



KENT COUNTY LEVY COURT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER &
PARKS & RECREATION BROCHURE

Winter
2012



Upcoming Programs
and Activities for Recreation,
Parks and Libraries

FOR INFORMATION ON COUNTY SERVICES VISIT WWW.CO.KENT.DE.US

About the Levy Court

Levy Court is your County Government. Kent County Levy Court is comprised of seven elected Commissioners – six who are elected from the districts in which they reside - and the seventh elected at-large to represent the entire County. The Commissioners serve at the will of the electorate and answer solely to their constituents. Since the Commissioners are elected officials it is customary to refer to them with the designation of Honorable. Levy Court responsibilities include enacting planning and land use ordinances, providing parks and recreation facilities, establishing fees, providing emergency medical services, 911 communications, emergency management, approving sewer system construction, establishing the yearly tax rate, appointing department heads and overseeing the county departments that support the mission of the Levy Court. The Commissioners appoint a County Administrator who is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of County Government. Levy Court maintains its primary residence at 555 Bay Road. Residents may call 744-2300 or 744-2305 to reach a County office. For more information on the Levy Court, please visit our website at: “<http://www.co.kent.de.us>”.



Hon. P. Brooks Banta
President
 1st District
 242-2572



Hon. Eric L. Buckson
 Commissioner
 4th District
 Committee: Planning
 Services
 943-2832



Hon. Terry L. Pepper
 Commissioner
 At-Large
 Committee: Public
 Safety
 531-8803



Hon. Allan F. Angel
Vice President
 3rd District
 Committee:
 Administration
 382-6735



Hon. Bradley S. Eaby
 Commissioner
 2nd District
 Committee: Finance
 670-4806



**Michael J. Petit de
 Mange, AICP**
 County Administrator



Hon. Glen Howell
 Commissioner
 6th District
 Committee: Public
 Works
 531-8832



Hon. Jody Sweeney
 Commissioner
 5th District
 Committee: Community
 Services/Information
 Technology
 943-7328

Photos courtesy of Young's Studio.

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About the Row Offices

Kent County has five row officers; each of which are elected officials. Row officers serve four year terms and each is empowered to manage their office. Each row office performs a distinct function within the County Government. Row officers are held accountable to the electorate and it is customary to refer to them with the designation of Honorable.

Hon. Nancy W. Cook
Register of Wills
Nancy.Cook@co.kent.de.us
 (302) 744-2330
 Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hon. Betty Lou McKenna
Recorder of Deeds
Bettylou.mckenna@co.kent.de.us
 (302) 744-2321
 Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hon. Georgette Williams
Comptroller
Georgette.williams@co.kent.de.us
 (302) 744-2414
 Office hours: 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Hon. Norman Wood
Sheriff
Norman.wood@co.kent.de.us
 (302) 736-2161
 Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hon. Loretta Wootten
Clerk of the Peace
Loretta.wootten@co.kent.de.us
 (302) 744-2346
 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Kent County Phone Directory

Kent County Administrative Complex
555 Bay Road
Dover, DE 19901

Levy Court Office	744-2305
Assessment Office	744-2401
Building Permits & Inspections	744-2451
Code Enforcement	744-2452
Community Development	744-2480
Economic Development	678-3028
Engineering	744-2430
Facilities Management	744-2357
Finance	744-2386
GIS/Mapping	744-2416
Information Technology	744-2365
Parks & Recreation	744-2495
Personnel	744-2310
Taxes	744-2341

Row Offices
 Clerk of the Peace 744-2346

Comptroller	744-2415
Recorder of Deeds Office	744-2315
Register of Wills Office	744-2330
Sheriff's Office	736-2161

Kent County Emergency Services Building
911 Public Safety Blvd.
Dover, DE 19901

Emergency Communications	735-2200
Emergency Management	735-3465
Emergency Medical Services	735-2180

Kent County Public Library
497 S. Red Haven Lane
Dover, DE 19901

Library Services	698-6440
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Kent County Wastewater Treatment Plant
139 Milford Neck Road
Milford, DE 19963

Wastewater Facilities	335-6000
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Levy Court named ESGR Pro Patria Award Winner

Kent County Levy Court was recently recognized by Employer Support for Guard and Reserve (ESGR) with the Pro Patria Award. The Pro Patria Award is the highest honor given to employers in the State of Delaware. Levy Court President P. Brooks Banta and County Administrator Michael J. Petit de Mange accepted the award on behalf of the Levy Court during the annual ESGR banquet. Kent County currently has three full time employees who are members of the National Guard and the Reserve components of the military.

“It was a proud and humbling moment for Kent County when it was announced we had won the Pro Patria Award,” says Levy Court President P. Brooks Banta. “We will continue to do everything we can to support our employees who also serve in the Guard and Reserves.”

Kent County was recognized for providing the most exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support their employees who serve in our armed forces. The organization was recognized for their personal support offered to service members and their families, as well as their strong initiatives to recruit military employees. Kent County employee benefits program includes paid military leave, as well as military employees retain full benefits, and continue to ac-



From left: Paramedic John Witzke, Paulette Mason, Commissioner Glen M. Howell, President P. Brooks Banta, County Administrator Michael Petit de Mange, Lt. Colonel Lee Merkle, Major General Francis Vavala. Photograph courtesy of Captain Losurdo, 512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs.

crue vacation, while mobilized.

The military-friendly relationship to its employees is consistently recognized by ESGR Patriot Award nominations of its supervisors. Levy Court was also named a finalist in the 2011 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award. This notable honor was bestowed to only thirty (30) employers nationwide, out of 4,049 nominations received.

Commissioner Angel recognized with a Outstanding Program Champion Award

Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Allan F. Angel was recently recognized with the Caremark/National Association of Counties (NACo) second annual Outstanding Program Champion Award. Commissioner Angel was selected for this honor due to his work in bringing the Prescription Discount Drug Card to Kent County and for encouraging neighboring counties to participate in the program.

“It has been a great program for the residents of Kent County,” said Commissioner Angel. “We have been successful in significantly reducing the cost of prescription medications for those in need.”

The Prescription Drug Discount Card was launched in October 2007. In August of 2011 the program had 670 participating residents resulting in a savings of \$33,006.51.

According to a CVS Caremark statement, “programs as successful as the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program achieve such high levels of success with important people championing the program.”

“Through the years, we’ve had a lot of county officials who have supported the program, but there’s

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Left to Right: Richard Cecil, Executive Director Delaware Association of Counties, Commissioner Glen Howell, Commissioner Allan F. Angel, Commissioner George “Jody” Sweeney, Commissioner P. Brooks Banta, Commissioner Eric Buckson, and Commissioner Bradley Eaby.

a select handful that not only promote the program within their county, but also to the neighboring counties and states around them and across the country. They do it for the same reason they went into office – simply to help others. It’s a great example of public service and ultimately a testament to their character.”

Richard Cecil, Executive Director of the Delaware Association of Counties, was on hand during a September Levy Court meeting to present Commissioner Angel with the award on behalf of NACo. Commissioner Angel was also publically recognized during the annual NACo conference in Portland, Oregon although he was not in attendance.

Levy Court dedicates Reflections Trail at Browns Branch County Park

Kent County Levy Court marked the dedication of a Reflections Trail at Browns Branch County Park on Killens Pond Road near Harrington with a brief ceremony on October 13. The Reflections Trail is the result of a discussion with Levy Court Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Commission members, and county resident Jessica Ehlers Ratledge.

Ms. Ratledge contacted Commissioner Eric Buckson after her daughter Peyton died suddenly. She asked to build a memorial in her daughter’s memory at a County park. After further discussion, it was agreed that a non cause specific memorial trail would be dedicated to friends and families of loved ones who have passed away.

“I found solitude walking the trail,” says Ms. Ratledge. “I was sitting on a bridge near the water when I decided I wanted to do something to honor Peyton.”

The ceremony featured the unveiling of a granite stone marker placed at the Browns Branch Trailhead. The marker is inscribed, “Reflections Trail...for Friends and Family.”

“I am grateful we were able to come together on this project,” says Commissioner Buckson. “This is a project that will be of great benefit to the community.”



Levy Court Commissioners and Parks and Recreation Commission members were on hand for the dedication of the Reflections Trail at Browns Branch Park. From left to right. Front row: Commissioner George “Jody” Sweeney, Jessica Ratledge, Commissioner Eric Buckson, and Parks and Recreation Commission member James Bordley. Back row: Commissioner Terry Pepper, Commissioner P. Brooks Banta, Parks and Recreation Commission members Ed Coker, Brian Michalski, Donald Porter, Conlyn Hart, and Kevin Zimmerman.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YARD WASTE

When Delaware's General Assembly enacted a "Yard Waste Ban" at the landfills in Delaware, it significantly affected the way all Delaware residents dispose of their yard waste. The State's objective is to conserve valuable space and extend the life of the landfills in the State.

As a result of the "Yard Waste Ban" imposed by the State of Delaware, Kent County cannot collect garbage and yard waste mixed together. Kent County Levy Court Commissioners recognized that residents would need another way to dispose of their yard waste so the County developed a curbside "Yard Waste Collection" service that provides residents with a special yard waste container and weekly collection of their yard waste from April through November of each year. During this first year of the program, over 80% of the County's 30,000 garbage collection customers voted to receive the new "Yard Waste Collection" service.

With spring right around the corner, Kent County's customers are reminded that all yard waste, including leaves, must be placed in the green yard waste container provided and must be **UNBAGGED**. Although many residents have bagged their leaves and other yard waste for years; under the new process, **bagged yard waste cannot be collected**. The Yard Waste Collection process moves yard waste directly

from the can to the truck and then directly from the truck into the mulching operation at the disposal facility. Using this method to dispose of yard waste means there are no additional labor costs to have thousands of plastic bags opened every day and dumped prior to the actual mulching operation. By controlling the cost of yard waste disposal, this allows Kent County to keep customer fees as low as possible.

All Kent County customers are reminded that, in addition to the green yard waste container provided, you may use up to a maximum of 4 additional personal cans (32 gallon size) for yard waste disposal each week.

Christmas tree removal will occur during the week of January 9th through January 13th, 2012 and will also occur during the week of January 16th through January 20th, 2012. Christmas trees should be placed at the curb for collection - do not put Christmas trees into a bag or into your green yard waste container. Customers are advised that only Christmas trees will be taken; no other yard waste will be removed.

For more information about Kent County's Yard Waste, Garbage and Recycling Collection services, please contact Kent County Department of Public Works at (302) 744-2429.

DO NOT BAG YARD WASTE - A PLASTIC BAG CANNOT BE MULCHED

Register of Wills Weyant Retires

After nearly 40 years of service to Kent County, Register of Wills Thomas Weyant has decided to leave office early and devote the remainder of his life to charitable good works. His resignation was effective November 1, and Delaware Jack Markell has appointed former State Senator Nancy Cook to complete the little more than one year remaining on the term.

First elected in 2000 shortly after retiring with almost 29 years of service from his position as Kent County Director of Human Services, Weyant, 79, has chosen to focus his attention on several community service projects of special importance to him. He explains that both County positions allowed him to observe the human condition, and he found the greatest unmet need in our society to be with the families of incarcerated individuals.

Weyant is astonished that no concerted effort is made to assimilate released prisoners back into society. "It's no wonder, these people commit crime again," he says. "I want to do something to help them and their families with the transition."

Weyant warmly recalls his years working for Kent County. "I've enjoyed my time here working with the employees and other elected officials," he said. "This County Government is the most effective in the State.

The People are well served and everyone here really cares about the needs of the citizens."

Cook, who served for 36 years in the State Senate and does not plan to seek the Wills post in the 2012 election, said "I look forward to fulfilling the needs of Kent County again and am pleased the Governor asked me to serve.

I've always said the county row offices are important and am looking forward to working with the public in this new capacity."

The Register of Wills Office records Wills after death and other documents pertaining to estate matters in Kent County, Delaware. The office is responsible for overseeing the appointments of personal representatives and for administering estate proceedings. This office is also held accountable for making sure that the estates are in compliance with the Delaware Law and Kent County policies. All estate matters are maintained as permanent records.



Kent County Property Tax Exemption/Credit Information

Senior Citizen School Property Tax Credit

To qualify for this property tax credit you must be age 65 or older by June 1 (the beginning of the tax year). Also, the property for which you are applying for the credit must be your principal residence and your name must be on the deed. Full credit is given if you or your lawful spouse (if named on the deed) are age 65 or older. Only partial credit is given if additional persons under age 65 are named on the property deed. A copy of your driver's license or birth certificate is required for each applicant on the application. This one-time application must be filed with the Kent County Tax Office, and remains valid until a change to the deed occurs, at which time a new tax credit application must be submitted.

The deadline to apply for this credit is September 1 of each tax year. This deadline is fixed by State law and does not allow exceptions by the County. Retroactive credits are not permitted.

Elderly/Disability Property Tax Exemption

To qualify you must be age 65 or older by May 31 with an annual income less than \$12,700 (an increase to \$16,000 pending) for a single person or \$22,000 for married couples (*income figures can change annually*), a Kent County resident for at least one year, and a Delaware resident for at least five years, or to qualify you must be totally (100%) disabled and able to document your total disability and a Delaware resident for at least five years (waived for military service related total disability) for a reduction in the amount of the taxable assessment thereby reducing or eliminating your property tax liability.

A completed application and income/disability verification forms must be received by the Assessment Office no later than *April 15* prior to the tax year (June 1) for which the exemption is sought. You must reapply every year for this exemption by April 15. Retroactive credits are not permitted.

Uniformed Military Personnel Serving in Combat Zones Tax Relief

Persons who have served in combat zones (as declared by the President of the U.S. and defined by the United States Treasury as Uniformed Military Personnel) beginning on or after November 13, 2007 may qualify to receive partial relief from County government taxes (*school taxes must still be paid*). Applications must be received by the Assessment Office no later than *May 31* prior to the tax year (June 1) for which the exemption is sought. You must reapply every year and retroactive relief is not permitted.

Additional information including application forms, guidelines and deadlines regarding Kent County property tax exemptions are available at www.co.kent.de.us or by contacting the Kent County Property Assessment Office (Room 215), 555 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901, or by calling (302) 744-2401.



Employee Spotlight

The Levy Court recognizes...

Dave Abramson as the May 2011 Employee of the Month. Dave is a paramedic Field Supervisor with the Department of Public Safety.

Jason Courtney as the June 2011 Employee of the Month. Jason is a Parks Worker III in the Department of Community Services.

Susan Hitchens as the July 2011 Employee of the Month. Susan is an Account Analyst in the Finance Department.

Ruth Ann Jones as the August 2011 Employee of the Month. Ruth Ann is a Permit Technician III in the Department of Planning Services.

Allan F. Thomas as the September 2011 Employee of the Month. Allan is the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Foreman in the Department of Public Works.

DawnMarie Shane as the October 2011 Employee of the Month. Dawn is a Paramedic III in the Department of Public Safety.

John Foley as the November 2011 Employee of the Month. John is the Deputy in the Sheriff's Office.

Senator Carper Visits Award Winning Wastewater Treatment Plant

Recently, US Senator Tom Carper joined members of the Kent County Management Team for a tour of the County Wastewater Treatment Facility near Frederica. The tour showcased major improvements to the Facility including the recently completed 1.3 Megawatt solar power electricity generation system, the Passive Solar Drying Greenhouses, and the Ultra-Violet Disinfection System. These cost-effective improvements have resulted in a more efficient use of energy, significantly reduced environmental impacts, and improved site safety. In recognition of these accomplishments, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded Kent County with the prestigious PISCES Award for 2011.

In addition to the PISCES Award, the County Facility was named the "Facility of the Year" in 2004 by Environmental Protection Magazine for demonstrated progress in reducing environmental impacts, and more recently in 2007 received 1st Place honors by the US EPA by earning the Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award.

"We are very pleased with our progress toward greater efficiency and reducing environmental impacts on behalf of our customers" said County Administrator

Mike Petit de Mange. "These awards recognize the significant commitment and priority that Levy Court has placed on continual improvement".



From left: Keith Powell, Assistant Public Works Director; James Newton, Environmental Program Manager; Mike Petit de Mange, County Administrator; Glen Howell, Commissioner; Hans Medlarz, Director of Public Works; Terry Pepper, Commissioner; Tom Carper, Senator; Brad Eaby, Commissioner; Allan Angel, Commissioner; Dan String, Greenstone Engineering; George "Jody" Sweeney, Commissioner; William Vincent, Operations Supervisor.