



For Immediate Release

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Kentwood Department of Public Works, Kent County Road Commission to Host Community Open House During National Public Works Week
May 22 Event Will Include Hands-on Activities, Live Demonstrations and Giveaways

Kentwood, Michigan, May 13, 2024 – The Kentwood Department of Public Works and Kent County Road Commission are inviting community members to take a behind-the-scenes look at how local public works departments serve residents during an open house Wednesday, May 22.

The open house will take place 4-7 p.m. at the Kentwood Department of Public Works, 5068 Breton Ave. SE. Community members of all ages will be able to meet the Public Works team, learn more about the services it provides and explore vehicles and other equipment used by the department. The event is in recognition of National Public Works Week, which is May 19-25.

“The Kentwood Department of Public Works is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, health, and safety of our community, whether that’s clearing roadways, beautifying green spaces or ensuring the reliability of public safety vehicles,” Public Works Director Chad Griffin said. “We welcome this opportunity to engage with our community members, provide information about our operations and showcase the tools we use to fulfill our mission.”

The event will feature giveaways, hands-on activities, live maintenance and repair demonstrations and more. Complimentary food and refreshments will be provided.

Additionally, semifinalists and finalists of the Work Zone Safety Poster competition will be recognized at 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by Kent County Road Commission and public works agencies throughout Kent County, the poster contest invited third-graders from across the county to design a caution sign focused on safety tips for driving through a work zone. A gallery of entries will be displayed during the event.

The Kent County Road Commission will also have team members and equipment on-site to share more about their role in the community.

“We look forward to this event every year. It provides a fun and interactive opportunity for the community to experience the collaboration among local agencies, meet our teams, see our equipment, and discuss the ways we work to keep Kent County moving,” said Kent County Road Commission Managing Director Jerry Byne.

The Kentwood Department of Public Works has five divisions that work together to maintain the City’s infrastructure, which includes more than 150 miles of pipes underground and more than 155 miles of streets above ground, as well as City parks and grounds, buildings and vehicles. The divisions are

building maintenance, fleet services, grounds maintenance, streets maintenance and utilities (water and wastewater) services. To learn more about Kentwood DPW, visit kentwood.us/DPW.

Prior to the open house, Kentwood Mayor Stephen Kepley will provide a proclamation for National Public Works Week during the Tuesday, May 21 City Commission meeting.

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