

City Page

A Service of the City of Bowling Green

From the Mayor's Desk

Happy New Year!

Writing the year "2010" for the first time brought to mind the excitement and speculation we went through with the start of our new Millennium just ten short years ago. Technology continues to change almost daily, the world continues to shrink as the impact of international economies, politics and events cross borders and even continents. Yet personal relationships are as important as ever.

We are hearing that the worst part of this economic downturn is behind us. However, the financial impact on local and state government will no doubt continue for several more years. Governments will be hard pressed to provide the level of service they have in the past and the days of 100% financing are no doubt over.

As one who looks at every challenge as an opportunity, I believe we will come out of this situation stronger and more balanced. The City is already working with the private sector to share the responsibility of many projects and programs, such as sharing the cost of providing right-of-way and constructing roads that will benefit land owners and developers as well as our citizens. The Rethinking Transportation Task Force is looking at ways that local government, employers and citizens can modify their actions to better use the roadways we already have instead of simply depending upon government to build more lanes or new roads to ease congestion. In short, each and every one of us must look critically at our own actions, our lifestyles and our activities to see how we can make a positive difference in our community. Volunteering at a local charity or non-profit, a church or place of worship, or at a school can change the lives of others while enriching the life of the volunteer. And our community is the better for it.

This coming year promises to be an exciting one. We will welcome the new Hot Rod Magazine Power Tour and again host several high school athletic events in Bowling Green. Kentucky plays host to one of the premiere horse events in the world, the Alltech 2010 Equestrian Games. And many national, state and local elections will take place.

In April, a federal program that has a huge impact on every local community in the nation takes place: The 2010 Census. This simple ten question form helps decide how over \$400 billion of federal money is distributed each year. Why is it important that everyone be counted? Quite simply, for every person who is not counted, we stand to lose over \$2,000 per year. All census information is confidential and no other government agency can use the data for tax, immigration, or criminal investigation purposes. So please help us count every person in Bowling Green this spring.

Let's make 2010 the best year ever! From all of us at the City, we wish you and your family and happy, safe, blessed New Year.

Your Mayor,
Elaine Walker



Winter Fire Safety Tips

- Make sure all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly and repair/replace them as needed.
- Plan and practice exit drills in your home with all household members.
- Place portable heaters, space heaters and wood or coal burning stoves at least three feet away from furniture, walls, curtains or anything else that can burn.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave home or go to bed.
- Let liquid fueled heaters cool down before refueling them. Refuel the heater outdoors, away from structures where spills won't present a fire hazard. Use only the fuel recommended.
- Never install unvented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms where carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels.
- Use fireplace screens to protect your home from sparks.
- Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher and learn how to properly use it.

Parks & Recreation Happenings

YOUTH DODGEBALL

This will give young people a chance to play dodgeball once a week with supervision. Parents can stay to watch their kids or drop them off.

DATE: January 7-28, 2010

DAYS: Thursdays

TIME: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

AGES: 6-12 years old

FEE: \$5 per player

LOCATION: F.O. Moxley Community Center

PICKLEBALL LEAGUE & CLINIC

ALL AGES WELCOME

Begins January 8

FEE: \$1 per person per league date or \$5 for entire spring session

WHEN: Fridays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Carr Gymnasium (Moxley Community Center), 225 E. Third Avenue

Complete league schedule available on site. Must complete a release/waiver before you participate.

For more information call 393-3249.

RUSSELL SIMS AQUATIC CENTER

Early Bird Pre-Season Sale: December 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010

INDIVIDUAL PASS: \$75

FAMILY PASS: \$175 (includes 4 family members)

INCENTIVES: Early entry into park, special event discounts, concessions discounts, pre-season sale includes a free one month membership to BGPR fitness facility for 1 member.



For more information about City Page, email laura.harris@bgky.org.
Log onto www.bgky.org to have City News Releases emailed to you.

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Occupational Business License

City of Bowling Green Business License Inspector Marcus Barnett will be contacting any businesses that fail to register with the City or are delinquent on the payment of any City occupational taxes.

Reminder: Anyone conducting any type of business activity within the City limits or annexed areas is required to register their business with the City. Please visit our City website at www.bgky.org or contact the City License Division by phoning (270) 393-3000.

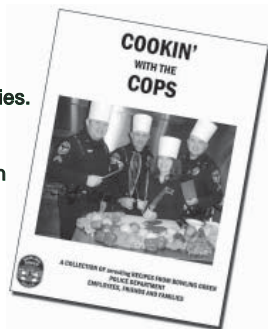
To avoid any disruption of home repair or delay in obtaining City building permits, please confirm that any contractors or subcontractors being utilized have a proper business registration with the City of Bowling Green. This can be confirmed by calling the City License Division at (270) 393-3000. Also, the City License Inspector may visit your construction site to verify license compliance. The City business registration is in addition to the County contractor's licensing board requirements.

You can now view Spotlight on Bowling Green and Bowling Green Minute programs on the City's website. Click on the **Video Archive** link on our homepage to see a list of our programs.



Cookin' with the Cops Cookbook

The Bowling Green Police Department's Gary A. Raymer Scholarship Fund is selling the first ever BGPD cookbook! **Cookin' With The Cops** is a hardback compilation of 450 "arresting" recipes from BGPD employees, friends and families. The cookbook sells for \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the GAR Scholarship Fund Inc., which provides college scholarships to children of BGPD employees. The books can be purchased in the Records Division at the Police Department, located at 911 Kentucky Street.



Litter Tips for a Cleaner Community

Litter is blown about by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building, or fence. Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to add more.

So what can we all do? You can....

1. Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
2. Carry a litterbag in your car.
3. Make sure trash cans have lids that are securely fastened.
4. Tie papers in a bundle before placing in a curbside recycling bin.
5. If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to see that top and side doors are closed.
6. If you or a member of your family is involved in a civic group, scouting, or recreational sports program, encourage the group to "adopt" a spot in your community and maintain it on a regular basis.
7. Make litterbags for your bicycle, and give them to your friends, too.
8. If your neighborhood has a neighborhood association, organize a street and yard clean-up.



Don't forget to register at www.energizebg.com to track your workout minutes! Whether you walk, run, bike, or just play, help Bowling Green reach our goal of millions of minutes of physical activity.

www.energizebg.com

Bicycle Registry

If you are a Bowling Green resident you can register your bicycle with the City of Bowling Green. Visit www.bgky.org/police/bike_registry.php and use the form to add information about your bicycle. When a bike is recovered by Bowling Green Police, a search will be conducted in the database which may allow the police to return it to its rightful owner.

Where to find your Serial Number



Is your street light out?

If so, then you should call BGMU (Bowling Green Municipal Utilities) at **782-1200 (extension 5)** to report it. Bulbs don't get replaced unless someone calls and reports them being out. Help us keep Bowling Green lit!



Curbside Pick-Up

Oversized or Bulk Items

Households may receive up to one special pick-up of bulk or oversized items per month upon request. However, waste must be set at curbside in the following manner to meet collection standards:

Brush and limbs should be no longer than 5 feet with a maximum diameter of 6 inches. Residents may place up to three cubic yards of yard waste at the curb for collection weekly without additional charges. Loose leaves or grass clippings must be bagged and set at the curb.

Heavier items, such as furniture and similar items, should be taken to the curb or alley where the solid waste vehicle can collect the items. Be careful not to place the items under power lines or block a public sidewalk. Also, do not place items near obstructions that would prevent the truck from having access.

Tires

The City of Bowling Green does not currently have a tire pick-up program and Scott Waste will not pick up tires. Tire disposal is the responsibility of the property owner. Any tires should be taken to your tire retailer/recycler for disposal. Generally a small fee is charged. DO NOT place tires at the curb. Any tires should be stored indoors until they are installed on a vehicle or properly disposed.

For more information, contact Stan Reagan, Coordinator, Warren County Department for Environmental Planning & Assistance at (270) 843-5353.

Electronic Payment Program Enrollment Information

Would you like to receive your money faster and more efficiently?

The City of Bowling Green's Department of Finance is pleased to offer electronic ACH (Automated Clearing House) payments to our vendors, contractors, merchants and other business partners. ACH payment provides an alternative to paper checks, affording you the following advantages:

- Accelerated funds availability
- Reduce possibility of fraud
- Reduce government operation costs
- Reduce paper consumption
- Certainty of delivery (no more lost or stolen checks)

Here's how to enroll:

1. Complete and sign the ACH Enrollment Form, found at www.bgky.org under the Forms link or request the form at accounting@bgky.org.
2. Forward the completed form along with a void check or deposit slip to the Accounting Division at the address on the enrollment form, fax your completed form to (270)901-3166, or email to accounting@bgky.org.

How do I utilize the City's Supplier Portal website to look up payment information?

As payments are processed by the various City offices, payment information is updated daily on the Supplier Portal website. To create a new account go to <https://esuite.bgky.org/eSuite.Supplier>, you will need your individual or company Tax ID number (EIN or SSN) and recent payment information to validate your account. Information available on the Supplier Portal website includes:

- History of all purchase orders, invoices and payment dating back to 7/01/2007
- Detail of current outstanding purchase orders and invoices
- Individual/vendor account information on file with the City

To contact us, e-mail accounting@bgky.org or call (270)393-3000.

2009 Property Tax Bills

The 2009 Property Tax Bills were mailed out the week of October 12 and are due by December 31, 2009. Penalty and interest charges will be added to the base amount of property taxes on January 1, 2010. The post office annually returns hundreds of tax bills to the City due to incorrect addresses. While we work very hard to resend each individual bill that is returned to us, sometimes we still are unable to locate current addresses.

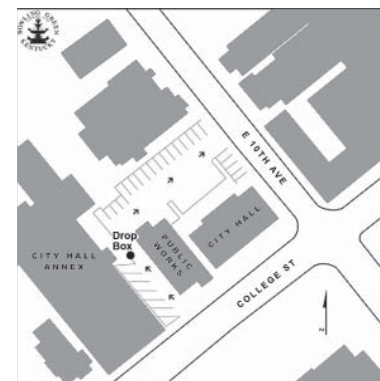
Persons who sold real estate property during the year may receive the 2009 property tax bill for that property. If they do receive the tax bill for that property, they are asked to forward it to the new property owner. However, persons who purchased real estate during the year may not receive the 2009 bill directly from the City. Those persons are asked to either contact the prior owner of the property or to contact the Treasury Division at (270) 393-3000 in order to request a copy of the 2009 tax bill.

Taxpayers who wish to pay their City tax bills in person can do so in the Finance Department, located in the City Hall Annex at 1017 College Street. We are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Payments by mail should be sent to CITY OF BOWLING GREEN, P.O. BOX 1410, BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102-1410 and postmarked no later than December 31, 2009, to avoid penalty and interest charges.

Payments can now be dropped in our drop box:

Our drop box is located in front of the City Hall Annex building at 1017 College Street. You may enter from the College Street entrance. Our drop box will be checked everyday to insure your payment will be processed as soon as possible. Payments placed in the drop box after 7:30 a.m. will be posted the next business day.

When making payments in the drop box, do not enclose any cash payment; only checks, money orders and cashiers checks will be accepted. When making payments be sure to enclose the proper invoice from which you wish to pay (tax bill, parking ticket, etc.) and include your return address on any information so that your payment may be properly credited without delay.



WINTER RALLY OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010

6:30-8:30 P.M.

BG POLICE COMMUNITY ROOM
911 KENTUCKY ST

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for chill and networking.

ON THE AGENDA

- "Ask Your Neighbor" Networking & Information Sharing
- Focus 2030 Comprehensive Plan Process— Hear from Planner Jonathan Britt about the new comprehensive plan for Bowling Green & Warren County
- Operation PRIDE— Hear from Director Ray Lackey about a new award for neighborhoods and more!



Bowling Green Coalition of Active Neighborhoods (B.G. CAN) acts as a networking organization for many neighborhood groups and individual residents who are interested in improving the quality of life in Bowling Green's neighborhoods. Its primary actions are:

- to provide a centralized forum for sharing of methods for neighborhood improvement
- to educate neighborhoods regarding city resources
- to provide a collective voice for action in addressing city wide neighborhood problems
- to act as a liaison with city government

This Rally will fulfill the training requirement for 2010 SNAP Grants!

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Pick up of Solid Waste/Yard Waste/ Oversized Bulk Items

If you are a city of Bowling Green resident then your solid waste provider is Scott Waste Services. All residential subscribers receive weekly collection. This includes collection of your solid waste container, yard waste, and oversized bulk items such as furniture, carpet, appliances, and other items.

Scott Waste will collect your trash cans or 96-gallon cart at the resident's back door or "behind the house". City residents who opt to bring their containers to the curb must return the containers immediately after collection.

Scott Waste will collect all oversized bulk items at the curb or front of your property, unless specified otherwise. Please call Scott Waste at 783-4187 to schedule the pick-up of oversized bulk items.

Yard waste, which includes grass clippings, sweepings, and prunings from trees and shrubs, must be cut to lengths not exceeding 5 feet and each limb should not be wider than 6 inches. Smaller limbs should be bundled where collection by mechanical means is not employed. In the City of Bowling Green, brush must be stacked neatly and placed curbside for pickup. Scott Waste will not pickup yard waste from a professional hired contractor. If you hire a professional tree trimmer, it will be their responsibility to haul the yard waste from your property. Please call Scott Waste at 783-4187 to schedule the pick-up of yard waste from your property.

Refrigerated appliances must have a tag showing that a certified professional has removed the Freon before collection will occur. By Kentucky law and for safety, doors also must be removed from refrigerators and freezers or otherwise secured. Please call 783-4187 to schedule the pick-up of refrigerated appliances from your property.



Kummer/Little Recreation Center

Location: 333 College Street
Phone: 393-3484

The Kummer/Little Recreation Center has 2 high school regulation basketball courts, indoor walking track, concession stand, and multi-purpose room. ID cards are required.

Kummer/Little Center Hours of Operation:

Gymnasium: Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Walking Track: Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ID Card:

There is a one time fee of \$2 for an ID card that can be used at Kummer/Little Recreation Center and/or F.O. Moxley Community Center.

The facility will be hosting camps during the months of June and July and will not be opened to the public.

Must be 13 years of age to attend the Center unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian during free-play hours.

All hours are subject to change without notice.

**IF HE POOPS IT,
YOU GOTTA SCOOP IT!**

Picking up what your pet drops is not just good housekeeping - it's **required by law!**

Failure to pick up your pet's waste from public walks, streets, cemeteries, parks, recreation areas or private property belonging to another is prohibited by BG Ordinance 5-1.10 and could lead to citations and fines as follows:

- 1st Offense: \$25
- 2nd Offense: \$50
- 3rd Offense: \$100

Do your part and let's keep Bowling Green **clean!**

Scheduling Downtown Parks for Events

Fountain Square and Riverwalk Park are ideal for scheduling your private wedding, while Circus Square is the place to host a community event. If you are interested in using one of these parks for your event, then please contact the Downtown Redevelopment Authority at 782-0222 for further details.

Subscribe to City E-News

How would you like to get news about the City before it is printed in the newspaper? Want to know when the Fire Department is taking applications? Or when Parks & Recreation will be forming softball leagues again? Subscribe to City e-News and you will automatically be notified when news goes out on subjects you select.

Subscribing is easy. Go to the City's website at www.bgky.org, and on the right hand column, click on Sign up for News Updates. Enter your name and email address, and check the various topics for which you wish to receive e-News releases. Click on "Submit" and you are done! Whenever City departments send out information on related topics, you will receive them at your email address. You can amend or drop your subscription at any time by visiting the same webpage.

The "Keep It Clean Bowling Green" litter campaign and Stanley the Trash Can want to visit your classroom. With the help of Stanley's friends from the City of Bowling Green a new, revised program can be presented to your classroom to educate children on where litter comes from, who litters, ways to prevent litter, and how they can help keep Bowling Green clean.

Stanley the Trash Can

Check out Stanley's website at www.bgky.org/kids

If you are interested in Stanley visiting you or would like more information on what the educational program "Keep It Clean Bowling Green" has to offer, call Laura Harris at 393.3137 or email laura.harris@bgky.org.