

# Kent County LEVY COURT



Serving Kent County with Pride

Community Newsletter & Parks,  
Recreation and Library Activity Guide

Spring 2021

*follow us!*



*'Like' us!*

@KCLevyCourt



# 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  
302-531-8803



**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
------------------	----------

## Kent County Parks and Recreation 1683 New Burton Rd., Dover, DE 19904

Main Number	744-2495
-------------	----------

## Kent County Wastewater Treatment Plant 139 Milford Neck Rd., MilfoRd., DE 19963

Wastewater Facilities	335-6000
-----------------------	----------

### ATTENTION

### KENT COUNTY GARBAGE COLLECTION CUSTOMERS

**(This does NOT apply to you if your collection is provided by a CITY, TOWN OR PRIVATE CONTRACTOR)**

### GARBAGE, RECYCLING & YARD WASTE SERVICE

### KENT COUNTY 2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Jan. 1, 2021	New Year's Day
Jan. 18, 2021	Martin Luther King's Birthday
Feb. 15, 2021	President's Day
April 2, 2021	Good Friday
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day
July 5, 2021	Independence Day
Sept. 6, 2021	Labor Day
Nov. 11, 2021	Veteran's Day
Nov. 25, 2021	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 26, 2021	Day after Thanksgiving
Dec. 24, 2021	Christmas Day
Dec. 27, 2021	Day After Christmas
Dec. 31, 2021	New Year's Day

Holidays Observed	Day of Week	Date of Holiday	Collection Day
New Year's Day 2021	Friday	January 1, 2021	One Day Later <b>Friday</b> Customers
Memorial Day	Monday	May 31, 2021	One Day Later <b>For All Customers</b>
Independence Day	Sunday	July 4, 2021	Collection Schedule is not affected
Labor Day	Monday	Sept 6, 2021	One Day Later <b>For All Customers</b>
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 25, 2021	One Day Later <b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b> Customers
Christmas Day	Saturday	December 25, 2021	Collection Schedule is not affected
New Year's Day 2022	Saturday	January 1, 2022	Collection Schedule is not affected



# As many as 130 jobs coming to former PPG PAINT PLANT IN DOVER

## New project a joint effort of Kent Economic Partnership, State of Delaware and Kent County

A 173,000 square-foot former paint manufacturing plant in Dover is seeing new life and new jobs, thanks to a joint effort of the Kent Economic Partnership, the state of Delaware and Kent County.

The facility located at 1886 Lynnbury Woods Road was purchased for \$4.25 million, part of a total investment of \$17.2 million, to develop manufacturing and warehouse jobs at the site.

Nephi, Utah-based National Vinyl Products is an extruder of PVC fence and rail products sold across North America. This new state-of-the-art extrusion plant will employ 80 workers as equipment operators, quality control and plant / equipment maintenance personnel while allowing the company access to customers across the Eastern US.

USA Fulfillment Services, a Chestertown, Maryland-based logistics company, is leasing space at the building and will use it for warehousing. It will employ between 30 and 40 workers, bringing the total number of people working at the building to as many as 130.

The building, which was formerly occupied by PPG, has been vacant since 2019 when the company closed its paint factory.

“This is a real win for Delaware and for Kent County,” Governor John Carney said. “This brings back to the area many of what I call the ‘new old’ jobs that for years have helped Delaware families put food on the table, pay the mortgage and send their kids to college.”

It took a coordinated effort by Kent Economic Partnership and state and county government to make the project come together.

“NVP considered several other locations, including one in Maryland,” Kent Economic Partnership Executive Director Linda Parkowski said. “It was all-hands on deck and everyone we turned to for help in making this project happen was there when we needed them. From the Governor, who reached out to National Vinyl Products, to the Division of Small Business who found USA Fulfillment as a tenant, to the Council on Development Finance which approved a bond and grants and Kent County Levy Court which provided additional funding, it was a team effort.”

The Council on Development Finance at its June

meeting recommended the issuance of a bond of up to \$10 million to help finance the cost of acquiring the building and purchasing manufacturing equipment. CDF also recommended \$268,823 in grants for the project.

Kent County Levy Court will provide a \$75,000 grant and a 10-year tax abatement for the project.

“Kent County has always had a strong manufacturing base supported by skilled workers. The loss of jobs due to the closing of the PPG paint plant was certainly a blow to many employees and the area,” Kent County Levy Court President Terry Pepper said. “Levy Court is very happy that Duratech, Shureline and USA Fulfillment have chosen Kent County as their home. I know these employers will find the Kent County workforce ready and able to fill their employment needs. Kent County looks forward to serving these companies for many years to come.”

“Kent County was well positioned to compete for and win this opportunity,” said Damian DeStefano, chair of the Delaware Economic Development Authority. “The Kent Economic Partnership has done a great job of effectively framing the benefits the county offers to a diverse array of businesses. The team at the Division of Small Business looks forward to helping attract more projects in the future.”

“We feel we made the right choice in selecting Kent County for our new location,” said Zack Clark, NVP’s chief operating officer. “We were looking for a community with an experienced manufacturing workforce and we found that in Kent County.” “This location works well for us, too,” said Jay Stamerro, USA Fulfillment general manager. “Kent County is close to many of the markets we serve so it’s a great place for a warehouse and fulfillment center.”

### **ABOUT THE KENT COUNTY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP:**

The mission of the Kent Economic Partnership is to spur economic development in Central Delaware. Using business attraction and retention programs KEP promotes better employment opportunities for Central Delaware residents by being a premier economic “engine”.

The Kent Economic Partnership creates a unified voice for the County and municipal governments and the private sector supporting economic development that creates and sustains a diverse business climate in Central Delaware.

# Housing Rehabilitation Funding is Available to Assist LOW TO MODERATE INCOME HOMEOWNERS

As we move through the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, low-to-moderate income homeowners may find it difficult making a house repair when competition for where to best use limited dollars is steadily increasing by the day. Some people may put their repair into the future, while other people may need the repair right away.

The Kent County Department of Planning Services, Housing and Community Development section has a program that may be able to help through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Funding for this program is provided by the Delaware State Housing Authority. "Each year our office applies to DSHA for housing rehabilitation funding which is used to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners with essential home repairs that they might otherwise be unable to afford, given their limited financial resources," said Community Development Housing Supervisor Michael Miles.

The CDBG program serves Kent County homeowners who live in one of the 19 municipalities, except for those living within the City of Dover limits. To improve the quality of life for low-to-moderate income homeowners, a CDBG could be useful in bringing a home up to housing code standards and to correct safety issues, such as: electrical, plumbing, roofing, heating, structural renovations, and ramps for persons with disabilities.

According to Miles, "Our program supports those low-to-moderate income County residents whose homes may have fallen into a state of disrepair, or who may have a need for an emergency repair. Our goal is to provide the necessary resources to those homeowners to help rehabilitate their homes, bringing the residence up to a safe and proper condition".

## WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS?

There are four requirements that must be met to qualify for assistance. The *first* is that the property be owner occupied. *Second*, the total annual income, including all supplemental forms of income cannot exceed the income limits shown below. The *third* qualifier is that there must be adequate hazard insurance on the property being considered for assistance, prior to the start of work.

And *forth*, all City and County taxes, sewer fees and property assessments must be paid. Manufactured housing on rented land must also be current in the rental payments.

## BY TOTAL HOUSEHOLD SIZE: (AS UPDATED ON 7/1/2020)

<b>1 person</b>	<b>\$38,300</b>
<b>2 persons</b>	<b>\$43,800</b>
<b>3 persons</b>	<b>\$49,250</b>
<b>4 persons</b>	<b>\$54,700</b>
<b>5 persons</b>	<b>\$59,100</b>
<b>6 persons</b>	<b>\$63,500</b>
<b>7 persons</b>	<b>\$67,850</b>
<b>8 persons</b>	<b>\$72,250</b>

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Homeowners interested in participating in the program must fill out an application for assistance provided by the County.

After verifying the information contained in the application, a Community Development Specialist will

*continued on page 8*



Before



After

# Kent County Residents May Get a Property Tax EXEMPTION IN ONE OF TWO WAYS Elderly/Disability Tax Exemption

Now is the time for Kent County residents 65 years or older or those who will be 65 by May 31, 2021; and/or persons who are 100% disabled, to apply and/or reapply for the Annual Elderly/Disability Tax Exemption. To qualify, besides the age requirement, there are also income and residency requirements. Please note: Disabled applicants must be able to document total disability.

Completed applications and subsequent verification forms must be received by the Board of Assessment at the Kent County Administrative Complex no later than April 30, 2021. The address is: 555 Bay Road; Dover, DE 19901.

Delaware Residents of five or more years, who have lived in their property for at least one year prior to April 30, 2021 may qualify for the Elderly/Disability Tax Exemption credit. The exception is for veterans who are 100% disabled as a result of their military service but they must live in the property as their primary residence.

Title to the property for which the exemption is sought must be in the name of the applicant, and/or the applicant and applicant's spouse, or a revocable grantor trust with the applicant listed as a trustee, as reflected in the official records of the county.

## **ELDERLY:**

- For those seeking the exemption based on age, other factors of consideration include:
- The income limit for single applicants is \$18,000, and for married applicants \$24,750.
- Applicants are required to include a copy of their 2020 Federal Income Tax Return with their application.
- First-time applicants for the Elderly Exemption will need to provide proof of age, such as a copy of a Delaware driver's license or a State Identification Card.

## **DISABILITY:**

- Applicant must provide a Physician Statement of Disability signed by a licensed physician certifying that the applicant is 100% disabled.
- A Social Security award letter or Veterans Administration award letter stating 100% disability can replace the Physician Statement of Disability.
- After receiving documentation of 100% PERMANENT disability, this document is not required annually.

*continued on page 11*

## New Leadership at LEVY COURT

Outgoing Levy Court President, P. Brooks Banta bid farewell to colleagues after opening his last meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2020, the Swearing In Ceremony for new and reelected officials.

Shortly after opening, newly elected Joanne Masten took the Oath of Office and became Commissioner over the 1st Levy Court District (northern Kent County), Commissioners Allan Angel, 3rd District, and George "Jody" Sweeney, 5th District were also sworn in after regaining their seats in the November 3rd election. Clerk of the Peace, Brenda Wootten, and Register of Wills, Harold Brode were sworn in as well.

After the Swearing In Ceremony, a new Levy Court

President, Terry Pepper and Vice President, Allan Angel were elected.

Also Committee Chairs were assigned as follows:  
Community Services - Commissioner Jody Sweeney  
Planning Services - Commissioner Eric Buckson  
Public Safety - Commissioner Jeffrey Hall  
Administration - Commissioner Allan Angel  
Finance - Commissioner Joanne Masten  
Public Works - Commissioner Glen Howell  
All Commissioners were in agreement that they are looking forward to another year working on behalf of Kent County residents.



# Drone Added to KENT COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS

In November 2019, the Kent County Levy Court gave approval to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to purchase a Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS), also known as a Drone; and while the County purchased the initial aircraft, DPS secured a grant from the Department of Homeland Security for extra batteries and accessories. The aircraft comes equipped with a conventional high resolution camera, but also has a thermal camera that picks off heat from an object. The drone has the capability of flying at high altitudes to get sweeping vista views or can fly at lower elevations to get more narrow aerals.

Levy Court President Terry Pepper is a strong advocate for technologies that improve emergency services. He said, "This technology is widely used by county governments across the United States to aide them in the various aspects of governing. The purchase of this SUAS will assist Kent County in numerous ways and keep us in the forefront of public safety operations and technology."

The SUAS can be used throughout DPS and its three divisions: Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services.

"This adds another dimension of service and provides the ability to assist in emergency responses," said Public Safety Chief Colin Faulkner whose enthusiasm over the drone's features and capabilities is about as high as having the drone itself. The SUAS would prove useful in search and rescue missions, mass gatherings, and hazmat situations. With its thermal camera, we'd be able to see a heat signature and see what we typically wouldn't be able to



**Colin Faulkner, Kelly Pitts, Mark Kennedy, Robbie Watts, Co-Pilot, and Cameron Maas, Pilot.**

see. "Our goal is to have 24/7 deploy-ability so that if there's a need for a drone we can deploy somebody immediately to pilot the drone," said Chief Faulkner. "We planned to do this earlier in the year but COVID came and then the hurricane/tornado came and we had to put plans on the back burner." Recently, that goal became closer to reality when five additional Kent County Public Safety employees and the County's Media Specialist became FAA certified to pilot the drones adding yet another programming layer to enhance the protection of Kent County residents.

To become FAA Certified Pilots, Kent County personnel took a comprehensive training course leading up to a FAA administered exam. The training was primarily designed to ensure familiarity with the laws of the air.

The distinguishing factor between a Certified Pilot and drone enthusiast is control over where the pilot can fly. Those flying drones for a hobby must be a part of an organization and fly within a controlled designated place and time. FAA Certified pilots must always have a Remote Pilot In Command and also a Visual Observer.

County Administrator Michael J. Petit de Mange envisions SUAS's being used in other County Departments. Examples include in Land Use Planning, Code Enforcement, or Pre - and Post - Disaster surveillance, even for promoting some County assets such as, Parks and Recreation and other economic development sites.

Over the last few years drones have become increasingly popular in use among business and government organizations. Because they increase productivity decrease workload and costs, you can expect that they are here to stay.



**Mark Kennedy, Brandon Olenik, Richard Hand, John Mieczkowski, Justin Conrad, Cameron Maas, Robbie Watts.**

# Where to Get Information About COVID AND THE VACCINE

There's a lot of information spreading about the Coronavirus and the Vaccines. To help assist with getting factual information out to the public, the Department of Public Health has several channels in place to keep the public informed and updated about the Coronavirus and the Vaccine.

For starters, visit DPH's website **De.gov/covid vaccine**, an excellent resource that from the onset has live dials directly geared toward: the general public; *the medical community; agencies, organizations, and businesses; and vaccine safety and monitoring*. Clicking on any of any of these dials will lead to a plethora of information.

Vaccine access and its timeline will be spread throughout the state by traditional means of communication: newspaper, tv, radio and online media, and also through social media as well as DPH's website.

Following is where you can connect to get the news you need: [De.gov/covidvaccine](https://de.gov/covidvaccine)

**Vaccine Call Center** for those without computer access: 1-833-643-1715 Open *Monday through Friday* 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and *Saturday* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Deaf or hard of hearing may call 2-1-1 or text zip code to 898-211.

For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, text your Zip Code to 898-211, or email [delaware211@uwde.org](mailto:delaware211@uwde.org). Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Medically related questions regarding testing, symptoms, and health-related guidance can be submitted by email at [DPHCall@delaware.gov](mailto:DPHCall@delaware.gov)

As it becomes available, second dose registration or scheduling information will be listed on **de.gov/getmyvaccine** and will be emailed to all eligible individuals the state has e-mail addresses for.

For Covid Testing, visit **de.gov/coronavirus** for the latest information on Delaware's COVID-19 response. Find testing events and locations at **de.gov/gettested**.

## TO KEEP UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook - **DEPublicHealth**

Twitter - **@Delaware\_dhss**

Instagram - **depublichealth**

YouTube - **DeIDHSS**

## If you need to contact DPH with questions? Email addresses are:

General Public (questions about vaccine) - **Vaccine@delaware.gov**

Vaccine enrollment (to vaccinate staff and patients) which is monitored by immunization staff: **COVIDVaccine@delaware.gov**

Business and organizations with essential workforce - **VaccinePlanning@delaware.gov**

*continued from page 5*

inspect the home and prepare a list of repairs to be completed. The work order describing the repairs will then be passed on to a few County approved licensed contractors for bid, and the job is awarded to the lowest bidding responsive contractor.

The contractor completes the work, submits a bill to Kent County, and upon the completion of a satisfactory inspection by County, the bill is paid. It's that easy.

Please note: To avoid abuse of the Program, a lien in the form of a mortgage is placed on the property repaired. The lien has a 0% interest rate and no monthly payments with a term of five to ten years depending on the amount of funds spent. At the

end of the lien term, the mortgage is considered satisfied.

## HOW TO APPLY:

Homeowners interested in participating in the program must fill out an application for assistance by calling the Kent County Community Development Section at: (302) 744-2480.

[www.co.kent.de.us/media/1005793/PROGRAM-HANDOUT-FLYER-ENGLISH-1072020.pdf](http://www.co.kent.de.us/media/1005793/PROGRAM-HANDOUT-FLYER-ENGLISH-1072020.pdf)

For more information or to be placed on a waiting list, please contact:

Kent County Department of Planning Services  
555 Bay Road  
Dover, DE 19901



# Employees of the Month

## AMY L. MINNER

**JULY**



Department  
of Planning  
Services

Kent County Department Heads have selected Amy L. Minner from the Department of Planning Services as the July 2020 Employee of the Month.

Amy started as a Permit Technician I with Kent County in January 2008 and currently serves a Permit Technician III. Her primary duties include performing highly technical work in the issuance of County permits and maintaining the efficient and effective operation of the Permit Service Center ensuring high employee performance, customer service and support to other departments.

Amy was previously recognized as the Employee of the Month in October 2015 and August 2010. Both times, her outstanding

customer service skills, frequent praise from customers and dedication to the “Go Pink” campaign were given as reasons why she deserved the award.

During the COVID-19 pandemic response, Amy helped make the business continuity plan in her department particularly successful.

According to Director of Planning Services Sarah Kiefer, “During a period of exceptionally high permit demand, changes in how permits are submitted, changes in how we communicate with applicants without use of the front counter, and continued My Government Online testing and development, Amy kept everything moving as efficiently and effectively as possible. She handled the situation not only without complaint, but cheerfully. I am proud of how all of Planning Services was able to continue providing service in all areas, but Amy truly stands out and has been noticed by her coworkers for that fact as well.”

## KRISANNE MILEY

**AUGUST**



Department of  
Finance

Kent County Department Heads have selected KrisAnne Miley from the Department of Finance as the August 2020 Employee of the Month.

KrisAnne has been a Kent County employee since July 2018 and holds the position of Accountant III in the general fund Accounting section. She has a Bachelor’s degree in accounting from University of Pittsburgh and earned a Master’s degree in accounting from Wilmington University in 2016. Before joining the County, she worked as a State Auditor in the Delaware Office of Auditor of Accounts.

KrisAnne’s primary duties include reviewing and approving all submitted capital project expenditures, managing NSP, EMPG, & Library Standards grant fund draws, monitoring contracts for compliance with terms and expiration, and she has taken the lead role for COVID-19 grant application review and submission. In addition, she has helped organize end of year documents and transfer them for proper storage.

According to Finance Director Susan Durham, “KrisAnne has impressed everybody since she started work here. She is very detail oriented and extremely thorough with a keen eye for complete documentation. She has helped take our grant reimbursement process to the next level by working to maximize return where possible. She continuously seeks new challenges and went the extra mile whenever COVID-19 impacted County operations.”

## PAUL A. MODESTO JR.

**SEPTEMBER**



Department of Planning Services

Kent County Department Heads have selected Paul A. Modesto Jr. from the Department of Planning Services as the September 2020 Employee of the Month.

Paul has been a Kent County employee since July 2018 and holds the position of Building Codes Inspector I in the Inspections & Enforcement Office. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing/Business Administration from the University of Delaware and completed a 4-year apprenticeship in commercial carpentry in 2010. His primary duties include inspecting buildings and property for compliance with the County building code as well as enforcement of zoning, housing and property maintenance ordinances.

Paul has earned praise by his supervisors for utilizing his vast carpentry experience to assist homeowners and contractors in understanding the County building codes and inspection processes. He has brought a unique perspective to the inspections team, and is always willing to pitch in to get the job done.

According to County Administrator Michael Petit de Mange, “Paul has stepped up to help reduce the recent backlog caused by an uptick in building permit applications. This effort was demonstrated last month when he began taking on extra hours and even worked over the 4th of July Holiday to complete timely inspections. Paul’s willingness to go the extra mile is greatly appreciated and very worthy of this recognition.” According to Planning Services Director Sarah Kiefer, “Paul not only possesses the skills required to be a great building inspector, he embraces our customer service mission. His eagerness to take on extra hours to serve the public is deeply appreciated.”

# Employees of the Month

## CORDAE A. SHOWELL

## OCTOBER



Department of Public Works

Kent County Department Heads have selected **CORDAE A. SHOWELL** from the Department of Public Works as the October 2020 Employee of the Month.

Cordae has been a Kent County employee since December 2018 and holds the position of Heavy Equipment Operator I in the Wastewater Facilities Division. His primary duties include operating heavy equipment at the Regional Resource Recovery Facility, and transporting and land applying highly prized processed biosolids - Kentorganite to area farms.

Cordae is praised by supervisors for his dependability and conscientiousness. His work ethic is matched only by his enthusiasm for the important work.

More recently, Cordae had a vital role in Kent County's physical effort to help Dover area property owners clean-up unprecedented tornado damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. Cordae along with the rest of the County's clean-up team worked diligently to remove the debris by operating a large wheeled excavator.

According to Public Works Director Diana Golt, "Since his first day, Cordae has been an exemplary employee. His quiet demeanor and calm attitude have been a pleasant addition. He shows up each day with a smile on his face, ready to tackle whatever job is in front of him. His attitude and dedication makes him a perfect candidate for this honor"

## KAITLYN M. SCHECH

## NOVEMBER



Department of Community Services

Kent County Department Heads have selected **KAITLYN M. SCHECH** from the Department of Community Services as the November 2020 Employee of the Month.

Kaitlyn serves as a Recreation Program Supervisor I in the Parks & Recreation Division and has worked for Kent County since September 2017. Her primary duties include organizing and coordinating recreational programs and leagues at the Recreation Center, various County parks and other locations.

Kaitlyn is responsible for greatly expanding KCPR's youth soccer program by leading efforts to combine youth recreational players from a local club and those enrolling in Kent

County's recreation program. Earlier this year, this combination

of programs resulted in 175 sign-ups for Spring Soccer. Unfortunately, it was all cut short one week into the season by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working through the summer, Kaitlyn was able to coordinate a safe return for Fall Soccer, which currently has 130 youth involved. Play has continued and the vision of the Kent Youth Soccer League (KYSL) is taking shape. Kaitlyn works tirelessly coordinating with uniform suppliers, volunteer coaches, local soccer resources, officials groups, park staff, and front office staff for registration purposes.

According to Community Service Director Jeremy Sheppard, "Kaitlyn is a thoughtful worker with a powerful inner drive to make programs better. Her passion for youth soccer led the way for the program merger last spring and now to fruition in the fall. She successfully managed a detailed safe return plan for youth soccer and the Kent County community is better for it."

## CHRISTIAN G. WHITE

## DECEMBER



Sheriff's Office

Kent County Department Heads have selected **CHRISTIAN G. WHITE** of the Sheriff's Office as the December 2020 Employee of the Month.

Chris serves as Chief Deputy Sheriff in the Office of the Kent County Sheriff and has been a Kent County employee since May 2008. His primary duties include service of court-ordered subpoenas; maintaining records of service; conducting property inventory for scheduled sales; assisting in the sale of property; and as Chief Deputy supporting the Sheriff with supervising office staff and activities. Chris was previously recognized as the Employee of the Month in November 2013.

Chris is a retired City of Dover police officer and

is highly regarded for his professionalism and positive attitude. He uses his skills to deescalate tense situations when serving a subpoena or summons or inventorying personal property to settle a judgment.

Earlier this year when the County Complex was closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he cleverly suggested use of a surplus Emergency Services vehicle parked out front with partially opened windows as a secure temporary drop off point for various documents such as site plans, building or sewer permit applications, deeds, tax & sewer payments, and job applications.

According to Sheriff Brian E. Lewis, "Chris does an excellent job as my Chief Deputy. No matter what the task, I can count on him to be there. He and his fellow deputies are highly trained individuals capable of handling any situation. Chris is a fine example of the high quality employees working for Kent County and he is very deserving of this honor."

# Seniors May Qualify for A SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Homeowners age 65 or over are eligible for a tax credit against regular school property taxes of 50 percent (up to \$400). This credit may only be used against property taxes on a primary residence.

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:

For new applicants, individuals who establish legal domicile in Delaware on or after January 1, 2018,

there is a 10 year residency requirement. These individuals will be required to have been legally domiciled within the State for a period **of at least 10 consecutive years** in order to be eligible to receive a credit.

Individuals who have established legal domicile in Delaware between December 31, 2012, and December 31, 2017 will continue to be required to have been legally domiciled within the State for a period of **at least 3 consecutive years** in order to be eligible to receive a credit.

Individuals who have established domicile in Delaware prior to January 1, 2013, will be eligible to receive the credit in the ensuing tax year.

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

Taxpayers must pay their property tax bill in full by the end of each tax year in order to qualify for this credit for the subsequent property tax year.

A copy of a valid driver's license or official state ID is required for each applicant at the time of application.

## TO APPLY:

For an application, visit [www.financefiles.delaware.gov/docs/ssptc\\_app.pdf](http://www.financefiles.delaware.gov/docs/ssptc_app.pdf)

For information about the tax credit, log on to: [www.finance.delaware.gov/financial-reports/senior-school-property-tax-relief/commonly-asked-questions/](http://www.finance.delaware.gov/financial-reports/senior-school-property-tax-relief/commonly-asked-questions/)

Completed applications may be mailed to the **Kent County Finance Department; P. O. Box 802; Dover, DE 19903** or brought to the **Kent County Complex; 555 Bay Road; Dover, DE 19901 on or before April 30, 2021.**

*continued from page 6*

No application will be approved unless all taxes, user fees, sewer service charges, Inspections and Enforcement Liens, and all other taxes and fees the due to or collectible by Kent County have been paid in full for all parcels owned by the applicant before the application deadline.

If mailing the application, please allow ample time for delays or loss of application due to mail ser-

vice. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure receipt of the application and its return to Kent County by the deadline.

An application may be obtained from the Kent County Levy Court web site at: [www.co.kent.de.us/media/1011385/2021-EXEMP-APP.pdf](http://www.co.kent.de.us/media/1011385/2021-EXEMP-APP.pdf)

Or call the Kent County Assessment Office at: 302-744-2401, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## Safe Summer Day 2021 Canceled

It is with regret that we are postponing this year's Safe Summer Day due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The need to ensure surfaces are disinfected, wearing masks, and social distancing, makes this outdoor event too difficult to manage logistically.

Both Kent County Public Safety, and the agencies

that support us are concerned and not comfortable to commit to any events during this crisis.

Our hope is that we are in a better position in 2022 so that we can provide you, the public with the experience of Safe Summer Day that you have become accustomed to.

We look forward to seeing you next June to kick-off, Safe Summer Day 2022.



# 73 Employees recognized for PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Levy Court recognized 73 Kent County employees at its meeting on January 26, 2021 for achieving perfect attendance during Calendar Year 2020 - Each employee receives an extra vacation day (Payroll code - PA for hourly & SAPA for exempt), certificate of appreciation, and a small gift.

The following employees achieved one calendar year of perfect attendance:

## **Administration Dept.**

Donna Barnes  
Katrina Brumble  
Barbara Gibbs  
Mary Hazelwood  
Mark Kennedy  
Allan Kujala  
Michael Petit de Mange  
Kevin Scott  
Lorri Tanaka

## **Community Services Dept.**

Jason Courtney  
Roxanne Parsons  
Joseph Paugh  
Michael Rigby  
Frederick Strauss  
Hilary Welliver

## **Finance Dept.**

Susan Durham  
Gina Hamilton  
Mary Karol  
Amy King-Waller  
Paula McPhail  
Sheila Ross  
Susan Willson

## **Planning Services Dept.**

Jason Berry  
Scott Blaier  
Kristopher Connelly  
Brian Costa  
Brian Ezell

Jamie Fenske  
Timothy Hudson  
Jill Johns  
Sarah Keifer  
Wm. Shannon Morris  
Rodney Smith  
Nancy Thompson  
Scott Vautard

## **Public Safety Dept.**

David Abramson  
Timothy Brown  
Colin Faulkner  
Jennifer Graham  
Kenneth Kelly  
Justin Pippin  
Kathryn Ridgway  
Richard Schlauch  
Gregory Schulties  
Edward Semans  
Kevin Sipple  
Nicole Vautard  
Robert Watts  
Michael Wittenberg  
John Witzke

## **Public Works Dept.**

Robert Brooks  
John Callaway  
Jason Gary  
James Gerardi  
Craig Harvey  
David Higgins  
Timothy Jones

Michael Lynch  
Shawn O'Toole  
Vincent Parsons, Sr  
Andrew Riggi  
Matthew Rinehart  
Lloyd Runser  
Mark Stayton  
Harold Venable

## **Clerk of the Peace**

Patricia Brown

## **Recorder of Deeds**

Vanessa Laughman

## **Register of Wills**

Kay Kriss  
Dianne Rager

## **Sheriff's Office**

Kenneth Anderson  
Timothy Mutter  
Kim Warfield  
Christian White

2020 - 73 employees  
2019 - 58 employees  
2018 - 46 employees  
2017 - 47 employees  
2016 - 60 employees  
2015 - 57 employees

\*Due to pandemic, honorees were not requested to attend