

Fall 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

My fellow Erlanger property owners,

Perhaps you are aware of an existing disagreement between the Kenton Fiscal Court, its County Judge-Executive and your city. This is written to shine light on this dispute, as the County tax bills you will soon receive will include a new \$85 tax, designated as a service fee.

The City of Erlanger, as part and parcel of its commitment to public safety, has always dispatched its police, fire and lifesaving personnel to the calls for service. Next to Covington, we have the largest number of public safety employees in the county, and providing our own emergency communications has served the City well over the decades. Erlanger public safety has been able to avoid the politics of county government and focus on the goal of providing you with the best possible service.

For years this was paid for by the city's general fund as part of the public safety appropriation. As the costs of technology increased, there was strain on the ability to properly fund this operation. State law was enacted that permitted fees to be placed on telephone lines for 911 service, so that became the main source of 911 funding in Kentucky.

Several years ago the leaders of Erlanger and Elsmere decide that the 2 cities would be better served if their public safety personnel were dispatched by the same center, so Elsmere joined us. This has worked very well. In 2007, the cities of Ludlow, Bromley, Park Hills, Ft. Wright, Ft. Mitchell, Lakeside Park, Villa Hills, Crescent Springs, Crestview Hills and Edgewood asked Erlanger to consider serving them as well. After thorough study by all parties, formal contracts (called Inter-Local Agreements) were signed we began serving these communities. This was beneficial to all the partner cities, and particularly to Erlanger, as we then had some financial assistance in obtaining the best possible technology. This was all accomplished without any additional cost to the Erlanger taxpayer.

I cannot be more proud of what your city staff has accomplished. We built a premier emergency communication system. The Erlanger PSCC is award winning, and was picked out of all the regional dispatch centers to team with the NKU College of Informatics and launch the life-saving app for smart phones and wireless devices we have heard about lately. We have a wonderful group of trained, certified telecommunicators, call takers and leadership staff. This partnership is a model for all local governments to call on, and it was done in the complete absence of fiscal court leadership.

The problem with the dispatch model we are using is funding. We all knew from the outset that the 911 fees would eventually be insufficient to completely fund it. We accurately predicted when this would occur, and our contracts required Erlanger and our partner cities to pay a pro-rata share of any deficit. All have paid their share for the last fiscal year. We were investigating alternate funding sources when two events occurred: first, Covington decided to close down its dispatch service; next the county decided to provide dispatching services for Covington. These events changed the landscape in Kenton County emergency communications.

Instead of county dispatch closing and merging with Erlanger's center, which had been under discussion through 2 fiscal court administrations, the county decided to build a new operation to handle its areas and Covington. To pay for this, the court passed the new tax discussed earlier. The county simply cannot pay for their new center without taxing the entire county, including Erlanger and its partners, even if we choose to keep our own dispatch. In essence, the Kenton County Fiscal Court has used its taxing power to tell Erlanger and its partners that we must disband our center and join theirs and when we are expected to do this.

Please understand that Erlanger has always been supportive of the concept of combined emergency communications in this county. Since the county abandoned the merger discussions, our position has consistently been that if and when the new county operation is as good as ours, provides all the advanced safety features as ours, and the cost is as economical as ours, we will consider joining. It will be a decision made by your elected city officials and staff based on fact and reason. Erlanger will not jeopardize your safety for the sake of county politics. But, Erlanger is now faced with the prospect of being bullied into going along with the county by the levy of a tax for an inferior service we choose, at this point, not to use.

I asked the Judge-Executive to give Erlanger and its partners the \$85 collected from their cities. This request was refused. Instead, the Judge wrote me and said that it would give us what we would have received from the land line 911 fees if we eliminate the tax from the phone bills. This is clearly not enough to avoid general fund appropriations to cover the deficit.

Your cost with a land line last year for emergency communications was about \$58. Without a land line, it was about \$7. This year if you have a land line your cost will be about \$143, if you do not the cost will be about \$92. If Erlanger eliminates the 911 fee and closes our dispatch center, your cost will be \$85 for a service inferior to what you now have.

This is the heart of the dispute. What are your thoughts? I want to keep our dispatch center in operation, even if it reverts to Erlanger and Elsmere (and Crescent Springs, since we now police that city.) Are you willing to give up what you now have and accept whatever the county provides? Is your county tax increase acceptable? Is Erlanger doing the right thing? Your input would be appreciated. Please contact us at comments@ci.erlanger.ky.us or call 859-727-7840.

Sincerely, Thomas L. Rouse, Mayor

CITY OF ERLANGER NEWS

What is your address? In an emergency, the Fire/EMS Department is looking for the address to make for a quicker response. The ambulance and fire crews are searching for these numbers on all responses. The visible house numbers allow the fire department to know which house is the correct house. All situations are not always present when the fire department first arrives. There may be smoke or fire unseen upon the arrival of the first piece of equipment, so being able to see the proper address on the house will allow them to investigate the proper residence and not waste time searching for the incident. Minutes are crucial in Fire and EMS responses. It could mean the matter of saving a home from fire or saving a life. The visible numbers on residences can save a few moments in an emergency situation and possibly help the outcome. Get your address on your residence or have the proper size numbers on your residence.

The City of Erlanger even has an Ordinance that requires you to have house addresses visible from the street. The code simply states that houses that are fronting any street shall have a number on them. The ordinance goes on to state that the numbers shall be no less than three inches by four inches and also be large enough to be seen at a distance of at least half the width of the street. This becomes important for emergency situations.

So, take a walk out to the street in front of your residence and see if your address is easy to see in day or night. You would be amazed at the number of houses when no number is visible which greatly hinders the Fire/EMS/Police ability to find your house or your neighbors. It's something that can help out with the already chaotic situation that we are responding to and help save some time.



Article by Lt. Justin Brinkman, Erlanger Fire/EMS

Special Response Team Recognizing that the need existed to form a specialized team of highly trained and skilled officers to handle situations outside the scope or ability of normal police patrol duties, the police department formed a Special Response Team. The mission and purpose of the team is to handle those higher risk activities while reducing the risk of injury or loss of life to citizens, officers, suspects and all persons involved. The Special Response Team trains to handle matters such as hostage or barricaded persons situations; along with service of high risk search and arrest warrants. The officers receive specialty training in various weapons and tactics involved in these type of calls for service.



Pictured above are:

Greg Aylor, Mike Leming, Norm Lyle, Tom Loos Jr., Jon Sterling, Dave Lillich, Steve Canfield, Bill McGohan, TJ Selby, Kyle Rader, and Scott Russo

Erlanger Magazine Watch your mail for the first edition of the Erlanger Magazine. Written and printed by The Journal News and funded by local businesses, this magazine will be delivered to your home twice a year. The Erlanger Magazine will be a wonderful source for local news; such as, information on your local government, schools, and businesses. This is a partnership of all entities involved who recognize the importance of communicating with our Erlanger community.



The City of Erlanger's Administration Department, located at 505 Commonwealth Avenue, has new hours of operation. These hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Due to this change, passport processing hours will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Questions for Public Works, Call Director Rick Bogard at 859-727-2525 # 6.

Upcoming Street Work

- ⇒ Removal & replacement of concrete pavement sections on Misty Creek Drive from Turkeyfoot Road to 3455 Misty Creek Drive
- ⇒ Fitzgerald and James Avenue sidewalk project

Important Reminders from the Public Works Department—

- ⇒ Leaf Collection October 22 through December 7, 2012
- ⇒ Street Sweeping December 3-7, 2012
- ⇒ Christmas Tree Drop-off December 26 through January 9, 2013
3516 Jack Scheben Drive

Important Trash Collection Dates-

- ⇒ Thanksgiving Day Trash will be collected
- ⇒ Christmas Day Trash will not be collected, will be collected next business day
- ⇒ New Years Day Trash will not be collected, will be collected next business day

Erlanger Legislative Update

Ordinance No. 23666 Amendment of the Nuisance Ordinance to allow parking of recreational vehicles after April 1 and before November 1

Ordinance No. 23676 Amendment of Zoning Ordinance to add outdoor dining as a conditional use in certain zones in Erlanger

Ordinance No. 23686 Amendment of Zoning Ordinance to change the zoning map along a portion of Houston Road

Ordinance No. 23696 2012-2013 Tax Rates

To read these ordinances in their entirety, please visit "City Laws" on our website, www.ci.erlanger.ky.us.



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

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Miles Elementary has welcomed Josh Jackson as the school's new principal. The Miles Elementary School Based Decision Making Council selected Mr. Jackson, who arrived at Miles in August with five years of prior experience as an elementary school principal.

"I am pleased to work in a progressive district with strong leadership that is focused on doing what is best for all of the students we serve," Mr. Jackson said. "I am also excited to work with an outstanding, dedicated and professional faculty who are focused on meeting the needs of each and every child."

"I can't hide that Mustang pride!" Mr. Jackson added.

Mr. Jackson holds a Rank I for Instructional Leadership-Principal, a Masters of Art in Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching, all from Northern Kentucky University.

Mr. Jackson previously served as principal of Newport Intermediate School and Mary A. Goetz Elementary in Ludlow. Before then, he was a teacher for six years at Collins Elementary in Florence.

As principal, Mr. Jackson embraces a hands-on approach to leadership and strong engagement with the community. He enjoys collaborating with community-based programs to enhance the school's ability to meet students' needs.

Mr. Jackson invites community members to be involved with Miles Elementary. Volunteers are always welcome. Stop by to visit Mr. Jackson at the school at 208 Sunset Ave, Erlanger, or give him a call at 859-727-2231. To keep up with school news, visit the school website at: <http://mileselementary.blogspot.com/>



"I can't hide that Mustang pride!" says Miles Principal Josh Jackson.

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Contact the City of Erlanger at 859-727-2525 #1 if you are interested in placing an ad in the Whistlestop newsletter.

Tichenor Middle School is buzzing with new energy this fall as 17 new teachers and staff join the school.

For more than a year, as principal of Tichenor, Mr. Bryant Gillis has been leading a successful effort to enhance learning opportunities for the middle school students. The vivid infusion of 17 new staff members at the school advances the effort and moves the school further toward excellence.

The new staff at Tichenor includes:

ÉJacqueline Alexander, Instructional Coach
ÉBrent Anstaett, Language Arts teacher
ÉLeah Barnette, Special Education teacher
ÉKaren Costello, Instructional Assistant
ÉRobert Durstock, Science teacher
ÉEric Fangman, Math teacher
ÉAmy Gillio, Guidance Counselor
ÉMissy Jones, Instructional Assistant
ÉJonathan Livingood, P.E./Health teacher
ÉTabatha (Nicci) Magee, Language Arts teacher
ÉSteven McNabb, Science teacher
ÉKelly Pierson, Social Studies teacher
ÉAndrea Rose, Math/Science teacher
ÉEllen Schwetschenau, Special Education teacher
ÉDiane Seiter, ESL (Language) teacher
ÉCourtney Stephenson, Instructional Assistant
Amy Sutter, Science teacher

Tichenor Middle School is at 305 Bartlett Avenue, Erlanger. To follow news and events at Tichenor, visit the school's website at: <http://www.tichenormiddleschool.com>.



Many of the new teachers and professional staff at Tichenor Middle School gathered for a photo on a recent Professional Day at the school. They are, from left: Steven McNabb, Andrea Rose, Tabatha (Nicci) Magee, Robert Durstock, Amy Sutter, Leah Barnette, Brent Anstaett, Eric Fangman, Principal ó Bryant Gillis, Kelly Pierson, Jonathan Livingood, Jackie Alexander, Ellen Schwetschenau, and Diane Seiter.

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CALENDAR

CITY OF ERLANGER SERVICES & CONTACT INFORMATION ERL-ELS SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Erlanger City 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.

Erlanger-Elsmere School Board Meetings

Board of Education Building (500 Graves Avenue)
Second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Dixie Farmers Market

(Applications for farmers on-line)
Erlanger Baptist Church Parking Lot
Every Thursday, ending October 25, 2012, 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Erlanger-Elsmere School District's Fall Break

October 8-12, 2012

City of Erlanger Halloween Haunt

Flagship Park
October 19, 2012, 7:00-9:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Costume Contest

Trick-or-Treat Halloween Event

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library
October 26, 2012, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Deadline for Discount City of Erlanger Tax Payments

Tentative Trick-or-Treating in Erlanger
October 31, 2012

Erlanger-Elsmere School District—No School for Students

November 5 and 6, 2012

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library
Please contact the Library at 859-962-4000 for more details and registration

Erlanger-Elsmere School District—No School for Students

November 21, 2012

City of Erlanger General Government Offices Closed

Erlanger-Elsmere School District—No School for Students
November 22 and 23, 2012

Christmas Event

Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library
Look for details on the City's website and Facebook page

Erlanger-Elsmere School District—

December 19, 2012 **No school for students**
December 20, 2012 **Winter Break begins**

City of Erlanger General Government Offices Closed

December 24 and 25, 2012
January 1, 2013

Deadline for City of Erlanger Tax Payments

December 31, 2012

POLICE DEPARTMENT 859-727-2525 # 2

- ⇒ 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 859-727-2525 # 4

- ⇒ 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 859-727-2525 # 1

- ⇒ 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 #1)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 859-727-2525 # 6

- ⇒ Pothole Reports (need location of pothole)
- ⇒ Street Light Outage Reports (need location of light)
- ⇒ Leaf Collection
- ⇒ Christmas Tree Drop-off/Mulching

WEBSITE COMMITTEE 859-727-2525 # 1

- ⇒ FACEBOOK City of Erlanger
- ⇒ Citizen Service Request Center Online
- ⇒ Website www.ci.erlanger.ky.us

ERLANGER-ELSMERE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- ⇒ 859-727-2009

ENSOR EDUCATIONAL ANNEX

- ⇒ 859-342-2427

BARTLETT CENTER SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-342-2460

LLOYD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-727-1555

TICHENOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-727-2255

ARNETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-727-1488

HOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-727-1108

LINDEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-727-1188

MILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ⇒ 859-727-2231

City of Erlanger

Waste Collection Survey

The City of Erlanger is under contract with Republic Services to collect the waste and recyclable items of our residents. In an effort to better understand the needs of our residents, we are conducting a survey to see what you the residents need from your waste collection provider. Please take the time to complete this survey and return to the City of Erlanger's Administration Department. The more responses received will give us a better idea of what the majority of our residents require.

I would prefer to have curbside trash collection:

- ◇ Once a week
- ◇ Twice a week

I believe the city should have mandatory recycling:

- ◇ Yes
- ◇ No

I would prefer to have curbside recycling collected:

- ◇ Once a week
- ◇ Twice a month (bi-weekly)

I am satisfied with the current waste and recycling provider:

- ◇ Yes
- ◇ No

Comments:

Please provide your name and address below:

Surveys can be mailed to or dropped off at the Erlanger City Building located at:

505 Commonwealth Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018

This survey can also be found online at : www.ci.erlanger.ky.us

The deadline to submit this survey is: November 30, 2012