



Township News

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You May Need to Know...

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.

Marijuana Update

The Kalamazoo Township Board has made the decision to opt in for all 5 types of medical marijuana businesses. The planning commission is in the process of writing the zoning ordinance that will lay out the criteria for siting a business in the Township. At this time it looks like the facilities will be limited to commercial or industrial areas and require a 1,000 ft. buffer from schools and libraries and a 500 foot buffer from homes in residential areas. For more specific information please attend the meetings, check our website <http://www.ktwp.org/> or follow us on Facebook, [Kalamazoo Charter Township](#).

There will be a special meeting of the Planning Commission on January 18 and a public hearing is tentatively planned for February 8 prior to making a recommendation to the Board on February 12. A 2nd public hearing is tentatively scheduled for a special board meeting February 20, 2017. The Township will start taking applications on March 1.

Anyone opening a marijuana business will then have to go through the site plan review process like any other new business.

Clear Sidewalks Update

In a special edition of the newsletter we asked for your input on keeping sidewalks clear. For the last several years we had an ordinance requiring people to shovel sidewalks 500 ft. either side of a bus stop. This proved to be very impractical for the ordinance officer and people walking on the sidewalk. Based on the feedback we received, sidewalks are important to you. The board is looking at an amendment to get rid of the 500 ft. rule and require all sidewalks open to the public be kept clear. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendment will be posted on our website and you will have time to comment before it is passed by the board.

There were many people that thought it would be worthwhile for the Township to contract out the clearing of sidewalks along the busier streets such as W. Main which get even more than the usual amount of snow pushed onto the sidewalk by the plows. The Township will be looking into ways to equitably fund such a project.

In the meantime we want to make sure we practice what we preach. The Township Board has authorized the purchase of a compact tractor with a snow blower and blade so we can keep all the sidewalks on Township properties cleared in a timely manner.

We realize that not everyone has the ability to clear their sidewalks or pay to have them done. We are asking that neighborhood associations, churches and other service groups work together to address these needs. If the Township could have a list of contacts for shoveling we could share that information with those that need the help. We've been witnessing and hearing stories of neighbors helping neighbors and we want to let you know that we appreciate what you're doing. Great neighbors make a great neighborhood.

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

Your Community

Wayfinding and Branding, what's that about?

It's about building a sense of community, knowing where you're from and where you're going, knowing that you're a part of something and you make a difference. That's why Kalamazoo Township has been working on creating a stronger identity by coming up with a new logo that showcases our dedication to mobility for everyone, respect for nature and pride in our neighborhoods. In addition to signing bike routes we've put up new park signs and neighborhood signs.



We're encouraging people to get to know their neighbors and to take a sense of pride and responsibility for their neighborhoods. Here a few ways you can help: volunteer in one of our parks, shovel an elderly neighbor's sidewalk, join a neighborhood association or serve on a Township board. Together we can make Kalamazoo Township a safe, healthy, accessible and economically viable community to live, work, learn and play.

You can find information on the Neighborhood Associations in Eastwood, Northwood and Westwood on our website and if you're in Lakewood, you can find tips on how to start a neighborhood association there.

Community Events Calendar

Do you help with an annual community event in Kalamazoo Township? If you'd like to get the word out to more of your neighbors let us know and we'll put events that are in keeping with our mission on our Community Events Calendars on our website and Facebook.

Fast Facts on Transportation Improvements

Thanks to a voter-approved bond millage from 2015 – 2017, 64.36 of Kalamazoo Township’s 75 miles of local roads were improved from 2015 – 2017, which involved 99,513 tons of hot mix asphalt (the equivalent weight of 443 Statue of Liberty National Monuments), 667,143 square yards of cold milling, 746 drainage spillways and 225 drainage structures!



Road, and West Main Street/M-43).

Consistent with Kalamazoo Township’s Complete Streets policy, the bond also financed many non-motorized improvements, including over 44 “orphaned” sidewalks now connected to roadways with ADA-compliant ramps, 100 small repairs on high-use sidewalks, over 4 miles of signed bicycle routes, and 2.8 miles of new sidewalks adjacent to primary and other busy roads (including portions of Grand Prairie Road, Nazareth Road, Sunnyside Drive, Kendall Avenue, Olmstead



In 2018, the bond-funded, transportation projects will conclude with approximately one mile of road improvements on Dayton Street and Stewart Drive. In 2018 and thereafter, Kalamazoo Township will continue to invest in preventative maintenance measures to cost-effectively preserve the significant, bond-funded improvements.



Recognition and Thanks

Police Department Awards and Commendations

Several of the Township’s finest were recognized at the November 27, 2017 Board Meeting. Meritorious Service Awards went to Officer Robert Nemecek, Officer Craig Gruner, Officer Christopher Roberts and Sergeant Michael White. Letters of Commendation were given to Officer Halley Bachmann (2), Sergeant Scott Jackson, Officer Chris Roberts, Sergeant Darien Smith. Life Saving awards went to Sergeant Scott Jackson, Dispatcher Jeff Koch, and Officer Cecil Queen. Professional Excellence Awards went to Detective Georgeann Ergang (2) and Officer Craig Gruner. A certificate of appreciation was given to Township resident Kendra Gregory. Learn more by watching video of the presentation at the November 27, 2018 meeting on [PMN](#) minute 9:57.

We are very proud of them for their quick thinking, professional demeanor, diligence and selfless actions in keeping members of our community safe and secure

Communications from the Office

Retirement of Kalamazoo Township Police Chief Timothy Bourgeois

Timothy Bourgeois retired from his position of Police Chief the end of December. He served the Township for over 41 years starting as a Cadet and moving up to Dispatcher, Patrol Officer, Undercover Narcotics Investigator, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Detective Lieutenant, Captain of Operations, Chief of Police. He will be continuing his career as Executive Director of the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards

Chief Bourgeois will be missed in the Township offices. He excelled in his job as Police Chief and with his sharp wit and intellect, was a pleasure to work with. He is wished the best of luck in his new position.

Appointment of Bryan Ergang to the Position of Police Chief

Bryan Ergang was sworn in as the new Police Chief. Chief Ergang has been with the Township since he started as a patrol officer in 1995. Since then he has also served as a shift supervisor, sergeant of the community policing unit, dispatch supervisor, field training officer and lead defensive tactics instructor. He served most recently as Lieutenant. He has earned an Associate's Degree from Grand Rapids Community College, a Bachelor's Degree from Siena Heights College, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University and recently graduated as a member of Class 259 from the prestigious FBI National Academy. We are pleased to have him as the new Chief and also want to congratulate his choice to fill the Lieutenant's position, Scott Jackson, an 18 year veteran of the force.



Saving Energy, a Bright Idea

With a little help from Consumers Power the Township upgraded the lighting in its parking lot, police car port and the maintenance garage with LED lights in downlight fixtures. The annual savings for this project are estimated at \$1,500. In addition to saving money these lights are brighter and greatly improve the security around the Township Hall but the down lighting helps protect our the night sky.

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: Replays are on Mon. 8 a.m., Thur. 1 a.m. and Fri. 3:00 p.m. Meetings are also online at <http://pnn.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

Presidents' Day, February 19, 2017

Memorial Day, May 28, 2018

Independence Day, July 4, 2018

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.