

# WHISTLESTOP

## The City of Erlanger Newsletter

Spring 2009



### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor  
Thomas L. Rouse

March was a month of transition. I moved into a new home in southeast Erlanger and my office moved to the Chamber Center on Buttermilk Pike. In the city, we began the transition to a new telephone system and new leadership in the EMS/ALS service. Fortunately, we also transitioned from winter to spring!

The city was saddened by the loss suffered by Council Members Jim Burger and Shane Longshore, and by the illness of Council Member Keith Henry. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them in their time of need.

The Administration and Council are entrenched in the budget process for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. As we all know, revenues from the limited sources available to cities are down and costs, as always, are on the rise. It is not appropriate or acceptable to impose tax increases beyond the city's standard and ordinary adjustments. So, we must live within our means, and that requires sacrifices by everyone and every department. Our goal is to maintain current staffing levels and the current level of service to the public. I am confident that the economy will improve as the year progresses and the pressures we face will ease a bit.

Best wishes for a safe and joyous spring.

### KATHY'S RECREATION UPDATE



The restrooms at the Depot and Silverlake Parks have been opened for the season. They will be unlocked each morning and locked again at dark. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Cahill, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, at 727-7955.

The City of Erlanger and the Kenton County Public Library-Erlanger Branch will be having our annual Easter event on Sunday, April 5, 2009 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Erlanger Branch Library. The Easter Bunny will be there from 2:00-3:00 p.m., so bring your camera to take pictures. There will also be face painting and crafts from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

For a Summer Park Program schedule, please visit our website at [www.ci.erlanger.ky.us](http://www.ci.erlanger.ky.us). Schedules will also be available at the city building. The program begins Monday, June 8, 2009 and goes through Friday, July 17, 2009. This is a fun program that many moms, dads, and grandparents have enjoyed with their children over the years.

### CITY CALENDAR

#### Council Meetings

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

#### Easter Event

Sunday, April 5, 2009  
Erlanger Branch, Kenton Co. Library  
2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Deadline for Silver Star Banner Application

Friday, April 10, 2009

#### Erlanger Citizen's Police Academy

Monday, April 13, 2009

#### Heroes Basketball Game

Police vs. Fire  
Saturday, April 18, 2009  
Dixie H.S. at 7:00 p.m.

#### Deadline for the Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt Application

Monday, April 27, 2009

#### Farmers' Market

April 30, 2009—October 15, 2009

#### Silver Star Day

Friday, May 1, 2009

#### Burn Ban

May 1, 2009—October 1, 2009

#### Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, May 16, 2009

#### General Government Offices Closed

Monday, May 25, 2009  
Memorial Day

#### Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 25, 2009

#### City of Erlanger Summer Park Program

Monday, June 8, 2009—Friday, July 17, 2009

## WHY YOU SHOULD LOVE YOUR BUILDING INSPECTOR



By: Michele Fields

Often times when citizens drop off their building or zoning applications they voice the opinion that it is just another way for us to tax our citizens. It occurred to me that most people really don't understand the purpose of the building and zoning department. There are many reasons for you to love your building and zoning department and inspector, Mark Stewart. The value of our homes relies on the value of the homes in our neighborhood. When we purchase a house we expect the plumbing, wiring and unseen portions of the house to be safe and properly installed. Houses are purchased in good faith that the community will be kept up to a predetermined standard.

I am sure you realize the value of your home relies greatly on the value of the homes around you. When property is negatively altered it harms the whole community. Property values go down, taxes go down, causing community services to decrease or be cut. According to the broken window effect, if a community does not bother to care for their property, they won't pay attention and crime will sweep in. Mr. Stewart enforces the standard we have set for ourselves as a community. It is easy to forget consequences when we have done well to avoid them.

Stories of decks collapsing, fires due to faulty wiring and building catastrophes fill the news today. Although a building inspection cannot stop every awaiting disaster it can greatly reduce the risk. Every few years our building Department undergoes a process in which it is ranked on a scale of 1-10. Our current residential score is a three. At this time only one other agency in the state is a three and there are none higher. We are currently tied for the best residential ISO ranking in the state. This ISO ranking is requested by all insurance agencies to determine home owner's insurance rates. The insurance companies do this because they realize a good working building department will decrease claims, thus making you safer.

It is not uncommon in the country to see a half million dollar mansion directly across the street from a mobile home. This is a bad situation for both home owners. The mansion owner's property value is adversely affected by the presence of the trailer, while the owner of the mobile home is looked down upon. Zoning allows a community to determine the placement of buildings, businesses, fences and signs creating a community that is pleasing to the eye, and neighbors that can appreciate each other.

The role the building inspector plays in our community is important. Here at the City of Erlanger Mark Stewart works fulltime as the building inspector. An average day for him consist of a wide variety of duties and activities including fielding questions, plan reviews, permit issuance, inspections from footer to finals, and presenting cases before the Board of Adjustments. He is the sole fulltime employee in the department and is assisted with paperwork and filing one day a week by Administrative Assistant Lisa Hume. I urge you to comply with the building and zoning department regulations, and encourage your neighbors to as well. It is in everyone's best interest.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- ⇒ Ordinance No. 2320 was enacted on March 3, 2009; and it is an ordinance that establishes a procedure for the designation of hand-capped parking areas on city streets that abut the residences of handicapped persons; and prohibits the use thereof by anybody without a valid accessible parking registration plate, or a valid accessible parking placard.
- ⇒ Resolution No. 02-03-09-02, enacted on February 3, 2009, is a resolution by the Erlanger City Council related to the SAFETEA-LU Federal Reimbursement Agreement for the Erlanger Safe Routes to School project.
- ⇒ The City of Erlanger entered into agreement with the following cities and fire districts to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to their jurisdictions: City of Edgewood, City of Villa Hills, City of Crescent Springs, Pt. Pleasant Fire Protection District, and the Elsmere Fire Protection District.

## AN INVITATION FROM DETECTIVE MILES



**Event:** The City of Erlanger  
"Silver Star Banner Day"  
**Location:** Erlanger City Building,  
505 Commonwealth Avenue  
Erlanger, KY 41018  
(Outside- in front of City Building)  
**Date and Time:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 9:00 AM

**Details:** The Silver Star Families of America is an all volunteer public charity organization founded for the purpose of establishing a service Flag and Banner to honor our wounded and ill service members. These wounded heroes are honored with Silver Star Banners. The heart of the organization is to see that America never forgets the service and sacrifice of wounded and ill service members. Every time someone sees the Silver Star Flag or Banner, it serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by so many for this great nation.

The Silver Star Families of America has designated May 1<sup>st</sup> as Silver Star Banner Day, and is working to see it established as the official national day to honor our wounded veterans. Nearly all states and hundreds of cities have given signature endorsements and will join in this great celebration each year.

The City of Erlanger has proclaimed May 1<sup>st</sup> as "Silver Star Banner Day," and an event will be held to honor this day. The City of Erlanger is looking to get the word out to wounded veterans whom are eligible for this award. An application can be picked up at either the Erlanger City Building or the Erlanger Police Department and will also be available on the city's website at [www.ci.erlanger.ky.us](http://www.ci.erlanger.ky.us). Upon completing the application it needs to be returned to Det. Miles by April 10, 2009. All applications will be presented with a Silver Star Banner and Certificate on May 1<sup>st</sup> at our event. The City will also hold a ceremony to present and fly the official "Silver Star Flag" for the entire day on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

**Eligibility:** The Silver Star Families of America defined wounded as: "Definition of war zone determined by the Department of Defense".

\* Any Armed Forces personnel either currently serving honorably or those who have served honorably from any war, who having served in a war zone has been wounded by enemy action or who have been injured or contracted a serious illness that could be rated at least 10% disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. All wounds, injuries or illness must have originated in a war zone. Purple Heart recipients, victims of friendly fire, injured in a war zone, those who suffer from PTSD, Agent Orange effects and Gulf War syndrome.

SSFOA Website: [www.silverstarfamilies.org](http://www.silverstarfamilies.org)

## AN UPDATE FROM YOUR CITY CLERK



The cities of Erlanger and Elsmere will be hosting the Dixie Farmers' Market again this year. The market will be located in the parking lot of the Erlanger Baptist Church at 116 Commonwealth Avenue, Erlanger, KY. The market will be open from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM every Thursday from April 30th to October 15th, 2009.

Don't forget to turn in your application for the Amazing Race. The deadline is Monday, April 27, 2009. This event is for adults only. It is a great opportunity to get to know Erlanger and your neighbors!

If you need a passport, the City of Erlanger is a Processing Agent for the U.S. Dept. of State. Starting June 1, 2009, a passport will be needed to travel by land or sea to Mexico and Canada.

## CODES OFFICER NEEDS YOUR HELP



Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> marked the first day of Spring, and with that comes the traditional start of lawn and home maintenance. With warm weather just around the corner we will start going outside of our homes to spend time with family and friends and, as we all know, nothing instills a greater sense of pride than a well-manicured lawn and an immaculate home.

The Erlanger Police Codes Division will be very busy this year checking for, and answering complaints on area blight and property violations. We are attempting to identify all vacant properties in the city and residents can report those to us by contacting the Codes Department. Here are some other things that you can do to help keep your neighborhood looking great:

- Keep all rubbish and garbage in proper containers
- Clear your yard of tree limbs and similar debris
- DO NOT park boats, campers, or trailers in your driveway
- DO NOT allow the grass or weeds on your property to exceed 4" in height.

Let's all enjoy the wonderful springtime and have an even better summer by keeping our homes, and our City, looking great! If you have any questions, or would like to speak with a Codes Enforcement Officer, please call (859)727-7958.

## THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT



The Public Works Department has entered into the spring season in full swing. We have several activities underway and wanted to take the time to give you an update on one of our larger projects and provide you with a reminder as we enter the construction season.

The remaining components planned for Flagship Park are scheduled for completion by mid summer. The largest of these is the comfort station/storage building that will be constructed adjacent to the main shelter and playground area. Plans and specifications for this project have been completed and the bid will be awarded at the April 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

The facility will include accessible restrooms, drinking fountains, and storage for park maintenance equipment and will utilize construction methods and fixtures that will provide long term use at planned low maintenance cost. We are very excited about getting this building completed and look forward to adding this facility to our newest park.

As we have welcomed spring, we would like to thank our residents for a successful winter season and remind them to keep an extra eye on the road as we enter construction season. Your public works employees along with all other road and utility workers throughout the area will be out serving you on your streets and roadways. Give them a break, slow down, take your time, and be patient as you pass through a work area. Their exposure to hazards are more than you can imagine, their work is vital, and they all deserve to go home at night.

## CITY GOVERNMENT MONTH WINNERS



### First place winners in the 4th grade essay contest:

Jacob Short Howell Elem. Mrs. Burke  
Mose Lattimore Howell Elem. Ms. Wheeler  
Noah Ryan St. Henry School Linda Dietz

### First place winners in the 5th grade essay contest:

Summer Tarrance Howell Elem. Mrs. Wainscott  
Kiely Monfils Howell Elem. Mr. Lutz  
Conor T. Boyle Howell Elem. Ms. Burke  
Jenna Ebken Lindeman Elem. Mrs. Feldmann  
Abby Ziegelmeyer St. Henry School Mrs. Smith  
Tialiyah Phillips Arnett Elem. Mrs. Durham

### Second place winners in the 4th and 5th grade essay contest:

Justin Durham—Howell Elementary-teacher Mrs. Burke- 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nathan Phillips—Howell Elementary-teacher Ms. Wheeler- 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Jordyn Beck—Howell Elementary-teacher Mrs. Wainscott-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
John Kim, Jr.— Howell Elementary-teacher Mr. Lutz-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Joshua Valdivia—Howell Elementary-teacher Ms. Burke—5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Thomas Steiber—St. Henry School-Linda Dietz- 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Rachel Samotis—St. Henry School—teacher Mrs. Smith 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Colton McQueen-Arnett Elementary-teacher Mrs. Durham 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Paul Schaller—Lindeman Elementary—teacher Ms. Feldmann -5<sup>th</sup> grade

### Third place winners in the 4th and 5th grade essay contest:

Chi Bradley—Arnett Elementary-teacher Mrs. Durham-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Alex Schlake—St. Henry School—teacher Mrs. Smith—5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Kae Baker—Lindeman—teacher Mrs. Feldmann—5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Allie Hunter—St. Henry School—teacher Linda Dietz- 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Emmalee Serrano—Howell Elementary —teacher Mrs. Burke -4<sup>th</sup> grade  
LeAnna Hayes—Howell Elementary—teacher Ms. Wheeler—4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Meleah Haley—Howell Elementary—teacher Mr. Lutz—5<sup>th</sup> grade

### First place winners in the primary grades coloring contest:

Logan Barnett -Lindeman Elem.—teacher Mrs. Jennifer Martin-kindergarten  
Avery Gaunt-Arnett Elem. -teacher Mrs. Dirks-kindergarten  
Breanna Blasingame-Howell Elem.-teacher Mrs. Hambrick-3rd grade  
Belle Schautzman-St Henry School-teacher Mrs. Fette- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### Second place winners in the primary grades coloring contest:

Kay Wibbels—Lindeman Elem.-teacher Mrs. Jennifer Martin-kindergarten  
Kayla Morgan—Arnett Elem.-teacher Mrs. Dirks-kindergarten  
Sierra Linstead—Howell Elem.-teacher Mrs. Hambrick-3rd grade  
Jordan Bautista-St. Henry School-teacher Mrs. Fette-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### Third place winners in the primary grades coloring contest:

Taylor Riddle-Lindeman Elem.-teacher Mrs. Jennifer Martin-kindergarten  
Jenna Moore-Arnett Elem.-teacher-Mrs. Dirks-Kindergarten  
Tiana Washington-Howell Elementary-teacher Mrs. Hambrick-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Carmen Meyer-St. Henry School-teacher Mrs. Fette-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

## FIRE/EMS HIRING FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC



The Erlanger Fire/EMS Department is now accepting applications for a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic. The position includes 24/48 hour work week, medical and dental benefits, tuition reimbursement, and CERS retirement. The City of Erlanger is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Interested persons can pick up an application at the Erlanger City Building located at 505 Commonwealth Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018 or go to [www.ci.erlanger.ky.us](http://www.ci.erlanger.ky.us). Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2009.

## A REMINDER FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



Three hundred ninety-nine thousand home fires were reported in the United States in 2007, according to the [National Fire Protection Association's](#) (NFPA's) recently released [Home Structure Fires](#) report. The category of homes includes one- and two-family dwellings and apartments.

On average, eight people die in home fires every day in the United States - a total of 2,865 deaths. Home fires accounted for 84 percent of all civilian fire deaths and resulted in 13,600 injuries.

Direct property damage was estimated at \$7.4 billion.

The report further breaks down causes and circumstances of home fires reported during the four year period of 2003-2006.

Highlights include:

- Roughly one in three reported home fires and home fire deaths occur in December, January, and February.
  - Cooking equipment is the leading cause of fires, civilian fire injuries, and unreported fires.
  - About 41 percent of reported home fires began in the kitchen or cooking area.
  - Smoking was the leading cause of civilian home structure fire deaths.
  - Heating ranked second in home structure fire deaths (in one- or two-family dwellings and apartments) overall, and was the leading cause of fire-related deaths in one- or two-family dwellings.
  - Heating equipment fires caused the largest percentage of direct property damage.
  - Children under five and adults 65 and over face the highest risk of home fire death.
  - Almost two thirds of home fire deaths occurred in homes without working smoke alarms.
  - Ninety-six percent of all homes have at least one smoke alarm.
- More than half (53 percent) of the people killed by home fires were in the room or area of origin when the fire started.

Erlanger Fire/EMS asks that you simply walk around to each one of your smoke detectors and verify that they are working properly. Please don't become one of these statistics because you forgot to check your smoke detector.

## POLICE ACADEMY UPDATE

### ERLANGER POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Be Proud, Be Honest, Be Nice-  
The Impression you leave, may last forever"

# Join Erlanger Citizen's Police Academy!

April 13th, 2009

6-9 pm

The Erlanger Police Department is hosting its 11th Citizen's Police Academy beginning on April 13th. This is a chance to take a hands-on approach into the role of a police officer. Classes will include topics such as traffic stops, use of force, firearms, and investigations. There will also be demonstrations by the Erlanger K-9 officer, as well as the SWAT team. Class participants are also encouraged to ride along with officers during shift hours.



Apply Now at the:

Erlanger Police Department  
Crescent Springs City Building

Or online:

[WWW.CI.ERLANGER.KY.US](http://WWW.CI.ERLANGER.KY.US)

Sgt. Doug Eagler  
859-727-5664  
[djeagler@ci.erlangerky.us](mailto:djeagler@ci.erlangerky.us)

Officer Jeremiah Dowell  
859-727-2424 ext. 1239  
[jjdowell@ci.erlangerky.us](mailto:jjdowell@ci.erlangerky.us)

Erlanger Police Department  
505 Commonwealth Ave  
Erlanger, KY 41018  
859-727-2424

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

If you are a business in Erlanger or on "The Dixie" and are interested in advertising for your company, please contact Sherry Hoffman at [sdhoffman@ci.erlangerky.us](mailto:sdhoffman@ci.erlangerky.us) or at (859) 727-2525. I will provide you with the "Whistlestop Advertisement Procedures."

We are proud to announce that our resident e-mail database has grown. Thank you to all who have signed up. If you have not signed up yet or if you know someone who would like to, please e-mail me at the address above. This database has enabled us to get information out to our residents in a cost effective way.

If you would like further information on articles in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Information can also be found on our website, [www.ci.erlangerky.us](http://www.ci.erlangerky.us).

Est. 1961

# Cherry Hill Swim Club

A family neighborhood membership facility

**Memberships Available!**

- Privately owned
- Never overcrowded
- Nowly remodeled and updated
- No bonds required to purchase

**NKSL**  
Quarter member of N.Y.S.S.

Phone: 859-371-9979

Swim Club Location: 705 Peach Tree Lane, Erlanger, KY 41018

[www.cherryhillswimclub.com](http://www.cherryhillswimclub.com)