



## Spotlight on Kentwood

### From the Mayor's Office

Greetings to all who call Kentwood home! So much has transpired since our last Kentwood newsletter. Our country has elected its 45th President and most of us are wondering how it may impact us locally. It is important for us not to be afraid. Our Constitution has stood the test of time providing for peaceful transfers of power while protecting the individual rights of all U.S. citizens. More than ever, we need to act and not react to any negative actions or words that may be cast in the national spotlight. Loving your neighbor and treating all with respect, no matter how someone voted, is the key for our Kentwood community to remain united for a better tomorrow. As I had mentioned before, may it be our love for one another, no matter what, that resists the negative winds from tearing our flag or our country.



Blessings to you, your family and your business,

Mayor Kepley

### Tree Recycling

The City of Kentwood offers a Christmas tree recycle site open Dec. 26 through Jan. 31 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The site is located at the City of Kentwood DPW at 5068 Breton Ave. All lights and decorations must be removed before dropping off your tree.

### Upcoming Events

#### Be a Santa to a Senior Program

Now through Dec. 16  
KAC, 355 48th St. SE, Kentwood

#### Holiday Food Drive & Mitten Tree

Now through Dec. 16  
KAC, 355 48th St. SE, Kentwood

#### Annual Tree Lighting

Dec. 9, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Kentwood District Library

#### Kentwood Community Choir Concert

Dec. 16, 7 p.m.  
Heritage Baptist Church

#### Gingerbread Lane Story Time

Dec. 10, 10 a.m.  
Kentwood District Library

#### Countdown to Happy "Noon" Year

Dec. 31, 11 a.m.  
Kentwood District Library

#### Kentwood Remembers MLK

Jan. 16, 10 a.m.  
Kentwood District Library

#### Daddy Daughter Dance

Feb. 11, 6 p.m.  
Kentwood District Library

#### Freeze Fest Doubles Disc Golf

Tournament & Food Drive  
Feb. 18, 9 a.m.

### Kentwood 50th Anniversary

2017 marks the City of Kentwood's 50th Anniversary! Throughout the year, we'll be celebrating this occasion. Stay tuned for more information about all the events! We're kicking off with:

#### 50th Anniversary City Commission Meeting

Feb. 27, 6 p.m.  
Bowen Elementary School

### Sidewalks & Hydrants

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk in front of your house or business. When clearing your sidewalk, please keep these tips in mind:

- Be sure to clear the entire width of the sidewalk of snow and ice. This allows for safe passage of pedestrians.
- Keeping adjacent fire hydrants accessible is also the property owner's responsibility.



**Be sure to  
like us on  
Facebook**

To keep up with all things happening in the City of Kentwood.

## Winter Tips & Tidbits

### Fire Safety

Did you know home fires occur more in the winter than any other season? Be fire smart as you stay cozy and warm this winter season! Follow this quick checklist to help make your home safe for the winter:

- Check your smoke alarms
- Check your carbon monoxide detectors
- Clean out your dryer vent
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from other objects
- Have your furnace inspected
- Always put fireplace ashes outside in a metal container
- Keep the closest fire hydrant clear of snow
- Make sure the address numbers on your home are visible
- Never leave burning candles unattended

If you do not have a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector, contact the fire department at 616.554.0800 for assistance.

### Winter Parking

Parking along the streets in the winter makes it very difficult for us to properly remove the snow. Vehicles may not be parked on the City streets from 1 a.m. to 8 am from Nov. 15 to March 15, or at any other time when parking could disrupt snow plowing.

### Winter Property Taxes

Winter property tax bills are issued Dec. 1, 2016 and due Feb. 14, 2017. Payments received after this date will automatically have a 3% penalty applied. Remember, your tax bill does not cover specific months, but rather, levy different taxes due for the entire year.

There are four ways to make a payment which are in-person at the Treasurer's Office located in City Hall, online at [www.ci.kentwood.mi.us](http://www.ci.kentwood.mi.us), by calling 844.400.3552 or the non-cash teller tube and 24-hour drop box outside City Hall. Contact the Treasurer's Office at 616.554.0761 or visit the website with any additional questions.

### Avoid the "Second Shovel"

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway only to have it plowed in when your local snowplow comes through? Clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below), giving the snow on the plow a place to go other than your driveway, should keep you from having to do the same job twice.



### Snow Removal Assistance

If you are looking for help removing snow, some local agencies may be able to provide help. The Red Cross, United Way or even your neighborhood association may provide assistance. Other resources such as your local church, a private contractor, family members or neighbors could also be of assistance.

### Vacation House Checks

The Volunteers in Police Service program of the Kentwood Police Department offers **free** vacation house checks to Kentwood residents. Trained volunteers will perform an inspection of your property while you are away for at least a week and up to three months.

Forms are available at the Kentwood Police Department and must be submitted in person. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Vicki Highland at 616.656.6571 or [highlandv@ci.kentwood.mi.us](mailto:highlandv@ci.kentwood.mi.us).