

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:

October 2016 Edition

KDPS Among Five Agencies Included in Foot Patrol Study

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety is one of five law enforcement agencies that participated in a recently released study of foot patrols by the Police Foundation. The study, “Engaging Communities One Step at a Time,” examines how different agencies implement foot patrols and aims to provide models to demonstrate how the practice can be utilized by other police agencies.

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety was joined by the Cambridge (MA) Police Department, New Haven (CT) Police Department, Evanston (IL) Police Department, and Portland (OR) Police Bureau in the study. Researchers conducted field observations with foot patrol officers from each department to identify regular activities and observe the nature of interactions between officers and community members. Interviews were also conducted with officers at varying ranks within each department and focus groups were convened of citizens served by each agency. The study identifies the key themes, benefits, and challenges gleaned from the five departments and provides recommendations to departments that may wish to implement a foot patrol strategy in the future. The positive interactions that occur between communities and foot patrol officers are also highlighted.

“Our canvassing program in Kalamazoo has helped us restore the personal connection between our officers and the community they serve,” said Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley. “Building relationships and trust within the community is absolutely critical in policing, and we are glad to have the opportunity to share our experience and what we’ve learned with other agencies.”



In March 2014, the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety made a commitment to connect with every household in the City. Officers have since visited each residential address in Kalamazoo at least once to introduce themselves, discuss neighborhood issues, and ask for feedback about the department. As a result of the success of the program, officers are currently conducting their second city-wide outreach.

You can read the report [here](#).

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United Way Campaign Wrap Up

Thank you to all employees who participated in the 2016 United Way Campaign! Between the garage sale, cook offs, lunches, and the silent auction, hopefully it was fun and easy to get involved. Hats off to Martin Markos and Shelby Moss who co-chaired the campaign, and somehow managed to turn a porcelain chicken into a social media star and then \$15 for a great cause. We are currently waiting for the data scientists at the United Way to verify our participation percentage and deliver Martin and Shelby their 2017 Overachiever Award.



City Commission Adds Monthly Work Sessions

At a September 26 worksession, the Kalamazoo City Commission amended its Regular Meeting Schedule to add work sessions on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. from October 2016 through March 2017. The location of these work sessions is yet to be determined.

The first of these worksessions will take place on Monday, October 24 and will focus on the Memorandum of Understanding outlining the Foundation for Excellence concept.

The amended meeting schedule for the remainder of 2016 is available [here](#). The City Commission will adopt its meeting schedule for 2017 before the end of the year.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Join the Kalamazoo City Striders this year for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk! This non-competitive walk helps to raise funds for groundbreaking breast cancer research, life-saving education, and critical patient services. The walk begins and ends at the Arcadia Festival Site downtown the morning of Saturday, October 15.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a celebration of survivorship - an occasion to express hope and our shared determination to make this breast cancer's last century. For more information, to make a donation, or to join the Kalamazoo City Striders please contact the team captain [Lisa brown](#).

Downtown KRVT Construction Underway

Construction has begun on the long awaited downtown connection of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail! Initial work began on Rose Street and will expand along Kalamazoo Avenue this week. The trail is expected to officially open in the spring of 2017. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 7.

Lewis Walker Institute, SPK Host Gilda Jacobs

The City Commission's Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Initiative and WMU's Lewis Walker Institute are welcoming Michigan League for Public Policy President Gilda Jacobs to the Fetzer Center on Tuesday, October 18. She will be exploring the question, "what will it take to get equal opportunity and broadly shared prosperity in Kalamazoo and other Michigan cities?" This free event begins at 7:00 p.m.

Metro Transit Transfers to CCTA

The documents were signed and Kalamazoo Metro Transit officially transferred to the Central County Transit Authority on September 30. Despite being separate entities, the City of Kalamazoo and the CCTA will continue to share certain administrative and support services, and will continue working together to serve the residents of Kalamazoo.



KDPS Hiring

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety is hiring Public Safety Officers for service beginning in May 2017. Kalamazoo Public Safety Officers are cross-trained as police officers, firefighters, and medical first responders. They respond to calls for police, fire, and medical emergencies, along with other duties. Applications may be submitted through Sunday, October 23 online ONLY at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/kalamazoomi>.

Downtown Safety Workshop

Downtown Kalamazoo Inc. is sponsoring a safety workshop for individuals who live, work, or play downtown. Meet the downtown community police officer and learn about crime statistics and how you can reduce crime. Helpful reference guides will also be available. Sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Van Deusen Room at the downtown branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library.

Full House for First Imagine Kalamazoo “Plan It!” Workshop

The first of two Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 workshops for the project’s “Plan It!” phase filled the room at the Northside Association for Community Development on September 27. Nearly every neighborhood was represented among the over 160 participants in the meeting who participated in collaborative exercises to identify what could be improved in Kalamazoo’s neighborhoods. Community members were asked to provide input not only on the neighborhood they live in, but also offer insights to the neighborhoods in which they work or play as well. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27 at St Joseph’s Church at 936 Lake Street. You can RSVP [here](#).



Leaf Collection begins October 31

The City of Kalamazoo’s fall leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 31. Residents are asked to place their leaves out before 7 a.m. on the Monday for your designated area. Please be sure to separate leaves from brush and twigs and avoid placing leaves near mail boxes, utility poles, and landscaped areas. Anything other than leaves will not be collected. Complete details, schedules, and the collection map are available [here](#).

Training at its Best

Four employees from Public Services attended the Michigan Public Services Institute in September in Mt. Pleasant. Wendy Burlingham attended her second year (class of 2017); Teresa Johnson & Chris Smith entered their first year (class of 2018) in the three year program. Jane McDonagh (class of 2012) serves on the committee and has attended MPSI since 2010. “I was asked to stay on board as a permanent member of the committee and I am happy to represent the City of Kalamazoo” McDonagh adds that this is the most comprehensive training regarding Public Services and is being emulated throughout the United States. “Dr Bender has a no nonsense approach on how to deliver excellent customer service while mastering supervisory skills and focusing on leadership”. “His applications are easy to implement and the results are immediate”.



MPSI consists of a three-year training program which provides instruction expressly designed for public works supervisors, managers and directors. The MPSI course is divided into three one-week sessions (one week each year) focusing on training in public service and enhancing individual growth and professional development. The sessions are non-sequential and one may begin the three-year cycle at any time. Participants returning for Year 2 or Year 3 may choose either the spring or the fall session.

- DELIVERING SERVICE EXCELLENCE (2016)
- FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP (2017)
- SUPERVISING FOR EXCELLENCE (2018)

If you would like more information please contact Jane McDonagh at (269) 337-8772 or mcdonaghj@kalamazoo.org, or visit the MPSI website at www.mipsi.org.

Collaborative Sign Policy Available for Comment

Have you ever wondered about the differences in regulatory signs and general information signs? What the criteria is for sign placement? The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, the City of Portage, and the City of Kalamazoo have drafted an Intergovernmental Collaborative Sign Policy to give guidance and maintain consistent sign applications throughout the county.

Together the Road Commission and cities currently maintain over 51,000 signs along city streets and county roads. With this many signs, it is important to maintain a consistent, uniform and logical sequence of signs along our streets and roads.

The draft policy is available for review and public comment through October 23 [here](#).

Farmers Alley Reopens through Winter Season

The initial phase of infrastructure improvements has been completed along Farmers Alley, which is now reopen to traffic (including all parking spaces). Since June, Consumers Energy has performed upgrades to their underground infrastructure along the alley, and the City's Public Services staff took advantage of the opportunity to repair of sanitary and storm sewers, properly abandon old coal chutes, and install telecommunications conduit. Sidewalks along the alley were also repaired.

Farmers Alley will remain open through the Spring of 2017 when the second phase of improvements will start. Public Services staff will replace the existing main along Farmers Alley and Exchange Place to increase capacity and accomodate the growing downtown. The project will also bring a refreshed streetscape to Farmers Alley that will improve walkability, seating, and lighting without sacrificing parking or obstructing traffic flow.

Staff Changes

NEW HIRES

Ryan Simpson, Economic Development Coordinator
Christian Deuel, Housing Inspector II
Kenneth Koetje, Housing Inspector II
Leonard Mosher, Mechanical Inspector/Plan Review

PROMOTIONS

Cameron Dawson Ruiz, Bus Driver PT
Romeo Little, Bus Driver PT
Carrie Funk, Legal Secretary
Danielle Robinson, Operations Division Secretary
Kristie Hofer, Sergeant 42 Hour
Justin Wonders, Sergeant 42 Hour
Jeremy Wyatt, Transportation Equipment Supervisor
Sara Jo Shipley, Redevelopment Project Manager
Michelle Emig, Senior Buyer

Safe Halloween in Bronson Park Saturday, October 29

The City's Parks & Recreation Department will hold their annual Safe Halloween event on Saturday, October 29 from 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. in Bronson Park. Everyone is welcome at this family friendly Halloween celebration, which includes tons of activities like pumpkin racing and decorating, a costume contest, a moon bounce, assorted games, and a display of pumpkin sculptures by the Lord of the Gourd. And of course, there will be plenty of Halloween candy!



Bronson Park Week and 100 Extraordinary Women Event

Everyone is invited to the Bronson Park Week Kick-off Party on Thursday, October 20 from 6-10 p.m. as the City of Kalamazoo honors the park's history and celebrates the future. To date, over \$700,000 has been raised for the Bronson Park 21st Century Campaign – which includes plans for major restorations and additions to Bronson Park. The improvements are based on the Bronson Park Master Plan, which was created in collaboration with community stakeholders throughout 2015 and adopted by the City Commission in March. Join city leaders and the whole community as details of the campaign are revealed! Festivities will include live music, family activities, food trucks, and more! Potential donors are also invited to participate in the Campaign's 100 Extraordinary Women Initiative to help raise the \$2.8 million needed to realize this vision for Bronson Park. The Initiative asks 100 women (or more) to each donate \$1,000 or pledge that amount over four years (\$250 per year). Men can also participate to honor or remember women who are important to them, and groups of women (book clubs, etc.) can come together for one name. Each woman will have her name permanently listed in Bronson Park's donor recognition area. A reception will be held at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts on Wednesday, October 19 to celebrate the extraordinary women who have participated. For more information please contact [Pam O'Connor](#) or [Jodi Sweeney](#).

You can learn more about the Bronson Park 21st Century Campaign, the Bronson Park Master Plan, and planned improvements at www.kalamazoo.org/bronsonpark.

Grant Funding Awarded to Bronson Park 21st Century Campaign

Grant funding totaling approximately \$122,250 has been awarded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the Michigan Humanities Council to support the Bronson Park 21st Century campaign, including the restoration of the Fountain of the Pioneers complex and educational components to accompany it. Bronson Park forms the center of the Bronson Park National Register Historic District.



Despite Fountain of the Pioneers designer Alfonso Iannelli's intention, his Prairie Modern masterpiece has been accused of racism. The Bronson Park 21st Century Campaign's Public Education committee, including representatives of the local Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi, resolved to keep the fountain with the addition of a multifaceted education effort to explore its history and Kalamazoo's connections to Band, which is also known as the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians.

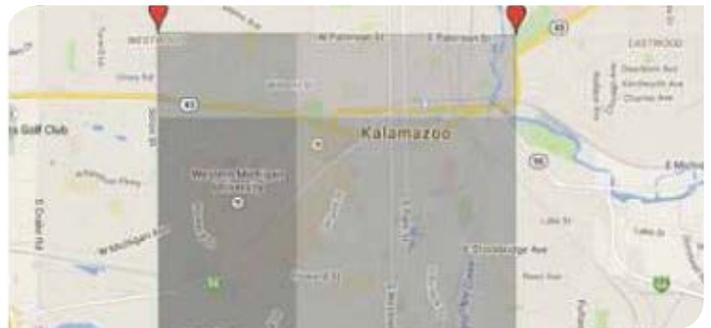
The \$100,000 grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation was made to help restore the Fountain of the Pioneers complex and create and implement educational programs that treat the nationally significant Fountain sculpture as a "site of conscience" and support campaign planning and execution.

"This request aligns with KZCF's priorities of education and equity because it supports not only

the redevelopment of Kalamazoo's Bronson Park and its Iannelli Fountain, but it provides an opportunity to elevate the marginalized voices of the Pottawatomi tribe, and gives them the ability to engage the community through the addition of an educational component that the tribe will create," the Kalamazoo Community Foundation issued in a statement.

An approximately \$22,250 Heritage Grant was awarded to the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission by the Michigan Humanities Council to develop engaging methods to present an accurate history of American Indian occupation of the region.

"The Tribe is working with community leaders in Kalamazoo to educate the public on the real history of Kalamazoo's first peoples and share our rich heritage," wrote Gun Lake Tribal Councilwoman Phyllis Davis in a letter supporting the grant application. "We hope to do this through an education program and also some historical markers in each corner of the reservation."



The Campaign's Public Education Committee is preparing Wi-Fi-enabled kiosks to be located in Bronson Park and at corners of the 1821-1829 Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish reservation where Kalamazoo now stands. With Next Exit History internet mapping, the Pottawatomi's own words and images will tell their story of broken Euro-American treaties, resistance to removal, cultural re-engagement and community stewardship.

More information on the Bronson Park 21st Century Campaign and the Bronson Park Master Plan is available at www.kalamazoo.org/bronsonpark.