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THE VILLAGE CRIER

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The streetscape project is in its completion stage and should be done by the time you receive this newsletter. The DDA Board has met endless hours making decisions about this project and now it has become a reality. We hope you enjoy the new look of our downtown area and especially that the overhead wires are gone across the street. There will be a dedication during the Fall Festival on Saturday, September 8th at 34 S. Main Street at the new red pavilion. It will either be just before or after the parade. Everyone is welcome.

Election News

The State Primary election is August 7, 2012. Candidates for Federal, State, Judges, County and Local Offices will be on the ballot. The Presidential / State election is November 6th. These elections will be held at the Tyrone Township Hall. For further information, check with your township clerk, Shelley Worley, at 678-4779.

Talking Taxes with the Treasurer



This year's Village property tax bills

Were mailed out for delivery on July 1st, 2012 and are due by: **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2012.** Taxes can be paid at the Village Office during regular business hours or by mail. For your convenience, **we also have a payment drop box located in the front of the office for after hour's payments. The Village does not accept payment by debit or credit cards.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- When paying by mail, please enclose the bottom tear-off copy of your tax bill; payable to Kent City Village Treasurer
- If you want a receipt, you must enclose a self addressed stamped envelope.
- If you pay at the office by cash, **PLEASE HAVE EXACT CHANGE. We do not accept debit/credit cards.**
- All late payments made after September 14, 2012 will be assessed a late fee of 1% per month or any part of a month and will be turned over to the **Kent County Treasurer** for collection. You will need to call the office or the Kent County Treasurer for the exact amount due before mailing your check.
- Please check your tax bill carefully for any errors. Call the Village Office with any changes that need to be made – including name or mailing address.

Thank you,
Darrell Rotier, Village Treasurer



DPW Department



Sidewalk Information –

- Permits are required prior to repair of sidewalks. Please contact the Village Office @ 678-7232.
- Please do not park on or over sidewalks.

Sprinkler Heads –

If you have sprinkler heads near the edge of the street or sidewalk, please mark them and contact the Village Office to let us know where they are marked. The Village is not responsible for damage to sprinkler heads that are placed in the street right-of-way. There are maps in the Village office that show street right-of-way lines.

Yard Waste –

One of the services that the Village provides is pick up of brush and grass clippings. This does not include trees that you have taken down or major trimming. This spring there have been large piles of brush and tree limbs larger than 6 inches. The Village has a secured area where you can dump tree debris if you are doing major tree trimming or brush removal. Please call the Village Office to make arrangements to get in the fenced in area. For a complete copy of the Yard Waste Policy, visit the village's website or contact our office.

Trees & Safety

When planting trees, it is important to address safety issues that might occur with the location on your property. It is also important to know the location of your property lines. Consumers Energy will remove or trim trees that are located under their wires. Please do not plant trees under main power lines. A few guidelines are:

- Before planting in front yards, contact Village Office for right-of-way information.
- For underground utilities – contact MISS DIG @ 800-482-7171 three days prior to planting. This ensures underground utilities are marked for safety.

For more information go to: www.consumersenergy.com/forestry

Sewer Smoke Testing

This year the village will be smoke testing certain areas of the Village. The last one was done July, 2002. Why do a smoke test? It is one of the most efficient and cost effective ways to locate and identify infiltration problems. Letters will be sent out to residents prior to smoke testing. The smoke might be seen coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground. It is non-toxic, harmless and creates no fire hazard.

Notifications

The Advance is no longer circulated in the Village. Our publications are posted at the Post Office, Village Notice Board and Library. We are also using the River Valley News Shopper which is circulated in the Village free. If you are not receiving a copy, you can call 231-937-4740.

Kent City / Casnovia Historical Society

The Kent City/Casnovia Historical Society Museum at 43 S. Main St. is open monthly on the second Tuesday from 2:00-4:00 pm. If you would like to schedule an appointment, you can either call Maynard Klein @ 675-5421 or Ione Stark @ 678-7220.

Welcome to "The Zone"

Planning & Zoning News



Zoning Information for the Village...

Zoning information for the Village of Kent City can be received via our website @ www.kentcitymi.org or contact Tom Knauf, Zoning Administrator @ 616.678.7232.

Ordinance Reminders:

The Village has ordinances in effect for the following issues:

- *Grass & Weeds - Inoperable Vehicles - Trash & Junk -*
- *Parking on Streets or Village Lot - Snow Removal Streets & Sidewalks -*
- *Noise See page 4 for discharge of fireworks*

For complete ordinances contact the Village Office or check our website @ www.kentcitymi.org.

Permits Authorized By The Zoning Administrator:

Zoning Permits – are required prior to any form of construction or excavation.

Dwellings / Additions to existing structures
Swimming pools & hot tubs / Gazebos

Porches & decks / Sheds
Freestanding Antennas & towers

Zoning permits are also required prior to and for demolition or moving of a building larger than 200 sq. ft. in area. Applications are available by mail, e-mail or faxed through the Village Offices.

Building Permits – are needed prior to construction of most of the above structures. For questions on building codes or to obtain a building permit application contact:

Casey Patterson, Building Inspector, Tyrone Township Offices - Ph: (616)678-4779, 28 E. Muskegon St.

Fencing & Walls:



Permits are not required

to construct a fence or wall; however, they must comply with the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. The ordinance regulates the height and location of fences and walls. Barbed wire and above ground electrically charged wire are prohibited in residential districts.

A free, one-page information sheet is available at the Village Office or on the web site. We will mail or fax upon request.

Signs:



The Zoning Ordinance requires a Sign Permit for any sign placed or erected within the Village of Kent City, with a few exceptions. Prior to placing any signs within the Village, please contact the Zoning Administrator. Signs placed within the public right-of-way are routinely confiscated and held for 10 days unless prior permission by the Zoning Administrator has been granted for placement of the sign.

Kent City Planning & Development

The **Village Council** is always looking for people to help with the development of Kent City by serving on a commission or board. Please contact the Village Office for more information on these public bodies or to be considered for appointment to one. Letters of interest are kept on file. Candidates are appointed by the Village Council and may serve on one of the following:

Planning Commission-Composed of 7 members: Review & amendment of the Master Plan, review of Special Land Use requests, Site Plan review, Review of new residential subdivisions & planned unit developments, etc.

Board of Zoning Appeals-Composed of 5 members, plus 1 alternate: Hear & decide questions arising under the Zoning Ordinance. Requests for dimensional and/or use variances, & appeals concerning administrative decisions are typical items for this board to consider. The alternate position is vacant.

Board of Property Maintenance Appeals-Composed of 3 members, plus 1 alternate: Qualified by experience & training to pass on matters pertaining to property maintenance. As with all other boards, it is appointed by the village council and members serve staggered and overlapping terms.

Downtown Development Authority-

A 9-member board: Purpose is to promote economic growth & to maintain property values in the Downtown District. They also attempt to halt deterioration of property & encourage the upkeep of buildings & grounds.

Memorial Committee:

There is a Memorial Committee of three village residents. There is a site plan at the Village Office if you wish to stop in and see it. Memorial requests are brought before the Memorial Committee for approval.

Sewer System 3-1-2011/ 2-29-12

Operation, maintenance, replacement & Debt Retirement

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$ 21,146 Salary & Wages | \$ 9,264 Repair & Maintenance | \$ 3,405 Auditor |
| \$ 23,669 Professional Services | \$ 7,524 Insurance | \$ 0 Legal Counsel |
| \$ 2,623 Office Supplies & Postage | \$17,801 Utilities | \$ 1,175 Education/Training |
| \$117,611 Depreciation | \$ 170 Miscellaneous | |
| \$ 79,000 Bond Debt for Series 1998A & B issued 06/25/98 | | |
| \$ 74,175 Bond Interest & Fiscal charges | | |

Reminder: Quarterly sewer fees are billed the months of **March, June, September** and **December**.

Streets

This is a reminder to all village residents that the Michigan Vehicle Code #257.674 prohibits any parking in traffic lanes.

Michigan Fireworks Law - The Village does have a noise ordinance. Any discharge of fireworks on days other than permitted by the new State law, is subject to the penalties in the noise ordinance.

Special Services

Recycle for Tomorrow!

North Kent Recycle & Transfer Station is located @ 2908 Ten Mile Road in Rockford, Michigan. For a complete list, please stop by the Village Office or contact North Kent Recycle: 616-866-5070.



Green Valley Recycling & Disposal Waste Tags

Green Valley is the new residential waste hauler. Most residents have taken advantage of the recycling options. Bag tags can be purchased at the Village Office. Their contact information is (877) 977-3783 or service@gvds.biz if you have questions or concerns.

In January 2007 Public Act 480 of 2006, MCL 484.3301 et seq, the “Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act” took effect. The Michigan Public Service Commission is designated to implement the Act. If customers have complaints and cannot resolve video/cable problems with their suppliers, you can contact MPSC by the following means:

PH: (800) 292-9555
FX: (517) 241-2400

Mail: Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Video Franchising
6545 Mercantile Way
Lansing, MI 48909

Web: www.michigan.gov/mpsc

Rockford Ambulance – Heartsaver CPR & First Aid Combo course: \$50.00
- Heartsaver CPR: \$30.00

Location: Sparta, 4th Saturday each month
Enrollment Info: www.rockfordambulance.com or
Call Tracey @ (616) 863-8434 to enroll.



Looking for information? Check out these sites!

Village of Kent City: www.kentcitymi.org
Kent County: www.accessKent.com/services
MI Gov.: www.mi.gov Michigan DNR: www.mi.gov/dnr

Many events/activities are listed online through community websites.
We encourage you to take a moment and check them out.

Do you know about these services?

Notary Service – Village Clerk

Township Library – free computer use

Village General & Zoning Ordinances on the internet @ www.kentcitymi.org



Call the Kent County
Animal Shelter @ 616-336-3210 for details.



Purchase by mail: Kent County Animal Shelter, 711 Ball Ave., NE, G.R., MI 49503.

Online: www.accessKent.com

Cell Phone Number Go Public: call **888-382-1222** for the “National Do Not Call Registry”.

Calendar

Thursday, July 4th & 5thOffice is Closed
 Wednesday, October 31Halloween – Visit the Fire Dept. from 5-8 PM
 Sunday, November 4Daylight Savings
 Sunday, November 11.....Veteran’s Day Ceremony @ K.C.H.S.
 Thursday, November 22.....Thanksgiving Holiday
 Saturday, DecemberSanta Train @ Main Street
 December 24th & 25th Christmas Holiday – closed Dec. 26th
 January 1, 2012New Years Day Holiday

Village Officials:

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|---|--|--|---|
| <p><u>Village of Kent City</u> 83 Spring Street PO Box 296 Kent City, MI 49330 PH: 616.678.7232 FX: 616.678.4256 Web: www.kentcitymi.org</p> | <p>President: John Petruska Clerk: Mary Portell Treasurer: Darrell Rotier</p> | <p><u>Trustees:</u> Merry Barron Erik Bitely Steve Buckner Jill Krikke Thomas Pieper Rood Vaughan</p> | <p>DPW Manager: Steve Evink DPW Operator: Jay Pike Zoning Administrator: Tom Knauf Deputy Clerk: Jennifer August</p> |
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Kent City Fall Festival

The 2nd Saturday in September - September 8th is this year’s festival. For committee meeting dates, volunteer information or ideas, contact Mr. John Petruska @ 616-520-7128 or leave a message at the village office.

A list of some of this year’s scheduled events includes:

- Friday Night:** **Beer, Wine & Spirits Tent @ K. C. American Legion – Open To The Public**
- Saturday** **Breakfast @ High School – Lion’s Club**
- Car Show 10am-2pm, Leaver Park**
- Grand Parade – 11:00 am Main Street**
- Book Fair – K.C. Schools – see program for details**
- Casnovia – K.C. Historical Society – Quilt Raffle/Open House**
- Kid’s Street Fair - Noon**
- Tractor Pull (\$5.00 adults/ 12 & under free) starts at Noon, Entrance near fire barn**
- Beer, Wine & Spirits Tent @ KC American Legion – Open to the Public**
- Fireworks – Saturday night – Rain date Homecoming Night @ K.C.H.S. Football field**