



Township News

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<http://www.ktwp.org>

Officials

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Mark E. Miller, Clerk - Clerk@ktwp.org
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Summer Edition 2017

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You May Need to Know...

Road Work Update

Road and drain work are continuing. Look for the Road Commission updates posted on the Township web site www.ktwp.org to let you know what is slated for the next week. If you have questions you may contact the Township's Highway Commissioner, Donald Martin at (269) 251-7377 or martindd@ktwp.org.

Please don't park on roads where work is being done. We would also like to caution you not to walk your dog on the road without paw protection for a few days after road work to prevent any asphalt from getting on their paws. It is never a good idea to walk a dog on a road in hot weather because it can burn their paws.

Bulk Trash Pick-Up

Bulk Trash Pick-Up Starts on July 10. Because of the July 4 Holiday the pick-up is scheduled a week later than usual.

- Know which day of the week you're slated for pick up (Check the [map](#) on the [recycle page](#) or call the Township.)
- No black plastic bags. Please use boxes or heavy duty clear plastic bags
- If you think you've been missed, call the Township, NOT Republic Services customer service.
- Be sure to have it out the night before. They start picking up between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m.
- Please keep items to 4ft - 8ft maximum size
- Items must be able to be picked up by 2 people
- No more than 3 bucket loads (loading bucket on the front of the truck)
- If you have more, please save it for the October pick up or contact a commercial garbage service for a large bin.
- It's a good idea to put recyclable metal where it can be easily found and picked up.
- NO YARD WASTE, TIRES, PAINT/CHEMICALS, NEEDLES OR HAZARDOUS WASTE - Contact the County Household Hazardous Waste Center www.kalcounty.com/hhw or 373-5211 for disposal information.
- Please go to our website for more information

The next bulk trash pick-up will be the week of October 2. Leaf and Brush pick-up will be the week of November 13

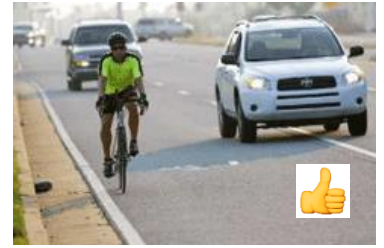
Fireworks

Everyone is looking forward to celebrating Independence Day. Please be considerate of our veterans and to neighborhood pets who may be particularly disturbed by fireworks. Ordinance # 570 only allows igniting, discharging or use of consumer fireworks on the day preceding, the day of, or the day after a national holiday and not at all during the hours from 1 a.m. to 8 a.m. See [Michigan Legal Fireworks](#) on the Township home page quick links.



Give 'em 5 to Stay Alive

Beginning on July 5, 2017, a new ordinance requiring motorists to give bicyclists five feet of space when passing goes into effect in Kalamazoo Township. Do you know who rides bikes on the roads where you drive? Professionals you depend on like doctors, nurses, teachers, police officers and fire fighters also grandparents, moms, people you worship with and your friend's children all ride bikes. People bicycle to get places, to exercise or because it feels good, just as people drive a car to the store or go out for Sunday drive.



Bicycling keeps you healthy and saves you money, right up until someone isn't watching for a bike when they turn a corner or passes too closely, then it can be dangerous and costly. Make sure there's at least five feet of space between your car, (including mirrors) and the cyclist. Because it takes less time to pass a bike and they're easier to see around than another car, it's ok to cross a yellow line to pass a bike when you can do it safely. It's also okay to slow down and follow a bike until you can pass safely; that's why bikes are required to ride with traffic, so you can follow them until you can pass safely. Don't attempt to pass in the same lane with the bike. Even if they're on the other side of a white lane give them 5 feet. (See illustration at right.)



According to state law "Each person riding a bicycle upon a roadway has all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle except as to the provisions which by their nature do not have application." MCL 257-657 Bicyclists were the first advocates for paving roads and all but a few bicyclists help pay for roads either through their own vehicle registration or other taxes but account for exceptionally little wear on the road. For much more information on laws for bicycles go to [Michigan Bicycle Laws](#) or [A Legal Handbook for Michigan Cyclists](#)

Trash in the Bag, (Please note, Do Not put bags in recycling!)

Have you ever been frustrated by trash blowing into your yard from a trash cart being dumped, maybe even from your own cart? There's a simple solution for that - please bag your trash before you put it in your cart.

Deferment of Summer Property Taxes

Deferment of your summer property taxes for eligible homeowners (those with total household income of \$40,000 or less and who are either 62 years of age or a qualified person as defined in Chapter 9 of the Income Tax Act of 1967) can provide a delay in the due date of your tax bill, without added penalty, until February 14th. The deferment form needs to be filed with the Township Treasurer's Office by September 14th. If you have any questions, please call 381-8080.

Consider Your Neighbors When You Landscape

With summer landscaping projects underway residential property owners are advised of a new provision of the zoning ordinance (effective August 31, 2016) which reflects a rule that has been in Michigan common law from the foundation of the state. Article 2, Section 2.06 Fill Regulations, C. Residential Zoning Districts, 5. Final Grade and Runoff Control: "The final grade of all fill areas shall be such as to contain storm water runoff within the subject property and not flow onto abutting property, a public road right-of-way or other public right-of-way." The ordinance also now requires a permit for any grading project involving more than 50 cubic yards of material. You can find the Zoning Ordinance and Map on the Planning and Zoning Dept. webpage.

Your Community

Complete Street, Ideal Street?

West Main/M-43 may not be the ideal street but should it be a complete street? Imagine taking the bus to physical therapy and crossing W. Main to catch that bus. Imagine you're a senior citizen that can't drive, living just a block from a shop on the other side of W. Main, where you need to pick up a prescription or that you're a student without a car and ride your bike or walk pretty much everywhere. That makes West Main far less than ideal. There's a group of citizens suggesting West Main become a "complete street" like East Main or Nichols with two regular lanes, a left turn lane and bike lanes on the outside. We'd like to know what you think would be a good idea for making W. Main more user friendly for all travelers, not just motorists. What would you suggest? Send your constructive ideas to manager@ktpw.org

Sidewalk News

Watch for construction to start on sidewalks along Nazareth, Sunnyside and Olmstead. There will also be far fewer orphan sidewalks. We are working to make sure there are no more sidewalks to nowhere. We hope you enjoy your walk.

Northwood

A Northwood Neighborhood Association has been founded! Our goals include bringing our community closer, keeping everyone updated on current and upcoming events and local resources. Come meet your neighbors at our First Annual Northwood Family Picnic & Potluck Sunday July 30th, from 1-4pm, at Markin Glen County Park in the Tyler Shelter. Hot dogs and chips will be provided. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you would like. Find us on Facebook to stay connected and see what else we have in store! [Facebook.com/groups/northwoodkzoo](https://www.facebook.com/groups/northwoodkzoo) Northwoodkzoo@yahoo.com



Lakewood

The Kalamazoo County Youth Fair is August 8 -12. It's a great event for families with children. There are animals, games, activities and entertainment. Look for themes and discounts for different days. Go to www.kalcounty.com/parks for a schedule of all the Expo Center Events, such the Vintage Market, the Healthy and Fit Expo featuring an Olympic weightlifting competition and the 38th Annual Street Rod Nationals with over 2,600 street rods and muscle cars.

Eastwood

The Eastwood Neighborhood Association is taking a break for the summer but if you're looking for something to do you can go for a walk the Bow in the Clouds Preserve on Nazareth or check out the Eastwood branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library. Go to www.kpl.gov/eastwood/ for a list of activities and their hours.

Westwood

The Westwood Neighborhood Association is working to help beautify the Township's mini-parks in Westwood as well as re-do the planting in the W. Main at Nichols triangle. They are looking for ways to address vacant commercial properties and they are bringing in interesting speakers to their meetings each month at 7p.m. the on the third Wednesday of the month at the Westwood Fire Station, 1320 Nichols Rd. Like them on Face Book or e-mail ronhuster@aol.com

The Westwood Firefighters Association's 76th annual ice cream social is from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on July 28 at the Westwood Fire Station on Nichols Rd. Tickets, available at the door, are good for ice cream, cupcake and door prize raffle. There are games and prizes for the whole family. Call Westwood Fire station at 343-1811 for more information.

Communications from the Office

Meet Your New Trustee

Our newest Trustee is Jennifer Strebs, a resident of Kalamazoo Township since purchasing her home in 2001. Jen has a son in 8th grade at Hillside, a Step-daughter in 11th at K Central, and she is married to her husband Adrian. She loves being part of our community and is excited about the opportunity to serve all of our residents. Jen works as a mental health professional at Residential Opportunities, Inc. She has administrated a residential facility for people with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses for the last 20 years. Being in-service to the most vulnerable people in society is a privilege in Jen's eyes and it gives her great satisfaction.

Jen currently Chairs the Bronson Patient and Family Advisory Council and sits on several hospital committees to reduce workplace violence and review ethical issues. Other volunteer experience includes Metro Transit, Kalamazoo Public Schools, SPCA of SW Michigan, Ministry with Community, and the United Way. Jen is also a Co-founder of a local social welfare organization called ProKzoo that promotes political engagement and advocacy such as the "Hate Has No Home Here" campaign.

"The role of citizen if one of the most important ones we have in life," says Jen. "I look forward to being responsive to our citizens and to help ensure they continue to receive excellent services from our Township." Jen encourages everyone to recognize that they have the ability to shape the future of their community by reaching out to the members of the Board of Trustees or attending board meetings.

Recognition and Thanks

Thank You for Your Service Judy

Kalamazoo Township would like to thank retiring administrative assistant Judy Vernagallo for her 31 years of service in the building department and more recently at the front desk. Judy has been driving all the way from Allegan to be one of the first people at work for years. She's the lady who kept track of all the building permits and zoning request and could figure out where your sewer pipes were buried. When the Township contracted the permits and inspections to the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority Judy continued to work with the planning and zoning administrator to get Board packets out for the Planning Commission and ZBA along with taking calls and helping people at the front desk. We all wish Judy the best and hope she has plenty of time to relax, play and develop new interests in her retirement. It's well deserved.

The Township would also like to thank our front desk temp. Kaari Keivit for doing such a great job filling in while we go through some staffing reorganization. We received several comments about what a pleasant person was answering the phones while Kaari was here. She was a quick study and we wish her the best in her new permanent position.

Subscribe to the Newsletter

If you just happened across this newsletter online or picked one up at the township hall and aren't a subscriber yet be sure to go to www.ktwp.org to subscribe so you can receive it quarterly in your email.

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.

An advertisement for household hazardous waste recycling. The top half shows various household products like bug spray, paint, and cleaning supplies with the text "TOO MUCH BUG SPRAY? WE RECYCLE!". The bottom half contains contact information: "CALL 373-5211 OR VISIT www.kalcounty.com/hhw TO SEE IF YOUR AREA QUALIFIES FOR FREE RECYCLING". It also lists "MATERIAL ACCEPTED" (BATTERIES, COMPUTERS, CLEANERS, GASOLINE, MERCURY, OIL-BASED PAINTS, GARDEN CHEMICALS, USED MOTOR OIL, TELEVISIONS) and "NOT ACCEPTED" (LATEX PAINT). Hours are listed as Tues. & Fri. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday Noon - 6 p.m., and 2nd Sat. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (closed in Aug. & Sept. on Sat.). A QR code is also present.

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.

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://pmm.viebit.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

Independence Day, July 3 & 4, 2017

Labor Day, September 4, 2017

The mission of Kalamazoo Township is to provide government services that promote a safe, healthy, accessible, and economically viable community to live, work, learn, and play.