

WHISTLESTOP

The City of Erlanger Newsletter

Fall 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor
Thomas L. Rouse

Cooler weather, falling leaves, and football have found their way to Erlanger! To see what activities Erlanger has planned for your community, please view the calendar on this page or visit our website at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us. For those who have trees in their yards and battle leaves each fall, don't forget about the city's leaf collection program. Please read page 3 to learn more.

I would like to congratulate Tim Koenig on his recent retirement as Chief of our Fire/EMS Department, to Terry Allen who will succeed him as the new Chief, and to Police Chief Marc Fields for being named Outstanding Police Chief of the Year. I am very proud of our leaders and their many accomplishments.

The City of Erlanger, your City Council and your staff have been working very hard and will continue to act diligently to provide the level of service our residents expect with the ever-shrinking dollar. Times are tough. The current budget does not contain raises for city employees, yet they all continue to perform with excellence and professionalism. I appreciate everyone's thoughts and comments, and believe better times are just around the corner.

FIRE/EMS CHIEF RETIRES

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig announced his retirement at the September 1st Council meeting after thirty-seven years of service to the residents of Erlanger. During a tearful speech, Chief Koenig expressed his appreciation for all that Erlanger has done for him.

Chief Koenig began as a volunteer in 1972. He served in this capacity for sixteen years until becoming an employee in 1988. Over the years he has served in many positions; Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician, Apparatus Operator, Lieutenant, Captain, Fire Marshal, and Assistant Chief. He was named Chief in 2004 when Bill Martin retired.

Chief Koenig has been instrumental in making Erlanger the prominent city it is today. One of his many accomplishments was the Advanced Life Support (ALS) system he initiated to help reduce costs and by offering Erlanger and other cities' residents the best care possible. Erlanger received the Municipal Excellence Award for the success of this program in 2006.

POLICE CHIEF HONORED

The Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) recently named Erlanger Police Chief Marc Fields as the Outstanding Police Chief of the Year.

Chief Fields began his law enforcement career with Erlanger in 1986 as a Patrol Officer. He was promoted later to Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Assistant Chief, and then became Chief in 2002 when Greg Sandel retired.

Chief Fields received the Intergovernmental Unity of Effort Award in 2008 for his vision and achievement in creating the Erlanger Public Service Communication Center (PSCC). By establishing the PSCC, this allows Erlanger to not only continue offering 911 service to its citizens at a lower 911 tax rate, but also offering it to other cities as well.

CITY CALENDAR

Council Meetings

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

Erlanger Historical Society Meetings

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

Fire Prevention Month

October

Walktober

Sunday, October 11, 2009

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

Farmers' Market

Thursdays, 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Last day is October 15, 2009

Leaf Collection

October 26-December 11, 2009

Halloween Party

Friday, October 30, 2009

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

Trick or Treat in Erlanger

Saturday, October 31, 2009

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Taxes

Discount Due Date October 31, 2009

Regular Due Date December 31, 2009

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

10:30-12:30 p.m.

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

Reservations Required

General Government Offices Closed

November 26-27, 2009

Christmas Event

Sunday, December 6, 2009

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

Depot Museum

Saturdays, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Closes Saturday, December 12, 2009 for winter

General Government Offices Closed

December 24-25, 2009

January 1, 2010

Christmas Tree Drop Off

December 28-January 11, 2009

TAX NEWS FROM THE CITY CLERK

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2010 tax bill. All tax bills are mailed directly to the property or business owners. If you have an escrow account with a mortgage company, please forward your tax bill to them. We will only electronically send tax information to mortgage companies upon their request.



If you have an escrow account and to prevent duplicate payments, please confirm with your mortgage company that they have paid your bill prior to December 31st.

To receive a 2% discount, tax payments must be received by October 31st. We accept postmarks. **Please note** that the City Building is not open on Saturday, October 31st. If you are paying in person, you will need to make that payment no later than Friday, October 30th.

The final date to pay your tax bill is December 31st. Starting January 1st, a 20% penalty is applied as well as 6% interest per annum.

Tax bills can be paid through mail, by credit card (Mastercard, Visa) over the phone, at the Bank of Kentucky, at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us, and at the Erlanger City Building.

If you are a homeowner residing in the home and are 65 years of age or on disability income, you may be eligible to receive a Homestead or Disability Exemption on your Kenton County and City of Erlanger property tax bills. To apply, please contact the PVA (Property Valuation Administrator) office at 859-392-1750.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2329 was enacted on July 7, 2009; it is an ordinance changing the name of the Erlanger Crescent Springs Rd. to the Crescent Springs Rd.
- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2330 was enacted on July 7, 2009; it is an ordinance amending sections of the Erlanger Zoning Ordinance No. 1850 to modify the definition of the phrase Multi-Family Dwelling to three or more families; to modify the HC-2 Zone to add a purpose statement, amend the list of permitted and accessory uses, to amend the area and height regulations, and to amend the other development controls; and allowing Planned Unit Developments to be located within the BP-1 Zone.
- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2331 was enacted on July 7, 2009; it is an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1855 regarding the definition of garage sales meaning any circumstance or occurrence in which more than one item of tangible personal property is offered for sale by public display thereof in front of the residence.
- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2332 was enacted on July 7, 2009; it is an ordinance approving and adopting supplements to the code of ordinances of the city.
- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2333 was enacted on August 4, 2009; it is an ordinance imposing reasonable towing, handling, and storage charges upon motor vehicles impounded by the city.
- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2334 was enacted on September 1, 2009; it is an ordinance amending the Erlanger Zoning Ordinance to change an approximate 10.8 acre area located at the terminus of Viox Drive from HC-3 to HC-2.
- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2335 was enacted on September 1, 2009; it is an ordinance approving the 2009-2010 property and personal tax rates.

CITY GOVERNMENT MONTH

The Connect Erlanger committee has been very busy preparing for City Government Month. Every year the committee works with several school systems in educating students on city government. All grades, K-12, get to participate. This year the committee is taking a different approach in hopes of allowing the teachers and students to have more time to work on their project. There will be several bench marks for the participants to reach before the final culmination with awards night being April 6, 2010.



Each grade has a different requirement for participation based on their grade level and age.

- ⇒ Kindergarten through third grade can participate in a coloring contest that depicts a city official or building.
- ⇒ Fourth graders can participate by writing an essay on Kentucky History, which is already a state requirement.
- ⇒ Fifth and sixth grade classes can write an essay on their choice of one of three city ordinances, 200 words or less, explaining their interpretation of that ordinance.
- ⇒ The seventh and eighth grade classes can participate by doing chalk drawings on the sidewalks in front of their school depicting city government.
- ⇒ Ninth through twelfth grades will have a choice of doing chalk drawings or creating a map, brochure, logo, and photography depicting Erlanger as the place to visit.

WALKTOBER

Walktober is a fun event hosted yearly by the Kenton Co. Library, Kenton Co. UK Extension, No. Ky. Health Dept., and Step Forward Erlanger. This event promotes health awareness by being physically active. Bring the family and join us on Sunday, October 11th at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton Co. Library from 2:00-4:00 p.m. There will be different booths set up, demonstrations, food, games, Police, Fire/EMS, a bike rodeo, and other activities.



ERLANGER HISTORY

For those that truly love the cities of Erlanger and Elsmere, are working on their family genealogy, or just love history, there are several books that may interest you.



The Erlanger and Elsmere Historical Societies have been very busy collecting old photographs of both cities to compile into a book. They collected over 250 pictures! The book will be titled Elsmere Erlanger Images of America and is currently at the Arcadia Publishing House. It is due out in January 2010 and will be sold for \$20.00 at local bookstore, the Erlanger Depot Museum, and the Erlanger City Building.

Also currently available is A Centennial History of Erlanger, Kentucky. It is 188 pages of pictures and history of the early families of Erlanger, businesses, and schools. This book can be purchased for \$25.00 at the Erlanger City Building or Borders in Crestview Hills.

DON'T GET BURNED

October is Fire Prevention month in Erlanger, and this year's theme is **Stay Fire Smart, Don't Get Burned**. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a home fire is reported every 45 seconds, killing nearly 2,900 people and injuring more than 13,000 annually. Each year, roughly 180,000 people visit U.S. hospital emergency rooms with burns. This year's theme focuses on ways to make homes fire safe and prevent painful burns.



Here are a few simple tips to help you prepare for Fire Prevention Month in the City of Erlanger:

- ⇒ Have a 3-foot "kid-free" zone around the stove.
- ⇒ Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- ⇒ To avoid hot water scalds, set the thermostat on your water heater to no higher than 120 degrees F.
- ⇒ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ⇒ Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths.
- ⇒ Keep smoking materials away from things that can burn, like bedding, furniture, and clothing.

For more information on staying fire smart, contact 727-2525, #4.

HEALTHY LIVING

The City of Erlanger is promoting healthy living through prevention and accepted personal hygiene practices. Most residents may feel that there has been an over reaction to the flu or swine flu, however, the fact is that most may have been under reacting to the seasonal flu and should adopt these accepted habits as a daily routine.



Good, preventative hygiene habits to practice at home or work:

- ⇒ Wash hands frequently. Use soap and water for 20 seconds or if hands are not visibly soiled, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used.
- ⇒ Do not touch eyes, nose or mouth. If you do, wash hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ⇒ Consider or consult your doctor for flu vaccinations.
- ⇒ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ⇒ When you are sick, stay home from work, school and errands.
- ⇒ While it is not necessary to disinfect beyond routine cleaning, regularly clean areas and items likely to have frequent hand contact.
- ⇒ Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing with paper tissue or use the bend of your elbow. Discard tissues immediately after each use and then wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- ⇒ Do not share eating utensils, drink from the same cup or share toothbrushes.

The flu and swine flu are serious threats to everyone. Please help by following simple personal hygiene practices. Additional information can be sought by consulting your physician, the Northern Kentucky Health Department at 859.392.0678, or on the web at www.flu.gov.

PUBLIC WORKS COLLECTION SCHEDULES

The Public Works Department will begin their annual **leaf collection** during the week of October 26th. Closer to that date, schedules will be available at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us or can be picked up at the City Building, Heritage Bank on Commonwealth Avenue, Fifth Third Bank on Dixie Highway next to Aldi's, and at the Bank of Kentucky also on Dixie Highway. If you have submitted your e-mail address to be placed on our Resident E-mail Database, the schedule will be electronically sent to you or please call 727-2525 #1 to get your e-mail address on the list.



The Public Works Department has divided the city into different zones. When looking at the schedule, first locate what zone your street is in, then find your zone on the schedule. The schedule allows for each street to be collected several times. Leaves will be collected through December 11th.

Please remember to keep leaf piles behind the curb, please do not place them in the street. Leaves must be out to the curb the morning of your scheduled collection. If the leaf pile is blocked for any reason, a notice will be left on your door explaining that they were unable to collect your leaves.

The Public Works Department will also have their "**Christmas Tree Drop-off**" program this year. Bare trees (no ornaments, plastic wrapping, etc.) can be dropped off at 3516 Jack Scheben Drive from December 28th through January 11th. The trees will be turned into mulch that is made available to Erlanger's residents.

DO YOU HAVE A FIRE HYDRANT IN YOUR YARD?

Erlanger Fire/EMS spends numerous hours per year maintaining fire hydrants so they are ready for a fire at your house.



This routine maintenance includes flow testing, painting, and pumping water out to prevent freezing. If you have a fire hydrant in your yard, you can help us by keeping the hydrant clear of obstructions.

In fact, we have a city ordinance which restricts shrubbery, ornamental grass, or any other obstructions of any kind within 3 feet of any fire hydrant. The two main reasons these hydrants require clearance is so that in an emergency, firefighters can see the hydrant as they come down the street.

In addition, the firefighter must be able to access the hydrant and attach fire hose quickly to all sides of the hydrant. Any obstruction to hydrants can cause delays in water supplies, which can lead to resident or firefighter injury and/or death.

Please assist us in providing quick access to the fire hydrants to prevent injury and unnecessary property loss.

CITY OF ERLANGER'S PROGRAMS OR SERVICES AVAILABLE

POLICE—727-2525 #2

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

ADMINISTRATION—727-2525 #1

- ⇒ PASSPORTS
- ⇒ ERLANGER HISTORY BOOK \$25.00
- ⇒ NOTARY PUBLICS
- ⇒ TANK BUS PASSES
- ⇒ ERLANGER & SURROUNDING AREA MAPS (free)
- ⇒ NO KNOCK POLICY-SIGN UP TODAY
- ⇒ DEPOT PARK RESERVATIONS (727-2525 #5)

FIRE/EMS—727-2525 #4

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

PUBLIC WORKS—727-2525 #6

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

CSI HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving Day—Trash collection will continue as usual.

Christmas Eve—Trash collection will continue as usual.

Christmas Day—Trash will not be collected this date. If your street normally gets collected on this date, CSI will collect it on the following business day.

New Years Eve—Trash collection will continue as usual.

New Years Day—Trash will not be collected this date. If your street normally gets collected on this date, CSI will collect it on the following business day.



CONTACT US

If you would like your name and e-mail address added to the city's **Resident/Business Owner E-mail Database**, please contact the city at 727-2525, #1. You will receive City of Erlanger updates and the quarterly Whistlestop newsletter.



If you are a business and would like to **advertise** in the Whistlestop, please contact the number above for more details.

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading
Every child plays. Every child learns.
Every child is a winner.

Sign up now
Erlanger Baptist Church
116 Commonwealth Ave.

If you want to learn more about Upward,
visit www.upward.org/parents

Serving all your Legal Needs.....

Blankenship Massey & Steelman, PLLC

426-9000

www.nkylawyers.com

Conveniently located at:
 504 Erlanger Road
 Erlanger, KY 41018

Behind the Superbowl



wallace.boggs.rouse.PLLC - Attorneys at Law

Thomas L. Rouse
 300 Buttermilk Pike, Suite 100
 Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
859-578-5415
trouse@wbrlegal.com
 A Full Service Law Firm