

Employee Spotlight: Jonathan Neracher



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Jonathan Neracher and I have been with the County for 5 years. I was born and raised on the east side of the state and moved to the "pretty side of the state", as my uncle calls it, 15 years ago when I attended GVSU. While in college I met my wife and we decided to make West Michigan our home. Our little family consists of our two rescue dogs, Tako and Kishka, who were a bonded pair that were at the Kent County Animal Shelter for far too long.

Our summers consist of camping, kayaking, biking, beaching or just...

spending time in the back yard with a good book. The colder months tend to be focused on house projects, video games and a trip to somewhere warm when deemed necessary. Recently, I've been taking my disc golf game more seriously and have been riding my bike to work as much as possible.

What is your position at Kent County and what individuals/customers do you work with?

I am a Recycling Center Supervisor who oversees the County's SafeChem Program. The SafeChem Program is a free service provided to Kent County residents for the disposal of various types of household hazardous waste (HHW). I work directly with the residents who are looking to dispose of these household hazards. We have 5 locations where residents can drop off everything from motor oil to vape pens for safe disposal.

What are two or three things that staff should know about your role?

First of all, we are lucky to have such a comprehensive HHW program, most parts of the state only hold collection events for hard to dispose of material a few times a year. In Kent County, we are open 5 days a week and one Saturday a month.

2nd, while a large part of what I do deals with waste, an even bigger part is being a point person for the community. Between phone calls, emails and residents using the program, I interact with 200-250 residents every week.

Fun donated items found at SafeChem.