



Here is your March 2026 edition of the Kent Police Department Community Education E-Newsletter! This is our way to keep you informed of crime trends, crime stats, Kent PD events, Kent PD programs, and more. As a reminder, you can expect our e-newsletter sent to your inbox on the last day of each month.

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Kent PD Community Support Unit Programs and Information



Scams

We wanted to share a recent scam brought to our attention recently. A family member of an individual arrested for DUI was contacted via phone by a “Kent Police Officer”. This officer imposter/caller told the family that their loved one was arrested, being held without bail, and was asking for \$1,000 to pay for an ankle monitor.

The suspect asked for the money via Zelle. Not only does Kent PD not accept Zelle, Venmo, Apple Pay or Google Pay as forms of payment, police departments DO NOT call and ask for money over the phone, by text, or email. Thankfully, the individual receiving this call felt it was off and reported it to Kent PD. If you EVER get this type of call, hang up and report the incident to our non-emergency number, 253-852-2121. The scam did not work this time because the intended victims were internet savvy. Not everyone is, so help out by sharing this and other type of scam information.

Here is another scam alert shared by our friends at Renton PD. It is not uncommon to see an increase in scam attempts during tax season. Scammers are actively targeting individuals with fake calls, emails, and messages posing as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Here are some red flags to be aware of:

- Calls, texts, or emails from the IRS demanding immediate payment are not legit.
- Any threats of arrest or legal action.
- Requests for any payment via gift cards, crypto or wire transfer.

- Links asking you to verify personal or financial information.

The IRS does not do any of these things.

You can safeguard yourself from these types of scams. If something feels off, it probably is. Trust your gut. To avoid tax related scams, consider filing early to reduce the risk of tax-related identity theft, use strong passwords for tax filing accounts, only work with trusted tax professionals, and never click suspicious links or download unexpected attachments.

Coalition Corner - The Impacts of Youth Substance Use on Families

Youth Substance use affects not only the child but has far-reaching consequences for their families. The ripple effects can lead to emotional, financial and social challenges within the family. Understanding these impacts is crucial for parents, caregivers, and communities working to foster healthy environments for our youth.

Youth substance use puts an emotional strain on families. Parents, siblings and caregivers often feel a mix of fear, anger and frustration. This can lead to conflicts within the home and trust issues can arise and communication can break down. There is also worry for the child's health and future. Treatment, counseling, legal consequences and time off of work can lead to financial hardships. Families dealing with youth substance use often face social isolation. Friends and family may withdraw because they don't know how to respond and families may feel like they are alone.

Despite these challenges, there are resources available for families to help prevent and treat youth substance use. They can seek counseling, family therapy and support groups for both the family and the child that is using. Open communication, along with professional guidance, can facilitate healthier interactions within the family and encourage a culture of understanding and recovery. Kent Youth & Family Services is a local resource for families facing youth substance use. They have services for parents/caregivers, siblings, and the child that is using substances. For more information on KYFS, go to www.kyfs.org.

Kent Police Student Board

The Kent Police Student Board is looking for students grades 7-12 to be a part of this great group that focuses on leadership development and student health and wellness! We meet 2-3 times per month on Wednesdays during the school year. It's ok if students are involved in sports and other activities. Most members are involved in other things and are able to make it work. We plan a student conference for Kent middle and high schools, as well other community based projects. Through being a part of the board, students get to meet others from different schools, network with city and community leaders and at the end, have something great to put on a resume or college application! Here is a video link for our 2026 Game of Life Conference: <https://vimeo.com/1168296326/c13cffba7b>. For more information, email sjudd@kentwa.gov.

Kent PD – Event Request Form

Kent PD now has an event request form to request involvement of Kent PD at a meeting or event taking place. We hope this will streamline event or meeting requests from the community to our initial intake and event review process. Once the form is submitted online, you will have a response from a member of the Community Education Unit confirming your request and will work to have someone from the department attend. Here is the form! [Event Participation Request Form Page | City of Kent \(kentwa.gov\)](#) Just fill it out as completely as possible and click submit!

Dedicated DUI Officer Program

Kent Police continues to deploy our Dedicated DUI Officer. This position is completely grant funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Officer Castro is out working each week focusing on impaired drivers and other traffic safety related behaviors most likely to cause serious injury and fatal crashes.

During the first quarter of 2026, our Dedicated DUI Officer made 377 contacts, wrote 373 infractions, including 199 speed related infractions, and made 12 DUI arrests, taking these dangerous drivers off of our Kent roads. This work will continue as we work to improve safety for all of us traveling our roadways. Please do your part and drive sober every time you get behind the wheel.

Kent PD Events and Information

There are a lot of upcoming meetings and community events headed to Kent. Get these on your calendar!

Kent Bicycle Advisory Board Bike Rodeo

Save the date for the Kent Bicycle Advisory Board's annual bike safety rodeo! May 16th at the Kent YMCA located at 10828 SE 248th Street from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Bring your kiddos and their bikes (and helmets!) and get a bike tune up and ride the bike course with Kent officers! It is a great event and we love interacting with members of our community. Hope to see you there!!

Save the Date: Kent Police Teen Academy

The Kent Police Teen Academy will take place Monday June 22 through Thursday June 25th, 2026. The academy is for Kent sophomores, juniors, seniors during the 2026-2027 school year and 2026 graduates. This year will be a new exciting structure so if your student has participated before, this year will be different. Students will learn directly from Kent Police Officers about the job, investigating a crime from start to finish, including report writing, interviews, building searches, evidence collection and more. Even if your student isn't interested in law enforcement, they will learn about other public safety careers and build relationships with officers from Kent PD. Applications will be coming out mid-April! For questions, contact Stacy Judd at 253-856-5883 or sjudd@kentwa.gov



Stay Connected

You can find out more information about these programs and events by visiting our website at www.kentwa.gov/police and click on “Community Education” on the left tool bar. We are also very active on social media so be sure to follow us:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kentpolicedepartment>
Instagram @kentpolicewa
Twitter @kentpd

Community Education Contacts

Valley/West Hill: Sara Hallstead shallstead@kentwa.gov 253-856-5856

East Hill: Stacy Judd sjudd@kentwa.gov 253-856-5883