

Free Legal Clinics

The Kalamazoo County Bar Association holds free legal clinics at the following locations:

Powell Branch Library, 1000 W. Patterson St. Wednesdays
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

By Appointment only, call 553-7960

Kalamazoo Public Library – Downtown, 315 Rose St.
Thursdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

By Appointment only, call 553-7920

Portage Community Center 325 E. Centre Monday 6:00 –
8:00 p.m.

Please Note: In order to serve the most people, each appointment is limited to 20-30 minutes. In some instances an attorney may be willing to spend additional time attempting to solve a problem; however, there are limits on how much time an attorney can donate to solving a client's problem. In no instance is there any charge for the services at the clinic.

If you have questions about the clinics, call Denise Nelson, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo County Bar Association at 381-4693.

Public Transportation Changes

Public transportation in Kalamazoo County is changing. Beginning on January 1, 2009, Metro Transit will no longer be operated by the City of Kalamazoo. The system will be transferred to the county-wide Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA). That transfer should be seamless, practically invisible to the passenger.

The local funding for the system will also change. Currently property owners in the City of Kalamazoo pay a 1.0 mill tax for public transportation. In addition City of Kalamazoo taxpayers pay .38 mills generated by the county-wide millage. That supports transit throughout the county. Both the City and County-wide millages expire this year, so the KCTA has placed a millage question on the 2008 November ballot.

The request is for a graduated millage rate for 4 years. For 2009 the millage rate has been set at .63 mills. In 2010, the rate can be assessed up to .77 mills. In 2011, the rate could be up to .85 mills and in 2012 the rate could be up to .86. These rates would be assessed across the entire county. It should be noted that in 2006 the people gave the KCTA authority to levy up to .45 mills throughout the county. In 2008 the KCTA only levied .38 mills because that was what was needed to operate the system.

Currently, property owners in the City of Kalamazoo pay 1.38 mills for transportation services. That is equivalent to \$138.00 on a home with a taxable value of \$100,000. This November, City property owners will be voting on a .63 levy. That translates to **\$63.00 a year** on a home with a taxable value of \$100,000. This ballot questions actually reduces taxes for residents of the City. For a home in the City with a taxable value of \$100,000, the homeowner would see his or her yearly tax assessment **drop by \$75.00.**

Public Transportation is a key component to the infrastructure of the Kalamazoo Community. No community on the grow is without it.

