



# Township News

1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004  
 Telephone: (269) 381-8080 / Fax: (269) 381-3550  
<http://www.ktwp.org>



## Winter Edition 2021

### Manager

Dexter Mitchell – [Manager@ktwp.org](mailto:Manager@ktwp.org)

### Editor

Molly K. Cole – [molly@ktwp.org](mailto:molly@ktwp.org)

Lisa Moaiery – [moaieryl@ktwp.org](mailto:moaieryl@ktwp.org)

Ashley Glass – [glassam@ktwp.org](mailto:glassam@ktwp.org)

### Officials

Donald D. Martin, Supervisor - [Supervisor@ktwp.org](mailto:Supervisor@ktwp.org)

Mark E. Miller, Clerk - [Clerk@ktwp.org](mailto:Clerk@ktwp.org)

Sherine M. Miller, Treasurer - [Treasurer@ktwp.org](mailto:Treasurer@ktwp.org)

### Trustees

Steven Leuty - [leutysc@ktwp.org](mailto:leutysc@ktwp.org)

Clara Robinson - [robinsoncd@ktwp.org](mailto:robinsoncd@ktwp.org)

**Put our Website in Your Favorites** - Go to [www.ktwp.org](http://www.ktwp.org) to check on ordinances, meetings, elections, pay taxes, find recycling rules, download forms, etc.

**Subscribe to the Newsletter** – fill in your information on our website, under Quarterly Newsletter Sign Up, to get our newsletter in your email.

**Follow Us on Facebook** – at [Kalamazoo Charter Township](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCharterTownship) to get more information faster.

**Get Neighbors by Ring** - The Township Police Department is partners with [Neighbors by Ring](https://www.neighborsbyring.com), a free way to report and receive real-time local crime and safety updates on your smartphone, whether or not you own a Ring device.

## You May Need to Know...

**As of November 18, 2020, due to COVID 19 and restrictions put in place by the MDHHS the Township's Police and Administration offices are closed to the public until further notice.**

There are several ways that you can continue to do your business with the Township.

- In most cases your business can be done by using the phone, email, U.S. mail, drop box or zoom meeting. There is a secure drop box just outside the doors to the building nearest the flag pole.
- Please note that in keeping with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration emergency rules, all personnel who are able to are working from home as much as possible but are available by email, phone.
- The above is subject to change at any time. Please call (269) 381-8080 if you have questions.

All essential services such as fire and police will continue. Call 911 or non-emergency dispatch, (269) 488-8911 for fire or police services. For other community services call 211.

If you or someone you know has symptoms of Covid-19 or Covid-19 Health questions you can call (269) 373-5044.

Thank you for your patience and stay safe,

Dexter Mitchell, Township Manager, Kalamazoo Township

Assessments	<a href="mailto:assessor@ktwp.org">assessor@ktwp.org</a>	Ordinance complaints	<a href="mailto:ordinance@ktwp.org">ordinance@ktwp.org</a>
Taxes/Sewer/Rental Reg.	<a href="mailto:srbrown@ktwp.org">srbrown@ktwp.org</a>	Voter Registration	<a href="mailto:katarinak@ktwp.org">katarinak@ktwp.org</a>
Planning & Zoning	<a href="mailto:planner@ktwp.org">planner@ktwp.org</a>	Ownership/Deeds/PRG	<a href="mailto:bjzawacki@ktwp.org">bjzawacki@ktwp.org</a>
Cemetery/Accounts Payable	<a href="mailto:mikalupa@ktwp.org">mikalupa@ktwp.org</a>	Site Plan Reviews, Fire Inspections & Reports	<a href="mailto:firechief@ktwp.org">firechief@ktwp.org</a>
Recycling/Bulk Pickups	<a href="mailto:molly@ktwp.org">molly@ktwp.org</a>	Building Permits & Inspections	<a href="mailto:permits@kaba-mi.org">permits@kaba-mi.org</a>
Police Records	<a href="mailto:records@ktwp.org">records@ktwp.org</a>	Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Supervisor@ktwp.org">Supervisor@ktwp.org</a>
Manager	<a href="mailto:Manager@ktwp.org">Manager@ktwp.org</a>	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@ktwp.org">Treasurer@ktwp.org</a>
Clerk	<a href="mailto:Clerk@ktwp.org">Clerk@ktwp.org</a>		

## Sidewalks Need Your Help

Property owners and occupants are responsible for keeping sidewalks free of snow, vegetation, debris, vehicles, and other obstacles. Please be considerate of people who need a safe path to use a wheelchair, push a stroller, exercise, visit neighbors, travel to a bus stop, or walk to a store.

Accumulation of snow exceeding a depth of 2 inches must be removed within 24 hours. Please help neighbors who may be physically unable to clear their sidewalk. Violations of Kalamazoo Township's Ordinance 604 can be reported to the Ordinance Enforcement Officer at [ordinance@ktwp.org](mailto:ordinance@ktwp.org).



## Too Many Boxes?

Are you up to your ears in cardboard boxes that are too big or too many to fit in your recycle cart? From now through the end of January you can drop them off at Republic Services, 3432 Gembrit Circle, at no charge.

Also, please be sure to recycle your old electronics and batteries at County Household Hazardous Waste or where you purchase your electronics. You'd be surprised at what you can recycle if you take it to the right place. Go to <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/hhw/> for more information on what you can recycle.

## Winter Tips from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

- Keep snow from being pushed into your driveway by shoveling your driveway in the direction of traffic and keeping an area before the end of your driveway clear so snow being pushed by the plow will fill that space instead of your driveway.
- Don't assume snow plows can see you, they have a limited field of vision. Never pass on the right, plows push snow and spread sand to the right.
- Remember that the Road Commission is responsible for 1,267 miles of roadway in Kalamazoo County. Their order of priority is: designated snow route roads, balance of primary road, through local roads then subdivision or plat streets.
- Don't push or deposit snow, ice or slush onto or across a roadway in a way that obstructs the vision of drivers.

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 and law enforcement. 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 report issues such as damaged road signs on their [website](#) or call (269) 381-3171.

## Prepare Now For Winter Storms and Spring Flooding

We're all hoping 2021 will be much better than 2020 but as we've learned it's good to be prepared. A heavy snow or ice storm could complicate life even more than it already is. Get to know your neighbors ahead of time so you know who might be vulnerable and can offer them help or inform authorities if you think they're having problems.

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. Tune in to a station that gives local news and alerts. Help make sure storm drains in your area are kept clear before the snow hits so when the snow melts the water doesn't back up. Keep a supply of food and water on hand. Be prepared, don't think it couldn't happen here. We know it can. You can go to <https://www.ready.gov/> for more information on how to prepare for a variety of emergencies.



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

## Your Community

If you have news or events or photos to share from your neighborhood send them to [molly@ktwp.org](mailto:molly@ktwp.org)

### From the Westwood Neighborhood Association (WNA)

Well, it's a new year and we're hoping it will be less eventful, 2020 was more than enough to last many years!

On to another winter in Michigan and we get lots of snow and ice. Most of us can handle that, but if you know a neighbor who can't, or has their drive plowed but can't clear the sidewalks, why not contact them to see if you or another neighbor can help? Also, many neighbors have needs but don't want to travel snowy roads, maybe a neighbor can help? Neighbors helping neighbors makes one feel warmer, inside.

The Westwood Neighborhood Association will be conducting a neighborhood survey soon to start collecting data for the Imagine Westwood project. The project will be asking you to look at your neighborhood, for now and into the future. The collected data will be used to work with the Planning Commission on the Master Plan for the Township.

You can show off your Westwood spirit year-round as we have added Westwood sweatshirts to the apparel available now: <https://www.purekalamazoo.com/westwood>.

These shirts and sweatshirts are attractive, durable and designed to be comfortable. Makes great gifts, too!

Wishing you a great 2021 and Stay healthy!

## Communications from the Office

### Introducing Trustee Ashley Glass

I live with my husband and five-year-old daughter in the Eastwood neighborhood and have been a Kalamazoo resident for over a decade now. Becoming a Trustee is a great honor and I look forward to listening to our residents and working with them to continue building a community that is healthy and thriving for all who live here.

In a nutshell, I value our environment; community activism; a place that is 'for the people by the people'; transparency; equity and inclusion. I value small businesses that are committed to building us up and promoting people over profits. I am committed to thinking creatively about how to engage and collaborate with our citizens, surrounding communities, and local organizations to achieve our goals.

I hold an undergraduate degree in Political Science and I am almost finished with a graduate degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. In the past, I have volunteered or engaged with several community organizations including Urban Alliance, Building Blocks, Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War, Engaging Local Government Leaders, and groups that work with the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition. I have also volunteered in several election cycles to get out the vote. I have never served in elected office, but I am grateful for your trust and excited to get to work for you!

### From the Treasurer's Office

The Kalamazoo Township Treasury department will have limited public office hours. You may mail tax payments or put them in the drop box by the doors nearest the flag pole. If you provide an email address we can email your receipt or you can include a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail the receipt to you.

Using our website you can pay your taxes online. There is a \$3 flat fee for electronic checks or 3% for Credit/Debit cards. If you're paying through your bank please be sure to allow a few days for processing. There are links on our homepage and the Treasurer's page. Just click on [Tax Information](#) then online pay. If you must pay in person please check our website, [ktwp.org](http://ktwp.org) or call (269) 381-8080 to schedule an appointment or check hours.

Winter taxes are due February 14th. This year the 14th falls on a weekend and is followed by a national holiday which allows acceptance of winter tax payments through February 16th. A 3% penalty and 1% interest will be applied to any payments received February 17 through March 1st. Payments received after March 1 can only be made with Kalamazoo County Treasurer.

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant

In the event of a fire emergency, could firefighters find the hydrant near your home? We encourage 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 Chief David Obreiter at 269-381-8080.

## Recognition and Thanks

### Special Thanks go to:

- Maintenance staff for installing Wilson Recreation Area's new slide and cleaning the township offices against COVID.
- The Fire and Police Departments for managing added COVID safety measures to protect citizens and staff during public safety responses.
- Parks volunteers who pick up litter and maintain plantings to make our parks inviting to all ages. Please call Trustee Leuty (345-6981) if you'd like to volunteer too.
- Warren Cook for ably completing a vacant seat on the board of trustees.

## 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.

An advertisement for "Clean Out..." services. The top part says "clean OUT..." in large, stylized letters. Below that, it lists "HOME &amp; AUTO CLEANERS &amp; CHEMICALS", "ELECTRONICS - BATTERIES", and "FLUORESCENT &amp; LED BULBS". There is a list of "BUSINESS WASTE for a FEE" and a note "NOT ACCEPTED LATEX PAINT". A central image shows various household products like Prestone, Fram, and other cleaning supplies. At the bottom, it says "household hazardous WASTE" and provides contact information: "373-5211 • kalamazoo.com/hhw", "TO SEE IF YOUR AREA QUALIFIES FOR FREE RECYCLING: hhwcenter@kalamazoo.com", and "1301 Lamont Ave. • Next to Fairgrounds". Hours are listed as: "HOURS: Tues. &amp; Fri. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Wed. 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. • 2nd Sat. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.".

## 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 normally at the Township Administrative Offices at 1720 Riverview Drive but are currently being conducted using Zoom conferencing. Check website for instructions for joining the meetings and 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://publicmedianet.org/> and on [PMN's Facebook](#)

## Upcoming Township Office Closures

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 18, 2021

February 15, 2021 President's Day Observed

*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.*