

# **NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE NEWS**

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For Immediate Release

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## **United Growth for Kent County Honors Philanthropist Peter M. Wege**

**What: 8th Annual Land Use Networking Luncheon**

**When: Monday, Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Where: Kent/MSU Extension offices, 775 Ball N.E., Grand Rapids**

Peter M. Wege, the generous philanthropist behind the Wege Foundation, has benefited his community across an astonishingly broad spectrum. Much of Wege's support has gone to land use efforts held as critical by United Growth for Kent County, such as farmland preservation, public transit, water quality, green building initiatives, and energy conservation.

To recognize and celebrate such contributions, which have made Kent County a national leader on some of these issues as well as a better place to live, United Growth will give Peter M. Wege the Land Use Stewardship Award at its 8th Annual Land Use Networking Luncheon on Sept. 17. Mr. Wege will briefly address the community land use activists and educators gathered on that day.

The Land Use Networking luncheon brings together United Growth for Kent County members, potential members and supporters for a wonderful luncheon of locally grown food, this year catered by Tuscan Express, and the opportunity to share what their organizations are doing in the land use arena.

United Growth will also purchase a brick in the Kent/MSU Extension demonstration garden in honor of both Peter M. Wege and last year's award-winner, Senator Patty Birkholz.

The purpose of United Growth for Kent County is to "Make the Urban-Rural Connection," and unite people and organizations around the promotion of positive land use in Kent County and West Michigan. Since its inception in 1999, United Growth has spearheaded or assisted on many projects to forward this purpose, including creation of "This Land Is Your Land," a land use curriculum for upper elementary grades; leadership in development, adoption and implementation of the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program; and numerous initiatives and partnerships to strengthen neighborhoods and neighborhood revitalization. Originally a program of Kent/MSU Extension, United Growth has recently become its own non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Those planning to attend, including media representatives, should RSVP by calling Kendra Wills at 616-970-5278 or visiting [www.Unitedgrowth.org](http://www.Unitedgrowth.org). The cost is \$15 for United Growth members and \$20 for non-members.

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