



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For additional information contact:

Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7567 or Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov

**Kent County Helps Residents Properly Dispose of U.S. Flags
New Dropbox Installed at County Administration Building**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The Kent County Board of Commissioners is proud to announce an easy option for residents to dispose of U.S. flags.

Through a partnership with the National Flag Foundation and the National Sheriffs Association, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has provided Kent County with a flag retirement box, free of charge. Flags deposited in the box will be collected and disposed of properly. The box is located at 300 Monroe NW in Grand Rapids, near the entrance of the Monroe level in the lobby shared with the City of Grand Rapids. Flags should be folded respectfully before being put in the box.

The United States Flag Code prescribes flag etiquette – everything from flying it near other flags to instructions on how to raise and lower it. “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning,” according to the U.S. Flag Code.

The idea to order a box for the County Administration Building started over the summer when Commissioner Stan Ponstein learned of the program through NACo. “We have so many residents who work hard to salute the flag and what it represents,” said Commissioner Ponstein, who represents District Seven (Grandville and part of Wyoming). “This seemed like a fitting way to be sure our residents could continue that salute, even once Old Glory needs to be retired.” Commissioner Ponstein will work with local American Legion Post 179 (in Walker) on handling the final disposal. Members of Post 179 hold disposal ceremonies twice a year and partner with a local Boy Scout Troop as a service project.

The box is open to the public during the same hours that the City-County Building is open, typically 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (except observed holidays). Only U.S. Flags will be accepted.

“This centrally-located drop-off provides convenience while respecting our national symbol,” said Jim Saalfeld, Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. “The Board is unified in helping to ensure that our citizens show respect to our great nation and our flag while disposing of old or worn out flags.”

(Media Note: Pictures of the box will be posted on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KentCountyMI) - please courtesy [Facebook.com/KentCountyMI](https://www.facebook.com/KentCountyMI).)

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