

2009 CITY OFFICIALS ACADEMY



KLC Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

Vol. 11, Issue 2 February 2009

LAW ABIDING >>>>>

Revenue Options: 2009 Update

QUESTION: In order to continue providing our citizens with quality services such as police and fire, we need to find a way to collect on the mounting delinquent tax bills. What are the options for collection?

ANSWER: There are several options that can be used either together or separately.

The first option is publication of a list of the delinquent taxpayer names. KRS 424.130, which was recently amended, dictates the process for this procedure. One week in advance of actually listing the names, the city must advertise a half-page notice stating that the names of all delinquent taxpayers will be published in the newspaper. The following week, a list of names of those who have not paid the delinquent tax bills are placed in the newspaper as well as listed on the city internet website. These as well as other requirements named in KRS 424.130 are strict requirements and cannot be varied. Also important to note is that the statute allows the city to add \$5.00 per name to help defer the costs associated with the publication requirements.

The next option is a little more complicated. KRS 134.420 allows a city to place a lien on the assessed property for the amount of taxes due to the city going back as far as 10 years. The lien includes all interest, penalties, fees, commissions, charges, costs, reasonable attorney's fees and other expenses incurred by reason of the delinquency in payment of the tax bill or in the

process of collecting it. The lien has priority over all other liabilities of the property. This process definitely requires the assistance of your city attorney, and the notice of lien as well as the lien itself must be recorded with the county clerk before it becomes effective.

Once a lien has been filed, the city can enforce the lien pursuant to KRS 91A.070. Any city of the second through the sixth class may utilize the tax foreclosure method authorized for cities of the first class found in KRS 91.481-91.527. The statute is known as the "Mass Foreclosure Act." It is a streamlined method whereby a city may enforce tax liens by bringing suit against a number of parcels of real estate in one petition; or the city may by interlocal agreement with the state and local school districts create a land bank authority to release the lien on the property. This allows the property to be sold, and possibly improved, so that it can be actively placed back on the tax roles. The city receives its prorated portion of back taxes from the sale of the property.

Another option which will also require the assistance of the city attorney is the process of selling delinquent tax bills. Although not provided for statutorily, home rule authority as well as historic case law suggests cities may enjoy the ability to sell delinquent tax bills to satisfy unpaid taxes.

As all cities have differing needs and abilities, city officials should consult with their city attorney before beginning any of these processes.

KRS Board of Trustees Election Ballots Due March 1

Employees participating in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS) should have received a letter in January including a ballot for the KRS Board of Trustees. The deadline to vote is March 1.

As you consider your choice of two individuals, we hope that you will choose trustees who can represent the best interest of cities and city employees on the KRS Board.

Vince Lang (left), executive director of the Kentucky County Judge Executives Association, currently serves on the board and is the only individual who specifically represents local government. His ongoing voice

and support are important to our communities.

Another candidate is **Brian Roy** (right), a manager with the Kentucky Association of Counties. As a former law enforcement officer, Roy has collaborated with KLC on a number of loss control and risk management programs including our police model polices and procedures initiative. He, like Lang, can bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding on local issues to the KRS Board.

As you are making your decision for the KRS Board of Trustees, we encourage you to consider these two friends of local government.



DOES YOUR CITY PROMOTE WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY?

Be Recognized Nationally by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation WHEN WORK WORKS Awards



For more information go to www.iwin.uky.edu

Kentucky cities and businesses have the opportunity to showcase their adaptable work practices through the Sloan Foundation's When Work Works (WWW) awards initiative. Cities that demonstrate an effort to be inclusive and flexible in their work practices and work culture are eligible to enter the WWW Awards.

WWW is a national community-based initiative that highlights the importance of workplace flexibility as a critical business strategy.

Kentucky is one of three states selected by Sloan to participate on a statewide level. Kentucky entries will be funneled through the Institute for Workplace Innovation (iwin) program which will be working with Greater Louisville, Inc. The iwin is affiliated with the University of Kentucky.

The state of Kentucky participates in the program and has gotten recent national attention for its modified work schedules. "Better workplace practices will help Kentucky

(continued. page 4)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR >>>>>

Inaugurating Our Future

I was there and it was incredible: Over two million people in Washington, D.C. to see the historic inauguration of Barack Obama. Not only is he the first African-American elected president, a possibility only dreamed of until now, he is also a person of unusual charisma and



KLC Executive Director/CEO Sylvia Lovely in a D.C. Starbucks with two other "Sylvias" she met at the inauguration.

inspiration. As a member of the National League of Cities Board of Directors, I was privileged to be "inside" for the event at the NLC headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue. Seeing the swearing in ceremony on big screen TV in comfort and seeing the parade from their balcony were excitement enough for me.

As I returned home my immediate thought was how good it felt to be out of the crowds and back to work. That didn't take long. My first assignment took me to West Liberty, Ky., for a civic gathering. A group of committed citizens had asked for KLC and NewCities Institute to come and assist them in building an agenda for success in the 21st century.

In contrast to Washington, D.C., West Liberty is the picture of quiet and serenity with its beautiful landscape and rolling hills. I found it soothing as I drove the Mountain Parkway on an unusually warm January evening. But the most special part of the visit was taking my 88-year-old father to what is his hometown. I dropped him off at the Morehead State University West Liberty

Campus building, and with cane in hand, eyesight and hearing failing, he hobbled in to wait while I parked the car. Prior to the meeting, he and I toured the town – reminiscing of coming there on summer vacations; seeing my grandmother's old house.

Like so many, in the early '50s my father left eastern Kentucky for work in the North at National Cash Register in Dayton, Ohio. Back then you could still get a good middle class job with an eighth grade education. By the time he was laid off at age 55 the world had changed again, and he and my mother applied for and got the job of a lifetime – playing "nanny" to my two young boys.

That night I addressed the group of about 70 committed leaders. They looked as though they were ready. I told the story of my father and how he serves constantly as my inspiration; how you don't have to write a speech when you have a living, breathing example of how high the stakes are. I suggested that each of them picture someone or something that would give them hope for the future. Don't take no for an answer I admonished. People will tell you that West Liberty is too small; that West Liberty isn't on an interstate but you must persevere. I hoped I was right and that they would answer the call. I believe they will.

Later, as we traveled back amidst the dark hills into Central Kentucky, as my father dozed in the seat beside me, I reflected on my roller coaster ride over the previous few days from the hyper atmosphere of a mega city reeling from a mega event to a small town struggling to find a threshold. I had much to reflect upon. As we enter into the Obama era, many things have changed. He has brought in young people by the

droves (I witnessed that in the hotels and on the streets – all had lap tops and cell phones and pods in their ears). He is an "urban" guy which is good because that means that he knows cities and presumably loves them as we do.



KLC Executive Assistant, Freda Meriwether and her daughter, Jena, were also among those at the inauguration. Freda, pictured here close to the reflecting pool at the National Mall, watched the inauguration from close to the Washington Monument.

We, as city leaders, must make an earnest effort to reach out to Obama and his administration – which we at KLC plan to do. But questions remain. Will Obama reach out to "red" states like Kentucky as FDR did to those who didn't vote for him during another similar era? Will Obama's urban policy extend to small and mid sized cities?

Some experts say that 120 million people will come into the United States by the year 2050 and others predict that 75 percent of Americans will reside in just eight super cities or super regions. We are not one of those "supers" – Charlotte/Atlanta is the nearest.

But we are poised to be super in our own rite. We're crisscrossed by interstates, have beauty, culture and nurturing places that people want to be. It's up to us to harness our uniqueness and build our place for the future. And, if we look for it, we, like those in Washington, D.C., can see hope and inspiration all around us.



▶ [ACCOLADES]

JOHN MCGILL AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Lexington Herald-Leader columnist **Tom Eblen**, winner of the 2008 Kentucky Press Association John McGill Award, given by the Kentucky League of Cities and the NewCities Institute.



Here is part of his entry:

"I moved back to Kentucky in 1998, after 18 years with the Journal-Constitution and Associated Press, because I wanted to do journalism that matters in the place that matters most to me. Kentucky is a special state. Kentuckians are wonderful people. But I'm frustrated by our divisive politics, our disregard for the environment and our narrow-minded, can't-do attitudes. We can do better. Since April, my column has focused on new ideas and new ways of doing business that will make Kentucky a better state in the 21st century. This includes more civic engagement, creative problem-solving and new approaches to economic development.

Tom Eblen, Columnist, Lexington Herald-Leader

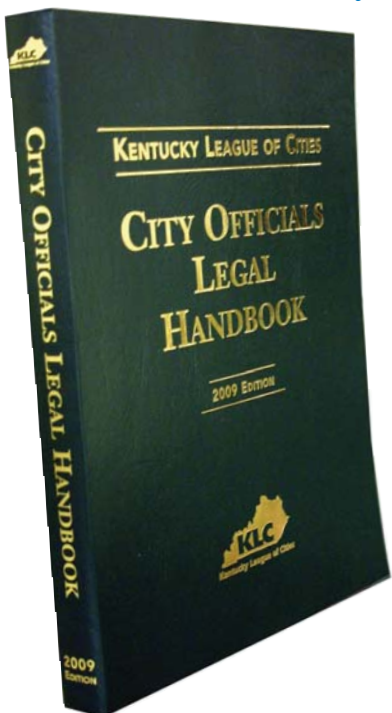
In our opinion, this stance reflects our very own sense of community building. Being civically responsible as an individual, on behalf of your community, as you report the facts, assisting in educating citizens on public issues.

(photo by Mark Cornelison)

“ *And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.* **”**
- Abraham Lincoln

GET YOUR COPY! >>>>>

NEW! 2009 City Officials Legal Handbook



This popular guide provides information on the legal issues that matter most to city officials. The handbook is designed for non-attorneys and covers the basics of annexation, incompatible offices, personnel matters, ethics, ordinances, open meeting and open records, public purpose spending, budgeting, auditing, planning and zoning and more.

- ♦ Cost for Members: \$40
- ♦ Cost for Cornerstone Partners: \$40
- ♦ Cost for Non-Members: \$80

The newly released 2009 edition includes more than 100 pages of updates on legislation, case law and attorney general opinions and

new sections on tax increment financing (TIF), vacancies in city offices, police and fire training requirements, organization of city governments, municipal elections and local alcohol beverage control.

Each chapter is written in a narrative form and covers the essential areas of local government law. While this publication is not intended to be a substitute for the advice of an experienced city attorney, it will help you understand the background of a legal problem.

Contact Raymie Scrivner at rscrivner@klc.org or 1-800-876-4552 with questions or to order your copy of the 2009 City Officials Legal Handbook.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

In an effort to better assist our member cities in dealing with increasingly complex and potentially expensive environmental issues KLC has retained **Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald** as environmental counsel. Greenebaum, with offices in Louisville, Lexington and Frankfort, has a team of attorneys monitoring environmental regulatory developments in the areas of water, wastewater, solid waste and air quality. The firm will also represent KLC and its member cities at agency and public meetings.

In addition, KLC has designated its Policy Development Director Joe Ewalt as environmental assistance coordinator. If you become aware of environmental issues you think the League should know about or if you have questions about such issues please contact Joe at jewalt@klc.org or 1-800-876-4552.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP CHANGES FOR 2009 >>>>>

Representative Greg Stumbo Elected House Speaker



The 2009 General Assembly started off with major changes in House leadership. Rep. Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg) unseated Kentucky's longest serving Speaker of the House, Rep. Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green).

Three other house leadership positions changed hands. Rep. Bob Damron (D-Nicholasville) replaces Rep. Charlie Hoffman (D-Georgetown) as Majority Caucus Chair. Rep. John Will Stacy (D-West Liberty) won the Majority Whip position that became open after Rep. Rob Wilkey of Scottsville did not seek re-election in November. Rep. David Floyd (R-Bardstow) unseated Rep. Stan Lee (R-Lexington) as Minority Whip. Other House election results include:

- ♦ Rep. Larry Clark (D-Louisville), Speaker Pro Tempore;
- ♦ Rep. Rocky Adkins (D-Sandy Hook), Majority Floor Leader;
- ♦ Rep. Jeff Hoover (R-

Jamestown), Minority Floor Leader; and

- ♦ Rep. Bob DeWeese (R-Louisville), Minority Caucus Chair.

Sen. Jerry Rhoads (D-Madisonville) was elected Minority Whip in an uncontested race. This was the only change in Senate leadership from the 2008 session. Other Senate election results include:

- ♦ Sen. David L. Williams (R-Burkesville), Senate President;
- ♦ Sen. Katie Stine (R-Southgate), Senate President Pro Tempore;
- ♦ Sen. Dan Kelly (R-Springfield), Majority Floor Leader;
- ♦ Sen. Dan Seum (R-Louisville), Majority Caucus Chair;
- ♦ Sen. Carroll Gibson (R-Leitchfield), Majority Whip;
- ♦ Sen. Ed Worley (D-Richmond), Minority Floor Leader; and

- ♦ Sen. Johnny Ray Turner (D-Drift), Minority Caucus Chair.

Several committee changes are of interest to local governments. Most notably, Rep. Rick Rand (D-Bedford) will replace Rep. Harry Moberly (D-Richmond) as Chairman of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee. Other new chairmanship appointments include:

- ♦ Rep. John Tilley (D-Hopkinsville), Judiciary Committee;
- ♦ Rep. Carl Rollins (D-Midway), Education Committee;
- ♦ Rep. Rick Nelson (D-Middlesboro), Labor and Industry Committee;
- ♦ Rep. Jeff Greer (D-Brandenburg), Banking and Insurance Committee; and
- ♦ Rep. Dennis Keene (D-Wilder), Licensing and Occupations Committee.

Rep. Steve Riggs (D-Jeffersontown) will remain Chairman of the House Committee on Local Government and Rep. Mike Cherry (D-Princeton) will continue as Chairman of the House Committee on State Government.

The Senate had minimal committee leadership changes. Sen. Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown) will remain as Chairman of the Senate Committee on State and Local Government.

NEW MEMBER SERVICE >>>>>

Legislative Bill Tracker

To keep you updated on the latest bills in Frankfort, check out www.klc.org to see what legislation we're tracking in real-time. This is an easy way to see what bills we monitor, support or oppose and where the bills are in the legislative process.

KLC will continue to send the *Legislative Bulletin* on Fridays, which offers a recap of legislative happenings from the previous week, and legislative alerts periodically for urgent issues that require your immediate attention.

If you would like to sign up for legislative bulletins and alerts, please contact Tresa Short at tsbort@klc.org or 1-800-876-4552.

COMING TO YOUR CITY >>>>>

Host City and Customized Training Programs

The **Host City** program gives you flexibility to select the topic, location and time of training while inviting others from the region. KLC provides the expert speakers and handles registration. **Customized Training** can be developed to meet your city's specific training needs.

Now one of KLC's most popular offerings, the Host City option gives you the type of education your employees need and allows you to share the

opportunity with surrounding communities, local businesses or even citizens.

Registration fees are discounted for Host City employees and officials. An additional discount goes to host cities which are members of KLCIS property or liability insurance.

Host City Responsibilities:

- ♦ Meeting space, equipment and set up
- ♦ Light refreshments (coffee,

soft drinks and doughnuts for morning meetings, soft drinks only all other times)

- ♦ Regional promotion to cities - letters and phone calls to surrounding cities
- ♦ City liaison to help KLC with logistics

For more information on the Host City program, Customized Training and other educational opportunities, contact Rebecca Brickey at rbrickey@klc.org or 1-800-876-4552.

[WHO'S WHO]

Who's Who in the 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SENATE LEADERSHIP



Sen. David L. Williams (R-Burkesville)
Senate President



Sen. Katie Stine (R-Southgate)
Senate President Pro Tempore



Sen. Dan Kelly (R-Springfield)
Majority Floor Leader



Sen. Dan Seum (R-Louisville)
Majority Caucus Chair



Sen. Carroll Gibson (R-Leitchfield)
Majority Whip



Sen. Ed Worley (D-Richmond)
Minority Floor Leader



Sen. Johnny Ray Turner (D-Drift)
Minority Caucus Chair



Sen. Jerry Rhoads (D-Madisonville)
Minority Whip



Sen. Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown)
Chair, Senate Committee on State and Local Government

“ We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull some are bright, some have weird names and all are different colors. But they all have to learn to live in the same box. ”

- Unknown

Who's Who in the 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HOUSE LEADERSHIP



Rep. Greg Stumbo
(D-Prestonsburg)
House Speaker



Rep. Larry Clark
(D-Louisville)
Speaker Pro Tempore



Rep. Rocky Adkins
(D-Sandy Hook)
Majority Floor Leader



Rep. Bob Damron
(D-Nicholasville)
Majority Caucus Chair



Rep. John Will Stacy
(D-West Liberty)
Majority Whip



Rep. Jeff Hoover
(R-Jamestown)
Minority Floor Leader



Rep. Bob DeWeese
(R-Louisville)
Minority Caucus Chair



Rep. David Floyd
(R-Bardstown)
Minority Whip



Rep. Steve Riggs
(D-Jeffersontown)
Chair, House Committee
on Local Government

CITY NEWS >>>>>

Awards and Recognitions Around the State

▶▶▶ Prospect Mayor Eberle Recognized for Service

At its January 12 city council meeting the **City of Prospect** awarded its 2009 Beach Craigmyle Annual Public Service Award to **Mayor Todd Eberle**. The award recognizes outstanding public service commitments to the City of Prospect. Congratulations to Mayor Eberle.

▶▶▶ Beaver Dam is Community of the Year



Congratulations to the City of Beaver Dam which was the inaugural recipient of the Green River Area Development District (ADD) "Community of the Year" award. Officials from Beaver Dam accepted the award at the 2008 GRADD annual dinner late last year. Pictured above from l-r: Beaver Dam City Commissioner Ben Bard; Beaver Dam City Commissioner Charles Patton; Retired U.S. Senator Wendell H. Ford; Beaver Dam Mayor Mary Pate; Ohio County Judge/Executive David Jones; and Beaver Dam City Commissioner Denice Nelson.

▶▶▶ Southern Living Magazine Honors Three Kentucky Sites in its Annual Readers' Choice Awards

The *Southern Living* reader survey, which picked the 10 top venues in each of 15 categories named the community of Grand Rivers, Ky., number eight in the Best Small Town category. The vista of Kentucky Lake from the Grand Rivers Jetty won the number four spot in the list of Best Scenic Views in the South

and Louisville restaurant, Lynn's Paradise Café, placed number 10 in the Best Breakfast or Brunch Restaurant list.

The magazine conducts the annual reader survey to highlight the most appealing venues in the southern U.S. from Texas to Delaware. Among the other categories included in the coveted survey are Best Festival or Fair, Best Hotel and Best Neighborhood for Shopping.

To view the entire survey results and get information on

how your city's attractions could be featured, log on to <http://www.southernliving.com/travel/2009-readers-choice-awards-0040000036477/>.

▶▶▶ Louisville Zoo Recycling Program Helps its Star Gorillas

The Louisville Zoo is internationally known for its gorilla habitat. Now the city-owned zoo leads the nation in cell phone recycling efforts. What's the connection?

When people donate their old cell phones and PDA's the zoos gets a donation from ECO-CELL, a phone recycling company.

"This is a great mark of distinction," Louisville Zoo Director John Walczak said. "More than 100 zoos in North America participate in ECO-CELL's recycling program and to be No. 1 speaks to the Louisville Zoo's leadership in areas of conservation and preservation, which are at the heart of our mission. It is also evidence of our community's growing support for conservation efforts."

In 2008 ECO-CELL diverted 4,000 pounds of toxic cell phone batteries, 35,000 cell phones and 6,000 pounds of cell phone accessories from landfills. The Louisville Zoo helped in that effort by collecting more than 4,400 old cell phones from visitors and businesses in 2008. The company gives the zoo anywhere from 45 cents to \$15 per phone donated, depending on the type. Since 2003 ECO-CELL has given the Louisville Zoo more than \$15,000 which helps support the zoo's conservation programs.

In addition, the recycling program also helps save the world's precious gorillas.

Cell phones contain a metallic ore called Coltan, a mineral that is refined into a heat-resistant powder that holds an electrical charge. Coltan is found in the Congo of central Africa, home to endangered lowland gorillas. Forest habitats are being cleared and gorillas, along with other rare animals, are being killed. By reducing the demand for Coltan, gorillas and their habitats have a better chance for survival.

You can bring old cell phones to the Louisville Zoo and help in the effort. Make sure your service is disconnected and your phone is cleared of all its data, then drop it off at the designated cell phone donation box at the zoo's entrance. Organizations and groups are also encouraged to collect old cell phones and bring them to the zoo. Pick-ups can be arranged for large donations, and/or a free Louisville Zoo donation box can even be requested through ECO-CELL and placed at your business for collections.

For more information call ECO-CELL at 888-326-3357 or check out www.eco-cell.com.



>>>>> CONTINUED FROM COVER

Does Your City Promote Workplace Flexibility?

become not only an employer of choice but also a state of choice," said Governor Steve Beshear.

All cities that choose to enter the When Work Works awards will receive an evaluation of the city's strengths and challenges. Winning businesses will be featured in a full-page ad in *USA Today* and will be profiled in other media including electronic and print.

Winners can use the recognition to their own advantage. "Cities

that embrace workplace flexibility have an advantage in recruiting and retaining top talent," said Martha Cosby, KLC human resources director, who serves on the iwin planning committee representing KLC.

"I hope cities will take this opportunity to show our constituents, business partners and other communities around the nation how Kentucky cities continuously change to meet the needs of employees, citizens and

budget constraints," she said.

It takes about 20 minutes to complete the online application and there is no entry cost. To apply go to www.iwin.uky.edu.

AWARDS TIMELINE:
Jan. 7 - Apr. 6 - Application
April 6 - Application deadline
May 4 - Finalists announced
July 6 - Winners notified

WANTED
Photos & Story Ideas
 At KLC we are retooling our print and online publications and website. We are soliciting articles and story ideas about exciting projects, programs, initiatives or recognitions in your community. We also need your photos for our website and publications. Please send us your suggestions and photos to Terri Johnson at tjohnson@klc.org or call 859.977.3784 or 1.800.876.4552.

ASSISTANCE FOR CITIZENS >>>>>

Help Your Low Income Citizens Get Funds for Home Energy Assistance

Kentuckians facing heating crisis may apply for funds through March 31.

Kentuckians reeling from near-record low temperatures should be reminded that assistance is available to families who need help paying their heating bills.



The state's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a short-term aid program that is now in its "crisis" phase. Assistance during this component helps families facing home heating emergencies.

Community Action Kentucky (CAK) administers LIHEAP benefits through its network of

23 community action agencies (CAAs) under a contract with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). Every county has at least one CAA office.

The crisis component runs through March 31 or until funds are depleted.

In the crisis assistance phase, maximum benefits vary depending on families' fuel source. Thus far, more than 49,500 applications have been approved for crisis assistance.

Assistance may take the form of utility payment, service reconnection, blankets, space heaters on loan or deliveries of fuel like firewood, coal or propane. Relief is provided within 48 hours or 18 hours in an emergency.

CAAs are accepting applications for LIHEAP assistance. Log on to <http://kaca.org/> for a listing of local offices.

Eligible clients must be within four days of exhausting fuel or have received a disconnect/past due notice from their utility

company. Applicants should bring the following items:

- ♦ Most recent heating bill or verification that heating expenses are included in the rent;
- ♦ Social Security number or Permanent Residence Card number for each member of the household; and
- ♦ Proof of all household income from the preceding month.

Applicants whose rent includes heat must bring an eviction notice from the landlord.

Kentucky received more than \$68 million in federal funds this fiscal year, more than double the anticipated \$30 million Kentucky was to receive.

Many families avoided a heating crisis by seeking help during the LIHEAP "subsidy" phase at the end of 2008. During the two-month subsidy period, 119,326 applications were approved.

Learn more about LIHEAP online at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dchs/dfs/LIHEAP.htm>.

SHOW ME THE MONEY >>>>>

Take Advantage of Grants

▶▶▶ Housing and Community Improvements

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation provides grants in communities where they have stores for initiatives in public education, community improvement projects and home safety initiatives.

Information:
www.lowes.com/loweslkn?action



[=framSet&url=apps.bridgetree.com/funding/default.asp](http://www.bridgetree.com/funding/default.asp)

Deadline: Open

▶▶▶ Skateboard Parks

Funds for Skateboard Parks in Low-Income Communities

The Tony Hawk Foundation provides grants to facilitate the design, development, construction and operation of new, quality skateboard parks in low income neighborhoods and communities.

Information:
tonyhawkfoundation.org/grantapplication.asp

Deadline: March 2, 2009



▶▶▶ Gardens

National Garden Association grants are available for schools and community organizations with child-center gardening programs. Community centers, parks and recreation camps and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible.

Information:
<http://assoc.garden.org/grants>

Deadline: Open

▶ [TOP TIPS IN ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CITY]

1 STAY INFORMED. KLC emails members a weekly *Legislative Bulletin* to keep you updated on bills that affect cities and to request action from city officials. Please promptly read the bulletin and communicate with other officials and employees who may need to be informed about legislative actions.

2 SPEAK UP. Legislators want to hear from local government officials so they will know how their decisions will impact cities in their districts. Meet face-to-face at home or in Frankfort, send letters, emails or make a phone call to ensure that your city's voice is heard.

Watch the *Legislative Bulletin* for calls to action on important legislative issues. The importance of contacting a legislator promptly cannot be overemphasized. The most articulate letter or phone call does no good if it arrives after a vote.

3 SAY THANKS. Remember to thank legislators regularly and publicly for work that makes a positive impact on your city. Effective ways to say thank you include recognition at a city council meeting, presentation of certificate of thanks or a letter to the editor of your local newspaper praising your legislators' response to a local need.

4 KEEP KLC STAFF INFORMED. If you send a letter or make a phone call about a legislative issue, please let us know! KLC staff cite your letters when they talk with legislators and use your local circumstances when testifying before committees.

5 REACH OUT TO LOCAL MEDIA. Consider sending letters to the editor or opinion pieces (op-eds) on the local impact of legislation under consideration. Contact KLC if you need assistance drafting these materials.

Stay connected by signing up for the weekly *Legislative Bulletin!* Contact Tresa Short at tshort@klc.org or 1.800.876.4552 to sign up.



KLC Direct OFFICERS

Connie Lawson, Mayor of Richmond, President; Michael D. Miller, Mayor of Jackson, First Vice President; Elaine Walker, Mayor of Bowling Green, Second Vice President; Glenn V. Caldwell, Mayor of Williamstown, Immediate Past President; Sylvia L. Lovely, Executive Director/CEO, KLC

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The voice of Kentucky cities.

KLC Direct is published monthly by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). KLC is a voluntary association of nearly 400 cities and provides a multitude of services to assist in improving local government. Please address any correspondence to *KLC Direct*, Kentucky League of Cities, 100 East Vine Street, Suite 800, Lexington, KY 40507-3700. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. www.klc.org.

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[MARK YOUR CALENDAR]



The 2009 Kentucky Municipal Environmental Safety and Health Association Conference will be held in Carrollton, Ky., at General Butler State Park March 4-6.

Registration is now available online at www.klc.org or www.klcis.org.

This conference is designed for supervisors with safety responsibilities, safety, risk and HR managers, employees or managers from public works, parks and recreation, water treatment and distribution, street departments, sanitation or anyone with safety responsibilities, interest or concerns.

This year's safety tour will be held at the Kentucky Speedway and will include a full tour of the track and racing facilities. Plan to make a "Pit Stop for Safety" at KMeshA 2009!

The Kentucky Transportation Center is once again helping to organize the 2009 Kentucky Lifesavers Conference, to be held at the Marriott Downtown in Louisville, April 27-29, 2009.



As you know, it provides training and the invaluable opportunity for local and state law enforcement, emergency personnel, firefighters and others interested in roadway safety to come together and discuss ways of improving safety on Kentucky roadways.

Information and registration: <http://lifesavers.ky.gov/>

A MESSAGE FROM KLC'S PRESIDENT >>>>>

Learning to Change



We all witnessed history a few weeks ago. With the inauguration of Barack Obama, there were several "firsts." Regardless of our politics, it's a time of renewal for our country. It's also a time of renewal for our local communities.

It was thrilling to be part of the recent KLC City Officials Academy last month. Why? Because of the people - newly elected officials, "veterans," city clerks and other city staff - so many smart people who care about their cities. More than half of those in attendance were newly elected, eager to learn and eager to serve. I had conversations with people about all sorts of things. We were all there together sharing ideas and inspirations, sharing stories about the trials and tribulations, and mostly discussing the rewards associated with being a city official.

Opportunities to learn never get old to me. As our legislative session continues, I encourage you to learn

all you can about what's going on. Call the KLC legislative and policy team and read what they send you. Call your legislator and mostly, call each other. With the exception of our own citizens, we can learn more from each other than anyone else.

We all know that the next couple of years will be economically challenging and tough for people and for communities. Our new president has asked us to brace ourselves, to sacrifice and to do our part. But he also asked us to embrace the ideas of change and hope.

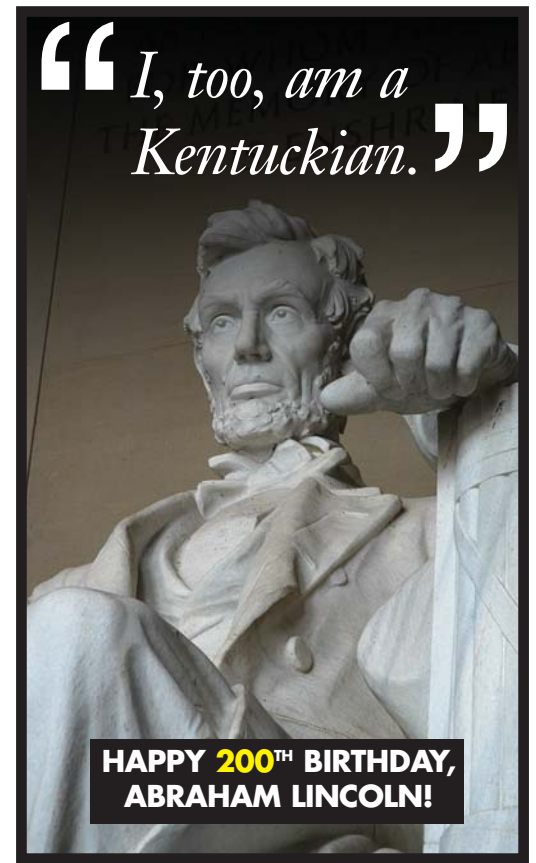
I like the saying "change or die." Once again, true wisdom often comes in plain common sense.

It's up to each of us to move our community, our state and our nation ahead. I look forward to being inspired by you.

Best regards,

Connie Lawson

Connie Lawson
KLC President
and Richmond Mayor



KLC Direct is designed internally to save our members money.



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[COA SNAPSHOTS]

CITY OFFICIALS ACADEMY CANDIDS

More than 200 city officials networked, learned and exchanged ideas at the 2009 KLC City Officials Academy in Lexington, Jan. 14-16. While the many incumbent officials used COA as a great educational refresher, most of the attendees were newly elected officials who gained valuable resources and peer contacts.



View all photos from the City Officials Academy at www.klc.org.

[COA SNAPSHOTS]

KLC Executive Director/CEO Sylvia L. Lovely posed with several COA participants as they received their certificate of completion for the academy. KLC Communications provided a news release for attendees to use with local media explaining the value of attending. If you attended COA and still need either a photo or copy of the news release emailed to you, please contact Meghan Mando at 1.800.876.4552 or mmando@klc.org.



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