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THE VILLAGE CRIER

Issue #20: Summer 2010

Published By: Village of Kent City

When September comes around, the Village of Kent City will have a new appearance as the first phase of the planned streetscape is completed. The Village has been planning the project with engineer Jim Rozema of Williams & Works, and landscape architect Pat Cornelisse of Cornelisse Design Associates. **Construction is scheduled to begin July 6th. Be Aware of Detour Routes.** A copy of the construction schedule is available at the Village Offices or on the website:

www.kentcitymi.org. During the first phase of the project, you can expect to see new curbs, a new street surface and minor infrastructure improvements. Phase II is planned for the summer of 2011.

Election News

Exercise your right to vote @ the Primary Election on August 3, 2010. The polling location is at the Tyrone Township Hall – 28 W. Muskegon Street. Call 616.678.4779 with any questions.

Talking Taxes with the Treasurer



This year's Village property tax bills will be mailed out on or about July 1st, 2010 and are due by: **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010.** 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; 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, 2010 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 –

The Village has an area where you can dump tree debris if you are doing major tree or brush removal. This area is locked and fenced. Please call the Village Office to make arrangements. 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.
- 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

Goose Hunting Lottery

The deadline is July 29, 2010 to sign up to hunt Canadian Geese at Lagoon #5 for nuisance control. The Goose Hunting Lottery is open to any interested parties. The hunters agree to hunt a minimum of 3 days/week during their scheduled hunt. A hunting group is determined by the people who fill out an application together. Groups with minors must include 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.

Zoning Information for the Village...

If you are looking for Zoning information for the Village of Kent City you can either visit our website @ www.kentcitymi.org or contact Tom Knauf, Zoning Administrator @ 616.678.7232.



Welcome to "The Zone"

Planning & Zoning News

Ordinance Reminders:

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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

Sewer System 3-1-2009/ 2-28-10

Operation, maintenance, replacement & Debt Retirement	
\$ 18,558 Salary & Wages	\$ 5,598 Repair & Maintenance
\$ 27,984 Professional Services	\$ 8,164 Insurance
\$ 1,232 Office Supplies & Postage	\$15,066 Utilities
\$115,670 Depreciation	\$ 1,262 Miscellaneous
\$ 77,000 Bond Debt for Series 1998A & B issued 06/25/98	
\$ 65,394 Bond Interest & Fiscal charges	

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

Memorial Committee:

There is a Memorial Committee of three village residents. You will see a new sign at Ball Creek Memorial Park. 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.

Leaver Park

Two Lilac bushes were recently planted in Leaver Park in memory of long-time resident Harry Shirey who started Kent City Ford. He would sit and look over at the park from his front window.

Kent City Fall Festival

The date has been set for September 11th for the year's festival. For committee meeting date, 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:

Saturday:

- Parade – 10:00am on Main St. to High School
- Book Fair – K.C. Schools – see program for details
- Kids Street Fair (games, etc.) 11:00pm-1:00pm @ Baptist Church – Main Street
- Tractor Pull (\$5.00 adults/ 12 & under free) 11:00am, Entrance near fire barn
- Car Show 12pm-3pm, Kent City Ford, east lot
- Fireworks – Saturday night – Rain date Homecoming Night Oct. 1st @ K.C.H.S. Football field

Historical News – A Great Find

Jennifer August, Village Deputy Clerk, while searching thru some magazines in an out building in Cedar Springs found Volume One – Number 14 “The Kent City News” dated January 3, 1913. The front page article was about the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Playter with their pictures. There is an article about chiropractic – something new to the area. Mrs. Nellie Golden, D.C. had an office in Hotel Bowen (Olde Kent Inn) located on the street corner currently occupied by the K.C. Ford dealership. This newspaper has been given to the Historical Society.

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.



Bluewater Sanitation Waste Tags

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

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. or you can schedule an appointment by calling Maynard Klein @ 675-5421.

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

Rockford Ambulance – Heartsaver CPR & First Aid Combo courses: \$55.00

Locations: Newaygo, 2nd Saturday each month – 9am to 4:30pm
Sparta, 4th Saturday each month – 9am to 4:30pm



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



Dog Licenses

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



Calendar

- Sunday, October 31Halloween – Visit the Fire Dept. from 5-8 PM
- Sunday, November 7Daylight Savings
- Thursday, November 11.....Veteran’s Day Ceremony @ K.C.H.S.
- Thursday, November 25.....Thanksgiving Holiday
- Saturday, December 11.....Santa Train @ Main Street
- December 24th & 25th Christmas Holiday
- December 31.....Village Office Closed
- January 01, 2011.....New Years Day Holiday

Village Officials:

<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> Mary Barron Erik Bitely Steve Buckner Jill Krikke Thomas Pieper Sandra Wylie</p>	<p>DPW Manager: Steve Evink DPW Operator: Jay Pike Zoning Administrator: Tom Knauf Deputy Clerk: Jennifer August</p>
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