

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Once again our community rallied to meet the needs of young minds in our community.

Two years ago, Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) needed an additional middle school to accommodate an influx of students, due in part to the success of the *Kalamazoo Promise*. Consequently, the Western Michigan University (WMU) Foundation donated the land off Drake Road needed to build the new school and the City of Kalamazoo provided the public infrastructure for the institution. As a result, Arboretum Way was created as a through street that connects Drake Road to Howard Street and leads from one of our public schools to one of universities.

We continue to support our education community through our participation in various programs throughout the year. The City will again participate in Bronco Bash and pass out information about the City so that our college residents will be able to access our services. Staff will also be going door-to-door alongside WMU president, John Dunn and staff to personally welcome students throughout the student neighborhoods.

I encourage more staff to participate in our *Promise Partners* initiative and other area mentorship programs. I am quite proud of our Public Safety department as they continuously find ways to reach our youth through creative programming such as the youth baseball clinic, leadership academies and education for employment. Officers frequently take the initiative to mentor young people in order to bridge the gap between law enforcement and youth.

We must continue to inspire and mentor our children and youth at every stage of development so that they achieve the success that will move our City, State and Nation forward. Our efforts will ensure that our students and others throughout the country appreciate and recognize Kalamazoo as the "Education City."



OFFICIALS CELEBRATE GRAND OPENING OF CITY'S FIRST ROUNDABOUTS

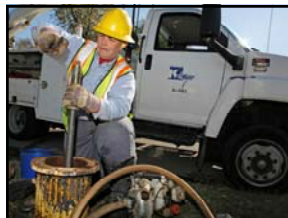
The City of Kalamazoo, Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Public Schools celebrated the grand opening of two new roundabouts at the intersections of the Arboretum Parkway/Solon Avenue and Howard/Solon & Kendall Avenues. Officials from the City of Kalamazoo, Western Michigan and Kalamazoo Public Schools were on hand to provide remarks about the process.



Gorgeously landscaped, these roundabouts are slated to decrease serious crashes including those that involve pedestrians, decrease traffic delays, reduce air pollution, increase vehicle capacity and enhance intersection aesthetics. This project is yet another example of our community's willingness to work together

- * The City of Kalamazoo
- * WMU Foundation
- * Kalamazoo Public Schools
- * Kalamazoo County Road Commission
- * Kalamazoo Charter Township
- * Arcadia Neighborhood Association

Special thanks to Hurley & Stewart and Peters Construction alongside City engineers and the Kalamazoo County Road Commission for designing and making improvements that add to the beauty of this neighborhood.



11TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN HISTORIC HOME TOUR SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

After a two year hiatus, the *Downtown Kalamazoo Historic Homes Tour* resumes **Saturday, September 18, 2010, 10:00am-4:00pm**. Funds raised from the tour benefit the Historic Stuart and Vine Neighborhoods. This year's tour includes six neighborhood homes, the incomparable Kalamazoo House, a downtown loft and the as-yet-unfinished space above the Coney Island downtown. The Stuart and Vine neighborhoods are offering walking tours in the neighborhood as well.



The Downtown Historic Homes Tours needs volunteers to make this day work. Each volunteer works a 2-3 hour shift and gets a ticket to see the rest of the tour for free. We need help at all of the houses and with the walking tours in the Vine neighborhood.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person at the following locations:

- * [DKI](#) (157 S. Kalamazoo Mall #175 -- 344-0795)
- * [Douglas & Son](#) (231 W. Cedar Street --344-2860)
- * [Schafers Flowers](#) (3274 Stadium Drive -- 343-6136)
- * [Stuart Neighborhood Office](#) (530 Douglas Avenue -- 344-7432)
- * [Vine Neighborhood Office](#) (511 W. Vine Street -- 349-8463)

On **September 18**, tickets will be **\$13 per person** and sold at **211 Woodward Avenue** and **628 South Park Street**.

For more information visit www.historichomestour.org. Printable brochures with ticket order forms are also available online, www.kalamazoo.org/docs/DKHHT2010.pdf.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sharon Ferraro, 269-337-8804 or fer-raros@kalamazoo.org and provide the following information:

- * Phone Number
- * Email Address
- * Volunteer preference, if any
- * Shift



CITY OF KALAMAZOO RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT IN PROCUREMENT AWARD

The City of Kalamazoo's Purchasing Department has received the **Achievement in Excellence in Procurement Award** from the National Purchasing Institute for the fourth consecutive year. This award is given to municipalities that demonstrate excellence in procurement based on professionalism, innovation, e-procurement, productivity and leadership attributes of the procurement function.

The City of Kalamazoo became one of six government agencies in Michigan and one of 56 in the United States to receive this honor. A complete list of recipients can be found online, www.nationalpurchasinginstitute.org/aep/recipients.asp

Congratulations Director Nick Lam and staff!



COMMUNITY SURVEY SCHEDULED FOR CITY OF KALAMAZOO RESIDENTS

Residents of the City of Kalamazoo may be randomly chosen to participate in a telephone based community survey, now through September 17, 2010.

The City of Kalamazoo continues to grapple with impending budget uncertainties with regard to state shared revenue and property taxes and realizes the importance of community input during the budget process. The City faces a potential \$1-\$4 million shortfall in 2012 and is working to modify the City's strategic plan to manage the anticipated loss. The City utilized a phone survey in 2008 primarily to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided. This year, the survey will focus on prioritization of City services with regards to anticipated revenue reductions.

Information gathered from the survey will also help officials evaluate ways the City can improve its customer service deliverability through the use of technology. As a part of the survey, residents may be asked to participate in a series of community forums to provide a more in-depth evaluation of the City's operational budget and aid in the development of the 2011 and 2012 budgets.

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS . . .

PARKS & RECREATION Friends of Recreation and Sunrise Rotary participated in the Kalamazoo Community Foundation's (KCF) Match Day event to raise money for the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund and Rose Park Veteran's Memorial Fund, respectively. The gifts to the Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund generated \$940 and were matched by KCF for a total of \$1,880 for the endowment. Likewise, the Memorial Fund generated \$836.75 and funds matched by KCF brought the total for the endowment to \$1,673.50

The 14th Annual Friends of Recreation Golf Classic was held in July at Eastern Hills Golf Course. Over 65 golfers participated in the event with tremendous support from over 80 businesses that donated door prizes, auction items and hole sponsorships. The event was successful, bringing in over \$11,000 in revenue that will be used to help fund the Youth Development Center in 2011

PUBLIC SERVICES Approximately 1,000,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the Kalamazoo River. Director Bruce Merchant and Public Services' staff took immediate steps to alleviate impact on City infrastructure by shutting down Well Pump Station #39 on the south side of Morrow Lake. While implications are still being assessed, it appears that no appreciable amounts of oil have reached beyond Morrow Dam. Staff continues to monitor the situation closely to ensure clean up activities alleviate any potential impacts on City infrastructure

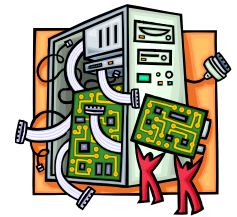
PUBLIC SAFETY held the 2nd phase of the Broken Windows/Blight Operation. In this phase, crews targeted three additional neighborhoods, 34 streets, tagged 54 junk autos, assessed 52 code enforcement violations along with 30 housing code violations

METRO TRANSIT Fixed route ridership for the month of June totaled 179,874 passengers, or a loss of 24,273 rides (-11.89%) under June of 2009. Year to date fixed route ridership totals 1,258,029, or -13.52% under the same timeframe last year. June's demand/response service, Metro County Connect, decreased by 79 rides to 10,146 passengers, a -0.77% decrease



“Doing our best work today and every day to make Kalamazoo the best city it can be tomorrow!”

I.T. HELP DESK . . . AT YOUR SERVICE



PC Deployment

Each year, IT staff replaces approximately 20% of the cities aging computers and will begin contacting City staff slated to receive new computer this year.

What happens?

An appointment is set up with each user and a member of the IT staff. Each user's list of applications is reviewed to determine the user's preferences and computer layout (i.e., document shortcuts, favorites and settings) to ensure a smooth transfer of settings to the new computer.

This year, the operating system will change from Windows XP to Windows 7. Prior to the deployment, IT staff will provide information regarding the differences to familiarize users with the new features. A few new features of note include a “superbar,” which replaces the traditional launch bar at the bottom of the screen, with drag and drop technology; the start-up menu has increased search functionality; the shutdown button is easier to find; folders launch much more quickly and mouse over applications for provide active functionality.

If you have questions about 2010 PC deployment, please feel free to contact the *HelpDesk*, x-8400 or email helpdesk@kalamazoo.org

A NEW FACE IN IT . . .

Nicole Phernetton joins the City's IT Department as a new intern. She will be primarily working with the IT Helpdesk.



Nicole has a great deal of IT experience and is eager to assist City staff.

WELCOME ABOARD!

RECENT RETIREES, NEW HIRES & DEPARTMENT TRANSITIONS



RECENT RETIREES

Gilda Baylis, Code Administration-Records Clerk
26 Years of Service (*Community Planning & Development*)

Lionell Ford, Housing Inspector II
31 Years of Service (*Community Planning & Development*)

Gary Lane, Engineering Records Supervisor
34 Years of Service (*Public Services*)

Kenneth Rife, FT Bus Driver
8 Years of Service (*Metro Transit*)

NEW HIRES

Dorla Bonner, Community Development Compliance Specialist I,
Community Planning & Development

Orrin Dorr, Engineering Technician I, Public Services-Harrison

Robert McNutt, Sr. Rehab Specialist, Community Planning & Development

Nicole Phernetton, Intern, Information Technology

PROMOTIONS

Larry Gray, Part-time to Full-time Bus Driver, Metro Transit

Gregory Grewett, Wastewater Operator/Maintainer Apprentice to
Wastewater Operator/Maintainer I, Public Services-Harrison

James Jean, Wastewater Operator/Maintainer I to Wastewater Operator/
Maintainer II, Public Services-Harrison

Michael Skurski, Officer II to Sergeant, Public Safety

DEPARTMENT TRANSITIONS

[FROM COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO TREASURER'S OFFICE]

Mimi Carrillo, Public Services Coordinator

Nancy Fitzsimmons, Utility Coordinator

Shirley Gordon, Accounts/Connection Coordinator

Tanya Hewitt, Public Services Coordinator

Monica Johnson, Public Services Coordinator

Denise Tyler, Clerk Cashier II

WELCOME . . . DORLA BONNER

Dorla Bonner joins the City of Kalamazoo as one of CP&D's Community Development Compliance Specialists, responsible for the management of NSP funds.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, Dorla lived in Rockford, IL where she served as the Program Supervisor for Resident Opportunity for the Rockford Housing Authority. She managed federal, state and local funds (\$4 million), which included the Welfare to Work program, Job Training Partnership Act, Workforce Development and Resident Opportunities programs.

Please welcome Dorla to the City of Kalamazoo...

KALAMAZOO'S FIRST WATER FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS

Several hundred people enjoyed music, activities and entertainment during the first Kalamazoo Water Festival!



Water Festival organizers, sponsors, participants and artists were on hand to highlight the importance of water preservation and conservation. Several activities helped children explore a soil and water tunnel, run through sprinklers, try Gyotaku "fish printing" and enjoy Joe Reilly who composed a song exclusively for the event.

The launch of the Kalamazoo Water Festival was made possible with generous grant support from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and other sponsors including:

- * Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition
- * Kalamazoo Environmental Council
- * Kalamazoo Nature Center
- * Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery
- * Allegan County Conservation District
- * City of Kalamazoo
- * Fenn Valley Vineyard
- * Wine Cellar
- * Calhoun County Conservation District
- * City of Battle Creek
- * Kalamazoo County Drain Office
- * Kalamazoo County Road Commission
- * Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

Proceeds from the Water Festival will be set aside for the next Festival and Kalamazoo River Watershed Council programs.



CITYLINK Ideas & Features

CITYLINK is a monthly, internal publication generated by the City Manager's Office that will feature information regarding the organization. Please contact the editor, Alfrelynn Roberts robertsa@kalamazoo-city.org or 337-8362, with questions or comments.