



CITY OF KENT

City Council Committee Meeting

319 S. Water St., Kent, OH 44240

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

AGENDA - Amended

6:30PM BOARD/COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

BOARD OF CONTROL will begin immediately after Board/Commission interviews

COUNCIL COMMITTEE meeting will begin immediately after Board of Control

CALL TO ORDER

COMMITTEES

1. Committee of the Whole –Chair Amrhein

1.1 City Department Staff Updates - Nick Cecil

2. Community Development Committee-Chair Rosenberg/Vice-Chair Clapper

2.1 Proposed update to the Sustainability Commission Ordinance – Bridget Susel

3. Finance Committee – Chair DeLeone/Vice-Chair Celko

3.1 Proposed 2026 City Operating Budget and Position Allocation – Rhonda Hall

3.2 Proposed 2025 Budget Appropriation Amendment – Rhonda Hall

3.3 Renewal of Annual Public Defender Contract with Portage County – Hope Jones

4. Health & Public Safety Committee-Chair Amrhein/Vice-Chair Sidoti

5. Land Use Committee – Chair Shaffer Bish/Vice-Chair Hook

6. Streets, Sidewalks, and Utilities Committee-Chair Sidoti/Vice-Chair Clapper

6.1 Proposed Revision to Ordinance 901.03 – Jim Bowling

6.2 Rotary Presentation on Proposed Neighborhood Flag Service Fund Raising Campaign – Melanie Baker, Dave Ruller

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session to review the proposed changes to the City’s 2026 position allocation ordinance and General Compensation plan.

ADJOURN

TENTATIVE DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Sustainability Comm 5:30pm	2	3 Council Committee Mtg 7:00pm	4	5	6
7	8 Board of Health 5:30pm	9	10 Standing Rock Cemetery 4:00pm	11	12	13
14 Civil Service Comm 5:00pm BZA 7:00pm	15	16 City Council Regular Mtg 7:00pm	17 Parks & Rec 5:30pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

KENT CITY COUNCIL'S PENDING LIST

Administration	Date of Motion	Motion Made by
Senior Advisory Committee	10/18/2017	Ferrara; Sidoti
Discussion with Franklin Twp./sidewalk snow upkeep	01/19/2022	Shaffer Bish
Explore Use of Consent Agenda	04/17/2024	Hook
Council Committees	Month/Yr.	Motion Made by
Noise Ordinance Review - <i>Health & Public Safety</i>	11/15/2023	Amrhein
Downtown Historic District- <i>Community Dev.</i>	02/24/2024	Shaffer Bish
Role of Architecture Review Board- <i>Community Dev.</i>	02/24/2024	Celko
Requirement for In Person Board Interviews- <i>Comm/Whole</i>	03/20/2024	Rosenberg
Arborist & Health Dept. used in Rental Inspections	06/19/2024	Clapper
Warming Centers for the Unhoused	09/18/2024	

Any person who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies and procedures to participate in any City or City Council public meeting or event should contact the Clerk of Council at 330-678-8007. Any request for auxiliary aid or other accommodation should be made as soon as possible, but no later than forty-eight hours prior to the event.



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

Office of City Council

BOARD and COMMISSION APPLICATIONS

DECEMBER 3, 2025

BOARD of BUILDING APPEALS: 1 vacancy	Greg Seifert	Re-applying
BOARD of HEALTH: 1 vacancy	Louise Frederick <i>Lindsay Nowak</i>	Re-applying <i>New applicant (No 2nd choice listed)</i>
BOARD of ZONING APPEALS: 2 vacancies	Randall Smith	Re-applying
CIVIL SERVICE: 2 vacancies	No applicants	<i>**With these vacancies, Civil Service will be without a quorum</i>
CRAHC:	Justin Berthiaume	Mayoral appointment; no interview or vote
DESIGN & PRESERVATION: 1 vacancy	No applicants	
FAIR HOUSING: 2 vacancies	Susan Roxburgh Jennifer Nichols	Re-applying Re-applying*
INCOME TAX REVIEW: 2 vacancies	Denise Mote	Re-applying (Excused from interview due to prior commitment)
PARKS & REC: 1 vacancy	Kathleen Wiler <i>Sarah Durkalski</i>	Re-applying (Excused from interview due to prior commitment) <i>New applicant (2nd choice-Sustainability)</i>
PLANNING: 1 vacancy	No applicants	
SHADE TREE: 2 vacancies	Jason Knowles Tom Kiepura <i>Jeff Forstner</i> <i>Ash D'Angelo</i>	Re-applying Re-applying <i>New Applicant (2nd choice-Design & Pres)</i> <i>New applicant (2nd choice-Sustainability)</i>
SUSTAINABILITY: 1 vacancy	Judy Nelson <i>Lynn Gregor</i>	Re-applying <i>New applicant (2nd choice-Shade Tree)</i>

*Application not received at time of publication



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: November 24, 2025

TO: David Ruller, City Manager

FROM: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director *BOS*

Subject: Sustainability Commission: By-Laws & Rules of Procedure Update

The City's Sustainability Commission, originally named the Environmental Commission, was established by Kent City Council in 1995. Over the years, several ordinances (see *NOTE) have been approved by Council that have addressed varying aspects of the Sustainability Commission's organizational structure, procedures, and responsibilities as the City's sustainability focus evolved over the years.

With the approval of the City's first Climate Action Plan in 2023 and the creation of the full-time Sustainability Coordinator position in 2024, the Community Development Department has been working with members of the current Sustainability Commission to draft an updated description of the Commission's purpose and to develop relevant by-laws and rules of procedure that more appropriately reflect the current work of the Sustainability Commission and allow for future updates and amendments to the document by a majority vote of the Commission.

I am respectfully requesting time at the December 3, 2025 Council Committee meeting to discuss the proposed changes in greater detail and to request Council authorization, with emergency, for the repeal of all prior legislation associated with the Sustainability Commission and the approval of the attached Sustainability Commission by-laws and rules of procedure, which more accurately identify the current responsibilities of the Sustainability Commission as the City works towards achieving its sustainability goals identified in the Climate Action Plan.

If you need any additional information in order to add this item to the agenda, please let me know. Thank you.

(*NOTE: ORD 1995-103; ORD 1999-64; ORD 2009-38)

Cc: Hope Jones, Law Director
Kathy Coleman, Clerk of Council
Julie Morris, Sustainability Coordinator
Dan Morganti, Assistant Community Development Director

Attachment

EXHIBIT A

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION BY-LAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE I. OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

The objective and purpose of the Sustainability Commission of the City of Kent, Ohio (hereafter referred to as the "Commission") is to act in an advisory role in furtherance of the goals set forth in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) authorized by Kent City Council in April 2023 (Resolution 2023-018) and any future updates to the CAP. The Commission operates under the guidance of the City's full-time Sustainability Coordinator.

The Commission's advisory capacity is focused in the following three (3) core components to provide support for the City's sustainability efforts:

- 1) **Input and Advisory:** The Commission shall provide feedback and input on sustainability work being done by the City, as reported orally and in writing by the Sustainability Coordinator to the Commission. Should Kent City Council or other City staff have a direct request of the Commission, it will be communicated by the Sustainability Coordinator to the Commission. Any suggested actions, recommendations, and/or proposed legislation related to the City's sustainability work generated by the Commission will be reviewed by the Sustainability Coordinator and City staff in order to ensure compliance with City legislation, policies, and procedures. A portion of every Commission meeting agenda will allocate time for Commission input on the staff report and/or other direct information requests, if any, that may arise from Council, City staff, or members of the community.
- 2) **Education and Outreach:** The Commission will support and assist the Sustainability Coordinator in sharing and promoting the programs, initiatives, and other work related to the City's sustainability efforts. Such efforts may include participation in various forms of community engagement and the provision of sustainability-related educational efforts for the general public, including but not limited to tabling at events, presentations, writing articles for the City's Sustainable Kent e-Newsletter, development of informational and/or promotional materials, and/or other aspects of event planning. If individual Commission members are asked to participate in a sustainability event or activity not organized by the City or the Commission, the member will review the invitation with the Sustainability Coordinator and the other Commission members to secure prior approval before accepting and participating in the event or activity. Any approved events scheduled outside of the

Community Development Department's regular business hours requires the Commission member who agreed to participate to be solely responsible for attending the event as a Commission volunteer. Members of the Commission also may assist the Sustainability Coordinator in staffing City approved events held during regular and non-regular business hours. A portion of every Commission meeting agenda will allocate time for members to review any known and/or potential education and outreach events for Commission approval. A majority vote on approval of attending the event is necessary but is subject to final City staff approval if the event is held prior to a Commission vote approving participation in the event.

- 3) Connection to Sustainability Interests in the Kent Community:** The Commission will share information and resources related to sustainability issues, concerns, events, and needs as they arise. A portion of every Sustainability Commission meeting agenda will allocate time for this type of communication so that the Commission and the Sustainability Coordinator are aware of all sustainability-related matters occurring within the Kent community. Should an item or topic addressed during this portion of the meeting warrant further discussion or research, members will vote to list it as an item on a future agenda for formal discussion by the Commission. Outside of scheduled Commission meetings, members may share event or resource information with the Sustainability Coordinator who will disseminate the information as a no action item. Any of those items may be brought to the next Commission meeting by a member for further discussion during this prescribed part of the meeting.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

The Sustainability Commission shall consist of five (5) citizens with an interest in sustainability who are appointed to a three (3) year term by Kent City Council. One (1) of the appointed citizens can be a current member of Kent City Council and shall have the authority to vote as a member of the Commission.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.
- B. The Chairperson will be the presiding officer over regular business meetings as well as any special meetings that may be called by the Commission. The Chairperson shall perform the following duties:
 - 1) The Chairperson shall call the meeting to order at the appointed time;
 - 2) The Chairperson shall determine if a quorum of the body is present for the meeting;

- 3) The Chairperson shall announce the sequence of the order of business to take place at the meeting based on the agenda publicly posted for the meeting;
 - 4) The Chairperson shall state and put to a vote all actions and questions that legitimately come before the Commission;
 - 5) The Chairperson shall protect the meeting from disruptive, frivolous or irrelevant discussions or motions;
 - 6) The Chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining order during the meeting;
 - 7) The Chairperson shall make every effort to expedite the progression of business to come before the Commission, while remaining cognizant of the right to speak held by all members and the audience.
 - 8) The Chairperson may participate in any discussion and shall be a voting member on the Commission.
- C. The Vice Chairperson shall assume responsibility at a Commission meeting in the absence of the Chairperson.
- D. The Sustainability Coordinator is designated as the Secretary for the Commission. The Secretary is responsible for developing the meeting agenda, posting Commission meeting notices for the meetings in accordance with the City's open meeting requirements, and preparing summaries of the Commission meetings that will be retained in the City's files. The Secretary shall act as the Chairperson of any meeting at which the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are not present.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

- A. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson at the first meeting of each calendar year;
- B. The Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of the Commission and shall serve a one-year term. The Chairperson may be re-elected to additional terms as long as membership is maintained on the Commission.
- C. The Vice Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of the Commission and shall serve a one-year term. The Vice Chairperson may be re-elected to additional terms as long as membership is maintained on the Commission.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

- A. Commission meetings shall be held quarterly on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November, except when a legal holiday falls on this day. In the event the first Monday of

the designated meeting month is a holiday, the meeting of the Commission shall be scheduled on the following Monday of the month that is not a legal holiday.

- B. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. This will be the number of affirmative votes necessary to approve and proceed with business of the Commission;
- C. The Secretary shall prepare an agenda and any related materials for each meeting and be responsible for ensuring the meeting notice is posted at Kent City Hall, 319 S. Water Street, a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date of the meeting. The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring the meeting notice and any related materials are distributed to all Commission members as well as any persons having a specific interest in any meeting;
- D. No more than two Commission members may participate in any ad-hoc working group(s) and/or sub-committee(s), which may be convened informally (with or without the Sustainability Coordinator) outside of the scheduled Commission meetings. Ad hoc working groups can include non-Commission members without violating the Commission's by-laws or rules of procedure.

ARTICLE VI. RECORDS AND FILES

All records and files, including meeting agendas, meeting summaries, related documents, and correspondence to and from the Commission shall be maintained by the Community Development Department. Such information shall be open to the public and may be accessed by the public during regular Community Development business hours.

ARTICLE VII. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Commission members are expected to notify the Sustainability Coordinator or the Community Development Department in the event a member must be absent from a meeting and any absence with a notice is considered excused.

Any Commission member without an excuse from three (3) meetings within a single calendar year may be referred to Kent City Council for consideration of removal from the Commission.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws and rules of procedure may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of the Commission.

APPROVED: _____



CITY OF KENT, OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Rhonda C. Hall, CPA, Director

To: Dave Ruller, City Manager
From: Rhonda C. Hall, CPA, Director of Budget and Finance
Date: November 25, 2025
Re: FY2026 Recommended Budget

Dave,

The Recommended Budget for 2026 has been distributed to Council with this memo. I would like to request approval of this budget by Council in order to be in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.38, *Annual Appropriation Measure*, whereas on or about the first day of each fiscal year an appropriation measure is to be passed.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda C. Hall".



CITY OF KENT, OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Rhonda C. Hall, CPA, Director

To: Dave Ruller, City Manager
From: Rhonda C. Hall, CPA, Director of Budget and Finance
Date: November 25, 2025
Re: FY2025 Appropriation Amendments, Transfers, and Advances #7

The final appropriations amendment will reflect the remaining operating contingency funds as a separate item on the appropriations ordinance attachment. This will enable the transfer of contingency funds to either operating or personnel lines as needed.

I will continue to work with the Departments/Divisions during the next few weeks to resolve remaining or anticipated negative budget variances and would also request favorable consideration of any additional items that may be subsequently identified and included in the final appropriation amendment exhibit. At this point I don't have any requests for appropriation changes for Council to review before the meeting on December 17, 2025.

Therefore, I am requesting Council approve amended appropriations for the December Council meeting.



LAW DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM KENT, OHIO

To: Dave Ruller, City Manager
From: Hope L. Jones, Law Director
Date: November 24, 2025
Re: Public Defender Contract Renewal

Mr. Ruller,

It is that time of year for the renewal of the Public Defender contract for the calendar year 2026.

I request that legislation for the renewal of the contract be placed on the December 3, 2025 agenda for discussion by Council Committee. For your information, the City requests this contract is to ensure that indigent criminal defendants receive the public defender's assistance.

Thank you, Dave,

Hope

CITY OF KENT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

MEMO

TO: Dave Ruller
Kathy Coleman

FROM: Jim Bowling

DATE: November 14, 2025 *Job*

RE: Kent Codified Ordinance 901.03

The Service Department is requesting Council's time and consideration to make a revision to Kent Codified Ordinance Section 901.03, which is a part of CHAPTER 901 – Streets, Curbs and Driveways. The existing ordinance is shown below:

901.03 REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT STANDARDS.

Where repair, replacement and/or restoration is performed, such work shall conform to the original construction standards and specifications, and the type of material, shape and finish shall conform to that of existing adjacent areas found in good repair.

The proposed change to the ordinance is shown below in **Green**:

901.03 REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT STANDARDS.

Where repair, replacement and/or restoration is performed, such work shall **be performed in accordance with the standards and specifications of the Deputy Service Director/Superintendent of Engineering.**

This change is requested to allow for improvements to neighborhood streets consistent with today's standards. In addition, the revision will be consistent with section 901.04 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS, which requires new and reconstructed drive approaches to be performed in accordance with the standards and specifications of the Deputy Service Director/Superintendent of Engineering.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

C: Melanie Baker
Hope Jones
Cori Wimer
Sandy Lance
Bridget Susel
Tim Sahr



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

MEMO

TO: Dave Ruller, City Manager
FROM: Melanie A. Baker, Service Director
DATE: 11/25/2025
SUBJECT: The Rotary Club of Kent – Parade of Flags

Parade of Flags

The Rotary Club of Kent would like to make a presentation to Council for a new program they would like to start. This program initiative is designed to promote community pride and patriotism while allowing an avenue of fund raising for the Rotary Club. The funds collected will support local community-enriching projects through Rotary grants.

The program will be run entirely by volunteers. It is subscription based and those interested will pay their fee directly to the Rotary. The flags will be mounted on a pole placed in a sleeve already located in the ground (flush with the area for safety.)

The flags will be placed on the following holidays:

Memorial Day
Flag Day (June 14th)
Independence Day (July 4^h)
Labor Day; and
Veterans Day.

The location of the flag sleeves will be in the front yard area. They may be within the road right of way. The locations are yet to be determined based on underground utilities and the width of the right of ways.

It is the Rotary's hopes that this program will promote community pride, foster patriotism, enhance the esthetics of a neighborhood on national holidays, provide collaborative efforts between the residents, businesses, and local clubs, as well as support local projects.

The Rotary Club of Kent is seeking Council's support and endorsement of this program within the City of Kent city limits.

I respectfully request time on the December agenda for this discussion.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.



Sustainable Kent News

Special Edition – October
2025 Sustainability Month
Celebration

The latest on sustainability efforts in Kent



October 2025 Sustainability Month Celebration

INSIDE:

The City of Kent Sustainability Commission’s October Sustainability Month Celebrations

A review of the Proclamation of October 2025 as Sustainability Month, tabling at the Haymaker Farmers’ Market, and the Lights Out! at Plum Creek Event

Around the City

Hear from City departments, community organizations and area residents in their own words and pictures about how they celebrated October Sustainability Month

Calendar

Updates to upcoming events and free metered parking downtown on Black Friday and Christmas Eve

Welcome to the Sustainable Kent News Special Edition focused on the City of Kent’s October 2025 Sustainability Month! The celebration invited all residents, schools, businesses, and organizations to join this celebration by participating in activities throughout the entire month that promote sustainable practices.

Everything from remembering to take your own bags to the grocery store to hosting a special event promoting sustainable practices qualified as contributing to this celebration. By showcasing sustainability efforts together throughout the month, a celebration as unique and special as Kent itself was had, and we’re excited to share about some of those efforts!

That said, sharing about the Kent community’s sustainability efforts doesn’t have to stop with this special edition! The Around the City column of the regular edition Sustainable Kent e-newsletters is a place where anyone in the Kent community can submit a write up about sustainability work they are doing to have it shared in same. Please feel free to contact the City’s Sustainability Coordinator, Julie Morris, at: julie.morris@kentohio.gov with any questions, or to submit a write up for a future edition of the newsletter.

The City sincerely thanks all those who participated in the October Sustainability Month Celebration and for the work you all do each and every day that helps us enjoy a healthy and resilient community!



The City of Kent Sustainability Commission’s October Sustainability Month Celebrations

How it started: A proclamation was made!

The City of Kent proclaimed October 2025 as Sustainability Month in recognition of its and the community’s work that creates a brighter, more sustainable future for the City of Kent and beyond at its 10/01/25 City Council Committee meeting.

It encouraged all residents, businesses, and organizations to join the celebration by participating in activities that promote sustainable practices.

The proclamation document can be accessed by clicking the following link: [2025-october-sus-month-proclamation-signed.pdf](#)



Proclamation

CITY OF KENT, OHIO
TREE CITY USA


- WHEREAS, the City of Kent recognizes the well-being of a community is directly linked to the health of our planet, and the Kent community has a long history of working to protect and enhance the environmental, health, and social well-being of those who live, work and play in the City; and
- WHEREAS, cities across the nation are at the forefront of building a more resilient future by enacting initiatives related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste reduction, transportation, and urban green spaces that offer numerous benefits such as cost savings, improved public health, and enhanced quality of life for all residents; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Kent is committed to implementing policies and practices designed to preserve and protect the Kent community through a commitment to ongoing, responsible, environmental stewardship; and
- WHEREAS, to honor this commitment, the City of Kent, with the help and input of the community, adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in April 2023 which identified strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a key contributor to climate change; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Kent, recognizes the importance of implementing these strategies and continuing to work together as a community to raise awareness of how individual and collective action can lead to a healthier, sustainable, and more resilient future,

Now, Therefore, I, Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of the Kent City Council, in alignment with the Education and Outreach component of the CAP, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2025, as "SUSTAINABILITY MONTH"

in the City of Kent, Ohio. All residents, businesses, and organizations are urged to join this celebration by participating in activities that promote sustainable practices. Working together can create a brighter, more sustainable future for the City of Kent and beyond.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Kent to be affixed this 1st day of October, 2025.


Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor
CITY OF KENT, OHIO

VISIT OUR SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW WEBPAGE!

The City has a webpage to highlight its sustainability work and keep the community posted about related Climate Action Plan implementation progress, programs, news, events, and more!

Visit: <https://www.kentohio.gov/business-building-development/sustainability-overview/>

City of Kent Sustainability Commission's tabling at the Haymaker Farmers' Market



Sustainability Commission Members (Left to Right) Julie Grant and Maryjayne Stone sharing information about a variety of October Sustainability Month Celebration items.



Todd Cartner, President of Kent Environmental Council and Co-Owner of Discover Bats Ohio, sharing information about bats.



Sustainability Commission Members (Left to Right) Justine Gallo and Judy Nelson collecting suggestions for the sustainable activities board.



Sustainability Commission Members (Left to Right) Julie Grant and Judy Nelson are tabling-ready!



Todd Cartner, President of Kent Environmental Council and co-owner of Discover Bats Ohio with market guest discussing October Sustainability Month items.

As one of their activities for the October Sustainability Month Celebration, the Sustainability Commission tabled at the Saturday, October 11th Haymaker Farmers' Market in downtown Kent. The Commission members worked to share information about the City's Climate Action Plan, the Proclamation of Sustainability Month, and other October Sustainability Month Celebration activities. Todd Cartner, President of Kent Environmental Council and Co-Owner of Discover Bats Ohio, LLC joined the Commission's table to help share about the Commission's planned Lights Out! at Plum Creek Park event and provide information about impacts of light pollution on area bats and other wildlife for marketgoers.

The Commission members offered suggestions to help folks identify sustainable practices or activities they may practice in their own lives which they could use to participate in the October Sustainability Month Celebration. That suggestion list (and more) can be found at the following link: <https://www.kentohio.gov/business-building-development/sustainability-overview/october-sustainability-month-celebration/> .

The Commission members also encouraged those who stopped by to provide their own contributions to the suggestion list, highlighting practices they support, engage in, or encourage for incorporating sustainability into one's lifestyle.

Those inspiring community suggestions were captured in the following picture and transcribed to read as follows:

- Solar panels
- Vote!
- Wild your garden
- Compost! Leave the leaves! Rags instead of paper towels
- Composting
- Walk to store
- Use red spectrum LEDs not blue
- We have an EV & PHEV cars – Bill
- Take my own “to go” containers into restaurants
- Forage
- Use the Public Library!
- Switch to bar soap and shampoo bar
- Use rechargeable head lamp – Petzl (brand)
- Grow your own food
- Plug In Hybrid
- Reusable grocery bags
- Car pooling
- Shop local
- Thrifting
- Eat locally sourced meat and produce
- Compost!
- Use the Library
- Farmer’s Market
- Cloth napkins
- Mending/repairing
- Not cut half grass for the Bees & Animals
- Mutual Aid! Shopping local and sharing resources w/community
- Raised garden beds with composting



Lights Out! at Plum Creek Park Event



As a start to any good spooky story, it was a cold and rainy night.....no, really, after days and days of sunshine, and the day prior to the event featuring 80° warmth and clear skies, the night of the Lights Out! at Plum Creek Park event held Sunday, October 19th was literally cold, windy, and cloudy with some heavy downpours for good measure!

That didn't stop brave community members from attending an evening full of education about light pollution's impact on area wildlife, the benefits to be had from turning the lights out, and a night hike through the park was had by most!

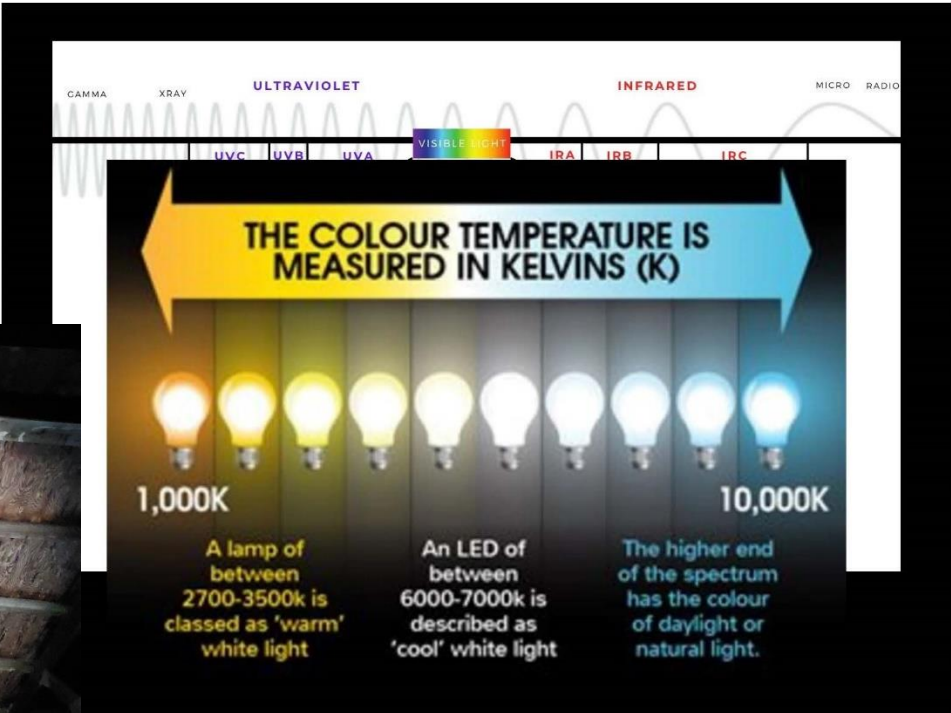


Todd Cartner, President of Kent Environmental Council and Co-Owner of Discover Bats Ohio, LLC, as well as Holly Stoneberg, Education Program Coordinator from Portage Park District provided excellent presentations with some highlights from the evening as follows:

Seeing At Night

- The Evolution of Light
- Campfires & Torches
- Candles and Lanterns
- Streetlights – Oil in the 1500s, 1807 with gas
- 1879 Thomas Edison's first Lightbulb
- 1880 First electric streetlight
- 1938 the fluorescent light was invented
- 1962 the LED lightbulb was invented

Todd spoke about the evolution of light systems and provided information about light spectrum. We learned that light on the warmer spectrum has less impact on nocturnal and migrating wildlife.



Todd demonstrated light across the spectrum via a candle, a gas lantern, and flashlights with red and white/blue light hues for the audience. He advised the red spectrum flashlight can be used when doing research on bats and other wildlife at night.

How Bats See in the Dark

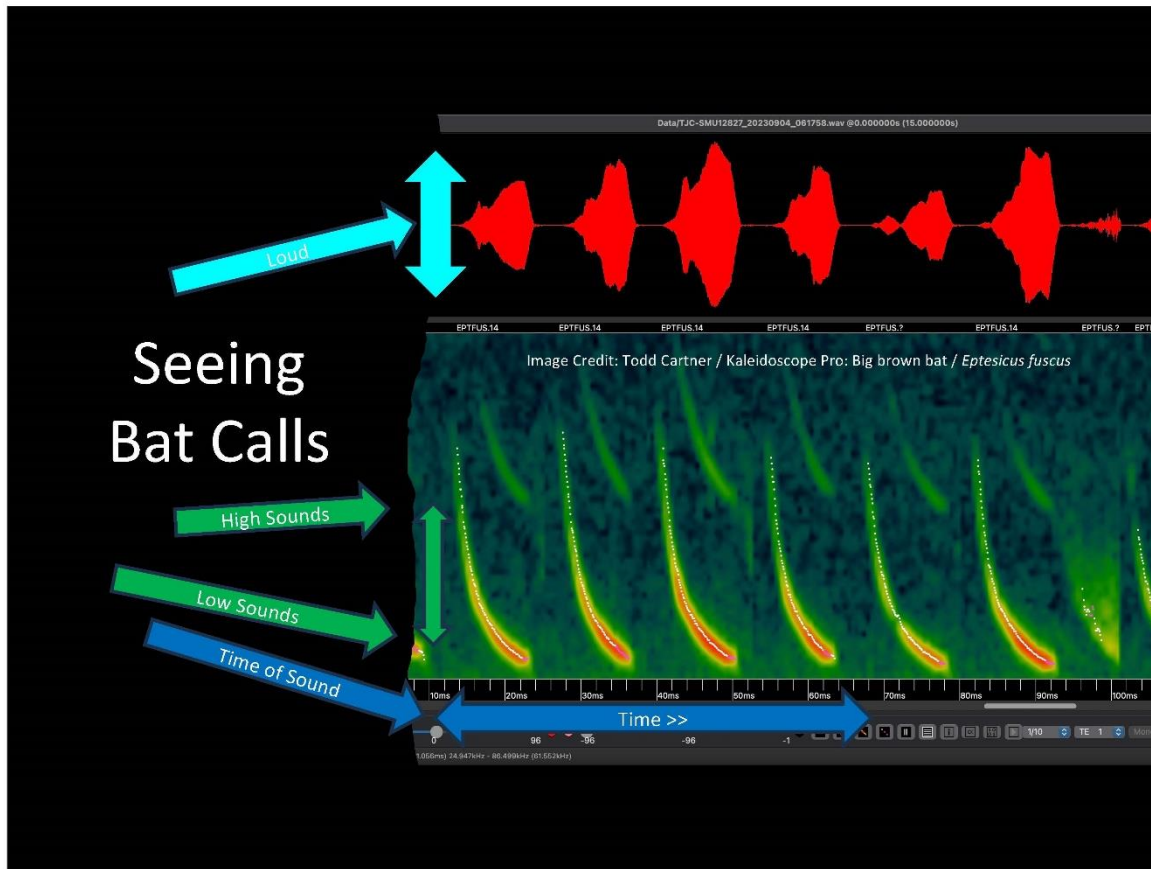


Note Call Phases:

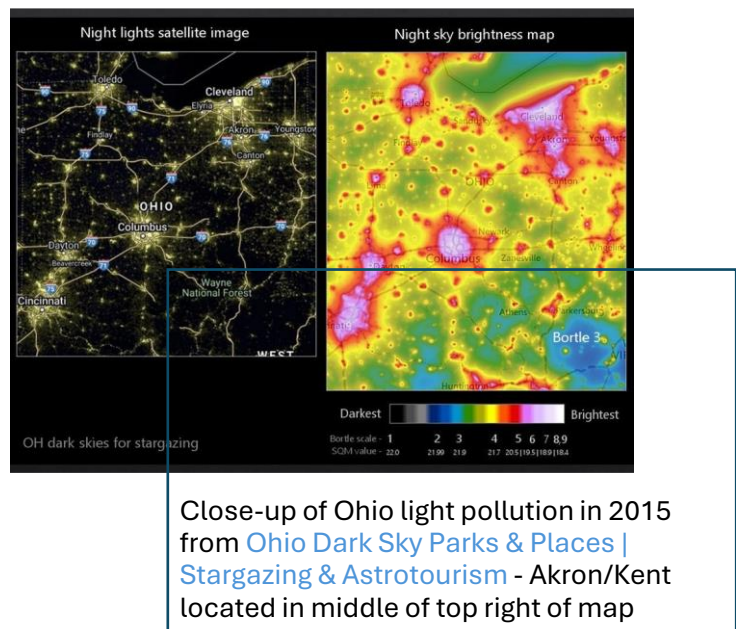
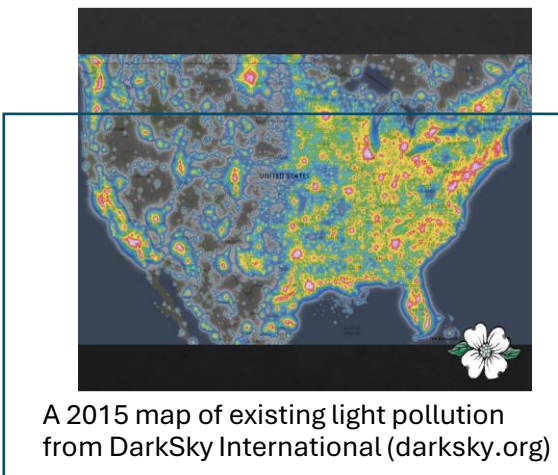
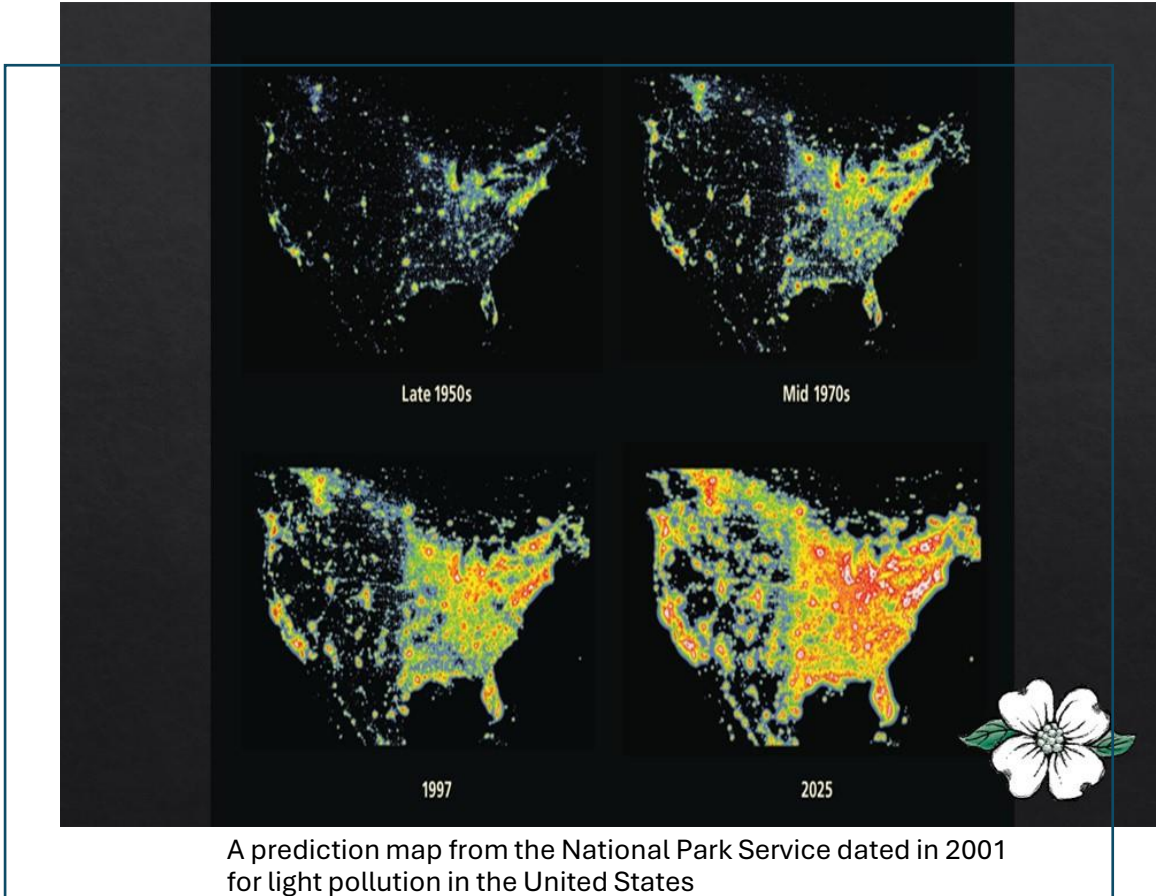
1. Search
2. Approach
3. Feed (Buzz)

Video Credit:
International Society for Neuroethology
<https://www.youtube.com/@Neuroethology>

Todd offered some fascinating information about how bats actually see in the dark using echolocation. He pointed out there is a sequence to the calls while the bats are searching for, on approach to, and then feeding on their prey. Todd provided a demonstration of audio files of bat calls matched to a visualization of those calls during the call phases.



Both Todd and Holly provided information about the impacts of light pollution and its increase over time. Holly also noted that more than 1/3 of the world's population and about 80% of people in the U.S. can no longer see the Milky Way in the night sky due to light pollution. Utilizing information from darksky.org, ohiolightsout.org, and obcinet.org (Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative), Holly provided more details about these impacts.

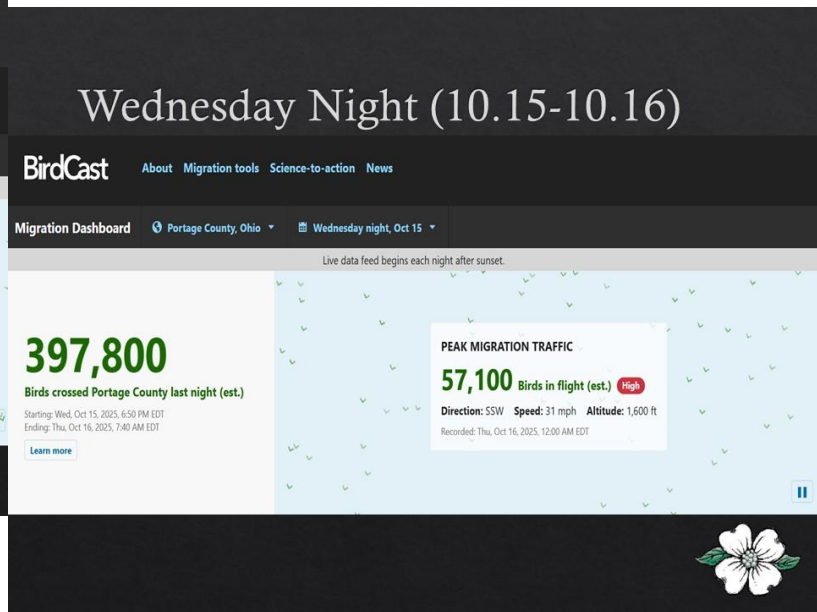
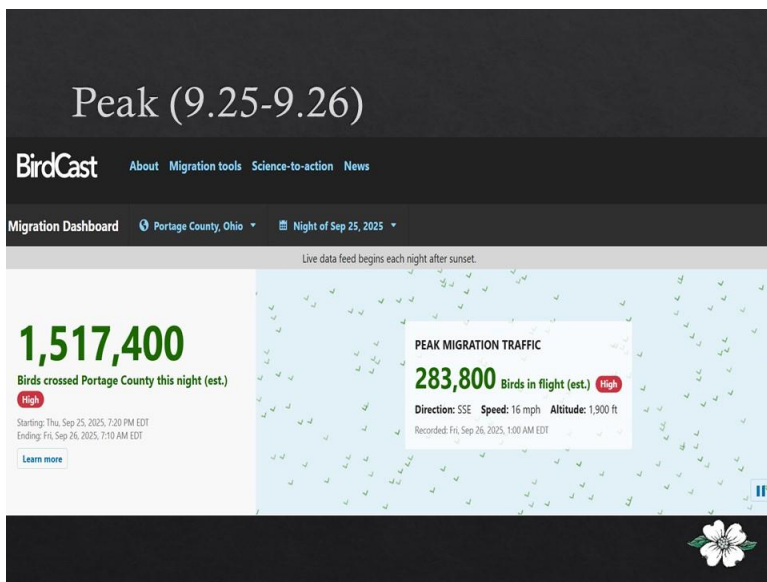




Holly's example of birds circling in the lights of the Twin Towers Memorial in NYC, disoriented by the lights – the NYC Bird Alliance monitors the birds in the light beams every 20 minutes, and if the count surpasses 1k birds, the Tribute in Light organizers will turn off the lights for 15-20 minutes to allow the birds to reorient themselves.

Holly noted that light pollution not only affects human capacity to view the night sky, but impacts migrating birds as well. Holly advised that birds migrate by star maps, and light pollution has also altered their migration timing. She noted millions of birds migrate each year, most of them at night, and the light coming from buildings is disorienting. As a result of this disorientation, Holly advised that the birds either hit the buildings, or they circle the building until they drop. Holly provided a link to a study done in 2014 ([Bird-building collisions in the United States on JSTOR](#)) showing about 1 billion birds in the United States die each year from building collision.

She also provided some statistics from BirdCast ([BirdCast - Bird migration forecasts in real-time](#)) detailing numbers of birds flying over Portage County, Ohio during the peak fall migration in September 2025, and then again from October 15th -16th, just the day before the Lights Out! at Plum Creek event, as seen in the following images.



Holly provided some information about light shielding and tips for how we can all help by flipping the switch and turning out the lights!

How you can help!

- ◇ Use outdoor lights only when necessary
- ◇ Use motion sensors or timers
- ◇ Use lower wattage or warm colored lights
- ◇ Close blinds at night

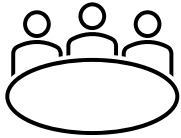


Bad, better, best

Use outdoor lighting responsibly by only using it where it's needed, when it's needed, and in the amount required. Use the lowest light level required, limit blue-violet light, utilize timers or motion sensors, and use shielding.



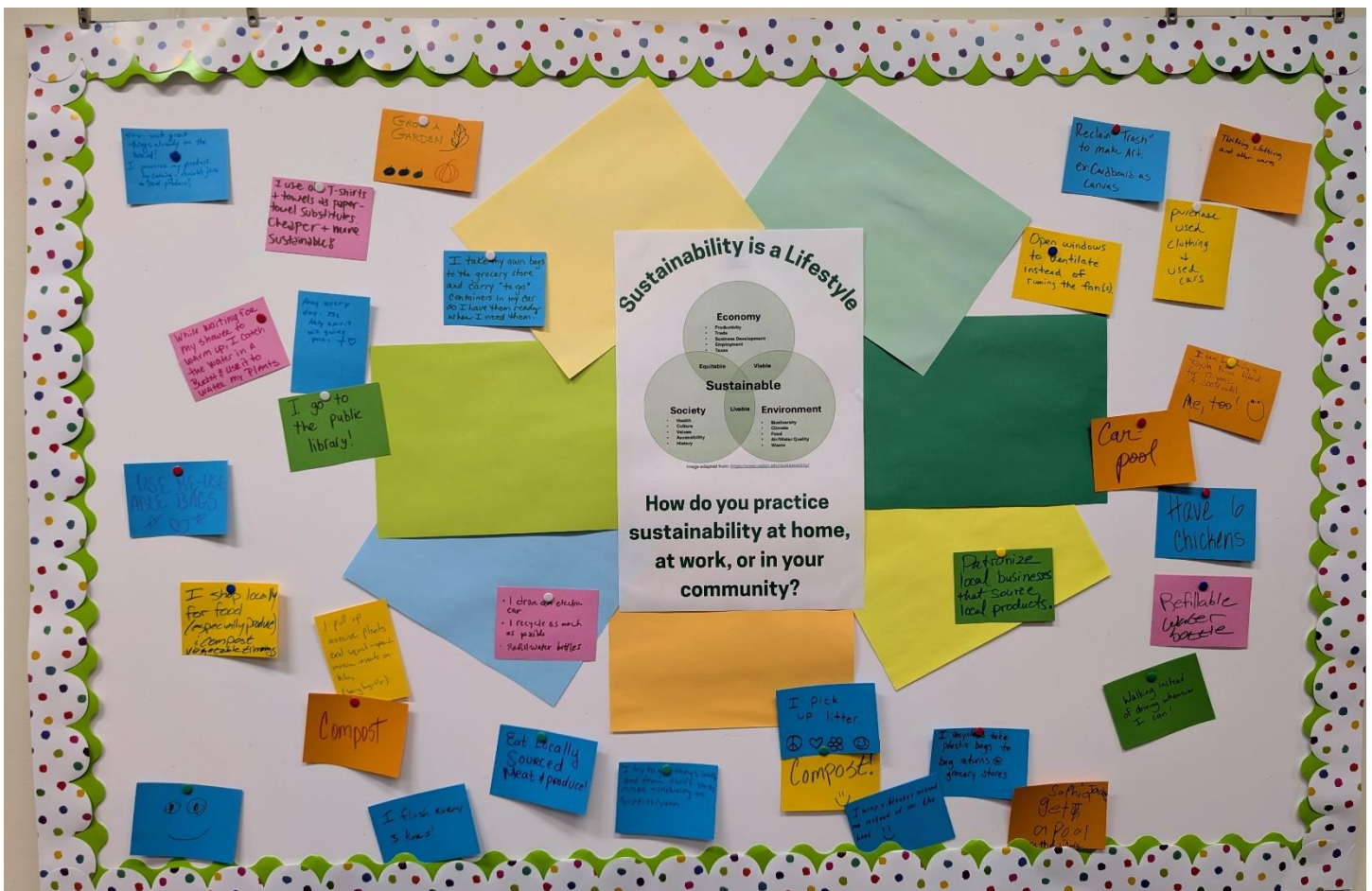
AROUND THE CITY



Community members and organizations share in their own words and pictures how they participated in the October 2025 Sustainability Month Celebration



Kent Free Library's October 2025 Sustainability Month Celebration



Kent Free Library hosted space during the month of October on their Patron Interaction Wall where patrons could post about sustainability practices they engage with at home, work, and in the community. There were 31 respondents in total with key sustainability practices being:

Sustainable Kent News

- Reduce, reuse, and recycle by thrifting or buying used items, repurposing materials for art, reusing bags, containers, towels, and refillable bottles, recycling, and composting.
- Conserve energy and water by walking instead of driving when possible, carpooling, driving hybrid or electric cars, opening windows instead of using fans, wrapping in blankets instead heating, and capturing shower water for plants.
- Support local and sustainable food by growing a garden, keeping chickens, shopping locally for produce and meat, eating locally sourced food, composting vegetable scraps, and preserving produce in reusable jars.
- Care for the environment by removing invasive plants, picking up litter, and reporting invasive insects.
- Engage with community resources by using public libraries and supporting local businesses that source locally.

In addition to the Patron Interaction Wall display, Kent Free Library also hosted a Sustainability Book Display during the month of October, and are sharing the Stanford/Doerr School of Sustainability Reading List that was posted near their display:

* Available at Kent Free Library ** PCDL Consortium

- *The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet* - Jeff Goodell (2023) *
- *Fixing the Climate: Strategies For an Uncertain World* - Charles Sabel & David Victor (2022)
- *Into the Clear Blue Sky: Restoring Our Atmosphere* - Rob Jackson (2024)
- *Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land* - N. Scott Monday (2020) *
- *Locust: The Devastating Rise and Fall of the Insect that Shaped The American Frontier* - Jeffery Lockwood (2009)
- *The Conservative Environmentalist: Common Sense Solutions For a Sustainable Future* - Benji Backer (2024)
- *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* - Naomi Oreskes & Erik Conway (2010) *
- *Lessons for Survival: Mothering Against 'the Apocalypse'* - Emily Raboteau (2024) *
- *The Wild Dark: Finding the Night Sky in the Age of Light* - Craig Childs (2025)
- *Is a River Alive?* - Robert Macfarlane (2025)*
- *The light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth* - Zoe Schlanger (2024)*



The Kent Environmental Council's October 2025 Sustainability Month Celebration

Thank you for the opportunity to support and collaborate in showcasing Kent’s commitment to sustainability. Our October partner program, “Choose Green... Live Clean,” was a wonderful celebration of the many recycling and sustainability initiatives across Kent and Portage County. Sponsoring and participating in "Lights Out at Plum Creek Park" was also a family-friendly way to introduce people to the richness of the natural world at night—and to highlight how Kent can continue reducing its environmental impact through mindful lighting and practices. Thank you again for allowing us to be part of Kent’s journey toward sustainable solutions, and thank you for all the work you do!

For more information about the Kent Environmental Council, click <https://kentenvironment.org/blog/> or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KentEnvironment>



From Todd and Ann Cartner

We take living sustainability very seriously and have developed many habits to do our part. Some of these have big impacts (the vehicles we drive) but most are little day-to-day habits such as composting and reducing single use items. Recently at the **Haymaker’s Farmer’s Market** we came across washable/reusable flannel “paper towels” from the **Socially Responsible Sweatshop**. These go-to towels are wonderful to use and pop in the washer, eliminating another source of single use garbage. So many wonderful ideas we find in Kent. Thank you to the entire community... The Cartner’s.



From Eric Gorczynski, Environmental Technician for the City of Kent's Health Department

Eric Gorczynski, Environmental Technician for the City's Health Department shared about his and other volunteer work that happened during the October Sustainability Month Celebration, advising:

Not me, but in September and October, some volunteers from the August 2025 Clean-up event who apparently

Sustainable Kent News

found it hard to shake the clean-up bug continued to periodically (about once per week) remove trash from the river and notified me when they had accumulated a bag or pile of trash that they left on the bank. Park & Rec staff and/or I had the trash collected. I did fish out 3 tires that they reported to me. On October 1st I presented at NEFCO/ERTAC regarding the City of Kent's clean-up activities and an environmental investigation/remediation/industrial pretreatment project. I was also interviewed by a KSU student regarding the clean-ups. Last week I had a KSU volunteer group reach out who is interested in trying to get a clean-up event in before November 15th, so I am trying to see if I can put something together for them quickly. In the last month I have been making some contacts regarding an invasives projects.



**Kent United Methodist Church
Green Team Report for the October
2025 Sustainability Month
Celebration**

Because we believe that the earth is a gift from God that is our responsibility to care for, last spring Kent United Methodist Church called for volunteers to form a Green Team. Team members meet monthly to share ideas and explore ways to be more environmentally conscious, as well as to take action to make a difference in our congregation and the community.

Education and awareness were our first priorities. With that in mind, Pastor Nathan Howe reached out to the Kent Environmental Council. Todd Carter graciously agreed to speak at a dinner, sharing background on the council's

activities, as well as displaying environmentally friendly products and offering green tips from his personal experience. For those who wanted to dig deeper, our church hosted a 6-week study entitled "Wake Up World" that discussed current world-wide environmental challenges, as well as ways individuals and groups can work to make a difference.

Several Green Team members also volunteered to start a "Creation Corner" in the



Creation Corner

Sustainable Kent News

church common area – a bulletin board sharing information about small steps anyone can take to better care for the planet. Topics change monthly, and have included recycling, buying local, composting, and using native plants in landscaping. It also includes an interactive space for others to contribute ideas and information.

Kent UMC has also reached beyond our doors. Groups have travelled to Cleveland three times to Brookdale Orchard, which was established by Mittie Jordan of St. Matthew's UMC in the city's Hough neighborhood. We've helped out by mowing, weeding and harvesting pears in this unique ministry. Other events have included the Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation in Akron and the Climate Action Summit in Columbus, which we attended alongside members of other churches and denominations.



Nature walk on the church grounds

Back at home, the Green Team has held nature walks on the church grounds to assess the property and acquaint the congregation with the outdoor space that is also part of our church. One result of the grounds walk was to devote part of the lawn to native pollinator plants. Several volunteers gathered one Sunday afternoon to mow an area and then spread a native seed mixture which included plants that attract and feed bees and birds – as well reducing the area that needs to be mowed and fertilized. This summer we also initiated an informal produce swap, encouraging gardeners to share the bounty of their gardens with one another.



Creating a pollinator garden on church property

To top it off (literally!), Kent UMC is actively pursuing installation of solar panels on the church roof. The goal is to make a decision in time to take advantage of solar tax credits that will end at the end of 2025. Several other area churches are considering this step as well.

The environmental issues are great, and they can seem daunting. We continue to strive to be faithful stewards of the earth, and to look for new opportunities to make a positive difference in our community and the world. We know that no one can do everything, but we do believe that everyone can do something.

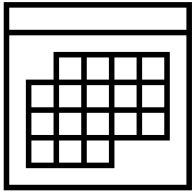
Kimberly Young for the Green Team



From Benjamin Tipton, Volunteer at Main Street Kent's Fall Clean-Up

On October 25th in downtown Kent, Main Street Kent volunteers gathered at the gazebo at West Main Street and Franklin Avenue to kick off a community clean-up day. About 30 volunteers showed up on a cold morning with other neighbors to pick up supplies before heading out to spruce up designated areas across the downtown district. It was a welcoming, community-driven effort to help keep Kent beautiful and vibrant for everyone.





CALENDAR & ITEMS OF INTEREST

Supporting our local businesses and organizations is a key component of Sustainability! Check out the City's Culture & Community section of the website (www.kentohio.gov/culture-community/) for more details about the following:

Mayor Jack Amrhein has officially declared free parking in downtown Kent on the following dates to encourage holiday shopping and community engagement:

- **Friday, November 28, 2025 – the day after Thanksgiving**
- **Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve**

Metered parking is free during this time with the 2 hour parking areas still in effect.

- **Haymaker Farmers' Market**
 - Open year-round, every Saturday morning in Kent: Held outdoors in downtown Kent on Franklin Ave. from April through November, 9am to 1pm, and indoors at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent – Hobbs Hall from December to March, 10am to 1pm. Visit www.haymakermarket.com for full details.
- **Main Street Kent**
 - A non-profit organization that focuses on the promotion, beautification, and revitalization of downtown Kent. The City of Kent, Kent State University, local businesses, and community members support Main Street Kent. Check out their full calendar of events here: www.mainstreetkent.org/events/full-calendar/.
- **Kent In Good Company Podcast**
 - Hosted by Kent resident and small business owner, Katy Thomas, head to the Main Street Kent website at the following link to listen and learn more about Kent's local businesses: <https://mainstreetkent.org/discover/in-good-company/>.
- **The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce**
 - Visit www.kentbiz.com/events/eventcalendar for a full listing of Chamber and Community events.
- **Kent Historical Society & Museum**
 - Learn more about our community at Kent's primary history resource and reference center! Visit www.kentohiohistory.org for organization details and events.
- **Kent Parks and Recreation**
 - Offers a variety of locations, programs, and events for individuals and families to enjoy. They provide quality recreation and entertainment for the community through parks, sports, fitness, education and cultural arts. Visit their full program and event offerings at: www.kentohio.gov/culture-community/kent-parks-and-recreation/

- **Yard Waste Transfer Site Open!**
 - The yard waste transfer site hours are Tuesdays 9am-1pm and Saturdays 9am-noon. The site is a place for residents of Kent to drop off brush, clippings, and other yard waste. It is also the place to get the grindings from the waste, to use like mulch, for free! Stop by near Cherry Street and Mogadore Rd, near the entrance to Plum Creek. Full details at: [Yard Waste | City of Kent](#)

- **Small Business Saturday & Festival of Lights – 11/29/2025**
 - Make sure to visit downtown Kent for what is sure to be a fantastic day on Saturday, November 29th from 11am to 8pm for Main Street Kent’s Small Business Saturday, and the Festival of Lights. Full event details are available at: [Small Business Saturday & Festival of Lights | Facebook](#)

- **Main Street Kent Holiday 5K – 12/6/2025**
 - Main Street Kent will be hosting their 5th annual MSK 5K fun, non-competitive run/walk event on Saturday, December 6th. Registration for the event ends on December 5th. Full event details are available at: [MSK Holiday 5K](#)

- **Kent Historical Society Holiday Open House – 12/6/2025**
 - Kent Historical Society Holiday Open House will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 10am – 1pm. Details are available at: [Homepage - Kent Historical Society & Museum](#)

- **Cookie Walk – 12/7/2025**
 - Main Street Kent invites you to get into the holiday spirit and collect a variety of festive holiday cookies from Kent’s downtown businesses on Sunday, December 7th from 12pm – 5pm. Details are available at: [Main Street Kent Cookie Walk 2025 Tickets, Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

- **Phil Kline’s Unsilent Night – 12/14/2025**
 - Main Street Kent will be presenting the third annual Phil Kline’s Unsilent Night, sponsored by Woodsy’s Music, on Sunday, December 14th from 5:45pm-9pm. Full details are available at: [Phil Kline's Unsilent Night ~ Kent, OH | Facebook](#)

- **Coffee Walk – 1/10/2026**
 - Main Street Kent will be holding the Coffee Walk on Saturday, January 10th from 12pm-5pm. Stay tuned for more details as they become available at: [Coffee Walk - INFO COMING SOON! – Main Street Kent](#)

KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT
Oct-25

	OCTOBER 2024	OCTOBER 2025	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2025
CALLS FOR SERVICE	1784	1489	16513	15708
KENT FIRE CALLS	526	520	4834	5048
BRIMFIELD FIRE CALLS	175	169	1588	1752
ARRESTS, TOTAL	178	150	1340	1331
JUVENILE ARRESTS	30	24	144	173
O.V.I. ARRESTS	19	7	113	93
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	117	91	1332	1073
PARKING TICKETS	1206	1163	10852	8098
ACCIDENT REPORTS				
ACCIDENT REPORTS	45	47	469	452
Property Damage	23	24	241	258
Injury	5	10	83	72
Private Property	12	7	88	86
Hit-Skip	3	4	39	23
OVI Related	1	1	11	7
Pedestrians	1	1	6	5
Fatals	0	0	1	1
U.C.R. STATISTICS				
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	2	8	11
Assault Total	34	19	221	185
Serious		2	5	53
Simple		32	14	168
Burglary	3	1	23	15
Larceny	27	16	76	177
Auto Theft	7	1	17	11
Arson	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking:Servitude	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking:Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	71	39	345	395
CRIME CLEARANCES				
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	1	1
Robbery	0	2	5	12
Assault Total	31	15	164	193
Serious		2	4	30
Simple		29	11	134
Burglary	0	0	17	9
Larceny	3	9	59	50
Auto Theft	0	0	4	8
Arson	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking:Servitude	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking:Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	34	26	250	273