It will not be tabulated with the results of the group chosen randomly, but your views will certainly be examined and seriously considered.

Westwood Neighborhood Association

The next meeting of the Westwood Neighborhood Association (WNA) will be held Oct 16th, 7 p.m. at the Westwood Community room at the Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Rd. Township Supervisor, Ron Reid will be speaking about the survey that was recently mailed to area residents. The monthly WNA meetings are the third Thursday of the month through the end of the year. There are also a Transportation subcommittee meetings of the WNA on October 7th and October 21st at 7 pm at the Westwood Community Room. Contact: L'Shawn Phillips at (269) 491-3144

Have You Looked at the Web Site?

Information is continually being added to the Township web site. You can find zoning, cemetery and precinct maps. Forms are available for garage sale permits, ordinance complaints and planning and zoning applications. You can do tax searches, review budget reports, and look at the materials provided in each board meeting packet. Explore the Township's web site and feel free to give us your suggestions for other information you would like made available at www.kalamazootownship.org.

Upcoming Waste Programs

Bulk Trash Pick Up will be the week of October 7 - 11 and **Leaf and Brush** Pick Up the week of November 18-22. Bulk trash is for items too big for your dumpster and your big cleaning projects not your everyday garbage. Your Bulk Trash, Leaf and Brush and Recycling should be out on the curb the night before the day designated for your pick up. Be sure to report missed pick-ups before the end of the next business day.

Tips To Make Bulk Trash Week Go Smoothly

- Smaller items must be in bags or containers weighing not more than 50 lbs., not loose in piles
- Larger items such as: furniture, toys, bicycles, appliances*, home fixtures and any other item are ok as long as they are considered non-hazardous.
- Building materials, doors, sections of fencing – must be cut down to fit into the truck and so it can be lifted by one person.

*Appliances that contain Freon, such as refrigerators & air conditioners can only be accepted if the Freon is removed and the appliance is tagged by a licensed facility that the Freon has been removed. For a list of items banned from Michigan Landfills see www.kalamazootownship.org and go to Community-Waste Program.

Recycling Grows

For the first half of this year, Kalamazoo Township's curbside program recycled over 1.1 million pounds of papers and containers -- a 30% increase since using wheeled carts to collect unsorted recyclables. Since the beginning of Kalamazoo Township's curbside recycling program -- which started as a pioneering pilot in 1989, - - we've recycled 37 million pounds of materials. You make a difference, considering that recycling a one-gallon plastic milk jug saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light for 11 hours and recycling seven soup cans saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light for 26 hours! For details about the pick up schedule and accepted materials, see www.kalamazootownship.org.

Red Med Box

Properly disposing of unused and unwanted medications helps to protect the environment. It also helps to protect our community against prescription abuse, addiction, and accidental or intentional overdose. Red Med Box is an easy and secure way to dispose of your unused or expired medication. There is a Red Med Box located in the entryway to the Police Department on the Mt Olivet side of the Kalamazoo Township Hall. It is available for you to drop off your expired and unused medications from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FALL CLEANING?
GREAT TIME TO GET OFF RID OLD STUFF FOR FREE!!!

household hazardous WASTE

MATERIALS ACCEPTED
BATTERIES • CELL PHONES • COMPUTERS • CLEANERS
FLUORESCENT BULBS • GASOLINE • MERCURY
OIL-BASED PAINTS • PESTICIDES • STEREOS
USED MOTOR OIL • TELEVISIONS
BUSINESS WASTE for a FEE
NOT ACCEPTED – LATEX PAINT

373-5211
www.kalcounty.com/hhw

HOURS
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • Wednesday 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • *Open Year Round*

Meeting Dates and Times

Board of Trustees - 2nd & 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Board meetings are televised live on channel 98, and are rebroadcast on channel 98: Sun. 8 p.m., Mon. 8 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m. and Fri. at 3:30 p.m.. Meetings may also be viewed online at <http://pmn.pegcentral.com>.

Planning Commission - first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals - third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Unsafe Building Hearing - every other month, beginning in February on the third Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

All meetings are at the Township Administrative Offices located at 1720 Riverview Drive. Check the website for any schedule changes.

Upcoming Township Office Closures

Veterans' Day, November 11, 2013.

Thanksgiving, November 28 & 29, 2013