

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:

August 2016 Edition

Foundation for Excellence introduced to stabilize budget, lower taxes, invest in Kalamazoo

Along with an update on revenue options currently in progress, City Manager Jim Ritsema introduced a new alternative at a work session held July 28 which would take a philanthropic approach to solving the City's budget shortfalls.

The newly introduced option calls for the creation of the Foundation for Excellence, a new private-public partnership funded by area philanthropists, institutions, and anyone in our community who may wish to contribute. Once fully endowed, the foundation would provide resources to the City of Kalamazoo in perpetuity that will be used to stabilize the City budget, improve regional collaboration, provide tax relief for city residents, and most importantly fund key investments to create a vibrant, forward-looking community that benefits everyone. These investments would be driven by Imagine Kalamazoo 2025, the City's master plan update process in which planning staff have been working



closely with residents, community groups, and area organizations to create a unified vision for Kalamazoo's future.

"This is a major opportunity for Kalamazoo," said Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell. "This option not only offers a solution to our structural revenue problems, but also provides tax relief for city residents and still creates the opportunity for significantly more investment in our city and its people."

Enough commitments have been secured to begin the process as early as 2017. \$70.3 million has already been committed by donors to provide, over a three year period, support for the creation of the Foundation, with a goal of having it fully endowed within that three year time-frame. During this period, these commitments will stabilize the City's budget, allow for an immediate reduction in city property tax rates by more than a third, and allow for substantially more investment in programs for youth, ending generational poverty, neighborhoods, place-making projects, streets & infrastructure, targeted economic development, and other initiatives.

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City Commission approves Group Violence Intervention

The Foundation for Excellence would allow for the city property tax rate in Kalamazoo to be reduced by more than a third from 19.2705 mills to 12 mills, making investment in the city more regionally competitive. The long-term goal is to achieve a reduction to 10 mills.

“City staff have been working diligently to implement all feasible recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Revenue Panel,” said City Manager Jim Ritsema. “During our work, this exciting, innovative solution began to take shape. The initial commitments from many local philanthropists made this a real option.”

Funding for the foundation would be sought from a broad base of donors under a clear legal framework to ensure that Kalamazoo’s elected leaders will independently direct the use of funds, as they do with all City funding.

In addition to this exciting new solution, the city is continuing to explore additional revenue options to further shore up its budget, including the creation of a county-wide emergency dispatch center that is expected to save the city \$2 million annually if successful.

The City Commission gave City Manager Ritsema direction to move ahead and to craft the necessary legal documents to create the Foundation of Excellence. The City Commission will take formal action to officially create the Foundation for Excellence after the documents are prepared, which should occur before the end of the year.

“The Kalamazoo Promise has shown us what is possible when we, as a community, ask ourselves, ‘What can we do for our community? What can we do to address a challenge?’” said Mayor Hopewell. “This will provide an opportunity for this community to unite around a common vision to truly make Kalamazoo a city of promise.”

For additional information or to share your thoughts on this innovative new solution, visit www.kalamazoocity.org/foundation.

On August 1, the City Commission approved an agreement between the City of Kalamazoo and the Research Foundation of the City University of New York to allow KDPS to move forward implementing the Group Violence Intervention strategy.

The strategy combines targeted enforcement, principles of deterrence, and community legitimacy components in order to achieve immediate and sustained reductions in violence. This model will complement the broader violence reduction strategies underway by the City through a coordinated deterrence message and through community “call-in” sessions involving lower risk offenders.

The cost of the two year program is nearly 80% funded by grants from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.

Encore Magazine highlights KDPS’ work with Kalamazoo youth

Several KDPS officers are included in an August 1st piece in Encore magazine titled Transformational Travel. The piece focuses on the Merze Tate Explorers Club, which provides girls with the opportunity to travel, discover women who have made an impact on their communities, and write about their experiences. The program also emphasizes career and leadership development, and often connects girls with leaders in their communities., including members of KDPS. The article includes photographs demonstrating one of the ways KDPS connects with the members in our community to make a positive impact. You can read the article [here](#).

Don't forget! Bulk Trash program transitioning to quarterly in September

Don't forget! Beginning in September, the City's Bulk Trash program will be converting from monthly to quarterly collection. Moving forward, collection will occur in March, June, September, and December. **After the collection in September, residents will not be able to leave bulk trash items out for collection again until December.**

This change only affects the frequency of service and does not change permitted items. Full program details are available at www.kalamazocity.org/residents/bulk-trash-pickup.

Converting to quarterly service will permit the City to continue Bulk Trash service without requiring additional resources from 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.



We encourage everyone to download the Recycle Coach app, which provides residents with a customized schedule and alerts, among other benefits.

Fall hydrant flushing

Fall hydrant flushing will take place from September 18 - 27. Most flushing will take place between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. with some additional day flushing between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Over time, sediment can build up inside water distribution pipes, narrowing the path that water can flow through to homes and businesses. Hydrants are flushed twice per year to remove these accumulated sediments from the water mains and improve water flow. The flushing program also helps to ensure that all elements of the water system are functioning properly.

This program does not affect the safety of the water supply, but may cause water to appear cloudy or discolored immediately after flushing. If you experience this with your home water, run cold water in your utility sink or bath tub until it runs clear again. We recommend you avoid doing laundry immediately after flushing, as in some cases clothes may become discolored.



If you have construction scheduled or any questions about this routine maintenance, please contact Robert McClenney at (269) 337-8146.

New views of the KWRP

Public Services has some great aerial footage of the Water Reclamation Plant available online [here](#). The video was capture from a drone flying above the plant.



Conference room technology

When taking advantage of the many conference rooms throughout the organization, please be mindful when using the technology present and follow directions that may be posted. We have recently seen some equipment damaged as a result of users not following directions.

Similarly, please do not remove or relocate technology items from conference rooms. Someone may be depending on the presence and proper functioning of equipment for an upcoming meeting. If it is necessary to move or reconfigure equipment, please contact the helpdesk at x8400.



Please help take care of our technology, avoid unnecessary costs, and make life a little easier for our great IT staff!

Security staff at City Hall

Moving forward, a security guard will be present in the City Hall atrium during business hours and evenings. Although it is not practical to have a KDPS officer on hand, this will allow us to have a visible, uniformed person in the public area. This individual will also be present for evening meetings, and will be performing a sweep of the building before ensuring the doors are locked at night.

This added security personnel is intended to be another resource for City Hall but should not be considered a replacement for Public Safety. Please dial 911 (9-911 on desk phones) in the event of an emergency.

Staff Changes

NEW HIRES

Charles Brown, Transit Dispatch Supervisor
Jill Mullins, Clerk Cashier I
Jessica Slagter, Environmental Services Tech
Naomi Bridges, Bus Driver PT
Carmeisa Hubbard, Bus Driver PT
Romeo Little, Bus Driver PT
Clarence Spurlock, Bus Driver PT
Renee Townsend, Bus Driver PT
Cameron Dawson Ruiz, Bus Driver PT

PROMOTIONS

Stephanie Alford, Public Safety Officer I
Petar Radenovic, Public Safety Officer I
Bradley Kendall, Public Safety Officer I
Aaron Dewaal, Public Safety Officer I
Kristopher Lockett-Ollie, Public Safety Officer I
Catrice Lockett, Public Safety Officer I
Patrick Hillenbrand, Public Safety Officer I

Open houses held in advance of Metro Transit service enhancements

In advance of expanding fixed-route bus service on September 6, Metro Transit has scheduled a series of open houses to discuss the changes with riders. Two were held during earlier this week, and one more is planned for Wednesday, August 17, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Metro Transit offices (530 N Rose St).



Improvements include hourly Sunday service on many routes, later night service on several routes, and additional buses on certain routes. A complete listing of changes is available on the Metro Transit website [here](#).

These enhancements are possible due to the passage of the Central County Transportation Authority millage in August 2015, and based on the requests from riders in our community.

Fountain of the Pioneers complex added to National Register of Historic Places

The National Park Service has just designated Alfonso Iannelli's Fountain of the Pioneers complex in Bronson Park to the National Register of Historic Places. The designation is at the National level of significance, the National Parks Service's second highest designation only behind National Historic Landmarks. The Fountain complex is Kalamazoo's only historic structure designated at this level.

Completed in 1940, the Fountain of the Pioneers complex is rare in the world of art. A composite work of civic outdoor design, it combines elements of America's Prairie School, Modernist, Art Deco, and Cultural Nationalism movements. It is believed to contain the only public sculpture that references nineteenth-century Indian Removal activity, and the period's then commonly held European-American beliefs supporting Indian assimilation. Because of this, it has significance for its contribution to the history of art criticism through its sustained period of interpretive conversation and debate about its meaning- a practice common to public sculpture but rare for its time.



Artist, architect, and designer Alfonso Iannelli was an Italian immigrant who attended two east coast

art schools on scholarship before beginning his career in New York. He continued in California and ultimately settled in Chicago after a highly successful collaboration with Prairie School architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Iannelli's later career established him as an early American Modernist, master designer, sculptor, and architect, and a national leader and educator in America's Modern design and design education movements. The Fountain of the Pioneers complex is an outstanding example of Iannelli's work.



Iannelli was a longtime friend and colleague of Lydia Siedschlag, former Art Department Chair at Western Michigan University. Siedschlag received her Bachelor of Art Education degree from The Art Institute of Chicago, where Iannelli had become the institution's first-ever Director of Design.

The fountain complex includes the east and west pools and the fountain structure located in the east pool. It was completed with funding provided by the City and the depression-era Works Projects Administration.

Although the fountain complex has been the topic of on and off controversy since its creation, the City Commission adopted a new Bronson Park Master Plan on March 7, 2016 which calls for the renovation of the fountain complex's concrete sculpture, water systems, and lights. The Master Plan also calls for other significant upgrades to Bronson Park and an educational component in the park to explain the art and history surrounding the fountain complex, as well as the history and current activities of the local Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) and their past and current connections to Kalamazoo.

Still accepting gently used shoes for a good cause

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.

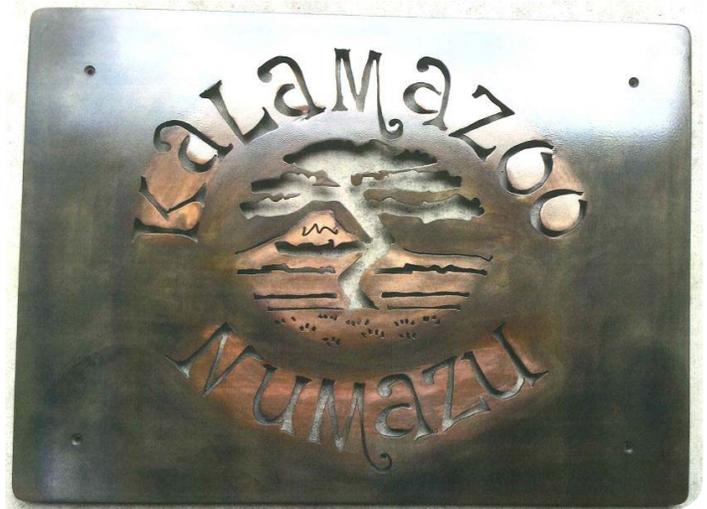


The donated shoes are provided to entrepreneurs in 18 countries around the world to be refurbished and sold inexpensively to people in those countries. Some of the proceeds from these businesses fund immunization programs for women and children. This helps create business, provide for those in need,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

Delegation visits from sister city Numazu, Japan

A delegation from Numazu, Japan was in Kalamazoo for a brief visit to their sister city from July 21 - 28. During their stay, the delegation had the opportunity to experience some Kalamazoo staples such as Sweetwater Donuts, Bilbo's Pizza, a tour of WMU, and a visit to the Air Zoo. The trip also included day trips to Detroit to visit Greenfield Village and a Ford Assembly Plant, and to Holland to visit Dutch Village. The week also had time for a round of paintball and dinner and dancing at Cowboy Up.



A commemorative metal plate was gifted to the City of Numazu on behalf of the City of Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo welcomes a delegation from Numazu in even years and sends a delegation during odd years.

Back to School Carnival & Movie Night

On Friday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation and United Healthcare are teaming up to host a Back to School Carnival and movie at South Westnedge Park (1101 S. Westnedge Ave) to end summer with a bang! The carnival will allow students in our community to stock up on school supplies for the upcoming school year, and there will be games, a moon bounce, prizes, and more at the event! A tablet and mystery backpacks will also be raffled off. Following the carnival, the movie Big Hero 6 will be shown at dusk.

