



# KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 24, 2021

Dear Neighbor,

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*Director*

The Kent County Department of Public Works is reaching out to our neighbors to let them know about plans for our new administration building adjacent to the Recycling & Education Center on Wealthy Street SW. In the coming weeks, neighbors who live within 300 feet of the facility may also receive a notification about vacating the far south end of Marion Avenue, which currently dead ends at our facility. The street vacation is required so the Kent County Department of Public Works can begin construction of its new administration building that will be used for staff offices.

While the street vacation will have minimal impact on neighborhood residents, we did want to share more information on the new administration building and call attention to a few aspects of this new building which will be on county-owned property as part of the Kent County Recycling & Education Center campus. We've included architectural renderings of the new facility so you can get a better picture of how it will look when complete.

The new building will extend the appearance of the campus and follow design guidelines that enhance safety, create a quality customer experience and maintain a distance from the residential neighborhood while improving pedestrian access from Marion Ave to Wealthy Street. The front door will face Wealthy Street and all traffic will continue to use Wealthy as the only entrance to the facility. Staff and customer parking will all be on-site and clearly marked. Landscaping and fencing will be used to help clearly define the property and create both a visual and noise buffer from the residential neighborhood. We have also worked to minimize the impact of exterior lighting for neighbors and wildlife, while continuing to safely light the facility.

The building will also house the county's SafeChem program where customers can safely drop off household waste like cleaners, garden or garage products. The SafeChem drop off center is located on the far eastern portion of the building with a covered canopy for inclement weather. The loading dock is strategically located to keep any truck or customer traffic away from the residential neighborhood and the hours of operation will be limited. There will also be a reuse shop where products that are in good condition can be offered back to the community at no cost instead of being discarded.

We expect construction on the new facility to begin this spring and be completed by the fall of 2021. We've given an introductory presentation to John Ball Area Neighbors and will continue to keep the neighborhood association updated as the project progresses. Questions about either the street vacation process or construction can be directed to Kristen Wieland at 616-632-7923 or [kristen.wieland@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:kristen.wieland@kentcountymi.gov).



Sincerely,

Darwin Baas, Director

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**KENT COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
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Renderings of Kent County Department of  
Public Works administrative offices  
February 24, 2021





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