Kent County, Delaware

Kent County Levy Court

SERVING KENT COUNTY WITH PRIDE

Community Newsletter & Parks and Recreation

Fall 2019

FYI . . .

- Kent County Administrative Offices will be closed on September 2 in recognition of Labor Day.
- According to the National Weeks calendar, the First week in August is, #NationalFarmersMarket Week. Don't forget to support our local farmers.
- Take a stroll through one of Kent County's beautiful parks and enjoy the fall foliage.

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NEW KENT COUNTY LIFESAVING AWARD

Photo courtesy of the Delaware State News

On October 23, 2018 Kent County Levy Court established a Lifesaving Award for the selection of deserving persons in recognition of individual acts of valor. The Award features a round medal suspended on a military style ribbon of blue, white and gold. The front bears the seal of Kent County and on the reverse side, includes the words "Kent County Levy Court" and "Lifesaving Award."

Eleven year-old Kaidin Burton, pictured above with his family, is a student of the Caesar Rodney School District. He received a Lifesaving Award at the June 25 Levy Court Business Meeting for his quick thinking and response in coming to the aid of his school bus driver. Feeling dizzy, the driver abruptly stopped the bus and could no longer continue to drive. Kaidin first dialed 911 and then contacted his mother on Face Time who instructed him to also contact the Delaware State Police Emergency Services. Kaidin, and his younger brother Maurice, led the students off the bus through the rear door and instructed the students to find help while Kaiden obtained water and applied a cloth to the driver's head.

The other two Lifesaving Awards recommended to the Levy Court Commissioners were presented to school bus drivers from the Smyrna School District on their last day of the school-year. Virginia "Ginny" Clendaniel and Connie Thomas were the recipients.

Ms. Clendaniel saved the life of a first-grader who was choking on a piece of candy. After performing the Heimlich Maneuver, the piece of candy came out of the student's mouth clearing her airway.

Ms. Thomas came upon a burning automobile in a ditch. The door of the vehicle was wedged against the bank of the ditch, making the door hard to open. With the help of a passerby, she was able to pull the occupant out of the vehicle.

All three awardees exemplified calmness, expertise and courage to assist in actions that clearly demonstrated positive outcomes for all 'victims'. Because of their actions lives were not lost nor situations worsened.

Award—Continued on page 4

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 Road. 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 .

HON. P. BROOKS BANTA
President
1st District
302-242-2572

HON. TERRY L. PEPPER
Vice President
At-Large
Committee:
Public Safety
302-531-8803

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

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

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

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

HON. JEFFREY W. HALL
Commissioner
2nd District
Committee:
Finance
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
(302) 744-2330
Chief Deputy – Dianne M. Rager
Dianne.Rager@co.kent.de.us.
(302) 744-2328
Deputy – Jason Mollohan
Jason.Mollohan@co.kent.de.us
(302) 744-2327

RECORDER OF DEEDS:

Hon. Betty Lou McKenna
Bettylou.mckenna@co.kent.de.us
(302) 744-2321
Deputy – Alisa Stafford
Alisa.Stafford@co.kent.de.us
(302) 744-2318

CLERK OF THE PEACE:

Hon. Brenda Wootten
Brenda.Wootten@co.kent.de.us
(302) 744-2346
Deputy – Patricia A. Brown
Trish.Brown@co.kent.de.us

SHERIFF:

Hon. Brian E. Lewis
BrianE.Lewis@co.kent.de.us
(302) 736-2161
Chief Deputy – Chris White
Chris.White@co.kent.de.us
(302) 736-2161

KENT COUNTY PHONE DIRECTORY

Kent County Administrative Complex
555 Bay Road; 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

Kent County Parks and Recreation
1683 New Burton Road; Dover, DE 19904

Main Number	744-2495

Kent County Wastewater Treatment Plant
139 Milford Neck Road; Milford, DE 19963

Wastewater Facilities	335-6000

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN DEPUTY SHERIFF SWORN-IN

On Monday, June 3, 2019 Kent County Levy Court had another historic moment when The Honorable Brenda Wootten swore-in the first African American Deputy Sheriff, Kim Warfield. Deputy Warfield has an extensive career and background as a retired NYPD Detective. She also has a Doctoral Degree in Divinity and is an Apostolic Pastor.

Replacing Deputy Larry Warner who retired on May 31, 2019 after 18 years of service, Deputy Warfield will serve court ordered subpoenas, assist with foreclosures, monitions, and notice to lienholders. She will also assist with Sheriff Sales and perform many functions for the State of Delaware and U.S. Courts.

HOMEOWNERS, BEWARE OF MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROTECTION SCAM

It has come to our attention that many homeowners who have recently signed contracts for rehabilitation work for their homes through the Kent County program which requires a zero interest, zero payment mortgage that is forgiven in part each year during the term of the mortgage and in full at the end of that term have been receiving letters offering mortgage protection insurance and appears to have been sent in cooperation with Kent County Levy Court.

Please be advised that this type of insurance is not a requirement of or even necessary as a provision of the program. These letters are being sent without the advance knowledge of or permission of Kent County Levy Court. Our office has notified the Kent County Recorder of Deeds and the State of Delaware Department of Justice Fraud and Consumer Protection Division and we are working to find the source of these letters and prevent them in the future.

Meanwhile, if anyone has received such a letter, do not respond to our send any funds to the sender but notify the Kent County Department of Planning Services at: 302-744-2480.

Award—Continued from Page 1

So, Who Can Receive an Award?

Persons eligible to receive an Award must be a Kent County resident or working or attending school within the boundaries of Kent County; or Performing an act worthy of an award within the boundaries of Kent County. Persons may be recommended for an award in recognition for losing his or her life while saving or attempting to save the life of another person; or saving or attempting to save the life of another person under circumstances which caused personal injury and/or clearly placed the life of the recipient at great risk of bodily harm beyond the normal duties of the recipient's occupation; or saving or attempting to save the life of another person under extraordinary circumstances or by utilizing skills/abilities atypical for an individual of his/her young age (under age 19). An Award may be given posthumously.

In consultation with the Levy Court and County Administrator, the Director of Public Safety shall develop appropriate forms and any additional procedures necessary to effect the administration of this Policy.

What is The Process for Recommending Award Recipients?

The Kent County Director of Public Safety receives nominations for recognition and makes recommendations to Levy Court of persons determined deserving of the Award. Recommendations should follow the satisfactory conclusion of any professional review or formal investigation of the incident leading to nomination.

Photo courtesy of the Delaware State News

EVELYN'S RAINBOW

Evelyn Jopp was a 17-year employee of Kent County. She worked as a Personnel Technician II. Her pleasant telephone voice presented itself as a good first impression of Kent County. She had a sweet spirit, and was fondly thought of by all who knew her. On the day of her memorial, one of Evelyn's co-workers, Shirley Thoms, had been out of the office; and upon her return took this incredible picture of the Kent County Complex where a rainbow was hanging above. She named the picture, "Evelyn's Rainbow." Another colleague, Lorri Tanaka, describes the picture as, "a beautiful rainbow envelopes the County Administration Complex like a hug from above to Kent County employees." The picture pretty much says all that needs to be said.

Photo submitted by Shirley Thoms

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

APRIL

MARGARET M. MANGIAMELE-ORLANDO

Kent County Sheriff's Office

Kent County Department Heads have selected MARGO ORLANDO from the Kent County Sheriff's Office as the April 2019 Employee of the Month.

She started with Kent County in September 2008 and serves as Secretary in the Sheriff's Office. Her primary duties include processing court documents and related paperwork; answering incoming telephone calls; assisting with Sheriff Sales; and numerous other clerical duties. Prior to transferring to the Sheriff's Office in 2015, she worked in the Personnel Office and in the Register of Wills Office.

Current and previous supervisors report that Margo always exhibits enthusiasm and a positive attitude, making her a first-rate example of Kent County Levy Court's commitment to excellent customer service. She is an exemplary employee, performing her duties in a timely fashion and always willing to assist others. In keeping with her spirit of service, Margo teaches classes for children at her local church and has been a member of the Clayton Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for years.

According to Kent County Sheriff Brian Lewis, "Margo makes everyone in the office feel at home and welcomed, whether it is visitors to the office or coworkers. She is always pleasant, a pleasure to be around and her spirit is delightful. She is a great asset to this department!"

MAY

Michael S. Rigby

Department of Community Services

Kent County Department Heads have selected MICHAEL S. RIGBY from the Department of Community Services as the May 2019 Employee of the Month.

Mike serves as Assistant Director of Community Services – Parks & Recreation Division and has worked for Kent County since January 1995. He is responsible for managing the development and maintenance of the County's five parks as well as ensuring that a comprehensive program of recreational activities are offered to the public.

Mike was originally hired more than 20 years ago as a Parks Maintenance Foreman and was promoted to his current Assistant Director position in 2016. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to forge complementary relationships between parks and recreation staffs and the community as a whole. In addition to his numerous duties as Assistant Director, Mike plays a vital oversight role in the construction of numerous park improvements, oversees facility management for the Recreation Center Complex, and processes facility rental requests. He was previously honored as Employee of the Month in July 1997.

According to Community Services Director Jeremy Sheppard, "Mike is an exceptionally versatile and loyal County employee. He is constantly looking to make Kent County Parks and Recreation better. He takes a tremendous amount of personal pride in our facilities and programs."

JUNE

Michael J. Bishop

Department of Public Safety

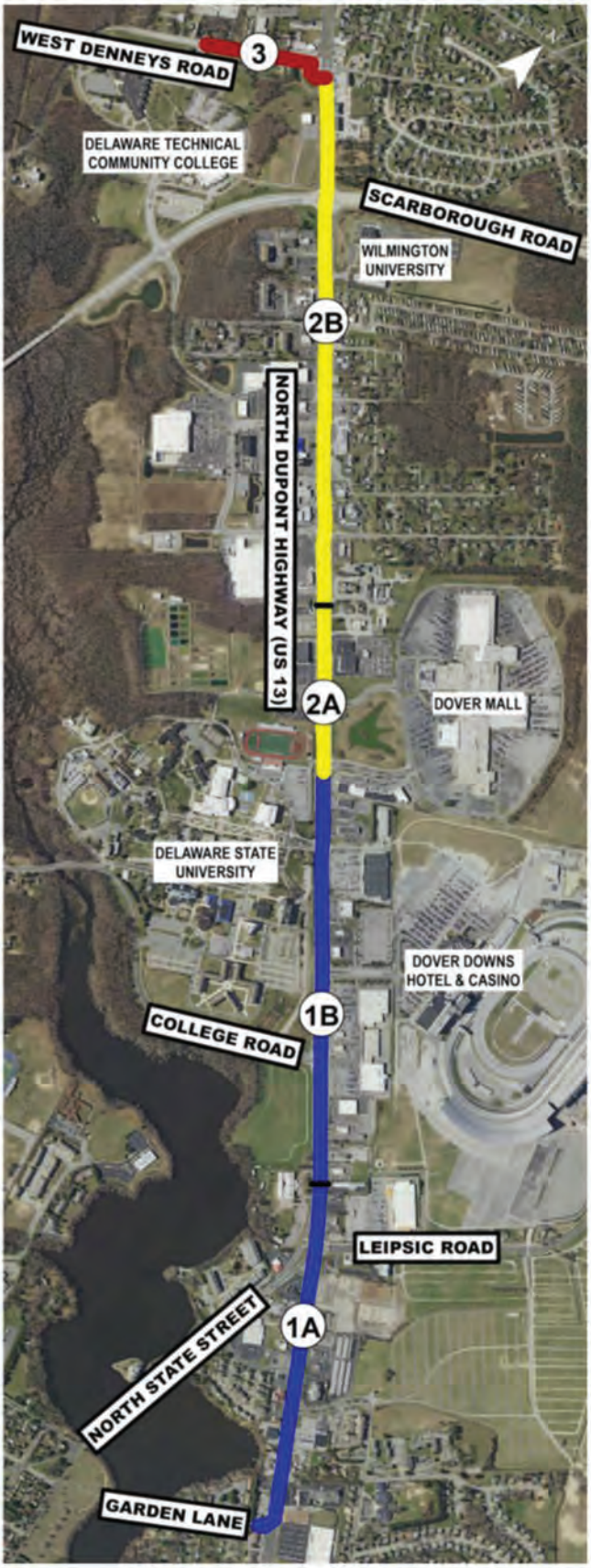
Kent County Department Heads have selected MICHAEL J. BISHOP from the Department of Public Safety as the June 2019 Employee of the Month.

Mike started with Kent County in October 1991 and serves as an EMS Field Supervisor in the Division of Emergency Medical Services. His primary duties include supervising and coordinating paramedics stationed county-wide during his shift in addition to responding to medical emergencies to provide advanced emergency care procedures to patients. Mike assumed his supervisory post in 2011 and has evolved into an invaluable member of the management team and a highly respected paramedic that others strive to emulate. He was previously honored in 2006 as a Paramedic II/Field Training Officer.

Mike is described as "an extremely competent medic as well as a well likeable and caring supervisor." He has excellent writing and organizational skills and is often tasked with developing new protocols and processes. In addition, Mike troubleshoots all of the Departmental vehicles and is responsible for all of the pharmaceutical rotations and elimination of expired drugs.

According to Director of Public Safety Chief Colin Faulkner, "Mike goes above and beyond every workday. The 9-1-1 Dispatchers greatly appreciate his information sharing and coordination, so they can anticipate which individual paramedic will likely respond to a particular call. It is a great example of internal customer service. He also has a keen ability to sense and resolve issues in the platoon before they evolve into something more."

U.S. 13 SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT INFORMATION



The US 13 Sewer Rehabilitation is well underway, and we just wanted to remind the public where to get information about it. A dedicated telephone line and email address have been established to assist with any questions or concerns regarding the project.

Telephone number: 302-318-1139;

Email address: project.outreach@kci.com; and,

Website: www.co.kent.de.us/sewerproject/

The project involves installing a smaller carrier pipe into a larger host pipe, also known as, 'sliplining', throughout a stretch in the median from Garden Lane moving north to Scarborough Road. Work will occur in the median and will involve temporary and limited traffic disruptions consisting of temporary lane and turn lane closures. There is no anticipation of disrupting the sewer service. The project is expected to be completed within the next five months, weather permitting,

On Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 27 Public Outreach Workshops were held at the Kent County Levy Court Administrative Complex and the Agricultural Museum respectively, in Dover, for residents who wanted to know how the project would affect them. Below, Kent County partner, Debbie Pfeil of KCI Technologies, explains.

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2019

The Kent County Sheriff's Office will no longer accept cash as payment for Foreclosure and Monition Sales.

Acceptable payment options include:

Cashier's Checks
Certfied Checks and
Money Orders.

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEW PARK NATURALIST BRINGS NATURE INTO COUNTY PARKS PROGRAMMING

Kent County Levy Court welcomes Kara Okonewski as the new Park Naturalist at the Howell Mill Nature Center. Kara is no stranger to those familiar with environmental and historical education, an area where she has enjoyed work as a Park Naturalist since 2011. In 2016, she became a Certified Interpretive Guide.

After many walks on the Brecknock Park loop passing the Howell Mill Nature Center, each time with growing curiosity, in November 2017 Kara reached out to park management about the Nature Center's status. In June 2018, she began volunteering and hosting programs a few days a month. From there, the Howell Mill Nature Center continued to see attendance increase and the desire grow for more environmental and historical education. Now, Kara will be working at the Nature Center on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Each Wednesday, join Kara at 10 am for a free guided walk, which is very popular among local families. It offers a friendly atmosphere, a connection with others who love the park, a taste of environmental and/or historical education, and a hint of creature searching all in a peaceful, natural environment.

Fall programming can be seen with Parks and Recreation activities section of this publication, but to give a glimpse, the schedule is filled with new and exciting programs, featuring a different theme each month!

September is 'Monarch Madness'! The center will offer a variety of programs ranging from movie night to garden tours that revolve around the park's beautiful butterfly garden. Caterpillars, raised in the Nature Center for release after transforming into beautiful Monarch butterflies, get tagged with serial numbers for tracking before their long journey to their winter roosting grounds in Mexico. The Nature Center is providing butterfly sponsorship opportunities, as well as, seeking garden volunteers.

October is 'Creepy Crawly' month that will focus on all of the creepies, the crawlies, the slimy ones and the slithering ones. But no need to be afraid; these creatures are beneficial to us and to our park. Find out more during the Creepy Crawly Show!

November is Native American Heritage month. Local Native Americans will volunteer their time to help us honor the month with education, games, dancing and more on November 2nd from 9 am to 3 pm. As a valuable resource to our community who better to learn about the native culture and the history of the land long before settlement?

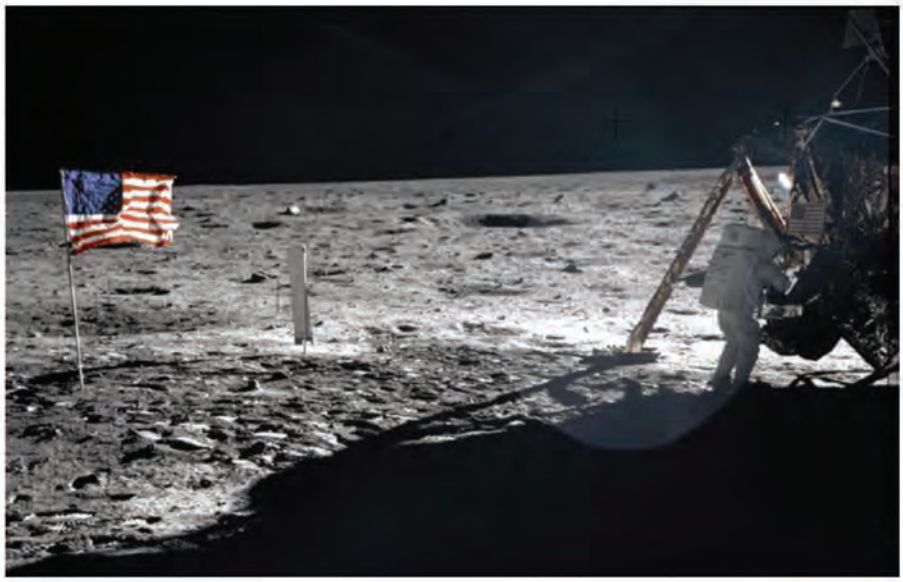
Bring the family, and don't forget the camera for a visit to the Howell Mill Nature Center! For more information, contact Kara Okonewski at kara.okonewski@co.kent.de.us.

LEVY COURT COMMISSIONERS HELPS FUND APOLLO MISSION DOCUMENTARY FILM

July 11, 2019 marked the 50th Anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 moon landing. Do you remember Astronaut Neil Armstrong's infamous "...giant leap for Mankind", as he became the first human to walk on the lunar surface? To commemorate this historic moment, Project Delaware, Inc., a multimedia production company based in Lewes, Delaware documented the invention of Apollo Space Suits worn during the Apollo 11 mission. The suits were made at the International Latex Corporation, known today as ILC Dover, Incorporated in Kent County, Delaware.

At the June 4, 2019 Levy Court Business Meeting, all seven Commissioners voted to authorize $25,000 to assist with the creation of the documentary film chronicling the history of the design, development, and manufacture of the Apollo Mission Moon Suit.

Although the original Space Suit is on display at the Smithsonian Institute, the training suit is proudly displayed at the ILC, Dover office in Frederica.



Neil A. Armstrong, a Navy fighter pilot who went on to become NASA's Apollo 11 mission commander, makes man's historic first step on the moon, July 20, 1969. (NASA photo)