

Officials

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You May Need to Know...

Fireworks

Everyone is looking forward to celebrating Independence Day. Please be considerate to neighborhood pets and other beings who may be particularly disturbed by fireworks. Ordinance # 570 only allows igniting, discharging or use of consumer fireworks on the day preceding, the day of, or the day after a national holiday and not at all during the hours from 1 a.m. to 8 a.m. See MI Legal Fireworks on the Township page quick links.

Parks and Recreation Open House

Learn more about parks and recreation opportunities in Kalamazoo Township. Share your ideas! What do you like and dislike? Kids can also share their ideas by creating a picture of their vision of a perfect park. Drop in anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. on **Monday, July 7** at the township office located at 1720 North Riverview Drive (corner of Mt. Olivet and Riverview) to learn and share your ideas. If you cannot attend the open house, please share your input by visiting the township's web site and following the links at <http://kalamazootownship.org/Community/Parks.aspx> to a parks and recreation survey. The survey link will be active until July 18, 2014.

Bulk Trash Pick Up

Bulk trash pick-up starts on July 7. Here are some tips on how to make this process more efficient:

- Know which day of the week you're slated for pick up
- If you think you've been missed, please call the Township, NOT Republic Services customer service.
- Be sure to have it out the night before, they start between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m.
- If possible please try to keep items to 4ft - 8ft max.
- Items must be able to be picked up by 2 people
- No more than 3 bucket loads (loading bucket on the front of the truck)
- NO YARD WASTE, TIRES, PAINT/CHEMICALS, NEEDLES OR HAZARDOUS WASTE - Contact The County Household Hazardous Waste Center www.kalcounty.com/hhw or call 373-5211 for disposal information.

More details on trash pick up are available on our web site <http://kalamazootownship.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1646>

Fire Safety

- While using your gas or charcoal grill, make sure you maintain a safe distance from your home and combustibles. We recommended a minimum of 10 feet clearance.
- Open Burning Requirements:
 - To burn in the open, you are required to obtain a burning permit from your district fire station
 - Open burning is limited to Wednesday through Saturday weather permitting. You are also limited to yard waste only (leaves and brush)

The permits are free. A copy of the burning ordinance may be obtained at your local fire station or our quick links.

Election on Tuesday, August 5

The election involves both proposals and primaries. When voting on the partisan section of the ballot you may only cast votes for one party, you may not “split your ticket” nor can you vote a “straight ticket”. You must vote for the specified number of individuals of one party. Also, please be sure to only mark your ballot within the ovals on the ballot.

Parking Rules

As many residents may have vehicles in need of repair or enjoy RVs, boats, ATVs, and trailers, please keep these ordinance requirements in mind:



- The vehicles may not be located within the public right of way.
- No repairing, redesigning, modifying or dismantling work is allowed on the public right-of-way or other property not zoned for such purposes.
- The vehicles cannot be located within front, side, or rear yard setback areas, which are generally 25 feet (front), five feet (side), and two feet (rear) from the respective property lines. An exception is allowed for periods of cleaning, loading and unloading, provided it does not last more than 48 hours in a seven day period.
- A camper can be used on your property for a maximum of 14 days per year provided running water and bathroom facilities are available within the home for guest use.

Any and all may be located in an enclosed building on your property at any time.

Recycling Impacts

Ever hear about conflicts in distant countries and think, “That’s terrible but there’s nothing I can do about it”. There actually is something you can do. Many of the things we use every day, especially our electronic devices, contain scarce materials from areas of the world that are in conflict, sometimes over those scarce materials. By making sure your used electronic devices are properly recycled and remanufactured you can help reduce the competition for these scarce resources and also prevent health deteriorating pollution. For more information contact Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste at 373-5211 or www.kalcounty.com/hhw

Our bi-weekly recycling program saves energy and decreases our dependence on foreign oil but please try to have your recycle cart set out the night before. Extra trips by the recycle trucks to pick up missed carts waste some the energy you’ve saved by recycling. Check the map and schedule on our web site or call the township if you’re not sure of your pick up day or call the township to ask. Thank you for recycling, it does a world of good.

Your Community

Deplorable Road Conditions

One of Kalamazoo Township residents’ highest priorities is road maintenance and repair, per a fall 2013 survey. Local road contracts for Kalamazoo Township will total \$332,988 in 2014 (over \$167,000 from the township’s general fund and over \$165,000 from the Road Commission Par Funds). In spite of this investment in the local road system, the overall condition of local roads in the Township is declining.

According to the Kalamazoo County Road Commission:

- 43% (31.7miles) are rated as POOR; their reconstruction cost is about \$200,000 per mile,
- 31% (22.9) miles are rated as FAIR; their rehabilitation cost is about \$50,000 per mile,
- Only 26% (19.7) miles are rated as GOOD; these roads do not currently require repair.

The cost to improve the POOR and FAIR roads to GOOD is expensive and requires financial support well beyond the Township’s current resources. The Township Board is considering options to raise additional revenue. We’ll keep you updated on this. There will be a table set up outside the Parks Open House on July 7, 2014 where you can meet with a board member to discuss solutions for the road issue or you may contact Treasurer Cochran at 381-8080. For a detailed list of the projects and the KCRC 2014 Planning maps go to <http://kalamazootownship.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3981>

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are key features of many roadways because they allow us to safely walk for fitness, reach neighbors, connect to bus lines, and support property values by attracting new residents who increasingly want to live in neighborhoods with sidewalks. Please support the benefits of sidewalks by edging overgrown turf from sidewalks and not planting sidewalk-lifting trees (especially shallow-rooted trees like silver maples) near sidewalks or under power lines (see www.consumersenergy.com/forestry)

Ice Cream Social at Westwood Fire Station

The Westwood Firefighters Association's 73rd annual ice cream social is from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on July 25 at the Westwood Fire Station on Nichols Rd. Tickets, available at the door, are good for ice cream, cupcake and door prize raffle. There are games and prizes for the whole family. Call Westwood Fire station at 343-1811 for more information.

Recognition and Thanks

Native Planting Volunteers

A giant thank you to Terry Butcher's and Tyler Millward's students from Barclay Hills School and participants in the Van Buren Youth Leadership Camp for their time and effort in weeding the native planting along the creek behind the Township Hall. Tom Small was so impressed after seeing their work he offered to donate additional plants from the Wild Ones group. Also thank you Gina Frasson-Hudson for more plants and Jim Ferner for help getting them in the ground. To learn more about the planting and see pictures of the changes go to <http://kalamazootownship.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1866>.



Eastwood Community Garden Volunteers and Staff

Another big thank you goes to all the people that have done such a great job putting up fence, tilling soil and all the other work necessary to get the Eastwood Community Garden and 4-H Club on Baker off to such a great start. Thanks also go to all the folks from MSU Extension and 4-H who have helped get the garden going and added the additional nutrition and food preparation component to the garden.

Congratulations Graduates

Kalamazoo Township wants to congratulate all the recent graduates from area high schools for working hard and making it through. We wish you much success in your next endeavor.



Communications from the Office

What's New on the Web Site?

As promised in the last newsletter, I've been working on the Township web site. I've tried to make the pages more consistent, put most things in alphabetical order so you can find them more easily and made forms more accessible. Some pictures have been added and special notices are updated more frequently. There's also information on and pictures of our parks and open spaces and some links have been added that I hope you'll find useful and interesting. Please check out the web site and let me know if you have any suggestions for other improvements.

We have Bike Racks

If you're coming to the Township Offices, consider coming on your bike. We're right across from the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail and we have bike racks.



Subscribe to the Newsletter

If you just happened across this newsletter online 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

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).

Note new Channels.

Board meetings are on Charter Communications channel 190 and AT&T U-verse 99: Sun. 8 p.m., Mon. 8 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m. and Fri. 3:45 p.m. Meetings may also be viewed online at <http://pmn.pegcentral.com/>

(Also check out Kalamazoo Township Roundtable replaying on Channel 190 until a new episode: Mondays at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday at 7:00 a.m., Thursdays at Midnight and Saturdays at 9:30 p.m. as well as Connect at 7:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m., and 12:30 a.m. each day of the week, to understand what's happening in your community.)

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 February 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.

Upcoming Township Office Closures

Independence Day, July 4, 2014

Labor Day, September 1, 2014

Veterans Day, November 11, 2014

Thanksgiving Day, November 27 & 28, 2014

Enjoy your summer!