

# Kent County LEVY COURT



Serving Kent County with Pride

Community Newsletter & Parks,  
Recreation and Library Activity Guide

**Summer 2021**

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**@KCLevyCourt**



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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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## Levy Court Commissioners Approve Adoption of the KENT COUNTY ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Adoption of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan enables Federal Funding for predisaster mitigation actions and for direct disaster mitigation and insures that an integrated planning/action process is in place.

Every five years, Kent County along with all County agencies in the country, are required to revise their All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The previous plan had matured and as such, Chief Colin Faulkner of the Department of Public Safety requested the Levy Court's approval for funding the revision. Vision Planning and Consulting, LLC, was contracted to complete the plan. After several layers of review, Kent County DPS received notification that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had approved its plan.

The All Hazards/Disaster Mitigation Act was signed into law by the President of the United States in the year 2000. Among its features, this "Act" established a requirement that in order to remain eligi-

ble for Federal disaster assistance and grant funds; local, county and state governments must develop and adopt an All Hazards Mitigation Plan for their respective jurisdictions.

The purpose of the mitigation planning is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses. Mitigation Plans form the foundation for a community's long term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The planning process creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.

One of the most recent mitigation projects was in Camden-Wyoming at Railroad Avenue. During heavy rainfalls, you could count on the area flooding. A pump was installed which eliminated flooding each and every time it rains.

# HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Hurricane Season began June 1 and will continue through November 30. With most of the focus on Coronavirus in 2020, it's worth noting that last year 30 named storms were produced with 13 hurricanes, of which six became major hurricanes with top winds of 111 mph or greater, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA also predicts an above-normal storm season with 13 to 20 named storms, 6 to 10 hurricanes and 3 to 5 major hurricanes in 2021.

Brandon Olenik, Administrative Officer with the Kent County Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, shares some basic tips to help prepare for an event:

**Know where to go:** If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take, and have a plan for where you can stay.

**Put together a go-bag.** Assemble a disaster supply kit to include; a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate.

**Plan for adequate supplies:** If you are not in an area

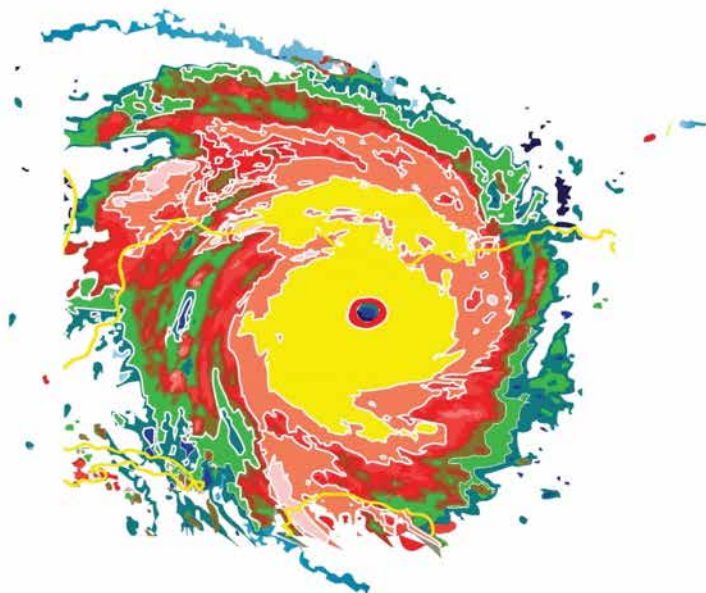
that is advised to evacuate and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.

**Make a family emergency communication plan:** Let everyone know where your family will relocate or if you will stay and shelter in place.

## CONTENTS FOR YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Emergency contact information of other family members to let them know where you are
- Non-perishable food supply for 3 days
- Water (at least 1 gallon per person per day) for 3 days
- Radio with batteries/Flashlight/Clock/Extra batteries
- Scissors/Utility knife/Pliers/Duct tape
- First Aid Kit/Medicines
- Towels or Rags/Plastic Sheeting

## Are you prepared for a hurricane?



The best way to prepare for a hurricane is to sign up for Smart911.

Provide 9-1-1 and first responders with any information you want them to know about you and your household *before* a hurricane strikes.

 **Smart911.com™**

Download the App Today.



Because every second counts.

# THE SMART911 APP ALLOWS RESIDENTS TO STAY INFORMED OF THE LATEST EMERGENCY UPDATES AND SHARE SAFETY PROFILES WITH 9-1-1 AND FIRST RESPONDERS

With Hurricane Season upon us, Kent County residents and visitors are able to download the Smart911 app to share and receive information needed in an emergency.

Smart911 is the only way community members can create a Safety Profile that displays when they call 9-1-1. Via the Smart911 mobile app, households can create a Safety Profile featuring any information about their household that they want 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. When a community member makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile automatically displays to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing them to send help faster and more efficiently.

In addition, the app provides enhanced functionality by sending targeted alerts based on the user's location. Smart911 app users will receive the highest priority National Weather Service alerts including hurricanes, tornado warnings, flash flood warnings, and severe thunderstorm warnings based on their real-time location.

"Smart911 has proven to be lifesaving, and the addition of the app means more residents can participate and be better prepared in an emergency," shares Robert Watts, Operations Support Officer, Kent County Emergency Communications Division. "So far, we have 2607 residents who have completed a Safety Profile statewide. Every resident of Kent

County should download the Smart911 app today. It could save your life."

## BENEFITS OF THE SMART911 APP INCLUDE:

- Residents can create a Smart911 Safety Profile via the app, which includes verified phone numbers, easily-updatable information for dispatchers, and uploaded photos.
- Current Smart911 users can access their Safety Profile via the app and easily update their information in real-time.
- Residents who previously did not have home internet access or a computer can register from their mobile phones.
- The Smart911 App automatically displays alerts from the National Weather Service on an interactive map for a more advanced warning.



With no charge or additional fees for Kent County residents, there are no limitations to provide this safety service to the community.

Search "Smart911" in your mobile app store or text "Smart911" to 67283 to receive the download link via text message.

## Kent County Department Of Public Safety Recognizes MEGAN MOERMAN FOR NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENT

The Kent County Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce that Captain Megan Moerman has successfully completed the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's (NFA) "Managing Officer Program" (MO) Program.



Megan is a recently promoted Operational Staff Captain in the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Medical Services Division. Throughout her career, Megan

has distinguished herself by setting high standards not only for herself but for all functional/operational areas within the Division. She has excelled repeatedly and consistently throughout her career.

Megan's most recent accomplishment represents her dedication to personal and professional excellence, and her commitment to enhance our department and community. This two year program for which the National Fire Academy has recognized Megan with a diploma representing her course of study, is a proud achievement for Megan as well as Kent County.

# 9-8-8, National Suicide Prevention Line Impacts MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS IN DELAWARE

Beginning October 24, 2021, ten digit dialing will go into effect for all local calls. On or after this date, local calls dialed with only seven digits may not be completed and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed.

This is because Delaware is one of 83 other areas that have a 988 exchange. Beginning July 16, dialing 9-8-8 will route calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This ensures that calls to 9-8-8 reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

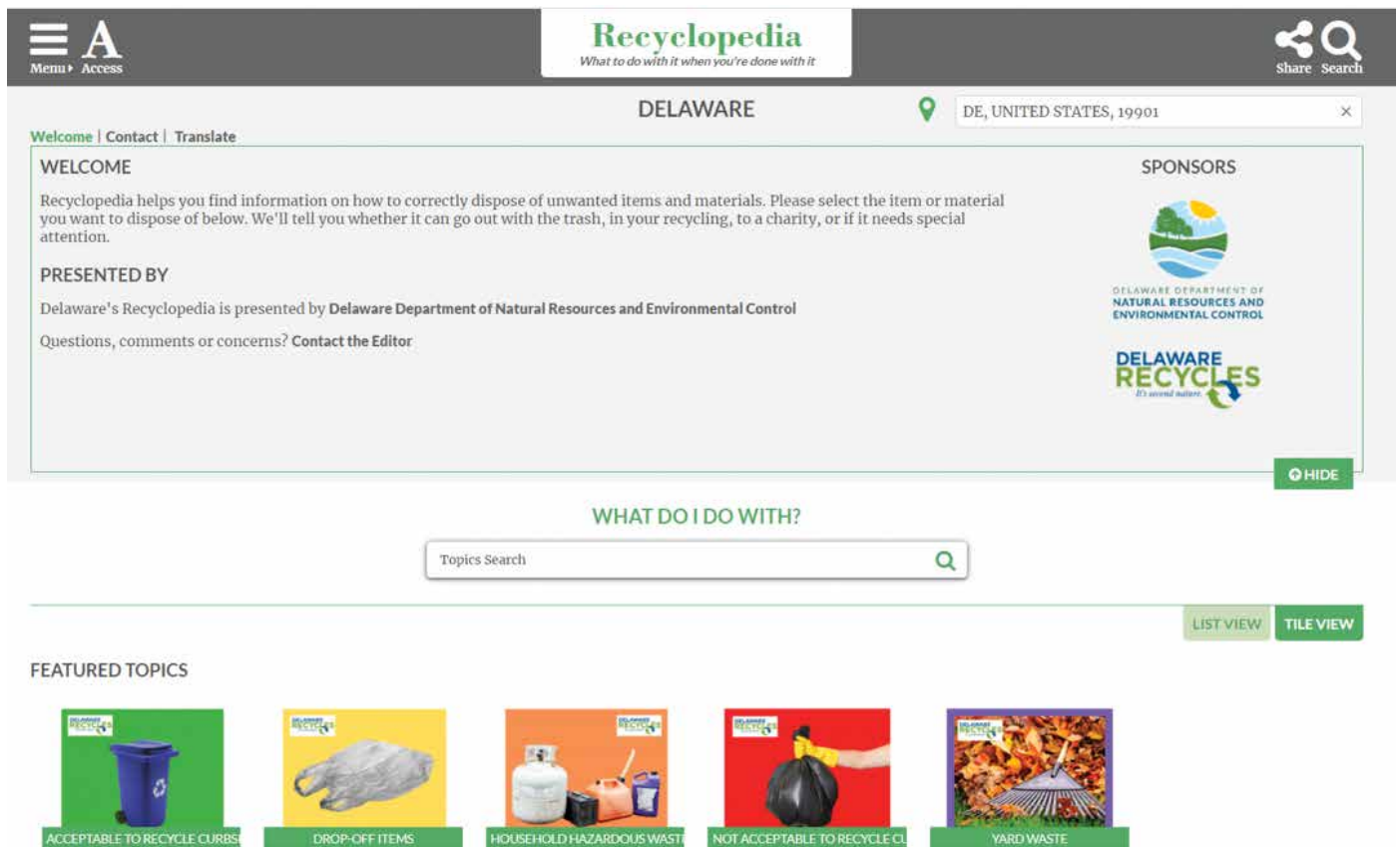
## RECYCLOPEDIA: A New Source to Help Correctly Dispose of Unwanted Items

Most people are interested in keeping our environment clean. Recycling has been an area where many people just aren't sure about what's recyclable. Instead everything gets thrown away with trash.

The State of Delaware recently launched a tool to take some of the guess work out of recycling. DN-REC's Delaware Recycles program has launched a

new search tool called Recyclopeda. The online tool allows anyone to easily search for an item that is no longer needed and provides a solution to properly dispose of it. Learn more about it by visiting: <https://recyclopeda.org/de/state>

Below is a screenshot of Recyclopeda's home page.





# Kent County Delaware Department of Public Works

## Accepted Yard Waste



Leaves



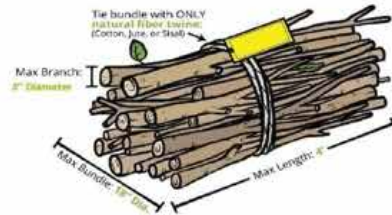
Shrubs, Twigs, & Weeds placed loose in the can



Additional personal can—maximum 32 gal



Grass Clippings



Max 4' length & Max 3" diameter for bundles



No dirt in the can

## Unacceptable Yard Waste



No bags inside the can or on the ground



No trash in the can



Branches of inappropriate size



Lid must close

For more Information or questions, please call: (302) 744-2429

# Employees of the Month

## MARY HAZELWOOD

## JANUARY 2021



**Mary Hazelwood**  
Department of Administration

Kent County Department Heads have selected Mary R. Hazelwood from the Department of Administration as the January 2021 Employee of the Month.

Mary has been a Kent County employee since October 2007 and holds the position of Network Specialist II in the Information Technology Office. Her primary duties include maintaining computer systems, applications, security, and network configurations; troubleshooting computer network-related issues; configuring new desktop/laptop computers and software applications; and

supporting the County's multi-vendor enterprise LAN/WAN infrastructure. She was previously honored in 2012 and was ultimately named Employee of the Year!

Mary selection this time is primarily in recognition for her out-

standing efforts completing the various supervisory and work tasks assigned to the vacant Network Administrator position.

Since April, she has successfully performed her own normal duties, while also completing and leading highly technical I.T. projects. During her tenure, including 5 years as a contracted ACS employee, Mary has earned a reputation for being able to communicate complex computer processes in "non-techie" terms. She has an exceptional ability to visualize the County's vast network of servers, computers, printers, etc. and figure out how each component is interconnected.

According to Information Technology Director Kim Crouch "Mary continues to maintain the I.T. network at optimum levels and complete her regular daily tasks. She along with her counterpart has provided the necessary leadership to initiate and complete numerous projects. Mary's dedication, insightfulness, and approachability make her a valuable member of the I.T. team."

## BRANDON L. OLENIK

## FEBRUARY 2021



**Brandon L. Olenik**  
Department of Public Safety

Brandon has been a Kent County employee in his current role as Administrative Officer for the Emergency Management Division since January 2014.

Prior to that he served as a 9-1-1 Dispatcher for nine years and along the way earned his Associates degree in Homeland Security & Emergency Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration.

His primary duties include assisting with planning the evacuation routes and providing shelter for persons during a natural or manmade disaster, preparing and administering grants in support of emergency services/homeland security programs, participating and assisting in emergency services drills and exercises, maintaining readiness of the Emergency Operations Center; and related activities.

In addition, Brandon serves as the County's Safety Officer responsible for safety inspections and investigating serious incidents resulting in injury or loss and making recommendations to prevent future claims.

As such he has been a valuable resource for the Delaware Founders Insurance Trust's (DFIT) Safety Committee by organizing meetings and training sessions for the large group representing many local governments.

According to Public Safety Director Colin Faulkner, "With my attention focused recently on the pandemic response, Brandon has become an integral part of the vendor interface and update of the federally mandated All Hazards Mitigation Plan and Kent Emergency Operations Plan. He also plays a critical role in damage assessment for DEMA/FEMA often resulting in partial reimbursement for local disasters, such as the recent tornado spawned by Tropical Storm Isaias. He has consistently proven to be an invaluable asset to our public safety team."

Congratulations Brandon on a job well done!

## KELLY D. PITTS

## MARCH 2021



**Kelly D. Pitts**  
Department of Administration

Kelly has served Kent County as the Public Information Officer since October 2017 and is responsible for media relations and assisting the County Administrator in planning and implementing various programs and projects.

Kelly is the point person with the local news media and has significantly elevated the County's social media presence with consistent public messaging on Facebook and Twitter. She deftly handles the various media outlets with the utmost professionalism.

Kelly also has primary responsibility for the County's public relations efforts including special events like ribbon cuttings, tributes, and Safe Summer Day; special projects like Youth in Government Day, the decen-

nial U.S. Census, and Covid-19 testing/vaccination

awareness; and localized emergencies like sewer line breaks and tornados. In addition, she manages compliance with the Freedom of Information Act requests and publication of the quarterly Kent County Levy Court Community Newsletter.

According to County Administrator Michael Petit de Mange, "Kelly Pitts is a true public relations professional who operates at a very high level in the public interest and consistently exceeds expectations. Since joining the County in 2017, Kelly has worked hard to advance public awareness of Kent County services and initiatives, to promptly address citizen inquiries, and to ensure quality and reliability in our communications", he said. "We are very fortunate to have Kelly as an essential member of our Management Team and we're pleased to honor her as the Kent County Employee of the Month for March 2021".



# KENT COUNTY LEVY COURT, COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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



### Summer 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)



Following the ease of COVID restrictions by the Governor on May 21st, 2021, the Kent County Recreation Center is once again hosting drop-in programming for the public. Drop-in programs such as Pickleball, Badminton, Adult Basketball, and Volleyball are available weekly with more to come.

Drop-in programs operate on a punch card system. Punch cards can be purchased at the Rec Center office for \$20 each. Each card has 10 punches on them, allowing the carrier to have 10 single admissions to any drop-in session. Bringing a friend or group? No worries, the punch card will be punched for each member of your team if you like.

Still unsure about indoor programs during the COVID era? Parks and Recreation has outside programs too, such as lacrosse, flag football, and summer soccer. In addition, the Kent County Public Library is hosting "Arts in the Park" each Wednesday evening at Brecknock Park, Camden. Acts perform a myriad of musical genres on the Picadilly Stage beginning at 6:30 pm. Be sure to check out the schedule in this brochure or online.

Lastly, be sure to stop by the Howell Mill Nature Center at Brecknock Park, which is open to the public on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to learn more about who and what we share that space with.

Jeremy Sheppard, Director