

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:

July 2016 Edition

City of Kalamazoo to Convert to Quarterly Bulk Trash in September

In September 2016 the City of Kalamazoo will convert to quarterly bulk trash collection. Monthly pickup will continue through September, after which collections will occur in the months of March, June, September, and December each year (the final pickup of 2016 will be in December).

This change will only affect the frequency of pickup. Acceptable items and permitted quantities will remain the same. The program allows residents to place 7.5 cubic yards of bulk trash items (items that will not fit in regular household trash) for each pickup. A list of acceptable items and additional program details are available at <http://www.kalamazoo.org/residents/bulk-trash-pickup>.

This change is being made to manage the increasing costs of solid waste programs without requiring

additional resources. The 1.8 mills currently assessed for solid waste programs would need to be increased to maintain monthly collection. A survey of residents conducted in 2015 indicated that quarterly bulk trash collection would still meet community needs, without raising rates further.

“This change will preserve an important service in our community without asking any more of our residents,” said James Baker, Public Services Director for the City of Kalamazoo. “Feedback has been that quarterly collection will be sufficient, and this change will allow us to pursue other services that have been requested by Kalamazoo residents.”

A grace period will be in effect during the month of October to ease the transition. Residents who leave trash for collection will receive a notice and be allowed two days to correct the issue. If the items remain on the curbside after this period, the City may take enforcement action and bill the clean-up cost to the property owner.

The updated schedule will be included in the bi-annual View from the Curb newsletter that will be mailed



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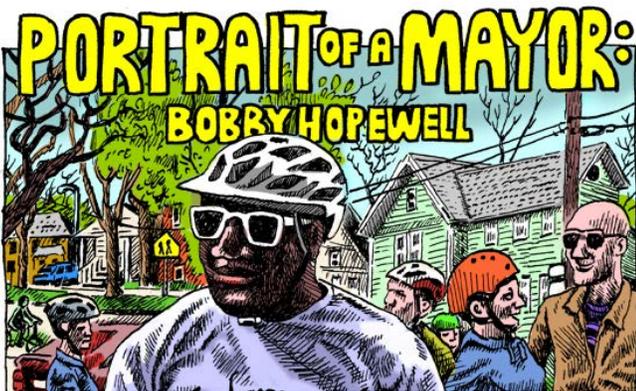
in August. City staff have been also been working... ..with neighborhood associations, landlords, property managers, community leaders to ensure customers are reached.

Residents are also encouraged to utilize the Recycle Coach app available for iPhone and Android devices and at www.recyclecoach.com. This service provides a customized collection calendar for all of the City's solid waste services and also allows users to report issues, receive important notices, and offers information about the proper way to dispose of household items.

Local Primary to be held on Tuesday, August 2

Remember to vote in the local primary on Tuesday, August 2! Voters will be choosing party candidates for a number of local offices to run in the general election in November. For information on voting, the ballot, and the election please visit www.kalamazoo.org/elections.

Portrait of a Mayor: Bobby Hopewell



Local artist Simon Kalil Borst spent some time with Mayor Hopewell to learn a little about the man behind the office and ultimately creating *Portrait of a Mayor: Bobby Hopewell*. The comic takes a look at what being the mayor of Kalamazoo is all about. The piece was published by Second Wave Media and is available [here](#).

Budget and revenue update

I am happy to share with you that we have determined that the FY 2017 budget will be balanced without expenditure reductions. As we work through the Revenue Panel's recommendations, it has become apparent we can fill the structural gap for 2017 through the following measures:

1. *Better than projected year-end FY2015 results*
2. *The sale of under-utilized, City-owned assets (Revenue Panel recommended options)*
3. *Additional Fire Reimbursement Grant from the State*
4. *Efficiencies from utilizing technology better*

The positive 2015 year-end results can be attributed to a number of factors, but the hard-working people of this organization have certainly played a role. I know that the many years of fiscal stress and budget reductions and "doing more with less" approach has taken a toll on us all, and I am grateful for everyone's tireless efforts to serve our community. I also appreciate the High Performance Organization ideas emerging from many of you and look forward to implementing them.

I am still working on a permanent revenue solution and intend to share more details in the near future. In sharing this update, I want to give you peace of mind that we will enjoy greater stability in 2017 than the City has experienced in over ten years. I am confident that a long-term solution is on the horizon, and we will be able to turn the corner and begin thriving as an organization.

I hope you have a great Michigan summer!

KDPS partners with local teens in CommUNITY video

Three Kalamazoo area teens approached Public Safety with the idea of producing a positive video for our community. With the assistance of Lt. Anthony Morgan, PSO Jason Gates, and PSO Kevin Seckler, Darius Ledbetter, Deonte Pueblo, and Trinity Posey created a short video that shows some of the ways KDPS works with our community, and stresses the need to work together to address the challenges we face. You can watch the video on the KDPS website [here](#). Great job Darius, Deonte, and Trinity!



National Night Out



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Each year on the first Tuesday in August, neighborhoods in Kalamazoo and across the nation participate in picnics, cookouts, and a wide variety of events to build relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Check with your neighborhood organization to see what is planned for National Night Out this year on August 2.

USA Today notes community focus of KDPS

In a piece titled "Some police agencies are easing racial tensions" in USA TODAY, writer Alan Gomez highlighted the efforts of law enforcement agencies who have proactively worked to address racial tensions, including the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety. The article notes KDPS's customer service focus alongside the departments in Seattle, WA, Camden, NJ and others.

You can read the article [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.

The Kittiwake Cup Eco Raft Race to float down the Kalamazoo River August 20

In 1889 one of the first conservationist groups, the Plumage League, was founded to protect the Kittiwake, a small seagull that was endangered. That spirit of protecting aquatic life and resources became globally visible in Kalamazoo 100 years later, in May of 1989, when the EPA proposed the Kalamazoo River superfund site for clean up of contaminants. After a significant effort, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality deemed the Kalamazoo River safe for recreational use in 2008.



This August, the City of Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation Department, Envirologic, Republic Services, and Old Dog Tavern are presenting an Eco Raft Race to celebrate our returned ability to swim, paddle, and play in the Kalamazoo River. The Kittiwake Cup is a fun and creative opportunity to learn how we can continue to protect our waterways and aquatic life.

Assemble a crew of friends to build and race a raft made of repurposed materials on the Kalamazoo River! Teams will bring their completed rafts to be launched from Mayors' Riverfront Park and float down to the finish at Arcadia Ales. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest raft, the most creative raft, and the best crew.

The event will take place from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 20. Registration is \$25 per vessel, and participants must be 18 years of age or older. You can find additional information and register here.

Final Movie in the Park August 12 at Mayors'

The final showing in the 2016 Movies in the Parks series will be a 'viewers choice' hosted by the Kalamazoo Growlers at Homer Stryker Field on August 12. This particular event is for adults only, who will have the choice between Anchorman, Caddyshack, the Wedding Singer, and Animal House. You can cast your vote at kzooparks.org/voting/.

Community discussion of Kik Pool to be held Monday, July 25

The City of Kalamazoo's Department of Parks and Recreation is inviting all interested Kalamazoo-area residents to a community discussion of the Kik Pool on Monday, July 25 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the pool and city staff and lifeguards will be on hand to answer questions and facilitate the discussion.

The purpose of this meeting is to gather community input and ideas for the pool, explore potential elements that could be incorporated, and assist in planning for the pool's future. This meeting will be the first in a series of community input meetings regarding the Kik Pool and the beginning of a public engagement process to create a plan that meets our community's needs while responsibly utilizing public resources.



Community members are strongly encouraged to attend and voice their opinions and ideas for the Kik Pool. For more information regarding the meeting, please see the Parks and Recreation Department website at www.kzooparks.org or call the office at 337-8191 **4**

KDPS VOIP project update

173 phones have been received for placement at HQ and the stations around the city, and 338 numbers have been identified to be moved from ATT to our new service provider. The next step in this project is to verify we have the final connection to the service at 150 E Crosstown, which is less than a month away. During that time, IT staff will be configuring the system to determine how phone numbers are will be received from the telecom company which phones will ring and how they will ring. The new unified phone system will be in place no later than the end of August!

Blood drive on July 19

A blood drive will take place in the Community Room at City hall on Tuesday, July 19 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. To sign up, please contact John Buchtrup at x8472 or buchtrupj@kalamazoo.org (appointments are preferred). If you attempt to donate, you could win a \$100 Meijer gift card!

Staff response keeps WRP running smoothly

On Friday, July 1 at approximately 9:00 a.m. a fire was detected at the Water Reclamation Plant just west of Building 24. The fire was caused by equipment failure on a Consumers Energy pole.

This spring, Consumers Energy had performed some maintenance on both the north and south power feeds along with City crews. During this work, crews practiced the sequence switching between the two feeds. This training proved to be critical, as switching the power feed was necessary to bring the plant back to full operations after the fire. The plant was only down for about an hour.

City staff responded well, working with Consumers to avoid any damage to city property, with minimal downtime.

Staff Changes

NEW HIRES

Brock VanDyken, Water O/M Apprentice
Lamont Washington, Service Lane Attendant

PROMOTIONS

Lance Handlogten, Sr. Lieutenant 42 hr
Steve Skalski, Asst. City Engineer- Water
Ronnie Maynard, Public Safety Officer II

Interoffice Telephone Directory is back!

The interoffice directory has been resurrected. A limited number of printed copies are available from the Clerk's Office and a PDF version is available on the intranet [here](#) or at m:\interofficedirectory.pdf.



City staff present at MTPA Conference in Kalamazoo

The 2016 Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference brought professionals from across the state to Kalamazoo on July 13-15. The two day conference featured speakers from the Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Asset Management Council, MDOT, and a number of other organizations and municipalities. Mayor Hopewell welcomed conference attendees on Wednesday Morning and provided a brief overview of collaboration and projects that are happening in Kalamazoo. Later that afternoon, City Planner Rebekah Kik and City Engineer Matt Johnson gave a presentation about the partnerships involved in planning the downtown connection of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, which is scheduled to begin construction this fall.