



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"

# THE VILLAGE CRIER

Issue #15: Summer 2008

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## **Summer is Here!**



School is out once again and warm weather is here! But with gas prices on the rise families are finding ways to enjoy their summer closer to home and what better way to spend a nice afternoon than to visit our local parks. The village parks are available for family events, picnics or just to enjoy time with the kids. Our newest addition to check out is in Ball Creek Park- a ¼ mile walking path that was funded by Community Development Block Grant monies and from the Village's street fund.

## **Kent City/Casnovia Historical Society**

The Kent City/Casnovia Historical Society has found a home in the old Town Hall adjacent to the Library on Main Street. It was quite a sight to see the KCFD volunteers rolling things across the street and moving all the memorabilia in just a short time. Many thanks to them for all their help – we could not have done it without them.

This small non-profit group is working to preserve the history of the Kent City / Casnovia area. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. The business meeting is followed by an informative program and discussion time.

They are planning to have an Open House in conjunction with the Kent City Fall Festival – September 13<sup>th</sup>. They are in need of many items for their new home such as kitchen items, paper, and cleaning & office supplies. They are also looking for shelving and storage items. If you would like to make a donation or drop off a gift or any information, please call Maynard Klein at 675-5421.

## **Around The Village..**

Take a moment to check out the new businesses that have arrived in Kent City....

**Galaxy Pizza**-Located across from Kent City Marketplace in the new strip mall that houses the Family Dollar Store.

**Visions Hair Salon**- Now offering massage service to its customers. Located @ 82 S. Main St.

## **Kent City Fall Festival**

The date has been set for September 13<sup>th</sup> for this year's festival. For committee meeting dates, volunteer information or ideas, please contact Mr. John Petruska @ 678-7383 or leave a message for him at the village office, 678-7232.

## **Website Review**



Our new site has

been up and running for a few months now. We are constantly updating and changing information on it, so check us out at: [www.kentcitymi.org](http://www.kentcitymi.org) & let us know what you think!

**Goose Hunting Lottery**



For the first time last year, the village council permitted the hunting of Canada Geese at Lagoon #5 for nuisance control. The decision was made to allow hunting for the 2008/09 season. The hunter agrees to hunt a minimum of 3 days/week during their scheduled hunt. A hunting group is determined by the person's who filled out an application together. Groups with minors must have at least 1 adult. You cannot add/change hunters after the lottery. The maximum number of hunters allowed in a group per day/per season is 4. The deadline to file an application is Thursday, July 31, 2008.

**Sewer System 2007/08**

**Operation, maintenance, replacement & Debt Retirement**

\$ 19,085	Salary & Wages	\$ 9,975	Repair & Maintenance
\$ 22,728	Professional Services	\$ 9,077	Insurance
\$ 2,102	Office Supplies & Postage	\$ 11,783	Utilities
\$121,710	Depreciation	\$ 1,571	Miscellaneous
\$ 72,000	Bond Debt for Series 1998A & B issued 06/25/98		
\$ 71,010	Bond Interest		

Just a reminder, quarterly sewer fees are billed the months of **March, June, September and December.**

**Talking Taxes with the Treasurer**



This year's Village property tax bills will be mailed out on or about July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 and are due by: **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008.** Taxes can be paid at the Village Office during regular business hours or by mail. For your convenience, **we also have a mail slot located in the front office door for after hour's payments.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- When paying by mail, please enclose the bottom tear-off copy of your tax bill and make out the check 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.**
- All late payments made after September 15, 2008 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



## Equipment Street/Sidewalk Information:

**General Reminders** – Village ordinance prohibits persons to allow sidewalks that adjoin property owned by them to fall into a state of disrepair or to be unsafe. A permit is required prior to repair of sidewalks. Please contact the Village Office @ (616)-678-7232.

**\*\*Important:** 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.

**Parking-** The municipal parking lot south of Matthews & Associates is owned by the Village. No vehicles are to be left parked overnight in this lot.

**\*\*Remember;** please do not park on or over sidewalks.

### **Leaf Pickup**



The Village of Kent City has scheduled its fall leaf pickup for October 14 until the first snowfall. Remember that leaves should be placed next to the curb but not in the street itself. For complete policy information or any questions please contact the Village Office.

### **Yard Maintenance** –



The Village’s Dept. of Public Works will pick up the following items (at no charge) when placed next to the street surface:

Bagged leaves

- Small bundles of tree limbs-no larger than 6” in diameter & no longer the 6’ long-tree butts must face the street.
- Small piles of brush
- Thorned brush needs to be put in separate small piles
- Christmas trees (after holiday season)
- **Grass Clippings that are put into 30 gallon or less plastic or vinyl containers. The grass shall be put in the container loose; not bagged. The container shall be identified “Grass” with 6” letters or larger.**

**The weight limit on each “package” shall not exceed 30 lbs. so that it can be loaded onto a truck by one person.**

**\*\*Reminder:** If you cannot lift the container over your shoulders – neither can we.

### **Recommended Container Examples:**

Contact your local hardware stores or search online for availability.



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. A few guidelines are:

- Before planting in front yards, contact Village Office for right-of-way information.
- Do not plant near high-voltage transmission lines
- If planting near distribution power lines, make sure to plant low growing trees
- 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](http://www.consumersenergy.com/forestry)

**Recycle for Tomorrow!**

North Kent Recycle & Transfer Station is located @ 2908 Ten Mile Road in Rockford, Michigan. Call for hours. Paper, corrugated cardboard, household batteries, plastic, aluminum, glass & steel cans are some items they accept. For a complete list, please stop by the Village Offices or contact North Kent Recycle @ 616-866-5070.

The Kent County Dept. of Public Works Saturday collections are also scheduled each year. No appointment is needed for Saturday collections, but if you have a large amount of material to dispose of or if you have containers larger than 5 gallons, please call ahead. The scheduled dates for 2008 at the North Kent Transfer Station are: August 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Voter Information**

Tyrone Township now has two precincts and the township polling location has moved to the new Community Building at 25 E. Muskegon Street. Village Voters – you should have received a new Identification Card from Tyrone Township dated 06/05/08. Tuesday, August 5, 2008 you will be voting at 25 E. Muskegon Street for the primary.

**2007 Events that will be back in 2008!**

**Flu / Pneumonia Vaccination Clinic**

We will be hosting another flu/pneumonia vaccination clinic at the Village Office on October 15, 2008. More information and the times will be in our fall newsletter and posted around the Village.



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 then they contact MPSC by the following means:

PH: (866) 552-7725

FX: (517) 241-2400

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

Web: [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)

# Welcome to "The Zone"

## Planning & Zoning News

### **Ordinance Reminders:**

***Did you know?....*** A Village Ordinance (law) prohibits parking on any village street from 12:01a.m. to 6:00a.m. This is especially important during the winter months as our Village employees attempt to keep the streets and sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

***The Village has ordinances in effect for the following issues:***

- ***Grass & Weeds*** – ***Inoperable Vehicles*** - ***Trash & Junk*** –
- For complete ordinances contact the Village Office.

### **Zoning & Building Permits:**



***Zoning Permits*** –

are required prior to any form of construction or excavation; including – but not limited to the following list:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Dwellings / Additions to existing structures | Porches & decks / Garages / Barns / Sheds |
| Swimming pools & hot tubs / Gazebos          | Freestanding Antennas & towers            |

Zoning permits are also required prior to the 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. Please contact: Tom Knauf @ 616-678-7232 with any Zoning questions or application requests.

***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 - Phone: (616)678-4779  
28 E. Muskegon St., Kent City, MI 49330

### ***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. We will mail or fax upon request.

Call 616-678-7232 with questions or to obtain the information sheet.

### ***Signs:***



The Zoning Ordinance

requires a Sign Permit for any sign placed or erected within the Village of Kent City, with a few exceptions. Signs are not permitted within the public right-of-way (ex: within the area between a sidewalk and the street, or on a utility pole). Prior to placing any signs within the Village, please contact: Tom Knauf, Zoning Administrator @ (616)678-7232.

Signs placed within the public right-of-way are routinely confiscated and held for 10 days. If not claimed, signs are disposed of.

# Important Contact Information

## Village of Kent City Office Hours & General Information:

**Phone: 616-678-7232**

**Fax: 616-678-4256**

- \*Mail Slot in door for after-hour drop off
- \*Message recording for after-hour calls

Monday	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Thursday	8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Friday	Closed

### Village Council Members:

President – John Petruska	Merry Barron
Steve Buckner	Thomas Pieper
Jill Krikke	Bert Rose
Sandra Wylie	

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday - Planning Commission
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday - Village Council
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday - Board of Zoning Appeals  
(meets per applicant request)
- Annually - Downtown Development Authority
- \*All meetings are open to the public
- For more details, schedules are posted at Village Office

### Village Officers:

**Officers:** Clerk – Mary Portell  
Treasurer – Darrell Rotier

### Village Staff:

Deputy Clerk – Jennifer August  
Zoning Administrator – Tom Knauf  
DPW Sewer Lagoon Operator – Steve Evink  
DPW Sewer Lagoon Operator – Jay Pike  
DPW Sewer, Part-time – Greg VanHouten

## Community Building

The Community Building (previously located @ the Town Hall) is now located in the Tyrone Township Offices. The room is available to be rented for events. Call Tyrone Township at 678-4779 for rental information

### Police Protection



The Kent County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement within Kent City & the surrounding areas.

**Emergencies: (including crimes & suspicious activities)**

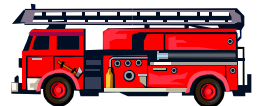
\*Always call 911

**Non-emergencies:** 1-800-442-4661

**Deputy Todd Frank** works as the Resource Officer. He can be reached during school hours @: **(616) 678-4210**. He can be reached during summer hours at the Kent County Sheriff's Dept. **(616) 632-6220**

The Kent County Sheriff's Dept. Sub-Station is located at: 790 – 17 Mile Rd, Kent City, MI 49330 – **(616) 632-6020**.

### Fire Protection



The Tyrone Township/Kent City Fire Department is located within the Village limits at: **218 E. Muskegon St., NW (next to Leaver Park)**. It is a 21 member volunteer department which responds to **911** calls reporting fires and medical emergencies within the area.

#### **Burn Permits:**

Required before burning any items on a property. Please contact one of the following to request a permit:

**Fire Chief Mike Rexford-** (616) 474-9532 –days/pager  
(616) 675-4156 -evenings

**Asst. Fire Chief Paul Rogers-**  
(616) 887-7381 –work  
(616) 678-4124 –evenings

**Fire Mechanic Mike Helsel-**  
(616) 678-7641 –days  
(616) 678-4347 -evenings