



## Winters End - Town of Kenneth City Newsletter

Winter has come to a close, and the Spring air is thick with pollen. This Newsletter will cover new construction, introduce our new Police Chief, and cover recent Town events.

[Visit our Website](#)

### Upcoming Events Town-Wide Garage Sale

The Annual Town-Wide garage Sale is back! The sale will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>. Residents must sign up to be listed in the event map!

[Click here to sign up for the Town-Wide Garage Sale](#)



### Service Spotlight

At the March Council Meeting, Officer Diaz was awarded Officer of the Year, for his outstanding work and dedication. Officers Beltran and Marchione were awarded the Life Saving Award for their heroic, life saving efforts in the line of duty. Pictured from left to right: Officer Beltran, Officer Marchione, and Chief Vazquez

[Click here to watch the Council Meeting with these awards](#)





## 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Construction under way!

Big orange cones. Heavy Machinery. Detours and road closures?! The 46 Avenue recreational trail and road improvement projects are underway! With a relatively short construction schedule running from January to June, the project will result in big improvements to the 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor.

What are these big improvements?

### - 46th Avenue Road and Gutter

From the 50<sup>th</sup> Street bridge on the east, to 61<sup>st</sup> Lane on the west, 46<sup>th</sup> Ave will be completely re-done. Approximately 3 to 4 inches of the old roadway surface will be removed and replaced with a new asphalt roadway and curb. The road will remain a two-lane road. Storm-water gutters, curbs, and ADA ramps along 46<sup>th</sup> will be repaired/replaced as needed.

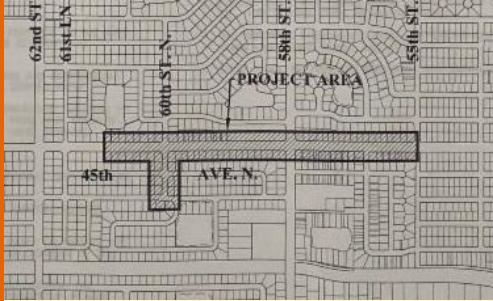
### - Sidewalk

The median sidewalk that stretches throughout the entire median of 46<sup>th</sup> Ave will be a ten foot wide trail. The trail/street crosswalks will be ADA accessible. a new RRFB device will be installed at the crosswalk of 60th St. and 46th Ave. Benches, picnic tables and trash cans will be installed along the trail.

### - Trail Spur

The Lake Lori Town property will be connected to the 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trail by a connecting trail spur along the east side of the 60<sup>th</sup> street drainage easement.

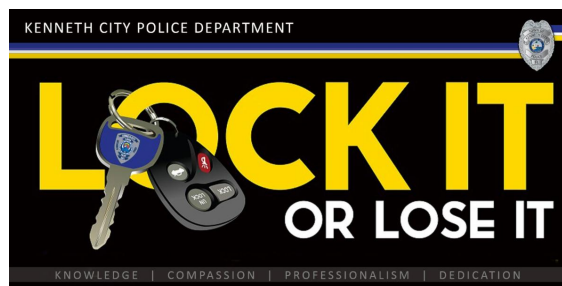
As our readers may remember from our last newsletter, this project was the culmination of years of advocacy and negotiation with Pinellas County. The Town greatly appreciates the County's commitment to improving the daily lives of our residents!



## Kenneth City Police Corner

Kenneth City Police Department | 4600 58th St. N. | Admin. Phone (727) 498-8942

[KCPD Facebook](#)



Please do your part to prevent crime by locking your vehicles and home, and making sure your garage door is closed for the night. This is one of the best and the easiest things our residents and businesses can do to safeguard Kenneth City's quality of life.

It only takes about 30 seconds to take any and all belongings from an unlocked vehicle. Don't make it easy! Help us spread the word about "lock it or lose it" and tell your friends about the importance of locking vehicles and your home to prevent these crimes.

Make sure you:

- Lock your car doors.
- Roll up your windows.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Remove your valuables or hide them so they are not displayed.
- If you see something suspicious, say something!

Call our dispatch line 24 hours a day/ 365 days a year at 727-582-6200 and report any and all criminal or suspicious activity.

## Welcome, New Chief of Police Elias Vazquez!

At the February Council meeting, Elias Vazquez was sworn in as our new Chief of Police!

Vazquez, a Marine Corps. veteran with 31 years of law enforcement experience, retired as Assistant Chief of Police of the Tampa Police Department in January of 2020. Though retired, his call to public service and safety still rang strong in his heart. Kenneth City is grateful he accepted this position, and we are happy to welcome him into our small-town family. Readers will find Chief Vazquez's acceptance speech from the February meeting

below.



Chief Vazquez – "I want to thank the City Manager and Council for this opportunity. I am standing before you with a humble heart and thankful for this great opportunity to serve the Citizens of the Town of Kenneth City. I want to assure our Community that you will continue to receive the best police services from our men and women in Blue, who so courageously and professionally serve you. I will be dedicated, committed and available to

you at all times.

My priority as your police Chief is to continue building public trust in your police department. This is certainly more important today, where public trust of police is at an all-time low. We at the Police Dept will accomplish this through Transparency, Respect, Engagement and Accountability by all the members of this department, both sworn and civilian. My Golden Rule is that everyone gets treated with Dignity & Respect, no matter whether you're a homeless member of our community or the Mayor, no matter who you love and no matter who you worship.

We cannot have a thriving community without public safety and this is accomplished through Constitutional and Relational policing. I expect all the members of the Kenneth City Police Dept to respect the Constitution and build Relationships on a daily basis and stay fully engaged, to strengthen the bonds in our community.

To the officers, in me you have someone who will support you 100% of the time as long as you do what's right 100% of the time. If you mess up, fess up and always, always tell the truth. I will hold you accountable at all times, for your actions or in-actions. I expect nothing but the best from you, as I know you are "extremely dedicated" to this profession and the citizens of Town of Kenneth City. I'm honored to be your Chief!

In closing, I look forward to continuing, the great work Chief Kevin Riley has done for the past 5 years. He left the Department in a great place! I also look forward to working with all my local, state and federal partners as we are one team and I want to maintain great relationships with you to make the Town of Kenneth City a safer place. Thank you for taking time out of your day to be here for a very special day in my life."

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## Recent Events, and More!

### The Splash Pad is Turned on for the Season!

The Splash Pad, Located at Ernst Park (4600 58th St.), has turned back on and is in great working order. Hours of operation are: 9 AM to 7 PM - Everyday!

\*Remember\* - The Water Activation pad only requires a gentle touch. If you stomp on it, **it will break!** Then the Splash Pad will be down until it can be repaired!

## Virtual Tree Lighting



Faced with the task of continuing a growing Town tradition, and avoiding large gatherings, the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event was held virtually on Facebook live December 10<sup>th</sup>. During the event, the Town was tasked with generating enough Christmas spirit to help Santa arrive that night to collect the “Christmas Coordinates” of Kenneth City for his upcoming Christmas eve flight. To assist in raising the spirit, the Hollins High Chorus sang a beautiful collection of Christmas carol classics. Then, led by Mayor Wanda Dudley, Kenneth City Town Council lit the gazebo Christmas tree. After an apprehensive moment of waiting, our efforts in generating Christmas spirit were validated. Santa made it to Kenneth City, and shared a jolly message of Christmas Joy for all. If you missed the Christmas Tree lighting event, you can play it back on our Town Facebook page.

## Thank You Mayor Dudley!



In March, Wanda Dudley passed the Mayor's Gavel to her successor, Robert Howell, after six years as Mayor and eight years as a Council Member. In a speech at the March Council Meeting, Dudley shared the following parting words with the new Council and the Town.

"It truly was my honor and pleasure to serve not only as a mayor but also as a council member. What I would like to say to all of you up there is that you probably are up there for the same reason I was, starting all those years ago. Your goal is to make Kenneth City better. I believe, over my years, that Kenneth City has progressed. I would like you all to work together. That teamwork, not just between you on Council, but also teamwork with your administrative

staff, with the Police Chief, with the lawyer, with everyone. That is how progress is done. We don't do it alone, we do it as a team. "

[To see Dudley's full comments, click here.](#)

### **Banners on Display!**

In November of 2020, the Town acquired and installed decorative banners on the streetlights along 54th Avenue. This project was funded with money from the Beautification Fund. The Public Works Department installed the brackets. There are three banner designs. One for the holidays, one for July 4th, and one with the Town logo and slogan. Public Works will use the Bucket Truck to exchange banners three times a year depending on the season.



**Thank you for reading!  
Town of Kenneth City  
A Safe, Friendly Small Town!**