



THE VILLAGE CRIER

Issue #13: Winter 2007

Published By: Village of Kent City

Winter is blowing in a new year!



Happy Holidays! 2008 is coming fast upon us as we make our way into another blustery Michigan winter. As most of you have been busy getting ready for upcoming holidays and keeping warm, we have been working hard at the Village finishing up scheduled jobs before the end of the year.

Some new changes are happening here at the office. The first thing you will notice is the new format of our Village Crier Newsletter. (We thought we needed to shake things up a bit!) We are trying to provide everyone with the information they need/request in a format that is a little more reader friendly. Also, the general village information provided in these newsletters will now be broken into seasons to eliminate the redundancy of seeing the summer information in winter newsletter-and vice versa. Please feel free to let us know what you think of the new format!

A Look Back.....at 2007!

Community Resource Officer



To better serve the needs of our school district the village is a supporting entity of our Resource Officer program again this year. Deputy Todd Frank is our Resource Officer in Kent City. The Village partnered with the school and township to provide our area with this service

Walking Path in Ball Creek Park

Next summer we hope you plan to enjoy the new addition to Ball Creek Park near Wynwood Estates. We are in the process of working on a ¼ mile walking path that is being funded by community Development Block Grant monies and from the Village's street fund. Construction began in November and will be finished next spring.

Kent City Fall Festival

Last year's festival was a great success so plans are being made to have one in 2008. If you are interested in helping or have any ideas, please contact Mr. John Petruska @ 678-7383 or leave a message for him at the village office, 678-7232. Meetings will be scheduled after the first of the year.

Goose Hunting Lottery

This year the village council passed a policy that allowed hunting of Canada Geese at Lagoon #5. A lottery was held and hunting groups were drawn & assigned specific hunt dates. At the end of the season, an evaluation will be done to decide whether to continue with a second lottery in 2008.



Santa Claus is coming to town!
Check out flyer included in newsletter for
details.

Village Elections

The Village Election was held September 11, 2007 in the Village Meeting Room. There were 26 total voters. The election inspectors were Susan Bitley, Rose Finkler, Lynette Nawrot, and Kathleen Videtich.

The following candidates were on the ballot and have taken their oath of office:

John Petruska, Village President	Mary Portell, Village Clerk
Darrell Rotier, Village Treasurer	Merry Barron, Village Trustee
Bert Rose, Village Trustee	Sandra Wylie, Village Trustee

Exercise your right to vote! The January 15 Michigan Presidential Primary is still on schedule. Watch for election information on your local news or contact Tyrone Township Clerk, Shelly Worley if you have questions.

Business News & Reviews

While you are out and about take a moment to notice the following businesses that have recently completed construction and/or are currently being worked on:

- **Kent City Baptist Church – 400 W. Muskegon Street**
- **Kent City Lounge –**
- **Tyrone Township Offices – 25 E. Muskegon Street**

Please join in supporting these businesses and our community with your patronage.

What's in view for 2008!



Playground Equipment Grant

The Village has applied again this year for a grant to put up another swing set in Leaver Park. **We need your help!** We are requesting a 6-seat swing set to be placed by Pavilion #2. As a member of Active Michigan Communities we were informed of a grant program sponsored by Hamburger Helper. The “My Hometown Helper” grant is provided to help communities improve themselves by giving assistance in their projects. Funds will be provided based on merit of project- which includes community support.

To help support our project we need individuals to visit the www.myhometownhelper.com website. Find our project listed under “Kent City” and enter comments supporting it into their website. If you have any questions, please contact the Village Office.

We're Up and Running!

Take a look out at the web...



Our new site will be up and running as of December 2007! You will see we have made quite an overhaul to our website since our first attempt at going online. The new format is easier to use and contains more information than before. While we're still finalizing some of the pages on it, we think you'll find the site full of useful information and it will be a great tool for getting village news and forms that you require. As an added benefit to the village, we are in the process of receiving in-house training to become self sufficient in maintaining the site. This will ensure up to date information for viewers and will keep down the costs of outside support. So check us out at: www.kentcitymi.org & let us know what you think! (Old site will be up until December.)

Community Services

Senior Neighbors, Inc.

The Senior Neighbors program offers many different support and health services to residents of the Village and surrounding areas. They have many great activities and trips planned too. To find out about any of these services and activities contact the local office in Sparta @ 616-887-1273.

Christmas Tree Removal



If you would like the Village to dispose of your Christmas tree, please place your trees butt edge to the street and they'll be picked up by the DPW Department.

Support Your Charity

While there are many reputable and reliable charities in West Michigan, unfortunately there are those who take advantage of people's generosity. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) has over 900 reports on local charities in West Michigan. Before donating, be sure to review a charity report to see if the organization meets BBB charity standards. Visit www.westernmichigan.bbb.org.

Housing Rehab Program

The Community Development Dept. of Kent County, with the U.S. Dept. of HUD, offers home repair assistance for homeowners in Kent County. Contact 616-632-7411 for information.

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 of what is and isn't accepted please stop by the Village Offices or contact North Kent Recycle @ 616-866-5070.

Dog Licenses –

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

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

Online: www.accessKent.com

Spay or neuter for 50% savings. Purchase before March 1st to avoid penalty fees.

Locally: Purchase @ Tyrone Township Offices during the months of December, January, and February. For information call 616-678-4779.

Looking for information?

Kent County: www.accessKent.com/services

MI Gov.: www.mi.gov

Kent City Spring Clean-up: Contact Tyrone Township Offices @ 616-678-4779

Michigan DNR: www.mi.gov/dnr

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

DPW Department



Jobs Completed in 2007

The DPW Department has been hard at work this summer and the results can be seen all around the village. Here is just a small list of some of the improvements:

- Painted: signpost, all curbs, walkbridge on 17 Mile Rd., cement batements @ bridges
Hand rails in front of Master Supply
- Repairs: painted & reboarded sq. trailer & lawn mower
Painted & cleaned frames on plow trucks
- Parks/Fire Department: DPW took over mowing this summer of both
- Repared: South Main Street, Wynwood, and Wynsong

Yard Maintenance –

Many residents have commented on how easy the job of raking leaves has become since the new vac equipment was purchased by the village and also on the great job the DPW employees do picking up the brush & grass clippings. This is a reminder that the grass containers cannot weigh more than 30lbs. to be able to pick them up and dump them.

Leaves “**only**” need to be raked to the edge of the street. **Anything else** in the leaves plugs the machine and/or damages it. We hope this reminder stops the repeated violators or this may force the village to suspend these services.

Street/Sidewalk Information:

Safety Reminders- Snow plowing streets and snow blowing sidewalks can be hazardous. Remember there are blind spots when the DPW employees are operating their equipment. Please be considerate when you are backing out of your driveways, etc. They try to watch out for you, but when the snow is blowing, they may not see you.

Motorized Vehicles on Sidewalks-Prohibited (i.e.: snowmobiles, quads, ATV’s, etc.)

Exceptions:

- 1) Vehicles used for clearing or maintaining the sidewalk.
- 2) Wheelchairs or devices used by a handicapped person

Winter Reminders – The Dept. of Public Works snowplows the streets during the winter months. The public sidewalks are plowed as a courtesy. However, it is the property owner’s responsibility to keep the sidewalk clear of snow & ice. It is prohibited to put snow on streets or sidewalks.

****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.**

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.

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.

*Mr. Steve Potes has accepted the appointment to serve as the alternate. Thank you Steve.

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.

*The members for this newly formed board have been appointed. They have had both a regular and a training meeting so far. We welcome Mr. Charles Bopp, Mr. Ed Lain, Mr. Rick Merdinzski, and Mr. Steve Potes. All meetings are held at the Village Office Meeting room and are posted in the Public Notice board. The public is welcome.

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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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
Steve Buckner
Jill Krikke
Sandra Wylie

Merry Barron
Thomas Pieper
Bert Rose

Village Meeting Dates:

1st Thursday - Planning Commission

2nd Thursday - Village Council

3rd 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 – Greg Van Houten

DPW Sewer, Part-time – Jay Pike

Town Hall

The Town Hall (owned & operated by Tyrone Township) is adjacent to the Library on S. Main Street. The hall is equipped with a small kitchen, and can 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

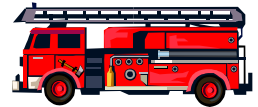
Non-emergencies: 1-800-442-4661

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. Sub-Station.

The Kent County Sheriff's Dept. Sub-Station is located at: 790 – 17 Mile Rd, Kent City, MI 49330 – **(616) 678-4072**.

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