

Spring 2012 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

We can't ignore that spring is here! It seemed to arrive in February this year. Many have already dusted off their lawn mowers and grills. Winter clothes have been packed away and summer clothes have emerged. Tulips, Daffodils, and Dogwood trees are all in bloom.

The mild weather of 2012 has saved the City of Erlanger money by leaving us with items such as salt and sand that can be stored for next year. However, this odd weather has brought severe storms and even tornadoes that caused Governor

Beshear to declare a State of Emergency. Erlanger was able to reach out and help those communities affected in the aftermath of this disaster. Our Police Department sent personnel to Piner, Kentucky to assist with rescue and police operations due to the multiple tornado touchdowns in that area. The Fire/EMS Department assisted with command, operations, and canine searches. Our Assistant Fire/EMS Chief was requested through Kentucky Emergency Management to deploy as a member of the Northern Kentucky Incident Management Team. Erlanger's Public Works Department will be making signs to replace those that were lost or damaged.

Other organizations got involved as well. Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC) sent building inspectors to sites following the tornadoes to participate in preliminary damage assessments and to assist emergency response teams. NKAPC's GIS staff prepared and delivered maps to emergency officials in the field for those who were unfamiliar with the area they were working in.

I am proud to say, that although Erlanger was not affected by these storms as were our neighbors, our employees, businesses, and residents reached out to offer their support. We truly are the Friendship City!

In an effort to prepare ourselves for any future storms that may come our way, I urge all residents to find that "safe place" to seek shelter. It is important to familiarize ourselves with the meaning "behind" the sirens and what the siren is instructing us to do. Do not ignore them! Please read the article in the Whistlestop on sirens. Listen to the news or radio for weather conditions.

Let's make this a safer spring!

### AN ALARMING ISSUE

Since the severe weather that hit the tri-state area on March 2, 2012, many have questioned the effectiveness of the sirens. Our hope is to clear any confusion for our residents.



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."

From the office of the City Clerk, Director of Administration  
Melissa Andress



### NEW NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Council passed a new ordinance (ORD # 2361) that prohibits public nuisances, establishes the enforcement of them, lists provisions for a hearing board and officers, along with penalties for violations. Below are a few of the nuisances that this ordinance will address:

- ⇒ Rubbish and solid waste accumulation
- ⇒ Growth of weeds or grass in excess of 4 inches
- ⇒ Parking of recreational vehicles, boats, trailers
- ⇒ Location of solid waste containers
- ⇒ Unleashed animals, odors and sounds caused by animals

Please note: This ordinance will become official after it's advertisement in April, which can be found in the Legal Ads of the Kentucky Enquirer. At that time, the ordinance will be posted on the City's website.

*Performing collectively to provide exemplary services for our community with integrity and pride!*

## BURN BAN BEGINS



Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> and lasting through September 30<sup>th</sup> each year, open burning is prohibited in the City of Erlanger. During this time, the Erlanger Fire/EMS Department will not issue any burn permits. This ban on open burning is set forth to reduce air pollution; but, the ban also helps prevent grass and brush fires by prohibiting open burning during the period of the year that is typically the driest.

Open burning is defined as land clearing fires or fires on the ground. Residents may burn year round in contained fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, barrels, etc. Residents may not burn garbage or leaves at any time, and may only burn clean, non-treated wood only.

If you have materials that you would like to burn prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>, you may contact the Erlanger Fire/EMS Department at 859-727-2488 to obtain information on applying for a burn permit. Applications should be requested a minimum of 24 hours in advance and applications for burns on Saturday or Sunday must be received no later than 12:00 (noon) the Friday prior. A representative from the Fire/EMS Department will visit your site to ensure that you are following all regulations prior to issuing the burn permit. There is no charge for this service. (Article by CPT Tim Deye and LT Craig Stewart)

## OFFICERS RECEIVE AWARDS



Erlanger Police Department was pleased to have two of our Officers receive awards during the February 7th meeting of the Erlanger City Council. Commonwealth Attorney Rob Sanders gave these awards to Detective Jeff Miles and Officer Duane Rolfsen.



Officer Rolfsen's award, titled "Award for Excellence in Investigation", was for multiple drug investigations while he was a member of the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. CA Sanders stated that Officer Rolfsen's tireless efforts have resulted in many drug dealers being arrested and thus helping our "war on drugs".

Detective Miles' award, titled "Award for Excellence in Policing", was for his actions in apprehending a subject who had carjacked a woman at knifepoint in Crescent Springs.

Detective Miles followed the car and ended up chasing the subject on foot in Covington when the carjacker abandoned the vehicle. By doing this, Detective Miles assured that the subject was apprehended and convicted for this offense. When the case went to trial, it was discovered that the suspect had five prior felonies on his record. Detective Miles' quick actions resulted in another dangerous person being taken off of our streets.

Congratulations to two of "Erlanger's Finest"!!!

(Article by Police Clerk, Lucy Riffle)

## NEW FIRE TRUCK, NEW COLORS



Erlanger Fire/EMS is pleased to announce that they have just taken delivery of a new Rescue/Pumper. This is the first new fire engine the department has received in 12 years, and replaces a 1990 FMC Pumper which has been retired.

The new Rescue/Pumper was manufactured by Sutphen Corporation in Columbus, Ohio and has many innovative features that the firefighters have not experienced before. This truck is actually bigger than our previous Fire Engine as we combined the function of two vehicles into one due to the decreased staffing levels available. It will be capable of handling fires and vehicle extrications along with all the equipment necessary for those types of responses. The firefighters will begin training on it right away so you may see it driving through the city to become familiar with its new features.

Innovative Features:

- ⇒ Capable of pumping 2000 gallons per minute.
- ⇒ Pre-connected reels with the Jaws of Life and other extrication tools.
- ⇒ Sta-dri absorbent dispenser for hydrocarbon spills on the roadways.
- ⇒ Ability to flow foam for better suppression capability.
- ⇒ PTO Driven Generator to provide power for lighting and tools.

If you have any questions please contact Chief Terry Allen at (859) 727-2488.



From the office of the Fire Marshal,  
Captain Tim Deye

**Before starting your spring projects, don't forget to contact the City's Building and Zoning Administrator Mark Stewart. Many projects require building and/or zoning permits. Applications can be found on-line or at the Erlanger Municipal Building. If you are contracting with a company, please make sure that they contact the City as well. Contractors performing work in Erlanger must also have a Kenton County Occupational License that specifically lists Erlanger on it. For more information, please contact Mr. Stewart at 859-727-2525, # 3.**



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## RAIN AND DRAINS

With the welcome arrival of spring, the Public Works Department is in full swing with warm weather activities throughout the city. In particular, the majority of our team members focus 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:** Last spring we encountered record breaking 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. A list of phone numbers for the cities can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).
- 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.

## SAFETY FIRST

**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*

## NEW DOG ORDINANCE

City Council reviewed the City's ordinances in regards to pit bulls, wolf-hybrid dogs, vicious dogs, and other animals. They decided that these ordinances were in need of revision for the protection of the public health safety and welfare. At the April 2, 2012 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed Ordinance # 2362 that regulates pit bull dogs, wolf-hybrid dogs and vicious dogs; prohibits exotic animals and wild animals; and provides criminal and civil penalties for violations.

***Below are some of the requirements set forth in this ordinance:***

⇒ Registration—Including evidence of the following: vaccinations, spaying, neutering, microchip identification, liability insurance

⇒ Tag, Collar, and Reporting Rules

***Below are some of the prohibitions set forth in this ordinance:***

⇒ Unregistered or unrestrained pit bull, wolf-hybrid, or vicious dog

⇒ Exotic or wild animal

⇒ Any registered dog that has bitten or attacked a human or animal

*Please note: This ordinance will become official after it's advertisement in April, which can be found in the Legal Ads of the Kentucky Enquirer. At that time, the ordinance will be posted on the City's website.*

## **PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES** by Faith Woods

### **City Government Day Field Trip**

On March 22nd, students and faculty from Tichenor Middle School had the opportunity to take a tour of the City of Erlanger. Stops were made at all city departments where students learned the roles and responsibilities of their local government. The tour also included stops at the Erlanger Railroad Depot where they learned about the history of our city and at United Dairy Farmers where they learned how important businesses are to a community. UDF also passed out samples of their delicious ice cream, making it the highlight of the day! The students were treated to lunch by the City where they were able to spend more one-on-one time with city employees. The City of Erlanger thoroughly enjoyed having the students of Tichenor Middle School tour our great community!

Special thanks to TANK for providing transportation, to Council member Bill Howard for volunteering to drive the students, to Council Member Renee Skidmore for narrating the tour, and to Mr. Gay and Mr. Montague for allowing us to teach their students more about the City of Erlanger and their local government.



*Addison Viox*

### **Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt**

Get a team together on May 19, 2012 and race through Erlanger to reach destinations in the City of Erlanger's Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt! It's fun, it's exciting, and you can win money! Teams of 2-7 persons or a car load (motorcycles are welcome) must register by 5:00 p.m. on May 4, 2012. Registration applications can soon be found on-line or can be picked up at the City Building. The registration fee is \$20.00 per team. Teams must bring a charged digital camera with a screen and cleared memory card or a Polaroid Camera with film, a pen or pencil, and a full tank of gas.

Meet your team at the Erlanger City Building at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 19th to strategize. At 6:30 p.m., packets will be distributed to each team and the rules will be explained.

Teams must meet back at the City Building at 8:45 p.m. Late comers will have points deducted. Snacks, drinks, and friendly conversation will be provided while pictures are downloaded and points are calculated. The team with the most points will receive \$100.00, second place will receive \$75.00, and third place will get \$50.00.



### **Dixie Farmers' Market**



The Dixie Farmers Market reopens on April 26, 2012 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!

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!

### **Erlanger Community Night at the Ballpark**



Florence Freedom will be hosting Erlanger Community Night at the Florence Freedom ballpark on July 31, 2012. Erlanger residents can purchase discounted tickets off the City of Erlanger's website in the near future. A portion of the proceeds will go to Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District's Family Resource Centers and Youth Service Centers. The centers are non-profit organizations that receive their funding from state grants and donations. These centers strive to help every child and family in Erlanger and Elsmere by breaking down barriers that interfere with a child's ability to learn. By removing barriers, they hope to have an impact on as many children as possible.

Tickets must be purchased on the City's website in order for the Family Resource and Youth Service Centers to receive their portion of the proceeds. ([www.ci.erlanger.ky.us](http://www.ci.erlanger.ky.us)) Get there early and cheer on your favorite local heroes at the pre-game matchup between the Erlanger Police and Fire/EMS Departments. Help us to support the youth in our community. We hope to see you there!

### **Summer Park Program**

Summer is right around the corner, although some days it feels like it's already here! The City of Erlanger will be rolling out our Summer Park Program beginning in June. Check the City's website and Facebook page for a list of summer fun events!!! These events are FREE so join us for some fun in the sun!



***Performing collectively to provide exemplary services for our community with integrity and pride!***

**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)

**Help Support Our Adopted Unit**

**ALL IN CAFE'**  
**invites you to**  
**SUPPORT THE TROOPS**  
**This Memorial Day!**



**Memorial Saturday and Sunday**  
**ALL IN donates 15% of ALL food sales**  
**to**  
**Bravo Battery**

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 [shoffman@ci.erlanger.ky.us](mailto:shoffman@ci.erlanger.ky.us) or by calling (859) 727-2525, #1.

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# CALENDAR

## **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.

## **Northern Kentucky 9/11 Memorial Fundraiser**

### **Beatles Tribute Show featuring "The Sweet Beats"**

Dixie Heights High School

April 21, 2012 from 7:30-9:30

Tickets are \$20

Call City of Crescent Springs at 341-3017

## **Dixie Farmers Market**

(Applications for farmers on-line)

Erlanger Baptist Church Parking Lot

Every Thursday, starting April 26, 2012

2:00-6:00 p.m.

## **Kenton Co. Veterans Memorial 5K Walk/Run**

### **With Military Cup Challenge**

Crescent Springs Community Park

May 19, 2012 8:30 a.m.

## **Amazing Race**

City of Erlanger Municipal Building

May 19, 2012 from 6:30-9:30

Registration deadline May 4, 2012

## **All In Café Bravo Battery Fundraiser**

(Erlanger's Adopted Unit)

All In Café

May 26 and 27, 2012

15% of all food sales will be donated

## **General Government Offices Closed**

May 28, 2012

## **Ralph Fulton VFW Memorial Day Parade**

May 28, 2012

Erlanger-Elsmere Dixie Highway

Time TBA

## **Summer Park Program**

(Schedule to be announced)

June-July 2012

## **General Government Offices Closed**

July 4, 2012

## **Erlanger Community Night**

Florence Freedom Ball Park

July 31, 2012

(please see newsletter for ticket information)

## **Friendship City 5K**

Erlanger Branch, Kenton County Public Library

August 26, 2012



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