

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 2016

Editor

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You May Need to Know...

Bulk Trash Pick-up Starts on October 3

Before you set something out make sure there isn't a better place for it to go: Goodwill, Household Hazardous Waste, or is there a place to recycle it? Know which day of the week your trash is scheduled to be picked up and set it out as close to that date as possible so it doesn't get blown or tossed around. If you have an old but working refrigerator you can call Consumers Energy and they'll take it away and pay you \$50. Remember, items in plastic bags you can't see through won't be picked up. For all the rules on what you can set out for bulk trash pick-up please go to the recycling and waste page on our web site. <http://kalamazootownship.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1646> The next pick-up will be in April 2017.

Leaf and Brush Pick-Up Starts November 14

Check our website to make sure you're putting it out on the correct day of the week

- Leaves must be in **paper yard bags**.
- Brush and branches must not exceed four feet in length and two inches in diameter and must be neatly and securely tied in bundles.
- **No plastic bags of any color, size or style.**
- **No loose leaves in the street.**

If you miss the leaf and brush pick-up or would like an alternative to bagging your leaves, learn about backyard composting <http://kalamazootownship.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1646> or contact a local landscaping company to drop off.



Zoning Ordinance in Effect

The new zoning ordinance and map are in effect as of August 31. If you're making plans to build or make changes on a lot in Kalamazoo Township be aware that there are changes affecting uses allowed in some zoning districts, the designations of most districts, maximum lot coverage, setbacks and some district boundary changes. Also there is increased scrutiny by the Planning Commission of change-of-use for commercial/industrial buildings.

Find a link on the [Planning and Zoning Department](#) page of our website. Search the ordinance using the index, Adobe Acrobat's bookmarks or with the word search function. Questions regarding zoning can be directed to the Township's Planning and Zoning official, Patrick Hudson, who is available all day on Mondays and half days on Thursdays.

Hello Township Taxpayers

Just a note to remind everyone that the 2016 winter tax bill will be sent out on the first of December. There are a number of ways to pay these taxes: cash, check credit card (there is a 3% charge). You can also make partial payments after you get the bill, some in December, some in January and the balance by February 14. The information about your taxes is on the Township website at www.ktwp.org. Payment before the last day is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support these last eight years! George E. Cochran, Treasurer

Getting a Permit, Now More Convenient

To serve you better the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) is delighted to announce its new location is at 2322 Nazareth Road, just south of Gull Road. KABA staff looks forward to continuing to serve Comstock and Kalamazoo Townships with all their current and future permit and inspection needs.

Question? Call 269-216-9511 or email to: permits@kaba-mi.org or, visit its website: www.kaba-mi.org



Election on November 8, 2016

Our most important local, state and federal office holders will be chosen by a vote of the people on November 8. If you're a new voter make sure you've registered to vote by October 11, 2016. If you think you may not be able to make it to the polls on November 8 you can request an absentee ballot. Mailed request must be received by 2 p.m. Saturday before the election or in person up to 4:00 p.m. Monday before the election. In case of an emergency such as hospitalization the day of the election you can contact the clerk's office at 269-381-8080 for an emergency absentee ballot.

In this election, unlike a partisan primary election, you may vote a Straight Ticket, Split Ticket or Mixed Ticket. For more information go to the "What Every Voter Should Know" link on the [Clerk's page](#) on our website. There are also links to absentee voting and voter registration forms as well as precinct information. Also, be sure to vote the entire ballot, both sides.

Your Community

Free Services Available for Those in Need

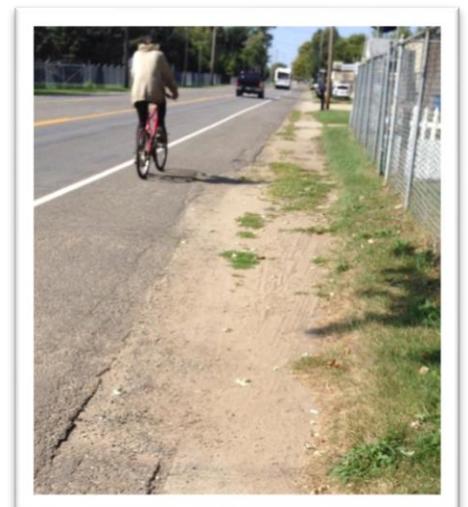
Project Connect 2016 will be held **October 12** from **noon-4:00 PM** at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center. Each year Project Connect serves between 600-1,000 homeless, underinsured, and transient individuals and families. Project Connect is working to move families to self-sufficiency and strengthening community connections. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a hot meal, get a FREE haircut, health screening, Veteran & Disability services, dental cleanings, early childhood information, housing and education information, resume assistance, clothes give a ways and more!

Transportation Diversification Well Underway



Choices in getting from one place to another in Kalamazoo Township have increased and improved. You can see new sidewalks on Grand Prairie and Kendall as well as a complete street renovation on East Main and more bike route signs should be coming yet this fall.

Plans are already being made for next year's improvements. On Lake Street the Township, is working to uncover existing sidewalk. Once the existing sidewalk is uncovered it can be evaluated for gaps and needed repairs. (Please let this be a warning to not let your sidewalk grow over or get filled in with dirt.) Once the sidewalk is repaired, as you can see, we will have bike, bus, car and pedestrian transport on this street.



Westwood Firefighters Association Celebrating 75 years of Service

October 15 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Road. You can see an extraction demonstration, live burn cell demonstration, antique fire trucks, a slide show of the history of the station over the 75 years as well as see and touch new and antique fire trucks!



Recognition and Thanks

Township Board Changes

It's not just the leaves that are changing this fall. Trustee Pamela Brown Goodacre will be leaving the Board after one term. Mark Miller who has served on the Board for two terms won the primary for the Clerk's position and is running unopposed at this time. Treasurer George Cochran who served on the board as a trustee from 2004 to 2008 and has been Treasurer from 2008 to 2016 will be stepping down. We thank Treasurer Cochran and Trustee Goodacre for their service.

Donald Z. Thall will be leaving the board after 53 years. Mr. Thall, (Don) was elected as a trustee in Kalamazoo Township in 1963 with prompting from the Westwood Citizens League, who were concerned about some zoning issues on West Main St.. In 1972 when the Township Clerk decided to retire, Don, again urged by the Citizens League, ran for the full time position of clerk. As clerk Don has been in charge of record keeping, accounts payable and purchasing, the cemetery and most visibly, elections for the past 44 years.

Although Don originally came on the board to fight for his neighborhood, his good humor, (sometimes a little mischievous), and kind nature have endeared him to many in the Township.

Communications from the Office

Dexter Mitchell hired as first Kalamazoo Township Manager

After extensive vetting, Dexter Mitchell has been hired as Township Manager and will begin work on November 1. He is currently wrapping up his responsibilities as Township Manager in Buena Vista Charter Township near Saginaw. He has a MBA from DeVos Graduate School (Northwood University), Midland, MI and a BA in Management, also from Northwood. He has been the Manager in Buena Vista for the last four years and worked as Director of Parks and Recreation for Buena Vista for eight years prior to that.

Beginning November 20, 2016 elected officials will be part-time. Each elected official has responsibilities dictated by state law and they will continue to oversee those prescribed tasks, and along with the trustees, focus on setting policy and making decisions on behalf of the Township based on the will of the voters, while the manager works with staff to make sure the Board policies become functioning realities. The decision to hire a professional manager is intended to keep the township running smoothly and efficiently.

New faces on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals

With the changes made to the zoning ordinance completed, some long serving members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals decided they had fulfilled their duties to the Township and it was time to move on. Sarah Milne had served on the Planning Commission for 12 years, James Cripps had served on the ZBA for 20 years, Charles Rothrock on the Planning Commission for 26 years and Robert VanderKlok on the Planning Commission for 35 years. The Township has been fortunate to have such dedicated citizens willing to take time out of their busy lives to devote to this work for their community. New to the Planning Commission are James Cripps, Fred Nagler and Tonnie Hitt. After being such an important part of the Township for so long, Robert VanderKlok couldn't leave entirely and has been appointed to the ZBA.

Road Work

Our second year of local road work is wrapping up. We hope you're enjoying the road improvements. Check our website after the first of the year for updates on next year's work. As always, contact us if you have questions or comments. You can email supervisor@ktwp.org or martindd@ktwp.org

Contract for Recycle and Other Pick-ups Extended to April 2018

The contract with Republic Services for recycling, bulk-trash and leaf and brush pick-up has been extended for 15 months. When the Township put trash pick-up in the Township up for bid the bidders were assured that the contract for recycle would also be available for them to bid on at some point. With all the adjustments that needed to be made for everyone to go with one trash company, the board felt the possibility of changing recycling handlers could be confusing and difficult especially if it had to be done in January. Therefore, instead of opening the contract for bids this fall or renewing the five year contract with Republic Services, the board asked for a 15 month extension so the services could be opened for bidding at a time when making a change would be more feasible if a change were to take place.

Keep Sidewalks Clear

The weather is still good and you probably don't want to think about snow and ice but the Ordinance Officer would like to remind you how important it is to keep your sidewalks clear so children, the disabled and all of your neighbors can make it to bus stops, grocery stores and other places safely. Again this year we'll be looking for Snow Heroes, individuals or groups of people who would be willing to help out people in their neighborhoods who are unable to clear their own sidewalks or pay someone to do it for them. If you or a group you belong to would be interested in helping out, please contact our Ordinance Officer.

Subscribe to the Newsletter

If you picked up a copy of this newsletter and aren't a subscriber yet be sure to go to the Township's homepage to subscribe so you can receive it quarterly in your email, www.kalamazootownship.org or send four self-addressed stamped envelopes to Kalamazoo Township.



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*

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.



Meeting Dates and Times

Board of Trustees - 2nd & 4th Mondays of every month at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

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 January on the third Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

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

Watch Board Meetings from Home

Board meetings are broadcast live on Charter Communications channel 190 and AT&T U-verse channel 99: Replays are on Mon. 8 a.m., Thur. 1 a.m. and Fri. 3:00 p.m. Meetings are also online at <http://pmn.pegcentral.com/> Also, check out "Kalamazoo Township Roundtable" on channel 190: Sun. at 2:30 p.m., Wed. at 7:00 a.m., and Thurs. at Midnight.

Upcoming Township Office Closures

Veterans Day, November 11, 2016

Christmas, Observed, December 26, 2016

Thanksgiving Day, November 24 & 25, 2016

New Year's Day Observed, January 2, 2017