

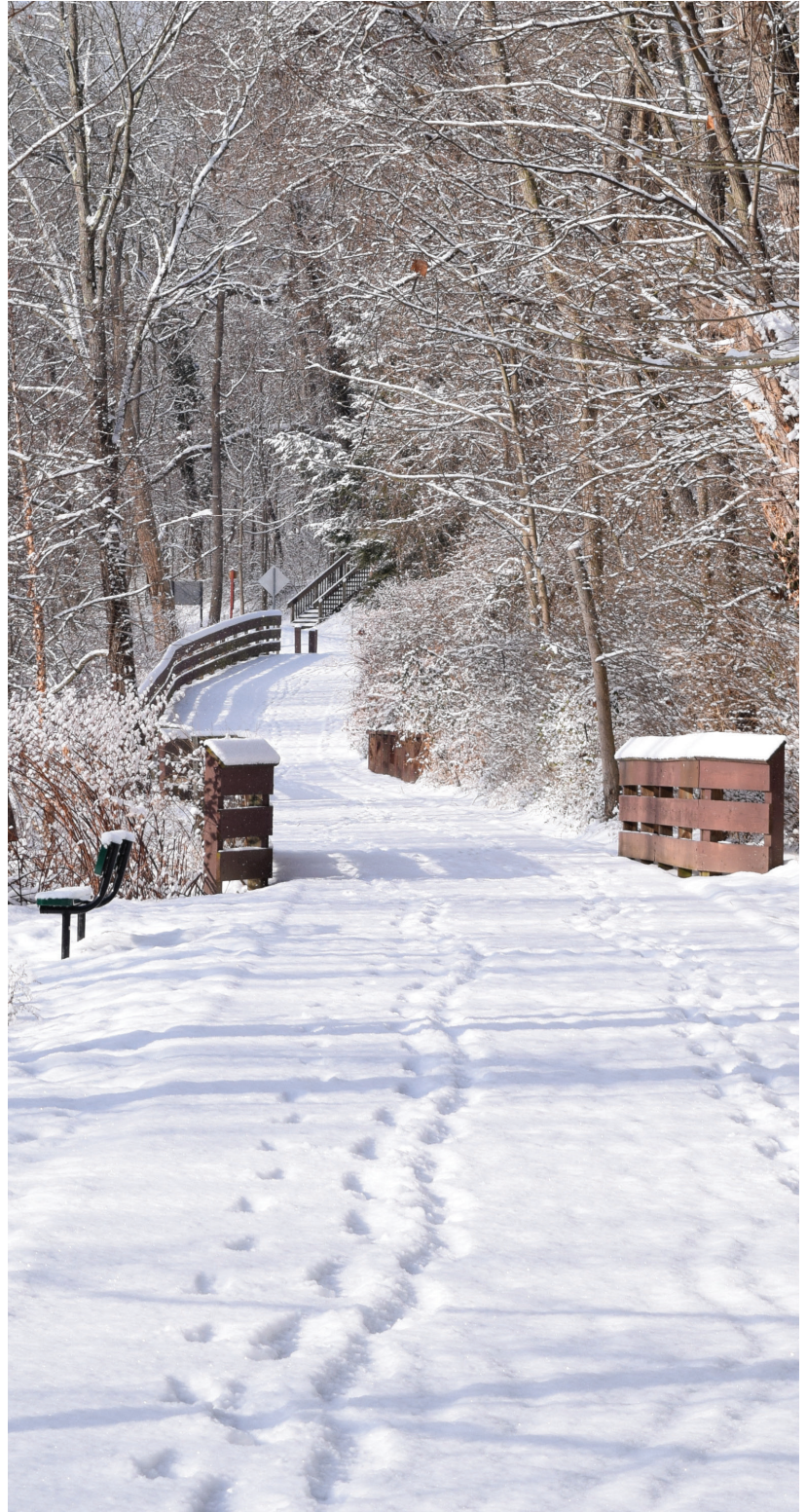


The **TREE CITY** Bulletin

VOLUME 25:4 – WINTER 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 – 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.



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. 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.**

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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 24, 2020 AT NOON.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION, CONTACT:
AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL (330) 676-7555 OR EMAIL:
councilclerk@kent-ohio.org



*Please Note: Publication was prior to our November appointments by Council.
Some vacancies may already be filled.*

FAIR HOUSING BOARD

Volunteer: Two (2) Vacancies. The Fair Housing Board shall consist of seven (7) members, appointed by Council, who shall be qualified electors of the City. Board members shall not hold any elected public office at the municipal, county, state or federal level at any time while a member of the Board and shall not be employed by the City, but he/she may be employed by the county, State or federal government. Any duly appointed Board member who is a candidate for any public office shall be automatically disqualified from further membership on the Board. TERM: Three (3) year term.

BOARD OF TAX REVIEW

Volunteer. One (1) vacancy. The Board of Tax Review shall consist of three (3) members. Two (2) members shall be appointed by the legislative authority of the City of Kent, Ohio, but such appointees may not be employees, elected officials, or contractors with the City of Kent, Ohio at any time during their term or in the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of appointment. One member shall be appointed by the City Manager of the City of Kent, Ohio. This member may be an employee of the City of Kent, Ohio, but may not be the director of finance or equivalent officer, or the Tax Administrator or other similar official or an employee directly involved in municipal tax matters, or any direct subordinate thereof. TERM: Three (3) year term.

LOAN REVIEW BOARD

Volunteer. Three (3) Vacancies – One for a local attorney, two for loan officers. 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. The program guidelines designated the creation of the five (5) member Board and specified that it consist of: a.) Three (3) experienced loan officers from different local banks; b.) One (1) local realtor who has knowledge of the commercial real estate market; c.) One (1) local attorney. TERM: Three (3) year term.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Volunteer Two (2) vacancies. The Board of Zoning Appeals consists of five (5) members appointed by City Council. All appointments are for three (3) years, and all appointees must be residents of the City of Kent. The Board of Zoning Appeals serves without compensation. TERM: Three (3) year term.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Volunteer: One (1) vacancy. The Kent Civil Service Commission prescribes, amends, and enforces rules for classification of positions in the civil service of the City government and the Kent City School District. These rules include matters such as examinations, resignations, appointments, promotions, removals, transfers, layoffs, suspensions, reductions and reinstatements. The Civil Service Commission is composed of three individuals that must be a resident of either Kent City or Franklin Township. TERM: Three (3) year term.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Volunteer. One (1) vacancy. Must be elector of the City. The board shall have a minimum of two (2) professionals practicing in one or more of the following fields: architecture, planning, landscape architecture, history or historic preservation, or urban design. TERM: Three (3) year term.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Volunteer. Two (2) vacancies. Must be a resident of the City and possess some technical knowledge and/or strong understanding of environmental issues. The Commission is responsible for the examination of the current and proposed policies and programs and shall make evaluations on their environmental impact as well as their effect on the livability and sustainability of the community. TERM: Three (3) year term.

DESIGN AND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Volunteer: One (1) vacancy. The members of the Committee on Design and Preservation shall have, to the highest extent possible, a demonstrated knowledge, experience, or interest in architecture and/or historic preservation. Members must possess a determination to work for the overall improvement of the quality of the physical environment of the City. The Committee members should include, if at all possible, the following: one downtown building owner and two (2) members of the community who are preservation-related professionals such as architects, historians or planners with interest in preserving the historic integrity of the City. Any Committee member may possess one or more of these qualifications at the same time. (3) The members of the Committee shall be City residents, property owners, or business owners; however, it is recognized that it may not be possible to find residents who possess the other qualifications. TERM: Three (3) year term.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Volunteer. Two (2) vacancies. The Planning Commission shall consist of five (5) residents of the City appointed by Council who shall serve without compensation. The Planning Commission shall adopt such rules and requirements for plats and the laying out of allotments as is deemed necessary and advisable, subject to Council approval. TERM: Five (5) year term.

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 provide relief due to unique circumstances which reduce the burden of operating, constructing, repairing and maintaining the stormwater utility system. TERM: Three (3) year term.

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2020...What a Year

By Dave Ruller, Kent City Manager

Normally I have no desire to hurry time along but for 2020 I'd be willing to make an exception. Granted there's no guarantees that 2021 will be better but just the thought of turning the page on the calendar feels hopeful right now.

After months of weekly meetings reviewing infection rates, death tolls, job losses, and

business closings, hope has taken a beating in 2020. In the spirit of renewed hope heading into 2021, I thought the holiday edition of the Tree City Bulletin would be a good place to try to spread some positive news that may not get as many headlines, but should.

In the midst of the many crises faced in 2020, acts of kindness stood tall. I'm pleased that City services played a role in that, proving resilient enough to navigate the trials and tribulations of the year to keep you safe—and hopefully as sane as possible. I can't imagine a time when 911 calls were ever more important, City parks were brimming with walkers, closing downtown streets proved a popular choice for extra social distancing, the new DORA and small business grant funds helped businesses survive, and customer payment plans were started to ensure water and sewer services were not interrupted due to household cash flow problems.

No doubt those City service modifications helped folks hang on but I've been even more impressed by the many extracurricular efforts led by Kent Police Officers, Firefighters, Service Workers, Dispatchers, Water Plant Operators, Lab Technicians, Finance Clerks, Code Officers, etc., all of whom have made caring for people in Kent their life's work—before, during and after hours. Charitable giving and volunteerism is nothing new in Kent—frankly it's a point of community pride—and as the storm clouds of COVID19 gathered, Kent's points of light shined brighter than ever. People helping people all over town and I'm proud that Kent's employees were part of those efforts.

Hopefully you're familiar with your regular City services but it's even hard for me to keep up with the constant special collection or donation programs organized by City employees all year long. At the risk of missing many, I wanted to give you a flavor for the community giving programs that City employees organize, lead and contribute towards that make a difference in people's lives beyond conventional City services.

Here's a snapshot of some of my favorite City employee led charitable efforts:

- Employees at the Water Treatment Plant arrange a citywide collection of needed items for Freedom House and Veterans of

Portage County around Veterans Day and Memorial Day;

- City employees hold food and school supplies drives to support families who rely on Family and Community Services;
- Kent Police arrange a "fill-a-cruiser" event around the holidays to collect toys, gifts, and items in need by local families;
- Kent Police provide a college scholarship for a Kent Roosevelt High School student each year;
- Kent Police sponsor the Susan K. Graves Breast Cancer Memorial Fund and Daniel J. Marino Cancer Fund featuring a month long "no shave" fund raiser, baked goods sale, mourning bands and t-shirt sale, and a raffle to raise money for cancer awareness and provide direct financial support for families impacted by cancer. Last year they raised \$10,000 that went to nine families.
- Kent Fire partners with the Ben Curtis Foundation to host a fundraiser at Water Street Tavern;
- Kent Fire employees participate in the annual "Polar Plunge" to fundraise for local charitable needs;
- Kent Fire provides a Roosevelt High School student with a college scholarship;
- Kent Fire supports the Academy of Life and Learning, offering area youth with life skills, tutoring, etc.;
- City employees have raised donations in response to local family tragedies, like house fires, to help the families get back on their feet (and kids toys to play with);
- Service Department employees partner with Kent Social Services and the Ben Curtis Family Foundation to "adopt" children and families over the holidays to supply needed family items and gifts;
- City employees participate in local service clubs donation drives, such as the Lion's Club carnation drive for hearing and eye programs.
- A surprising number of City employees partner with local groups such as 4H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other social organizations to respond to specific local needs.



Like so many of the things that make Kent a special place, it is the little things that often go unnoticed that reflect the best of the City organization and illustrate the big heart of the Kent community and its employees.

Please know that this holiday season City employees will be busy answering 911 calls, patrolling City streets, fixing water main

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Main Street Kent Update

At Main Street Kent, we're working to support our downtown businesses and our community during these difficult times. As we look toward 2021, we're hopeful that we'll be able to bring fun events and community gatherings back to our downtown. In the meantime, we're focused on bringing positivity to our community and small businesses through public art projects and local promotions. Now more than ever, we need our local community to stay healthy and support our local businesses!

In September, the Main Street Kent Design Committee worked with local artist Jerrica Damask to create the "Better Days in Kent, OH" mural, a temporary art installation located near The Mill on N. Water St. On a sunny Saturday afternoon, members of the community stopped by the 8' x 8' wooden "canvas" to contribute to the outlined design. The result was beautiful, and it was so nice to see all ages come together (with masks and distancing, of course) to create this special piece.



We're also working on a mural project for the Hall-Green Insurance building on Depeyster St., with its back facing N. Water St. The "GROW" mural will be installed in phases, beginning this fall. Keep an eye out for this artwork created by Kelly Dietrick, local artist and owner of Trop-pus Projects.



The Main Street Kent Business Enhancement Committee continues to roll out promotions encouraging locals to support our local businesses. Ceramic coffee mugs and gift cards have been awarded to people who support local, and more plans are in the works for the days leading up to the holidays, so stay tuned so you don't miss out!

<https://www.mainstreetkent.org/kent-up-close/support-our-locals/>



Small Business Saturday - Nov. 28

The weekend after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping time of year, so please keep your shopping dollars local! Here are seven excellent reasons to do so:

1. Cultivates local character and prosperity - helps unique, diverse businesses thrive!
2. Fosters community well-being.
3. Local ownership means local decision making.
4. Keeps your money in the local economy, supporting local jobs, funding local services.
5. Helps create more local jobs for your community.
6. Fosters economic innovation - entrepreneurship!
7. Reduces environmental impact - sustains vibrant, compact, walkable downtowns, reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss and pollution.

Be sure to check the Main Street Kent website www.mainstreetkent.org and social media for regular updates, because life as we know it is changing rapidly! For up-to-date information about downtown businesses, things to do, community news, and special events, subscribe to our every-other-week newsletter at mainstreetkent.org/newsletter

Community Development FURNACE REPLACEMENT & HOT WATER TANK REPLACEMENT

FREE to qualifying households

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

This program provides:

1) 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 reduce the impact on the environment.**

The Community Action Council of Portage County operates this program through a grant from the City of Kent Community Development Department. Licensed heating and plumbing contractors obtain permits and inspections issued by the City of Kent Building Department. In order to qualify for the program, you must (1) own and occupy your single family home, (2) meet low-to-moderate income guidelines, and (3) complete the application and provide all required documentation. Elderly applicants, disabled applicants, and families with minor children are given priority. The program is designed to offer a one-time service. To obtain additional information and an application, contact Gloria Haven via email: ghaven@cacportage.net or telephone: 330-297-1456, Ext. 229; Holly Newlove via email: hnewlove@cacportage.net or telephone: 330-297-1456, Ext. 269; Kayla Prisby via email: kprisby@cacportage.net or telephone: 330-297-1456, Ext. 258, or visit our website on-line at www.cacportage.net, or stop by in person at Community Action Council, 1036 W. Main St. in Ravenna, open 8-4:30.



Continued from page 4, Main Street Kent Update

breaks, and plowing City streets on City time—and answering the community calls for charitable donations on their time.

If there's a silver lining to 2020, it's that helping others in need has never felt better.

In case it's not obvious, buying local has never been more important. We did a little homework and the City spends roughly \$500,000 a year on products and services based in Kent. Every dollar counts and we'll keep pushing to invest in our hometown businesses as much as we can. Please join us in that effort.

It's been hard to watch some of Kent's small businesses close their doors but thankfully many shop owners took advantage of the Covid-19 relief funds in order to survive another day. We reached out to local banks who distributed relief funds and the level of participation by Kent businesses was encouraging:

- 48 large loans totaling \$26 million affecting 2,107 jobs
- 361 small loans totaling \$13,990,362 affecting 2,507 jobs
- 410 overall loans totaling \$39,990,362 affecting 4,614 jobs

Let's hope the results are equally encouraging.

The pandemic has been a tumultuous time but it also makes this a perfect time to reflect on what matters most to us in Kent, what we can't wait to get back to doing, and what we aspire for Kent's future. Hopefully we can use this health crisis as a chance to come up with the priorities that we all think will matter most in the years to come for everyone in Kent.

A group of residents have been volunteering their time for over a year to plan for the roll-out a Community Heart & Soul project in Kent that is intended to set those priorities. The output of the project will feed directly into the City's update of the Kent Bicentennial Plan which was the source of great projects like the downtown revitalization so your input can be very meaningful.

You can find more information about the Heart & Soul project and how to participate on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kentheartandsoul/>

Stay well.





Concealed Carry vs. Open Carry (Firearms)

By Sgt. Jared Bowen, Kent Police Department

These two topics have come up a lot more within the last few years during my conversations with citizens. With an increase in popularity in citizens obtaining concealed carry permits, (CCW) it is important to know the difference between these two methods of carrying a firearm. I personally have fielded many questions recently from citizens about the legality of carrying a firearm in public and how to go about it safely and lawfully.

Open Carry

Carrying a firearm openly, meaning not concealed and clearly visible to others is legal in many areas open to the public. This method does not require any type of permit. There are however many exceptions to this for which you must take into account if you plan on openly carrying a firearm. You may not carry a firearm, in any manner (openly or concealed) onto any private property or business that has signage posted prohibiting the carrying of firearms onto their property or within their business. These signs are often posted in the windows or on the doors of private businesses, visible prior to entering the establishment. It is important to keep an eye out for these signs when entering a privately owned location as a violation of this could result in criminal charges. If you decide to openly carry a firearm, especially around others, it is important that your firearm is well secured on your person. I would also strongly recommend that you are well trained and proficient with the use of and retention of your firearm.

Concealed Carry

Concealed carry of firearm, meaning hidden/concealed on your person and not visible to others does require a valid CCW permit if you intend to carry your firearm in a public place or a private place open to the public. Even with a CCW permit, you are prohibited from carrying a firearm onto private property open to the public (restaurant, convenience store, doctor's office, etc.) if signage is posted prohibiting firearms at said location. Another important note about concealed carry is that Ohio law currently

allows a valid CCW permit holder to carry their firearm concealed inside of a liquor establishment (bar) as long as the permit holder is not consuming alcohol and is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Guns paired with alcohol and or drugs creates an unsafe situation. The Kent Police Dept. has had numerous incidents where valid CCW permit holders have faced criminal charges and loss of their permit because they chose to consume alcohol, often to the level of intoxication, while carrying a firearm. This practice is extremely unsafe and irresponsible.

In order to obtain a CCW permit, you must lawfully be able to own/possess a firearm and attend/pass a firearms training course that is approved by the Sheriff in the county for which you intend to apply for your concealed carry permit.

People have often asked me about how they can legally carry a firearm in their vehicle. If you have a valid CCW permit, you may transport your concealed carry weapon (even while loaded) on your person or in your vehicle with you. If you do not possess a valid CCW permit, you must transport your firearm (if loaded) in a way that prevents you or any of your passengers from accessing it without having to leave the vehicle (an example would be transporting it in your trunk.) In the case of an unloaded firearm, you may transport that with you inside of the vehicle as long as you do not have access to ammunition while you are inside of or operating the vehicle. An example would be transporting your unloaded firearm in the glove box and keeping your ammunition in the trunk.

I hope this information helps to clarify the difference between these two methods of carrying or transporting your firearms. The information provided was based on some of the most common questions that I have been asked in relation to this topic over the past several years.

If you have questions about how you can legally carry or transport your firearms, I would encourage you to refer to Ohio Revised Code sections 2923.12 and 2923.16. You may also contact me directly at the Kent Police Department 330-678-8100 (Ext. 7514).

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Economic Development Locals Love Local

By Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director

(First, let me acknowledge that I am shamelessly stealing the Locals Love Locals slogan from Main Street Kent because it epitomizes one aspect of Kent that is so special.)

Besides residents who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, probably the Kent constituents that have been hit the hardest are our locally owned small businesses. By their very nature, these small businesses run on very tight profit margins that provide little cushion when adverse circumstances negatively impact their revenue. I think it is safe to say that the pandemic has been an extraordinary adverse circumstance that has had an unprecedented impact on many sectors of business particularly the hospitality industry. Restaurant, bars, small retail stores and hotels have struggled to remain open as the pandemic approaches nine months in duration with no certainty as to when it's going to end.

If you been out and about the City over the past few months, you have probably noticed that most of the businesses have adapted their business models and began offering delivery options, curbside pick-up and modifying their interiors to allow for appropriate distancing between parties of customers. Many have also either expanded an existing patio or added a patio to allow for more outdoor seating. In other words, our local business owners have been smart about providing safe options for residents to continue to patronize their establishments. Additionally, the City partnered with Main Street Kent and other downtown business leaders to create the DORA to allow alcoholic beverages to be consumed outside in our downtown business district. The City also purchased (using CARES money) a number of picnic tables that were distributed throughout downtown throughout the week and on weekends, they were consolidated on Franklin Avenue and East Erie Street to provide for more outdoor dining option.

All of these efforts by the business owners, the City, Main Street Kent and other business leaders have helped and as I write this article we have had minimal business closures so far due to the pandemic. However my concern, which is shared by many, is that most of these measures helped because they were implemented during warm weather months and that has likely changed by the time you read this article.

What I would like to ask of you as a Kent resident is to go out of your way to continue to support our locally owned businesses even as colder weather arrives and makes that less convenient. As mentioned earlier, many of our businesses offer delivery and curbside pick-up and if you haven't heard, you can order up to two alcoholic beverages with each to go dinner. Also, most of our local retailers have expanded their on-line presence and product can be purchased and picked up curbside or delivered to your home.



I don't think it's an exaggeration to say this coming winter is a make or break time period for many of our local small businesses and they need all our help to survive and make it to the spring when the warm weather measures mentioned above can again begin to help their revenue. Now, more than ever, we need to embrace the concept that Locals Love Locals (even when it's cold outside!).

Winter Fire Safety

By Lt. Shawn M. Baynes, Kent Fire Department

Today there are several options for heating homes. Some of these methods have inherent dangers and have been the cause of many house fires. Kerosene heaters for example have caused many fires. If you do use them, always make sure they are in good working order before it gets cold. Secondly, with any appliance that has a flame you must have good ventilation and a source of fresh air for the appliance work properly. Then it is also a must to have working CO detectors in case the unit develops a problem. When refueling the heater it should be cool and done outdoors. Always use the correct fuel that the appliance was designed to use.

Wood stoves are another economic way to heat your home. The chimney should be cleaned and inspected for cracks or other damage prior to use. It is important to have the correct ventilation. It's also important not to make the fire too large as this could cause creosote to catch fire inside the chimney. Ways to help reduce creosote buildup are:

- Using seasoned and dry wood
- Keeping the damper opened to the maximum width
- Burning hot fires twice a day for 15-30 minutes also helps reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- The chimney should be cleaned and inspected regularly by a professional.

Open flames from fireplaces may also be dangerous. You should also keep combustibles 36" away from the fireplace. You should always keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fire to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out. Finally, the damper should never be closed when there are hot ashes still in the fire place.

Your furnace should also be inspected prior to being turned on. All of the shut offs and furnace controls should be in good working order. The flue pipe should be in good condition and clear of obstructions and snow. The flue connections should be checked. Soot is an indication of air leaking and possibly CO as well. As with other types of heating devices, combustibles should be kept clear. Any repairs to any furnace or heating appliance should be done by a qualified professional.

A few other tips for a safe winter. If you must use extension cords with a heating appliance make sure it is the same size as the appliance factory cord and rated to carry the amp load. Heating appliances should also have tip over protection, especially with animals or kids in the home. The oven or range should never be used to supplement the furnace. If your pipes freeze never try to defrost them with a torch. Make sure all of your windows open easily so that if a fire occurs, you are able to escape. This should be practiced and escape ladders are recommended.

Keeping your drive clear of snow and ice is also a big help if EMS or Fire units are called to your home. Fire hydrants near or on your property should also be kept clear of snow, as this helps us locate and use them much faster.



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CARES ACT FUNDING

By Kathy Petsko,
Grants & Neighborhood
Programs Coordinator

The City of Kent received a supplemental allocation of \$178,696.00 in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds will be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. The City has entered into an agreement with the nonprofit agency, Family & Community Services, to provide the following needed services in the Kent community:

- Meal delivery for individuals who are COVID-19 positive or in a CDC designated high-risk group;
- Facilities sanitation for buildings that provide supportive services for those in need, including at Kent Social Services Food Pantry, Miller Emergency Homeless Shelter, Freedom House Veterans Emergency Shelter, and Safer Futures Domestic Violence Shelter;
- The acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment for staff providing direct service delivery in the community for the various supportive service programs;
- Provision of additional perishable goods to support the increased demand at the Kent Social Services Food Pantry due to COVID-19.

CARES funds also have been allocated to the establishment of a Small Business Assistance Program through the City of Kent Community Development Department to aid small businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

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.

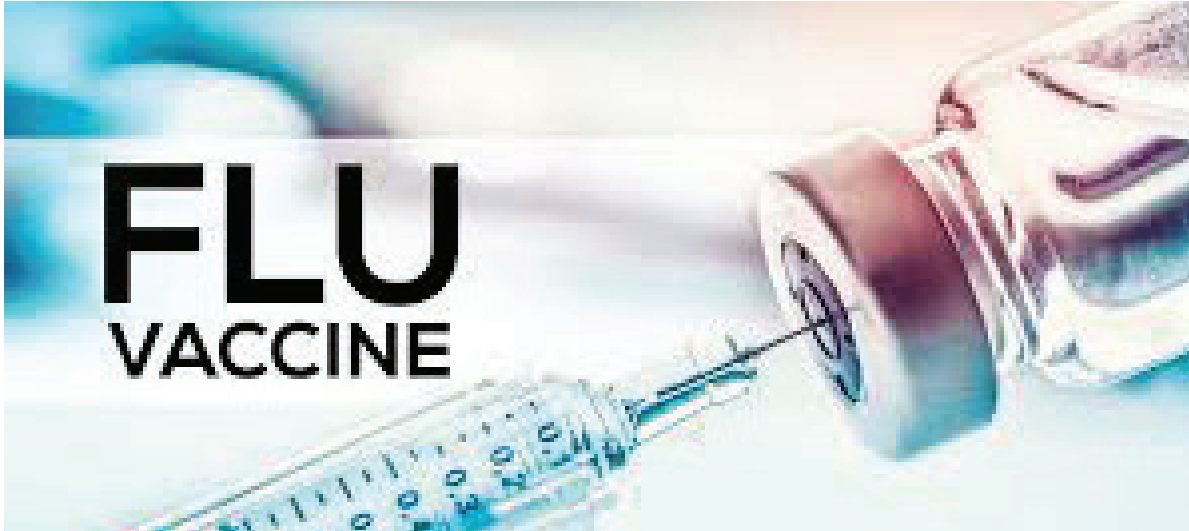


The homeowner would simply need to fill out a form and provide proof of income and age or disability to our office and the discount would be applied to the next bill. Call 330-678-8104 for more information.

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Health Department

By Joan Sidel, Health Director



The days are growing shorter and the leaves are turning colors which means flu season cannot be too far behind. We never know when influenza season will arrive. The Influenza virus circulates year-round, but is typically highest in the Winter. The past few years flu has started earlier or run later than expected. However, this year we are certain, you do not want to miss your opportunity to get the protection a flu vaccine offers. Flu vaccine is not 100% effective, but it still offers good, safe, protection and if you should get catch flu, your case may not be as severe as if you did not get flu vaccine.

We are hopeful that all we are doing to prevent COVID-19 from spreading will also help to keep this a mild flu season too. We look to the Southern hemisphere to gauge how our flu season might be. They have flu season when we are in Summer. Their flu season has been lighter. Aside from COVID -19 safety practices helping out, it is also thought perhaps the lack of travel to the Southern hemisphere has been beneficial in preventing spread as well. We can hope, but we cannot guarantee. You can never count on being free of flu, even in a mild season.

COVID- 19 certainly compounds the flu season this year. With similar symptoms and no COVID -19 vaccine out yet, it will make flu season murky. A combination of Flu and COVID-19 being in the community together is not very appealing, but we can prepare by doing what we can. Continue to wear your mask when out of your home, keep your hands away from your

face, stay home if you are ill, stay away from people who are ill, continue to keep your distance, wash your hands frequently or use alcohol hand rub. The best thing you can do to prevent flu is to take a flu vaccine every year. Flu vaccine only protects against flu, it will

not prevent COVID-19. But by taking your flu shot now it will help clear a space for when COVID-19 vaccine is available. The more of us get our flu vaccine now we allow healthcare workers to focus on COVID -19 vaccine because the majority of us will be vaccinated against flu. Flu vaccine lasts for more than a couple of months, so taking it now will still provide protection in the months ahead.

Since we do not know how our flu season will be it is better to be protected. Do not miss the opportunity to take your flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is available in most physician offices, at many drug stores, grocery stores, and other retail establishments which have a pharmacy. There are many types of flu vaccine. There is a high dose for those over 65 years of age, there is an egg free vaccine for those allergic to eggs, a needle free nasal spray and regular flu vaccine. Some flu vaccine will have 4 different strains of the most common circulating flu viruses (2 A strains and 2 B strains) while another will have only two A and one B strain. Not every flu vaccine is for everybody, check with your physician for which one is best for you. People living with diabetes, women who are pregnant, children requiring daily doses of aspirin, those under 2 years of age or over 50 years of age should avoid the nasal spray. Those mature citizens whose immune system is not as responsive as it once was might consider getting high dose. In most people flu vaccine will take up to two weeks to reach full affect in your body so if you have not had your flu shot yet, make plans to get one very soon!

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City of Kent Health Department - We've Moved!

The Kent City Health Department has completed our move to the Kent Central Gateway. Even during a pandemic, we were able to successfully move our operations to our new location. You can now find us on the second (2nd) floor at 210 East Erie Street. We are not opened for walk in service yet. We hope to have our COVID Safety Practices fully implemented soon. In the meanwhile, we can meet your needs through our website, email, regular mail, and by telephone. Many have found emailing us to be very easy and efficient. When coming to the Health Department we are most easily accessed from the Southwest corner of the building on East Erie and South DePeyster Streets. There is an elevator or stairs that will take you to our new front door on the second floor. We offer 30-minute free parking on the fourth level of the parking deck and there is also metered parking on East Erie Street. We are also conveniently located on the PARTA bus line. We look forward to serving you from our new location.



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>



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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 3 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

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>

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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>.



PulsePoint empowers everyday citizens to provide lifesaving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Download PulsePoint: <https://www.pulsepoint.org/download>

Visit the City of Kent's new website!



<https://www.kentohio.org>

Can't find what you're looking for?

Try our search feature in the top right section of the home page.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

TREE CITY TURKEY TROT:

Begin Thanksgiving morning with an outdoor run! This year will be slightly different from years past due to Covid. Three different start times with 100 runners per time slot will provide safer conditions. There will be no day-of-race registration permitted. Details on packet pick-up will be emailed the Monday before the race. Spectators must practice social distancing and wear masks. There will be no awards ceremony; runners are asked to leave immediately following the race. Awards will be mailed to the winners and times posted on the KPR website by Friday, November 27th. For more information, call 330-673-8897.

WHEN: Thursday, November 26 at
8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
WHERE: Fred Fuller Park (497 Middlebury Rd.)
WHO: All age groups welcome
COST: Includes Race Tritan Water Bottle!
\$30 resident; \$38 non resident
DEADLINE: Register online at www.kentparksandrec.com
by November 20; Maximum 100 runners per time slot



KENT P&R FITNESS CENTER

“ON TARGET” FENCING: Learn fencing from head coach Tom Nagy! Classes will focus on techniques with footwork, skills specific to each class level, and bouting practice. 6 week session.

WHEN: Saturdays, Nov 14 - Dec 19;
Beginners from 2:30-4 p.m. Intermediate 4 -5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Kent P&R Fitness Center
WHO: 8 yrs. to adults
COST: \$80 resident; \$88 non resident
DEADLINE: Thursday, November 12

Join the Kent P&R Fitness Center!

Improve your lifestyle with fitness classes, exercise equipment, and personal training!
\$10 GYM MEMBERSHIP plus fitness class options. NO CONTRACTS. NO INITIATION FEES.

Enjoy the use of: Treadmills, Elliptical Machines, Recumbent Bikes, Free Weights, Hoist Strength Machines, Dumbbells, Kettle Bells, Squat Rack, Medicine Balls and more!

Try our classes to find your new favorite: Zumba, Zumba Toning, Circuit Training, Senior Strength, Tabata Hiit, Yoga, Tai Chi, Stroller Strides and more!

Take a tour and sign up at Kent P&R Fitness Center: 1205 W Main St.

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

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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 material 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

The City of Kent Yard Waste Regulations

Transfer Site is available to all Kent residents and monitored by City staff and 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.

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



Haymaker Farmers' Market – Downtown Kent **Please refer to the website (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 trucks, 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 \$10 Produce Perks match for SNAP customers for the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables. 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.

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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 _____

Deer Management Options within the City of Kent

By Melanie Baker, Service Director

Deer hunting and management is permitted, contained and regulated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. There are several types of deer management options available to the public. They range from non-lethal such as devices and techniques designed to scare intruders to lethal measures which would include hunting.

Deer hunting is regulated by the State of Ohio by dates, times, and types of deer (antler and antlerless) that can be hunted. Permits are required and must be purchased prior to hunting season. While hunting with a firearm, bow or muzzleloader is permitted by the State of Ohio, The City of Kent prohibits hunting of any kind under section 505.11 Hunting Prohibited: Excepted Areas. The code specifically says the hunting of animals or fowl are prohibited. No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of firearms or any other means, unless the person is performing a valid and authorized law enforcement function. As well, Section 549.12 and 549.20 of the codified ordinances of the City of Kent also prohibit the firing or discharging of a fire arm or bow.

With that being said the following are some recommendations for helping control deer in your back yard. First and foremost, one should never approach a wild animal no matter how tame or safe the animal seems. Wild animals are just that, wild animals, and they use their instincts for survival. Approaching a wild animal who is injured or seemingly injured or a fawn that appears to be separated from their mother, could result in you getting hurt or further injury to the animal. Calling the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or local law enforcement, who can better assess the situation, is a safer option and assurance that the animal and situation will be addressed properly.

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife has several web pages to visit in order to learn the different techniques that can be used to manage deer. These pages will be listed at the end.

One such site describes 3 different types of non-lethal measures of control. They consist of devices or techniques to scare the intruders, physical barriers to prevent entry, and chemical repellants. The most appropriate technique will be determined on the kind of damage or issue being experienced by the home owner.

Scare Techniques

Scare Techniques can be used in small residential back yards or implemented in large fields with crops. The most common back yard usage of scare techniques are to use streamers, flags, aluminum pie pans or devices that move in the breeze or throws a reflection. These types of items are helpful for a short period of time as deer will become use to their presence, and will no longer be skittish or deterred, unless the devices are moved frequently, every 3 to 5 days or so. These techniques work best if the damage to back yard plants and gardens are minimal and sporadic. Additionally, if one adds sounds such as banging of pans or small popping sounds, the deterrent is greater due to both visual and hearing prompts to the deer.



Family guard dogs can also be a deterrent by their barking and presence in the yard. As a reminder though the City of Kent does have an ordinance 505.01 which prohibits animals from running at large and sections 505.09 which prohibits habitual barking, howling and yelping.

Physical Barriers

Properly constructed barriers or fences can be effective but costly. Depending on the type and amount of damage due to the deer, these physical barriers are good options but are hard to install and could be against zoning codes depending on location and height of the fencing.

For smaller tree / shrub or garden type damage, fencing can be an effective deterrent. Typical height of a fence made of woven wire around a tree / shrub or garden should be between 6 and 8 feet tall to be effective. The woven wire fencing is easy to install and can last for years.

A polypropylene mesh grid deer netting fence can be staked around a garden, too. This fence is a little more labor intensive for install and a bit costlier, this fencing is also 6 to 8 feet tall.

A solid fence or board on board fence can be used as well. This type of fencing may require a zoning permit depending on height, location, and size. This fence would also need to be the 6 to 8 foot high to be effective and can affect the garden with shade and less sunlight. So size and location of the fence in reference to the garden are key. Residents should check with Community Development for regulations on fencing of this type and purpose.

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Other types of fencing are electric fencing. This can range from single strand to as many as 5 strands of electric. With these types of fences the deer receives a noticeable jolt of electric which deters them from continuing to pursue that area for food. The key to these fences are location, height and problem of deer damage. Electric will need to be provided and may require a permit to install.

Chemical Repellants

Chemical repellants vary and act on the deer's senses of smell and taste to reduce rather than prevent or eliminate damage. Repellants range from homemade items such as soap, tankage or human hair, to certain plants that emit odors or have an offensive taste to the deer, to commercial preparations that impart an odor or foul taste. These chemical repellants can either be sprayed around or on the plant, or in some cases be hung or placed on the ground around the plant life.

Great care needs to be taken with chemical applications especially if the product will be sprayed on or near plants that produce fruit for human consumption. Manufacturer's directions for application or garden experts should be consulted prior to this use.

These repellants are effective but require reapplication from time to time depending on rain and weather. See the Deer Damage Control website below for specific list.

Plants and Shrubs

Finally, while changing out an entire landscape can be costly and labor intensive there are plants that are less attractive to deer and sustainable. Some examples of plants rarely or never eaten marigold, morning glory, begonia, parsley, chives, astilbe, shasta daisy, primrose lambs ear, violet, and several more. Some shrubs and trees that are less attractive or rarely damaged are barberry, boxwood, Colorado blue spruce, dogwood, Hawthorn, Norway spruce, Japanese flowering cherry and several more. See the Deer Damage Control website below for specific lists.

Should you have any more questions or concerns, please contact the City of Kent, Service Department 330-678-8105 or the Ohio Department of Wildlife District Office 330-644-2293.

Websites to visit for more information:

ODNR Technical Management Guide: Urban White Tailed Deer: <https://www.leapbio.org/content/5-resources/0-white-tailed-deer-management/oh-urban-deer-technical-guide.pdf>

Deer Damage Control:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/wildlife%20management/pub138.pdf>

Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2019-2020:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/hunting/2019-20%20Ohio%20Hunting%20&%20Trapping%20Regulations.pdf>

RESIDENTIAL CITYWIDE TRASH SERVICE PROVIDER

The City of Kent's residential trash hauler is Republic Services of Ohio Hauling, LLC

If you have any questions about your trash service or billing, please call

Republic Services at 1-800-247-3644. If Republic Services cannot resolve your problem please contact the City's Service Department at 330-678-8105.

RESIDENTIAL TRASH COLLECTION AND CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Holiday's observed-Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Memorial Day and July 4th. If your pickup day falls on or after the holiday Monday - Friday, your pickup that week will be one day late, with Friday picked up on Saturday. If the holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday your service will not be delayed and will be on your normal day.

Questions or concerns with your recycling service should be handled through the Portage County Solid Waste District at 330-678-8808.

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Division of Central Maintenance Snow Removal/ Anti-icing Procedure

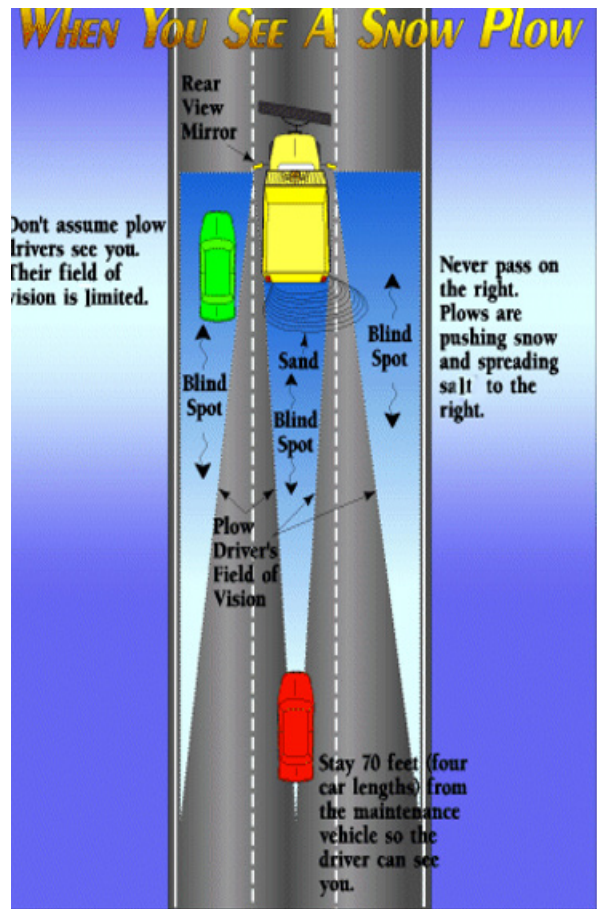
By Brad McKay, Facilities Manager

Summer is over and City crews are busy collecting leaves. Winter is on its way and Central Maintenance crews are working to prepare the snowplow equipment for the 2020-2021 winter months. An important part of this process is to inform residents of snow removal policies and procedures.

Prior to snow events brine can be applied to pre-treat road surfaces which results in a salt residue forming on the pavement. The salt residue helps prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. This gives Central Maintenance crews extra time to fight the storm efficiently. Since brine is applied prior to storm events and it can often be applied during regular hours. This can greatly reduce overtime costs and the amount of sodium chloride/rock salt that may be applied later.

The City can send out ten large plow trucks and four medium plow trucks with the capability of applying liquid anti-icing materials or sodium chloride (rock salt). The number of plow trucks sent out depends upon the severity of the storm. Since Ohio weather can be very unpredictable it is difficult to judge how many trucks to send out. We may send out more trucks than needed based on the forecast. When it is snowing constantly over a period of hours, we may not be able to keep ahead of the weather despite our best efforts.

Our plow drivers face the very difficult task of driving a 2 ½ ton dump truck with an 11 foot plow on the front and six tons of rock salt loaded in the back. The job becomes even more difficult at night and during times of heavy traffic. Please keep in mind that these trucks need a considerable amount of distance to stop and turn. Please give the driver the additional room needed to maneuver the truck. The driver is working to keep



the roads safe and drivable for you. We would also ask that when driving behind a City truck and plow, please maintain a distance of at least 70 feet from the rear of the truck. This safety zone will give the driver plenty of room for spreading salt and allow the driver to see you in his mirrors.

City streets are plowed on a priority basis. Priorities are bridges, hills, curves, school zones when school is in session, and main routes. Following is a brief explanation of the priorities.

Bridges - During a winter storm, bridges are the first to freeze, for two reasons: there is no heat from the ground underneath the road surface, and the wind blows across both the bottom and the top of the bridge.

Hills and Curves - Hills and curves present many opportunities to lose control of your vehicle during a snow or ice storm. We do our best to get to these roads promptly. Always slow down in these areas even when the road appears clear.

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School Zones - When school is in session the area around each school building (public and private) is made a priority each morning and afternoon so that buses and cars can travel safely as school begins and ends. We rely on the schools, to notify us when school is cancelled during a storm, so that we can use our resources elsewhere.

Main Routes - The next priority is main routes, like SR 43 and SR 59. These streets are used by more vehicles than secondary roads, and drivers on these roads tend to drive faster, even in winter conditions.

Secondary Streets and Cul-de-sacs - These streets will be plowed once the snow has ended and all of the above streets have been completed.

If you have any questions or comments about snow and ice removal, please call the Service Department at (330) 678-8105. We're here to make Kent a better place to live.

Keep Sidewalks Free of Ice and Snow

By Melanie Baker, Service Director

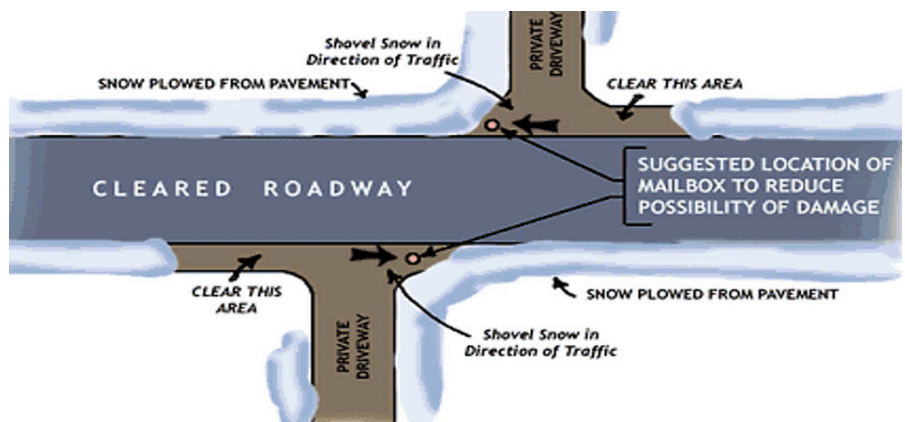
Kent City Ordinance 521.15 requires owners/occupants to remove snow and ice from sidewalks. But snow removal is more than just an ordinance. It is part of caring for each other within a community, and working together to provide safe, comfortable surroundings for ourselves and for our neighbors.

For the safety of all pedestrians, the City asks that everyone make an effort to clear sidewalks of snow and ice as soon as possible after a snowfall. There are many people in our community who must walk daily as a means of travel throughout the City, or as they perform their job functions. Postal carriers on daily routes, utility workers checking problems or verifying meters, students of all ages, and physically challenged individuals all rely on clean, clear sidewalks to ensure secure footing as they move about.

It is important that all residents and businesses be aware that when clearing sidewalks and driveways, it is illegal to push snow into the street and/or block the sidewalks. It is especially important to realize that if a contractor is hired for snow removal, keeping the sidewalk clear is the responsibility of both the contractor and the property owner.

Please take the time and do your part to remove snow and ice so that we can keep the winter season safe for everyone.

Clearing Snow From Your Driveway



The above sketch shows how your driveway can be initially cleared to reduce the possibility that after the plow passes you will be snow bound again. We suggest that you clear your driveway in the manner suggested in the sketch. If you will shovel snow in the direction of traffic, and make a pocket next to your driveway as shown, snow accumulation on the plow will drop into that pocket and only a bare minimum will go into the driveway opening.

Winter Storm Water Pollution Solutions

By Hallie Gardner, Engineering Aide

During the winter weather season, water pollution prevention is very critical as it brings significant pollution concerns to our streams and rivers. Snow banks and ice accumulate pollutants such as road salt, grime, dirt along with others throughout the winter. As the snow melts, these pollutants are washed into our storm water systems, streams and rivers causing significant amounts of pollution. As it is throughout the rest of the year, it is just as important to take steps to help reduce the amount of potential pollution sources during the winter months.



- **Minimize your salt application and/or consider alternative salting methods.** Road salt can be harmful to plants, aquatic life and drinking water supplies. Salt alternatives like potassium acetate (KA), calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), or sand are less damaging to homes and landscaping and can be used to de-ice and improve traction on a walkway or driveway. If you do apply salt, shovel first and apply as little as possible.
- **Reconsider rinsing your car and garage floor.** Rethink hosing off your car and garage floor to remove the salt and dreadful gray sludge that accumulates on them during the winter season. Residue left from road salt, oil, gas and other road pollutants drips from your car and ends up on the garage floor. Your garage runoff may likely drain into a storm sewer drain, ditch, stream or river. This means that you're flushing pollutants from your garage right into our streams and rivers. Taking your car to a commercial car wash where the drains flow to waste water treatment facilities is a far better alternative to reduce the impact of pollutants during the winter. Additionally, a clean car means a cleaner garage.
- **Watch your waste.** Picking up pet waste is just as important in the wintertime as it is in the warmer months. Animal waste from residential lawns and streets is a significant contributor to poor water quality in our streams and rivers. Cooler temperatures and frozen soil slow down the decay process. As the snow melts harmful bacteria and disease from the accumulated pet waste enters the storm sewer system and pollutes our waters.
- **Winterize your rain barrel.** Prior to the winter season it's best to disconnect your rain barrel and bring it inside somewhere warm and dry or turn it upside down. The freeze and thaw cycles during winter can cause cracks and damage your rain barrel and its fixtures. At that time, it is important to remember to reconnect your downspouts and/or redirect your rooftop drainage away from your foundation.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Christmas trees will be collected from January 4th through January 15th 2021.

Place your tree at the curb, separate from your other trash during this two week collection period. Please be sure to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags covering the tree. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Service Department at 330-678-8105.

Snow Plows and Mailboxes

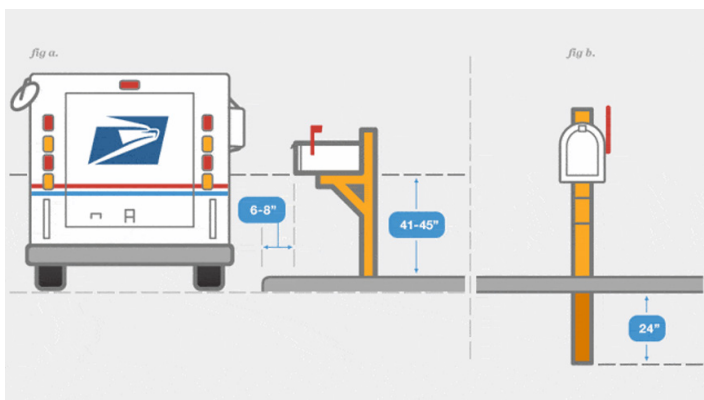
By Brad McKay, Facilities Manager

In extreme winter conditions, mailboxes can be damaged during snow removal. Often, damage to mailboxes is a result of the force of snow coming off a plow's blade, or the mailbox is installed too close to the roadway. Each situation is dependent upon weather conditions, amount of snowfall, and the weight of snow.

A City or private contractor's plow may accidentally hit and damage a mailbox. This is an unfortunate consequence of snow removal with heavy equipment in challenging weather conditions.

How can you determine how your mailbox was damaged? If a mailbox is pushed over and has no impact marks, it was probably knocked over by the weight of snow coming off a plow's blade. If the mailbox or post shows evidence of an impact, it may have been struck by a City, private contractor plow blade, or a passing vehicle.

If a City of Kent plow directly hits and damages a mailbox, the City will replace the mailbox with a standard issue black or silver metal box and a single 4x4 post. If you believe this has happened to your mailbox, please call the Service Department at 330-678-8105. If a mailbox is damaged from snow coming off a plow blade, the City will not replace the mailbox. The illustrations below show proper installation of a mailbox.



Shop Local ... Eat Local ... Park FREE!

For the sixth year in a row, Mayor Jerry Fiala has declared FREE, 2-hour parking on Friday, November 27th AND Thursday, 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, park **FREE** for 2 hours on Black Squirrel Friday and **SHOP and EAT LOCAL** this holiday season!



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

Presorted Standard
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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

