



City of Kent Service Values

Quality matters in everything we do.
Professional, prompt and courteous service.
Productive and efficient use of resources.
Ethical, honest and fair.
Innovative and creative solutions.



2020 Mayor and Members of City Council

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

Ward 1 Garret Ferrara
 Ward 2 Jack Amrhein
 Ward 3 Robin Turner
 Ward 4 John M. Kuhar
 Ward 5 Heidi L. Shaffer
 Ward 6 Tracy Wallach

Council At Large
 Michael DeLeone
 Gwen Rosenberg
 Roger Sidoti

City of Kent
 319 S. Water Street
 Kent, Ohio 44240

A web site has been created to make sure everyone has access to information on City activities.

www.KENT360/OneKent.com

PHONE: 330 676-7500
 FAX: 330 678-8033
www.kentohio.org

April 2018

Kent

Living our values through community

KENT

"The most important element in the city is its people...with a social vitality that form a community...living in dignity."

Kent Bicentennial Plan



"One Kent"

the kent community
 uncommonly good together

2020 a year of unprecedented change

In the last 5 years major investments have been made to enhance the "physical" connections in Kent, strengthening the ties between campus, neighborhoods, the river, and the downtown business district.

The Kent Bicentennial Plan provided the blueprint for those physical connections and in 2018 Kent City Council is turning to the Bicentennial Plan to focus on strengthening Kent's "social and cultural" connections.

Under the new "One Kent" initiative, Council will be working to rally the community around Kent's best asset -- the eclectic mix of people that call Kent home. The goal is to inspire community conversations, launch new projects, and secure Kent's status as a welcoming and compassionate City.

One Kent aspires to be meaningful community building work. It's a great opportunity for the community to participate in an ambitious effort to celebrate the people, places, and faces that make Kent a hometown we're proud to share.

kent, people sized

With restaurants, retail shops, museums, the Cuyahoga River, miles of hike and bike trails, abundant arts, and the 2nd largest public university in Ohio, Kent is a small town with a lot to offer.

Kent packs a lot of living into 9 square miles, featuring its own distinctive blend of millennials, bohemian baby boomers, Gen X'ers, empty nesters, active retirees, young families, old families, blue collar, white collar and tie-dyed no collars -- gathered together from around the world to share a hometown.

That "unmistakably Kent" mix of people didn't happen by chance; it came from years of engaged citizens who built a legacy for progressive community planning that has earned Kent a reputation for being a community that is different in all the right ways.

community difference makers

Since its early days as a mill town, through the manufacturing era, and emerging as a destination college town, Kent has been through an extraordinary amount of change.

It takes a strong sense of community to navigate that much change. Kent succeeded by celebrating, honoring, and engaging the people of Kent that saw something special in their hometown.

Whether they worked in rail yards, on assembly lines, in classrooms, or in downtown offices people have always been Kent's greatest resource and they were willing to roll-up their sleeves to shape Kent's future.

Life changing events: first love, first job, **first time in Kent**.



Live a little, live a lot...it's up to you in Kent.

paying it forward

Today's most popular community features had humble beginnings as the dreams of earlier generations. Each generation takes its turn completing as many dream projects as it can, and dreaming up new ones to add to the next generation's "to do" list.

Those community "to do" lists are recorded in documents like the Vision 2020 Plan and the Bicentennial Plan -- affirming the community values and priorities that bind Kent's generations across time.

The One Kent initiative is a chance to pick up where the Bicentennial Plan left-off and do our part to make sure Kent has big dreams for generations to come.



Kent does a lot of things well, but **people** is what Kent does **best**.



building community 1 person at a time

Compassionate City

At its best, a community is a place that steps up to answer the call when people need help.

Compassionate cities don't have to be asked; they act because it's the right thing to do.

Some people may need help because they're new to town, may not speak the language, or are dealing with the challenges of aging, illness, or loss.

Great communities know how to look out for one another, especially those among us that are most vulnerable like children, disabled or elderly.

Compassion is a way of life and Kent City Council is pleased to be participating in an international effort to raise compassion to be a worldwide priority -- starting right here in our hometown.



Join the Compassionate City Movement



Above: Images of Kent public safety employees working on building community.

Changing the World, begins at home

From its early pioneer days through to May 4, 1970, Kent has been a small community with a big impact.

Whether it's changing the course of a war or working to change the world, Kent has a reputation as a place that makes a difference.

One Kent wants to make sure the world is still listening and learning from Kent for years to come.



What's Next?

City Council's goal is to get the One Kent initiative off to a great start in 2018, giving it an official launch event, and some early momentum as a timely update to the Bicentennial Plan.

From there, Council will be looking for opportunities to re-engage the community and let it take on a life of its own as the kind of true grassroots community effort it is intended to be.

Spring: Over the spring of 2018 Kent City Council will finalize the kick-off plans for the One Kent initiative and present a path forward.

Summer: By summer, Council hopes to start the Bicentennial Plan update and outline specific plans for public input and discussion.

Fall: The fall should be a time to ramp up the community conversations around the elements of the Bicentennial Plan.

Winter: Over winter, Council will sort through the input, distill it, and use it to target the next round of community conversations.

And Beyond: Community building work will continue for as long as it takes to be the kind of engaging, affirming, global village that Kent aspires to be.

Welcoming City

We live in a global world, connected by our economies, environment, technology, and our humanity. Kent is committed to being a global "small town," celebrating our most curious and interesting differences with just as much enthusiasm as our common joys and sorrows.

A truly welcoming community is more than a place of acceptance and tolerance; it's a place that has figured out how to embrace and engage the contributions of each and every individual in a shared hometown culture that makes it uniquely our own.

That takes a lot of thought and effort -- but that's what One Kent is all about, changing strangers into neighbors and friends.



Kent, proud sponsor of unconventional living.

Life is full of compromises, choosing how to live your life doesn't need to be one of them.

Whether you're kayaking the Cuyahoga, strolling downtown, climbing the corporate ladder, or biking to classes at Kent State, one thing is clear -- there's no place like Kent. It's an American original.

Where some communities specialize in a narrow band of living, Kent goes wide, celebrating the edges of conventionality and everything in between.

Kent is a city with room for everyone -- from the purple-spiked-haired Kent State freshman, to the 7-year old T-Ball player, and her retired marathon running grandfather.

That's what makes Kent great and that's what the *One Kent* initiative is on a mission to celebrate and amplify.

Kent...My City, My Life

Because I live in Kent...I ride a motorcycle and go to poetry readings.
Because I live in Kent...I started my own business and still dress up for Halloween.
Because I live in Kent...I know my neighbors and meet new ones every year.
Because I live in Kent...I jog on river trails and cheer for world class athletes.
Because I live in Kent...I don't have to choose, I can have it all.

Dream it. Live it. Kent.

Syrian Refugee Aid

As the wartime crisis in Syria left thousands of innocent civilians without a safe homeland, Kent City Council is looking for the community to answer the call for refugee assistance as part of *One Kent*.

It turns out that in Northeast Ohio the International Institute of Akron is the agency that guides local efforts to help out the U.S. resettlement program and they have offered Kent a range of assistance options to consider to support local refugee families in need.

Basic Needs:

Securing safe, sanitary, affordable housing
Hot, ready, culturally appropriate meals
Assistance applying for public benefit programs
Applying for social security cards
Enrolling in English classes
Registering children for school
Transportation accommodations
Health appointments

Meet and Greet:

Airport reception
Cultural orientation

Items Needed

Age and gender appropriate beds
Houseware items
Food preparation and table settings
Lamps and lighting
Storage containers
Linens and bathware
Cleaning supplies
Seasonal clothing

If Possible

Washer/dryer
Computer
Phone
Microwave
Internet

Where Syrian Refugees Are Resettled

