

# Kent County LEVY COURT



Serving Kent County with Pride

Community Newsletter & Parks,  
Recreation and Library Activity Guide

**Fall 2021**

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# About the LEVY COURT

Levy Court is your County government. Kent County Levy Court is comprised of seven elected Commissioners: six 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 Levy Court. The Commissioners appoint a County Administrator who is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of county government.

Levy Court offices are located at 555 Bay Rd.. Residents may call 744-2300 to reach a County Office.

For more information on Levy Court, please visit our website at [www.co.kent.de.us](http://www.co.kent.de.us).



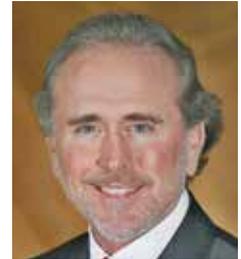
**HON. TERRY L. PEPPER**  
President At-Large  
302-697-9194



**HON. ALLAN F. ANGEL**  
Vice-President  
Commissioner 3rd District  
Committee: Administration  
302-382-6735



**HON. JOANNE MASTEN**  
Commissioner 1st District  
Committee: Finance  
302-653-6235



**HON. ERIC L. BUCKSON**  
Commissioner 4th District  
Committee:  
Planning Services  
302-943-2832



**HON. JODY SWEENEY**  
Commissioner 5th District  
Committee:  
Community Services  
302-943-7328



**HON. GLEN M. HOWELL**  
Commissioner 6th District  
Committee:  
Public Works  
302-531-8832



**HON. JEFFREY W. HALL**  
Commissioner 2nd District  
Committee:  
Public Safety  
302-632-0757



**MICHAEL J. PETIT DE MANGE, AICP**  
County Administrator  
302-744-2305

# About the ROW OFFICES

Kent County has four Row Officers: each of which is an elected official. 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. These offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

## REGISTER OF WILLS:

**Hon. Harold K. Brode**  
[Harold.Brode@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Harold.Brode@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 744-2330

**Chief Deputy -  
Dianne M. Rager**

[Dianne.Rager@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Dianne.Rager@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 744-2328

## RECORDER OF DEEDS:

**Hon. Betty Lou McKenna**  
[Bettylou.McKenna@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Bettylou.McKenna@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 744-2321

**Deputy - Vanessa L. Laughman**  
[Vanessa.Laughman@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Vanessa.Laughman@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 744-2318

## CLERK OF THE PEACE:

**Hon. Brenda Wootten**  
[Brenda.Wootten@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Brenda.Wootten@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 744-2346

**Deputy - Patricia A. Brown**  
[Trish.Brown@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Trish.Brown@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 744-2347

## SHERIFF:

**Hon. Brian E. Lewis**  
[BrianE.Lewis@co.kent.de.us](mailto:BrianE.Lewis@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 736-2161

**Chief Deputy - Chris White**  
[Chris.White@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Chris.White@co.kent.de.us)  
(302) 736-2161

# Kent County PHONE DIRECTORY

## Kent County Administrative Complex 555 Bay Rd., Dover, DE 19901

Levy Court	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
Tax Section	744-2341
GIS/Mapping	744-2416
Information Technology	744-2365
Parks & Recreation	744-2495
Personnel	744-2310
Planning	744-2471

## 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 Library 497 South Red Haven Lane, Dover, DE 19901

Library Services	744-1919
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## Kent County Parks and Recreation 1683 New Burton Rd., Dover, DE 19904

Main Number	744-2495
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## Kent County Wastewater Treatment Plant 139 Milford Neck Rd., MilfoRd., DE 19963

Wastewater Facilities	335-6000
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## Kent County Levy Court Hosts THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. CARPER

Senator Tom Carper paid a visit to the Kent County Regional Resource Recovery Facility on Friday, August 13, three days after the United States Senate passed a \$550 billion bipartisan infrastructure bill, which includes funding for the Nation's roads, bridges, and water infrastructure. The bill includes roughly \$55 billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure with appropriations for the following drinking water programs:

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** - \$11.7138 for capitalization grants for the DWSRF

- \$1.902B for FY22
- \$2.202B for FY23
- \$2.403B for FY24
- \$2.603B for FY25
- \$2.603B for FY26

**LSL Replacement DWSRF Capitalization Grant** - \$15B through the DWSRF; \$38 for each FY22-26, where eligible activities include

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# Consider Becoming A STORMWATER MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

As prices are continuing to rise for consumers, the last thing you'd want is unexpected expense for repairs, especially community expenses. Communities with stormwater basins may want to take a look into enrolling into a Stormwater Maintenance District. Levy Court President Terry Pepper said, "Stormwater Maintenance Districts are one of the best values a home owners association can invest in for the safety of their neighbor's properties and to avoid costly maintenance in the future. They will no longer have to worry about their ponds being neglected or damaged by storms. For literally pennies per day, home owners can be sure they will not have to pay a special assessment should something adversely affect their community's investment."



Stormwater Maintenance Districts (SWMD), enable Kent County through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kent Conservation District, to take over maintenance responsibilities for stormwater management basins from Homeowner Associations and commercial property owners. A community or property owner that signs into a SWMD, is ensured that their stormwater system is maintained using the Best Management Practices (BMP).

Most HOAs perform minimum upkeep like grass cutting, but other tasks such as, repair of eroded banks or removal of obstructions from outlets typically are not performed regularly, if at all, which can increase future maintenance costs and/or necessitate major renovations.

An unmaintained stormwater facility would cease to function as designed. Stormwater facilities such as Wet Ponds, Dry Ponds, Infiltration Basins, etc. are designed in a way to take the rainwater from homes, yards, streets, etc. and take it safely to a "holding" area to capture the water and release it at a safe rate. If the ponds become choked up with sediment, debris or vegetation the water may not be able to enter or the facility may not hold as much as is needed. When a stormwater facility cannot hold or release water properly it may cause flooding and damage to the surrounding area.

In 2014, there were 293 residential stormwater structures in the Kent Conservation database, located within 147 subdivisions that contained 15,000 homes. "Since then there have been many more communities that have been completed. Each new community has at least one stormwater facility and most have several", said Sean Miller, Urban Conservationist of the Kent Conservation District.

Joining the SMWD will be advantageous for a number of reasons including:

- HOA officers will be relieved from the burden of maintaining their community's basins and Best Management Practices.
- Total expenditures will likely be reduced due to a proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level of production.
- Water Quality in Kent County will be improved through enhanced maintenance.

Kent Conservation District already performs inspections of each basin and Best Management Practices in the County every two to three years. Kent County and Kent Conservation District will perform minor maintenance activities which typically occur annually or every two to three years such as:

- Removal of accumulated sediments
- Clearing of obstructions
- Stabilization of low flow channels
- Resetting of rip rap
- Repair of eroded banks
- Filling of burrow holes



But, by joining a SMWD; Kent County and Kent Conservation District will also perform more infrequent major maintenance tasks that could become quite costly, such as:

- Replacement of outlet structures and pipes
- Rebuilding of inlet pipes and aprons
- Repair embankments
- Rehabilitation or retrofit

The SWMD is not restricted to developments. Communities within one of the Kent County municipalities may also join, with Mayoral and Council consent. So far, 35 communities have already joined the District.

The benefits of joining a SMWD far outweigh its cost. Using the publication *Costs of Stormwater Management Practices in Maryland Counties*, published by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, it was found that on average, \$750 is needed per structure per year for maintenance (not including routine tasks described above). Once administrative costs are included, as well as, a small set-aside for related drainage projects, the residential fee has been initially established at \$28 per lot per year.

Commercial locations will be assessed on an equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) basis. One EDU is 3,500 square feet and represents the average amount of imperviousness (rooftops plus driveways and sidewalks) on residential lots in the "AC" zoning district within the Growth Zone. Commercial locations with impervious area at or below 33 EDUs or 115,500 square feet will pay a flat fee of



\$1,012.50 per year. Locations with impervious area above 33 EDUs or 115,500 square feet will pay \$32.40 per EDU per year. Kent County will assist in determining impervious acreage of commercial locations if requested.

To Join or get more information contact the Kent County Department of Planning Services at (302) 744-2471 or visit: [www.co.kent.de.us/planning-dept/planning/stormwater-management-district-program](http://www.co.kent.de.us/planning-dept/planning/stormwater-management-district-program); or the Kent Conservation District at: [www.kentcd.org/contactus](http://www.kentcd.org/contactus) or by phone at: (302) 608-5370, Sean Miller.

## Levy Court Commissioners Deliver LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Levy Court Commissioners voted in favor of Law Enforcement Assistance Grants to Police Agencies serving Kent County. Using source funding from the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Contingency, the total for the 12 Municipal Police Agencies is \$199,999.55, and \$100,000 to Delaware State Police.

On August 3, President Terry L. Pepper and Vice-President Allan F. Angel presented a check in the amount of \$48,939.54 to the Dover Police Department.

"Kent County Levy Court is pleased to provide you with this 2021 Law Enforcement Assistance Grant as an expression of our deep appreciation and value that we place on the work you do on behalf of our Citizens," said Terry Pepper.

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Pictured: Dover Police Captain Chris Hermance, DPD Major David Spicer, President Terry L. Pepper, DPD Chief Thomas Johnson Jr., Vice President Allen F. Angel, DPD Lieutenant Paul Kuntzi, DPD Lieutenant Jordan Miller.

# Let's Talk About TRASH

Kent County Department of Public Works receives a number of questions about Kent County Garbage Collection Services, especially during inclement weather. Sometimes trash haulers are pulled off of the road or there may be a mechanical breakdown.

When in doubt, feel free to call our Department of Public Works, 302-744-2430. You may also follow DPW for updates on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/kclcdpw](http://www.facebook.com/kclcdpw) or Kent County Levy Court at: [www.facebook.com/KCLEvyCourt](http://www.facebook.com/KCLEvyCourt). We also post updates on the front page of the Kent County Web Site at: [www.co.kent.de.us](http://www.co.kent.de.us).



**Many times residents are confused about who services their trash. For starters, there are many garbage/trash collection services in the county. So, how can you tell if you're a Kent County Trash Service Customer?**

Trash containers for Kent County Customers have the County's Seal imprinted on the cans. If your garbage, recycle, and yard waste cans have the Kent County Seal, most likely, you're a Kent County customer.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT SERVICES I HAVE?

- If you have a black garbage container with a Kent County Seal, you have trash/garbage service.
- If you have a blue container with a yellow lid, with a

Kent County Seal, you have recycle service.

- If you have a green container with a Kent County Seal, you have yard waste service.

## THE GARBAGE COLLECTION COMPANY DIDN'T PICK UP ALL OF MY TRASH, WHY?

There can a number of reasons to answer that question. The most popular reason is because of unacceptable disposal. Because the trucks lift the cans to empty them, the lids must be closed with nothing sitting on top of the can.

**Trash:** No bags left beside the containers. You can use an additional personal can with a maximum capacity of 32 gallons. Construction debris is not acceptable.

**Recycle:** Keep recycling items out of bags. Acceptable items in the receptacle include: paper, plastic containers (leave lids on), cans, bottles, jars, (remove lids and recycle), cartons, paperboard, and corrugated cardboard.

When in doubt, visit the state's Recyclopeda at: [www.recyclopeda.org/de/state](http://www.recyclopeda.org/de/state)

**Yard Waste:** Leaves and yard debris left on the curb in a bag will not be picked up. Yard maintenance trash such as, fertilizer bags, bug spray cans, etc., are not considered yard waste. For the most part only twigs, weeds, lawn clippings.

Check out Kent County's Department of Public Works on Facebook for images of acceptable and unacceptable trash, recycle and yard waste disposal. [www.facebook.com/kclcdpw/photos](http://www.facebook.com/kclcdpw/photos).

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identification, planning, design, and replacement of lead service lines. 49% of the funds shall be used to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of assistance agreements with 100% principal forgiveness or grants or combo thereof.

**DWSRF Emerging Contaminants with focus on PFAS - \$4B** emerging contaminants capitalization grant under the DWSRF, with a focus on PFAS.

**Emerging Contaminants Grant Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities - \$5B** for small and disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminants.

The Senator held a press conference followed by a tour of the Kent County Regional Resource Recovery Facility.



Pictured: Michael Petit de Mange, Colby Harrington, Diana Golt, Allan Angel, Glen Howell and Joanne Masten.

# Modern Maturity Center's Carolyn Fredericks Receives 32ND KENT COUNTY MEDAL

Levy Court Commissioners presents the Kent County Medal of Honor to Carolyn Fredericks President and CEO of the Modern Maturity Center for her reputation as judiciously using resources to increase programs and services for older adults in Kent County, transforming

the 50-year-old Modern Maturity Center into the largest senior center in Delaware through various capital campaigns, expanding facilities, and creating new initiatives. Ms. Fredericks is the 32nd recipient of the County's highest honor.



Pictured from left: Michael Petit de Mange, Joanne Masten, Glen Howell, Jody Sweeney, Terry Pepper, Carolyn Fredericks, Allan Angel, Terri Brown, Modern Maturity Center Board President, Jeff Hall, and Eric Buckson.

## Levy Court Adopts a New PARAMEDIC TRAINEE PROGRAM

To enhance efforts to attract and recruit qualified interested individuals to maintain staffing levels in the Kent County Division of Emergency Medical Services, Levy Court adopted Kent County Policy §26-1: Paramedic Trainee Program on June 8, 2021.

Under the program, the County pays tuition and related costs, salary and benefits for the trainees or students to attend the Delaware Technical Community College Paramedic Training program or other approved Paramedic Training program, and other recruitment remuneration if the trainee successfully achieves various tenure milestones.

In exchange for participating in the County's trainee program, the student/trainee(s) is obligated to work for

Kent County for a minimum of three years or reimburse the County for eligible expenses.

Kent County recently interviewed candidates for the three open spots from the August 2021 paramedic training program offered by Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Institute in West Chester, Pennsylvania - a training academy utilized by New Castle County for many years.

In addition, the County will attempt to hire certified paramedics or existing DTCC and/or Chesapeake College students preparing to enter their second year of education. It is hoped that this format will achieve a high success rate and incentivize commitment by the trainee/employee to remain with Kent County.

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The day before, Commissioner Jody Sweeney presented checks to Camden and Wyoming Police Departments, totaling \$25,012.02.

Commissioners Joanne Masten and Terry Pepper presented to the Smyrna Police Department as well.

Commissioner Sweeney said, "Just happy to be able to

provide a little bit of assistance to local municipal Police Departments, who work hard every day to keep us safe, usually on shoe string budgets."

The Grant Funding is intended to be used solely and exclusively within the police agencies for supporting the law enforcement services within their jurisdictions with the condition for using the funds being that they provide Kent County a brief correspondence indicating how the Grant is being used

# Employees of the Month

## VANESSA L. LAUGHMAN

**APRIL**



Office of the  
Kent County  
Recorder of  
Deeds

Vanessa has served Kent County Deputy Recorder of Deeds since December 2019 and is responsible for performance of all duties required of the Recorder of Deeds in her absence including supervision of employees, and the accurate recording of deeds, mortgages, and other documents as required by Delaware Code.

Before joining Kent County, Vanessa worked in member services at the Delaware State Police Federal Credit Union after more than 37 years as a civilian employee for Delaware State

Police retiring in 2017 as an Administrative Specialist for the Training Academy. Vanessa has utilized her customer service skills and techniques learned working in the State Police human resource area to develop positive working relationships and improve office efficiencies.

According to Kent County Recorder of Deeds Betty Lou McKenna, "Vanessa is doing a great job. She has learned how to perform the duties of every position in the office and really has great enthusiasm for Kent County. After just a short time, I am very impressed by how well Vanessa works with her co-workers in the office and from other departments. She is very deserving of this honor.

Congratulations Vanessa on a job well done!

## JASON P. COURTNEY

**MAY**



Department  
of Community  
Services

Jason serves as Parks Maintenance Supervisor in the Division of Parks & Recreation and has been a full-time Kent County employee since January 2002.

His primary duty is to supervise Parks Workers in the completion of various park maintenance tasks including cutting grass, general landscaping, maintaining equipment, inspecting and clearing trails, etc. and to coordinate construction of numerous park improvements. Jason was previously

recognized as the Employee of the Month in June 2011 when he was a Parks Worker III.

Jason was originally hired 20 years ago as a casual seasonal Parks Worker for the summer of 2001.

He went to full time the following January, and has worked his way up the career ladder until being promoted to his current position in 2016. Since then, he has continued to work tirelessly to maintain County parks, especially Brecknock County Park, in pristine condition for visitors and the Kent County community to enjoy.

According to Director of Community Services Jeremy Sheppard, "Jason has shown excellent leadership skills coordinating park maintenance services over the past year during the pandemic. He worked hard to keep park facilities sanitized in order to stay open, worked with a depleted summer staff, handled the cleanup of Tidbury Park after the tornado last August, and continues to coordinate park projects. Jason's passion for maintaining Kent County's parkland can be clearly seen."

Congratulations Jason on a job well done!

## GINA N. HAMILTON

**JUNE**



Department of  
Finance

Gina currently serves as a Tax Clerk III in the Tax Office and has worked for Kent County since June 2016, when she was hired as an entry level Tax Clerk I. Her primary duties include serving as team leader and assisting with training of new Tax Office staff as well as overseeing the monitions process for collecting delinquent taxes and sewer, preparing and submitting daily bank deposits, verifying tax and sewer account payments for

accuracy and proper account application, managing the mortgage company escrow correspondence, as-

sisting the Sheriff's Office by providing account information for Mortgage Foreclosures, and prepares and submitting refund requests for over payments on tax accounts, among other duties.

According to Director of Finance Susan Durham, "Gina is extremely organized and works diligently through the cumbersome Monitions process. She is what we like to call our "Resident Tax Expert" and assists all staff with more complex account issues. She is always eager to learn and welcomes change whenever necessary. Her selection as Employee of the Month is an honor Gina well deserves."

Congratulations Gina on a job well done!

# KENT COUNTY LEVY COURT, COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## Upcoming Programs and Activities for Recreation, Parks, and Libraries



### Fall 2021

#### KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION & RECREATION CENTER

1683 New Burton Rd.,  
Dover, DE 19904

Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday,  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Phone: 744-2495  
Fax: 744-9681

Email: [ParksRec@co.kent.de.us](mailto:ParksRec@co.kent.de.us)

[www.co.kent.de.us/  
parks-recreation.aspx](http://www.co.kent.de.us/parks-recreation.aspx)

[WWW.CO.KENT.DE.US](http://WWW.CO.KENT.DE.US)

## KENT COUNTY IMPLEMENTS REQUIREMENTS FOR FACE MASKS INSIDE COUNTY FACILITIES

On August 19, 2021, Kent County Levy Court implemented a phased response to the resurgence of COVID-19 in the community. Currently, ALL VISITORS to Kent County facilities, such as the Recreation Center and Kent County Public Library, must properly wear a face covering; and all employees not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must wear an approved face mask at all times.

A copy of the Phased Response can be requested through the Personnel Office.

Access to, and participation in programs scheduled for the Kent County Recreation Center, Kent County Levy Court, Kent County Public Library, or other County owned facility is now contingent on wearing a mask. Please read program descriptions carefully to determine if they require a face mask.

At this time, there is no indication that face masks will be required for outdoor activities, however, Kent County is committed to following State and Federal guidelines to reducing the spread of COVID-19 and its potential variants.



## DROP IN PUNCH CARD

All drop-in activities at the Kent County Recreation Center require a valid "Drop-In Punch Card" to participate. The \$20 punch card is good for 10 single drop-in activity sessions (\$2 per session) such as basketball, pickleball, soccer, volleyball, etc. (Refer to posted schedule on the website, Facebook and Office for times.) If you are pre-registered for a fee based program you do not need a drop-in punch card for those programs.

### HOW TO PURCHASE

Punch Cards may be purchased in person at the Kent County Recreation Center:

**Regular Business Hours** – Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. using Cash or Credit Card ONLY.

**Non Business Hours** – Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. and Weekends – subject to the following restriction; limit of 2 per purchaser, CASH ONLY (no bills greater than \$20 will be accepted.)

Registration form must be filled out completely with each purchase.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cards are not available for online purchase, no refunds or exchanges, lost or stolen cards will not be replaced. You may use your card for guests or groups, as long as there are enough punches available.