

WHISTLESTOP

The City of Erlanger Newsletter

Fall 2008



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Fall is quickly approaching, and with it comes leaf pick-up, road repairs, school activity and elections! The work of a city never ceases.

Two major projects came to fruition this year. The first is the expansion of our emergency dispatch center. We now handle emergency dispatch for every city on the Dixie Highway once you get to Park Hills, and for Villa Hills and Ludlow.

Our dispatchers protect the entire west side of Kenton County. We're so proud of them and of the leadership and support staff.

The second project was the absorption of the Crescent Springs police department and its responsibilities. We are delighted to have those dedicated employees now among our ranks, and from all accounts, the residents of our neighbor city are pleased with the new level of service they receive.



**Mayor
Tom Rouse**

Both of these projects show just what Erlanger can do when it puts its heart and soul into the effort. Both are win-win situations for all involved and, from my chair, also ease the strain on our budget a bit. Every little bit helps!

Many of you may remember Rosanne Rosannadana from Saturday Night Live! One of her sayings was "You know, it's always something!" Well, she was right. One of our ambulances died. Hurricane Ike removed a roof and blew in a door. Just when you think things are under control

I hope we all ease into October quietly and safely. See you soon!

Tom Rouse

The City of Erlanger is considering allowing Erlanger businesses to advertise in the Whistlestop, a quarterly newsletter for the residents and business owners in Erlanger. We have had requests from several business owners. At this time, the ConnectErlanger committee is reviewing prices and different ad sizes that would be available to choose from. If you are interested, please contact Sherry Hoffman at 727-2525.

Council Encourages Everyone to "GET CONNECTED"

The City of Erlanger is trying to build an e-mail database consisting of residents and business owners in Erlanger. This is to enable the city to make contact with as many residents/owners as possible of upcoming events, announcements, emergency messages, or anything pertinent that the public should be aware of. It will also help the city to save money. Although we are aware that not everyone has internet capabilities, we feel that by contacting as many people as possible via e-mail, our messages will be delivered from neighbor to neighbor. It is important as a community to be "connected". If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail, please ask your neighbors to contact the city at (859) 727-2525 to sign-up for e-mail updates. If you are receiving this newsletter in paper form, please call the city to get connected. For those that do not have e-mail capabilities, hard copies of the newsletter will still be distributed throughout Erlanger or you can pick one up at the city building at 505 Commonwealth Avenue. If you have any questions about services, emergencies, etc., please call (859) 727-2525.

CITY CALENDAR

Council Meetings

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

Safe Community Night

Thursday, October 2, 2008

6:00—9:00 p.m.

Crescent Springs Park

Saturday, October 4, 2008

6:00—9:00 p.m.

Flagship Park, Lakemont entrance

Friendship Festival

Sunday, October 12, 2008

Erlanger branch Kenton County Public Library

Leaf Collection Begins

Monday, October 27, 2008

Halloween Party

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

5:00—6:00 p.m.

Erlanger branch Kenton County Public Library

Halloween

Friday, October 31, 2008

Trick-or-treating in Erlanger

Tax Payment Deadline for Discount Period

Friday, October 31, 2008

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Senior Luncheon

Monday, November 24, 2008

Erlanger branch Kenton County Public Library

Offices Closed

Thursday, November 27, 2008

Friday, November 28, 2008

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6, 2008

1:00—5:00 p.m.

Erlanger branch Kenton County Public Library

Offices Closed

Thursday, December 24, 2008

Friday, December 25, 2008

Tax Payment Deadline

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

City Government Month

January 2009

A CHALLENGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

On behalf of Erlanger Fire/EMS I would like to challenge each family in the City of Erlanger to check each room in your home for these common hazards, and correct them as a basic precaution to protect your home from fire.

Are portable space heaters placed at least 3 feet from anything that can burn?

Are matches and lighters kept in a locked cabinet where children cannot reach them?

Are your electrical cords in good condition, not frayed or cracked?

Do you have a smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home?

Are your smoke alarms interconnected so that when one sounds they all sound?

Do you test your smoke alarms once a month?

Does your family practice your home fire escape plan twice a year?

Does your home have an automatic sprinkler system, which will contain the fire?

Does your home have carbon monoxide alarms?

Is your stovetop clean and free from clutter?

Do you stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food?

Do you have a sturdy metal fireplace screen?

Do you have your chimney cleaned and inspected at the beginning of each heating season?

Do you encourage smokers to smoke outside of the home?

Do you burn candles in your bedroom? The largest number of candle fires occur in bedrooms.

Do you have your heating equipment cleaned and inspected by a professional each year?

If you can answer yes to all or even most of these important fire questions you have improved the overall fire safety of your home. Don't add to the fire statistics in the United States, do your part to protect your family and your home from fire.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

- ◇ Bullock Pen Road reopened on August 27, 2008 after a landslide repair project was completed.
- ◇ The McAlpin Avenue sidewalk project began September 22, 2008. This will include McAlpin Avenue from Cowie Avenue to Lori Drive, Lloyd Avenue from McAlpin Avenue to Forest Avenue, and Forest Avenue from Lloyd Avenue to Rankin Avenue.
- ◇ Bids for concrete street repairs for portions of Elmwood Drive, Carriage Hill, and Northway Drive have been received and work has started on Elmwood.
- ◇ Bids for fall street resurfacing have been received and work will soon begin on portions of Sunset Avenue, Elizabeth Street, Place Street, Timberlake Avenue, Hallam Avenue, Concord Drive, Northway Drive, Tracy Jean Lane, Laura Lane, and Jacqueline Drive.
- ◇ **The annual fall leaf collection program will begin at the end of October. The collection schedule will be available on-line, at the city building, Heritage Bank-Erlanger Branch, Bank of Kentucky-Erlanger Branch, and the Recorder newspaper.**

PROPERTY TAX ANNOUNCEMENT FROM

THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Our tax bills are mailed to the home or business owners. If you have an escrow account with a mortgage company, please contact or forward the bill to them. This way you will know exactly what you are paying for your city taxes.

Taxes are due December 31, 2008. If you have an escrow account, we recommend that you contact your mortgage company prior to that date. To ensure that they pay your bill on time. After January 1, 2009, a 20% penalty will be applied

to your bill. There will also be a charge of 6% interest per annum. A discount may be obtained by paying your taxes by October 31, 2008.

Tax payments can be mailed by using the envelope enclosed with your tax bill or can be dropped off at the Bank of Kentucky—Erlanger branch or at the city building located at 505 Commonwealth Avenue.

Under the provisions of the Homestead Amendment, a person or persons must be 65 years of age or older or totally disabled during the year for which the application is made, and must own, occupy, and maintain a residential unit for such exemption. If you qualify for a Homestead Exemption and are not currently receiving it, please contact the Kenton County Property Valuation Office at 392-1750. This exemption will save you money on your Kenton County and city taxes.

Money received from tax payments go towards the following: Police, Fire/EMS, Public Works and Parks, Capital Outlay, Administration, Information Systems, and Recreation and Community Development.

CODES ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

Many cities throughout Kenton County have had to deal with the issue of vicious dogs, specifically Pit Bulls. As of April of 2007, the City of Erlanger has adopted a new ordinance that addresses this issue by setting new standards for those who own dogs that are vicious, or are deemed to be vicious.

Ordinance #2283, which deals with vicious dogs and wolf-hybrids, now allows homeowners to own these animals (which include Pit Bulls) as long as they follow certain guidelines. If these guidelines are not met, then the homeowner is considered to be in violation of the ordinance, and the dog must be removed from the property.

A vicious dog is considered to be any dog that is a Pit Bull, wolf-hybrid, or any dog that bites or attacks any human being or other domestic animal without provocation while on public or private property. Erlanger police officers have the authority based on the ordinance to deem a dog as a vicious animal.

If a homeowner's dog meets this classification, they must register the dog with Officer Jouett at the Erlanger Police Department. A copy of the animal's rabies vaccination, as well as proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered and has been micro-chipped is required. Along with those pieces of documentation, the homeowner must be able to provide proof that they have liability insurance on their home for no less than \$100,000.00. Once all of the criteria are met, the dog receives a tag which must remain on its collar at all times.

These guidelines are the more pertinent of the ordinance; there are several more that deal with the animal's restraint while on public and private property. There are also subsections that contain a large list of wild, or exotic, animals whose ownership is prohibited. Copies of the ordinance are available at the Erlanger City Building, as well as the City's website. If you have a dog that fits this category, know someone who does, or just have general questions about the ordinance or the registration process; please contact Officer Darryl Jouett at (859) 727-7958 for more information.