



Township News

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You May Need to Know...

Emergency Warning Siren Use To Be Discontinued in 2019

The Township's emergency warning sirens have become obsolete. After much research and many discussions, it was determined that the best course of action is to discontinue the use of the sirens within the Township of Kalamazoo. This decision was mainly based on the availability of newer technologies in long range weather forecasting and early alert warning programs currently available with cell phones, computers and commercially available weather alert receivers. Find a longer article on the [Fire Department](#) page of our website. Weather radios are available for Township residents to purchase at the Township Hall for \$25.00, our cost, no mark up.



New Sidewalk Ordinance

Clear, useable sidewalks are important and many Township residents do their best to keep theirs clear. Unfortunately some aren't taking on the responsibility so Kalamazoo Township has had to put a little more punch in its sidewalk ordinance by issuing tickets to residents that don't have their sidewalks cleared. You can read the full ordinance on our website under [Community>Ordinances](#).

We want to give a BIG thank you to anyone who is helping a neighbor who is unable to take care of their own sidewalk. We also encourage you to network with your neighbors through a neighborhood association, Facebook page or other neighborhood app., in order to request or volunteer help or give references for service providers to clear sidewalks.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

In the event of a fire emergency, could firefighters find the hydrant near your home? We are encouraging residents to "adopt a fire hydrant" near their home and keep snow shoveled away and vegetation trimmed back. This will ensure hydrants are visible and will greatly speed the response time in case of an emergency. Time spent by firefighters searching for and clearing hydrants buried in drifts or plowed snow is precious time lost in saving a victims life or fighting a spreading fire. At minimum, fire hydrants need to have enough snow or vegetation cleared away to be visible from the street. The best option is to clear a 3 foot circle around the fire hydrant so firefighters have complete access in an emergency.

In addition don't forget to keep hydrants and fire lanes clear of vehicles at all times.

If you believe there is an issue with a fire hydrant needing repair or attention please feel free to contact Fire Marshal Todd Kowalski at 269-381-8080.

How to Report Burned Out or Broken Street Lights

You can easily report burned out or broken street lights to Consumers Energy to get them replaced or repaired. Click this link [Consumers Energy Street Light Repair](#) or search on those the same words. You will find a number on each light pole that you can use to reference it.



Recycling

We have some great recyclers in Kalamazoo Township and more people are asking for a blue bin every week. With all the enthusiasm, it's important that we aren't "wishful recyclers". A wishful recycler puts as much as possible in their cart and hopes it's recyclable. It's important to only put things in your cart that you know are recyclable under our program. Different recycling facilities are set up to sort and sell different recyclables depending on the market. Contaminating the recycle stream with greasy cardboard, specialty glass products or other items that can't be recycled here can cause defects in recycled products and reduce the market value of recyclables coming from the sorting facility.

So, is recycling still worth it? You bet. According to an EPA website www.epa.gov/recycle, recycling 10 aluminum cans saves enough energy to power a laptop computer for 51.9 hours. Speaking of that laptop or your cell phone, you can safely take your used electronics to the County's household hazardous waste facility for recycling. Millions of cell phones end up in landfills or sitting in a box in the basement. They contain precious metals that could be reused in new phones. The raw materials are often mined in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, destroying great ape habitat.

You'd be surprised at what you can recycle if you take it to the right place. Go to www.kalcounty.com/hhw/notaccepted.htm to find out what to do with concrete, oil, paint, tires, appliances and more.

Who is Responsible for the Roads

In Michigan the county road commissions and townships share transportation-related responsibilities. Road commissions are responsible for maintenance and construction of local roads, while townships are responsible for non-transportation uses of road rights of way, sub-surface rights of way usage such as utilities and communication systems, and law enforcement. In spite of state law assigning maintenance and construction responsibility to road commissions, the state transportation fund doesn't provide sufficient financial resources for road commissions to perform their responsibilities at a level acceptable to everyone. Consequently, township boards voluntarily contribute money each year to their county road commissions to support road projects in their respective townships. (Please note that laws for Townships are different from Cities.) This is why when you call the Township with a plowing, pot hole or road drainage issue, all of which are roadway maintenance responsibilities, you will be referred to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County. You can also report damaged road signs to the Road Commission. You can report issues on their [website](#) or call (269) 381-3171.

Your Community

Prepare Now For Spring Flooding and Storms

Be sure you have a way to receive emergency warnings. Make sure you have back up batteries or chargers so you don't lose contact. Change the station to a channel that gives local news and alerts. Help make sure storm drains in your area are kept clear. Clear leaves off the road and curb. If a storm drain appears to be clogged and you can't clear it contact the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County. Be prepared, don't think it couldn't happen here. Get to know your neighbors ahead of time so you know who might be vulnerable and can offer them help or inform authorities. You can go to <https://www.ready.gov/> for more information on how to prepare for a variety of emergencies.



Don't be complacent, we still have plenty of time for a good old fashioned Michigan snow storm. If you weren't around in 1978 you may not realize how isolating a snow storm can be.

If you are contacted and told to evacuate by emergency personnel please follow their instructions. They will be happy to provide official identification.

Travel the World in Your Own Backyard

Did you know you can travel the world without leaving Kalamazoo Township? Here are a few of the places you can go: Lolita's Tacos, Saffron Indian Cuisine, McGonigles Irish Pub, Zooroona Mediterranean Grill, Nina's Café, Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen and Rasa Ria. Explore your neighborhood and explore the world.



Recognition and Thanks

Boards and Commissions

We want to thank the members of our boards and commissions for their dedication and diligence. The primary Boards and Commissions are the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, both usually meet every month. The Board of Appeals is a smaller but no less important group that meets 3 days in March and once in July and December. Members of all of these boards are expected to attend annual training. There is also a Fire Board of Appeals that meets on an as needed basis. It is very rare for this board to meet. The Township is very fortunate to have found a group of people with related expertise who were willing to come together for two meetings this year on short notice.

If you would like to learn more about these boards and commissions please go to our website for descriptions of their duties. You can download an application to serve and send it to the Township to be kept on record. The Supervisor will look at these applications when an opening occurs. This year we would particularly like to thank Ann Simmons for her five years on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Communications from the Office

Marijuana Update

If you've been following this newsletter you know that pending state licensing Kalamazoo Township will have a number of medical marijuana facilities within its borders. They are mostly grow and provisioning centers located in areas zoned for industry. There is one processing center going into an industrial area and one provisioning center in a commercial area. Work is being done to prepare the facilities but none of them are open yet at the time of writing this article.

In November voters approved non-medical use of marijuana for people over 21 years of age. Your Kalamazoo Township board will have to make decisions as to whether or where non-medical marijuana may be located in Kalamazoo Township. Growing or possessing marijuana for personal use is now legal in Michigan regardless of decisions made by the Township. There is still some work to be done in writing and interpreting state rules regarding sales of non-medical marijuana. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

Everyone should be aware that these changes do not prevent any business from requiring a drug free workplace and doing drug testing according to their stated policies.

Saving Energy Can Be Warmer and Brighter

After over 40 years of use the Township is upgrading the heating, ventilation and air conditioning in the Township Hall. Money from the energy saved by the project will be invested in other energy conservation in the building, such as insulation and sealing around windows. If you're interested in having a more comfortable and affordable home go to <https://www.consumersenergy.com/residential/save-money-and-energy> You'll find lots of ways that you can save money and energy while making your home or business a nicer place to be.

Tips for Keeping Your Vehicles and Valuables Safe

In nearly half of vehicle thefts the driver made an error such as leaving a key in the ignition or a door unlocked. An unlocked door or open window is an easy target for thieves.

- Never leave your vehicle unattended while running.
- Park in a garage, if available. Lock both the car and garage.
- Don't leave your car keys unattended, especially in an easily accessible area
- Keep vehicle registration and proof of insurance on you; don't leave these documents in your glove compartment.
- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Never leave valuables or packages in your vehicle where they can be seen.

Like Us on Facebook

If you want more information faster, "like" us on Facebook. We're posting press releases directly from the police department and the city water department as soon as they come out (except weekends, sorry). We'll try to keep the information useful and interesting and once in a while fun. Find us at Kalamazoo Charter Township.

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.

Dispose of Drugs Safely



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.

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: Check the PMN website for replay days and times. Meetings are also online at <http://pmn.viebit.com/>.

Upcoming Township Office Closures

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, 2019
Memorial Day, May 27, 2019

Presidents' Day, February 18, 2019
Independence Day, July 4 & 5, 2019

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.