

WHISTLESTOP

The City of Erlanger Newsletter

Winter 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor
Thomas L. Rouse

The New Year begins my second term as your Mayor. I am honored to serve you and would like to thank you for this opportunity. I am proud to represent the best city in Kentucky! The New Year also brings you a new City Council. Two new Council Members join us and the Council as a whole is looking forward to serving you. In 2010, we said goodbye to two long term Council Members, Jim Burger and Keith Henry. They served with great honor and respect. Jim moved to another state and Keith back to his hometown. We wish them much happiness in their new cities.

We are very proud of the schools that our children in Erlanger attend. Congratulations to the Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District for the improvement of all their schools on their state test scores. Miles Elementary was one of the few elementary schools in Northern Kentucky to improve in all areas. Also, congratulations to the athletes and musicians from the Erlanger-Elsmere School District, St. Henry Schools, and Dixie Heights High School on all their accomplishments in 2010. Many individual and team championships were earned. We thank the schools for a great partnership in 2010 and look forward to working with them in 2011.

The year 2010 was good to many of our businesses. Signature Hardware began their expansion project and Gold Star Chili relocated to Erlanger.

As always, we encourage our businesses, residents, schools, and yes, the City to support one another. Please volunteer in the school systems, frequent Erlanger businesses/restaurants, meet your neighbors, and attend city events and meetings. The success of a community relies on everyone working together.

Have a great year!

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

The City of Erlanger is now on **Facebook**. To continue and expand efforts to keep interested public up to date on City of Erlanger events and developments along with our new website, the City has started a Facebook page. Please help spread the word about the site and become a Fan yourself. You can find the page under "[City of Erlanger](#)". Don't forget to click on the "Like" button to receive the City of Erlanger News Feeds.

If you would rather receive e-mails from the City of Erlanger regarding upcoming Special Meetings, etc., please go to our website at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us and sign up under "**E-Mail Notifications**".

BRAVO BATTERY NEEDS YOU!

Last year the City of Erlanger joined the cities of Villa Hills, Crescent Springs, and Lakeside Park in adopting four batteries of the **101st Airborne Division** stationed at **Ft. Campbell** in Kentucky. Currently they are serving in Afghanistan. **Bravo Battery** was assigned to Erlanger and this past Christmas we were able to ship packages to them to help make their holiday away from home and their families more special. Many in our community stepped forward to help achieve this, including residents, schools, library, and businesses.

Since adopting our unit, we have become more aware of how much those that are deployed need assistance from the cities that adopt them. Many soldiers do not get care packages or letters from home. These men and women are dedicated to our country, represent us, and are helping to rid the world of terrorists. They are in dangerous surroundings and living in less than desirable quarters.

Here at Erlanger we are proud of our Bravo Battery. We would like to continue helping and ask our citizens and businesses to join us in supporting them. Below are a list of opportunities in which you can participate:

- ⇒ **Collection Drive**—A list of "much needed items" can be found at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us. These items can be dropped off at the Erlanger City Building located at 505 Commonwealth Avenue. If your business or organization is interested in doing a drive, please contact Sherry at sdhoffman@ci.erlanger.ky.us or call at 727-2525, prompt #1.
- ⇒ **Donations**—Bravo Battery and the other three batteries will be returning this April or May and in June there will be a formal military ball held in their honor. This is a very prestigious event. Unfortunately, each soldier has to pay to attend this event, including their hotel expenses. In the past, many were not able to attend due to the cost. We would like to work with the other three cities in raising money to ensure that each soldier could attend. This is the fourth tour for most of these soldiers, with this last tour lasting almost a year. Here at Erlanger we feel that they deserve this night of celebration and honor! If you are interested in helping with this, monetary donations will be accepted at the Erlanger City Building as well. Please make checks payable to the City of Erlanger with "Adopted Troop" written on the comment line.
- ⇒ **Local Heroes Supporting National Heroes Volleyball Game**—March 19, 2011 at 7 PM, Erlanger Police vs. Erlanger Firefighters at Lloyd High School's Scheben Gym. The cost of admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Come watch Erlanger's finest battle it out to see who the city's top dogs are...police officers or firefighters!

ADOPT A HYDRANT THIS WINTER

The cold and snow season has arrived, so Erlanger Fire/EMS would like to ask that you adopt the fire hydrant located in your yard or nearby. Please take a few extra minutes to shovel out the hydrant when you shovel your walk. Hydrants should have **3 feet of clearance** around them whenever possible, to enable connection of the fire hoses. As always, if you notice a faulty hydrant that appears to be damaged or leaking please contact the Northern Kentucky Water District at (859) 578-9898. The fire hydrants are vital to the operation of the fire department when your house is on fire. If hydrants cannot be located or are buried in snow, it is likely the fire will be much larger.

FIRE PREVENTION UPDATE

This year's fire prevention theme for the month of October was **"Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with"** as declared by the National Fire Protection Association. Erlanger Fire/EMS began the month with setting up a banner across Commonwealth Avenue and at Brightleaf and Narrows to get the word out to our residents. Our 2010 Fire Prevention Month campaign focused on checking smoke detectors, safety with matches and lighters, and practicing escape plans. We also gave out homework assignments to students to go home and check all the detectors in their house and report back to the teacher if any were inoperable.

We presented the fire prevention month theme by hosting firehouse tours, in class presentations, school fire drills and attendance at various Halloween events. These efforts enabled us to reach over 1400 people, utilizing the efforts of in house personnel, and logging over 80 man hours of education efforts. In addition, we handed out 900 silly bandz with firefighting shapes. We also distributed 1500 brochures, 500 stickers, 500 magnets. Overall, it was a very successful year and hopefully the efforts will pay off with a safer community.

NEW FACES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Due to the retirements this past year of Mark Jolly, Greg Aylor, and Ken Stevens the Police Department has been short staffed. Recently we have hired two new patrolmen to help alleviate this shortage.

Patrolman Scott Russo was hired in July. He spent the next 18 weeks in basic training provided by the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond, KY.

Scott is a graduate of Ryle High School and Northern Kentucky University. He received his degree in construction management and worked for a while for Messer Construction. He had initially studied law enforcement and realized that this was the profession he preferred to pursue. Scott is married and has one son. He currently is being trained by other officers in the field training aspect of our department.

Patrolman Adam McGuire was hired in October. Adam came to us from the Airport Police Department and has seven years experience as a sworn police officer. He is a graduate of St. Henry High School and received his Associates Degree in law enforcement from Northern Kentucky University. Adam is married and has 3 children. He also is currently being trained by other officers in the field training aspect of our department.

SUGGESTED DO'S AND DON'T'S OF SNOW REMOVAL

Don't Park on the Street. Move your cars off the street on designated snow emergency routes and especially cul-de-sacs into the driveways when an accumulating snow is predicted. It is difficult to maneuver trucks around on dry pavement let alone in icy conditions.

Do give plows & salt trucks room to maneuver. When applying salt and plowing snow they have to change lanes, back up, and make more frequent stops.

Don't pass trucks when salt is being applied/snow is being plowed. Keeping control of your vehicle can be extremely difficult.

Don't pull out into the intersection when snowplows are approaching. Drivers cannot control the snow coming off the plow blade. The snow often contains rocks and other debris from the roadway.

Don't shovel snow into the street when clearing sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. This makes clearing the roadway more difficult and creates more hazardous patches that require unnecessary retreatment.

Don't cover fire hydrants. If there is a fire hydrant at your curb – do not cover it with snow from your driveway or sidewalk. In the event of a fire emergency - this could help save a life by helping the fire department locate the hydrant more quickly.

Do be patient. When snow plow drivers clear residential streets; their plows **will** throw snow to the side and sometimes unintentionally into the entrances to driveways. This is an inconvenience that is unavoidable and always unintentional.

SNOW PROCEDURES

When inclement weather hits, the ten person operations staff of the Erlanger Public Works Department breaks down into two five person shifts to tackle conditions to the best of their abilities with the resources that they have available. They utilize four "work zones" during snow removal operations. With the 120 plus lane miles that they are tasked with taking care of, their target goal is to assign five trucks to the designated routes in the four work zones. Zones 1-3 have one truck assigned to the respective route in that zone and Zone 4 is divided into two routes (because of size) with one truck assigned to each respective route. They **do not** take care of **private drives or streets** within any portion of the city.

Within each zone are designated snow emergency routes that parking is prohibited on when a snow emergency is in place. By City of Erlanger Ordinance, a snow emergency can either be declared or is automatically in place whenever there is an accumulation of snow or ice upon any portion of designated snow emergency streets in excess of two inches in depth. For the list of designated **snow emergency routes**, please visit the Public Works Department page on our website. To find out whether a snow emergency has been declared please view the school closing listings on Channels 5, 9, and 12, or go to our website or Facebook page. Vehicles that are not removed off designated snow emergency streets will be ticketed. The fine is \$25.00 which will double to \$50.00 if not paid within 7 business days. Our priority is not the income received, but to get the vehicles removed so that the streets can be addressed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The City of Erlanger operates under a Mayor-Council form of government and is a 3rd class city. Because of this class ranking, this allows Erlanger to have a twelve member Council. There are ten veteran Council Members returning for a two year term this year and two new faces joining them. Your 2011-2013 Council Members are: Randy Blankenship, Jim Brown, Kevin Burke, Tom Cahill Jr., John Dunhoft, Bill Howard, Stephen Knipper, Vicki Kyle, Shane Longshore, Corine Pitts, Renee Skidmore, and Patty Suedkamp. Long term Council Members Jim Burger and Keith Henry both moved out of Erlanger in 2010 making them ineligible to continue to serve on Erlanger's City Council. Mayor Thomas Rouse returned as the Mayor for a term of four years, 2011-2014.

The Mayor is the Executive Branch of local government. He enforces the Mayor-Council plan, city ordinances, orders, and all applicable statutes. He supervises all departments of city government. He has the authority to appoint and remove all city employees. The mayor facilitates the monthly Regular Council Meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month, the Council Committee Meetings that may be scheduled on the other Tuesdays of the month, and any Special Council Meetings or Public Hearings that are scheduled.

The Council Members are the Legislative Branch of local government and because Erlanger operates under a Mayor-Council form of government, they must act only as a whole body, meaning that individual Council Members may not act or make decisions on behalf of the whole Council. The Mayor-Council form of government gives all legislative authority to the Council Members, unless there is a tie. In that instance, the Mayor can vote as a tie-breaker.

All City meetings are open to the public. For more information on how your local government and city departments operate, please visit our website at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us.

www.ci.erlanger.ky.us

CITY GOVERNMENT MONTH ACTIVITIES

Erlanger will be celebrating City Government Month at the May 3, 2011 Regular Council Meeting. Anyone interested in submitting an essay, art project, video, classroom project, or anything that would be pertinent to city government or projects your local government is involved in, please submit at the City Building no later than **April 1, 2011**. These can be submitted by schools, organizations, or individuals. Any age can participate. Those that do participate will be recognized at the Council Meeting, as well as schools that have participated in City functions throughout the year.

For more information, please contact Sherry at 727-2525, #1.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The City of Erlanger is accepting applications for our \$1500 Erlanger Council Community Service Scholarship that is available to high school students who live in Erlanger. Applications are available at the following high schools: Lloyd Memorial High School, Dixie Heights High School, St. Henry District High School, Notre Dame Academy, and Covington Catholic High School. Applications can also be picked up at the Erlanger City Building located at 505 Commonwealth Avenue, found on-line at www.ci.erlanger.ky.us or on our Facebook page. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Kathy Cahill at mkcahill@ci.erlanger.ky.us or by calling 727-2525, #1.



In December 2010, the city dedicated their Public Works building in honor of former Council Member Keith Henry. Mr. Henry served on City Council for fourteen years. The last few years he served on the Public Works Committee.

Although Erlanger voted Mr. Henry in for another two years, he and his wife chose to move to the country. He will be greatly missed.

KEITH HENRY PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

SOLICITATION IN ERLANGER

The City of Erlanger has a **No Knock Policy**. In 2002, City Council voted on an ordinance that established regulations for uninvited solicitations of contributions, sales of goods and services, pledges, subscriptions, orders, and offers and established penalties for the violation of this ordinance. The City then set up a program for those residents who did not wish to have solicitors visit their home. We continue this program today. If you do not want solicitors knocking on your door, please visit the City of Erlanger at 505 Commonwealth Avenue. You will be required to complete an Anti-Solicitation Registration form that will be kept on file. Your address will be added to a list of others that cannot be solicited. This list will be provided to Solicitors when they register at the City to solicit.

Anyone wishing to solicit in the City of Erlanger must register at the Erlanger City Building. All interested solicitor applications are reviewed by the Police Department before approval is given. Once the solicitors are given permission to go door to door, they are given the list of addresses they cannot go to and a copy of their application showing that they were given approval. Both these items must be on them when they solicit. If someone is going door to door in your neighborhood and does not have the paperwork with them, goes to your door when they are not supposed to, or are acting suspicious, please contact the Erlanger Police Department. Please do this immediately so that the Police Officer responding has the opportunity to locate the person(s) before they leave your neighborhood.

**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)

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

ADMINISTRATION—727-2525 #1

- ⇒ PASSPORTS
- ⇒ ERLANGER HARD BACK HISTORY BOOK \$25.00
- ⇒ ERLANGER/ELSMERE IMAGES OF AMERICA BOOK \$20.00
- ⇒ NOTARY PUBLICS
- ⇒ TANK BUS PASSES
- ⇒ ERLANGER & SURROUNDING AREA MAPS (free)
- ⇒ NO KNOCK POLICY-SIGN UP TODAY
- ⇒ DEPOT PARK RESERVATIONS (727-2525 #5)

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

CITY 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.

**City of Erlanger's FREE Ice Skating Event
(first 200 people)**

Northern Kentucky Ice Center
February 11, 2011 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

FREE Valentine Event

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library
February 13, 2011 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

General Government Offices Closed

February 21, 2011

Erlanger Council Community Service Scholarship Deadline

March 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Local Heroes Supporting National Heroes

Volleyball Game

Erlanger's Police vs. Firefighters

Lloyd High School Scheben Gym
March 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

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 sdhoffman@ci.erlanger.ky.us or by calling (859) 727-2525, #1.

THOMAS L. ROUSE

Attorney at Law

32 years of service to the
people of Northern Kentucky

859-393-3234

www.ThomasRouseLaw.com

This is a paid advertisement.