



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Kentwood Residents,

As we say goodbye to fall and look forward to winter celebrations, let us encourage thoughts of joy and gratitude towards one another. We leave the fall with memories

of football games, school homecomings, autumn colors, and an election. Recognizing elections can be difficult for a community as one outcome may be celebrated by one neighbor, but be a concern for another, I encourage all residents to continue to treat one another with love and respect. Elections may bring change in leadership and policy, but may it never change us, as caring friends and neighbors.

The Kentwood City Commission and Boards along with staff will continue to work diligently to protect life and property while providing a high quality of life for our residents. Together we make Kentwood a great place to call home. May you and your family be richly blessed with peace and joy this holiday season.

Mayor Stephen Kepley

### Leaf and Brush Drop-Off Programs - Oct. 13-Dec. 8

After receiving positive feedback from the community, the City is continuing to pilot a brush drop-off program this fall, operating concurrently with the annual leaf drop-off at the Department of Public Works, located at 5068 Breton Ave. SE. Both sites will be open through Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Proof of residency must be shown at the time of drop off. If you have questions, please contact Public Works at 616.554.0817.

### Kentwood Tree Recycling

A tree recycle site will be offered from Dec. 26 to Jan. 31. Residents may bring trees to the Public Works facility, 5068 Breton Ave. SE, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please note, decorations must be removed in advance.

### New City Hall Hours

On Monday, Nov. 12, Kentwood City Hall began piloting new office hours for one year in an effort to improve customer service and access to government services. City Hall office hours changed from its traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to the following:

Monday:	7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday:	7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesday:	7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday:	7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday:	7:30 a.m. to noon

The City launched an online community survey in May regarding office hours for City Hall. A majority of the respondents were in favor of amended office hours. In particular, results revealed an interest in City Hall opening before 8 a.m. and closing after 5 p.m. Access to many government services, Kentwood news and departmental information is available 24/7 on our website at [www.kentwood.us](http://www.kentwood.us). Payments can also be made via our 24-hour drop box located outside of City Hall next to the U.S. Post Office box.

### Tree Lighting Ceremony & Holiday Parade - Dec. 7

Join us for our annual community Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Light Parade from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7. The parade will kick off at 6 p.m. and travel from our Public Works Facility north to the Kentwood Justice Center. There will also be carriage rides, hot chocolate, cookies and live music. Don't forget to meet Santa and stop by the Elves Express Gift Shop inside the Kent District Library - Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch, where you'll find a variety of gifts for the whole family and gift-wrapping services.

### Winter Concert Series - Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 13

Our winter concert series will return on select Wednesday nights featuring music from the Eric Engblade Trio, Bello Spark and the Sookie J Trio. Concerts take place inside the Community Room at the Kent District Library - Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING • WINTER 2018

## DECEMBER

### TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE

*Friday, Dec. 7, 5 to 8 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

- 6 p.m. Holiday light parade
- 6:30 p.m. Tree lighting and caroling
- 6:40 p.m. Pictures with Santa
- 6:45–8 p.m. Carriage rides
- 7:15–8 p.m. Musical performance by East Kentwood High School Jazz Band

### GINGERBREAD LANE

*Tuesday, Dec. 11, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

Jump into the holiday spirit with some family-friendly festivities!

### FREE COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Friday, Dec. 14, 7 to 9 p.m.*

*Heritage Baptist Church*

Celebrate the season with the Kentwood Community Choir as they perform holiday sing-along favorites.

### HAPPY NOON YEAR!

*Monday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

Kids will ring in 2018 with a countdown, noisemakers, crafts and fun (at an hour that won't keep them up past bedtime!).

## JANUARY

### MEET THE SLED DOGS

*Thursday, Jan. 3, 2 to 3 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

Tun-Dra Kennels owners will talk about sled dogs, mushing equipment and the Iditarod. Families can meet the dogs and watch a demonstration outside, weather permitting.

### KDL OPEN: FAMILY ARCADE AND MINI GOLF

*Friday, Jan. 4, 5 to 9 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

Putt-putt your way through the KDL greens then make your way to the arcade room to play Frogger, pinball and more!

### WINTER CONCERT SERIES: THE ERIC ENGBLADE TRIO

*Wednesday, Jan. 9, 6:30 to 8 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

Enjoy music from singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Eric Engblade as his group performs American acoustic folk-rock.

### DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

*Saturday, Jan. 26, 6 to 8 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

This year's theme is "Under the Sea." Pre-registration is required.

## FEBRUARY

### WINTER CONCERT SERIES: BELLO SPARK

*Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6:30 to 8 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

Relish in Bello Spark's light rock music "laced with the honesty of folk and the grit and emotion of the blues."

### WINTER TAXES DUE FEB. 14

City of Kentwood winter property tax payment must be received no later than Thursday, Feb. 14 to avoid a 3 percent penalty

### FREEZE FEST DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Saturday, Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to noon*

*Jaycee Park*

Join us for a doubles disc golf tournament and food drive at Jaycee Park.

### REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS DUE FEB. 28

The last day real estate tax payments can be accepted by the City of Kentwood is Thursday, Feb. 28.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

City Hall will be closed on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

## MARCH

### WINTER CONCERT SERIES: SOOKIE J TRIO

*Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 to 8 p.m.*

*Kent District Library - Kentwood Branch*

This West Michigan group delights in the joy of classic jazz and blues while exploring the wonders of contemporary pop music.

### TASTE OF KENTWOOD

*Thursday, March 14*

*Kentwood Activities Center*

*4:30 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m.*

The 18th annual Taste of Kentwood will celebrate a smörgåsbord of local cuisine on Thursday, March 14.

You'll have the opportunity to sample food from more than 15 restaurants at the Kentwood Activities Center, located at 355 48th St. SE.

**FOR MORE DETAILS  
ON EVENTS,  
PLEASE VISIT:**

**WWW.KENTWOOD.US**

