



NEWPORT
KENTUCKY

There is so much happening in...

Newport Now!

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Autumn 2017



City Manager Shares Good News

CITY ADMINISTRATION

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Commissioner

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City Manager

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Doug Roell
Community Services Dir.

Gregory Tulley
Development Services Dir.

Lenny Kuntz
Finance Director

Amy Beth Able
City Clerk

The due date for City property taxes has been delayed this year; taxes must be paid by November 30 to avoid penalty and interest charges. The tax rate for real property in Newport has been set at \$2.87 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This rate reflects a slight increase over last year when the rate was \$2.81 per \$1,000. This means for residents with a \$100,000 home, the city tax will be \$287, or \$6 more this year than last year. The average property in Newport is valued at \$80,000—those property owners will see an increase of \$4.80 this year or just 48 cents per month toward taxes in escrow. Those who are over age 65 or have a permanent disability may qualify for the Homestead Exemption for their primary residence. That exemption amount increased this year from \$36,900 to \$37,600 meaning those who qualify will only have a very slight increase in property tax (58 cents more this year for an \$80,000 home with the exemption.) This modest increase for homeowners is essential to the City's operating budget — it will generate 4% more revenue than last year's rate to help offset increasing costs. Only about 13% of Newport's revenue is derived from property tax, the great majority of revenue comes from business licensing and payroll tax. Looking back at historic data, in the late 1980's, Newport's property tax was over \$6 per \$1,000. and as recently as 1999 it hovered over \$3. A false impression seems to persist that property taxes are high in Newport. In fact, Newport's taxes are very reasonable and among the lowest in the county. Residents in the City do not pay any additional special taxes for a fire district and the City does not impose a motor vehicle tax.



Look through this newsletter for exciting updates and coming events. I think you'll agree, there are a lot of great things happening in Newport Now!

-Thomas J. Fromme, City Manager

The Monmouth Street Streetscape— Painting and Lighting Improvements

Lighting along Monmouth has been replaced with energy efficient LED fixtures as part of the Monmouth Streetscape Improvement Project. Light poles, benches and trash receptacles are also being painted as part of the \$300,000 project funded by program income dollars from a Community Development Block Grant loan that is being repaid to the City. The City was pleased to award the painting bid to a local vendor, Newport's own Baynum Painting, while the lighting improvements have been in the capable hands of Atkins and Stang, Inc. Future improvements will include work to existing areas with pavers that may need repair or replacement.

You may have noticed additional work recently in other parts of the City. A new pedestrian walkway is being installed on Dave Cowens Drive from Comfort Suites to the Port of Entry making the area safer and more enjoyable for all. Funding for this work came from a State grant.

Following approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, the City has made the necessary repairs to a minor slide on the floodwall near B&B Riverboats. The work is slated for completion in October.

Property Task Force

In August a new program was implemented to address various property related issues throughout the City. These issues run the gamut from neglected or vacant properties to delinquent taxes. The goals are to identify dilapidated and vacant properties, identify rental properties without a valid license, identify properties that generate multiple calls for the police, identify and collect delinquent property and occupational taxes, and to work with property owners to develop voluntary compliance of code requirements. Once property issues have been identified, we will contact the property owner and begin work on an appropriate resolution. We are developing internal procedures and collecting data to help accomplish these goals. We believe that this program will produce effective and visible results. Problem properties have a very negative impact on a neighborhood and the City as a whole. Typically, they are undervalued and poorly maintained. Many have a high incidence of police calls or other City services. Responsible property owners are basically subsidizing these types of properties. If we are successful, our neighborhoods will enjoy a tremendous improvement in quality of housing and a reduced burden on tight City resources. As always, if you have any comments, feel free to call the city manager's office at 859-292-3687.

Newport History Museum Opening

The City will be opening the Newport History Museum at The Southgate Street School at 215 E. Southgate Street on Wednesday, Nov. 8. at 6 p.m. Scott Clark, Historic Preservation Officer, will serve as the Executive Director.

Street Improvements

As this newsletter goes to press the pier work on Grandview is wrapping up. The re-paving of several streets is also slated for completion in October. In advance of the paving work the city's Public Works crews repaired curbs on a number of streets. Each year the street repair schedule is reviewed and re-prioritized based on severity of problems, pending work on underground utilities, and grouping streets to obtain favorable pricing. The streets that have been re-paved this season included: Columbia Street from 4th to 8th; 9th Street from Columbia to Lowell; 500 Block of Linden Avenue; McHenry Street; Clifton Avenue; High Rise Drive (access road to Grand Towers); 500 Block of Thornton Street; 500 Block of Hodge Street; 500 Block of Lindsey Street; and Dayton Street from 7th to 9th. We review suggestions from residents for consideration and placement on the paving schedule.

Litterfest Comes to You

Newport's Litterfest has changed. In the past, two events were offered each year for dropping off things like large items, scrap, or yard waste. Under the new trash contract, you no longer have to take these items for a special drop off. There will be two events each year when residents can simply place these items at the curb for collection. Watch for the date to be announced in a notice delivered to you from Rumpke. We'll also share the date on the City's Facebook page and website. Please remember any time you place a mattress or an upholstered item out it must be wrapped in plastic and appliances must have a sticker certifying any Freon was removed.

Leaf Collection

Each autumn as the regular street sweeping season winds down, leaf collection begins. The timing of leaf collection depends on when the majority of leaves fall. Public Works crews will collect leaves on streets north of 12th Street on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and on streets south of 12th Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We ask that you rake your leaves to the right-of-way area between the sidewalk and the street. Putting the leaves *in* the street creates a problem if they blow or are washed into the storm sewers and cause clogs. As always we ask that you please move parked cars on posted street sweeping or leaf collection days as this allows the best results. If you prefer to bag your leaves, you may put them out on your regular trash day, however, bagged leaves will not be composted. Thank you for your cooperation.

Code Enforcement Updates

As we enter the cold weather months thought turns to animals that are kept or fed outdoors. Code Enforcement periodically receives reports throughout the City of residents feeding feral cats outside. This can contribute to an increase of the population of these cats causing a range of issues. Cat overpopulation can contribute to many problems, including unsanitary conditions, the spread of illness or disease among cats and other animals, and the increase of euthanasia. Some residents may not know that it is against City ordinance to harbor cats outside or to allow them to run at large.

Please help keep our pets safe by spaying or neutering, providing routine vet care, and keeping your pets indoors or supervised on a leash. If you have any questions please contact Animal Control at 859-292-3637.



City Taxes Due

City tax bills were mailed out in mid-October. These bills include the property taxes levied by the City and by the Newport Board of Education. This year the bills are payable on or before November 30 and are considered delinquent if they are postmarked after that date. For your convenience, the City will extend the hours of the Finance Department (on the second floor at 998 Monmouth) for the collection of tax payments during the last days of November. **Regular hours are Mon.—Fri. 8—4:30. The Finance Department will be open until 6 p.m. on 11/27 and 11/28 and until 7 p.m. on 11/29 and 11/30.** Please remember that we do not currently accept credit or debit cards or online payments. Personal checks may require a government issued picture ID for verification purposes.



Payments may be made by mail but must be postmarked by November 30th. If the bills are paid after November 30, there is a penalty of 10%, which is imposed immediately and interest will be added at one half of a percent per month. These fees must be assessed even if you don't receive the tax bill. If you have an escrow account to pay your taxes but you receive the bill, it is your responsibility to forward it to your mortgage company. The City makes every attempt to assure that tax bills are delivered to the property owners in a timely manner. Each year, however, there are a few bills that are returned as undeliverable or that go to the wrong place due to property transfers during the year or mortgage company changes. In order to avoid the potential of being charged late fees, if you or your mortgage company do not receive a tax bill by October 30th please call the City Finance Department at 859.292.3660 to receive a copy.

Trick-or-Treat Time

Trick-or-Treat hours will be from 6 - 8 p.m. in Newport on Halloween, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Remember to discuss trick-or-treating safety with your children. The Newport Police Department reminds you and your children of these safety rules.

- ◇ Children should be accompanied by an adult
- ◇ Trick or Treat with a group
- ◇ Be cautious of strangers & do not approach unknown vehicles
- ◇ Do not eat candy until an adult has checked it at home
- ◇ Do not go into houses
- ◇ Walk, do not run
- ◇ Stay on the sidewalks, in well-lit areas, and in the crosswalks
- ◇ Cross the street at the corners and within the crosswalk
- ◇ Carry a flashlight
- ◇ When picking out a costume make sure it fits to avoid falling

We hope everyone has a Spooktacular and Safe Halloween!



Veterans Day

There will be a ceremony on Saturday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at the City Building at 998 Monmouth Street. Please join us in showing your respect and appreciation. The City offices will be closed Friday, November 10 in observance of the holiday but our emergency personnel are always on duty.

Did You Know?... Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day, in May, is when we remember and honor military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty. (Source/Learn more at: www.va.gov.)

New Engine In Service

A "Push In" ceremony was held September 26 for the new 2017 Pierce Fire Engine specially designed for the firehouse at 171 Main Street. The engine was purchased with a \$500,000 FEMA grant, the City's portion was \$23,809. The new state-of-the-art engine pumps 1,500 gallons per minute, holds 500 gallons of water, and will provide advanced life support emergency services to residents. It replaces a 1989 unit.



Keep Up!

"Like" the City of Newport, KY on Facebook, sign up for email news at <http://eepurl.com/cgqFW9>, or visit our website www.newportky.gov.





City of Newport
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 www.newportky.gov

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Clip & Save List of Helpful Numbers

Emergency Dispatch	911
Non-emergency Dispatch	292-3622
Police Administration	292-3634
Fire Administration	292-3612
City Building	292-3666
Property Tax/City Licenses	292-3660
Building Permits/Code Enforcement	292-3637
Recreation/ Park/ Fields	292-3686
Campbell Co. Library	572-5035
Child Support Enforcement	431-0522
Circuit Court	292-6314
County Jail	431-4611
District Court	292-6305
Driver's Licenses	292-6311
Duke Energy	513-421-9500
Family Support/Food Stamps	1-855-306-8959
Health Department	431-1704
Marriage Licenses	292-3885
Rumpke (Trash & Recycling)	472-7339
Sanitation District 1	578-7450
Northern KY Water District	578-9898
Vehicle Registration	292-3850
Voter Registration	292-3885

Newport Now

Autumn 2017

Mark your calendar now and visit our website www.newportky.gov for all the latest news. You can sign up for email updates at <http://eepurl.com/cgqFW9> and look for the City of Newport, KY on Facebook!

October is Fire Prevention Month

Tues., Oct. 31 - Trick-or-Treat 6 - 8 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 8 - Opening of the Newport History Museum @ the Southgate Street School 6 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Service 11 a.m.

Thurs., Nov. 30 - City Property Taxes Due

Sat., Dec. 2 - Christmas Tree Lighting at 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 2 & Sun. Dec. 3 - East Row Tour & Tea

Sun., Dec. 3 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance at Noon at James Taylor Park