

## Officials

Ronald E. Reid, Supervisor - [Supervisor@ktpw.org](mailto:Supervisor@ktpw.org)  
Donald Z. Thall, Clerk - [Clerk@ktpw.org](mailto:Clerk@ktpw.org)  
George E. Cochran, Treasurer - [Treasurer@ktpw.org](mailto:Treasurer@ktpw.org)

## Trustees

Pamela Brown Goodacre - [Goodacrepd@ktpw.org](mailto:Goodacrepd@ktpw.org)  
Donald D. Martin - [Martindd@ktpw.org](mailto:Martindd@ktpw.org)

## Spring Edition 2014



## Editor

Molly K. Cole - [Molly@ktpw.org](mailto:Molly@ktpw.org)

Steven C. Leuty - [Leutysc@ktpw.org](mailto:Leutysc@ktpw.org)  
Mark E. Miller - [Millerme@ktpw.org](mailto:Millerme@ktpw.org)

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 or the link within the "Welcome" section of our web site, you'll receive an email from [tech@itright.info](mailto:tech@itright.info) letting you know you've been added.

## [You May Need to Know...](#)

### Precinct Changes

In an effort to be more efficient with our resources, the Township has made some changes in the number of polling places and the precinct numbering system. In 2012 the precinct numbers went up to 15 although there were only 14 precincts at the time. After the 2012 election the Clerk's office began looking at voter turnout at the various polling places and decided that some could be combined, and over the course of time, decided that one of the precincts could be split and divided between two other precincts. Residents who voted at Hope Reformed Church will now be voting at Hillside Junior High School or the Westwood Fire Station. Please don't forget the election coming up on May 6 regarding the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA) and the Kalamazoo Public Library. The precincts have now been renumbered from 1 to 12 and new maps have been made. Everyone who is impacted by these changes has been notified by mail. If it's been a while since you thought about voting, and want to take a look at the precinct map, you can go to Clerk's Department on our web site to see the new map, [http://kalamazootownship.org/Portals/16/Ktpw\\_PrecinctMap\\_30x36\\_L.pdf](http://kalamazootownship.org/Portals/16/Ktpw_PrecinctMap_30x36_L.pdf)

### Mowing Enforcement

Tall grass enforcement is one of the things that came up in our survey last summer. We don't have much in the way of poisonous snakes or other dangerous animals that might hide in tall grass and jump out to get you, but tall grass makes an area look like nobody's taking care of it and that can lead to more blight and crime in a neighborhood.



This is a quick rundown on how we handle tall grass complaints; The ideal height for a healthy lawn is about three inches, but we can't spend your tax dollars measuring your neighbor's lawn to make sure it's the perfect height, and sometimes it's too hot, too wet or they aren't home for a week and it gets ahead of them. But, if it gets up to 12 inches, then according to the ordinance it's a noxious weed threat and we can measure it and send a letter letting them know that they have 10 days to get it mowed. If the lawn hasn't been mowed by the time the ordinance officer comes out to check on it the township will hire someone to mow it and send the owner a bill plus a fine. For more details on tall grass please check frequently cited ordinances on our web site <http://kalamazootownship.org/Community/OrdinanceEnforcement.aspx>

### Sidewalk Replacement/Repair

The Township offers a program to help residential property owners finance 50% of the cost of public sidewalk repair, with a maximum subsidy per parcel of \$500. Sidewalk squares will be considered in disrepair if 1) the potholes are one or more inches in depth, 2) the height difference between adjoining sections of sidewalk is two or more inches, or 3) an insufficient slope prohibits adequate water drainage from the surface. Download an application by clicking the blue "Community" tab at <http://kalamazootownship.org>. For more information, contact the ordinance officer at [spgallagher@ktpw.org](mailto:spgallagher@ktpw.org) or 381-8080.

## Bulk Trash Pick Up

Bulk trash pick ups are coming up very quickly, the weeks of April 7 and July 7. (Be sure you know your day of the week by checking our web site.) Before you haul everything out to the curb take a minute to think if it really belongs in a landfill. Of course some things can go to Goodwill, Salvation Army, or other thrift shops and at least some of the clothing they can't use they can recycle. The other thing to check for is hazardous waste. If you have old electronic equipment it often contains hazardous or rare materials that can be recovered and recycled or disposed of in a special landfill. Check out County Household Hazardous Waste at [www.kalcounty.com/hhw](http://www.kalcounty.com/hhw) for more information.

## If A Tree Falls On The Road Does Anyone Clean It Up?

Answer from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) Policy:

“Fallen trees within the traveled portion of the right-of-way will be moved outside of the road right-of-way to adjacent property when possible (except in those instances where the KCRC holds title to the entire road right-of-way). The relocated fallen trees will be left for the property owner’s use and /or disposal. Within (15 days) of a fallen tree being relocated, the property owner may complete and submit a request that the fallen tree moved by the KCRC, county, municipal or township police, fire, emergency or public utility personnel be cut and stacked adjacent to the public right-of-way, or may request that it be removed.” For more information go to the KCRC web site, <http://www.kcrc-roads.com/>.

## Who Do I Call About My Spring/Summer Building Project?

Call the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority For...	Call Kalamazoo Township for...
(269) 216-9643 or <a href="http://www.kaba-mi.org">www.kaba-mi.org</a>	(269) 381-8080 or <a href="http://www.ktwp.org">www.ktwp.org</a>
Permits for building, electrical, mechanical, or plumbing work being done.	Zoning for a property
(including roofs)	Setback requirements
Inspections	Size allowable to build
Building Code	Cell towers
Fences (over 6 ft. tall)	Signs
Sheds (over 200 sq. ft.)	Fences (6 ft. tall or less)
Pools with over 24 in. of water	Sheds (200 sq. ft. or less)
	Decks
	Location of Pools

## Trailer Parking Rules

We are all getting cabin fever, and whenever spring comes, all of us will be anxious to start cleaning the campers and prepping the boats for a fun and hopefully warm summer of activities. When getting those toys out of hibernation, here are a few reminders of the zoning regulations that pertain to the parking and storage of RVs, campers, boats, boat trailers, and similar vehicles and equipment:

- Any and all may be located in an enclosed building on your property at any time.
- The vehicles may not be located within the public right of way.
- The vehicles cannot be located within front, side, or rear yard setback areas, which are generally 25 feet (front), five feet (side), and two feet (rear) from the respective property lines. An exception is allowed for periods of cleaning, loading, and unloading, provided it does not last more than 48 hours in a seven day period.
- A camper can be used on your property for a maximum of 14 days per year provided running water and bathroom facilities are available within the home for guest use.



Thank you for your cooperation and compliance. We join you in looking forward to a great spring and summer!

## Your Community

### Westwood Neighborhood Association

Westwood is hosting a series of speakers at their meetings, 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Rd. For more information contact [jim.ferner@gmail.com](mailto:jim.ferner@gmail.com)

The lists of speakers to date are:

April 16 - Landscape Improvements with Jerre Beattie-Ihrcke,

May 21 - Blackberry Remodeling with Scott LaDere and

June 18 – Township Codes with Shawn Gallagher.

FYI – The Westwood Area Garage sales are coming up on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### More Ways to Get Where You're Going

Several things are happening this spring along Drake Road they include:

- A center turn lane running from Grand Prairie to H Avenue/Squires
- Six foot shoulders, (4 feet paved) on both sides of the roadway its entire length
- Sidewalk on the east, (Kalamazoo Township) side from Grand Prairie to Squires Drive
- A non-motorized path from H Ave. to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail on the west (Oshtemo Township) side



### Eastwood Neighborhood Association

Things are happening in the Eastwood Neighborhood. Trustee Pamela Brown Goodacre has begun developing a community garden on property on Baker Dr. between Tampa and East Main St. The water is hooked up and she is working with permaculturist and Urban 4-H coordinator Evan Granito with the help of a USDA grant, to involve youth in development of the community garden.

If you'd like to be involved with the Eastwood Neighborhood Association, it meets at the Eastwood Fire Station, 1211 Woodrow Dr., the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information you can call Bob Talbot at 344-6828 or Trustee Goodacre at [goodacrepd@ktwp.org](mailto:goodacrepd@ktwp.org). For more information about 4-H activities go to <http://kzoocounty4h.blogspot.com/>

### Join an Association

Would you like to get your neighborhood working, playing or gardening together? There's a lot you can accomplish when you team up. You could take care of a park or work together on other projects to make your neighborhood a more pleasant and attractive place to live your life. Or you might get together a group of volunteers that elderly or disabled neighbors can call on to help with sidewalks or getting their recycling to the curb. You might have a good idea you want to present to the Township, (or a shared complaint). Join your neighborhood association to have a voice and lend a hand.

### Or Start One

If you're in Lakewood or Northwood where there isn't an active association, you and a few neighbors can get one started. Here's a way to start. Hold a block party, make it a potluck, have games for the kids, and icebreakers for the adults. The application to close a street for a block party is on the Township web site. Fill it out and send it to the Township at least a month in advance so it can be approved at a board meeting and sent to the Road Commission for their approval. If you get enough people interested in an association we'll help you get the word out and you can contact the Township to ask about using the community room at your local fire station for your meetings. There are lots of good ideas for block parties on the internet.

## Recognition and Thanks

### Hope Reformed Church Served Us Well

The Clerk's Department would like to thank Hope Reformed Church for the many years that it so graciously hosted elections. You've heard it before but, your vote really does make a difference.

## To All You Shovelers

Now that the snow is melting and spring is “technically” here, the fire department would like to recognize everyone that kept their fire hydrants shoveled by sending out a huge THANK YOU! The extra time and effort that was invested saved the fire department valuable time when responding to emergencies and definitely assisted in reducing some of the stress placed on our firefighters. Once again, thank you all!

And, to all of you who worked so hard this winter to keep your sidewalk clear, and especially to those who went the extra mile and helped an elderly or disabled neighbor keep theirs clear, the Township wants to say, THANK YOU. Your cleared sidewalk helped kids walk to school and neighbors get to the Metro bus stops safely.

## Fire Department Awards

On March 9, 2014, the fire department held its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Department Awards Program. In the presence of over eighty coworkers and family, fire department members received numerous awards and citations for years of service and acts of life saving. In addition to the awards and citations, Firefighter Joseph VanOrder received his 25 year service award, Firefighter Troy Cox was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Firefighter Albert Garnaat was presented with the 2013 Firefighter of the Year award.

Pictured at right: Lieutenant Troy Cox (left) and Firefighter of the year Albert Garnaat (right)



## Trustee Mark Miller Graduates from Township Governance Academy

The Michigan Township Association (MTA) provides several workshops and publications each year to township board members across the state so they can serve you better. Board Members with the time and ambition can embark on a particular training regimen called the Township Governance Academy. Created and administered by the MTA Education Center, according to the MTA, “The Academy offers new ideas, shares “best practices” in township government and provides a hands-on approach to help you deal more effectively with everyday issues that your board faces.”

## Communications from the Office

### 2013 Annual Fire Department Report: A Hot Read

Do you know all the jobs that need to be done to keep a fire department running smoothly and efficiently? Do you know what the most frequent fire department calls are or the most common types of fires? Have you ever wanted to know more about the equipment used by the fire department? All that and more is in the Annual Fire Report which can be found on our web site <http://www.ktwp.org/Departments/FireDepartment.aspx> >2013 Annual Report. It really is interesting reading and has a great pictures too.

### Police on the Web: Check It Out

Go to <http://kalamazootownshippolice.org/> to see all the useful information our Township Police Department has on their web site. There are safety tips, driving tips, when to call 911, what to do if you’re stopped, news releases, links to other law enforcement web sites and on the fun side, pictures of police cars and the police force dating back to the 50’s.



## Township Goals

Last newsletter I talked to you about the board retreat and the community survey. You can watch Supervisor Reid and Trustee Leuty discuss the results of the survey on PMN at <http://kzootv.com/permalink/ktwpsurvey.html> Based on that information, the Township Board has worked on setting goals for 2014. A few of the goals include:

- Explore additional funding for road maintenance and repair
- Evaluating transportation services and
- Strengthen housing stock and addressing blight and other code enforcement concerns.

For the full goals report go to our homepage at <http://kalamazootownship.org/>

## Did You Know the Township's Been Cutting Costs?

We know everyone has had to tighten their belts since 2008 and the Township has been doing the same in areas where we know it won't hurt your quality of life in the Township. We frequently partner with other communities to support each other's services, such as policing in Parchment and cooperating on fire protection with Comstock in Eastwood and Lakewood. We've cut staffing and the elected officials have taken sizeable pay cuts and no raises. Last fall when faced with rising insurance costs the Township worked with its insurance agents to find an option that would provide comparable coverage at even less cost than the previous policy. The township is also saving costs by saving energy. When the roof had to be replaced they made sure the new roof provides plenty of insulation to prevent heat loss and is white to reflect the summer sun and reduce cooling costs. They've also worked with Consumer's Energy to put more efficient lighting in the fire stations.

## Changes Are Coming To the Web Site

I have to admit, the Township web site, though packed with information, isn't the fanciest and best organized you may have ever used. I am going to be working on reorganizing the web site over the next few months to make it easier for you to find the information and documents you need. If you have suggestions, feel free to share them. Please be patient and wish me luck. Molly Cole, Newsletter Editor/Supervisor's Assistant.

## 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). 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

Memorial Day, May 26, 2014

Labor Day, September 1, 2014

Independence Day, July 4, 2014

Veterans Day, November 11, 2014