

Spring 2013 Edition

# WHISTLESTOP

## The City of Erlanger Newsletter

(859) 727-2525

505 Commonwealth Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018

www.ci.erlanger.ky.us



### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor  
Thomas L. Rouse

Although most of us look forward to escaping the winter weather and welcome the arrival of spring, we can't forget the severe weather that it brings. In the past there has been confusion as to what the outdoor warning sirens mean and when one should take "cover". The Kenton County Warning Siren Policy states that the Outdoor Warning Sirens shall be activated for "Severe Weather" when one of the following events occur:

- ⇒ a tornado warning has been issued for Kenton County by the National Weather Service
- ⇒ the sighting of a funnel cloud or tornado has been reported by a trained public safety person
- ⇒ the sighting of a funnel cloud or tornado has been reported by a non-trained public safety person, in which the sighting has been confirmed by the closest law enforcement agency

According to this policy, persons hearing the outdoor warning system should "Take Cover, Tune In, and Take Action." It is always good practice to have flashlights and an emergency weather radio available for when storms do occur. Fire drills have always been encouraged, so why not practice tornado drills as well? It is important to have a plan when a storm strikes, including knowing where to take cover.

The City's Clean-up Erlanger committee continues to tackle blight issues in our community. Their goal is to help maintain Erlanger as a beautiful city that residents and businesses can enjoy. Spring brings on the desire for many to "get rid of the old". Please remember that Kenton County Public Works Department has a monthly clean-up program. It is the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and it is FREE! They are located at 420 Independence Station Road and accept trash, appliances, used motor oil, and automobile batteries. For more information, please contact the Kenton County Public Works Department at 859-392-1920.

If you are eager to address your flower beds, don't forget that mulch is available at Erlanger's Public Works Department. This FREE mulch comes from our annual Leaf Collection program. For those who are interested, please contact our Director of Public Works at 859-727-3893.

I hope everyone has a safe and beautiful Spring!



#### City employees on a recent visit to the Kentucky State Capitol:

Front row (left to right)

Director of Public Works - Rick Bogard

Council Member - Kathy Cahill

City Clerk - Missy Address

Assistant City Clerk - Sherry Hoffman

Back row (left to right):

Public Works Operations Manager - Ed Millican

Public Works employee - Dale Wilson

Council Member - Jim Brown

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## ***ERLANGER PUBLIC WORKS BY DIRECTOR RICK BOGARD***

With spring right around the corner, the Public Works Department is in full swing preparing for warm weather activities throughout the city. In particular, the majority of our team members will be focusing their attention on grass cutting in city owned parks/properties and along right of ways maintained by the city (totaling about 55 and a half acres).

With this in mind, we need your help as we enter into what can be a very busy season for us. Your extra eyes, ears and effort on the items listed below can go a long way in helping us maintain a good level of service delivery.

**Storm Sewers/Heavy Rain Events:** During the spring, we have the opportunity to experience heavy rainfall. Even though the City is no longer responsible for the ownership/maintenance of the underground portion of the Storm Sewer System, we act as a partner with Sanitation District #1 and have the responsibility for making sure that all entry points are free of debris and functioning. By following the few simple tips below taken from SD #1's website, you can help us, yourself and your neighbor from encountering any issues during a heavy rain event:

### ***What property owners can do:***

- Check and clean your private drains (such as driveway drains, area drains, gutters and downspouts) before a rain event, but be sure to check them after rain starts. While you may clear a grate or drain before an event, the rain may wash debris back over the grate which could cause flooding.
- If you notice that drains in the public right of way are covered or clogged, you can contact your city to ask them to clear the grate. You can contact me at 859-727-3893 to obtain a list of phone numbers for the cities.
- Make sure sump pumps are working (if applicable). Have a sump pump backup (such as a battery backup) should you lose power during a heavy rain storm.
- Make sure your private laterals (sanitary and/or storm water) are working properly and have a plumber inspect them periodically.
- When undertaking outdoor projects, try to choose materials that are not impervious which would increase surface water runoff.
- Call SD1 if there are any sinkholes or any signs of storm system failure, such as pipes coming apart.
- Do not discard debris, grass clippings, construction waste, trimmed tree branches or any other landscaping over hillsides or into wooded areas. This debris will eventually end up in drainage ditches and creeks, which could block inlets or outfalls causing flooding and impact water quality.
- If you see leaves, grass clippings, bottles, trash or other debris in front of a storm drain, please bag it before the next rainfall. Cleaning the surface of the storm drains in your neighborhood can help prevent flooding and protect your property.

**Street Lights:** Many of us remember growing up as a child and being told by our parents "be home by the time the street lights come on" during the summer months. My how times have changed, but street lights still play an important role in the safety and well being of our families and our community. As we come out of the winter months we often times have lights throughout the city that do not function properly because of various issues. If you know of a street light in your neighborhood that has not been working properly, please call us at (859) 727-3893 or visit our website to file a citizen survey request with the location of the light so we can contact the respective utility agency so proper repairs can be made.

**City Parks/Play Equipment:** If you see a safety or maintenance issue in any of the city owned parks, please contact us at (859) 727-3893 or contact us through our website to report the problem.

We regularly inspect all of our locations throughout the week, but sometimes problems arise in between those times that we need to be aware of.

Thanks in advance for your time and assistance and we hope that everyone has a safe spring!



*From the Office of Public Works,  
Director Rick Bogard*

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## *Fire/EMS Spring Update by Lt. Justin Brinkman*

### ***Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery***

The time of year has approached to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Daylight Savings time occurred on March 10, 2013. Since our time has sprung forward, please keep in mind the safety of your home and your family. This is always a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors.

Each year in March and November, the fire department teaches to change the batteries in your smoke detector and your CO detector. Even though you may not have dead or dying batteries in the detectors, the thought process is to have at least brand new batteries in there in case of an emergency. This insures that fresh batteries are in place and will sound your alarms as needed. The batteries that you take out of the detectors can be used in another way or in other items around the home. It is also a good time to go over some evacuation plans with your family in case a fire would occur.

After changing the batteries, hold in the test button and teach your family proper escape routes. Make sure there are several different ways out of the home in case one of the ways toward an exit is blocked. Make sure the family is crawling low under smoke and are able to think quickly. Be sure to include in the escape route the meeting spot outside the house. This is going to be the same location every time and insure that it is the only spot to go if a fire breaks out. Remember to practice fire safety by changing your batteries and also planning for things that might happen.

*From Erlanger Fire/EMS,*

*Lt. Justin Brinkman*

**Change Your Clock**



**Change Your Battery**

### ***Go Right for Sirens and Lights***

The City of Erlanger would like to remind all citizens of the proper actions to take when you encounter an emergency vehicle responding to an incident scene with its lights and sirens operating.

Being familiar with this information can keep you, other citizens, and the emergency responders safe and allow people in need to receive timely assistance.

There are times when the Police Department and Fire/EMS Department must respond quickly to an emergency to minimize the adverse effects that someone may be experiencing. If you are driving down the road and see an emergency vehicle with its lights and sirens on; **remain calm, move the vehicle to the right, and stop** to allow the emergency vehicle to continue. Be sure that the area to the right is safe for you to move into by checking your mirrors for vehicles and pedestrians. Once the emergency vehicle passes, cautiously merge back into traffic when it is safe to do so. Be sure to stay alert for other responders as well.



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## ***ADOPT-A -SCHOOL***



Have you seen an increase in the police presence around your local school? Don't be concerned – nothing is wrong. A number of years ago the Erlanger Police Department started an “adopt a school” program. This has been reinstated. This program assigns all of the officers to a school. Officers, no matter what shift, are to visit the schools, make contact with persons, check for locked doors, broken windows and overall just show an interest in their assigned school. This has several benefits. Officers become familiar with the school building and can easily notice if something is “just not right.” The public will notice that officers are frequently at the schools which may deter them from coming to cause a problem. Students and staff members become familiar with the officers and are able to relay information that may assist in making the schools the safest they can be.

Why is this necessary if we have SRO's? The School Resource Officers are assigned to Tichenor MS and Lloyd HS and only visit the elementaries in Erlanger if they are requested for assistance. They are busy handling issues, being law related counselors and law related instructors in their buildings. They also are only there during schools hours and school events. Our schools have the largest gathering of people in one place on a daily basis. Police presence could help avoid a potential tragedy such as what happened in Connecticut.



## ***2013 Community Service Scholarship Winner***

This year's applicants were among some of the best submitted. It was a very close competition as all applicants are very active in the Erlanger Community. The winner of the 2013 City of Erlanger Community Achievement Scholarship is resident Amy Kerdolff of Dixie Heights High School. Amy has a 4.4 GPA, is Senior Class President, on Student Council, is the National Honor Society Treasurer, is a member of the Spanish National Honor Society, the Northern Kentucky Youth Advisory Board, and the Dixie Theater.

Amy has helped organize a community carnival to raise money for the 101st Airborne Division of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky that is currently serving in Afghanistan, coordinated a shoebox project for the Erlanger-Elsmere Family Resource and Youth Service Center, organized a book drive through the National Honor Society and Children's Inc., and co-organized a gift drive at Dixie High School and has played a key role in many other events in the Erlanger Community.

Congratulations Amy! The City of Erlanger is proud to have such an outstanding and active student in our community!

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## *Dixie Farmers' Market*

The Dixie Farmers Market reopens on April 25, 2013 and will be held every Thursday from 2:00-6:00 p.m. in the Erlanger Baptist Church's parking lot located at 116 Commonwealth Avenue in Erlanger. Visit our local farmers every Thursday through October 24, 2013!



For weekend warriors who are already out tackling their flower beds, the market in Spring has beautiful flowers for buyers to plant or purchase already potted. These also make great gifts for Mothers Day! Late spring/early summer brings the berries, especially the farmers' gorgeous and mouth watering strawberries. I am sure our Erlanger dads would love a home made strawberry pie for Fathers Day!

Summer months bring all the fresh vegetables that we love to grill, toss up in a salad, or for the adventurous....can! For those who have a sweet tooth, stop by and try out the best honey in the tri-state area! Here you can meet the farmers and your neighbors.

This is a great place to trade recipes, while supporting your local farmers!

## *Items Needed When Applying For A Passport*

- Evidence of U.S. Citizenship
  - Certified Birth Certificate (cannot be from a hospital)
  - Previously issued undamaged US Passport (minors must submit birth certificate in addition to passport)
  - Consular Report of Birth Abroad or Certification of Birth
  - Naturalization Certificate or Certificate of Citizenship
- Identification
  - Driver's license, State ID, Military ID, Passport (children need parents' ID)
  - Out of state applications must present a second ID (employment ID, voter registration card, student ID, credit card)
- 1 Picture (Must be 2"x2", Can be made at Walgreens, CVS, AAA, FedEx, Sam's)
- Application (Must be filled out in BLACK INK ONLY)
- Application Fee - CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to "U.S. Department of State"
  - ONE CHECK PER APPLICATION (additional fees for expediting)
- Processing Fee - Check, Money Order, MasterCard, Visa, or Discover payable to the CITY OF ERLANGER

\*\*\* Please visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for more information on how to obtain a U.S. Passport\*\*\*



## *Homestead Exemption Information*

Am I Eligible?

Persons eligible for the Homestead Exemption must be at least 65 years of age. Proof of eligibility is required (driver's license, birth certificate, etc.) **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR BIRTHDAY.** If you will turn 65 this year (2013) stop by the Kenton County Property Valuation Administrator now for this benefit.

*You can file for this benefit at:*

**Kenton County PVA**

**303 Court Street**

**County Building**

**2nd Floor Room 210**

**Covington, KY 41011**

**Phone: 859-392-1750**

**Email: [info.kentonpva@kentoncounty.org](mailto:info.kentonpva@kentoncounty.org)**

**Website: [www.kentonpva.com](http://www.kentonpva.com)**

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## CALENDAR

### **Erlanger City Council Meetings**

Erlanger City Building

First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

### **Erlanger Historical Society Meetings**

Railroad Depot Museum

Second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

### **Erlanger-Elsmere School Board Meetings**

Board of Education Building (500 Graves Avenue)

Second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

### **Arbor Day**

The City of Erlanger has ordered trees for Arbor Day!  
See website, Facebook page, or call city building for details.

April 26, 2013

### **City of Erlanger Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt**

May 11, 2013

### **General Government Offices Closed**

Memorial Day - May 27, 2013

### **Erlanger Summer Park Program\***

June 12, 2013 - Erlanger Night at Putt-Putt

June 20, 2013 - Touch-A-Truck Event

June 25, 2013 - City of Erlanger Community Night at Florence Freedom

\*See our website or Facebook page for more details

### **Erlanger-Elsmere School District—No School for Students**

April 1 - 5, 2013 (Spring Break)

May 24, 2013 (Tentative last day of school)

May 28, 2013 (Closing Day - No Students)

May, 29 - June 3, 2013 (Make-up days, if needed)

## *Administration Department Hours*

The City of Erlanger's Administration Department, located at 505 Commonwealth Avenue, is open from **7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

**Passport processing hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

## FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

CSI (Republic Services): 513-771-4200

Northern Kentucky Water District: 859-578-9898

Sanitation District: 859-578-7450

Driver's License: 859-727-8100

Auto Registration Renewals: 859-392-1651

Auto Registration Transfers: 859-392-1690

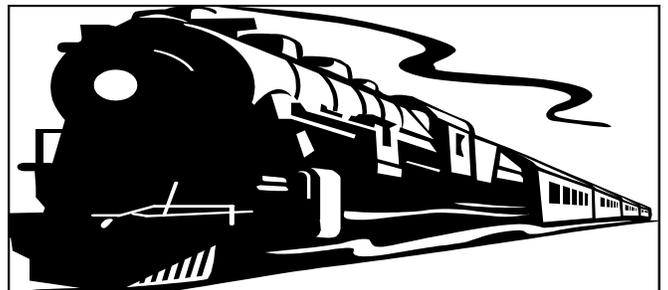
Kenton County Clerk's Office: 859-392-1600

Kenton County Occupation License/Payroll Tax:  
859-392-1440

Kenton County Property Valuation  
Administration : 859-392-1750

Duke Energy: 513-421-9500

Owen Electric: 800-372-7612



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## CITY OF ERLANGER'S PROGRAMS OR SERVICES

**859-727-2525**

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

- ⇒ POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM (14-20 years of age)
- ⇒ NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS
- ⇒ CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS
- ⇒ PROPERTY SECURITY CHECKS
- ⇒ CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
- ⇒ VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service)
- ⇒ MEDICATION COLLECTION PROGRAM

### FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

- ⇒ CPR, FIRST AID, AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSES
- ⇒ FIRE/EMS EXPLORER PROGRAM (14-18 years of age)
- ⇒ HOME AND BUSINESS INSPECTIONS
- ⇒ SENIOR CITIZEN SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

- ⇒ PASSPORTS
- ⇒ ERLANGER HARD BACK HISTORY BOOK \$25.00
- ⇒ ERLANGER/ELSMERE IMAGES OF AMERICA BOOK \$20.00
- ⇒ NOTARY PUBLICS (free service)
- ⇒ TANK BUS PASSES
- ⇒ ERLANGER & SURROUNDING AREA MAPS (free)
- ⇒ NO KNOCK POLICY-SIGN UP TODAY
- ⇒ DEPOT PARK RESERVATIONS (727-2525 #5)

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- ⇒ POTHOLE REPORTS (need location of pothole)
- ⇒ STREET LIGHT OUTAGE REPORTS (need location of light)
- ⇒ LEAF COLLECTION
- ⇒ CHRISTMAS TREE DROP OFF/MULCHING

### WEBSITE COMMITTEE

- ⇒ FACEBOOK—CITY OF ERLANGER (NEW)
- ⇒ CITIZEN SERVICE REQUEST CENTER ONLINE
- ⇒ WEBSITE [www.ci.erlanger.ky.us](http://www.ci.erlanger.ky.us)

## ERLANGER-ELSMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

⇒ 859-727-2009

### ENSOR EDUCATIONAL ANNEX

⇒ 859-342-2427

### BARTLETT CENTER

⇒ 859-342-2460

### LLOYD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

⇒ 859-727-1555

### TICHENOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

⇒ 859-727-2255

### ARNETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

⇒ 859-727-1488

### HOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

⇒ 859-727-1108

### LINDEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

⇒ 859-727-1188

### MILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

⇒ 859-727-2231

**[www.erlanger.k12.ky.us](http://www.erlanger.k12.ky.us) / visit them on Facebook**

The City of Erlanger allows businesses and organizations to **advertise** in our Whistlestop Newsletter. This is a quarterly newsletter that provides city information and updates for Erlanger businesses and residents. For Erlanger businesses or organizations the cost is **\$30.00 per issue**, this includes businesses located on “The Dixie”. Non-Erlanger businesses can also advertise for **\$40.00 an issue**. If you are interested in placing an advertisement, please contact Sherry at [sdhoffman@ci.erlanger.ky.us](mailto:sdhoffman@ci.erlanger.ky.us) or by calling (859) 727-2525, #1.

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