



The TREE CITY

Bulletin

Volume 25:2 – Summer 2020

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Who To Call At The City of Kent...

Emergency – Police, Fire, Ambulance	9-1-1
After Hours Non-Emergency Concerns	330.673.7732
Building Division – <i>Building Permits</i>	330.678.8107
Income Tax Division	330.678.8103
Clerk of Council	330.678.8007
City Manager’s Office	330.676.7500
<i>Door-to-door solicitation, special event permits</i>	
Community Development Department	330.678.8108
<i>Economic development, housing rehab, zoning</i>	
Engineering Division – <i>Street and Sidewalk construction</i>	330.678.8106
Fire Department - Non-Emergency	330.673.8814
Health Department	330.678.8109
<i>Animal bites, birth/death certificates, food service inspections, pest control</i>	
Parks & Recreation Department	330.673.8897
Police Department - Non-Emergency	330.673.7732
<i>24-hour calls, stray animals</i>	
Police Department - Investigations	330.673.7733
Police Department - Administration	330.673.3221
Republic Services of Ohio Hauling, LLC - Residential Rubbish Removal.	1.800.247.3644
Recycling Center	330.678.8808
Service Department	330.678.8105
<i>Yard Waste Transfer Site, signs, traffic lights, street maintenance, trees, water/sewer problems</i>	
Utility Billing – <i>Water, sewer, stormwater and recycling bills</i>	330.678.8104

Trash Collection Reminder

Please be reminded that City Ordinance 521.08 states:

Collection Time Period: Each container placed at the curb or alley, and each other item set out for collection, shall be placed at the location no earlier than 7:00 pm of the day before collection, in the locality as established by the City’s Refuse and Recycling Contractor.

Container Retrieval: The empty solid waste receptacles and recycle storage containers shall be removed from the curbside by 7:00 pm the day collection has taken place.

The City of Kent tests the siren system twice per month:

1st Wednesday at 11:00 am
3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm

The tests run for 3 minutes each time. In the event of a real emergency, the sirens will be set off 3 times for a total of 9 minutes.



The Tree City Bulletin is published quarterly by the City of Kent, and is provided to inform residents and businesses regarding City programs and services. Questions or comments regarding the newsletter may be directed to the City Manager’s Office - 301 S. Depewster - Kent, Ohio 44240 – 330.676.7500. Unless otherwise stated, all programs and services described in this publication are intended and provided for City of Kent residents only.

This publication is printed on recycled paper.

Applications Are Now Being Accepted Through JULY 21, 2020 at NOON

Interviews will be scheduled by the Clerk of Council for August 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm during Council Committee Meetings. In-person interviews only.

Online application: <https://www.kentohio.org/184/Boards-Commissions>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CLERK OF COUNCIL
330.676.7555 - OR - councilclerk@kent-ohio.org



BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

Volunteer. Five (5) vacancies: One (1) Vacancy for a General Contractor; One (1) Vacancy for General Public and Three (3) vacancies for Alternates.

TERM: Three (3) years

STORMWATER DISTRICT REVIEW AND APPEALS BOARD

Volunteer. Two (2) vacancies. The Board will hear appeals regarding disputes brought by owners and non-owners concerning application of the city's Stormwater Utility Chapter and will have the authority to make adjustments to provide relief due to unique circumstances which reduce the burden of operating, constructing, repairing and maintaining the Stormwater utility system. Term: Two (2) years

PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (P.A.R.T.A.)

Volunteer. One (1) vacancy. Must be electors of the City for a period of at least three years prior to appointment. PARTA serves Portage County and works to provide transportation systems for the purpose of scheduled mass movement of passengers. Term: Three (3) years

FAIR HOUSING BOARD

Volunteer. One (1) vacancy. City of Kent codified ordinances Chapter 557.05: There is hereby created the Fair Housing Board to consist of seven members who shall be qualified electors of the City. They shall be appointed by Council. Of the members first appointed, one shall hold office for a term of one year; one for a term of two years; and the other for a term of three years; and their successors shall be appointed for terms of three years. All vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. TERM: Three (3) years

PARKING ACTION COMMITTEE

Volunteer. Three (3) vacancies. Must be elector of the City. Responsible for administering the policy recommendations of the Parking Management Planning Committee. Composed of the City of Kent Community Development Director; City of Kent Safety Director; City of Kent Service Director; a representative from the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce; and five (5) members of the Business Community, appointed based on : 1. Geographic Basis – (e.g.: East and West Main Streets, North and South Water Streets, Franklin Avenue, side streets...) and 2. Land Use Basis – (e.g.: Church, service, retail, housing and nightclub representation...) TERM: Five (5) years.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Volunteer. One (1) vacancy: The Board of Health is created in accordance with Kent City Charter Chapter 66(A). The Board of Health of the City may make such orders and regulations as it deems necessary for its own government for the public health, the prevention or restrictions of disease and the prevention, abatement or suppression of nuisances. No member of the Board shall serve more than two (2) full terms consecutively. TERM: Five (5) years commencing 8/17/20 through 12/31/25

EQUALIZATION ASSESSMENT BOARD

Volunteer. Twelve (12) vacancies. Must be elector of the City as well as a property owner. Members of the Board shall hear objections to estimated special assessments for particular projects in the City. Boards for specific projects shall be selected, by lot, from the Assessment Equalization Board. TERM: Three (3) years.

LOAN REVIEW BOARD

Volunteer. One (1) vacancy available for a Local Attorney. The City's Loan Review Board is responsible for reviewing loan applications from qualified businesses seeking Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding to assist with needed commercial start-up or production expansion costs. TERM: Five (5) years

NOTE: By statutory definition, "elector" means anyone of voting age and a resident of the City. The Kent City Charter Section 8.01 mandates that all appointments to City Boards and Commissions shall be electors of the City, with the exception of the Board of Building Appeals.



PulsePoint empowers everyday citizens to provide lifesaving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

Download PulsePoint:
<https://www.pulsepoint.org/download/>



The COVID-19 Pandemic, Testing Our Limits

By *Dave Ruller, Kent City Manager*

One of the unexpected challenges of the virus has been having to mentally ramp up every day, preparing for the worst, steeling yourself against apocalyptic headlines -- all the while

wondering when the tidal wave of local cases that has been lurking behind every forecast will unleash its pandemic spores all over us.

Living with that foreboding sense of doom is really hard, maybe even harder than staring the enemy in the eye when it's at our front door -- but let's not test that theory. Instead let's stay grateful that the number of cases in Kent have been relatively low.

I'm nostalgic for some old fashioned community problems that we can roll up our sleeves and actually fix. The virus has been everywhere and nowhere at the same time, testing our patience and leaving everyone's nerves on edge.

Since the arrival of the pandemic we've told City employees that whether they're working the front line or behind the scenes, caring for their state of mind is as important as caring for their physical health.

That same message applies to everyone in the Kent community that puts on their masks each day, gloves-up, and has made six feet of social distancing the new standard in personal space. It can be exhausting looking out for each other like this but your City emergency crews are extremely grateful for the care you've shown to your neighbors, and sincerely believe that you've saved more lives than they will in this crisis.

Financial Challenges

With so many news stories of business closings and layoffs, it's only a matter of time before that economic rip tide undercuts the City budget. As we brace for impact, the questions we're trying to answer are when will it hit, how big will it be, how long will it last, and what can we do to prepare?

This kind of massive shuttering of local businesses is unprecedented and that makes it frustratingly unpredictable in terms of when it will hit our budget and how big a loss it will produce. As a staff we're investing a lot of time into developing predictions - but like the virus forecasts, the financial scenarios are so broad that at times they feel a bit futile. Just like there's a big difference in responding to 10,000 fatalities a day and 1,600 a day - there's an equally big difference between preparing for a \$2 million budget hit and a \$5 million budget hit.

With City Council's guidance, we believe now is the time for

smart, strategic steps to further secure our financial position and ensure the sustainability of everything we've worked so hard to accomplish; it's not time yet for radical disruptions that risk undoing the strategic policies we put into practice over the last 10 years that worked well for Kent.

Some cities in our area immediately started laying off employees and while those measures offer immediate relief -- we think the price on community services and community priorities is too high to start there. None of us saw financial challenges of this magnitude heading our way but I believe we'll benefit from all the measures we've put in place to diversify our income and expense streams -- so that big blows may set us back, but not knock us out.

Navigating this crisis is going to require a lot of right-sizing of our budget. Borrowing from the virus strategy, our goal is to flatten the financial curve as much as possible through early steps to stabilize our finances, reduce any discretionary financial burdens heading into the crisis, and lighten our load so that we can be nimble enough to ride the storm out when it hits.

What does all that mean on a day to day basis right now? It means we're trying to zero-in on where we're most vulnerable to income tax losses and come up with appropriate early intervention strategies.

Obviously we're in the middle of a public health crisis so we have to be careful not to reduce our emergency capabilities and we have to be fluid enough to ramp them up if the virus conditions worsen locally. All those moving parts make a budget reduction strategy pretty complicated.

We've set an internal starting point of coming up with 20% reductions in every department. That won't solve the problem but it's a good start and it gets us thinking strategically about what's most important to hold on to and what can we defer in terms of our services, travel, training, etc., all in the spirit of saving money.

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Active Threat Preparations

By Sgt. Jim Ennemoser, Kent Police Department

Active killer, active threat or active shooter according to the FBI is defined as: An individual engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined or populated area. The weapon of choice is no longer just firearms (though most frequently used), but also include vehicles, explosive devices, bladed weapons or any type

of object that can be used as a deadly weapon. In most of the incidents, there is no pattern and their selection of victims is random. These situations evolve rapidly and are very unpredictable. Most occurrences are over before law enforcement can arrive on scene.

Some statistics of an Active Threat: They are generally 97% male suspects. If an active threat is at a school, the age is 15-19 years old. If it is a non-school location they are between the ages of 35-44. The initial incident lasts between 3 – 15 minutes. 40% commit suicide upon confrontation with armed resistance. The average injury/kill rate is one person every 15 seconds.

Kent Police Department has been training for an active threat for several years now. The training started back in 2013, with training on duty when time would allow. Our training has now evolved to a week long period during our yearly in-service training as well as training on duty as time allows. Lt. Wheeler and myself are the two certified active threat trainers for the department. We also have assistance from our Metro SWAT team, who are also trained in responding to active threats.

Our training is comprised of active threat, shoot/no shoot scenarios. This type of training has greatly improved with the recent help of our past and current CPA (Citizen Police Academy) members. They volunteer their time participating as victims and active shooters. This has allowed our officers to engage more in the scenario instead of themselves role playing victims or the active threat.

Here are some tips from the FBI on what to do if you find yourself in an active shooter situation:

RUN:

- Have an escape plan
- Leave belongings behind
- Evacuate regardless if others follow
- Help others escape if possible
- Do not attempt to move the wounded
- Prevent others from entering the area
- Keep hands visible
- Call 911 when you are in a safe place

HIDE:

- Silence your cell phone, do not even have it on vibrate
- Lock or block doors entering your hiding place
- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view
- Turn off lights in the room if you are able

FIGHT:

- This is only as a last resort and if your life is in imminent danger
- Try to incapacitate the threat
- Use as much physical force as necessary
- Use improvised weapons
- Commit to your actions, your life may depend on it

If you find yourself in an active threat situation, the Police arriving on scene are there to engage the active threat first and will move past the injured. This may seem incomprehensible, but remember the injury/kill rate is one person every 15 seconds. The quicker the threat is eliminated the more lives can be saved.

City of Kent COVID-19 Operations

By Lt. Mike Lewis, Kent Police Department

The City of Kent administration and department leaders have been working tirelessly to provide full services, to our residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Kent residents know that we are #InThisTogether, but may naturally wonder specifically what the City of Kent has been doing over the last several weeks to address concerns over the Coronavirus.

There were concerns and discussion early on regarding the impact the pandemic might have on our community. We must always be cognizant of things going on elsewhere that could in some way impact our city. No one could have guessed just how much this pandemic would invade everyone's communities and upset their daily lives. The large-scale COVID-19 operation in Kent gained steam in mid-March with the formation of the Kent Unified Command or Incident Command System (ICS). The basis for this command structure was created after September 11, 2001 when the federal government recognized a need to have multiple agencies at the local, state and federal level working together in a structure that everyone knew and recognized, rather than the systems that are tailored to each specific entity. City of Kent departments received training in ICS through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and have participated in exercises over the years.

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Visit the City of Kent's new website!



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<https://www.kentohio.org>



COVID-19 and Uncertainty

By Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director

As I sit here writing this article in late April, I have no idea what the social and economic circumstances will be like in just six weeks when you will likely be reading this. This uncertainty is one of the factors of the pandemic causing the most anxiety among the business community as it relies on predictability for planning. Beyond the toll caused by the illness and death that this pandemic has caused, which I won't even attempt to address, it has also extracted an unprecedented toll on us (at least for most of us) both socially and economically.

Even though I am in Economic Development, I won't bore you with statistics except one. In the five weeks through the end of April, there were almost one million new unemployment claims filed in Ohio. This compares to 364,000 in all of 2019.

As of this writing, the State of Ohio is announcing the phased-in reopening of our economy. By the time you read this the following businesses should be reopened provided they have a plan to maintain appropriate social distancing and possess the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) as necessary.

Friday, May 1:

- All healthcare procedures that do not require an overnight stay in a hospital can move forward. Dentists and veterinarians may also reopen.

Monday, May 4:

- Manufacturing, distribution, and construction will be able to open. However, these businesses will be required to follow strict guidelines on how to reopen.
- General office environments may reopen, but companies are asked to continue to allow work from home as much as possible.

Tuesday, May 12:

- Consumer, retail, and services will reopen.

Hopefully the relaxation of the restrictions for these businesses has already begun to bring a sense of normalcy to the economy and more importantly, allowed a significant number of people to return to work. Additionally, I am hopeful this will allow many to receive some of the services and goods that are needed.

What is not included in the current plan are some of the most important businesses in Kent including bars, full service restaurants, barber shops, hair salons, tattoo parlors, physical fitness centers, entertainment centers and others. What makes these businesses so important to Kent is that the vast majority are owned by small business operators that have one to three locations. These small business owners typically have the least

amount of resources to withstand several months of closure or reduced operations and were left with no choice but to lay off or furlough their employees.

Through the CARES Acts enacted by the federal government, several programs were put in place in an attempt to shore up these small businesses long enough to survive through the mandated closures or reduced services. Several businesses were able to benefit from these programs but it remains to be seen if it will be enough to ensure the survival of some of these small businesses.

I am optimistic that by the time you read this, guidelines will have been established by the state for the reopening of these small businesses which will begin to bring some clarity as to what these business owners can expect. I am not willing to predict those guidelines, but it is very likely that bars and entertainment centers will be among the last to be allowed to reopen and certainly to return to full capacity as by nature, they are very social businesses.

As I stated at the beginning of this article, the uncertainty of the length of time that the COVID-19 pandemic will impact us both socially and economically is perhaps the greatest cause of concern for businesses as their leaders rely on predictability to plan and to thrive. I am hopeful that by the time you read this, some of that certainty regarding the future will have emerged and we can all begin to plan our slow return to a true normal.

One final thought that is likely self-evident to the caring residents of Kent, once our small businesses reopen, please make it a priority to patronize them. Shopping local will be more important than ever.





Health Department News *Looking to the Future*

The Kent City Health Department along with all the city departments and other collaborating partners have been working tirelessly on keeping our community safe from COVID-19 and the effects it brought to all of us. Whether by coordinating testing, issuing quarantines, or tracing contacts, we are here to serve the public and assure the safety of everyone. We would like to thank the community for being engaged with all efforts that are being put forth to stop COVID-19 spread. We appreciate your continued support and want to reassure you that your health is our top priority.

In addition to handling the pandemic with transparency, the Health Department will soon start working on getting back to normal operations. Although these activities may not be the same as they once were, they have changed and adapted to be mindful of preventing the spread of disease. Many things can be taken away from the last few months of adapted work, and they will surely be applied going forward. One example is the use and ease of telemedicine, where you can have access to clinical services without an in-person visit. This is being utilized much more given the need for social distancing and is proving to be just one of the many advancements that will become a more consistent practice.

Another outcome of this public health event is rethinking the idea of personal health. Staying home when feeling ill, covering coughs and sneezes, and proper hand washing practices are a few examples. Businesses will continue to become safer with additional measures such as more frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces. Hopefully we will see people show more caution about what they are touching, from door knobs to cell phones.

Again, from the entire Health Department, we would like to thank you, our community, for taking the guidelines seriously and doing your part in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Together, we will come out of this pandemic smarter, safer, and more prepared than ever before!

Visit the City of Kent's new website!



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50th Commemoration of May 4 Banner Installation

In keeping with the commitment to honor and remember those tragic events of May 4, 1970, and in partnership with Each + Every, the Kent Historical Society Museum, and the Kent State University Wick Poetry Center and Mapping May 4th project, banners were installed in select locations in Kent that highlight the events and oral histories of individuals that lived through the days of May 1 to May 4, 1970.

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(continued from page 4) *Testing Our Limits*

Years of frugal budget management allowed us to put reserve funds in the bank and we will need those funds to be part of the gap solution. However, once spent they're gone, so we need to preserve them as long as possible since we don't know when the economic crisis will end. It could be years before we bounce back so we will be stingy in the use of our reserves but they will definitely be part of the mix.

Based on the early predictions, we're thinking that the combination of cuts in non-essential services (the 20% reductions), deferments in less essential capital purchases, changes in borrowing strategies, reallocations of some funding, and rationing reserve funds may be enough to buy us the time needed for the economy to start to recover.

Our goal is to preserve our investment in community priorities, ensure the continuity of City services, and honor our commitment to City employees who have been critical to keeping us safe during the pandemic. Financial sacrifices will be made but our focus on serving Kent will not waver.

In the ultimate act of community, we stand together by standing apart. Stay well.



Remember, you're not just walking the dog – some important tips for keeping our water clean

Storm sewers exist to collect storm water and unpolluted surface runoff.

Storm sewers discharge into our streams, and rivers. Pollutants in the runoff can pose a health threat to humans, pets and the environment.

Dog waste not picked up can be a large contributor to poor water quality in our streams and rivers. There are over 53 million dogs in the United States, which produce 6.3 billion pounds of waste containing bacteria per year. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Pet waste can also be collected, placed in a bag and disposed of in the owner's trash. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm drain. Residential lawns and streets are among the highest contributors of bacteria in storm water, which drains directly into our waterways.

Walking or running your dog is a healthy activity for you and your pet. Please remember that there are leash laws, dog tag, vaccination and other legal requirements to consider. City ordinances are designed to protect you, your pet and other residents. Be considerate, pick up after your pet and equip yourself with bags to properly dispose of any waste. Failure to do so can result in a fine and pollute our waters. Please do your part to help keep our water clean!

News from Utility Billing:

REMINDER: On-Line Payment of your Utility Bill is available!

You can make payments with credit card or e-check at

<https://kentohio.ezsecurepay.com>, without having to pay a convenience fee. An email receipt option will be presented at the end of your transaction. You will need your Utility account number when first registering your on-line payment profile.



When taking vacations, it is a good idea to turn off outside spigots at the inside shut off valve. This prevents vandals from turning on your spigots and letting them run.

Senior/Disabled Citizen Discount

The water and sewer will be discounted by 20% if the income guidelines fall within these ranges, annual household income not to exceed: Single: \$27,950, Married: \$31,950 with proof of annual income, and proof of age (62 or older) or disability.

The homeowner would simply need to fill out a form and provide proof of income and age or disability to our office and the discount would be applied to the next bill. Call 330-678-8104 for more information.



Haymaker Farmers' Market

Please refer to the website (www.haymakermarket.com) for up to date location, time, and days.

The Haymaker Farmers' Market is a producers-only market for the Kent-area producers of local foods and farm crafts, bringing the best food to you every week of the year! Fresh produce, baked goods, meats, eggs, cheese, preserves, honey, maple, sweet treats, fresh roasted coffee, body products, food truck, and much more!

Approximately 40 vendors each week with an ever changing seasonal mix of products will have something for everyone. We welcome the Ohio Direction Card as well as credit/debit cards, and offer a weekly Produce Perks match for SNAP customers for the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The Haymaker Farmers' Market is working to keep you and your local food supply safe. We will be observing social distancing, wearing masks, using hand washing stations, controlling traffic, and more, in consultation with the Kent City Health Department. Full details on our website. Whatever changes are necessary, we are committed to bringing you the best local food every week.

The Haymaker Farmers' Market provides a connection between producers of local food and the community by creating a vibrant and sustainable gathering place promoting direct access to fresh and prepared food, agricultural and environmental education and the arts.



Summer Road Construction Safety

Summer road construction is here, and motorists need to be prepared. Driving through road construction/maintenance zones can be a very frustrating experience. Speeds are often considerably reduced and lanes are typically closed, which can cause delays. Plan ahead when making travel plans, construction zones can cause delays, so give yourself extra time if you know you have to drive through a work zone.

Construction zones have a lot of cars, equipment, and people gathered in a relatively small space, which adds even more danger if something goes wrong. It is imperative that drivers keep safety in mind to prevent injuries when driving through a construction zone.

Remember the following tips when driving through work zones:



- ▶ Drive the posted work zone speed limit.
- ▶ Stay alert and pay close attention to signs and flaggers.
- ▶ Drive defensively - don't follow too close.
- ▶ Avoid distractions and give your full attention to the road.
- ▶ An unpowered traffic signal should be treated as a four way stop. Unless a law enforcement officer is directing traffic, any traffic signal that is not operational must be treated as a four way stop. Come to a complete stop and yield to any vehicle that reached the intersection before you; yield the vehicle to the right if uncertain.

Expect the unexpected, just because you don't see the workers immediately after you see the warning signs doesn't mean they're not out there. Road conditions during construction often require reduced speeds for motorist's safety even when there are no workers present. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone.

City Of Kent 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Strategic Plan & 2020 Annual Action Plan

By Kathy Petsko, Grants & Neighborhood Programs Coordinator

The 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Strategic Plan outlines the City's priorities and the rationale behind them for use of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the five-year period. The 2020 Action Plan identifies the projects to be funded with CDBG during the 2020 fiscal year.

CDBG funds received by the City of Kent may be used to benefit low-to-moderate income individuals and families residing within the City. The funds may be used to:

- promote suitable living environments by allocating CDBG resources to support infrastructure and public facility improvement activities that will assist with addressing the problem of aging and insufficient infrastructure in residential areas that have high concentrations of low-to-moderate income households;
- promote safe and decent housing for low- to moderate income households throughout the City by providing owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and an energy efficiency repair program that ensures basic housing needs are met, and



- provide assistance to nonprofit organizations that provide needed programs, public facilities and supportive services for low-to-moderate income persons living in the community.

In previous years, CDBG funds have been used for revitalization projects,

such as the **Cedar Street Reconstruction Project**, which reconstructed the roadway and added new water lines, sewer lines, curbs, gutters and sidewalks along Cedar Street between Cherry Street and Dodge Street, an example of using CDBG funds to promote suitable living environments. Funds have also been used for energy efficiency improvements through the **Kent Furnace Inspection and Targeted Replacement Program**. In addition, the City also addresses safe and decent housing for low-to-moderate income households through the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program. Supportive services, such as homeless and domestic violence assistance, are provided through CDBG funding provided to local non-profit organizations.

(continued from page 5) COVID-19 Operations

As you might imagine, it can be difficult having representatives from various agencies and departments working together trying to speak the same language. What has worked for the City of Kent is that our employees have truly worked together as a team like never before. Picture a flow chart of positions with "Incident Commanders" at the top and then branching downward into "Section Chiefs" who oversee major components like Planning, Operations, Finance and Logistics as it relates to COVID-19. The branching continues to ensure that all aspects are covered as best as possible. What also serves us well is that each position has counterparts from a different City department, working together to help cover all of the nuances.



FEMA

We began with meetings daily, evenings, and weekends. Members of the Unified Command met to discuss plans for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Through tremendous leadership by our Kent Health Department, a team of over 30 city personnel began by working to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and planned all phases through to recovery and hopefully returning to normal as soon as possible. Picture City leaders and department heads in the "situation room" gathered around a conference room table (socially distanced) engaging in conference calls with other city department heads and employees, some conferencing in from home. Our members still meet in some way nearly every day as we discuss case numbers, deaths, recoveries, news & updates, goals & objectives, public information and more. There is a lot of amazing work being done by some truly outstanding employees in our city.

Every concern and possibility is addressed and prepared for - not as a matter of "if" but "when." How would we handle Kent's first COVID-19 case? How would we handle our first case involving a city employee, first responder, multiple employees, multiple residents, etc? How do we maintain city services with reduced staffing? How do we keep employees healthy and limit exposure to their families? Where do our essential employees go when they can't go home or to limit the possibility of exposure to their families? We had to discuss scenarios we never thought we would, but together, we always came up with a solution. We had organization down to the minute detail, daily briefings, goals and objectives.

Many city offices closed to the public in late March, and non-essential city

employees began working from home. Residents still received the services they needed, and have been able to speak with City employees by phone or via email. All emergency services are still operating at full staffing levels. A minor police report will be taken by phone to reduce potential exposure, but all calls that require a physical response continue to get all the resources needed. Fire Department services are still being fully rendered but with more precautions to protect the public and the employees. Our Kent City Health Department has played a major role in providing essential information and guiding us in best practices.

Thankfully, we are moving through this event with fewer case numbers than anticipated. We are extremely grateful to the residents and businesses within our city, and how they have sacrificed so much to do the right thing - "Stay at Home." Kent citizens stayed home and practiced social distancing, and this helped to limit the number of COVID-19 cases throughout the city, and limited exposure to our first responders.

The Kent community has really come together to help our own. Many people have fallen on hard times through reduced income or outright job loss. The Kent community supports food drives and fundraisers to help people and families in need. Residents offered their time to deliver meals or food pantry items all over the city. Many people gave back by creating protective masks for healthcare workers, first responders, clerks, and or people with high-risk medical conditions. Times like these can really show the character of a community, and Kent has risen to the challenge.

Although many businesses were forced to shut down temporarily, some businesses were able to enhance other options such as online, carry out, drive-thru and delivery. We hope that residents will continue to support their favorite business, restaurants and employees as much as they safely can. There has been a tremendous outpouring of support for Kent city staff, which is very much appreciated.

All of our efforts and actions continue to be a careful and collective approach with the community's best interests in mind, and your safety always our first priority. We hope that you are still noticing Kent city personnel out and about. We are limiting exposure and not taking quite as proactive an approach as normal, but we assure you that we are always here for you.



River Safety

Captain Dave Moore, Kent Fire Department

As the weather begins to get warmer, we can expect more people to hit the local trails and waterways. Although the Cuyahoga River provides a great local resource for recreation and exercise, the Kent Fire Department would like to remind



you to do so safely. In 2019, the Kent Fire Department and Portage County Water Rescue Team rescued over 20 people (and one dog) during 9 separate operations in the Cuyahoga River. The common thread of these persons needing rescued was the lack of proper equipment and training for the difficulty level that portions of the river presents. This article is meant to describe these challenges and to provide useful tips for a safe day on the river.

Our stretch of the river includes swift-water rapids (or whitewater) and slow moving areas. The swift-water presents the most danger and requires proper preparation. This preparation includes experience/training in whitewater paddling and the proper equipment (whitewater kayak). The portion of the river from the Crain Avenue Bridge to Tannery Park is where the swift-water and rapids are located, and where most persons need rescued. The slower moving portion of the river is from Tannery Park to Middlebury Road, where many of the recreational companies provide their trips and services. Regardless of the area, many hazards can be present.

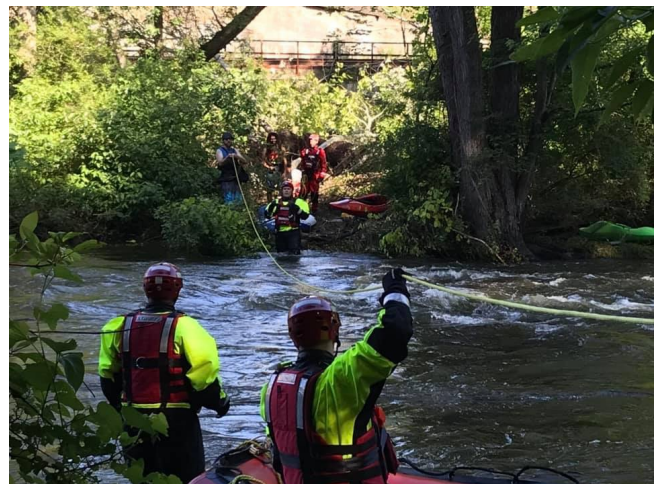
By far, strainers are the most prominent danger confronted in the river. A strainer by definition is an object or clump of objects that allow water to pass but trap other solids. In a river, strainers involve whole trees, limbs/branches, and trash. The natural erosion along the river bank increases that chance of fallen trees as well. The most problematic strainer is a downed tree that spans the entire river, leaving no clear path to avoid. The earlier rescues last year involved just this scenario in the slower waters near the Middlebury Bridge.

Anytime a person wants to go on the river in a kayak, canoe or tube, they should do the following:

- Always wear a lifejacket, THE WHOLE TRIP. A life jacket strapped to the back of a kayak is useless when your kayak unexpectedly tips over. Each of our rescuers wear a life jacket ANYTIME they are near the water.

- Never go alone, just like swimming, you should always have a buddy. Also, let at least one person know where you are going on the river and the time they should expect you back. If you do not return, that person should call 911. Two victims rescued last year, were holding onto a tree limb for over an hour! Someone luckily nearby, heard their screams and called for help.
- Always scout out the route you intend to take. This provides the chance to identify hazards and to make a game plan prior to encountering a hazard on the river. The severity of the hazard must be accounted for and may postpone your trip for another day. Also become familiar with normal river levels compared to flood levels. Extreme caution must be taken when the river is running higher than normal.
- Be honest with yourself regarding your skill level and the river conditions you are planning to navigate. If you do not know the meaning of upstream/downstream Vs and eddy currents, you are not trained enough to tackle the rapids. Also understand the vessel you are navigating. A long touring kayak will easily turn over in only mild whitewater. An overloaded canoe will easily run aground and overturn in current. And an inflatable tube allows for very little control to maneuver away from danger (strainers).

In closing, the Kent Fire Department does not want to dissuade people from enjoying the Cuyahoga River. We want people to safely and responsibly enjoy the river! We highly recommend patronizing any of the recreational paddling companies offering their services on the river. They provide great instruction and have proven to be good partners in providing a safe option for paddling on the river. If you are up for more excitement, we recommend contacting the Keelhaulers Canoe Club (keelhauler.org) to gain training in whitewater paddling as well as networking with other likeminded people!



Project Spotlight – Insight from 4th Graders

By Jim Bowling, PE, Deputy Service Director/Superintendent of Engineering

Normally, we would use this article to give some information or insight on a current project in our community. Our infrastructure, whether it be clean drinking water, sewer collection, or pavements and bridges helps create our quality of life here in Kent. We had a great experience recently that helped give us insight on how some Kent residents perceive a part of our infrastructure. We hosted a group of Kent's 4th Grade gifted students. What a group of bright kids!

The students under the direction of Ed “Chip” Hawks, completed a project where they determined the signal timing for a traffic signal in Kent. They presented their work to myself and our Senior Engineer Jon Giaquinto, who is responsible for our traffic system. We then got to show them some of Kent's central signal control system. This system allows us to manage the majority of our 40+ traffic signals in the City.

What did we learn? We learned that 4th graders (and their parents) are very smart! Their work correlated to some parts of the real system and they now understand how the system is supposed to work. So if they see something that does not look like it's working properly they'll let us know. So if you ever are stuck at a traffic light and something doesn't look right, give us a call at 330-678-8106....Of course, that is after you have reached your destination.



Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program

By Kathy Petsko, Grants & Neighborhood Programs Coordinator

The City of Kent offers programs to address housing repairs and energy efficiency improvements for low- to moderate-income owner-occupied housing located within the City.

The Kent Furnace Inspection and Targeted Replacement Program is available to income-eligible homeowners living within Kent City limits. This program provides:

FREE furnace inspections, cleaning, tune-up, repairs and possible furnace replacement; 2) possible replacement of hot water tank and/or installation of expansion tank; 3) one combination carbon monoxide/smoke alarm and additional smoke alarms, as needed; 4) referral to additional energy conservation programs; and 5) energy conservation education to further increase energy efficiency and reduce heating costs. Replacement of an inefficient furnace is one of the simplest and most effective ways to improve energy efficiency and lower heating costs while reducing the impact on the environment.

The Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program is available to income-eligible homeowners living within Kent City limits. This program provides:



Low-interest, deferred loans to enable homeowners to address costly home repairs, including but not limited to: roof replacements and plumbing, and electrical updates, and Code Violations, without the burden of a monthly loan payment (75% of the deferred loan is forgiven after 5 years if the homeowner remains in the home for 5 years, and the remaining 25% of the original loan is repaid upon sale of the home or transfer of title).

To obtain additional information and an application for the Kent Furnace Inspection and Targeted Replacement Program, contact Gloria Haven via email: ghaven@cacportage.net or telephone: 330-297-1456, Ext. 229; Carley VanCucha via email: cvcucha@cacportage.net or telephone: 330-297-1456, Ext. 269, or visit their website on-line at

www.cacportage.net.

To obtain additional information and an application for the Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program, contact Kathy Petsko via email: PetskoK@Kent-Ohio.org or telephone: 330-678-8108.



Low Water Service Usage Notice Flush Your Building Plumbing

When your water service to your home, apartment or business is turned back on after being shut off or not used for a period of time, it is recommended that you flush sinks, faucets, tubs and all other plumbing components by running your water for a period of time. By following the step by step instructions below, you can help ensure that old water in your pipes is flushed out and replaced with fresh water.



1. Make sure all faucets in the building flow to a drain. If there are any filters, remove or bypass them.
2. Remove the aerators and screens from faucets if you have brown water. Most can be unscrewed from the faucet head by turning clockwise.
3. Using the cold water handles, turn on all faucets – including kitchen and bathroom sinks, utility and mop sinks, bathtub and shower, etc. - and allow them to run during the entirety of the flushing process.
 - Start with the lowest floor of the building. If the building has a basement, start there.
 - Move to the next highest floor and turn on all faucets.
 - Continue until all faucets are turned on on all of the floors.At the end of this process, water should be flowing from all the faucets.
4. Let water run until the water runs clear and the temperature is stable at the last faucet turned on. If you do not have a thermometer, flush for at least 30 minutes. Larger buildings may need to flush for a longer period of time.
5. Turn off the first faucet you turned on (lowest floor) and continue turning off faucets in the order they were turned on.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 using the hot water taps. *
7. Clean and reattach aerators to the faucets.
8. Flush, or run a cycle of, any appliance (ice maker, dishwasher, coffeemaker, laundry, etc.) for 10 minutes each.
9. Replace any filters and return equipment to service, if applicable.



Cleaning Aerators

- Separate the parts of the aerator (screen, gasket, screw-threaded housing, etc.) and place them in a small container.
- Soak the pieces in vinegar and/or water to help loosen dirt/particles.
- Scrub the aerator pieces with a toothbrush or other small brush.
- Rinse everything well, reassemble, and reattach the aerator to the faucet.

*Follow manufacturer's instructions for flushing water heaters. To restore hot water service, refer to the water heater owner's manual and contact the property owner, if applicable.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact the Department of Public Service at 330-678-8105 should you have any questions.

As always, the City of Kent Service Department will continue to flush water mains as scheduled and required by the Ohio EPA, to ensure good, quality water is delivered and hydrants remain safe and functioning.



Send a tip anonymously to Kent Police

The Kent Police Department is pleased to announce the implementation of a cell phone and web based application which allows citizens to submit anonymous tips to us.

This service is being provided to the public for non-emergency use. It is not meant to be used as a substitute for calling 911 in emergency situations. **In the event of an emergency, you should always dial 911.** If your situation is not an emergency, but still requires an officer to respond, you may dial our non-emergency phone number at 330-673-7732.

For more information and ways to submit tips anonymously, visit our Tip411 page, <https://www.kentohio.org/674/Tip411>.

Yard Waste Transfer Site Info

Located at the entrance to Plum Creek Park

Days and Hours of Operation

Please check the City of Kent website for current hours of operation and information on loading and/or delivery of ground yard waste materials at <https://www.kentohio.org>

Drop-Off Yard Waste Rules

- ◆ Non-residents are NOT permitted on the site
- ◆ No charge for City residents to drop off yard waste
- ◆ No commercial use of site is permitted
- ◆ Unauthorized equipment prohibited on premises

PLEASE REMEMBER TO EMPTY BAGS OF YARD WASTE AND TAKE THE BAGS WITH YOU

The City of Kent Yard Waste Regulations

Transfer Site is available to all Kent residents and monitored by video camera to protect against regulation violations and non-resident use. When asked by City of Kent staff, residents using the YWTS shall present proof of residency (drivers license or current water bill). Unauthorized equipment is prohibited on premises.

If you have any questions regarding the Yard Waste Transfer Site, please call 330.678.8105.

Materials List

Please review BEFORE attempting to deliver to the site!

Accepted

Brush
Grass
Firewood
Leaves
Weeds
Any type of yard waste



NOT Accepted

NO lumber or wood pallets
NO construction debris
NO trash of any kind
NO logs/stumps
NO full trees
NO large root balls
NO railroad ties



Kent's Outreach to those in Need

Family & Community Services provides food, emergency housing and useable clothing at no charge through the following services:

Kent Social Services

1066 S. Water Street – 330.673.6963

KSS is the only hot meal site in Kent. Meals served weekdays 11:30 am to 12:15 pm except Thursday (4 to 5:15 pm) – Sunday 5 to 6 p.m. (except for the third Sunday)

The Lord's Pantry distributes basic grocery staples once a month to families and individuals who meet federal income eligibility requirements. Call for eligibility and pick-up.

Donations accepted include perishable and non-perishable food, personal hygiene products, gift cards and other items.

Facebook: *Kent Social Services*

Miller Community House

1211 Anita Drive - Kent

Miller Community House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to men, women and children. Donations accepted include



bedding (twin size), towels, pillows, groceries and gas gift cards. Hours: 24/7 - 365 days a year. Volunteers: YES.

Facebook: *Miller Community House*

Freedom House

1213 Anita Drive - Kent

Freedom House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to male veterans. Donations accepted include bedding (twin size), towels, pillows, groceries and gas gift cards.

Hours: 24/7 - 365 days a year

Facebook: *Freedom House Kent*

The Phyllis Zumkehr Portage County Clothing Center

3377 State Route 59 - Ravenna

This facility offers gently used clothing and household items as available at no cost. Donations accepted include men's, women's, and children's clothing, baby items, maternity clothes, uniforms, plus sizes, shoes, bedding, silverware, pots and pans and other kitchen items. **NOTE: Clothing and other donated items should be in wearable or workable condition.** Hours: M-F 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Tues-Thurs. evenings 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Volunteers: YES

Family & Community Services – 330.297.7027

<http://fcsserves.org>

Draft Authorization Form for Utility Bill

Save check writing, postage and/or personal trips to City Hall!

3 Simple Steps to Automatic Bill Payment...

1. Clip, complete and sign this form
2. Enclose a **VOIDED** check or saving deposit slip
3. Mail to: **City of Kent Utility Department**
930 Overholt Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

I authorize the City of Kent Utility Billing Division to automatically deduct the monthly payment of my utility bills from my checking/saving account on or about the **15th** of the month. If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, my account will be charged the previous Friday for the amount of my utility bill.

I understand that I control my payments. Should I decide to discontinue this payment service, I agree to notify the City of Kent in writing, at least **10 days prior** to the billing date.

I have read the above statements and fully understand that by signing this agreement, I authorize the City of Kent to debit and/or credit my checking/savings account as necessary to reconcile my utility payment.

Signature	Date	Daytime Phone Number
-----------	------	----------------------

Name _____
as it appears on your bill

Name _____
If other than as it appears on your bill

Mailing Address _____

Account Number _____
as it appears on your bill

Service Address _____
as it appears on your bill

Financial Institution _____

Checking/Saving Account Number _____
Include a voided check when using a checking account, or a deposit slip for savings account only

Office Use Only	Entered (initials) _____	Date _____
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CUT & MAIL to: City of Kent Utility Division – 930 Overholt Road – Kent, Ohio 44240



YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS...SPECIAL EVENTS...YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS...SPECIAL EVENTS

ART IN THE PARK ARTIST APPLICATIONS: Call To Artists!
WHEN: Festival dates September 12 and 13
WHERE: Fred Fuller Park
WHO: Any Youth or Adult Artist
COST: Youth App: \$25; Adult App: \$125 by June 1 & \$150 by June 30

FALL ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES: Tuesday, Friday & Sunday leagues available for Men & Co-Ed. Sign your team up today! 5 weeks plus tournament.
WHEN: Games Mid September - Mid October
WHERE: Kramer Fields (600 Stow St)
WHO: Men & Women
COST: \$375/team
DEADLINE: Returning teams by Friday, Sept 7; Open to public Sept 8

KENT BLACK SQUIRREL 5K RUNNING CLUB: Choose to run or walk approximately 3 miles along the beautiful Hike & Bike Trails to Downtown Kent. There, we will enjoy perks at the day's designated shop. Each participant will receive a running club t-shirt! 8 week session.
WHEN: Sundays at 8:30am from July 12 to August 30
WHERE: Hometown Bank Plaza
WHO: All ages welcome. (14 & under must be with a parent.)
COST: \$15
DEADLINE: Friday, July 10

SOCCER LEAGUE: Youth Soccer program offers Recreational, Semi Travel, & Travel leagues.
WHEN: August - October
WHERE: Kent Soccer Fields & surrounding towns
WHO: 4 - 12 year olds
COST: \$52 - \$117
DEADLINE: Travel - Friday, July 10; Rec/Semi-Travel - Friday, July 17

FLAG FOOTBALL: An exciting version of football, with no tackling to worry about! Join in for some fall outdoor fun! Last game played at KSU Football Stadium.
WHEN: September 12 - Last week in Oct.
WHERE: Stonewater Field on Stonewater Dr.
WHO: 1st - 6th grades
COST: \$77 (res), \$85 (non res)
DEADLINE: Friday, August 7

LIL' LEARNERS PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP: Children will have the opportunity to experience the beauty of Fred Fuller Park, enjoy walking the Hike and Bike Trail, express creativity through art projects, sing songs and enjoy fellowship and first friendships each week.
Camp Length: 9 weeks; June 8 - August 6
Days: Monday - Thursday
Time: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Age: 3-5 year olds
Location: Roy Smith Shelterhouse
Max Enrollment: 30 children
Registration Fee: \$10
Weekly Cost: \$47 res. \$55 non-res.

KPR KIDZ CLUB: KPR's State Licensed school-age before and after school program gives your child a safe place to play and socialize while you are at work.
WHEN: Kent City Schools school-year; 6:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:15-6 p.m.
WHERE: Davey, Longcoy & Kent Rec
WHO: K-6th grades in Kent City School district
REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 (increases to \$20 in the month of August))

KPR KIDZ CLUB CAMP AT DAVEY: Spend the summer enjoying the beautiful Davey neighborhood! Field trips, swimming, a movie and special guests are included every week! Small groups combine learning and fun in arts and crafts, recreation, reading and outdoor activities! The children receive a P.M. snack.
Camp Length: 9 weeks; June 8 - Aug 7
Days: Monday - Friday
Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Age: Entering 1st - entering 3rd grades
Location: Davey Elementary
Max Enrollment: 30
Registration Fee: \$15
Weekly Cost: \$118 res. \$126 non-res.
Additional sibling discount, Full-time County Vouchers accepted



YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS...SPECIAL EVENTS...YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS...SPECIAL EVENTS

KPR KIDZ CLUB CAMP AT KENT REC: Working families will love this camp that provides care all day long! Field trips, swimming, a movie, special guests and entertainment are included each week. Small groups create their own fun with arts and crafts, recreation, reading and outdoor activities. The children receive breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.
Camp Length: 9 weeks; June 8 - Aug 7
Days: Monday - Friday
Time: 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Age: Entering 1st grade - 6th grade
Location: Kent Recreation Center
Max Enrollment: 45 children
Registration Fee: \$15
Weekly Cost: \$145 res. \$153 non-res.
Additional sibling discount, Full-time County Vouchers accepted

JUNIOR EXPEDITION CAMP: Is your child looking for outdoor adventures? This camp will provide opportunities for your child to learn to overcome obstacles, take risks, rely upon themselves and others, develop strong character and community, and explore the world. They will hike, boat, climb, camp and much more!
Camp Length: 9 weeks; June 8 - Aug 7
Days: Monday - Friday Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Age: Entering 4th grade - 8th grade
Location: Plum Creek Park
Max Enrollment: 45 children
Registration Fee: \$15
Weekly Cost: \$118 res. \$126 non-res.
Additional sibling discount

MARCUM'S MARTIAL ARTS: This traditionally structured program teaches students the tools for success, leadership skills, fitness and conditioning, self defense, stress management, conflict management and self defense. 8 week session.
WHEN: Wed. July 1 - August 19; 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Kent P&R Fitness Center
WHO: 7 yrs - Adults
COST: \$62 (res), \$70 (non res)
DEADLINE: Friday, June 26

Please refer to the Kent Parks & Recreation website at www.kentparksandrec.com for the most up to date information regarding cancellations or date changes.



With summer comes swimming, and don't forget that The City of Kent offers a sewer credit for filling your pool. The only requirement is that you read your water meter before and after filling your pool and document the information on the proper form.

Forms are available online at www.kentohio.org/468/Forms, or at our office.

Now is the time for green lawns and gardens, please remember that there is currently no credit in place for lawn and garden watering, and both water and sewer charges do apply. Separate sprinkler meters are available for purchase from the Engineering Department.

When taking vacations, it is a good idea to turn off outside spigots at the inside shut off valve. This prevents vandals from turning on your spigots and letting them run.

City of Kent's Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report – 2019

The City of Kent remains committed to providing our residents with a safe and reliable supply of the highest-quality drinking water. We continue to test our water using sophisticated equipment and advanced procedures. In year 2019 we had an unconditional license (OH6701812) to operate our water system. The City of Kent water meets all state and federal standards for both appearance and safety. As a matter of record, all City of Kent Water Plant Operators possess an Ohio EPA Operator Certification. In addition, three personnel are Ohio EPA certified to do bacteria testing. This annual "Consumer Confidence Report," required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what our tests show about it, as well as other things you should know about drinking water.

We are proud to report that the water provided by the City of Kent continues to “meet or exceed” all established water-quality standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting your drinking water. Regular City Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 320 South DePeyster Street, in the Kent Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. We invite and welcome the public at these meetings.

Overview

The year, 2019 was a very productive and worthwhile year at the Kent Water Treatment Plant. We were able to replace the filter media in all four of our filters and we were able to maintain full operations while doing so. We also used this time to reevaluate our treatment process to help extend the life of this new media.

We also used 2019 as a year to look at our water system and treatment plant as a whole and see what areas we can improve our treatment or management of those systems. We are also working with the Ohio EPA to put an old well back in service that will help maintain our water supply.

2019 was an odd year in which we had no major emergencies or breakdowns, which allowed us to catch up on some things and to improve a few things that should benefit our treatment process for years to come.

We are proud to have another year under our belts with no operational deviations from the State or Federal EPA. We look forward to continue serving Kent with the world's best potable water.

Water Source Information

The City of Kent is supplied by groundwater, which is pumped from several wells located very close to the water plant. Our well field is known as the "Breakneck Creek Well field", which

taps into the "Buried Valley Aquifer". The exception is Well No. 13. It is considered a rock well, as it taps into a formation of water bearing sandstone. The high purity well water is first delivered to your water plant where it is treated. The treatment includes softening, filtration, stabilization (to prevent it from being corrosive), disinfection, and fluoridation, for your benefit.



Ohio EPA recently completed a study of the City of Kent's source of drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. This assessment indicates that the Kent City PWS's source of drinking water has a high susceptibility to contamination because of 1) The sand and gravel aquifer has a shallow depth to water, less than 15 feet below the ground surface 2) The topography is relatively flat, and the soils are loams and sandy loams, allowing for a moderate to significant amount of precipitation to infiltrate into the ground instead of running off 3) No confining layer exists in many areas, which could act as a barrier between the ground surface and the aquifer 4) Potential significant contaminant sources exist within the protection area. This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. The City of Kent has taken some proactive steps to monitor and protect this precious resource. More information is available by contacting the Ohio E.P.A., Northeast District Office, 2110 E. Aurora Road, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087-1969, or the City Service Department at 330-678-8105.

Water Quality Data

The following table lists the only drinking water contaminants that were found during or prior to the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. It is important to understand that the treatment process our water under goes, makes it far safer than most water supplies anywhere in the world. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing performed January 1st through December 31st, 2019. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

(continued on page 19)

How to Read This Table

It's easy! Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked "Level Found" shows the highest test results during the year. A "Source of Contaminant" shows where this substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. Columns headed MCL, AL and MCLG refer to:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which, there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing

done in accordance with regulations.

Key To Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

pci/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means 'less than'. A result of "<5" means that the lowest level detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

We have performed testing for many different potential contaminants, but only the listed substances were found. Of those substances that were found, all are below the MCL limit. We also collected 384 routine samples for bacteriological examination throughout the city during the year of 2017. We are pleased to report that each of these samples were negative (no bacteria present).

Contaminant	Sample Year	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range of Detections	Sources of Contaminants	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
Flouride	2019	ppm	4	4	.93	0.80 - 1.13	Erosion of natural deposits; Water Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Lead	2017	ppb	AL = 15	0	<5.0	0 - 8	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Copper	2017	ppm	AL = 1.3	0	.0178	.011 - .026	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs	2019	ppb	80	0	63.85	35.5 - 77.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO
Haloacetic Acids HAA5	2019	ppb	60	0	12.53	60.5 - 14.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO
Residual Disinfectants								
Total Chlorine	2019	ppm	4	4	1.05	0.30 - 1.2	Water additive to control microbes	NO

Disinfection By Products

Disinfection byproducts are the results of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s.

TTHM's Health Effects

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience

problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

Additional Water Quality Monitoring

Our water system participates in the Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Program, which is administered by the Ohio E.P.A.'s Division of Drinking and Ground Waters. As a result, our ground water source is subjected to additional extensive analysis every six to eighteen months. While this analysis is not used to fulfill our monitoring requirements, it does provide us with additional assurance of the quality of our source water.

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19)

Additional Information That May Be Of Interest:

Chemical Analysis (Annual Average 2019)

	Raw Water (untreated)	Tap Water (treated)
Alkalinity	216 mg/l	48 mg/l
Hardness	313 mg/l	92 mg/l
Non-Carbonate	96 mg/l	44 mg/l
Calcium (as Ca)	97 mg/l	18 mg/l
Magnesium (Mg)	17 mg/l	11 mg/l
Fluoride	0.13 mg/l	0.92 mg/l
P.H.	7.48	9.20

Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water and Additional Health Information – Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Protection – The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and

mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

(continued on page 21)



Main Street Kent Update

Summer is almost here, and at Main Street Kent, we're working on some downtown beautification projects and fun activities for the community. Because we've had to postpone or cancel some of our big 2020 plans, we hope you'll check the Main Street Kent website www.mainstreetkent.org and social media for regular updates, because life as we know it is changing rapidly! Make sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/mainstreetkent) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/mainstreetkent) so you don't miss anything.



For up-to-date information about downtown businesses, things to do, community news, and special events, subscribe to our every-other-week newsletter at <https://www.mainstreetkent.org/newsletter>.

Public Art - Now is the time to get out and enjoy the public art scene that has come to life in downtown Kent over the past several years! Poetry wrapped public utility boxes, bronze sculptures, and painted murals are just a few things you will see when walking or riding through the downtown district to explore the arts.

Wizardly World of Kent - Unfortunately, we've had to cancel this event on Sat. July 25, 2020, for the health and safety of our community. We still hope to host some magical activities that

weekend, including a virtual 5K, so stay tuned to our website and social media for updates.

Main Street Kent Art & Wine Festival - Our fourteenth annual signature event has been rescheduled for Sat., Aug. 22, from 12-9pm. We hope to be able to bring you a fun day filled with live music, beautiful art, local food and wine later this summer.



For more information about MSK, please visit www.mainstreetkent.org, email us at info@mainstreetkent.org or call 330-677-8000.

(continued from page 7) *Banner Installation*

In addition to banners, the web app, Mapping May 4 (<https://mappingmay4.kent.edu>) provides a space for dialogue and gives the public an opportunity to connect some of the people, places and specific events of April 30 through May 5, 1970, in Kent, OH.



(continued from page 20)

Lead in Drinking Water – “If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Kent is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap from 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about the lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

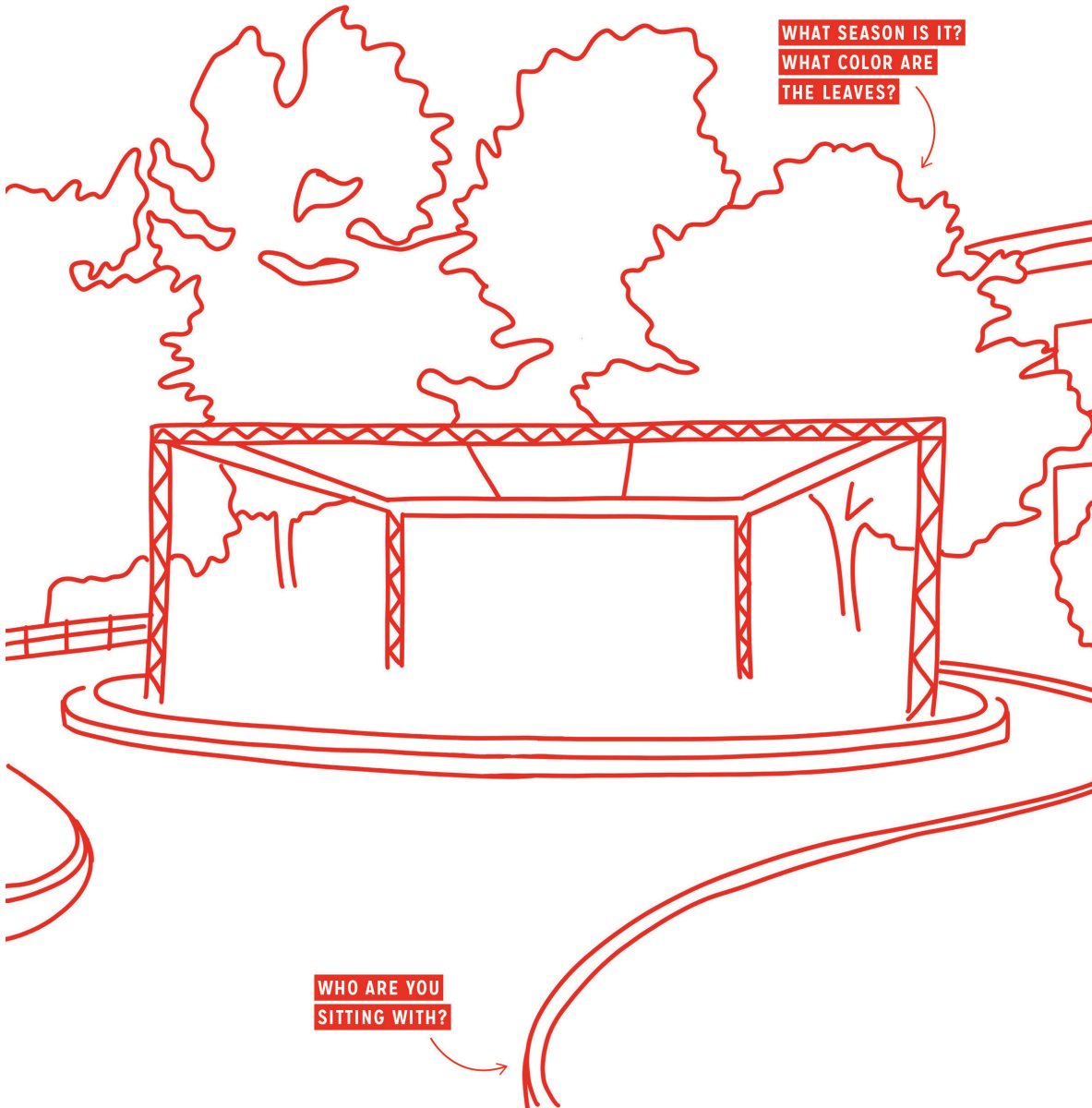
Special Information Available – Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who

have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Additional Questions?

In addition to the testing that we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. For more information, call the City of Kent at (330) 676-6333. We are here to serve YOU! Please feel free to call us with any questions that you may have.

DRAW SOMEONE PERFORMING (OR AN OUTDOOR MOVIE SHOWING!) AT THE STAGE DOWNTOWN.



IT WOULD BE SO COOL IF _____ PERFORMED IN KENT.

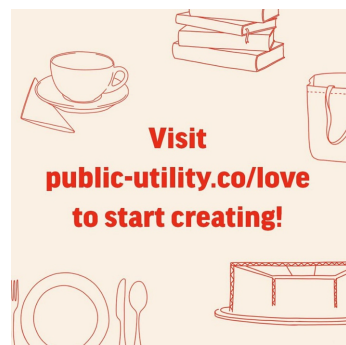


There's so much to miss about Kent while we're doing our part at home.

It won't be long before we are back enjoying the city we love, but until then let's make sure Kent knows how much we miss it.

Fill the page with all your favorite things about the city you love.

Mail them to a friend or hang them on your fridge... just make sure you post your drawings on social media and tag them with #loveletterkent to share your drawing with the community!



Income Tax Information



All Kent residents 18 years or older **MUST** file a City of Kent income tax return, even if no tax is owed. Persons who are retired need to file a final return and write “retired” on it. No further returns will be due unless the retiree returns to work. Income tax returns are due (*must be postmarked on or by*) **Wednesday, July 15th, 2020**. Returns received after July 15th will be considered late and may be subject to a penalty, even if no tax is due. “Resident” is defined as an individual whose legal residence is in Kent or who lived in Kent for 30 days or more in any 90-day period during the 2019 calendar year.

The following people MUST file income tax returns and pay any tax due, even if they are non-residents:

- ▶ Persons who own rental property in Kent
- ▶ Persons who operate a business in Kent
- ▶ Real estate agents who work for brokers in Kent, even if they sold no property in Kent
- ▶ Anyone who receives salary, wages, commissions, or other compensation for work done or services rendered in Kent, if the full amount of Kent's 2.25% income tax has not been withheld from that compensation.

Certain types of income are not taxable. These types include.

- ▶ Interest
- ▶ Dividends
- ▶ Active military pay
- ▶ Pensions
- ▶ Social security
- ▶ Workers compensation
- ▶ Unemployment benefits
- ▶ Welfare payments
- ▶ Medicare

Credit Card Service Fee Effective October 1, 2018

Beginning October 1, 2018, taxpayers who elect to pay their municipal income tax bills by credit or debit card will incur a 2.75% service charge. This fee is charged by a third party vendor per credit card transaction and is not paid to RITA. Please note that this service charge applies only to credit or debit card transactions. Taxpayers electing to pay by check or via ACH will not incur this service charge.

To file your City of Kent return with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) for Residents and Businesses, RITA has the following FREE online services.

RITA E-File: A quick, easy and secure way to file your municipal income taxes online with R.I.T.A. at www.ritaohio.com

Individuals Are Provided The Following Features

- ▶ A simple step by step calculation of taxes or refunds
- ▶ Ability to file even if you moved in 2019
- ▶ Electronic transfer of refunds into checking or savings accounts
- ▶ Pay by credit card or ACH (electronic debit of checking or savings)
- ▶ Delay payment of taxes- file as early as you like and set up ACH payment anytime before July 15th
- ▶ Here's what you need to E-File
 - Social Security numbers for you and your spouse
 - W-2 forms from all employers
 - 1099 forms and Federal Schedules C, E, & F
 - Date of move for residents that moved in 2018
 - Bank Routing and Account Numbers- for a fast refund or to pay electronically

Employers Have The Following Choices:

- ▶ Monthly or Quarterly withholding returns
 - Fill in a simple form online, or
 - Attach a payroll file
- ▶ Annual Withholding Reconciliation returns
 - Upload W-2 data with online filing, or
 - Save W-2 data to CD and mail to R.I.T.A.

You must complete an **E-Registration** to utilize any of the on-line services. **Registration must be completed 15 days before due date of July 15, 2020.** Income Tax Division personnel will assist you with your Kent City Income Tax Returns at NO charge. The Income Tax Division is located at the Service Administration Complex at 930 Overholt Road. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. If you wish assistance with your Kent City Income Tax Return, please schedule an appointment and bring all necessary tax documents, such as W-2's, 1099's, Schedule C, Schedule E etc., with you to the Income Tax Division. To schedule an appointment, please call the Income Tax Division at 330-678-8103.

City Manager's Office
301 S. Depeyster
Kent, Ohio 44240

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We Want To Hear From You...

Please write your questions, comments or suggestions regarding city government on this form. Return the form either by mail, or drop it off at the City Manager's Office at 301 S. Depeyster, Kent, Ohio 44240. If you provide your name and address, we will respond to you directly. With your permission, the response may be published in a future issue of the *Tree City Bulletin*. If you prefer to comment anonymously, we may attempt to respond in a future issue.

Optional Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



May we publish your questions/comments/suggestions? YES NO

May we publish your name? (Address will NOT be published) YES NO