

WHISTLESTOP

The City of Erlanger Newsletter

Winter 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The year 2008 was a busy year for the City of Erlanger! It was a year full of accomplishments and proud moments.



**Mayor
Tom Rouse**

It makes me very proud to know that we have highly qualified leaders who have earned the respect of their peers. In 2008, Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig, Police Chief Marc Fields, and City Administrator Linda Carter all received prestigious awards. We are very fortunate to have them.

The new Flagship Park was opened and dedicated to the Viox family. The Viox family has been active in city government and has played a role in our history since James H. Viox, Sr. moved to Erlanger in the 1920's. I have always believed that our Erlanger families have helped to shape our city over the years and the Viox family is a fine example of this.

The City of Erlanger entered into several important contracts in 2008. We now provide police protection to the City of Crescent Springs and

unincorporated Kenton County. The Police Department celebrated the opening of their new PSCC Center (dispatch), allowing them the ability to fulfill agreements to provide emergency dispatching to eight cities, nine including Erlanger.

We have had the pleasure of hosting several important meetings in our Council Chambers, including a luncheon with Governor Steven Beshear. The Governor visited our city and we were able to discuss with him and ask for his support in several important areas that affect Erlanger.

The year 2008 was an election year. Ten council members returned with the addition of two new members, Randy Blankenship and Shane Longshore. Many of you may remember Mr. Blankenship, he has served on our council in the past. They replaced Paul Hahn, who decided to retire from council after 30 years, and Greg Sandel who resigned from council.

May 2009 be as eventful!

CITY CALENDAR

Council Meetings

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

City Government Month

January 2009

Summer in January

Saturday, January 31, 2009

6:30—8:45 p.m.

Silverlake Recreation Center

FREE EVENT—Bring your towel

Valentines Day Party

Saturday, February 14, 2009

2:00—4:00 p.m.

Erlanger branch Kenton County Public Library

General Government Offices Closed

Monday, February 16, 2009

Presidents Day

March Event

T.B.A.

Get Ready For....

Erlanger's Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, May 16, 2009

6:30 p.m.

\$5.00 per team, cash prize for winning teams

Call Kathy at 727-7955 for more info.

CITY GOVERNMENT MONTH

January is "City Government Month" and the City of Erlanger will be celebrating by educating grades K-12 about local government. Schools that Erlanger residents may attend will be participating. While the K-3 age groups will only be involved in a city government based coloring contest, it still gives them a connection. Fourth and fifth graders get to imagine themselves as Mayor of Erlanger and write an essay on their political goals and aspirations in that position. Sixth through eighth grades get to participate as a class and research a historical site in the City of Erlanger and see if it qualifies for a historical marker. Finally, grades ninth through twelfth will also participate as a class and create a city budget.

One of our focuses is that city government is the closest form of government to citizens. It is important to be knowledgeable about this form of government and to get involved. Winners from these contests will be chosen by Council Members Renee Skidmore and Bill Howard and will be announced at the March 3, 2009 council meeting.

MEET THE 2009-2011 CITY COUNCIL

Randy Blankenship	3rd term
Jim Burger	9th term
Kevin Burke	8th term
Tom Cahill, Jr.	2nd term
John Dunhoft	9th term
Keith Henry	8th term
Bill Howard	9th term
Vicki Kyle	7th term
Shane Longshore	1st term
Corine Pitts	2nd term
Renee Skidmore	2nd term
Patty Suedkamp	6th term

A REMINDER FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Erlanger Fire/EMS would like to remind you that heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

Facts & Figures (Provided by NFPA)

- In 2005, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 civilian deaths, 1,550 civilian injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage.
- In 2005 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths. Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005.

Excluding small confined fires, heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, is by far the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and home heating fire deaths (53%).

Safety Tips

1. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable heater.
2. Only use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
3. Never use your oven for heating.
4. If you have any appliances that operate on natural gas or propane, install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.

AN UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Lighting the way for drivers and pedestrians, streetlights are vital to our everyday lives. With a multitude of streetlights throughout the city of Erlanger, we appreciate your help in identifying lights that are malfunctioning or in need of repair. The sooner we know they are out, the sooner we can contact the appropriate power company to get them fixed.

For streetlights that need attention in the Duke Energy Service Area contact 1-(800)-544-9500, for lights in the Owen Rural Electric service area please contact 1-(800)-372-7612, or if you are unsure of the service area that you live in please contact the Erlanger City Building at (859) 727-2525. Please make sure that you provide the following information: pole number/nearest physical address of the light, type of issue (out/flickering/burning during the day/etc.), and your name with a contact number.

Thanks for taking the time to help us keep your neighborhood light on.

www.ci.erlanger.ky.us

A LETTER FROM YOUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARKS AND RECREATION COORDINATOR

Dear Road Warriors,

Prepare to register by April 27, 2009 for the City of Erlanger's "Amazing Race". We will be meeting at the Erlanger City Building on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The program will start at 6:30 p.m. with instructions and rules. You'll want to arrive 15 minutes early to get together with your teammates and check your digital camera. Make sure your camera is charged (with a screen or Polaroid with film) and that you have a pencil or pen.

During the rally, you and your team will be visiting various places in and around the city, taking photos of objects and engaging in various activities. A team is defined as a carload of people-the team can be a minimal of two and have as many as six. Each activity will be worth a predetermined number of points. Your team will be judged on the 25 most valuable photos. You must be back to the city building at a designated time for judging-each minute you are late will result in points deducted. More rules will be explained at the program.

If you have any questions, please call Kathy at 727-7955. Don't forget to fill your tanks before coming! We'll see you on the 16th!

P.S. While tabulations are going on, we will have food, drinks, snacks and friendly conversation for you to enjoy.

INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Thomas More College is conducting a study of citizen satisfaction with the Erlanger Police Department.

Various individuals have been chosen at random by the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. These individuals are presented with a brief questionnaire that asks about their recent experience with the Erlanger Police Department. The idea of this study is to gain valuable information from these citizens which will help the Erlanger Police Department improve the quality of service they provide. Without this help, research on police service and community needs could not be conducted.

Responses from these select individuals will not be identified with the participating parties and they will not be contacted by the Police Department.

If you are one of the individual's that is contacted, thank you in advance for your participation!

We are still collecting e-mails to add to our resident/business owner e-mail database. This database will enable us to reach more property owners with important updates and to send out our quarterly newsletter. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the City of Erlanger at (859) 727-2525.