

Officials

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Winter Edition 2017

Manager

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You May Need to Know...

Please Help Keep Sidewalks Clear

Owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks adjacent to their lots in good repair and clear of any obstructions including leaves, snow, grass turf, and trash. For many children and adults having a clear sidewalk to get to bus stops or the grocery store is critical. It can be tough with the snowplow shoving snow up from the street but we're hoping people can work together to get it done. If you have a snow blower or can handle the workout, help a neighbor; if you hire a plow service to clear your driveway, try to find one that will also do your sidewalk. If you can't shovel can you pay someone in the neighborhood, offer to bake them cookies, offer to dog sit or some other service in trade? If you belong to a church or other organization you can identify those who need help and create a snow hero group to work together to clear their sidewalks. Thank you for supporting non-motorized transportation, exercise and keeping the neighborhood looking nice.

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. Thank you for your assistance keeping our neighborhoods, properties and lives safer.

Consolidated Dispatch

Five different Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) have come together to create one emergency dispatch center that will dispatch police, fire and EMS services throughout the County. (This is not a consolidation of all the emergency services, just the dispatch/call center.) The plan is intended to coordinate and speed up services when an emergency call is placed. You can find more information at the following website <http://www.kccda911.org/> and we will keep you informed on our website and in our newsletter as things progress. If you have comments or questions contact Manager Mitchell at manager@ktpw.org.

Help is Available

Community Homeworks is a Kalamazoo-based, non-profit that provides critical repair assistance, weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades, and education about home maintenance and repair to low-income households. Learn more about enhancing your dwelling at CommunityHomeworks.org or call 998-3275. <https://communityhomeworks.org/> Another place to look for assistance with keeping your home warm and safe is the Kalamazoo County Community Action Agency. (269) 373-5066 or <http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/caa/default.asp>

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 2016. 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 <http://www.goodwillswmi.org/freetaxes/> 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

There are ways scammers 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. To report a scam and for scam alerts, you can go to the Federal Trade Commission website, <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>

2017 Road Work

Preparations are being made for the 2017 season. The list of roads to be repaired in 2017 should be posted on the Township website in February. 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.

Your Community

Westwood

Wednesday January 18th, 2017 the Westwood Neighborhood Association is a meeting at Westwood Fire Station on Nichols Road from 7-8 PM. For more information go to the [Westwood Neighborhood Association](#) Facebook page

It's cold and snowy and only the hardest fat tire cyclist is out pedaling but come spring check out the "Westwood Wiggle" bike route. Look for signs on Canterbury, Grace, Althea, Pinehurst and Commonwealth.



Eastwood

Eastwood's Bike Route signs have also been installed. Look for them on Gayle, Kenilworth and East Main. Anyone have a suggestion for a good name for the route?

Goodbye to Mr. Eastwood, Robert Talbot

Long time Township resident Robert Talbot passed away on November 19 of 2016. Mr. Talbot served on the Township's Planning Commission for 26 years and was President of the Eastwood Community Association. He gave years of service to improve the safety and quality of life of his neighbors. We are very thankful for all of his service and for others like him who are willing to get involved in working to make life better for all of us.

You can find more information on the [Eastwood Neighborhood Association](#) on Facebook.

[Lakewood & Northwood](#)

Would you like to know your neighbors better, work with others on projects to beautify your neighborhood or plan events like a neighborhood garage-sale? Do you need to work together to speak up on issues of concern to your community? Do you want to be prepared to help each other in case of emergencies? How about a block party, with activities for the kids to get you started? Kalamazoo Township encourages each neighborhood to have a neighborhood association and will provide a meeting location in the local fire station if you want to get one organized. Now is the time to start planning if you want to kick something off in the spring. Contact Treasurer Miller or Molly at the Township or look for links on the [Neighborhood](#) page of our website if you would like some help getting something started.

[Little Free Libraries](#)

Last fall Kalamazoo Township residents asked about Little Free Libraries, regulations and if any permits are required. On December 1, 2016, the Kalamazoo Township Planning Commission took up the question and determined that **NO PERMITS ARE REQUIRED** for these excellent benefits to the community. The Planning Commission wishes to encourage Little Free Libraries and does not want to regulate them. But please be aware there two simple rules to follow which can be found on the [Planning Commission](#) web page. Patrick Hudson, Zoning Administrator

[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](#)

[KPEP](#)

Kalamazoo Township wants to say a big thank you to the folks at KPEP for helping to clear the sidewalks along Olmstead and Lake last fall. The sidewalks covered with grown over with dirt and grass. KPEP and their community service program are great contributors to the community, they work together with Township staff to tackle tough jobs that might not otherwise get done.



[Communications from the Office](#)

[Recycling Tips](#)

- Please don't put plastic bags or clothing in your recycle cart. They can get tangled in the sorting machines and shut the facilities down for hours. Instead take bags back to a store such as Meijer or Walmart and take used clothing to Goodwill or one of the drop boxes located around town
- If you have shredded paper put it in a paper bag and roll the top shut before you put it in your cart so it doesn't get blown all over when the cart is dumped.

[Manager's Goals](#)

Kalamazoo Township's new manager, Dexter Mitchell, started work on October 31, 2016. He comes to us from Buena Vista Township, near Saginaw, where he was working as a township manager. Since arriving he has been busy getting to know all the staff and the board and has been getting to know his way around the township. He is very hands on so don't be surprised to have him show up on your doorstep if you have a concern you'd like addressed. As stated in his contract he has developed goals for the next year rooted in the strategic plan developed by the Board of Trustess. His goals cover economic development, customer service and intergovernmental partnerships. To see the full goals document approved by the Board go to the [Manager's page](#) on our website.

Meet Trustee Nicky Leigh

Hi, I moved to Michigan a little over three years ago to be with my daughter and her family. We share a duplex on Nazareth Rd which makes me most familiar with the east side of the Township. I ran for office for a few reasons. I firmly believe in giving back to my community and by being on the Board I can accomplish this goal. I also believe climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our state. We are ideally suited to weather the current prognosis of the effects of climate change. We have plenty of fresh water, we are not liable to flood, we are the second largest producer of fresh fruits and vegetables and most of our crops can be adapted as the weather warms. But we need to start planning now. I also believe in diversity and equity for all. We are diverse but not yet equitable. I believe we have work to do: to make Michigan and the Township a welcoming, sustainable place for all people to feel comfortable, to get a good education and live a fulfilling life.



How would you describe life in Kalamazoo Township? Send your response in as few words as possible to manager@ktwp.org

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: Check the PMN website for a schedule of repeats or other programs. Meetings may also be viewed online at <https://pmn.viebit.com/>

Upcoming Township Office Closures

Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2017

Memorial Day, May 29, 2017

President's Day, February 20, 2017

Independence Day, July 3 & 4, 2017

Office hours for part-time officials are available on the department web pages.