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# THE VILLAGE CRIER

Website: [www.kentcitymi.org](http://www.kentcitymi.org)

Issue #16: Winter 2008/09

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## Looking Back at 2008.....

### **Ball Creek Walking Path**

The walking path was finished in May 2008 and residents and visitors have been enjoying the path this last year.

### **Goose Hunting Results**

Our 2008 Goose hunting brought in quite good results for assisting with nuisance control. Our hunting groups bagged a total of 33 canadian geese with 2 of them being banded birds.

### **Business News & Reviews**

Kent City has welcomed in some new businesses this year, along with new owners to existing businesses.

**Kent City Parts Plus @ 295 W. Muskegon Street**

**Red Rock Grille @ 228 Ball Creek Rd. (new owners)**

**Habitat for Humanity ReStore @ 280 N. Ball Creek Rd.**

## Winter Items of Interest.....

### **Snow Removal – Streets and Sidewalk**

Private snow contractors and the residents they serve should be aware that State law prohibits the disposing of "snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safe vision of the driver of a motor vehicle". The law further states that no snow, ice, or slush can be deposited on any roadway or highway (see MCLA 257.677a).

We recommend that residents who have snowplow service make sure the snow from your driveway is deposited on your own property, not in the road right-of-way, blocking a sidewalk, or a neighboring property. The road right-of-way extends wider than the paved section of the road.

As a courtesy the village removes snow from the sidewalks and does the main school route first. However, it is the property owner's responsibility to keep the sidewalk clear of snow & ice. Please be considerate of the DPW employees when they are removing snow.

**\*\*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-** Vehicles need to be parked so that the streets and sidewalks are accessible for snow removal equipment. The municipal parking lot south of Matthews & Associates is plowed by the village. No vehicles are to be left parked overnight in this lot. **\*\*Remember;** please do not park on or over sidewalks.

### **Mail Boxes**

Please check your mailbox post to be sure it is stable before the winter season is upon us and that the box is securely on the post. Mailboxes and / or supports that are damaged as a result from snowplowing are not subject to replacement by the Village.

### **Snowmobiles in the Village**

Each winter the question arises whether snowmobiles are permitted in the village. Following is an excerpt from the Michigan Snowmobile Regulations: a Person Shall Not Operate a Snowmobile:

- Within 100 feet of a dwelling between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. at a speed greater than the minimum required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile.
- Upon the land of another without consent of the owner or their agent, as required by the recreational trespass act.
- On or across a cemetery or burial ground, airport, public or private parking lot, railroad or a railroad right-of-way within 100 feet of a sledding, skiing or skating area.

Please be respectful of your neighbors and operate your snowmobiles on designated trails and other properties with permission.

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### **Election News**

Date to Remember: Tuesday, September 15, 2009, Village Election

The village election will be held in the village meeting room. A schedule of the filing dates has been posted in the posting notice at the village office. Check out the dates for deadlines. You can obtain information also from the web site at [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos). then you will select Michigan Elections. Please feel free to stop in at the village office if you need assistance or have any questions. As required, certain dates will be published in the Northwest Advance News as reminders.



**Think Spring!** While Spring may seem like it will never be here again, it is really right around the corner. So while the cold is keeping you inside, it's a good time to sort through your stuff and get ready for the Kent City Area Wide Garage Sales coming May 7, 8 & 9.

### **Special Services**

#### **Family Connect**

The American Foundation for the Blind has launched a new website known as Family Connect. This site, designed for parents of children with visual impairments, provides a host of information. Parents can browse articles on many aspects of raising a visually impaired child, as well as search the directory for local agencies that provide further assistance. In addition families can connect with other families through message boards and create their own blogs. Visit [www.familyconnect.org](http://www.familyconnect.org) for more information.



#### **Help "Pitch In For Baseball"**

A non-profit organization for kids all over the world that collects and gives baseball equipment and other assistance to young people. The United States Postal Service has partnered with them to further this great effort, and you can help by donating you used gloves. To learn more, visit [www.pitchinforbaseball.org](http://www.pitchinforbaseball.org) or [www.usps.com/baseball](http://www.usps.com/baseball) for details.

# 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 or check our website @ [www.kentcitymi.org](http://www.kentcitymi.org).

### 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  
Swimming pools & hot tubs / Gazebos

Porches & decks / Garages / Barns / Sheds  
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.

**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. 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. 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 the Zoning Administrator.

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

Please contact: Tom Knauf @ 616-678-7232 with any Zoning, Fencing & Walls, and Sign questions or application requests.

### **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. 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.

**Board of Property Maintenance Appeals**-Composed of 3 members, plus 2 alternates: 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.

Please contact the Village Office for more information on these public bodies or to be considered for appointment to one.

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### **Dog Licenses**



Spay or neuter for 50% savings.

Purchase before March 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid penalty fees.

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](http://www.accessKent.com)     **Locally:** Purchase @ Tyrone Township Offices during the months of December, January, and February. For information call 616-678-4779.



**Bluewater Sanitation Waste Tags**

Village residents who have signed up with Bluewater Sanitation for their waste tags can now purchase them at the Village Office. If you have any questions regarding your service, please contact Bluewater Sanitation at: (616) 887-2300.

**Calendar**

**February**

February 05 – Planning Commission Meeting  
February 12 – Council Meeting  
February 17 – BZA Meeting

**March**

March 05 – Planning Commission Meeting  
March 12 – Council Meeting  
March 17 – BZA Meeting

**Looking for information? Check out these sites!**

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

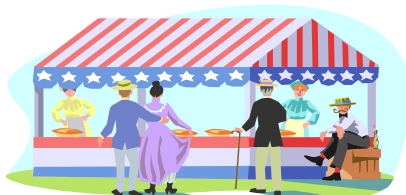
Many events/activities are listed online through community websites.  
We encourage you to take a moment and check them out.

**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](http://www.kentcitymi.org)

Coming March 21, 2009

**Kent City Community Carnival**



Time: 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Thank you to everyone who supported & visited our 2008 Santa Train!**



# 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**

### Village Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Friday - Closed

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)

Periodically - 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

### Village Council Members:

President – John Petruska

Steve Buckner

Jill Krikke

Sandra Wylie

Merry Barron

Thomas Pieper

Bert Rose

## Community Building

The Township Community Building is available for events.

Call Tyrone Township at 678-4779 for rental information

## Police Protection



The Kent County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement.

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

\*Always call 911

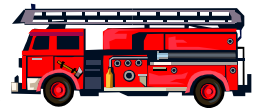
**Non-emergencies:** 1-800-442-4661

The Kent County Sheriff's Department Sub-Station is located at:

790 – 17 Mile Rd, Kent City, MI 49330

Phone: **(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