



---

## 10/14/25: A farmers market gets a name



*Today's sponsor:*



---

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025**



High 71°/Low 47° Sunny

Today's weather drawing by

Rory D., 3rd grade, Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary

*Learn more about Kids Draw The Weather*

*Portage's new farmers market will come with a new name. Also: The county's new foreclosure prevention specialist is hitting the road. And the NACD hosts senior night and a birthday.*

---

 NowKalamazoo Original

## **New Portage farmers market has a name**

The city of Portage has broken ground on its new farmers market and has decided who will get the naming rights. It will be called the Portage Zhang Farmers Market to acknowledge the \$1 million gift toward its construction from Charles and Lynn Zhang.

Mayor Patricia Randall said the new facility will share parking, restrooms, and other facilities that already exist at City Hall and the Portage Zhang Senior Center, a decision made to reduce the cost of the project. The Portage City Council voted earlier this month to buy the materials needed to construct the pavilions and it chose the contractor this week. The market is scheduled to open sometime next year. – *John McNeill, NowKalamazoo*

---

## **Workshops planned to help residents avoid foreclosure**

One way Kalamazoo County has prevented people from becoming homeless is by helping them avoid foreclosure for non-payment of taxes. A special session is planned this week to help those who may be having trouble now. The county's new foreclosure prevention specialist, Sarah Shuler, called it a community resource fair. The first session will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Northside Association for Community Development.

Shuler said the treasurer's office is hitting the road over the next four months with events at Oakland Neighborhood Association (Nov. 6), Comstock Township (Nov. 12), Richland Community Center (Nov. 13), Northside Association for Community Development (Nov. 17), the Vine Neighborhood Association (Nov. 19), Edison Neighborhood Association (Dec. 3), South County Community Services (Dec. 10), and Portage City Hall (Dec. 11). – *John McNeill, NowKalamazoo*

---

## **Kzoo city manager meet-and-greet tonight**

Kalamazoo city leaders will introduce the top four contenders for the city manager position during events this week. The first will be **a meet and greet** at the Catalyst Center from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Members of the public will get to interact with candidates directly, though they're asked to save their comments for a city commission meeting next Monday.

On Wednesday, the four will be toured around Kalamazoo, seeing city facilities and meeting with the people who work there. That will culminate in **a series of formal interviews** at city hall from 4 to 9 p.m. Those are open to the public. Finally, the commission is expected to make its final selection during a meeting on Monday, Oct. 20.

The four candidates are:

- Elle Cole, the deputy city manager for the city of Saline
- Malcolm Hankins, the assistant city manager for Des Moines
- Odis Jones, a WMU alum and economic development professional with city manager experience
- Laura Lam, the city of Kalamazoo's current chief operating officer

– *John McNeill, NowKalamazoo*

---

## NACD hosts senior night – and a birthday party



Clara Woodard celebrates her 85th birthday at Northside Senior Night at Northside Association for Community Development on Thursday, Oct. 9. Photo by Alphonso Harris.

Senior citizens are usually defined as being 65 years of age and over, but a good time was had by all ages at the Northside Senior Night at Northside Association for Community Development (NACD) on Oct. 9. The event was sponsored by Park Street Market and NACD, and featured games of Uno, chess, checkers, and bingo, as well as an 85th birthday party for Northside resident Clara Woodard. The attendees also took a quiz about urinary incontinence. Debra Fields, administrative assistant at **A1 Physical Therapy**, gave the answers: “Any age can have urinary incontinence. Men can have this problem, and some meds can cause urinary incontinence.” – *Alphonso Harris, NowKalamazoo*

---

## In Case You Missed It

### Urgent Care options and realities in Kalamazoo County



Not all urgent care offices are equal. A deep dive into Bronson Healthcare's former urgent care locations prompted an investigation of what other facilities charge for services.

[Click here to find out what we learned.](#)

---

## More News You Need To Know

### County family shelter plans moving forward

Contracts have been signed and work on a transitional shelter for unhoused families is moving forward. The county approved \$12 million for upgrades at a former hotel near the airport and for a three-year contract to run the facility.

[WOOD]

### Portage zoning changes could boost housing

The city of Portage has approved the creation of new “neighborhood enterprise zones” that could prompt developers to build more affordable housing. The city council will talk about specific areas at its meeting on Nov. 5.

[WWMT]

### High school hockey hit by ice shortage

When Wings West closed last month, high school hockey teams found themselves without a home base. For now, games will be played at Wings Event Center, but it's not a long-term solution. [MLive (may have paywall)]

### KPS lunches more environmentally friendly

Kalamazoo Public Schools is doing away with its polystyrene lunch trays in favor of biodegradable trays. The new trays are a little more expensive, but will keep about a million plastic trays out of landfills each year. [WOOD]

– Newsletter biodegraded by James Sanford & Ben Jones

# Which local businesses belong in this space?



Are there local businesses you expect to see helping NowKalamazoo strengthen community connections, awareness and engagement?

[Give us your suggestions!](#)

 NowKalamazoo Partner Event



## Things to do in Kalamazoo

Sponsored by

**13,500**  
people  
look here

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

Check out events by category:

**Kids Activities**

**Nature**

**Outdoors**

**PROMOTED EVENT**

**Meet the Candidates for Kalamazoo City Commission/Mayor – St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
Saturday, October 18, 4-6 p.m.

**PROMOTED EVENT**

**Meet the Media Conversation – Kalamazoo Public Library, Central**  
Thursday, October 16, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Second Tuesday Writers' Group – Augusta McKay Library**  
10/14, 10:00 AM

**Walking Group for Seniors – Vicksburg United Methodist Church**  
10/14, 10:00 AM

**Comstock Library Family Storytime – Comstock Township Library**  
10/14, 10:30 AM

**Lunch and Learn: Streaming TV and Reaching Local Audiences – The Desenberg**  
10/14, 11:30 AM

**Scrabble Club for Adults – Vicksburg District Library**  
10/14, 1:00 PM

**Beginner Pickleball for Seniors** – Vicksburg United Methodist Church

10/14, 1:00 PM

**Downtown Business Community Townhall** – Catalyst Center

10/14, 2:00 PM

**NUBE Drop-In Game for Tweens** – Parchment Community Library

10/14, 3:30 PM

**Tinker and Think: Can You Make a Cardboard Connector?** – Portage District Library

10/14, 4:30 PM

**Power of Podcasting Presentation and PR Meet and Greet** – Greenstreet Marketing + Design

10/14, 4:30 PM

**Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility Discussion** – WMU, Sangren Hall

10/14, 5:00 PM

**Show Up and Art** – Legacy: Cultural Wellness

10/14, 5:30 PM

**“Coco” and Cider Outdoors** – Kalamazoo Public Library, Alma Powell

10/14, 5:30 PM

**Kalamazoo Premier Chess Club** – Urban Alliance

10/14, 6:00 PM

**Cookbook Club** – Richland Community Library

10/14, 6:00 PM

**Minimalism: How Less Can be More** – Portage District Library

10/14, 6:00 PM

**Honorable Harvest Lecture: Growing with Purpose – My Native Plant Journey**

– KVCC, Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building

10/14, 6:30 PM

**Laugh Draft – Stand Up Comedy** – Apoptosis Brewing Co.

10/14, 7:00 PM

**“Hocus Pocus” Trivia** – Revel & Roll West

10/14, 7:00 PM

See more [upcoming events](#)

Do you have an event you think we should list? [Submit it](#)

---



## Author

---



**BEN JONES**

Ben Jones (he/him) runs the tech side of things at NowKalamazoo while also compiling the daily newsletter. Jones worked in film production for several years before jumping into broadcast journalism. He claims that he has worked for every radio news department in Kalamazoo (there are more of them than you think). More recently he has delved into website

development, working with everything from small, local nonprofits to large, multinational organizations.

## Related Articles

---



### **1/13/26: Jazz great coming to Kzoo**

*A jazz legend is coming to Kalamazoo. Find out why. Also: A Kalamazoo housing project is getting a boost from the state. And the Kalamazoo...*



## **The Daily News and Events Roundup**

### **1/12/26: Caring about business and homelessness**

*Downtown business owners are trying to figure out how to take care of unhoused people and their bottom lines. Also: Kalamazoo is considering a home...*



## **The Daily News and Events Roundup**

### **1/9/26: ICE protest**

*Kalamazooans protest the shooting of a Minnesota woman by an ICE agent. Also: The county boosts funding for winter shelter. And a rare church is...*

### **Subscribe to our newsletter**

A weekday morning email roundup of Kalamazoo County's stories and events.

you@youremail.com

[Subscribe](#)

SPONSOR

Sponsors help us tell the stories that celebrate our community.  
Join us?

[Become a sponsor](#)

## Support independent journalism

Our news is free to read, but expensive to produce. Support our future with a donation. We can't do it without you.

[Support Us](#)

## Upcoming Events

---

JAN January 11 @ 3:00 pm - January 18 @ 6:00 pm 

**11** Sing and Dance Sunday at Zerø Non-Alcoholic Bar

JAN 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**13** Downtown Kalamazoo Business Community Townhall

JAN 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 

## 13 Weekly Gaming for Teens at Richland Library

JAN 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

## 13 Goats Milk Soap Class

JAN 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm 

## 13 Kalamazoo Herd Weekly Run / Walk

[View Calendar](#)

# NowKalamazoo

## Sign up for our newsletter

A weekday morning email roundup of Kalamazoo stories and events.

you@youremail.com

[Subscribe](#)

You can unsubscribe at any time. Have a question? [Contact us](#) or review our [privacy policy](#) for more information.

[CONTACT US](#)

[SPONSORSHIP](#)

[LOGIN](#)

[Support Us](#)



## NowKalamazoo is a member of



Copyright © 2026 NowKalamazoo

Powered by

[The Local Journalism Foundation](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)