

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a stack of US dollar bills. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with fingers gripping the edges of the bills. The bills are fanned out, showing various denominations including a \$10 bill and a \$20 bill. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, emphasizing the texture of the paper and the skin of the hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

KLC Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

**AS OUR STATE AND
NATIONAL LEADERS
SEEK BUDGET
SOLUTIONS, WHERE
DOES THAT LEAVE
CITIES?**

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February 2003

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Come Spend a Day in Frankfort!

WHO: You! City officials and employees.

WHAT: Spend a day “shadowing” a KLC lobbyist.

WHEN: Whenever it suits you and one of our lobbyists.

WHY: To give you a sense of how things work in Frankfort, to introduce you to legislative representatives and staff and to gain your insights on issues that affect you and how KLC can help.

HOW: Contact Martha Cosby in our Legislative Department to schedule a day in Frankfort at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3716, or email mcosby@klc.org.

KLC's Mayor Mentoring Program: Mayor-to-Mayor

Over 50 Kentucky mayors are participating in KLC's Mayors Mentoring Program. As the name implies, the program matches experienced mayors with newly elected mayors to share experiences and ideas, network and learn about other communities. KLC matches the applicants, monitors progress and the mayors do the rest - get together and keep in contact. Watch for reports on the program in future issues of *KLC Direct*. For information on how the program is structured, contact JD Chaney at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3719, or jchaney@klc.org.



FRONT PAGE NEWS

AS OUR STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS SEEK BUDGET SOLUTIONS, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE CITIES?

City leaders cite inadequate funding and a lack of revenue flexibility as a key obstacle to provision of more efficient services.

A recent editorial in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* (January 17, 2003) addressed this very issue. Its author cited Felix Rohatyn, a noted civic-minded financier who helped guide New York City through its fiscal problems in the 1970s as saying, “States from one coast to the other have begun the dreaded process of raising taxes, cutting services and laying off employees. Hardly any states have been spared. And when the states are in trouble, the whiplash effect on cities can be profound.”

KLC supports legislation that gives cities more options for revenue sources in order to support infrastructure, enhanced safety services and quality of life projects such as recreation and additional green space projects.

What We're Watching. KLC is monitoring well over 100 state and federal issues and bills. Of particular interest are bills that affect the budgets, revenues and flexibility to develop sources of revenue in Kentucky's cities. Currently these include -

- ♦ Measures that would allow more cities to institute a restaurant tax and expand the uses for revenues generated. (Under current law, only fourth and

fifth class cities can utilize this tax and are limited in how they can use it.)

- ♦ Measures that would give cities a portion of any new monies generated from expanded gaming in the event that happens.
- ♦ A cigarette tax - Kentucky has the second lowest cigarette tax in the nation. Conversely, an estimated over \$1 billion is spent in Kentucky on smoking related healthcare costs annually.

KLC has taken opposing positions on bills that would unfairly force cities, their employees and citizens to fund costly new initiatives. Measures such as:

- ♦ Bills that would force city employees into the state's health insurance plan or force more health insurance costs on local governments.
- ♦ Unfunded mandates, which require cities to fund projects or programs whether or not locally elected city leaders see a need.
- ♦ KLC is working to bring about the regulations needed to implement Kentucky's recently enacted voluntary brownfields remediation program.

To check out the latest on Kentucky bills, visit www.lrc.state.ky.us/record/03rs/record.htm.

To view the status of Federal bills, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c108query.html>.



Hal Rogers Selected

US Representative Hal Rogers (R-5) has been selected to chair the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees funding for homeland security related agencies.



THE LAST WORD FIRST

Welcome to the New KLC Direct

As the Kentucky League of Cities constantly looks at better ways to serve and recognize our customers, we hope to provide you with a monthly update of key issues affecting your city, your employees and your citizens. We are adding some regular features to profile city employees, programs and projects in your community. This newly designed *KLC Direct* is a publication just for you - our stakeholders.

We work for you and we welcome your suggestions on content ideas about issues that matter in your community, as well as success stories and recognitions, upcoming events, and news to benefit and inform your colleagues in cities throughout the Commonwealth.

We hope you like the new, fresh look of *KLC Direct* and its shorter articles. Finally, we, like you, are always innovating to save money. This *KLC Direct* is produced entirely in-house and will save KLC substantially. And that is all the more reason we need your suggestions! We look forward to "telling the story" of great things happening in Kentucky cities.

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Lovely
Executive Director and CEO
Kentucky League of Cities

CITY PEOPLE

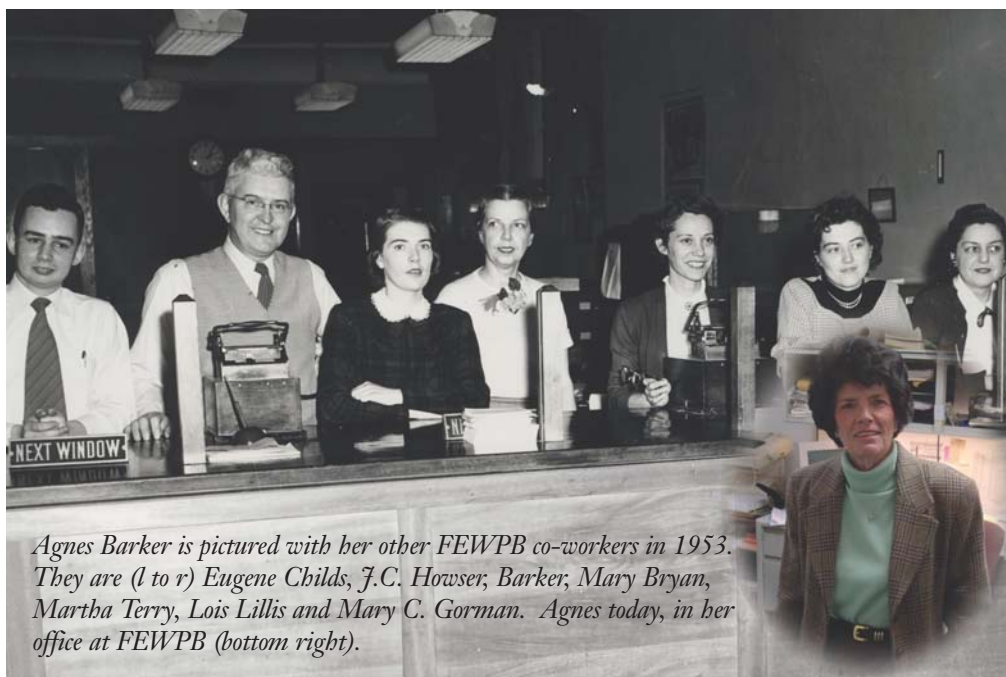
Agnes Barker, City of Frankfort Fifty Years of Commitment

In 1953, gasoline was 29 cents per gallon, postage stamps were 3 cents, the press announced that 50% of American households had a television and Agnes Barker was hired as a cashier at the Frankfort Water and Electric Plant Board (FEWPB). Fifty years later, many things have changed. Gas is hovering around \$1.35 a gallon, stamps are 37 cents, some people have televisions in their cars and most everyone who worked at the FEWPB in 1953 is no longer there . . . except Agnes.

Today, Agnes serves as an accounts receivable clerk and bookkeeper for the FEWPB. In an age when people change jobs on average every five years, Agnes will achieve a milestone on September 14, 2003, when she will celebrate 50 years of public service.

Warner Caines, General Manager of FEWPB, said, "Agnes is very dedicated and you can count on her being here everyday, rain or shine. She stays with a task until it's finished! Agnes has seen and adapted to many changes in her fifty years. If she ever retires, she will be missed!"

To suggest a city worker who personifies the best in public service to be profiled in "City People," contact Jerry Deaton, KLC Membership Services Director, at jdeaton@klc.org or call 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3786.



Agnes Barker is pictured with her other FEWPB co-workers in 1953. They are (l to r) Eugene Childs, J.C. Howser, Barker, Mary Bryan, Martha Terry, Lois Lillis and Mary C. Gorman. Agnes today, in her office at FEWPB (bottom right).

KLC Direct

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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, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. www.klc.org.

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- Publisher, Sylvia L. Lovely
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For a full list of KLC staff
visit www.klc.org

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Be Our Guest! Join us for City Night

Discuss key issues with Representatives and Senators and meet leaders from other cities.

On behalf of the Kentucky League of Cities, Mayor Bill Nighbert, KLC President, invites you to join us for an evening in the Capital city for:

City Night: Celebrating the Community - Capital Connection

February 19, 2003
Capital Plaza Holiday Inn
Frankfort, Kentucky
5:00-8:00 p.m.

RSVP to Martha Cosby
mcosby@klc.org or
1-800-876-4552 ext. 3716

FROM THE FIELD

People and programs making a difference for cities

- ♦ **Winchester Mayor Dodd Dixon** recently achieved the Bronze level in the National League of Cities Certificate of Achievement Leadership Program. Mayor Dixon is the first elected official in Kentucky to receive this honor and one of only seven mayors nationwide.
- ♦ **The National League of Cities** recently announced leadership appointments for 2003. The following Kentucky leaders have been appointed to serve in these areas:
Commissioner Jerry Bamberger, City of Covington- NLC Advisory Council; **Councilmember George Brown, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG)** - NLC Advisory Council; **Commissioner Robert Coleman, City of Paducah**, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee; **Mayor Karen L. Cunningham, City of Madisonville**, Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee; **Councilmember Jacques Wigginton, LFUCG**, Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee; **Councilmember Kevin Kramer, Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government**, Information, Technology and Communications Steering Committee; **Councilmember Albert Mitchell, LFUCG**, Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee; and **Mayor Thomas E. Holocher, City of Fort Mitchell**, Transportation, Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee.
- ♦ In observance of Black History Month, **Commissioner Robert Coleman, City of Paducah**, will be honored for 25 years of public service by the W. C. Young Community Center Board of Directors. A reception in his honor will be held February 22 at the Washington Street Baptist Church in Paducah.
- ♦ **Sylvia L. Lovely, Executive Director/CEO, Kentucky League of Cities**, has been elected chair of Kentuckians for Better Transportation, an association of involved business people, transportation professionals and civic and political leaders whose mission is to create public and legislative understanding of and commitment to an effective multi-modal transportation.

To submit a news item for "From the Field," contact us at jmccullough@klc.org or call Jeri McCullough at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3780.

Lessons in Citizenship

Alarming trends in decreased voter turnout among voters between the ages of 18-24 have caused many to ask, "Why are young people not voting?" Statistics* show that 55% of 18-24 year old voters state their lack of involvement in the electoral process is based on the public schools' inadequate job of providing young people with the information and basic skills needed to become involved in the electoral process.

Cities across the state teamed up with primary and secondary schools throughout January for the celebration of City Government Month (CGM). A Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) program, City Government Month: Our Cities-Our Future, is designed to pro-



mote citizenship in Kentucky communities. As part of the focus, city officials and teachers combine their resources to bring civics lessons out of the textbook and alive in the classroom.

For more information on how your community can get involved in CGM or for materials and information, visit the Our Cities: Our Future web site at www.klc.org/citygovernment.html.

**Statistics provided by the National Association of Secretaries of States' New Millennium Young Voter Project.*

LAW ABIDING

Video Conferencing Allowed, Speaker Phones NOT Allowed for Public Meetings

An Open Meetings Decision issued by the Attorney General on November 1, 2002, determined that an absent member of a public agency cannot vote or be counted as part of a quorum if he or she is not physically present at the meeting. According to the decision, the right of the public to observe the demeanor of agency members is equal to the right to hear their comments. Although actual physical presence is required in order to conduct a valid meeting, other options are available. Public agencies are permitted pursuant to KRS 61.826 to use a video telecommunications system to conduct meetings. A

video teleconference is defined as "one meeting, occurring in two or more locations, where individuals can see and hear each other by means of video and audio equipment." A speakerphone permits only audio participation. Videoconferencing permits the public to both see and hear a quorum of the members of a public agency discuss and take action on public business and is, therefore, permitted under the Open Meetings Act.

For information on this decision or with other legal questions, contact the KLC Legal Department at 1-800-876-4552 or ashindlebower@klc.org.

CITY POSTCARD

Elkhorn City - Pike County

Mayor: Richard Salyer

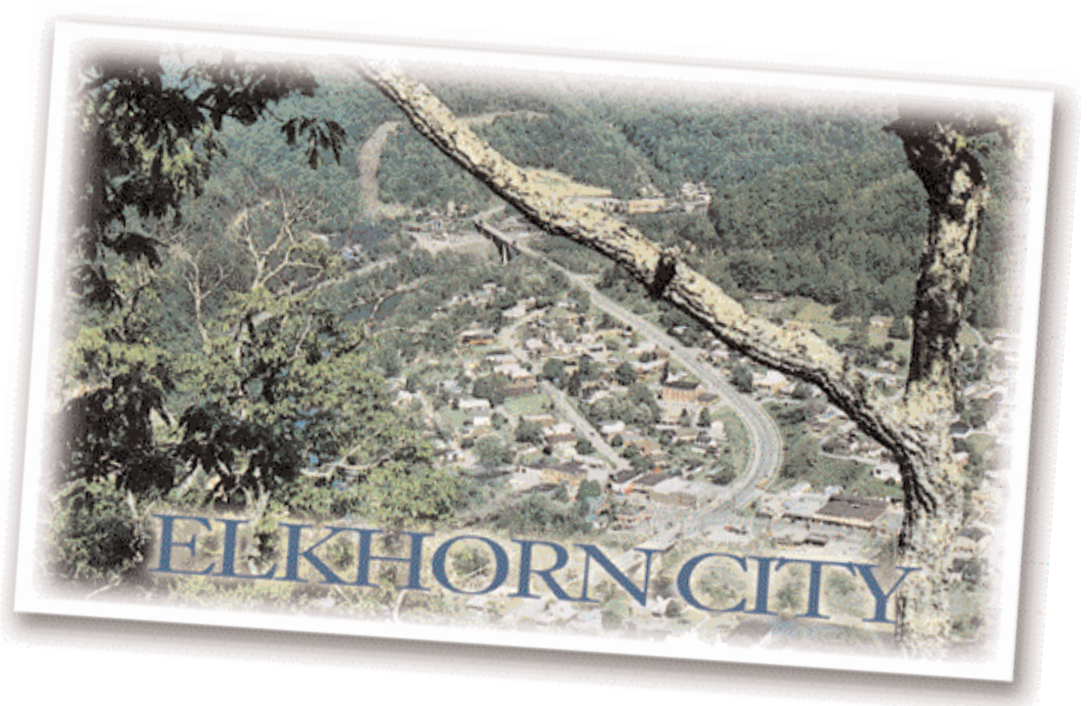
Population: 1,060

Location: Pike County, Elkhorn City is Kentucky's easternmost city.

Home of: Patty Loveless (country music singer)

Festivals: The Apple Blossom Festival is held the second weekend in May, celebrating the beauty of the springtime in the mountains by showcasing art, music, food and crafts. The city celebrates fall by hosting Octoberfest, held during whitewater rafting season.

Special Attractions: Elkhorn City is bordered on the east by the Breaks Interstate Park, which joins Kentucky and Virginia, and contains the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi River.





BIG IDEAS/INNOVATIONS

FreshRate™ Provides Down Payment Assistance to Homebuyers

The housing market is booming thanks in part to the growing ranks of first time homebuyers. FreshRate™ is a new program from KLC Financial Services that makes homeownership easier to achieve - for first time homeowners and anyone else.

With FreshRate™, qualified homebuyers who simply cannot afford the down payment can receive up to 4% of the purchase price through a forgivable government grant. FreshRate™ is supported by millions of dollars in bonds from KLC, with support by the Fannie Mae Kentucky Partnership Office. It is ideal for individuals and families.

Bill Hamilton, KLC Deputy Director of Finance and Insurance Services, said FreshRate™ is another way to help Kentucky cities build neighborhoods and provide home ownership opportunities for citizens. "This is great for single people, first time home buyers, single parents and anyone who needs a little assistance with their down payment."

Over 100 Kentucky lending branches throughout Kentucky are participating in the program. They can explain all the details of FreshRate™. The KLC FreshRate™ program will officially launch in early March, however the program is operational and is being used now by Kentuckians.

For local lending institutions near you, visit www.freshrate.com. At your request, KLC can provide FreshRate™ brochures for distribution to your city employees. For more information on FreshRate™, contact Anthony Wright at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3781, or email awright@klc.org.

TECH EDGE

Reverse Auction Update: Helping Put Money Back into Budgets

Glasgow, Bowling Green, Erlanger, Shively - cities from across Kentucky are taking advantage of high tech programs available to KLC members. Our reverse auction purchasing program is a web-based system that allows cities, associations and other institutions to conduct online bidding on goods and services they need. In the process, cities are saving thousands of dollars and in some cases, are actually putting money back into city budgets as a result of their savings. On average, cities are saving 11% on purchases.

KLC launched the reverse auction program in July 2002 and has facilitated nearly 20 city purchases on everything from computers, garbage trucks, safety and fire equipment to bids on construction of an industrial park. The program was developed for cities as a partnership between KLC and Louisville-based software company Ecuity. Similar programs are used in the private sector. In conjunction with KLC staff, Ecuity works with city officials, prescreens all vendors and conducts the confidential online auction, where vendors underbid each other for the city's business.

No specialized equipment is needed for the reverse auction program and it costs the participating cities absolutely nothing.

"With this system, we were being good stewards of our citizens' money," said Steve Biven, City Manager, City of Danville. "It made me very confident that we were getting a piece of equipment at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer. This system establishes a level playing field that demands and rewards competition."

For more information on the Reverse Auction Program or other IT initiatives, contact KLC staff at 1-800-876-4552 or email Joe Mefford, jmefford@klc.org, or Kirby Ramsey, kramsey@klc.org.

MEET ME AT KLC

Staff Profile

Heidi A. Lynn

Customer Service Representative
Joined KLC December 16, 1996



Heidi Lynn planned to pursue a nursing career. When she realized that ill people made her queasy, she opted for a degree in health administration. Now, in her position with KLC Insurance Services, Heidi is able to help people lead healthier, safer lives - without the clinical setting. Heidi does everything from answer questions about health claims or public official bonds to writing "K-9 dog mortality insurance" for city police dogs. Heidi says "Overall, it's a job that keeps me on my toes, but I like it that way."

To contact Heidi by phone, dial 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3740, or email hlynn@klc.org.

Welcome New Staff

Nicholas D. Harpe

LAN Administrator
Joined KLC October 30, 2002



Nick can be reached at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3798, or by email at nharpe@klc.org.

Q & A

Q: What is the estimated buying power of America's growing Hispanic population?

A: \$581 billion dollars, up 161% from 1990.

Source: Scarborough Research-American Demographics, October 2002

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Educate, Celebrate, Participate

FEBRUARY

19 City Night Reception
Capital Plaza Holiday Inn
Frankfort, Kentucky

25 City Budget Workshop
Kentucky River ADD
Hazard, Kentucky

MARCH

5-7 Fourth Annual KMESHA
Conference
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Lexington, Kentucky

12 City Budget Workshop
Cumberland Valley ADD
London, Kentucky

13 City Budget Workshop
Pennyrile ADD
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

18 City Budget Workshop
Kentucky League of Cities
Lexington, Kentucky

20 City Budget Workshop
NKADD
Florence, Kentucky

26-27 2003 Statewide
Candidates Forum
Marriott Hotel
Lexington, Kentucky

For more information or to register online, visit the KLC web site at www.klc.org/leadership/courses.html.

MARCH

2 NEA's Read
Across America
Day

8 International
Working Women's
Day

17 Freedom of
Information Day

20 National Common
Courtesy Day

21 International Day
for the Elimination
of Racism

16-22 Poison
Prevention Week

16-22 National Safe
Place Week

17-23 Severe Weather
Awareness Week

22 World Water Day

MARCH is . . .

National High Tech
Public Safety Month

National Nutrition
Month

National Women's
History Month

National Collision
Awareness Month

National Collision
Awareness Month

National Youth Art
Month

For a listing of upcoming festivals, special events and happenings in Kentucky cities, visit the Kentucky Tourism web site at www.kytourism.com.

We Want to Hear from You!

To submit a story or commentary for KLC departments, please contact the KLC staff listed. For overall feedback, contact Terri Johnson at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3784, 859-977-3784 or tjohnson@klc.org.

Six Keys to an Effective Meeting or Telephone Call with your Legislator

1. Have a specific agenda.
2. Be prepared to discuss your concern.
3. Ask your legislator to take specific action.
4. Connect your community and citizens to the issue.
5. Be responsive - provide additional information as needed.
6. Say "thank you."

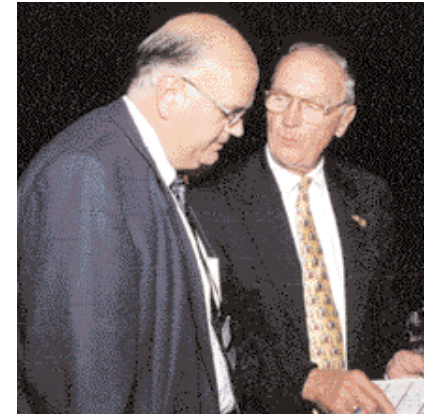
LEGISLATIVE FLASH

Lobbying - It's Up to You!

Representatives and Senators cannot write laws and create programs that meet or protect your city's needs and priorities - and those of all Kentucky cities - unless they understand those needs. Somebody has to make sure that members of the legislature understand the needs of cities.

The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) does just that, on behalf of Kentucky's cities. But, no one knows your city or town better than you do. And, no one can do a better job of speaking for it than you can.

To receive a brochure on effective lobbying or to discuss tactics, contact Joseph Coleman, KLC Federal Issues Analyst at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3715, or email jcoleman@klc.org.



Williamsburg Mayor and KLC Board President Bill Nighbert (left) discusses an issue affecting cities with Senate President Pro Tem Dick Roeding (R-Lakeside City) at a recent KLC function.



KLC Direct is a monthly publication of the Kentucky League of Cities. Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:
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