

INSIDE *the* CITY



A primary source of news and information for City employees regarding internal events, policies, and procedures that affect our work for the residents

From the City Manager:

May 2016 Edition

Walk through history with Hidden Kalamazoo

The Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission is excited to invite area residents and visitors to see Kalamazoo’s less traveled historic spaces during the Hidden Kalamazoo Tour. Now in its fourth year, Hidden Kalamazoo offers “tourists” the opportunity to get off the beaten path in our increasingly busy city center and look out of the dusty windows through the lens of time.



When the tornado swept through downtown Kalamazoo in 1980, most of the upper floors of downtown buildings were vacant or used only for storage. Today, only ten historic buildings have unused upper floors. Many have been redeveloped into beautiful apartments or comfortable new offices with high ceilings, beautiful woodwork, and an atmosphere that only historic buildings can offer. The Hidden Kalamazoo Tour offers you the opportunity to visit these remaining windows into the past before they disappear. This year the tour goes “behind the scenes” to spaces

that have been in constant use for over 75 years like The State Theater, or since 1878 like the Ladies Library. The tour will also include the former Montgomery Wards above Terrapin and the former Boudeman Insurance office over Rustica. On Michigan Avenue in the Haymarket historic district, visit the former office of Benjamin Lyon, the first paper maker in Kalamazoo, and the third floor of the Weber building, which was originally the Congregation of Moses, before being altered by the 1980 tornado. Also included this year is a yet to be announced “bonus site” at a project currently in progress (but located right downtown near all of the other sites).

Between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on June 18 & 19, you can visit the tour sites at your convenience and in any order. Each site will have a manager and a crew of tour guides. Tickets are available from D & W in Kalamazoo and Portage, Spirit of Kalamazoo, Douglas & Son, and Kalamazoo City Hall and Public Services for just \$15. When you visit each site it will be marked off on your ticket. Eight downtown restaurants are also offering discounts during the tour – just show your ticket to receive the discount!

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Hidden Kalamazoo (cont.)

The KHPC is also currently looking for volunteer tour guides to work one 3 ½ hour shift. Volunteer guides will receive a free ticket and an official Hidden Kalamazoo T-shirt. Contact Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Coordinator Sharon Ferraro at ferraros@kalamazoocity.org, or at (269) 337-8804 for more information.



You can follow Hidden Kalamazoo on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information or visit www.hiddenkalamazoo.com.

Planting in Bronson Park

Spring is here which means it's time to bring the animals and flowers back in Bronson Park! Kalamazoo in Bloom is holding their annual planting days this year on May 19 and May 26.



On May 19, the peacock's flowers will be planted beginning at 9:00 a.m., and the head will be delivered and installed at noon. On May 26 flowers will begin to be delivered at 8:00 a.m. and the flower beds around the park will be planted beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in lending a hand, come out to Bronson Park ready to plant! Kalamazoo in Bloom also holds planting days in Portage and other community events. Visit [their website](#) for additional information.

Transportation visioning open house to be held Wednesday, May 18

Calling all visionaries! The City of Kalamazoo is holding an open house to provide information about projects that are planned over the next five years and discuss what is currently in progress. Topics will include non-motorized transportation, local street projects, the MDOT PEL study area (including Stadium Drive, Michigan Avenue, and Kalamazoo Avenue), and pedestrian improvements.

The visioning session will be held Wednesday, May 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Van Deusen Room of the Kalamazoo Public Library. A brief introductory presentation will be given at 6:00 and 7:00 with a slide show left up for those that may not be in attendance at those times. Maps, surveys, and comment cards will be used to gather feedback.



Come and share your thoughts on transportation projects in Kalamazoo. The results of the discussion will also help inform the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Master Plan update process. The City's policies, zoning, and ordinances are reflections of the goals and vision that are established in the plan.

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 year, 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, and a second pickup date in August. You can place an order and find additional information about the sale at kalamazooriver.org/rain-barrel-sale/. More information about rain barrels and frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

Donate shoes, save lives

Cleaning out your closet? Consider donating your used shoes to our local Kiwanis Club. Your donation will help save the lives of mothers and children!

Through The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus—a deadly disease that steals the lives of nearly 49,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year.

The donated shoes are provided to entrepreneurs in 18 countries around the world to be refurbished and sold inexpensively to people in those countries. Some of the proceeds from these businesses fund immunization programs for women and children. This helps create business, provide for those in need, and save lives- every 25 pairs donated can save five lives!

If you have any shoes to donate, you can bring them to City Hall. A collection box will be set up in the atrium and a volunteer from the City will deliver the shoes to the local Kiwanis chapter.

Food Truck Rally & Music Hop return to Kalamazoo

After a successful launch in April, the [Food Truck Rally](#) and [The Music Hop](#) will be back in Kalamazoo Friday, May 20! Some of the Kalamazoo's great musical talent will be on display throughout downtown, including at some unique spots such as Kalamazoo Institute of Art and City Hall (a full schedule is available on their website). The music gets started at 6:00 p.m. Afterwards, the Food Truck Rally will return to Water Street (between Church and Rose) from 10:30 p.m.- 1:00 a.m. Don't miss this great night of entertainment, food, and good company!

Parks & Recreation summer fun guide

Looking for some fun ways to spend the summer? Check out the Kzoo Parks Summer Fun Guide! It's filled with programs, sports, and events such as skateboarding, aqua fitness, swim lessons, fishing, tennis, summer camp, baseball, golf, basketball, movies, and plenty more! You can view a copy of the guide online [here](#) or pick one up while they last at the Parks & Recreation Office (251 Mills Street) or City Hall! (241 W South Street).

Woods Lake Park: With A Vengeance

After nearly a year of landscaping, construction, and installation, a newly revamped Woods Lake Park is set to reopen for the season on Thursday, May 26 with a grand reopening event from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Parks staff will be on hand to provide information about the park and its improvements and there will be giveaways and light refreshments provided.

Woods Lake Park has been closed since July to accommodate this project, which includes a new restroom and changing facility, playground, fishing deck, observation deck, accessible parking, rain garden, pathways, and other landscape improvements. The City of Kalamazoo received a DNR Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$363,000 for this project.



Lunchtime Live! is less than a month away!

Mark your calendars! Kalamazoo's award winning Lunchtime Live! is coming back for the summer starting on June 10! Every Friday between 11:30 and 1:30, you can spend your lunch hour in Bronson Park enjoying live music, games, beautiful weather, and a delicious lunch from one of the area's great food trucks! See you in the park next month!



Kalamazoo Bike Week May 14 - 21

[Kalamazoo Bike Week](#) gets rolling this Saturday, May 14 with rides planned for all skill levels. The week-long celebration of all things bicycle is filled with films, meetings, discussion, a variety of other bicycle-centric events, and of course plenty of community rides. More information and a full calendar of events is available on the Kalamazoo Bike Week website [here](#).

Among the events kicking off the week is a family friendly "slow roll" ride. Cyclists will meet at Fourth Coast at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 14 and ride to the Kalamazoo Farmers' Market. The route will preview an upcoming pop-up lane that will connect the Vine and Edison Neighborhoods (the pop-up lane project was originally scheduled to take place during Bike Week, but has been rescheduled to June).

Get on your bike and join the celebration! And remember to ride your bike to work on [May 20!](#)

KHPC Awards of Merit

The Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission (KHPC) will present its 2016 Awards of Merit on Thursday, May 24, 2016, at 5:30 pm. The awards ceremony will be held at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation Depot at 402 East Michigan, in the Stryker Winter Garden. The public is welcome to attend and light refreshments will be provided.

For more than two decades the KHPC has presented awards for preservation related projects in the City of Kalamazoo. Past awards have been presented to the Woodward school, the Intermodal Transportation Center, Paris Cleaners (for their restored neon sign), as well as new infill houses and both rental and owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects.



These awards are given annually each May in local recognition of National Historic Preservation Month. This year's award recipients have done an outstanding job of rehabilitating a historic structure or have actively promoted or contributed to historic preservation in the City of Kalamazoo. This year's six award winners include:

- **Marlborough Apartments, 471 West South St.** – Exterior rehabilitation and repairs to the 1924 apartment building including eaves, front steps and the repair of 840 wooden double hung windows.
- **Lincoln School, 912 North Burdick St.** – Replacement of energy panels and minimal windows that

were installed in the 1970s with new windows that fill the historic openings of the school and maintain the exterior design while flooding the schoolrooms with light.

- **Zion Lutheran Church, 2122 Bronson Blvd.** – Built in 1955 and designed by Chicago architect Charles E. Stade, this mid-century modern church is situated on a hill overlooking downtown and serves as a gateway to scenic Bronson Boulevard.
- **Ladies Library Group (LLG)** – In March 2016, the LLG published a 220-page pictorial guide titled, “The Library Ladies of Kalamazoo: Their Home and History”. The book highlights every aspect of the landmark LLG building, its contents, and its history.
- **Westwood Garden Club** – Using grants and donated labor and materials, the Westwood Garden Club took on rebirth of the long neglected Veterans Memorial in Riverside cemetery. The memorial, which was originally dedicated in 1948, kept many of the original features in the new design while making the site more readily accessible. The memorial was re-dedicated on November 11, 2015.
- **The Kalamazoo County Land Bank** – The property at 1523 Riverview Dr that has become Riverview Launch was acquired by the Kalamazoo County Land Bank through a tax foreclosure. The site, which is located on the bank of the Kalamazoo River, contained a home in poor condition, a greenhouse, and a barn when it was acquired. The Riverview Launch project adapted and reused the existing historic structures with attention to sustainability and energy efficiency. The original character of the barn was maintained and the greenhouse was given a new life, now serving as the heart of community programming and beautification projects. The facility is now home to the Open Roads Bike Program and the Land Bank.

Water main break on Gull Street

On April 28, Public Services crews responded to a water main break on Gull Road. The initial pressure of the water from the main was enough to force the pavement up and create a seam between the street and the curb. The crew was able to repair the water main within 6 hours, and repair the street in less than 24 hours, an impressive feat considering the scope of the work. They were able to restore water service and regular traffic flow to the impacted area quickly, and minimize the inconvenience to city residents and commuters. A huge thank you to all the members of our Public Services staff for their quick and professional response!

Memorial Day Flag Replacement

Every year around Memorial Day, graveside flags are replaced in Mountain Home and Riverside Cemeteries.

Dennis Webber of the Kalamazoo Detachment Marine Corp League coordinates the efforts in Riverside. Although not a veteran, he obtains the roughly 24 boxes of flags each year from the cemeteries office



(approximately 3500 flags) and spends about two and a half days with the group to complete the task.

They do this simply because they love the United States and are grateful to all the veterans

who have served. In Mountain Home, the replacement is coordinated by Gary Gibson of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His group has been placing flags on the graves of all soldiers in Mountain Home for many years, a task that requires about 18 dozen flags. They also work with the Veterans Administration to get headstones for fallen soldiers at Riverside.

Ryan Russell, Engineer Extraordinaire

You wanna know the “guy” in the spotlight? Well, it’s Ryan Russell.

Ryan graduated in 2010 from Western Michigan University with a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering. He began working for the city of Kalamazoo in October 2012 as a traffic technician. In July 2014; Ryan was promoted to Senior Civil Engineer.

Initially Ryan wanted to be an architect. During his high school years, he took all the classes possible in architectural design. When there were no more classes, he became the teacher’s assistant. His first paid professional gig was creating blueprints for his school’s concession stand. The county health department was coming to inspect, but the blueprints were nowhere to be found. The principle gave him a hundred bucks for the job!

One of Ryan’s first projects in his new role as senior engineer was the roundabout at River’s Edge. “It was very impressive! It was a great job and the plans [were sent to] purchasing,” said James Baker, Public Services Interim Director. The infrastructure was upgraded, giving underutilized space the potential to become a sustainable development and contribute to economic growth in the City. In the center of the River’s Edge Project, plans called for a roundabout providing safer travel for vehicles and pedestrians.

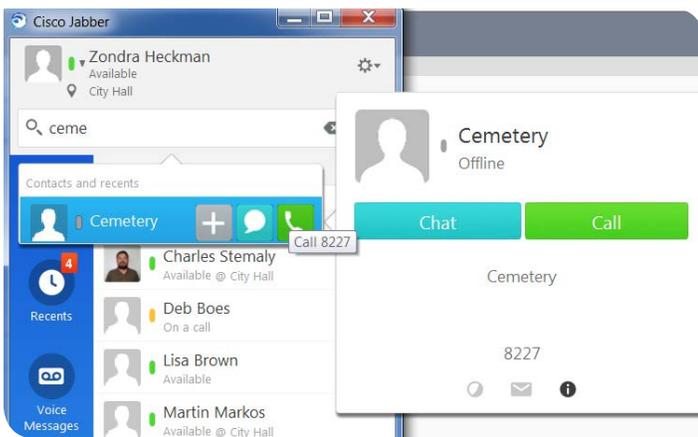
Why engineering as a career choice? Ryan wanted to make a lasting difference in the place he lives, changing the landscape (literally and figuratively). So far, he is off to a good start.

Ryan is married to Katie and has a three year old son, Lucas. Their second child, Greyson was just born April 24 weighing in at a characteristically precise 7.72 lbs.

Use Jabber. It's good for you. And everyone else

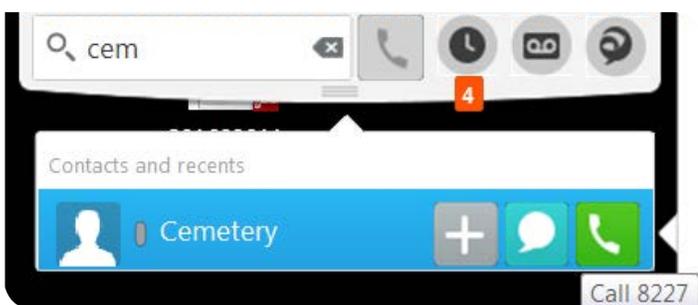
Fun fact: you can use your computer to initiate phone calls and even look people up. It's almost like its 2016 or something.

To make a call using Jabber you need only know who you want to call.. start typing the name in the search box, first name, last name, partial name and when the name appears (be sure your Jabber at the bottom setting has a check mark next to use my phone for calls) click the green phone button. Your phone will begin calling the individual on speaker, lift the handset and talk when connected.



You can also do this from the “docked window” if you have it at the top of your screen:

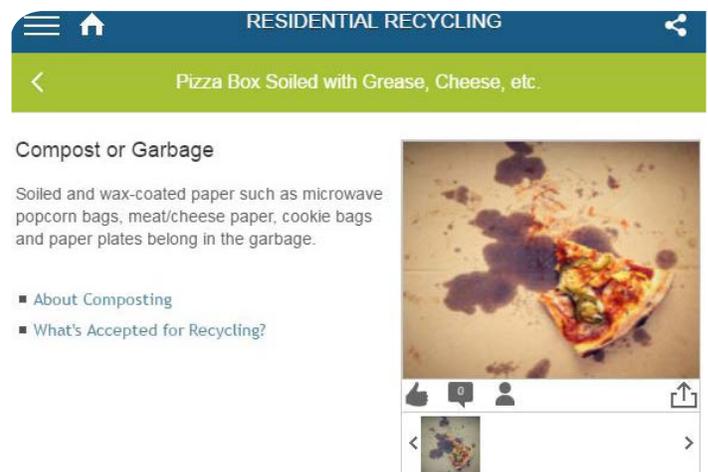
We also have a voice enabled directory, so if you do not have access to a computer or a phone list you can speak the person to whom you want to call by pressing ** and saying the users name when prompted. The voice



attendant will return “calling xxxxxx” (the name of the person you searched for) Speak Clearly both first and last name for accuracy.

Recycle Coach App makes more recycling convenient

Have you downloaded the City of Kalamazoo's FREE Recycle Coach app yet? You can find information on our recycling programs, report issues, and get alerts and notices on your phone for free. There is also a Recycle Coach plug in on the City's website that can be found at <http://www.kalamazoo.org/residents/recycling>. Not sure if something can be recycled? Recycle Coach lets you check if something can be recycled or not. Next time you get in an argument with your roommate about how she can't recycle her soiled pizza boxes, you can confidently remain on your pedestal by proving that they must be composted or thrown away using the app or website.



Staff Changes

NEW HIRES

- Tim Clark**, Chief Information Officer
- David Moore**, Electrical Inspector/Plan Review Tech
- Katie Broekema**, Special Events Coordinator/Secretary
- Matthew Avery**, Apprentice Municipal Worker
- Pamela Audette**, Apprentice Municipal Worker

PROMOTIONS

- Tracy Pimpleton**, Clerk Cashier II, Treasurer's Office