

# Kalamazoo Township News

Telephone: 381-8080 / Fax: 381-3550

[ktwp@kalamazootownship.org](mailto:ktwp@kalamazootownship.org) <http://www.kalamazootownship.org>

## Officials

Terri E. Mellinger, Supervisor - [Supervisor@ktwp.org](mailto:Supervisor@ktwp.org)  
Donald Z. Thall, Clerk - [Clerk@ktwp.org](mailto:Clerk@ktwp.org)  
George E. Cochran, Treasurer - [Treasurer@ktwp.org](mailto:Treasurer@ktwp.org)

## Trustees

Patricia C. Hiatt - [HiattPC@ktwp.org](mailto:HiattPC@ktwp.org)  
Mark E. Miller - [MillerME@ktwp.org](mailto:MillerME@ktwp.org)

Winter Edition 2011

1720 Riverview Dr.  
Kalamazoo Michigan 49004-1099  
Editor: Molly K. Cole – [Molly@ktwp.org](mailto:Molly@ktwp.org)

Donald D. Martin - [MartinDD@ktwp.org](mailto:MartinDD@ktwp.org)  
Ronald E. Reid - [ReidRE@ktwp.org](mailto:ReidRE@ktwp.org)

## Sidewalk Snow Removal

### What You Should Know

Owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks adjacent to their lot in good repair, clear of any obstructions and free of trash or broken glass. Also, sidewalks within 500 feet of a public or private school or Metro bus stop must be cleared of snow within 36 hours of an accumulation of ice or 2 inches of snow. (See full ordinance on our website.)

### Thank You

The Township Board and the Ordinance Officer would like to thank everyone who helped to keep the sidewalks clear last winter. Special thanks go to the following volunteers who were on call to help residents who were unable to shovel their own walks: Milton Smith, Joe Branch, Scott Poehlman, and Bethel Star Church volunteers. If you would be interested in volunteering please contact the Ordinance Officer at 381-8080.

## Fire Safety

### Keep Hydrants Visible

Please keep the fire hydrant near your home free from snow and vegetation (need a 3 foot circle around hydrant and a path to the street). This will help keep you and your neighbors safer, every minute that a fire burns it doubles in size, the help we give the firefighters could save your life.

## From the Assessor's Office

### Did You Know???

- Your taxes are based on your Taxable Value.
- Your Taxable Value can never exceed your assessed value.
- The Taxable Value can only increase at the rate of the Consumer Price Index or 5%, whichever is lower.
- The State of Michigan determines how much taxable value increases each year.
- Annual changes in assessment are based on sales of property in similar type neighborhoods.
- It is illegal for the Assessor to set your new assessment solely based on your purchase price.
- Your property information is available on our website at [www.KalamazooTownship.org](http://www.KalamazooTownship.org)

- It is your responsibility as a taxpayer to review your Assessment Change Notice (sent out in February).
- The only time you can appeal your assessment is during the March Board of Review.
- It is your responsibility to file a Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit if you qualify. This form only needs to be filed once.
- If you have a business in Kalamazoo Township, and move out of the Township, you must contact the Assessor's office.

## Holiday Closings

The Township's Administrative Offices will be closed for the holidays on November 24 & 25, December 26, 2011 and January 2, 2012. (Full 2012 Calendar on our website.)

## Board of Trustees Meeting Dates - 2nd & 4th

Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the Township Administrative Offices located at 1720 Riverview Drive. Meetings on Oct. 15 and Nov. 19, 2012 are for budget discussion only.

The board meetings are televised live on channel 21, and rebroadcast on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 95, on Sunday at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. on channel 21.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Third Wednesday of each month

Unsafe Building Hearings – Every other month (usually the 2nd or 3rd Wed. at 3:00 p.m.)

Planning Commission Meetings – Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The Township Planning Commission holds public hearings on renewal of the special exception use permits for the gravel mines within the Township. Previously, properties near these facilities were notified by first class mail, although this practice was not required by law. In order to save tax dollars, especially in an economic environment where less activity is taking place at our gravel mines, we will henceforth be notifying the public of these hearings through the newsletter instead.

## Planning Commission Public Hearings Schedule

|                            |   |           |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| Superior Gravel            | 1950 Ravine Road                                | February  |
| Consumers Concrete         | 1800 Ravine Road & 1100 Nazareth Road           | June      |
| STONECO of Michigan        | 3800 Ravine Road                                | August    |
| CJ Vlietstra and Sons Inc. | 2500 Ravine Road (formerly Triple B Aggregates) | September |
| Balkema Excavating, Inc.   | 4274 Ravine Road                                | December  |

It also holds a public hearing on plans for the County Fairgrounds in December.

### **Recycling**                      **Coming Soon – Covered Recycle Carts and No More Sorting**

Kalamazoo Township will be switching over to single stream recycling in December. Watch for a new recycling cart with lid, to show up at the end of your driveway sometime in December. With the cart there will be a new, more inclusive list of things you can recycle and no more sorting. The sorting will be done by a combination of hand labor and machines. Go to the following website for a video of a similar facility to the one your recycling will be going to and see how it's done.

<http://go-qlr.com/Display.aspx?id=6&site=1&menu=12> Click on "view complete video" on the left side of the page.

Warning, your recyclables still need to be clean and there are cameras in the back of the truck so they can tell if someone tries to sneak garbage in under their recycling.

### **Leaves and Brush**

Leaves must be in paper yard bags or brown corrugated boxes (no plastic bags). **No loose leaves in the street.** Brush and branches not exceeding four feet in length and two inches in diameter must be securely tied or boxed in brown corrugated boxes (no plastic bags). The 12-container limit does not apply to the leaf and brush pick ups. In addition, private drop-off sites accept yard trimmings for a fee, including Mulder's Landscape Supplies (3333 Ravine Road, 345-6900), Best Way (Miller Road, 388-3346) and KLS (9<sup>th</sup> Street, 375-8000). Customers empty the leaves from their own bags.

### **Bulk Trash**

Bulk trash will again be picked up in April, July and October. See the 2012 schedule for your specific day.

- Trash must be placed at curbside no earlier than the weekend before the pickup day.
- Loose trash must be placed in brown corrugated boxes. No plastic bags of any color, size, or style are accepted.
- You are limited to 12 containers and to what two-people can carry, but not more than 5 cubic yards (4' x 8' x 3.5').
- Old appliances will be picked up if they can be lifted by two-persons. Refrigeration units must have a sticker or other notice from a certified technician certifying the Freon or the compressor has been removed.
- No building materials from remodeling projects, such as sheet rock, plaster board, shingles, and railroad ties. One cubic yard of lumber (not to exceed 4 feet in length) is acceptable.
- No hazardous or toxic waste. Dried latex paint with the cover removed is acceptable.
- No rocks, sand, concrete rubble, dead animals, vehicle parts, tires, or heavy iron are accepted.
- Household garbage is not accepted.

Please call the Township within 48 hours if you think your bulk trash was missed. Any item not picked up due to any of the above reasons must be taken off the curbside and stored out of sight by the following weekend. The resident is responsible for proper disposal of unaccepted items.

### **Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center**

Cleaning out your garage? Kalamazoo County recycles the following for **Free**: Gas, Car Batteries, Motor Oil & Filters, Antifreeze, Aerosol Cans and more. Also, bring in your TV or computer for recycling. Call our Hotline at (269) 373-5211 or get information on line at [www.kalcounty.com/hhw/index.htm](http://www.kalcounty.com/hhw/index.htm)

### **Kalamazoo Community Foundation Wetland and Creek Protection Grant**

Behind the Township offices there is a spring fed wetland and creek. Working together with Geum Services, Inc. the Township applied for a Wetland and Creek Protection grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The grant provided money for planning, supplies and labor to survey the native species in the wetland, purchase and plant Michigan native plants along the creek bank and put in rocks in a small gully to slow water flow from a parking lot to the creek. The deep rooted plants will filter the water, stabilize the banks and provide attractive, low maintenance habitat for insects and birds. Planting help was donated by teen volunteers Kelsey Cole and Victoria Thall, Victoria's father Robert, and Patrick Hudson a Township resident. Additional plants were donated by Wild Ones and Mary Ann's Michigan Trees & Shrubs. For a list of plants, pictures, and more information on the project, and links, please go to our web site. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with maintenance of the native plants or removal of non-native species please contact Molly at 381-8080.