

Officials

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

Trustees

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



Winter Edition 2016

Editor

Molly K. Cole - Molly@ktpw.org

Steven C. Leuty - LeutySc@ktpw.org
Mark E. Miller - Millerme@ktpw.org

You May Need to Know...

2016 Road Work

Preparations are being made for the 2016 season. The list of roads to be repaired in 2016 should be posted on the Township website by February 9. Watch for notices of neighborhood meetings with representatives of the Road Commission, contractors and Kalamazoo Township to explain what you can expect to be happening in your neighborhood and have a chance to ask questions.

Single Hauler Garbage Service Starts April 1, 2016

Last summer we asked your thoughts about a single residential garbage service to reduce wear on local roads. They were, by large measure, positive. In December, three companies submitted bids to service the Township. Republic Services presented the lowest bid with the most service options. The Township recently posted detailed information and mailed a letter to affected households regarding the switch to a single hauler. You will also receive a letter and self-addressed stamped post card from Republic Services asking you to indicate which service options you would like. Please return the card to Republic Services even if you're already a customer. If you share a cart with a neighbor or take your trash to your business, just write, "I do not need a cart". If you've had service from another garbage provider, they will be picking up your cart by April 1 and reimbursing you for any amount that was paid in advance beyond April 1, 2016. More information is available at www.ktpw.org



Zoning Updates

Kalamazoo Charter Township is currently in the process of updating the Township's Zoning Ordinance. The Ordinance, which has undergone a variety of revisions and additions since it was originally adopted in 1947, was in need of a structural overhaul to make it more user friendly and align with existing needs in the Township. The update also seeks to help implement the 2014 Kalamazoo Charter Township Master Land Use Plan. The process began in summer 2015 and is expected to wrap up in late spring of 2016. Watch for an open house in April where you will have a chance to review and comment.

Please Help Keep Sidewalks Free of Ice

Snow fall has been light this year but please remember that ice can be even more treacherous than snow and is also covered by the Township's sidewalk ordinance. Please help keep your neighborhood safe. For information on the safest de-icers for the environment and your pets check out NRDC: Safer De-icers online. If your pet has walked through de-icer be sure to wash and dry their feet when you bring them in.

Big Year for Elections

March 8 is the Presidential Primary. Michigan holds what it called a “closed” primary, meaning any registered voter can vote but there are two separate ballots, one for the Republican candidates and one for the Democratic candidates. You choose which ballot you want to mark regardless of any party affiliation but you can only vote on one ballot. Your vote in the primary does not obligate you to support any particular party in later elections. If you’ll be a new voter, your last day to register to vote in the Presidential Primary is February 8.

Other important elections will be taking place: May 3 – Kalamazoo County Law Enforcement Millage, August 2 – State and Local Primaries, November 8 – Presidential Election. For more information on elections and voting go to <https://vote.michigan.gov/MVIC/> or <http://www.lwvmi.org/>

If you are interested in working at an election contact the Clerk’s Department at 381-8080.

Free Help With Taxes

Free Income Tax Preparation and Electronic Filing services have been provided by IRS-certified community volunteers since 2003 for individuals and families with household income of up to \$54,000 in 2015. Services include completion of federal and state returns including credits. Direct deposit is available at all locations. **Dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment**, or go online to goodwillswmi.org and click on the tax link for more information on locations, times, what to bring, or how to complete and electronically file your own return for free.



Don't Let Scammers Get Your Hard Earned Money

More and more people are being taken advantage of by scammers. Consumers Energy has reported that scammers have been calling people demanding payment for utilities. Other scammers may tell you that you’re in trouble with the IRS and you need their help or you may be prosecuted. There are ways that they can make it appear that they are calling from a legitimate business. If someone demands payment in a very short time or insists on a specific form of payment, be suspicious even if they claim to have an account number. If you don’t trust a caller, use a phone number you’re sure of to contact the business or agency in question and find out if you actually owe them money. For information on how to report a scam and for scam alerts, you can go to the Federal Trade Commission website, <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/media/video-0054-how-file-complaint>

Your Community

Input Wanted on Keeping Sidewalks Clear

People need clear sidewalks to get to bus stops, visit their neighbors or to exercise. Clear sidewalks are something most of us would like but not all of us can accomplish, especially when the snow is wet and heavy or the snowplow has shoved three feet of it onto the walk in front of your house. Kalamazoo Township has an ordinance that requires residents living on a metro bus route or 500 ft. either side of a school bus stop to keep their sidewalk clear but it’s hard to enforce.

The Township would like input on how you think this issue can best be dealt with. Some communities have groups of volunteers that can be contacted to help out people that aren’t able to clear their own sidewalk, some have heavier fines and stricter rules for when and which sidewalks need to be cleared. Some have special assessments so a contractor can be hired to keep the sidewalks clear. We would like your ideas on what would make this community friendlier and safer for those who must or who choose to use our sidewalks.

Your Voice Can Be Heard

There are two public comment periods in every board meeting, one near the beginning and one near the end. Comments can be on agenda and non-agenda items. Each person may use three (3) minutes for remarks. If your remarks would extend beyond the 3 minute time period, you're asked to provide additional comments in writing and they will be distributed to the board. The public comment period is for the Board to listen to your comments. It is not a time for debate as we want everyone to have an opportunity to be heard and the rest of the meeting needs to proceed in a timely matter. You'll be asked to begin your comments with your name and address.

Recognition and Thanks

Recognition Received for a Job Well Done

At a board meeting this fall, Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Managing Director, Joanna Johnson, thanked the Township of Kalamazoo and its residents for a successful partnership and the opportunity to provide the best in public service. She also gave special thanks to Trustee Donald Martin for his efforts in response to service requests and excellence in communication during the 2015 construction season and presented him with an award. The Road Commission and the Township also received the American Public Works Association 2015 Project of the Year Award for the Kalamazoo Township Local Transportation Infrastructure 3 year Plan.



The Township wants to thank everyone who worked with us making sure cars were off the road when work was to be done and letting us know where there were drainage problems to be addressed and making this a collaborative effort. The 2015 Road repair season resulted in improvement of 25 miles of road, replacement of 223 stop signs, tree and brush trimming, 87 drains improved and 823 ft. of concrete curb and the project came in below the estimate.

Communications from the Office

Structural Changes in Kalamazoo Township Governance

Beginning November 20, 2016 all Kalamazoo Township elected officials will be part-time. After a comprehensive review, at the December 14, 2015 board meeting a majority of the board decided a Township Manager and a Finance Director would provide more continuity from election to election, assure a stabilizing effect for efficient Township Administrative operations and procedure, professionally address the complexity and sophistication of urban Township operations including an \$8,000,000 general fund budget servicing nearly 22,000 residents and would assure the implementation of the directives and policies of the township board. Details of delegation of duties and reduction in pay for the supervisor, clerk and treasurer to be elected in November of 2016 are still being worked out. Watch the website www.ktwp.org for more details.

Did You Receive Your Recycle Calendar?

A calendar of the pick up dates for recycling, bulk trash and leaf and brush was recently mailed with the garbage service letter. If you did not receive one you can download it from the Township website or request that one be mailed to you. Please note that where it says leaf pick-up, bundled brush is still included. Even though Republic Services will now be picking up both garbage and recycling in Kalamazoo Township, they are two different programs and no changes have been made to the recycling program.

Recycling Tips

Put your recycling out early. The night before your pick up day is best. Even if your recycling isn't usually picked up until afternoon, put it out early. Often, if an area is missed, it's because the route had to be altered and the truck came through earlier in the day than usual. Sometimes those variations in timing are due to ice. Stop and go driving in a large truck is dangerous on icy roads. The truck's large size just means more momentum on icy roads so recycle trucks may not service your street on your regular day if the road is considered too slick. They will try to come back later in the week to get the streets that were missed so please be patient. Safety comes first. If you really think you've been forgotten, call the township within 24 hours and we will contact the dispatcher to get a truck back to pick up your recycling. (Friday area call on Monday.) Please don't ask for a truck to come back just because you were late. Making an extra trip waste energy and wears on the road.

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 homepage to subscribe so you can receive it quarterly in your email, www.kalamazootownship.org or send 4 self-addressed stamped envelopes to Kalamazoo Township.



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 located at 1720 Riverview Drive. Check the website for any 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 may also be viewed 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 Thursdays at Midnight.

Upcoming Township Office Closures

President's Day, February 15, 2016

Memorial Day, May 30, 2016

Independence Day, July 4, 2016

Labor Day, September 5, 2016