

Parks & Recreation team expanding for season



With spring almost here and our Parks & Recreation Department vamping up for the season, we are looking to add to our team! If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Parks & Recreation staff, visit www.kzooparks.org/jobs or contact the Parks & Recreation office at (269) 337-8191 for more information! Work while you play and help provide our community with great parks and wonderful recreation opportunities!

Parks & Recreation Egg Hunt

Parks & Recreation held their annual Egg Hunt at Homer Stryker Field on March 26. This year's event was the biggest one yet, with a record 850 children participating. The kids were able to visit with KDPS and Life Ambulance, rub elbows with the Easter Bunny, and make an arts & crafts project. Is 2017 the year they break 1,000 participants? Only time will tell. No pressure...

Spring/Summer View from the Curb available

The spring/summer edition of the City's [View from the Curb](#) was mailed to city residents earlier this month. The View from the Curb is a bi-annual publication which contains information about the various public services provided by the city or available to city residents. The publication is also available online [here](#).



Water quality video address common questions concerning safety

The safety and quality of water continues to be on the mind of many Kalamazoo residents. The City of Kalamazoo has prepared a brief video to address some of the most common questions that have been asked in our community. The video provides an overview of the water system including our water source, what actions are taken to safeguard water customers in the area, and what you can do if you are concerned about water in your home. The video was a team effort between Shannan Deater, John Paquin, Wendy Burlingham, Martin Markos, and Neal Conway. The four-minute video is available [here](#).



Hydrant flushing season has arrived

The Spring Hydrant Flushing Program will begin on Sunday, April 17 and end Monday, April 25. Most flushing will take place at night between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. with some additional day flushing between 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Public Services Department personnel will flush the hydrants and mains to remove accumulated sediments. While flushing doesn't affect the safety of the water supply, tap water may appear cloudy or discolored immediately after flushing. The City is advising residents to run their cold water in their bathtub or utility sink until it runs clear again, and is discouraging them from using their washing machines the day of flushing and for 24 hours after, since clothing could become discolored.



Periodic flushing is necessary to get rid of deposits that form inside the water mains. Over time, sediment builds up on the inside of water distribution pipes, narrowing the path that water can flow through to individual homes and businesses. Flushing stirs up water in the mains and forces water and sediments out. By widening the path that water can flow through the mains, the flushing program will improve water flow, helping the City to better meet the needs of Public Safety fire personnel. Another goal of the flushing program is to make sure that all water supply systems work, including pumps, storage tanks, mains, valves, and hydrants.

If you have scheduled construction or maintenance projects during this time, please contact Robert McClenney at 337-8729 so that necessary precautions can be taken to avoid conflicts or problems.

Brush pick up season has also arrived



The brush pick-up for 2016 will begin in May—the same day as your bulk pick-up. Branches, brush, twigs and other trimmings can be no longer than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter. All branches, brush, twigs and trimmings must be securely tied in a bundle with strong rope or twine (no wire), in open boxes or biodegradable bags (no plastic bags). Keep brush separate from bulk and regular household trash.

Each bundle can be no wider than an arm's length and no heavier than 50 pounds. A maximum of 7.5 cubic yards will be collected each month. Loose piles of limbs, branches, brush and trimmings will not be collected! No leaves, dirt, soil, rocks, stones, bricks, concrete, sod, mulch or construction or demolition debris of any type will be collected.

Trash Ordinance grace period in effect through April

Spring has arrived in southwest Michigan, as sometimes evidenced by the appearance of months of litter exposed by now-melted snow. Owners of both residential and commercial property within the City of Kalamazoo are reminded of their responsibility to keep properties trash-free throughout the year. A grace period for litter violations of the Trash Ordinance will be in effect through Sunday, May 1. Thereafter, the Community Planning & Development Department will begin actively citing properties in violation of the Trash Ordinance. Please help remind and encourage residents to help keep the city clean and inviting!

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council Rain Barrel Sale

Did you know that lawn and garden watering can account for as much as 40% of household water use during the summer? Using a rain barrel to collect rainwater can help reduce these costs and also has a positive impact on our environment.

Each spring, the [Kalamazoo River Watershed Council](#) organizes a community rain barrel sale. This year, you can purchase an affordable and fully assembled rain barrel for \$56.50. The barrels are made from recycled food grade plastic barrels that would otherwise be sent to a landfill. This allows the price to remain below some of the higher priced alternatives available from hardware stores. The barrels are available in four colors (terra cotta red, blue, grey, and black).



This year, the KRWC is offering pickup in both Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. You can place an order and find additional information about the sale at kalamazoocity.org/rain-barrel-sale/. More information about rain barrels and frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

Treasurer's Office to begin using Point & Pay service to accept payments

Effective April 15, 2016, the City of Kalamazoo will be utilizing [Point & Pay](#) for all debit, credit and electronic check payments. The City's website will allow a direct link to new payment options for the following City of Kalamazoo bills:

- Utility Bills (water and sewer)
- Tax bills (Summer, Winter, Delinquent Personal Property)
- Miscellaneous Bills (Rental renewals, trash, weed, etc)

To make a payment by phone, please call the new number: **866-273-5523**

Additionally, all bills can be paid in person with cash, check, debit or credit card.

A convenience fee (3% or a \$2.00 minimum) will be charged for the use of a debit or credit card. Point & Pay will collect the convenience fee.

A **free** electronic payment option is available for utility bills. Forms are available at City Hall or visit www.kalamazoocity.org/business/bill-payments.



Two new events coming to downtown Kalamazoo



Two exciting new events are coming to downtown next Friday, April 22! Kalamazoo's very first Food Truck Rally will "pop up" on Water Street (between Church and Rose Streets) from 10:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Nine food trucks will be parked and serving up late night food for those who are out enjoying the night life downtown and possibly some who have been attending the other new entertainment offering in Kalamazoo: The Music Hop. Musicians will be performing downtown from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at several locations including Overneath Creative Collective, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, City Hall, and First Congregational Church, as well as several bars & restaurants. In fact, there will even be Music Hop performers at the Food Truck Rally! If you're looking for something to do next Friday night, don't miss these new events in our city! Additional Food Truck Rallies are planned for May, September, October, and November this year.

MDOT open house seeks input for downtown

MDOT is hosting an open house on Wednesday, April 20 to help determine improvements to the downtown Kalamazoo area, including portions of Stadium Drive, Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo Avenue, Michikal Street, Riverview Drive, and Douglas Avenue. The open house will be held at the Metro Transit offices at 530 N Rose Street from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend and share ideas, suggestions, and concerns as part of the planning process. Full event details are available [here](#).

Staff Changes

NEW HIRES

Benjamin Temple, WW O/M Apprentice
Sara Jo Shipley, Redevelopment Coordinator
Tinessa Lewis, Clerk Typist CMO

PROMOTIONS

Stephanie McGowan, Budget Division Manager
Jennifer Fennessee, Utility Billing Coordinator
Scott Vander Ende, KDPS Sergeant
Jonathan Schipper, KDPS Detective
Joseph Paul, KDPS Detective
Marc Rifenberg, KDPS Sergeant

Karianne Thomas: Woman of Achievement



Congratulations to our very own Karianne Thomas, who was recognized by the YWCA of Kalamazoo as a Woman of Achievement! She was recognized for her 20+ years of dedicated service at KDPS, 17 years of service in the Army, and the impression she makes on our community as a mentor and leader. Congratulations!!

The awards are determined by an independent selection committee, who review all nominations. In total, five women were honored.

New Recycle Coach mobile app puts recycling/trash collection info on on your smartphone

If you are among the growing number of people who have a smartphone or tablet, you can now access garbage, recycling, and special waste collection program details at your fingertips, any time you want them.

The City of Kalamazoo is pleased to announce the launch of a mobile app and website plug-in containing all of the information residents need to know about our residential garbage and recycling services, tailored specifically to their neighborhoods.

The mobile app and website plug-in, developed by Recycle Coach™, provide the full range of information that is normally found on the City's website or in the collection schedule distributed to residents. The Recycle Coach™ app provides another convenient alternative for when the printed schedule is not available and navigating a website is less practical.

The Recycle Coach™ mobile app and website plug-in provide residents with recycling, bulk trash, brush,

collection schedules, all customized to a particular address or neighborhood. Other features include a search function, which allows the user to look up a specific item and find out if it is recyclable or not, and a 'report-a-problem' function that allows residents to report non-emergency municipal problems such as missed collections, illegal dumping, overflowing public garbage or recycling bins, potholes, burned out traffic or street lights, and more. The 'report-a-problem' feature utilizes the smartphone's GPS and camera to locate and capture an image of the problem and sends the information directly to city staff.

The app is available for android and iphone users and can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play for free by searching for "Recycle Coach". Once downloaded, users can set up regular reminders for any of the city's collection programs. Residents will never forget a collection day, which should help increase recycling rates.

This is a new way to connect with residents regarding our resource recovery and waste diversion programs. Information will be updated as necessary and will always be current. These new services are being added in addition to our existing communications.

The graphic features a dark green background with a blurred image of a recycling bin. On the left, the text "BE A BETTER RECYCLER" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this text is a green square icon with a white circular arrow. To the right of the icon, the text "Download the Recycle Coach™ app" is written in a white, handwritten-style font. Below this text are two black buttons: "Download on the App Store" with the Apple logo and "ANDROID APP ON Google Play" with the Google Play logo. A white curved arrow points from the text "Download the Recycle Coach™ app" towards a smartphone on the right. The smartphone screen displays the Recycle Coach app interface, which includes a header with the app name, a cityscape image, a date "Thursday, Mar. 24", and four main menu items: "My Schedule", "What Goes Where?", "Be a Better", and "Communication".