



The **TREE CITY** Bulletin

VOLUME 26:2 – FALL 2021

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Who To Call At The City of Kent...

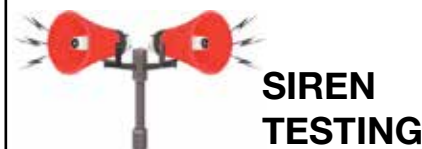
Emergency – Police, Fire, Ambulance	9-1-1
After Hours Non-Emergency Concerns	330.673.7732
Building Division – Building Permits	330.678.8107
Income Tax Division	330.678.8103
Clerk of Council	330.678.8007
City Manager's Office	330.676.7500
Door-to-door solicitation, special event permits	
Community Development Department	330.678.8108
Economic development, housing rehab, zoning	
Engineering Division – Street and Sidewalk construction	330.678.8106
Fire Department - Non-Emergency	330.673.8814
Health Department	330.678.8109
Animal bites, birth/death certificates, food service inspections, pest control	
Parks & Recreation Department	330.673.8897
Police Department - Non-Emergency.....	330.673.7732
24-hour calls, stray animals	
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
RecyclingCenter.....	330.678.8808
ServiceDepartment.....	330.678.8105
Yard Waste Transfer Site, signs, traffic lights, street maintenance, trees, water/sewer problems	
Utility Billing – Water, sewer, stormwater and recycling bill.....	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.



SIREN TESTING

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 semi-annually 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. Depeyster - 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.**

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES
FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH BOARD AND TO APPLY
VISIT <http://www.kentohio.org/184/Boards-Commissions>

All Applicants must appear for an interview to be considered for the position and must be an elector of the city of Kent.

IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

BOARD OF HEALTH

Application deadline August 24, 2021 | Interview Date September 1, 2021
One (1) Vacancy: The Board of Health is created in accordance with Kent City Charter Chapter 66(A).
TERM: Five (5) years.

CIVIL SERVICE

Application deadline August 24, 2021 | Interview Date September 1, 2021
One (1) Vacancy.
TERM: To fill a vacancy of an unexpired term ending 12/31/24

LOAN REVIEW BOARD

OPEN UNTIL FILLED
One (1) Vacancy available for a Local Attorney.
TERM: Five (5) years.

STORMWATER DISTRICT REVIEW AND APPEALS BOARD

OPEN UNTIL FILLED
Two (2) Vacancies.
TERM: Two (2) years

APPLICATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 26, 2021 INTERVIEW DATE NOV. 3, 2021

ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

TWO (2) Vacancies.
TERM: (3) years.

BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

TWO (2) Vacancies: One (1) Vacancy for a PLUMBER; One (1) Vacancy for ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR.
TERM: Three (3) years

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

ONE (1) Vacancy.
TERM: Three (3) years.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

ONE (1) Vacancy.
TERM: Four (4) years.

TO APPLY

Fill out the online application at www.kentohio.org/184/Boards-Commissions OR
Print, complete and sign a Boards and Commissions application and return to Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council
• Email signed application to councilclerk@kent-ohio.org OR
• Mail application to 301 S. Depeyster St. Kent, OH 44240

Questions? Contact the Clerk of Council at (330) 678-8007 or Email councilclerk@kent-ohio.org



Kent Free Library, in collaboration with the State of Ohio, Kent Rotary Foundation, and the Portage County United Way, is proud to offer the Imagination Library book program to Portage

County families. This program provides one free book each month to children age 0-5 years old to increase reading and literacy in the Kent community. Parents can sign up for delivery of these free books by enrolling at <https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org> or by contacting Stacey Richardson from the Kent Free Library at 330-673-4414

KENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We're Open Again

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

1971 – 2021

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

BOOKS • TOURS

237 E. MAIN ST.

(330) 678-2712

kentohiohistory.org



Health and Safety on the Mind

By Dave Ruller, Kent City Manager

COVID cases are down, businesses are open, school is in person – so are we back to normal? Maybe? Hopefully.

The City's Health Commissioner remains on high alert and she has leased extra space on the ground floor of the PARTA facility downtown for a clinic where she can offer vaccine shots and consultation. She says we're not out of the woods yet, people are still dying from COVID so be patient, be smart, and at the risk of sounding cliché, please be kind.

News headlines lead with daily counts of COVID cases followed by stories of outbursts of rage in grocery lines, on roads, on airplanes, even sporting events. The collective trauma of COVID is fueling hostility at levels rarely seen before.

Nationally, there's been 12 mass shooting this year and homicides through June were 15% higher than 2020 which was the most violent year in the 21st century. Regionally, the Mid-West led the nation with a 30% jump in violent crimes in 2020.

Kent's Police Chief confirmed that Kent's domestic violence and gun violence incidents are on pace to surpass all-time highs. Earlier this year a Regional Drug Task Force operation pulled 12 semi and fully automatic weapons out of cars driving around on Kent streets in just one afternoon. Kent Police had 2 police officers shot in the line of duty for the first time in over in 20 years. Is the timing of all this violence just coincidence?

Maybe, but as the vector that spreads the COVID disease, we've been quarantined, lost jobs, locked-down, swabbed, stuck, told what to do, what not to do, what to wear, where to stand – and watched helplessly as 600,000 Americans died. That's a heavy burden to bear so it's not hard to draw a line from COVID to escalating violence as we struggle to cope.

On the front lines of City services, pent up frustration has spilled over into increasing numbers of calls to solve neighbor to neighbor disputes. From tall grass and noise complaints, there's a rising tide of angry calls.

Not surprisingly most of the City's projects in 2021 are also safety related. The Kent Police are in the process of purchasing body cameras and they secured \$17,000 from the State to provide for ballistic vest replacements for Police Officers.

Each Police vest is custom fit, is capable of stopping rounds up to a rifle, and costs about \$1,700. The life of the Officer that was saved by his vest as he rescued a teenage babysitter and a toddler from an armed intruder earlier this year illustrates just how priceless these vests can be.

The safety improvements completed on North Water Street this year mark the end of the Mill era. North Water Street was designed to support the Mill's tractor trailer trucks with extra wide streets and minimal sidewalks but the closure of the mill left the street out of sync with the rest of downtown.

To change that, City and ODOT installed new wider sidewalks, bulb-outs at the crosswalks, and seating areas to reconfigure the street to better match the pedestrian, outdoor dining, and people-friendly space desired by the residents and small businesses that are shaping the next era of activity on the street.

The East Main Street project continues to make steady progress, stepping its way closer to construction in 2024-25. The citizens, businesses, City and KSU staff wrapped-up their planning and design meetings this summer, giving their support for a final concept that includes an enhanced tree-lined boulevard, wider sidewalks, and the replacement of 2 accident prone signalized intersections with 2 new roundabouts (at Horning Road and the Willow/Main/Haymaker intersection).



It's a transformative change that is designed to get this stretch of street off the top of the list for the most accidents in Portage and Summit counties while also extending the "feel" and walkability of downtown Kent, and accentuating the improvements planned along the front of Kent State's campus, particularly the prominent new College of Business building. Next up, more public meetings with City Council and conversion of the concept plan into detailed construction plans over the next 18 months.

On a smaller scale, the City and KSU completed a safety study focused on the roads and sidewalks around the campus and identified 17 locations that could benefit from some extra safety signage, striping and other safety enhancements.

Jumping on the bandwagon of making it safer and easier to get around Kent, PARTA announced a new PARTA Trolley that will provide new transit service beginning in summer 2022. PARTA buses are great but there's something about an old fashioned Trolley that attracts even more riders -- and experience tells us that more riders in transit seats is good news for Kent businesses.

In one final thought on public safety, I want to thank Kent Fire Chief

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Main Street Kent Update

At Main Street Kent, we're partnering with Troppus Projects for "Something's Got to Give", an art fundraiser/silent auction. From August 4th-27th, over 50 six feet by six inch donated artworks will be on display and available for bidding at Troppus Projects, located at 141 S. Water Street. Photography, painting, illustration and other types of work will be on exhibit, with a closing reception planned for Friday, August 27th from 5-7pm. Bids will be accepted all month, with a \$100 "buy in now" option. All works will remain on display until August 27th. Stop in anytime to bid on your favorite pieces, and support Main Street Kent. Proceeds will be used for public art projects in downtown Kent. Many thanks to all who contributed artwork in support of our work!



After a long hiatus, we're thrilled to be planning the annual Kent Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 25th from 12-10pm! Get ready for German food and dancing, seasonal adult beverages, live music and a great time – as we all remember from two years ago. Plans include an additional beer truck, expanded event footprint, and a huge celebration as we return to life with festivals, thanks to Platform Beer Company, our presenting sponsor.

The MSK design committee recently developed two fun and informative walking tours. The History of Industry in Kent walking tour was developed by Julie Kenworthy, director of the Kent Historical Society & Museum, Doug Fuller, retired architect and local history buff, Josie Myers, master's student and MapIt! graduate assistant, and Jen Mapes, associate professor in the Department of Geography at Kent State University. Did you know the silk mill was never actually used to produce silk? There's so much to know about Kent's rich history. The team also created a public art walking tour highlighting murals, bronze sculptures, art/poetry banners and more. Beginning on Franklin Avenue near the Haymaker Farmers' Market, walking directions are provided from stop to stop, so the tour can be enjoyed at any pace, hopefully with some stops for shopping, meals and refreshments along the way. Visit the MSK website at <https://www.mainstreetkent.org/walking-tours/> to see the tours and keep an eye out for more in the fall.



The 2021 Adopt a Spot program is back and stronger than ever with the return of the hanging flower baskets, thanks to The Davey Tree Expert Company, Smithers-Oasis, and all 35+ flowerbeds and planters bursting with color! We have an incredible group of sponsors and volunteers and support from the City of Kent, which makes the program such a success. More flowerbeds will be added in 2022 with the N. Water Street improvements, so please get in touch if you'd like to join us at info@mainstreetkent.org. Learn about this and other MSK programs at <https://www.mainstreetkent.org/about/our-programming/>.

We're excited to be working on a new community gift card program, which will be rolled out late this summer. The Kent Card is an e-gift card that will be available for purchase online, and can be given as a gift via email or text. The Kent Card will be valid at any participating business, and will be the perfect solution for anyone to give a holiday gift, parents and family to give their college students, corporate gifts, and more. Information will be available on the MSK website soon.



Be sure to follow Main Street Kent on Facebook and Instagram for daily updates on what's happening downtown, and subscribe to our newsletter at <https://www.mainstreetkent.org/newsletter/> so you don't miss a thing. Also, check our events calendar at <https://www.mainstreetkent.org/events/> for live music, events and fun activities. There's always something happening downtown!

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John Tosko for his leadership of the Fire Department and his 33 years of service to saving lives in Kent. We wish Chief Tosko all the best in his retirement and we welcome Captain Bill Myers in his new role as Chief Myers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Pandemic's Economic Effects Will Linger

One of the pitfalls of writing these Tree City Bulletin articles is that we are typically asked to submit them about two months before you read them. Therefore, if I choose to write about something as volatile as the coronavirus pandemic, I am really setting myself up for the possibility that the content of my article as I write it today could be incredibly out of step as to what is happening as you read this in September. Nevertheless, here goes.

As I write this in July, most local trends related to the pandemic are trending in very positive direction. Rolling two week averages over the past month or two indicate approximately two new COVID-19 cases in Portage County each day. This is down from a single day high of 156 on December 13th, 2020. The unemployment rate has dropped below pre-pandemic levels with a rate of 4.5% in May of 2021, compared to a pre-pandemic level of 5.0% in February of 2020. Millions of dollars have been injected into the local economy; first through the CARES Act in 2020 and second through the ARP Act in 2021. Much of this money went directly to the hardest hit businesses in the forms of grants and directly to consumers in the form of stimulus payments. Given all this positive news, why hasn't the local economy returned to "normal" and when will it?

Digging deeper into the unemployment number reveals a couple of alarming trends. In February of 2020, there were 83,700 people in the workforce (people with jobs plus people actively looking for jobs) in Portage County. In May of 2021, that number had dropped to 82,000 or a loss of 1,700 potential workers. As a result, there are fewer people looking for work today as compared to February of last year. This has led to worker shortages in virtually all sectors of the economy leading to various negative outcomes including, but not limited to, excessive overtime, reduced operating hours, and poorer than expected customer service. A number of reasons have been attributed to this phenomena including people taking early retirements, lack of availability or trust in child care, concerns about COVID-19 as it relates to returning to the workplace and enhanced unemployment benefits. The only one of these factors that has recently gone away is the enhanced unemployment benefits as Ohio has stopped accepting the additional \$300 per week from the federal government as of June 26th. As of now, it is too soon to tell what impact this will have. The other factors continue and there is no reliable way

to predict when they might end as they depend so much on individual choices and circumstances.

As for the direct cash injections to both businesses and individuals through the two stimulus acts, in many cases they served to just keep businesses and people afloat but not whole. For the lucky few whose businesses or personal incomes remained whole or increased, many chose to put that "windfall" into savings due to the continued uncertainty of the pandemic. I am aware that many businesses in Kent could not have survived without these cash infusions. However, it appears unlikely that another stimulus bill will be passed.

As mentioned before, the local rate of new cases of COVID-19 has dramatically dipped this summer and some think we are at an "acceptable" level. However, two factors threaten to reverse this increase in reverting back to normalcy, and we are already seeing it in certain regions of the country. The first factor is vaccine "hesitancy" amongst significant portions of the population, crossing many social, economic and age factors. The second factor is the emergence of the Delta variant of COVID-19. This new variant appears to be more contagious than the Alpha variant, and is causing an increase in the new cases rate, particularly in areas with low vaccination rates. As of now, it remains to be seen how this will affect us locally, but it certainly remains a risk with the return of cool temperatures and many schools resuming full in-person classes.

The other lingering effect of the pandemic that is largely unseen by the general public are supply chain disruptions. These disruptions are disproportionately affecting our manufacturing businesses and their suppliers. Some of the disruptions are explainable as being due to the home construction and improvement boom, along with some that are caused by tariffs or import limitations. Others are not as easily explainable and it's difficult to predict when they will end. As consumers, we see some of these disruptions, such as my inability to find my favorite type of salsa in the grocery store, or having to wait five months to get a refrigerator for my in-laws. These disruptions seem more like inconveniences rather than the dramatic affect they can have on our manufacturers and their ability to operate smoothly.

What can you do to help bring these lingering effects to an end? First, please practice responsible COVID-19 behaviors. The worst case scenario is a significant resurgence in the new infection rate and the impact that would have on consumer and employee choices. With the Delta variant looming, it is more important now, than ever, to be smart about not spreading the virus. Second,

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Health Department

Joan Seidel, City Health Commissioner

Football games, apple cider, and beautiful colors from the changing leaves. These and more are great reasons to welcome Fall. It is also time to start thinking about where and when you will receive your influenza vaccine. In 2020 we saw an amazingly low level of influenza, so you may wonder if you need Flu vaccine this year. The low rate is attributed to less travel, use of social distancing, mask wearing, improved hand hygiene, and smaller gatherings due to COVID 19 guidance. This Autumn we will most likely not have these safety measures in place, at least not to the extent we did in 2020. So, our risk for Flu may be greater this year. While masking, distancing, staying home when ill, and thorough hand hygiene certainly go a long way, vaccines are the most certain means to avoid getting vaccine preventable illnesses like Flu or COVID. The time to take your Flu vaccine is before Flu season starts. There are many options for Flu vaccine. If you have had to avoid Flu vaccine in the past due to an egg allergy, there is an egg free Flu vaccine. There are Flu vaccines for those as young as 6 Months and high dose Flu vaccine for those 65 years of age or older. Speak to your care provider about which would be best for you, and then take it.

If you have not received your COVID 19 vaccine you will also want to get that as well. Many people have received their COVID vaccine and done very well with it. The COVID vaccines are very safe and effective, even against the Delta variant. It is thought we will see more COVID infections in the Fall and Winter. The time to protect yourself and others is before you are exposed or become ill. COVID 19 vaccines train your body to recognize and fight off

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please buy local, as our small businesses rely on your patronage and exposure. Third, please be patient if they are occasionally out of an item or if service is not up to your expectations. We have great owner/operators in this city and they will resolve any remaining problems soon. Finally, if you or a family member or friend are considering finding employment, please look for the right job for you in the City of Kent. We have great employers and they are just waiting for you to cross their threshold and fill out an application.

Child Immunization Clinics Held Monthly

Is your child fully immunized? Immunizing children on time is the best protection against dangerous childhood



diseases. Vaccines protect children against potentially disabling and life-threatening diseases such as hepatitis B, pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, tetanus, haemophilus influenzae B, pneumococcal infections (meningitis), measles, mumps, rubella, rotavirus, chicken pox, polio, and human papilloma virus.

The Kent City Health Department works closely with the Portage County Health Department to provide child immunizations every month.

When: Every 3rd Wednesday of each month
3:00 - 5:00pm

Where: 414 East Main Street
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY call 330.298.4490

Who: All children, 2 months- age 18 years

Cost: \$10 per shot, FREE to those who can't pay!
Medicaid, Buckeye, Care Source, and United Health accepted

Immunization Schedule

Recommended Age	Vaccine
Birth	Hep B
2 Months	DTaP, Hep B, Hib, PCV, Polio, Rotavirus
4 Months	DTaP, Hib, PCV, Polio, Rotavirus
6 Months	DTaP, Hep B, Hib, PCV, Rotavirus, Flu
12 Months	Hep A, MMR, Varicella
15 to 18 Months	DTaP, Hep A, Hib, PCV, Polio
4 to 6 years	DTaP, MMR, Polio, Varicella
11 to 18 years	Meningococcal, HPV, Tdap, Hep A

Tips for Discarding your Unwanted Medications



Have you ever wondered what to do with your unused, unwanted

or expired medications? Don't allow your medicine cabinet to become cluttered with unusable, unnecessary medications. There are easy, safe ways to dispose of all kinds of medications.

One option is to mix unused pills, capsules and liquid medications with an undesirable substance such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds. Place the mixture inside of a sealable plastic bag or other container, and throw the sealed container away with your weekly trash.

Another option is to use the 24-hour drop box designated for unwanted medications located behind the Kent Police Department at 301 S. Depeyster Street. This drop box allows residents anonymity when disposing of unwanted/unused medications. The drop box does not accept injectable solutions or needles, nor does it accept illegal substances such as marijuana or methamphetamines. Be sure to scratch off all personal information on your prescription labels before you throw them away to ensure that your health information remains private.

DO NOT flush unused medications unless the label specifically instructs you to do so!

If you are still unsure of how to dispose of your unused medications, ask your local pharmacist.

Source: How to dispose of unused medicines. (2013). US Food and Drug Administrative Home Page. Retrieved September 19, 2013, from <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm101653.html>

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>



Police Explorers Program

By Capt. Jim Prusha, Kent Police Department

Since becoming the chief of police in June of 2020, it has been my goal and passion to increase our department's youth engagement initiatives. Although the coronavirus pandemic has curbed this over the past year because of our inability to gather and interact with others, we have been working behind the scenes to lay the foundation for one of our most important youth engagement programs. The Police Explorers Program is designed for our police officers to work with local youth to teach them about a career in law enforcement. This is a unique opportunity for local youth to learn how and why police officers do what we do.



Over the past several months, members of the Kent Police Department have been working closely with members of the Boy Scouts to engineer our program. Police Explorers is part of a much larger exploring program that the Boy Scouts offer. They partner with organizations in many different industries to bring teens and young adults together with professionals to help build their life skills and get the mentorship needed to have successful careers. This planning phase has led us to our anticipated launch of the program this fall, shortly after the new school year starts.

The program will begin with an orientation for youth and interested parents to attend. This will provide an insight into the program and an opportunity to interact with our staff to begin building relationships. After this, the program will meet two times per month throughout the school year. Although there will be a small cost for participation, we will also be working with community partners to provide scholarships for those who are not able to pay. Our goal in building this program is to foster positive interaction between our police officers and the youth in our community, but this program offers so much more. Our youth will learn first-hand what it takes to be a police officer and we will work to instill the character, integrity, and physical skills needed to ensure their success in life.

Don't Put the Trash Out (In the Recycle Bin!)

By Renee Ruchotzke, City of Kent Sustainability Commission

There have been a few changes this year in the City of Kent's recycling program. We have been contracting with the Portage County Solid Waste Management District for all of our residential recycling until recently. Increasing costs resulted in the city no longer providing service to multi-family properties. The main reason? The "contamination" levels in the recycle bins were too high to be processed normally by the current local recycling industry. This contamination, in turn, escalated the processing cost to levels that were unsustainable.

Contamination is the number one concern when it comes to keeping recycling affordable and effective, according to Bill Steiner, director of the PCSWMD. The more Kent residents keep our contamination levels low, the lower our recycling bills will be

compared to communities with higher contamination rates. So what is contamination, why does it matter, and what can we do differently as Kent citizens?

"This is Clearly Trash" Contamination

This happens when people don't pay attention to the difference between the trash bin and the recycle bin, or even purposefully try to sneak trash into the recycling. The recycling truck drivers discover garden hoses, furniture, yard waste, kitchen scraps and all sorts of other things that clearly can't be recycled. Luckily, when these are noticed, the drivers leave a note on the unemptied bin.

Make sure that all trash and garbage stays clear of the recycle bin!

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PLEASE HELP...
KEEP IT LOOSE IN THE CART
DO NOT BAG
Recyclables

Recycle Plastic Bags at your Local Grocery Store



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Dangerous Contamination

Some items that people throw into the recycling can damage the sorting machinery, such as plastic bags or decorative string lights. Other items, like lithium batteries, can even cause fires.

Recycle your plastic bags and lithium batteries at the big box stores that offer this service! Watch for periodic electronics recycling events (often offered by Kent State University).

"Wishful Thinking" Contamination

The recycling arrow/triangle logo on single-use plastic items often fools us into thinking we can throw it in the recycle bin. The reality is only a few plastic items can be recycled economically. Some items that have a "1," like clamshells from the produce aisle, are not accepted by the plastics recycling industry. The sticker on the top of the recycling bin/cart is still your best guide. You can also find the list on the PCSWMD website: <https://portagerecycles.com/single-stream/>.

Plastic water bottles, yes! Clamshell containers for produce, no! Dairy Tubs (butter, yogurt), yes! Take-out containers, no! Soap bottles and jugs, yes! Kitty litter jugs, no!

Food Residue Contamination

Because we have single stream recycling, cross-contamination can ruin other materials from being recycled. We need to make sure that glass and plastic bottles, milk/juice cartons, and cans (anything that held liquid) need to be emptied and rinsed before they are put into the recycle bin. Jars, tubs, bottles or cans that had sticky, greasy or solid materials need to be free of any and all food residue before they are put into the recycle bin. Recycle the clean top of the pizza box, but throw away or compost the greasy bottom. Soap and detergent bottles should be well-drained.

Use a rubber spatula or bottle brush to scrape off food residue. Fill items like peanut butter or mayonnaise jars or ketchup bottles with water and let them soak for several hours to help loosen the food residue.

With a little extra mindfulness and attention, we can keep our recycling costs low, all while helping the planet!



Climate Action Plan Update

By Rick Hawkley

At a joint meeting of the Sustainability Commission and the Ad Hoc Climate Action Plan, committee members heard an update of the work by Andy Boeteng. He is finalizing data for the development of recommendations on concrete strategies that Kent, its citizens, companies and community organizations can take to meet reduction of Co2 emissions. We know from recent reports that Americans reduced their emissions by 11% in 2020 in part due to the coronavirus pandemic. The increase of the use of solar and wind sources, the increase in electric cars on the road, and the reduction of coal use also played a major role. As we move forward, cities across the world, as well as the major economic drivers and emitters of greenhouse gases, are setting targets of reducing our emissions to levels of 30 years ago and more. We hope our fellow citizens will engage with our leaders in all sectors to make a strong commitment of resources to achieve the objectives set out in the resolution passed by the city council in 2019.



14 Tips To Prevent Your Water Pipes From Freezing

Winter is coming and so is the risk of frozen pipes. As soon as thermometers drop into the freezing zone, the following tips will help you avoid unpleasant surprises that may come from broken water pipes on your property. We are pleased to give you this “big chill checklist” so that you can relax and enjoy this holiday season. Winters can be harsh on household plumbing so don’t forget to protect the water meter and pipes from freezing temperatures. Those located on outside walls, in basements or in crawl spaces are particularly vulnerable to the cold, as they can easily freeze and break during cold spells and lead to costly repairs.



Please follow these important steps to help prevent expensive problems later.

- Disconnect and drain the garden hose connection. This will help prevent outside faucets and pipes from freezing, leaking or breaking. Shut all valves supplying water to outdoor water supplies.
- Close outside vents, crawl spaces and doors so cold air doesn’t seep inside.

- Repair broken windows and seal cracks in the walls.
- Insulate, insulate, insulate.
- Wrap water lines and meters in commercial insulation.
- Wrap pipes subject to cold or freezing in heat tape available from hardware stores. It must be kept plugged in all winter.
- Locate the main shut-off valve at the water meter.

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WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING:

- Give pipes a helping hand**
If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water working**
Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:

- Shut off the water immediately**
Don’t attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.
- Thaw pipes with warm air**
You can melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it with a hair dryer or space heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.
- Be careful turning water back on**
Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.

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- Make sure the valves on either side of the water meter are working properly.
- Place a tag on the main shut-off valve. Make sure everyone in the house knows where it is and how to operate it in an emergency.
- Check the heat.
- If you’re going away, keep a minimum amount of heat on in the house. This will help protect the pipes in case the temperature drops.
- If you plan to turn the heat off, drain all the water from the pipes, toilets and water heater. Turn off the power source to the water heater. If your heater operates on gas, turn the heater on “pilot.”
- If a sink is located against an outside wall, open the cabinet doors overnight to allow warm air to reach water pipes.
- If you have had problems with frozen pipes in the past, keep a trickle of water running from the highest faucet in your house. During extremely cold periods, this trickle should be the size of a pencil point. You will be billed for the water used, but this procedure may help prevent more costly plumbing repairs resulting from broken pipes.

How can you help keep catch basins clean?



The grates of catch basins can become clogged with leaves, litter, snow and ice; especially in the fall and winter. When you are clearing your sidewalk or driveway, dispose of waste in

trash receptacles instead of sweeping it into the gutters or catch basins. Monitor and clean catch basins in the fall when the trees are shedding their leaves. Please do not rake or blow leaves from your yard into the street. Rake leaves away from the edge of pavement and catch basins.

The best time to inspect the catch basin in front of your house or business is prior to a rain event. When the forecast calls for heavy rainfall or snow and ice, remove debris from the catch basin before a storm. After a storm, maintain the openings to catch basins by clearing away any snow or ice. Pile shoveled snow and ice where it can be absorbed into the ground.

The City relies on residents to help keep streets safe and catch basins clean. A blocked storm drain is a common cause of



street and/or yard flooding. If you see a catch basin filled with debris below the grate, or if you cannot clear the basin near your property yourself, notify the Service Department at 330-678-8105. Please do not attempt to remove a catch basin grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

Yard Waste Transfer Site Info

Located at the entrance to Plum Creek Park
(across from Cherry Street)

The Yard Waste Transfer Site will reopen during the spring of 2021. The timing will depend on weather conditions.

For updated information, please check the City's website at www.kentohio.org or call the Service Department at 330-678-8105.

Days and Hours of Operation

Tuesdays, 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursdays, 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Saturdays, 9:00am - 12:00pm

During 2021, mulch-like material (shredded/ground up material dropped off by residents at the City's yard waste facility) may be delivered to residents while supplies last. Please complete the Yard Waste Material Delivery Program Waiver form on the City's website. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the Service Department at 330-678-8105 to place your order.

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
- No commercial vehicles permitted
- Unauthorized equipment prohibited on premises

The City of Kent Yard Waste Regulations

The Yard Waste Transfer Site is open to Kent residents only. Residents will be required to show proof of residency, a valid driver's license or state ID with your City of Kent address at the gate prior to admission to the site. Residents must live in and show proof of residency within the City of Kent Corporation Limits (this will be strictly enforced).

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

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

Acceptable 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 plastic bags of any kind
NO logs/stumps
NO full trees
NO large root balls
NO railroad ties



Please remember to empty bags of yard waste and take the bags with you. The City is working on alternative access and hours of operation. Please check our website for up to date information.

If you have any questions regarding the Yard Waste Transfer Site, please call (330) 678-8105.

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 15 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 _____ 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 _____

CUT & MAIL to: City of Kent Utility Division – 930 Overholt Road – Kent, Ohio 44240

New From Utility Billing

Paperless Billing Now Available



Go green by registering your utility billing account today at <https://kentohio.smartpayworks.com>.

-Follow prompts and instructions for registering your utility billing account on the site.

-View, print, and save current and past bills (beginning with 2021 billing cycles only).

-Link multiple utility billing accounts.

*Note: Once registered, you must manually change your billing method from mail to email.

For questions or concerns, contact the Utility Billing office at 330-678-8104 or utilitybilling@kent-ohio.org.

Still Available!

Online Payment

Convenient online payment of your Utility Bill is still available. Save gas, a stamp, and time and pay online at <https://kentohio.ezsecurepay.com>.

-No convenience fee.

-Email receipt/confirmation.

-Access to bill payment 24/7, not just during utility billing business hours.

-Credit card, debit card, or bank issued check payment options.

Utility Billing Forms

The following forms can be found on the utility billing website at kentohio.org:

-Application for Services

-Automatic Draft Authorization

-Senior Disabled Discount Application

-Swimming Pool Credit Application

Please Note Important Dates Coming Up:



Trick or Treat in the City of Kent will be **Sunday, October 31st from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.**

Remember to put your porch lights **ON** if you plan to participate.

The holiday shopping season is right around the corner. For the sixth year in a row, Mayor Jerry Fiala has declared **FREE parking on Friday, November 26th & Friday, December 24th.** Together

with the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Kent, and College Town Kent, Fiala is promoting **SHOP LOCAL...EAT LOCAL!** "This is just a small way of giving back, and encouraging people to support Kent's small businesses and small business owners," said Fiala. Bring your shopping list and appetite and park **FREE** while you **SHOP & EAT LOCAL** on November 29th & December 24th.



Fall 2021 Leaf Collection Program

The 2021 Leaf Collection Program will commence November 1st, 2021 and end December 10th, 2021. Leaves will not be picked up during the spring of 2022.

Leaf collection crews will be assigned to each quadrant of the city to pick up leaves on a continual basis throughout the scheduled program. The leaf collection truck will make one pass down each street in your quadrant and will then repeat the same route throughout the scheduled collection period.

Loose Leaves

Residents are asked to rake their leaves to the curb regularly as they accumulate. Please rake leaves to the curb, but not into the street. If there is not enough room for loose leaves on the tree lawn in front of your home, please bag your leaves and call the Service Department at 330-678-8105 to request a pick up. Ordinance 311.01 prohibits placing debris on streets and sidewalks to prevent accidents. Leaves placed in the street can block storm sewers resulting in flooding and property damage. If you hire a landscape contractor to blow your leaves to the curb, please be sure they do not blow leaves into the street.

Do not mix other items with your leaves (branches, trash, grass clippings, dirt or other foreign objects). The city will reject your leaves if these guidelines are not followed, and will place a notice on your door. When the foreign objects are removed from the leaves, crews will return to collect your leaves as early as possible.

Brush is picked up during the month of October. Please refer to the brush collection schedule on page 23. Brush left on the curb during the Leaf Collection Program will not be picked up by city crews. Please keep in mind that leaves are only collected during the fall of each year, as leaves will not be collected by city crews in the spring of the following year.

Bagged Leaves

If you prefer to bag your leaves to be picked up during the Fall Leaf Collection Program, please place them on the curb and call the Service Department at 330-678-8105 to request a bagged leaf pickup. The deadline for bagged leaf pickup requests is Friday, December 10th, 2021.

Leaf Drop Off

If you prefer to haul your own leaves, you may take them to the Yard Waste Transfer Site, located at the entrance to Plum Creek Park. Please remember to empty the bags and take them with you when dropping leaves at the site. Please check the City of Kent's website at www.kentohio.org for the current hours of operation for the YWTS or call the Service Department at 330-678-8105.

Please remember that the Leaf Collection Program ends December 10th, 2021 and the city will not pick up leaves after this date.

If you have any questions regarding leaf collection, please call the Service Department at 330-678-8105.

Fall 2021 Brush Collection Program

The City of Kent's Central Maintenance Division collects brush at the curb twice each year.

The 2021 Fall Brush Collection Program will commence Monday, September 27th, 2021.

ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE NORTHWEST SECTION MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2021

ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE SOUTHWEST SECTION MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2021

ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE SOUTHEAST SECTION MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2021

ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE NORTHEAST SECTION MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2021 TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2021

RESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE PLACE BRUSH AT THE CURB OR EDGE OF STREET BEFORE MONDAY OF THEIR STREET'S SCHEDULED WEEK TO ENSURE COLLECTION.

CREWS WILL MAKE ONLY ONE PASS DOWN EACH STREET DURING THE SCHEDULED WEEK.

Do not wait until later in the week to place your brush at the curb, as there will not be a second pass in your neighborhood. Chipping crews will spend a maximum of 30 minutes at each residence. Residents that miss the collection or have an excessive amount of brush will be responsible to dispose of the brush on their own. It may be taken to the city's Yard Waste Transfer Site located on Plum Street near the entrance to Plum Creek Park.

Placement of brush should be on the tree lawn and close to the curb or the edge of the pavement with the cut ends facing the street. If possible, leave the brush in longer lengths and brush that is too long may be placed lengthwise. Stacked brush must not block the sidewalk or extend onto or over the roadway pavement. Stacked brush containing foreign objects will not be collected. City crews will notify homeowners by placing a notice on their door for any piles of brush that are refused because it is not stacked properly or contains foreign debris. Once the pile of brush has been rejected, it must be corrected immediately or the removal will become the responsibility of the homeowner to dispose of.

If a commercial contractor has been hired to trim or remove trees, the contractor is responsible for the brush removal and it is not to be placed at the curb.

Please note the beginning date of the Brush Collection Program for your location and make sure to place brush to be chipped at the curb prior to the start date for your neighborhood.

Brush is collected at the curb during one week in each neighborhood during the spring and fall of each year. During the remaining months, residents can take brush to the City of Kent's Yard Waste Transfer Site on Plum Street near the entrance to Plum Creek Park. Please check the City of Kent's website at www.kentohio.org for the current hours of operation for the Yard Waste Transfer Site or call the Service Department at 330-678-8105.



NORTHWEST

Adamle Drive
Admore Drive
Adrian Drive
Allen Drive
Bruce Drive
Bryce Road & Way
Catlin Court
Chestnut Street, N
Clarkview Circle
Cottage Gate Drive
Crestview Circle
Cuyahoga St
(West of Hudson Rd)
Deleone Drive

Delores Drive
Earl Avenue
Edgewater Circle
Erin Drive
Evergreen Drive
Fairchild Avenue
Fieldstone Drive
Forest Drive
Gougler Avenue
Governors Circle
Harold Street
High Ridge Lane
Hollister Drive
Hudson Road

Kevin Drive
Lakewood Circle
Longcoy Avenue
Lowell Drive
Majors Lane
Mantua Street, N
(Main to Crain)
McKinney Boulevard
Michaels Drive
Nathan Drive
Naturewood Circle
Newcomer Road (East side only)
Nicholas Drive

Nottingham Circle
Park Avenue
Pearl Street, N
Phillip Drive
Pioneer Avenue
Prospect Street, N
Quay Boulevard
Randall Drive
Red Fern Circle
Robert Drive
Rockwell Street
Rollins Circle
Roy Marsh Drive
Shady Lakes Drive

Shorewood Circle
Stonewater Drive
Stinaff Street
(West of Hudson Rd)
Sunset Way
Circle & Blvd
Verona Avenue
Whetstone Drive
Whitewood Drive
Whittier Drive
Windward Lane
Woodard Avenue
Wrens Hollow Circle

SOUTHWEST

Ada Street
Akron Boulevard
Beech Street
Brentwood Drive
Carol Drive
Chelton Drive
Chestnut Street, S
Colleen Drive
Deidrick Road
Denise Drive
Elno Avenue
Emich Drive

Eton Road
Francis Street, N & S
Gale Drive
Gardenview Street
Garrett Street
Garth Drive
Gill Drive
Grove Avenue
Hampton Road
Hughes Drive
Irma Street
Janet Drive

Jessie Avenue
Judith Street
Laurel Drive
Lawrence Court
Leonard Boulevard
Longmere Drive
Louise Street
Lower Drive
Manchester Avenue
Mantua Street, S
Main Street, W
Marilyn Street

Meadow Drive
Meredith Street
Middlebury Road
Munroe Falls-Kent Road
Norwood Street
Overbrook Drive
Parmalee Street
Paulus Drive
Pearl Street, S
Prospect Street, S
River Street
Roosevelt Avenue

Sheri Drive
Short Street
Silver Meadows
Boulevard
Spaulding Drive
Stow Street
Sunrise Boulevard
Suzanne Drive
Tallmadge Avenue
VFW Parkway
Yacavona Drive

SOUTHEAST

Allerton Street
Artemis Drive
Athena Drive
Avondale Street
Beal Court
Benjamin Court
Berkeley Street
Beryl Drive
Bowman Drive
Burnett Road
(5439 only)

Cedar Street
Chadwick Road
Cherry Street
Currie Hall Parkway
DePeyster Street, S
Dodge Street
Elm Street, E & W
Franklin Avenue
Hall Street, E & W
Harris Street
High Street

Ivan Drive
Joyanne Court
Lincoln Street, S
Loop Road
Mae Street
Maple Street
Marigold Lane
Martinel Road
Meloy Road
Mogadore Road
Morris Road

Oak Street, E & W
Olympus Drive
Overholt Road
Pine Street
Primrose Lane
Rellim Drive
School Street, E & W
Shaw Drive
St. Clair Avenue
Statesman Place
Summit Street, E & W

Sunnybrook Road
Valleyview Street
Vine Street & Court
Walnut Street
Water Street, S
West Street
Williams Street, E & W
Willow Street Ext, S

NORTHEAST

Anna Avenue
Beechmont Place
Beechwold Drive
Birchwood Circle
Brady Street
Burns Court
Burr Oak Drive
Carthage Street
College Avenue, E & W
College Court
Columbus Street
Costley Court
Crain Avenue
Cuyahoga St
(East of Hudson Rd)
Dansel Street
Davey Avenue

Day Street, E & W
DePeyster Street, N
Dominion Drive
Doramor Street
Edgewood Drive
Elizabeth Court
Elmwood Drive
Erie Street, E & W
Fairview Drive
First Ave
(1600 block only)
Frances Drive
Gatun Street
Glad Boulevard
Graham Avenue
Grant Street, E & W
Harvey Street

Highland Avenue
Holly Drive
Horning Road
King Avenue
Lake Street
Lincoln Street, N
Linden Road
Lock Street
Luther Avenue
Main Street, E
Mantua Street, N
(North of Crain)
Marvin Street
Mason Avenue
Miller Avenue
Needham Avenue
Oakwood Drive

Orchard Street
Overlook Drive
Perry Street
Pleasant Avenue
Portage Street
River Bend Boulevard
River Edge Drive
River Park Drive
Riverside Court
River Trail Drive
Roscoe Drive
Rustic Bridge Drive
Rustic Knoll Drive
Sherman Street
Standing Rock Avenue
Starr Avenue
Steele Street

Stinaff Street
(East of Hudson Rd)
Temple Avenue
Tonkin Street
University Drive
Virginia Avenue
Walter Street
Water Street, N
Willow Street, N & S
Wilson Avenue
Wolcott Avenue
Woodhill Drive
Woodside Drive

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

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Kent, Ohio

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

