

**Return To School**

**Preserving Tradition. Adapting to Change.**


This is that time of the year when American families are getting back-to-school. We wrap up our vacations, and begin to buy new school clothes and supplies. But 2020 has turned out to be unlike any other. Here at KEP, we still recognize great traditions taking place.

One great tradition is adapting to new circumstances. Our children returning to school have demonstrated a great can-do spirit in facing change with enthusiasm. So while there may be many new rules, restrictions and even uncertainties – we celebrate the back-to-school season and applaud our community’s ability to adapt to change!

**LEADER VIEWS**

**Order Entry - Now Paperless.**


KEP employees are regularly asked to participate in kaizens – a term meaning “continuous improvement.” Workplace changes caused by COVID-19 identified a need for a kaizen that would later be led by 1-year employee Karly Rice and a team made up of colleagues from IT, production, order processing, shipping, and accounting that resulted in KEP’s all-new paperless order entry process.

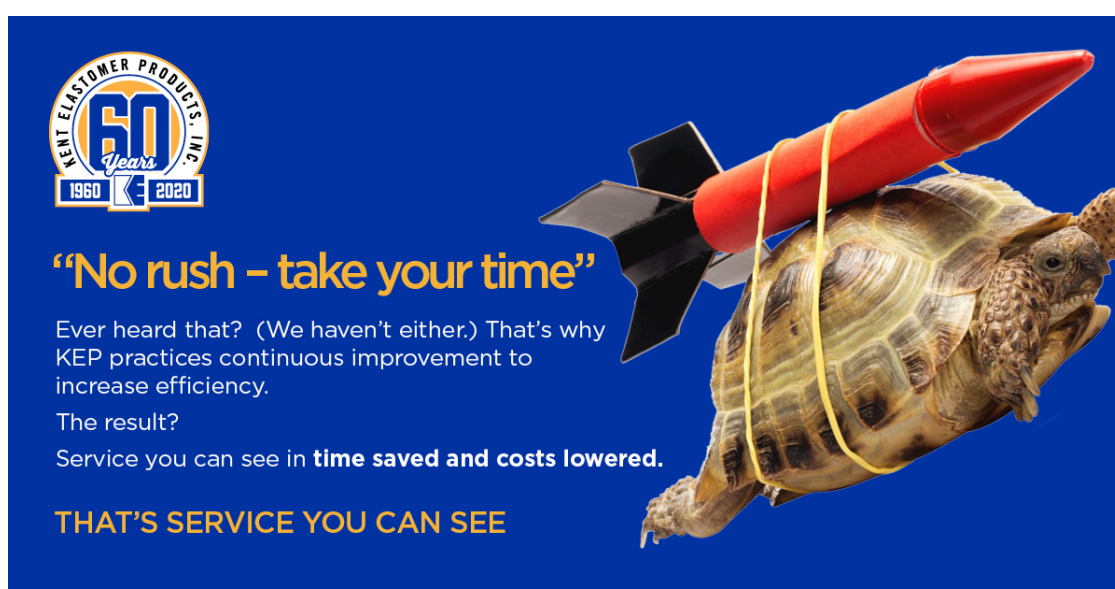
Read the full story in our [Leader Views Blog >](#)

**60 STORIES Feature**

**Thriving for 60 Years**


There has been a great shift in manufacturing since 1960 – the year Kent Elastomer Products first began to operate under the name Kent Latex Products. Since that time, many American plants have closed or moved operations offshore. Not KEP. We have stayed, thrived, and adapted to changing times because we’ve never settled on the status quo. Over the years, KEP built and retained our strong, family-oriented culture. Our people have that great American spirit and are the driving factor for our success as a company. Over 60 years we have grown through acquisition, added new innovative product lines and capabilities which have allowed us to grow alongside our customers. Our customers tell us that there are many great benefits of partnering with KEP. Some of those benefits are the high quality products and unique solutions we provide.

Learn more about ways we have innovated over the years on our [Leader Views Blog >](#)

**SERVICE YOU CAN SEE**


We make it an everyday practice to take down inefficiency and deliver MORE value. Not because customers request it – but because that’s just how we approach all of our work. It’s part of the kaizen (continuous improvement) culture at KEP. Every employee is encouraged to seek out more efficient ways to complete the work. We save time, money, and enjoy the satisfaction of working smarter for our customers. See a [gallery of continuous improvement stories.](#)

**TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Meet Destiny Gordon**


Destiny Gordon joined KEP at our Mogadore facility in 2019. She is an Assembler and Extrusion Operator. Her tasks include coiling and assembling medical tubing and clamps to be used in hospitals and other health care facilities. Read more about this month’s team member spotlight in our [Leader Views Blog.](#)

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Anniversaries from WAAAAY back!**


It is time to celebrate August anniversaries! This month we’d like to highlight Curt Dixon who 43 years ago joined the KEP team right out of high school. Beginning his career with KEP in the latex tubing dip room, he transitioned to extrusion when the company expanded and became the first Extrusion Operator in 1987. He is well respected and is one of the historians of the company. In August the team honors over 340 years of combined experience. Congratulations to Curt and all valued team members!

- Curt Dixon - Mogadore - 43 years on 8/23
- Bob Oborn - Kent - 39 years on 8/24
- Kenneth Robison - Kent - 35 years on 8/8
- John Bragg - Mogadore - 32 years on 8/8
- Carol Bockoven - Winesburg - 32 years on 8/15
- Deborah Frazier - Winesburg - 32 years on 8/15
- Mary Brady - Winesburg - 25 years on 8/14
- Don Leeper - Kent - 21 years on 8/23
- Tina Long - Mogadore - 14 years on 8/14
- Mark Velka - Kent - 13 years on 8/13
- Patricia Patterson - Winesburg - 13 years on 8/28
- Daniel Febres - Kent - 7 years on 8/26
- Kristi McNemar - Mogadore - 6 years on 8/26
- Cierra Rohrer - Winesburg - 5 years on 8/11
- Lori Patton - Winesburg - 4 years on 8/11
- Tanna Palmer - Winesburg - 3 years on 8/1
- Diane Chewning - Winesburg - 3 years on 8/7
- Shane Dugan - Kent - 3 years on 8/21
- Mitchell Hochstetler - Winesburg - 3 years on 8/23
- Stacey Plank - Winesburg - 3 years on 8/23
- Michael Stecyk - Kent - 2 years on 8/13
- Brad Huntley - Kent - 2 years on 8/15
- Ed Gordan - Kent - 1 year on 8/19