

## Officials

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## Trustees

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## Spring Edition 2015



## Editor

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If you picked up a copy of the newsletter at the Township and would like to receive it by email, fill in the three simple boxes under the menu on the home page and sign up, 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...](#)

### Election in May

There are two proposals on the May 5, 2015 ballot that pertain to all residents of Kalamazoo Township.

- The State question on a sales tax increase and funding for roads and education. More information: [Click Here](#)
- The Special Education Millage of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). More information: [Click Here](#)

### Neighborhood Road Repair Information Meetings

- Monday, May 4, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Westwood Fire Station Community Room, 1310 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
- Wednesday May 6, 201 at 6 p.m. at the Eastwood Fire Station Community Room, 2703 East Main Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
- Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Northwood Fire Station Community Room, 2617 North Burdick at Mosel Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

### Leaf and Brush Pick Up

Leaf and Brush Pickup is MAY 4-8 and NOVEMBER 16-20.

Check the curbside pick-up map on 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 securely tied in bundles.
- **No plastic bags of any color, size, or style.**
- The 12-container limit does not apply to the leaf and brush pick ups.
- **No loose leaves in the street.**

If you miss the leaf and brush pick-up or would like an alternative to bagging your leaves [Click Here](#) to learn about backyard composting or contact Mulder's Landscaping about dropping off leaves and brush.

### Mowing Enforcement

In addition to harboring mosquitoes and weed seeds tall grass in a lawn area can make it look like nobody's paying attention to the area and that can lead to more blight and crime in a neighborhood. If you have a complaint about grass and/or weeds 12 inches or taller you may contact the Township. We will check it and send a letter letting the owner 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 [Click Here](#) for frequently cited ordinances on our web site



## Sidewalk Replacement/Repair

The Township offers a program to help residential property owner's 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@ktwp.org](mailto:spgallagher@ktwp.org) or 381-8080.

## 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

The Westwood Neighborhood Association has had a busy year. They have held events at the Westwood Fire Station for Halloween, the holidays in December, and Earth Day. They also co-hosted a lecturer from Portland, Oregon who spoke on how to bring a sense of community and place to your neighborhood. In addition they've been working on a traffic study with students from WMU's Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities to figure out a way to calm traffic on residential streets in the area. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Rd.

### Eastwood

The Eastwood Neighborhood Association 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 contact Bob Talbot at 344-6828 or Trustee Goodacre at [goodacrepd@ktwp.org](mailto:goodacrepd@ktwp.org).

Members of the Eastwood Neighborhood are again partnering with MSU Extension youth programs on a community garden and other fun and educational activities for youth. Additional garden beds are available for adults interested in growing some of their own food. For more information contact Evan Granito, MSU Urban 4-H Coordinator, [granitoe@anr.msu.edu](mailto:granitoe@anr.msu.edu) or [jegoodacre@gmail.com](mailto:jegoodacre@gmail.com)

### Lakewood

We're looking for a small group of people that would be interested in adopting the park on the corner of Lake and Olmstead. Resources could be made available to help with landscaping the park with native plants. The project could involve local youth and be the catalyst for starting a 4-H club and/or a new neighborhood association. The Township encourages neighbors to come together and build community. Ask us for ideas on how you can get to know your neighbors and start to build a support network. If you're interested please send email to [molly@ktwp.org](mailto:molly@ktwp.org).

## Take Responsibility for Your Community and Your Health

Want to make a difference? Take a walk; with a friend, your spouse or your kids. Walking can make a big difference in your health. Good health can make a big difference in your budget and is one of the best gifts you can give your loved ones. Walking also creates a safer neighborhood where people know their neighbors and keep an eye on things. Be sure to wear clothes that make you more visible and if you have to go on the road walk facing oncoming traffic.

So, maybe the sidewalks near you aren't ideal, we'd like your input on the areas that need the most work the soonest. If you're aware of an area that needs a sidewalk or a sidewalk that needs repair send an email to [supervisor@ktwp.org](mailto:supervisor@ktwp.org). Please give the street and nearest cross streets and side of road as well as a clear description of the problem. Pictures are welcome. Enjoy your walk. [Click Here](#) for more information on the benefits of sidewalks and walking.

## Kalamazoo Bike Week is May 9 - 16

Bicycling has made a comeback and it's not just for kids, but it may make you feel like one. Bicycles have a legal right to use the road as long as they are following the rules. Bikes should be going the same direction on the same side of the road as the cars. Be sure to give the bike enough space when you go to pass. If you aren't comfortable riding on the road there are three great sections of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail in the township. You can find information on bike safety, the new bicycle signs and symbols that are showing up, trails and activities at <http://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/>

## Send Us A Picture

While you're out walking or biking take a picture of your favorite spot in the Township and email it to us, [molly@ktwp.org](mailto:molly@ktwp.org), with a note telling us where it was taken. We may use it on our website. We don't have any guarantee it won't be used by someone else but we also won't be telling you that it's now the Township's property either. We have maps on our website to help you figure out if you're in the Township. [http://kalamazootownship.org/Portals/16/Neighborhoods/Map%201%20Neighborhood\\_Boundaries.pdf](http://kalamazootownship.org/Portals/16/Neighborhoods/Map%201%20Neighborhood_Boundaries.pdf)

## Recognition and Thanks

### Park Volunteer Shares Time and Talent

If you live in the vicinity of the little neighborhood park by Jenks Blvd. and Grand Pre, you likely have seen Ray Purdin hard at work over the past several decades, raking, trimming, and planting flowers (most bought by Ray himself). Ray moved to the Westwood Neighborhood back in 1971 becoming Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Kalamazoo. He has endlessly shared his time and talent over these many years working to maintain our park for the benefit of the neighborhood to enjoy. Ray has since moved slightly beyond the Westside area to live but can often be seen driving by in his white truck, sometimes stopping by the park, continuing to dedicate his time. Ever wonder where all those beautiful tulips came from each spring? If by chance you see Ray working in the park, please stop by and say a simple "Thank You" to him for all he has done for this Westwood Neighborhood. We sure appreciate you Ray Purdin!



### Thank You Businesses for Keeping Your Sidewalks Clear

It was reported by the Ordinance Officer that local businesses did a great job of taking responsibility for keeping their sidewalks clear this past winter. The Township would like to thank everyone who braved the cold and battled the piles left by the snowplows to keep our sidewalks user friendly. You make a difference in the lives of people, young, old and in between, who need to catch a bus to get to school or work and everyone who's trying to stay healthy or save gas by getting out and walking. And as always, an extra big thanks to those who helped their neighbors!

### Police Department Awards

The Kalamazoo Township Police Department presented awards at the April 13 Board meeting to citizens and officers. The common theme in those awards was that the recipients remained calm and developed a plan for handling the situation before jumping in. They also put the interest of others before their own safety. The awards part of the meeting begins at about minute 16 of the video link at <http://pnn.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=9b8571468b471f63ae06d3fee0fa0ee6>

## [Fire Department Awards](#)

Kalamazoo Township Fire Department personnel were also presented with numerous awards and recognition for the 2014 calendar year. Some of the more notable awards presented were; Length of Service awards totaling 110 years of combined service to the Township of Kalamazoo, Firefighter of The Year Award presented to Lieutenant Troy Cox and forty-nine Citation for Life Saving Awards. The presentation was attended by nearly seventy-five fire department employees and family members. This event summarized the hard work and dedication that is constantly and consistently displayed by Township of Kalamazoo employees. If you missed the program and would like to view the awards presentation, check out the link above.

## [Communications from the Office](#)

### [Charlotte Tetzlaff Retires after 25 Years of Service](#)

Paying taxes is not anyone's favorite thing to do but over the 25 years Charlotte Tetzlaff spent collecting them she helped remove a little of the sting with her friendly hello and cheerful laugh. She accepted your complaints with good humor and listened to stories about hard times with true compassion in her heart. Char was the quickest to answer the phone and always did her best to give you the information you needed or get you to the person that could. We hope you'll join all of us at the Township in wishing Char a long and enjoyable retirement. The new voice you'll hear and face you'll see behind the counter belongs to Stephania Brown. She's been catching on very quickly and the Township is very happy to have her on our team. You will be too.

### [What's New on the Website](#)

Lots of road repair information and it will continue to be updated as we know more. There are Master Plans for Parks, Non-Motorized Transportation and Land Use. If you click the documents button you can find almost any form you might need, maps, and board packets containing agendas and background material for each of the board meetings as well as all the minutes going back to 1832. You can find monthly budget reports, and on the Dashboard you can check to see where all your tax money is going. Under Departments>Planning and Zoning you can link to the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority for all your building permit information and forms. Be sure to check out some of the related links as well.

### [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 Charter Communication channel 190 and AT&T U-verse channel 99, 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 25, 2015

Independence Day, July 3, 2015