



Linking You to City Government

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Preparations are underway to conduct the 2010 Community Survey that will be designed to assist in the development of the 2011 and 2012 Budgets.

We conducted a very successful telephone survey in 2008 that gauged the perceptions of City residents with regards to the services we provide including Community Policing. This year, it is our intention to ask residents to help prioritize our services in anticipation of further revenue reductions (state shared revenue and property taxes).

Meetings were held with City appointees and department directors in an effort to help formulate this year's survey questions, which will also attempt to determine residents' tolerance to enhanced use of technology in the delivery of City services. In addition to the survey, focus groups will be conducted to provide a more in depth review of city services and impact of service reductions.

Having this opportunity to reach out to residents regarding their priorities and tolerance will be especially important for development of the budget. It is my hope that the information we gather will better prepare us to make the hard decisions regarding service reductions.

CITY OF KALAMAZOO RESPONDS TO THE KALAMAZOO RIVER OIL SPILL

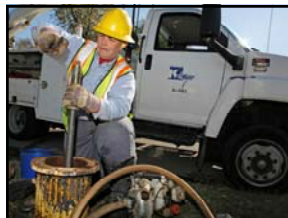
On July 27, 2010, Governor Jennifer Granholm declared a state of disaster for Calhoun County and the affected areas along the Kalamazoo River downstream of Talmadge Creek, which includes parts of Kalamazoo County. It is the City's responsibility to protect the health and safety of our residents, its assets and water systems as well as its natural habitat and environment. In response, the City of Kalamazoo invoked its Emergency Preparedness protocols.

City assets most impacted by the spill include Water Pumping Station #39 (WPS #39) located approximately 200 feet from Morrow Lake. Public Services staff has taken action to eliminate any possibility that contaminants from the oil spill could impact drinking water quality provided to customers and continue to perform additional water samplings of the distribution system to provide assurance that water quality is maintained. As an additional precaution, the Wastewater Treatment facility, located on the Kalamazoo River just north of Paterson at Harrison Street, has discontinued using plant final effluent or non-potable water in its treatment process. The plant has the capability to use City water for this purpose and has already made the change.

Residents should know that the oil spill has caused the City to make modifications to our normal operating procedures, but fortunately, the redundancy and flexibility designed into the City's water and wastewater systems has allowed for these changes without sacrificing the level of service we provide and our ability to supply clean, safe drinking water to all of our residents. For more information regarding the City's response, visit [Oil Spill continued page 4](#)



Worker tends to boom after Michigan oil spill
Picture Courtesy of United Press International



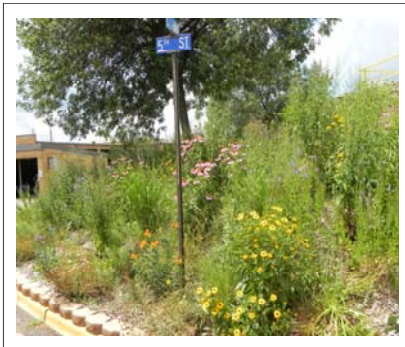
RAIN GARDENS QUALIFY AREA AROUND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AS A MONARCH WAYSTATION

For the last few years Public Services staff worked to use natural plantings in various areas around the water reclamation plant for various reasons:



- * the rain gardens near the front gate receive runoff from the east parking lot
- * the slopes to the primary and secondary thickeners were very steep for mowing
- * “Carbon Lake” (the grassy swale running along the west side of the plant) is often too wet to mow
- * The “infield” of the oval (formed by the septage station and scale road parallel to the back road) was a scruffy area that received runoff from the nearby pavement and often had standing water as well.

The construction of rain gardens and addition of natural plantings at the Water Reclamation Plant has earned the Plant the designation as a “Monarch Butterfly Way Station.” These efforts continue to enhance the City’s storm water treatment program and landscaping/housekeeping efforts in addition to integrating strategies to improve the quality of our environment by providing a piece of natural habitat in an urban environment.



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@kalamazoocty.org or 337-8362, with questions or comments.

PUBLIC SERVICE UTILITY BILLING AND TREASURY OFFICE FIND NEW HOME AT CITY HALL

Over the summer, the Treasury Office located on the first floor of City Hall experienced a major renovation in order to accommodate all customer service and billing operations for the City. This cost cutting move approved in the 2010 Budget will co-locate the Public Services customer service office and the Treasury Office.

All operations formerly conducted at the Stockbridge location will cease on August 6 including usage of the utility drop box, as it will be sealed and no longer operable. Customers will be able to leave payments at the night drop box located west of the front doors of City Hall (241 W. South Street).

On August 9, 2010, the Treasury Office will re-open at City Hall (1st Floor) to service all tax, utility, customer service and billing operations. Office hours will remain the same, Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

For more information, visit www.kalamazoocty.org or contact the Treasury Office, 337-8036 or Public Services Utility Billing, 337-8808.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SAFETY TO JOIN KALAMAZOO KINGS FOR YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC

On Friday, August 6, Public Safety will again team up with the Kalamazoo Kings and host a baseball clinic for area youth.



This has taken place for the last two years with great success and much positive feedback. More than 200 kids have supported the event and learned the fundamentals of baseball, while interacting with players from the Kings and Public Safety Officers. Participants also have access to KDPS specialty vehicles and attend a Kings game.

This year, efforts are being made to collect old or new baseball gloves for participants in camps. (Even gloves that need some minor repairs will be accepted.) Most students participating in the camps do not have baseball gloves of their own and may have a much more enjoyable experience if a baseball glove was provided.

Baseball gloves can be dropped off at the Teleserve Office located at Public Safety Headquarters (150 E. Crosstown Parkway, Suite A) by 10:00am on August 6. Please e-mail PSO Manuel Bohannon (bohannonm@kalamazoocty.org) regarding glove donations.

To register or for general information about the event, please contact Sergeant Joe Humphries humphriesj@kalamazoocty.org or 337-8935).

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS . . .

FINANCE OFFICE completed the Bond Sale for the 2010 Capital Improvement program and awarded the bid for 3.53%, which is less than the 4% assumed for budgeting purposes, saving \$10,000/year in interest cost

PUBLIC SERVICES The trailway bridge project over Portage Creek at Rose Veterans Memorial Park is essentially complete. The contractor is finalizing some landscaping and site cleanup work. Despite claims of ownership of the Willard Street right-of-way by Norfolk Southern Railroad, City records show only the block between Porter and Walbridge as having been vacated. Engineering will call on the railroad to verify their claim or accede to the installation of a non-motorized trail on the north portion excepting the confirmed vacation

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT is also moving forward with complete rehabilitation of seven homes using NSP1 funds. These seven homes will feature entirely new roofs, siding, insulation, electrical, plumbing, heating, interior wall, ceiling and floor surfaces with a focus on modern floor plans and amenities, low-maintenance, and energy efficiency. The homes will be available for purchase with easy terms for low and moderate income households beginning later this year

METRO TRANSIT Fixed route ridership for the month of May totaled 175,331 passengers, or a loss of 34,830 rides (-16.5%) under May of 2009. Year to date fixed route ridership totals 1,078,155, or -13.8% under the same timeframe last year. May's demand/response service, Metro County Connect, increased by 418 rides to 10,149 passengers, a 4.3% increase

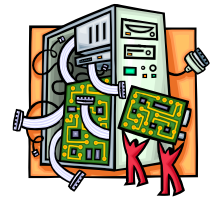
MARANDA'S PARK PARTY ANOTHER SUCCESS

On Thursday, July 22, the City of Kalamazoo Department of Parks and Recreation teamed up with Wood TV 8 to host *Maranda's Park Party*, held at Upjohn Park. This was a successful, free family fun event with over 4,100 participants in attendance. Activities included free prizes, rides, free snacks and beverages, interactive games, music and entertainment.

There are still more exciting events that will be taking place this summer. If you are interesting in learning more about our programs, please contact our office, 337-8191.



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



Take the HelpDesk Quiz

Take this short quiz to see if you know all about the City of Kalamazoo's IT Helpdesk!

Question 1 - True or False? The IT Helpdesk is staffed with knowledgeable IT support personnel 7:45am - 5pm Monday through Friday

Question 2 - True or False? The IT Helpdesk phone number is 337-8400 and email address is helpdesk@kalamazoo.org

Question 3 - True or False? The fastest way to get service for your IT issue is to send an email to Zondra Heckman

Question 4 - True or False? Five people staff the helpdesk -- Chris, Brian, Michael, Darryl and Zondra

Question 5 - True or False? Any IT issue can be solved by contacting the helpdesk.

Congratulations! If you answered TRUE to all questions except #3 (which is False!), then you know all about the City of Kalamazoo's IT Helpdesk. If you got any of these questions wrong, why don't you contact the **HelpDesk** at 337-8400 or helpdesk@kalamazoo.org and find out more about this service provided to all City employees!

RECENT RETIREES, NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS & TRANSFERS



RECENT RETIREES

James Ferguson

C Mechanic, 10 Years of Service (*Metro Transit*)

Ronald Jennings

Officer/EO, 24 Years of Service (*Public Safety*)

Robert Little

Sewer Surveyor, 27 Years of Service (*Public Services*)

Earle Martin

Sergeant, 24 Years of Service, (*Public Safety*)

Norman Murphy

Full-Time Bus Driver, 24 Years of Service (*Metro Transit*)

PROMOTIONS

Anna Crofoot

Clerk Cashier I to CD Secretary, Community Planning & Development

NEW PROGRAM TO AID HOMEOWNERS AVOID FORECLOSURE

From the State of Michigan Initiative -- Hardest Hit

Michigan homeowners can apply for up to \$10,000 in federal assistance to avoid foreclosure, from the state's new \$154.5 million "Helping Hardest-Hit Homeowners Fund." The first-come, first-serve program is expected to help 17,000 households statewide over the next 12-18 months. The purpose of this fund is to keep the families who have been hardest hit by this economy in their homes. Those who may be eligible include Michigan homeowners who are currently receiving unemployment compensation, homeowners who have fallen behind in their mortgage payments or taxes due to a temporary layoff or medical emergency, and homeowners who can no longer afford their mortgage payments due to lower household income.

Funds are available in three different categories: 1) Homeowners receiving unemployment benefits can get up to \$9,000 (\$750 a month, or half of the monthly payment, whichever is lower, for 12 months) toward their mortgage payments; 2) Homeowners who are behind on their payments because of obstacles such as a temporary layoff, divorce or serious illness can receive up to \$5,000; and 3) Homeowners who can't afford payments due to reduced income can receive up to \$10,000 to pay down the mortgage principal. Funds are a one-to-one match of the lender's contribution.

Residents should contact their mortgage servicers to apply. Eligible applications should be approved within 48 hours. Participation by mortgage servicers is not mandatory, though the Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan Credit Union League and Michigan Association of Community Bankers all support the program. Eligible homeowners can obtain more information regarding the Helping Hardest-Hit Homeowners Fund by calling 866-946-7432 or visiting www.michigan.gov/HardestHit.



CONGRATULATIONS TERESA JOHNSON

Recently, Teresa Johnson (Management Services -- Purchasing/Risk Management) earned the *Certified Public Purchasing Buyer (CPPB)* certification.

Teresa gained the certification through a combination of completing purchasing courses and experience as well as passing the certification examination. Her new certification will certainly be an asset to the City.

Job Well Done!!!

www.kalamazoo.org/docs/KzooRiver_RepsonsePlan2010.pdf

and www.kalamazoo.org/docs/KzooRiver_SummaryReport2010.pdf

Oil Spill Continued

According to City Manager Collard, "The potential impacts of this environmental contamination within the City of Kalamazoo has been diminished the preparatory and precautionary actions taken by City staff to continue our duty to protect our residents, preserve our natural resources and public facilities.

For updated information regarding the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill, visit www.twitter.com/MichEMHS, www.twitter.com/MDNRE, www.twitter.com/MichDeptofAg or www.twitter.com/GovGranholm.

*Fresh Produce, Plants & Flowers
Baked Goods, Fresh Meats & Hand Made Crafts*



CITY OF KALAMAZOO FARMERS' MARKET May 1 - November 20 7:00am - 2:00pm

or until the last seller leaves the Market

May & November
Saturdays Only

June - October
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

1204 Bank Street between Lake Street and Stockbridge Avenue
Farmers' Market (337-8899) or Parks & Recreation (337-8191)
www.kalamazoo.org



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