

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:

September 2016 Edition

Community survey reveals broad support for Foundation for Excellence

A survey of Kalamazoo residents conducted in August revealed strong community support for the Foundation for Excellence concept and an overall favorable view of the direction the City is heading.

80% of respondents were supportive of the Foundation for Excellence proposal, with consistent support across all demographics. 74% of respondents felt things in Kalamazoo are heading in the right direction, with only 20% responding that the City is on the wrong track.

Washington D.C. based Lake Research Partners designed and administered the survey, which was conducted by professional interviewers over telephone. The survey reached a total of 400 citizens in the City of Kalamazoo from August 9 through August 14. Telephone numbers for this survey were drawn using file audits and the sample was stratified geographically to reflect the population of Kalamazoo. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.9%.

City officials initiated the survey to gain a better understanding of opinions on the Foundation for Excellence proposal and what aspects are important to Kalamazoo residents.

“These results are encouraging and reflect much of

what we have been hearing, but I understand that some members of our community still have concerns,” said City Manager Jim Ritsema, “We are consulting with experts and foundations with similar purposes to ensure best practices are incorporated as we work on the details. I look forward to sharing them with the community as they take shape, and am confident that these concerns will be alleviated by the final proposal.”



City Officials are currently preparing a Memorandum of Understanding for formal review by the City Commission, which is expected to be presented during an October meeting.

You can view the survey results [here](#).

<i>Bulk Trash, City Commission</i>	2
<i>Public Services, Events</i>	3
<i>Staff Changes, Metro, IT</i>	4
<i>Parks & Recreation</i>	5

Quarterly bulk trash scheduled now in effect

September was the first month of the City's quarterly bulk trash schedule. Since September will remain one of the months in which bulk trash collection will be offered, no service changes will be noticeable until October.

After the bulk trash collection THIS MONTH, residents will not be able to leave bulk trash items out for collection again until December. Moving forward, collection will occur in the months of March, June, September, and December.

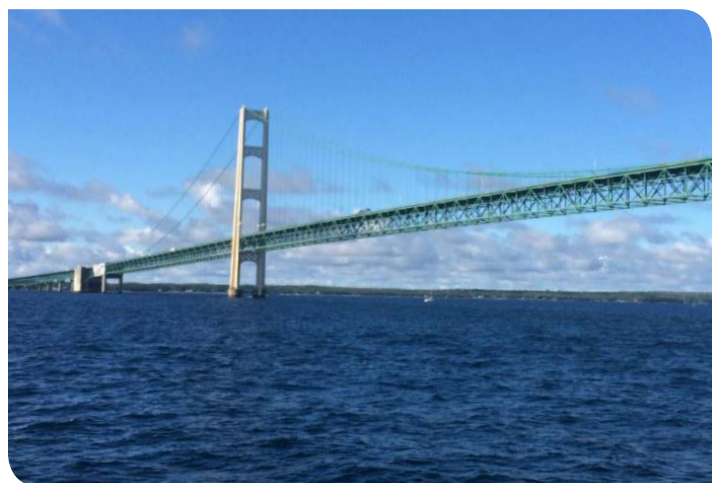
This change only affects the frequency of service and does not change permitted items. Full program details are available at www.kalamazoo.org/residents/bulk-trash-pickup.

Complete Streets policy and bicycle passing ordinance in the works

Cyclists and pedestrians were among the topics during the September 6 City Commission meeting. The Commission voted to support the creation of a Complete Streets Policy, which would require that all future street projects consider cyclists and pedestrians in addition to motorized vehicles. An ordinance requiring 3 feet of space between a passing vehicle and cyclists was also presented for a second reading, but after lengthy a discussion, the Commission voted to require five feet of distance. The Commission acknowledged the ordinance may be difficult to enforce, but is symbolic and represents the City's commitment to the safety of cyclists. Since the change from three to five feet is considered a substantial change, the ordinance will be presented for a second reading and vote on September 19.

City Commission supports efforts to shut down Enbridge Line 5

During their meeting on September 6, the Kalamazoo City Commission adopted resolution 16-36 supporting the efforts of Michigan legislators to shut down Enbridge Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. The potential impact to tourism, our state economy, and our natural environment that a rupture of Line 5 could cause are among the reasons cited in the resolution, as are the age of the pipeline and Enbridge's record of reportable spills, leaks, releases. The rupture of Enbridge Line 6b near Kalamazoo in 2010 allowed nearly one million gallons of tar sands oil to leak before it could be shut down. Kalamazoo joins a growing list of cities, townships, and counties that have supported efforts to shut down Line 5. Mayor Hopewell will send a letter to Governor



Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, our State Representatives, State Senators, and U.S. Senators on behalf of the City Commission calling for swift action. You can read the resolution [here](#).

City Staff Welcome WMU Students at Bronco Bash

City staff attended the annual Bronco Bash event on the campus of Western Michigan University to welcome students and offer information about city services. Staff from Metro, the Clerk's Office, Parks and Recreation, and the City Manager's Office met students and gave away magnets with a link to important information about renting in Kalamazoo, voting, transportation, parks & recreation, and other public services.



(PARK)ing Day Brings Quirky Fun Downtown

(PARK)ing Day was once again celebrated in Kalamazoo, with nine downtown parking spaces being temporarily transformed into public parks on Friday, September 16. Visitors downtown had the chance to play ladder ball, hula hoop, jump rope, and even do yoga in areas typically reserved only for parking. This annual event is meant to call attention to the need for urban open space.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The Kalamazoo City Striders are once again walking in the annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event that will take place on October 15 this year. If you are interested in joining the team and participating in the 5k or 1 mile fundraising walk, please contact Lisa Brown at brownl@kalamazoo.org.

Fall hydrant flushing

The fall hydrant flushing program begins on Sunday, September 18 and will be on-going through Monday, September 26. During this period, flushing will take place between the hours 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 10 p.m. - 5:30 a.m.

Over time, minerals can accumulate 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 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. The flushing schedule is included in the [Fall View from the Curb](#).

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

Congratulations to Malissa and Tony Drzick

Congratulations to Malissa and Tony Drzick who welcomed their new 7.13 lb baby girl Charlotte Rae on August 23!

KDPS 4 digit extensions temporarily unavailable

KDPS extensions currently cannot be reached via 4 digit extensions. To contact KDPS, please dial 9 + 337- xxxx

This is a temporary change that will be in effect during the KDPS VOIP transition. If you attempt to dial KDPS via 4 digit extension, you will reach an automated voice informing you that the individual you are trying to reach is not available and prompting you to leave a message. If you do this, you are reaching a voice-mail box on the new KDPS VOIP system that is currently inaccessible. Messages left will not be answered.

The translation programming in our current VOIP configuration that allows 4 digit dialing of KDPS numbers had to be removed to allow those extensions to be configured in the new system. Once the unified VOIP system transition is complete, 4 digit dialing will once again be possible.

What does this mean for you? Please dial all calls to KDPS with a 9 (to reach an outside channel) and then 337-XXXX. Please contact IT if you have any questions.

Expanded Metro Transit service is here

Kalamazoo Metro Transit has been busy the past few weeks gearing up for later night and Sunday bus service for the community. Later nights started September 6 with routes running until 12:15 a.m. Monday through Friday on twelve routes. Several other routes are operating until 10:30 and 11:15 p.m. Sunday, September 11 kicked off the first day of Sunday bus service. Over 2,000 trips were taken around town, with many passengers using the 1-Westnedge, 9-Gull Road, and 14-West Main routes. Hourly bus service is available from 8:15 a.m. through 5:15 p.m. with the last trip out of the Kalamazoo Transportation Center at 4:15 p.m. A new look to the printed schedules was developed for each route with the color coding matching the Track My

Staff Changes

NEW HIRES

Todd Braysher, Senior Systems Analyst
Steven Brown, Grants Specialist
Desiree Edwards, Bus Driver PT
Malika Glover, Bus Driver PT
Kahmon Hawkins, Bus Driver PT
Cassandra Hayes, Bus Driver PT
Anthony Johnson, Bus Driver PT
Jerrie Mahone, Bus Driver PT
Courtney Martin, Class B Mechanic
Francisco Perez, Municipal Worker Apprentice
Christopher Pippin, Service Lane Attendant
Ryan Reese, Bus Driver PT

PROMOTIONS

Marvella Vincent, Code Compliance Inspector II
Charta Battle, Bus Driver FT
Adrean Cole, Public Safety Officer I
Sharlene Devault, Bus Driver FT
Lawrence Harris Jr, Bus Driver FT
Shurrickka Murray, Bus Driver FT
Ericka Phillips, Bus Driver FT
Monica Porter, Accounts Coordinator
Demonte Spann, Public Safety Officer I
Melinda Vandebuilt, Bus Driver FT
Joshua Manning, Vehicle Mechanic II
Austin Slack, City Records Coordinator
Naomi Bridges, Bus Driver FT
Carmeisa Hubbard, Bus Driver FT



Bus application located at www.kmetro.com and on an app available at the Apple and Google Play stores. More information about routes and schedule is available at www.kmetro.com or by calling 337-8222.

Safe Halloween candy donations

Our Parks & Recreation Department is once again seeking donations of candy for their upcoming Safe Halloween event on Saturday, October 29. The candy will be given away during the event, which provides a family friendly Halloween celebration for Kalamazoo-area residents. Donations of individually wrapped bags of candy will be collected by Amanda England for Public Safety, Stephanie Losey at Harrison, Ashton Anthony at Parks & Recreation, Wendy Burlingham at Stockbridge, Cheryl Pesti at Metro, or Neal Conway at City Hall.



Volleyball Managers Meeting

Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation are hosting a meeting for anyone that may be interested in their upcoming session of adult volleyball. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21st at 6:30pm in the Community Room at Mayors' Riverfront Park. Details for the 2016-2017 season will be presented at the meeting, so staff ask that one representative from each team plan on attending. Please contact the Parks & Recreation office at (269) 337-8191 for more information.



Eco Raft Race rescheduled for Saturday, October 1



It's not too late to register for the Eco Raft Race! Assemble a raft from eco-friendly or recyclable materials and get ready for the wildest Kalamazoo River ride you've ever experienced! You won't need a team of engineers to succeed - just a crew of friends ready to have a great time while promoting recycling and being green! Rafts will launch From Mayors' Riverfront Park and float to Arcadia Ales. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest raft, most creative raft, and most enthusiastic crew.

The race was originally scheduled to take place in August but was delayed due to unsuitable weather conditions. For additional details and registration, please visit the Parks & Recreation website [here](#).

Don't Miss the Last Few Weeks of Lunchtime Live!

Summer is winding down and unfortunately that means Lunchtime Live! is as well. There are only two weeks left in the season, so don't miss the chance to enjoy the nice September weather and have your lunch outdoors in Bronson Park!