

what's happening!

JANUARY 2023

in KENTON COUNTY, KY



Kenton County High Speed Broadband Expansion Continues

In the summer of 2021, Kenton County negotiated an agreement with alfafiber (previously Cincinnati Bell) to assure construction of a high-speed fiber-to-the-premise broadband network to every home in the County by August 2023.

As of October 2022, through this initiative, fiber-to-premise has now expanded to 15,812 total addresses in Kenton County. Of those, 13,841 are single-family homes.

"We're on plan to add about 5,318 more homes during the remainder of 2022, with Kenton County, Boone County, and Campbell County on schedule to be the first counties in the United States 100% covered by high speed broadband by August 2023," noted Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann.

The COVID-19 pandemic fully exposed the deficiency of broadband connectivity across the Commonwealth. High-speed internet has become, in this time of technological innovation, an essential lifeline to education, healthcare and employment.

The partnership involving Kenton, Campbell, and Boone counties with alfafiber will directly address medical and public health needs through tele-medicine, as well as educational and economic support to those in need. In addition, it will provide direct access to employment, promote economic growth, and mitigate the negative impacts that COVID-19 has had on entrepreneurship and the agricultural community.

The County appreciates those who are waiting patiently for high speed service while alfafiber continues its work. If you are in a region that alfafiber has already networked, and have some question about the level of service you are receiving, do not hesitate to contact the Kenton County Fiscal Court.

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"From the execution of contract until mid-October, 2022, alfafiber added fiber-to-premise to 13,841 single family homes, which is close to 1.2 million feet of laid fiber."



From the Desk of...
Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann

As I sit here in the middle of holiday celebrations, I have much for which to be thankful. At the top of this list is the health and well-being of my family. I'm driven every day by my hopes for them and their future. I extend those prayers for well-being to you and your family. We are truly blessed to have a community of good people and neighbors.

On the list of things to appreciate is the well-being of the County I serve and love. Over the past several years, we made great advances in improving the personnel, operations, and infrastructure of the County. I can say, without reservation, that the quality of Kenton County's services can go toe-to-toe with any of our peers. As importantly, this quality is sustainable, without burdening our residents with excessive property taxes.

Along this path, we made significant improvements to our regional organizations, from Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development to meetNKY, our Convention and Visitors Bureau. Our work is not finished there, and it will continue until every regional organization reaches the standards of performance we expect.

Now comes the difficult work. Just a year ago, I had the opportunity to hear Jim Collins speak. He is the author of the book, "Good To Great". This book describes how some companies make the transition from being good to being great, and how some don't. I've been a fan of this book since the first time I read it, and it is surely applicable to government as well as the private sector. The challenge of taking something good and moving it to greatness continues to be much discussed and pursued. I think about it often when it comes to my work at the County.

There is no question that Kenton County is a good place to work, live, and raise a family. Every published measurement of these qualities finds the County ranked in the top tier. But, I think we all feel that even more lies out there for the betterment of our community... a better environment for our youngest children, better schools and universities, better career pathways and opportunities for prosperity, better amenities that strengthen quality of life, and even more efficient operations in government. There is much for us to do.

I am very thankful for my fellow County elected officials. I know they share the aspiration to make Kenton County a better place, and are working diligently every day toward this end. I am also thankful for our cities, and the city elected officials and staff, in Kenton County. Something in every one of them inspires me, and I know we are fortunate to have these engines of innovation working to elevate our quality of life. As our economic and community development functions continue to evolve at NKY Tri-ED and Planning & Development Services of Kenton County, I look forward to working with the cities on these efforts.

As I've said before, the Kenton County our children and grandchildren grow up in will be very different from that of our parents and grandparents, and we must be up to the challenge of assuring it is a better community for future generations. I know we can succeed at this.

Finally, I am immensely grateful for our entire Fiscal Court. Commissioners Beth Sewell, Jon Draud, and Joe Nienaber have become friends over the years, and I find myself profoundly impressed by their never-ending commitment to do the right thing for Kenton County, no matter how difficult. It is easy to complain about government, but I can tell you we have a lot to be thankful for with them.

As we enter this next term, I pray that we continue to be blessed in Kenton County and remain vigilant in our work in the years to come.

Senator Chris McDaniel Secures \$15 Million for Life Sciences Laboratory in Covington

Over the past decade, Covington-based life sciences companies CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services, Gravity Diagnostics, and Bexion Pharmaceuticals have all grown significantly, collectively employing around 1,000 talented professionals. To continue the growth of these knowledge-based, high-paying employers, and attract even more companies, the City of Covington identified the need for a life sciences laboratory.

As Chair of the Kentucky Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee, Senator Chris McDaniel led the effort to include \$15,000,000 for a new Northern Kentucky life sciences laboratory in the Commonwealth's budget. Senator McDaniel sees this investment as building on the region's impressive economic momentum.

"The Northern Kentucky economy is on a strong trajectory and I'm happy that I was able to work with elected leaders from both political parties to include the needed funding for a new life sciences lab that will spur innovation and new life-saving discoveries," said McDaniel. "Through this appropriation, we can spur capital investment and new life sciences jobs."

Kenton County Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann expressed appreciation for Senator McDaniel's work. "According to a recent report by Tri-ED, Northern Kentucky's life sciences employment doubled in recent years and we expect that growth in these high-paying jobs to continue with the new lab and resources for the sector."

Covington Mayor Joe Meyer thanked Gov. Beshear, Sen. McDaniel and the General Assembly for their support for funding of the life sciences lab in the city.

"When we called the first discussion

meeting of scientists and researchers in early 2021, the City had one goal in mind: To give our thriving life sciences cluster in Covington the ability to expand by fulfilling a need they identified – a new wet lab space where scientists can make new discoveries, test data, share ideas, and encourage and support each other. Thanks to the literal buy-in of our leaders in Frankfort, Covington is one step closer toward seeing entrepreneurs and new bio-tech firms launching here."

CTI CEO Tim Schroeder is grateful for the funding.

"There is tremendous demand for this type of lab from within the Cincinnati region and around the globe. The funding the state provides will help ensure the lab offers all the amenities and access that scientific entrepreneurs need in a region that is more affordable than the East and West Coasts," added Schroeder. "I am thrilled about the lab's close proximity to our global headquarters in Covington and all the city has to offer."

Bexion Pharmaceuticals Board Chairman Chuck Scheper cited the success Bexion has found developing life-changing oncology treatments since moving to Covington in 2006. Bexion partnered with CTI to run clinical trials of BXQ-350, its leading drug candidate.

"The Cincinnati region has the biotech research talent with an entrepreneurial mindset that can spur innovative medical therapies and startups," said Scheper. "There is a lack of wet lab space available for commercialization and this new lab will fill that need."

Gravity Diagnostics CEO Tony Remington cited the region's focus on partnerships as a critical factor in the company's growth over the last two years.



Senator Chris McDaniel

"The community and business leaders in Northern Kentucky really embraced Gravity, offering support and facilitating our success," noted Remington. "The life sciences community on both sides of the river is tight knit and an excellent system for fostering new medical advancements."

"The funding of the new wet labs accelerates innovation and impact within Northern Kentucky's life sciences industry and propels our community forward as a market leader," said Garren Colvin, President & CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare. "We are appreciative of Senator McDaniel's lead efforts along with those of our elected officials and others to make this important project a reality."

Northern Kentucky Tri-ED CEO Lee Crume cited a recent study by EY that projected employment in the life sciences sector will grow by 30 percent from 2020 – 2025.

"We know from the Target Industry Study that our life sciences sector is strong and growing quickly," Crume noted. "We are focused on capitalizing on the life sciences sector's momentum in our business attraction efforts and the new lab as an asset in addition to Kentucky's strong SBIR-STTR match for growing life sciences companies who move to the commonwealth."

Senator McDaniel's appropriation for the life sciences laboratory is only one of several projects he secured that will accelerate growth in high-paying jobs in Kenton County. Look for more news on these appropriations in 2023.

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT

JUDGE/EXECUTIVE:
KRIS KNOCHELMANN
 Kris.Knochelmann@KentonCounty.org

DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER:
BETH SEWELL
 Beth.Sewell@KentonCounty.org

DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER:
DR. JON DRAUD
 Jon.Draud@KentonCounty.org

DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER:
JOE NIENABER
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STAY CONNECTED
<https://bit.ly/kentoncountyconnect>
 Fiscal Court Administration:
 859.392.1400

Kenton County Police Continue to Lead

Your Kenton County Police Department (KCPD) is a full-service, state-accredited law enforcement agency tasked with providing essential safety services for the population living in the 88.59 square miles of unincorporated Kenton County.

KCPD employs 33 full-time sworn employees, four School Resource Officers (SRO), one Quick Response Team (QRT) officer, and two civilian support employees. Over and above the KCPD's primary assignments of patrol and investigations are the services that the highly trained officers provide for many of the communities throughout Kenton County.

Here are just a few of the unique services that KCPD provides to our community;

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Kenton County Bureau of Criminal Investigations investigates criminal cases within unincorporated Kenton County, but also often helps other local agencies with allegations of internal theft or public corruption.

SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION

KCPD's Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction (STAR) Unit is a fully functioning collision reconstruction unit assisting all Kenton County communities.

CERTIFIED FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

KCPD's Certified First Responder (CFR) initiative allows officers to begin lifesaving medical treatment prior to the arrival of ambulance personnel. During medical emergencies, time is critical and KCPD does everything

possible to insure citizens receive life-saving treatment as soon as possible.

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

The Kenton County Fire Investigation Team responds to fire scenes throughout Kenton County. The purpose of the team is to assist local fire departments in determining the origin and cause of fires. KCPD supervises the team, made up of five police investigators and twelve fire fighters from area fire departments.



EVIDENCE COLLECTION UNIT

KCPD's Evidence Collection Unit responds to all major crime scenes in unincorporated Kenton County and wherever requested throughout Northern Kentucky. Members of this unit are trained in advanced latent print development, DNA collection, crime scene photography, use of alternate light sources, trace evidence collection, etc.

AVIATION SECTION

Since 2019, the Kenton County Aviation Section has provided appropriate unmanned aircraft to support a wide array of missions. The Aviation Section has nine FAA Certified Pilots capable of flying an array of drones for search and rescue, vehicle collision data collection, fire department operations over watch, and SWAT operations over watch. The Aviation

Section also supports Homeland Security and Emergency Management operations during emergencies or natural disasters.

ICAC TASK FORCE

KCPD is an affiliate agency for the Kentucky State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. KCPD (ICAC) assists state and local agencies in developing an effective response to cyber-crimes against children, and is part of a national network of coordinated state and local task forces engaged in proactive investigations, forensic examinations, effective prosecutions and community education.

QUICK RESPONSE TEAM

KCPD's Quick Response Team (QRT) Officer, often accompanied by a Peer Support Mentor, follows up with residents who recently overdosed. The QRT Of-

ficer also works closely with the Life Learning Center, the Kenton County Detention Center's Jail Substance Abuse Program (JSAP), the Kenton County Court's Heroin Expedited Addiction Recovery Treatment (HEART) program, and the Kentucky Department of Probation and Parole. This team provides a community-based approach to reduce recidivism, and structure and focus for individual case management.

KCPD is truly an essential part of the overall law enforcement cohort that keeps Kenton County safe. With KCPD's proven ability to adapt to new technology and address emerging trends in crime, KCPD is well-positioned to meet the challenges the future may bring!



'Trash for Cash' Program

Kenton County's Trash for Cash Program is a fundraising opportunity for non-profit organizations based in Kenton County to pick up roadside litter. Utilizing Litter Abatement funds from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, the KCSW Div., offers 501(c) organizations, \$100 per mile to pick up litter off approved roadways within Kenton County. This program runs from April 1- October 30 each year. Kenton Schools, clubs, and all non-profit groups are encouraged to apply.

<https://www.kentoncounty.org/566/Trash-for-Cash>



DO YOU HAVE HOLIDAY STRING LIGHTS THAT NO LONGER WORK?

Kenton County Solid Waste and Covington Solid Waste Management, has collaborated with Cohen Recycling, to collect non-working holiday lights, protect the environment, and save landfill space. December 1, 2022 to February 1, 2023, holiday lights (traditional and LED style bulbs), can be dropped off at various locations throughout Northern Kentucky.

COVINGTON CITY HALL, AT 20 WEST PIKE ST

COVINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT; STATION 5

CENTER FOR GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS, 321 W. 12TH ST

KENTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1840 SIMON KENTON WAY

INDEPENDENCE COURTHOUSE, AT 5272 MADISON PIKE

INDEPENDENCE CITY BUILDING, 5413 MADISON PIKE

KENTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, 420 INDEPENDENCE STATION RD

CITY OF EDGEWOOD, 385 DUDLEY RD

CITY OF ERLANGER, 505 COMMONWEALTH AVE

CITY OF FT. MITCHELL, 2355 DIXIE HWY

CITY OF FT. WRIGHT, 9 KYLES LANE

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Northern Kentucky Solid Waste Management (Kenton, Boone and Campbell Solid Waste Coordinators) work hard each year to improve this huge 1-day event. Grant money (\$124,000.00) awarded by the KY. Division of Waste Management and contributions from the UK Campbell Co. Extensions help cover the cost of disposing the hazardous materials collected at event. However, this grant does not cover the cost of paint disposal. Residents can properly dispose of old/unwanted paint @ home with paint hardeners or kitty litter. Currently, Kenton County PW/ SW offers up to 3 packets of paint hardener (while supplies last).

<https://www.kentoncounty.org/243/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Disposal-Stand>

A Huge 'Thank You' to Rumpke, Bavarian Waste, Best Way Disposal, Emerson's Bakery, Biggby Coffee, Celanese, Ferrara, SD1, Thomas More Stadium, EEI, Tri-State Escrap, Boone-Campbell-Kenton Public Works and All Local Volunteers.



	Boone	Campbell	Kenton	*Total NKY
Residents	1,215	383	1,063	2,661
Batteries	416	138	454	1,008
Bulbs	243	99	271	613
Cylinders/Tanks	184	51	169	404
Electronics	682	177	571	1,430
Hazardous Materials	460	182	472	1,114
Oil/Antifreeze	346	103	312	761
Paint	869	293	766	1,928
Toner/Ink	145	36	113	294
TOTAL ITEMS	3,345	1,079	3,128	7,552

*Average of 443 residents per hour.

Please Help Keep Kenton County Beautiful and Litter Free!

ILLEGALLY DUMPING IS A CRIME!

Mattresses, couches, trash, food/beverage containers, plastic bags, cigarette butts, and tires are being 'Dumped/ Littered' along our city, county, and state roads.

Criminal littering under Kentucky law is a Class 'A' misdemeanor punishable by up to one (1) year in jail and up to a \$500 fine. Discarding your trash, cigarette butts or food items out of your vehicle is illegal.

There are many services and resources for proper disposal of unwanted items. County Cleanups, Voucher Program, Rumpke Transfer Station (Cov.) and Bavarian Landfill (Walton).

<https://www.kentoncounty.org/239/Solid-Waste-Management>

Mark Your 2023 Calendar



DECEMBER 1ST-JANUARY 31ST
Holiday Light Recycling

JANUARY 9RD-JANUARY 20TH:
Real Tree Mulching Service

MARCH 1ST
Application Open:
'Trash for Cash' Program

APRIL 28TH AND APRIL 29TH
Spring Cleanup



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: MELISSA GRANDSTAFF, KENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COORDINATOR
EMAIL: MELISSA.GRANDSTAFF@KENTONCOUNTY.ORG / PHONE: 859.392.1919



SD1 Takes Customer Engagement Online, Saving Time and Money in the Process

Over the past five years, Sanitation District No. 1 has made significant efforts to improve the customer experience, particularly for those who conduct business online.

In addition to launching a new website in 2020 and implementing a new customer billing system this year, SD1 has developed more than 50 online forms, ranging from requests by developers to tap into the public sewer system to customer inquiries about the location of SD1 assets on or around their property.

"We're constantly looking for ways to improve our processes," said SD1 Director of Information Technology Doug Wells. "Our IT team works closely with the District's various business units to find automation and integration opportunities that improve service levels and reduce waste."

The move toward enhanced online services began when SD1 started tracking all its project information in Lucity, an enterprise asset and maintenance management software used by municipal agencies and local governments across the country.

While this improved processes somewhat, SD1 staff still had to manually enter data into the system, which slowed down the process and introduced opportunities for errors. That's



important because we know what we can automate, and a lot of times automation isn't even on the form owner's mind – they're just thinking about how they can collect the right information."

With Laserfiche, SD1 could streamline processes and collect information more efficiently than ever before. But the data still had to get into Lucity somehow.

"We had two different silos," Aman said. "Lucity

with our data and Laserfiche as our collection platform. Our IT staff had the foresight to say, 'Hey, we can make these things talk.' So we developed a process where we can collect data through Laserfiche and then push that information directly into Lucity."

That connection opened up a wave of service enhancements that continues today. Processes became more seamless; data became more reliable; and without the need for data reentry or tracking down missing information, staff members were freed up to focus their attention on more important tasks.

"We have very talented and smart people and a lot of challenges that need to be looked into with sanitary sewer design, stormwater management or projects – things that are complex and require more time to review and approve and solve," Aman said.

where another software, Laserfiche, entered the equation. Laserfiche is the leading provider of intelligent content management and business process automation.

Laserfiche allows SD1 to create smart forms that adapt based on what information a user inputs, making forms shorter and easier to use. But that doesn't mean building the forms is easy.

"The first thing we do is sit down and meet with the people who own the form to get a better understanding of the goals of the form and what it's supposed to do," Wells said. "This is

for other kinds of fees, such as for tapping into the public sewer system.

"We've learned a lot over the past few years," Wells said, "and with the implementation of a new billing system, we expect to be able to integrate online fee payment in 2023."

A QUICK REMINDER ABOUT DE-ICER

Winter is here and that means snow and ice are coming to Northern Kentucky. A quick reminder that salt and other chemical de-icers can impact local waterways, landscaping, pets

and wildlife. Check de-icer labels to find an option that is safe for your pet, property and the environment; shovel as much snow and ice as possible and apply de-icer only to thin layers of ice; and avoid using salt and other de-icers near trees, shrubs and grasses.



4-H CAMP



KENTON COUNTY SUMMER 4-H CAMP



North Central 4-H Camp, is located in Carlisle, KY, on 350 acres of rolling hills and forested land near Lake Carnico. The six-acre 4-H Lake holds the famous "North Central AquaPark", a 130-foot floating obstacle course and offers opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, pond studies and hiking in nature classes. The camp offers youth the opportunity to come stay in air-conditioned cabins, visit our historic log cabin; shop in our country store for souvenirs and snacks; and swim in our pool with waterslide.

**FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR CAMPERS: AGES 9-14
CIT COUNSELORS: AGE 15
TEEN COUNSELORS: AGES 16 & 17**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Denise Donahue at 859-356-3155 or email: ddonahue@uky.edu

Space is Limited:
\$25 Registration will hold your spot.
*Scholarships & Payment Plans Available.

Register Today!



kenton.ca.uky.edu/4-h-camp



NORTH CENTRAL 4-H CAMP
260 St-1035, Carlisle, KY 40311

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



SD1
1045 EATON DRIVE, FORT WRIGHT, KY 41017
PHONE: 859.578.7450
HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 4PM



Louis Smith and Members of KCCD

Digital Trail Guide Unveiled at Morning View Heritage Area!

Winter is a great time to hike Morning View Heritage Area (MVHA)! Wood-peckers, owls, deer, and other wildlife that overwinter in our region are easier to spot, and views of the Licking River Valley are breathtaking! Before your visit, check our website for safety tips, and don't forget to download a QR code reader on your mobile device so you can use our new MVHA Digital Trail Guide. QR codes can be scanned at each trailhead to get in-depth information about the ecological and historical features found at MVHA. The guide was developed by Louis Smith, of McNicholas High School, for his Eagle Scout Project. Louis installed the system with the help of scouts from Guardian Angels Troop 445. The guide will work without a cell signal, using any free QR code reader found online.

Morning View Heritage Area, formerly known as Steinhauser Farm, is one of roughly 100 sites across the

Commonwealth that are being restored to support native species of plants and wildlife through the Kentucky Heritage Land Preservation Fund. MVHA is located at 15168 Decoursey Pike, Morning View, KY 41063. It is open to the public, seven days a week, from dawn until dusk.



Morning View Heritage Area's Digital Trail Guide

KENTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (KCCD)

5272 MADISON PIKE
INDEPENDENCE, KY 41051
859.356.1019
WWW.KCCDKY.ORG



COST-SHARE PROGRAMS HELP LANDOWNERS

KCCD administers cost-share funds that can help farmers and landowners protect natural resources. Visit www.kccdky.org for more information!

THE KENTUCKY SOIL EROSION AND WATER QUALITY COST SHARE PROGRAMS: These programs help farmers install best management practices to protect soil and water quality. Priority funding is given to animal waste-related problems and agricultural district participants.

TECHNICAL AND PROGRAM ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY/WITH NRCS: Technical Assistance is provided through our federal partner, Natural Resource Conservation Service. County residents can receive assistance with conservation planning, rotational grazing, forestry practices, storm water runoff, sediment control and other conservation needs.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS: This voluntary program allows farmers to form special areas where agriculture is protected. Benefits include the right to have property taxed at its agricultural value, and protection from annexation without the landowner's permission.

DEAD FARM ANIMAL PROGRAM: Cost share assistance is available to farmers for the removal and proper disposal of fallen livestock. Farmers may be reimbursed for 75% of the haul bill, up to \$100.00.

FARM DUMP REMOVAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Assistance is available for farmers with 10 or more acres to clean up areas that once used to dispose of junk and other items. Approved participants can be reimbursed for up to 75% of the total cost for clean-up and site restoration, up to \$1,875.00.



What Makes TANK Stand Out From Other Employers?

At TANK, we want to help you get behind the wheel of a great career. You're not just driving a bus, you're also an integral part of keeping NKY moving, and supporting those who need our services. TANK bus operators receive paid training, excellent benefits, retirement program, and a supportive and positive work environment. TANK bus operators earn up to \$52,000 in their first year and \$62,000 in their second year. Many of our bus operators have been a part of the TANK team for over 15 years and counting.



What other benefits does TANK offer?

We offer an extensive benefits package to our employees. Everyone has the opportunity to take advantage of one or all of them depending on your needs. We offer a Pension and 401K, Life Insurance, Paid Vacations and Holidays, Free Primary Care Center, Free Mental Health Services, Free Life Counselors, Free Gym Membership and more! We see the value in investing in our employees.

Do you have to know how to drive a bus to apply for a career at TANK?

TANK offers extensive training to all new hires. CDL Permit or License (Class B with passenger and air brake) is preferred, however applicants do not need a CDL to apply. Qualified applicants will receive fully paid training through the CDL process. Our trainers will walk you through the entire process to ensure you feel comfortable safely operating any of our buses.

If someone was interested in starting their career at TANK, what should they do?

Applying to drive with TANK is simple. Visit Careers - Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (tankbus.org/careers) to apply online now.

TANK IS THE PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY THAT PROVIDES BUS SERVICE IN NKY + DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI

PHONE: 859.331.TANK (8265)



CHECK OUT THIS TANK VIDEO!



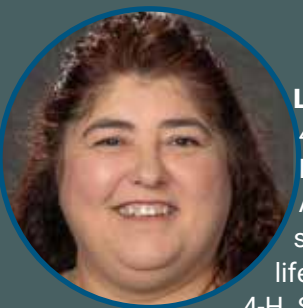
Welcome to Our Newest Staff Members!

The Kenton County Cooperative Extension Office has added two new staff members. We are so pleased to welcome....



Tasha Brown, as our Staff Assistant: Tasha is from Taylor Mill KY, where she currently resides with her family. She is a

graduate of Scott High School and Brown Mackie College. She is a mother of 2, Marleigh Grace and Caleb Michael. Before employment at the Kenton Co. Extension office, she worked as a secretary and tax preparer. Tasha is very grateful to be working and very excited for this opportunity and new journey!



Lori Clark, as our 4-H Youth Development Agent: Lori has spent most of her life in and around 4-H. She previously

worked as a secretary at the Kenton County Extension Office before leaving to raise her children, Elizabeth, and Chet. Lori returned to work as a teaching assistant while earning her Bachelor's in Education. After teaching 2 years she returned to Extension as 4-H Assistant for 8 years. As 4-H assistant she worked in all 4-H core content areas and is ready to share her talents as our new 4-H agent.

Winter/Spring 2023



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS →



4-H PROGRAMS:

**4-H programs are for youth aged 9-18, unless otherwise specified.*

*Lori Clark
Denise Donahue
Diane Kelley*

4-H "IT'S YOUR REALITY"

Offered Oct-Apr to 8th-12th grades. Please call for additional information two months prior to scheduling.

4-H Livestock Education Hours

Sat. Jan 7, 8:30-11:30 am
Wed. Jan 11, 6-8pm / Marshall Road

4-H Big Cats Club

1st Saturday of the Month (Jan 7)
10 am-12 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Needle Crafts Club Information/ Kick Off Meeting

Sat. Jan 7, 12 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Leadership Adventures Club

Ages 12-18 Informational/Kick Off Meeting
Sat. Jan 7, 1:30-2:30 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Outdoor Adventures Club

Informational/Kick Off Meeting
Mon. Jan 16, 6 pm / Kenton Lands

4-H Council Meeting

Interested in volunteering and planning 4-H programs join our 4-H council.
Mon. Jan 16, 7 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Shooting Sports

Orientation Meeting for new members:
Tues. Jan 17, 6-7:30 pm / Kenton Lands

Mandatory Safety Meetings:

Each participant must attend one of the safety meetings to be eligible to shoot this season. This includes past participants.
Tues. Feb 21, 6:30 pm / Kenton Lands or
Tues. Mar 21, 6:30 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Rabbit Club

Do you have a rabbit and want to learn more about showing your rabbit? Join us for 4-H Rabbit Club.
Thurs. Jan 19, 6:15 pm / Kenton Lands

4-H Rough Riders 4-H Club
Join us for fun crafts, and much more.
Thurs. Jan 19, 7 pm / Kenton Lands

4-H STEM: (pre-registration required)
Mondays Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24
6 pm / Kenton Lands

4-H Volunteer Orientation
(pre-registration Mar 1)
Thurs. Mar 2, 6-8:30 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Livestock Forms
Tues. Mar 7, 6:30-7:30 pm / Marshall Road

4-H Youth Summer Programs
Registration will be available May 1st
Tues. May 30 - Fri. June 16, 2023

4-H ADULT CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED

For 4-H Camp: June 26-30, 2023

Kenton County 4-H is accepting applications for adult camp counselors.

Camp adults attend camp for free and can bring one child for free.

Adults must complete volunteer paperwork, must pass a background check and be accepted by the 4-H Volunteer committee.

For more information contact Denise at 859-356-3155, ddonahue@uky.edu

Sponsor a Child for Camp
If you would like to sponsor a deserving child for camp, please contact Denise Donahue at 859-356-3155, donahue@uky.edu

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON 4-H CAMP, SEE PAGE 7.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES: Dan Allen

Pond Management
Mon. Mar 20, 6:30 pm / Marshall Road

Successful Backyard Chickens
Thurs. May 18:
1 pm / Kenton Lands, 6:30 pm / Marshall Rd

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES: Joan Bowling

Online Book Club: Leadership and Self Deception - Getting Out of the Box.
(book provided to all pre-registered by Dec 23)
Thursdays Jan 5, 12, 19, and 26, 7-8 pm

Laugh and Learn
Fridays Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 17, Apr 14,
May 12, 10 am / Marshall Road

Preserving Memories in the Digital World
Thurs. Feb 9, 1 pm / Kenton Lands

HORTICULTURE: Brandon George

Growing Fruit Trees
Thurs. Feb 2, 2 pm / Marshall Road
Mon. Feb 6, 6 pm / Kenton Lands

Syrup Season Open House: Tapping Trees for Family Fun
Sat. Feb 18, 10-4 pm / Marshall Road

Fruit Tree Grafting
Thurs. Mar 16:
10 am / Marshall Road, 2 pm / Kenton Lands

Feeding the Birds: Nature's Way
Tues. Mar 21, 6 pm / Kenton Lands
Wed. Mar 23, 2 pm / Marshall Road

Non-Invasive Shrubs
Tues. Apr 4:
10 am / Marshall Road, 6 pm / Kenton Lands

Tree Give Away
Sat. Apr 22, Stay tuned for details on the website for times and locations of pick up.

Garden Design Basics: Right Plant, Right Place
Thurs. Apr 27:
2 pm / Marshall Road, 6pm / Kenton Lands

Planning and Preparing Horticulture Exhibits for the Fair
Tues. May 9:
10 am / Kenton Lands, 6 pm / Marshall Road

Seed your Future: Careers in Horticulture
Tues. May 23, 6 pm / Kenton Lands

Get to Know your Urban Trees in Peaseburg
Sat. June 10, 10-12 pm
(Meet at Glen O. Swing Elementary School Parking Lot, Rain Date Sat. June 17)

Mighty Microgreens and Super Sprouts: Growing Food without a Garden
Thurs. June 29:
2 pm / Marshall Road, 6pm / Kenton Lands

The Science of Composting
Thurs. July 13:
2 pm / Marshall Road, 6pm / Kenton Lands

Kudzu
Thurs. July 20:
10 am / Kenton Lands, 6 pm / Marshall Road

KENTON COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL

Thurs. Feb 23 6:30-7:30 pm / Marshall Road
Thurs. May 25 6:30-7:30 pm / Kenton Lands

CALLING ALL COVINGTON RESIDENTS...

Help us with our Extension Cov-N-Tell Project!



SHOW US YOUR COVINGTON!
(<https://bit.ly/Covandtell>)

CONTACT US...

MARSHALL RD LOCATION:
10990 Marshall Rd., Covington, KY
Office Hours: 8 am-4:40 pm, M-F

KENTON LANDS LOCATION:
450 Kenton Lands Rd., Erlanger, KY
Office Hours: 8 am-4:30 pm, M-Th;
Closed: Noon-1pm

PHONE: 859.356.3155 / FAX: 859.356.036
EMAIL: DL_CES_KENTON@EMAIL.UKY.EDU

CONNECT WITH US ON YOUR FAVORITE PLATFORM

@UKKENTONEXT
KENTONCOUNTYEXTENSION.ORG

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
LEXINGTON, KY 40546





What is Substance Use Disorder?

We all handle stress differently in our lives. When you experience a stressful or traumatic event and decide to consume an alcoholic beverage, tobacco product, or illegal substance (ex: marijuana or opioids), the only thought is to forget the stress you are experiencing in an attempt to numb your pain. This coping mechanism can lead to harmful behaviors. Some people's brains are more vulnerable to unhealthy behaviors that can lead to a substance use disorder (SUD).

SUD IS A TREATABLE, CHRONIC DISEASE THAT CAN AFFECT ANY RACE, GENDER, ETHNICITY, INCOME LEVEL OR SOCIAL CLASS. A person with a SUD often has an underlying diagnosis or issue related to stress, trauma or mental health issues. Some individuals may develop a SUD after misusing opioids prescribed following surgery. Opioids can include pain pills, heroin and fentanyl. Regardless of the type of substance used, over time, it's easier to become addicted by flooding the brain's reward system, leading to intense cravings and continued use.

OVERCOMING SUD IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS RESISTING TEMPTATION OR CHANGING FRIENDS, SINCE IT AFFECTS THE BRAIN. SUD is a chronic condition; therefore, treatment should be tailored to the person who needs care. Treatment may include medication to assist with cravings and withdrawals as well as different forms of therapy. No single treatment method is right for everyone, recovery is possible, and help is available for individuals with SUDs. Treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) may include medications e.g. methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone. Medications for OUD lower the risk of return to use and even death. A person seeking treatment for OUD is at increased risk for opioid overdose as their tolerance level has decreased, no matter the amount used.

A PERSON WITH SUD MAY NOT SEEK TREATMENT EVEN WHEN THEY KNOW THEIR BEHAVIOR IS HARMFUL, as they do not want to bring guilt or attention to themselves or their loved ones. If you know someone who is using substances and may be addicted, it can be helpful to actively listen to the individual and show empathy, respect and dignity. You can encourage and remind them their treatment and recovery is possible and that resources are available to help.

WHEN TALKING WITH SOMEONE ABOUT THEIR SUBSTANCE USE, THE WORDS USED, AND TONE ARE IMPORTANT. Below are examples of supportive and positive language that can be used to foster and nurture recovery.

Instead of saying...	Use...
Addict, Druggie, Junkie, Alcoholic	<i>A person with substance use disorder</i>
Clean	<i>In recovery</i> <i>Not actively seeking or using drugs or alcohol</i>
Dirty	<i>Return to use</i> <i>Actively seeking illicit substances</i>

Practicing active listening, empathy and non-stigmatizing recovery language fosters an environment that is accepting to individuals who are open to treatment and recovery from substance use disorders. Treatment and recovery is a process that allows a person to be the healthiest version of themselves.



Someone who is not using substances may relapse days or years after their last use of a substance. This indicates their recovery plan may need to be modified. If you know someone who is in active use or recovery, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and to have naloxone on hand in case of an emergency.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE:

- PINPOINT PUPILS
- STRUGGLING TO BREATHE OR NOT BREATHING
- BLUE/GRAY NAILS OR LIPS
- SKIN PALE, CLAMMY
- EXTREME SLEEPINESS, INABILITY TO AWAKEN VERBALLY OR BY STERNAL RUB, LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

If you think someone has overdosed, it is vital to call 9-1-1, administer naloxone (if available), and follow opioid overdose response guidelines.



CATCH UP ON CHECKUPS AND ROUTINE VACCINES

Many children missed checkups and recommended childhood vaccinations during the past two years. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend children catch up on routine childhood vaccinations. In addition, it is very important to receive seasonal vaccines such as a flu shot and the COVID-19 Bivalent booster. The flu and other respiratory illnesses are spreading rapidly throughout the Northern Kentucky community.

Routine vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months and older and flu vaccines for both children and adults, are available at many pharmacies as well as NKY Health's County Health Centers. To find a location near you, please visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/>.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>



As your family gets back to routines, it's important for your child to catch up on checkups and recommended vaccines to help protect their health now and in the future.

WELL-CHILD CHECKUPS ARE ESSENTIAL

- The doctor tracks your child's growth and development.
- You can ask the doctor questions about your child's health.
- Your child gets recommended vaccinations.

VACCINATION HELPS PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

- Routine vaccinations during childhood help prevent 14 diseases.
- Among children born from 1994-2018, vaccinations will prevent an estimated 936,000 early deaths, 8 million hospitalizations, and 419 million illnesses.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children stay on track with routine vaccines to help protect them from serious diseases like measles and whooping cough. www.cdc.gov/vaccines/routine

Help protect your child's health by keeping them on track with recommended vaccinations. Have questions about vaccines? Talk to your child's doctor.

WHY WORK FOR NKY HEALTH? WHAT DOES PUBLIC HEALTH DO?

While conventional health care traditionally treats diseases and injuries, the role of public health is to prevent diseases and injuries before they happen. NKY Health performs numerous mandated services and works with community partners, including health care organizations, to determine the community's needs and identify priority health issues. Every position at NKY Health plays an important role in the health of Northern Kentucky.

Public health plays a critical role in the community, positively impacting the lives of many. The field is constantly evolving in response to the needs of the people, making it a dynamic career choice. In order for public health to be effective, it requires a unique blend of skills, therefore, people who choose a career in public health are from many different disciplines with a variety of different backgrounds. This enables organizations, like the Northern Kentucky Health Department, to develop long-lasting, innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for everyone.

What are the Reasons to Work for NKY Health?



It's exciting to be part of an award-winning team focused on making a difference.

- Work/life balance is part of our culture. (M-F 8-5 are our usual work hours).
- New challenges are always coming our way.
- We are established, stable and credentialed.
- Our fringe benefits (including continuing education) are competitive.

A career in public health can be a rewarding experience. Help us improve the lives of all Northern Kentuckians. Check our website at <https://nkyhealth.org/careers-at-nky-health/> for the current list of opportunities.

Source: <https://mphprogramslist.com/50-great-reasons-to-pursue-a-public-health-career/>



KENTON COUNTY HEALTH CENTER
2002 MADISON AVE., COVINGTON, KY 41014

PHONE: 859.431.3345 /
FAX: 859.655.6374
HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY
8 AM - 5 PM



What Are 5 Great Reasons to Choose a Public Health Career?



- 1 VARIETY –**
A career in public health means you'll have the opportunity to work in a lot of different roles in numerous areas of study.
- 2 IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF YOUR COMMUNITY –**
Your efforts in public health will impact the health of your community, which includes your friends and family.
- 3 IT'S INTERESTING –**
The amount of research and data involved in public health is not only interesting. It can be very exciting. Some of the world's biggest health breakthroughs like vaccinations have roots in the public health field.
- 4 CAREER EVOLUTION –**
Public health careers typically evolve and can take your career to new heights.
- 5 LEAVE A LEGACY –**
The work you do in public health literally changes the lives of so many people. There is great satisfaction in knowing that you made a difference in your community, the nation and even the world. You can be proud of the work you do and the many things you will accomplish from a career in public health.

Creating Lasting Change in Northern Kentucky



Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky is a qualified public charitable organization established as a community foundation in 2017 by Northern Kentucky leaders. The mission of Horizon is to unite resources to raise the quality of life for all people in the Northern Kentucky community. We are a community leader coordinating resources to create positive, lasting change.

At Horizon Community funds, we have deep roots in the community. Our leadership has a unique understanding of the needs and possibilities for Northern Kentucky and delivers a streamlined donor experience, providing personalized service that addresses our donors' charitable and financial interests. To multiply the impact of gift dollars, we pool them with other gifts and grants and have the expertise to help people invest in the causes they care about most, regardless of location. We facilitate the most complicated forms of giving and accept a wide variety of assets. Our relationship with professional advisors makes charitable giving highly effective for donors who wish to make a lasting impact. To ensure a long-term benefit to the Northern Kentucky community, we build endowment funds, helping our donors create personal legacies.

We have a unique understanding of the needs and possibilities for Northern Kentucky and deliver a streamlined donor experience. With a focus in the counties of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell, we bring people

together to donate and contribute in ways that have never been available before.

Through our Community Impact Fund, we have had the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the wellbeing of the Northern Kentucky community. This fund allows us to distribute grants to area nonprofits that are working to break the cycle of poverty, support the arts, enhance education, and build a successful future for Northern Kentucky.

When you invest in our Community Impact Fund, you are making a charitable gift that addresses the challenges of Northern Kentucky as they evolve, including needs that are not anticipated at the time the gift is made. The fund supports Northern Kentucky's most transformative endeavors with targeted grants. Your charitable gifts are joined with others to magnify the impact of every donation.

Our sustaining donor program is one of the best means to address the greatest challenges and fund the most promising opportunities in Northern Kentucky. Sustaining donations provide greater financial certainty to bolster long-term solutions and provide rapid response as needs change. We invite you to help us create a better, fuller, more inspired future for our region by saying "I'm in" for Northern Kentucky.

To learn more about Horizon Community Funds, visit www.horizonfunds.org.



HORIZON COMMUNITY FUNDS OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

50 E. RIVERCENTER BLVD., SUITE 430,
COVINGTON, KY 41011
PHONE: 859.757.1552





In Person & Online

The library offers more than a half million books, magazines, movies and more, all free for library card holders at its three library locations. Visit in person or place items on hold online or on the app and pick up from the drive-thru windows. Library cards are free to those living in Kentucky.

Online Library Users Can:

- CHECK OUT E-BOOKS
- STREAM AND DOWNLOAD MUSIC, MOVIES, AND TV PROGRAMS
- TAKE A CLASS WITH GALE LEARNING
- PREP FOR THE ACT OR HSPT WITH LEARNING EXPRESS
- LEARN A HOBBY WITH CREATIVEBUG
- GET HOMEWORK HELP AND TUTORING WITH HELPNOW
- LEARN A LANGUAGE WITH MANGO LANGUAGES
- ACCESS LEGAL FORMS FOR PERSONAL NEEDS
- LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY'S FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION ORGANIZATIONS

Services

The following are a few of the many services offered at the Kenton County Public Library:



HOMEBOUND DELIVERY is a service designed to offer Library materials to Kenton County residents with a disability or medical condition that prevents them from visiting the Library. This is a free service to those who qualify.

ONE-TO-ONE ASSISTANCE: Library historians can help with genealogy research.

IT EXPERTISE: Schedule time with one of the library's IT experts for help with tech devices.

CAREER COACHING: The library offers career coaches who will work with individuals on their job search or career transition.

MAKERSPACE TRAINING: Schedule time with one of the library's staff to learn how to use items in the library's makerspaces like 3D printers, t-shirt printer, Oculus, and more.

NOTARY SERVICES are available at all locations at no charge. Appointments are required.

MEETING ROOM SPACE is provided free of charge to individuals and groups for civic, educational, and philanthropic purposes (subject to availability).

Upcoming Events

All activities are free. Register where required at kentonlibrary.org/events or by calling 859.962.4000.

NEW YEAR NEW TOTE!

Mon., Jan. 2 – Tues., Jan. 31

10 AM to 8 PM

Erlanger Branch STREAM Center

Call 859.962.4331 to schedule an appointment to make a new bag to hold your books.

STEM CLUB

Wed., Jan. 4, 11 & 25

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Covington Branch

Meet us in the Children's Department C3Lab for a fun STEM activity. For ages 9-12. Registration required.

ZUMBA GOLD: DANCING TO THE OLDIES!

Mon., Jan. 9, 16, 23 & 30

10 - 11 AM

Independence Branch



SENIOR ARTS & CRAFTS

Tues., Jan 10 & 24, Feb. 7 & 21

10 AM-Noon

Covington Branch

Supplies provided. Ages 55+. Registration required.



THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF CINCINNATI PRESENTS: MARTIN'S DREAM*

Tues., Jan. 10 - Sun., Jan. 15

Online

Martin's Dream includes fun, interactive components where viewers can "choose their own adventure" by making different choices along the way. See website for full details and registration.



DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: A READING EXPERIENCE WITH RABBITS*

Tues., Jan. 10 & 22

6 - 8 PM

Independence Branch

For children up to age 12. Registration required.

STORY STROLL: I HAVE A DREAM

Mon., Jan. 16

1 - 3:30 PM

Erlanger Branch

Stroll around the room while reading Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream." There will be stations to learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King's life and his dream for his country. For ages 4-8.

ANIME CLUB

Fri., Jan. 20

6 - 8 PM

Independence Branch

Teens are invited to meet up with other anime fans for shows, pizza, and fun!



NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER JOB FAIR

Thurs., Jan. 26

11 AM - 3 PM

Erlanger Branch

New Year, New Career Job Fair in partnership with the Kentucky Career Center. Career Coaching from 11-2 pm. A career coach can help with resumes, interviews, and cover letters as well as give overall guidance. The Job Fair will take place from 11-3 pm.

LUNCH AND LEARN: VENT HAVEN MUSEUM*

Fri., Jan. 27

Noon - 1 PM

Erlanger Branch

Join us for a talk with Lisa Sweasy, Curator of the Vent Haven Museum, the world's only museum dedicated to Ventriloquism. Lunch provided.

HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO

Sat., Jan. 28, 2023

11 AM - 3 PM

Covington Branch

Check out local health organizations and community groups, take advantage of free health screenings and more.

CHAIR EXERCISE*

Mon., Jan. 30

11 - 11:30 AM

Erlanger Branch

CYNTHIA KUKLA CELEBRATES ANCIENT EGYPT IN ART

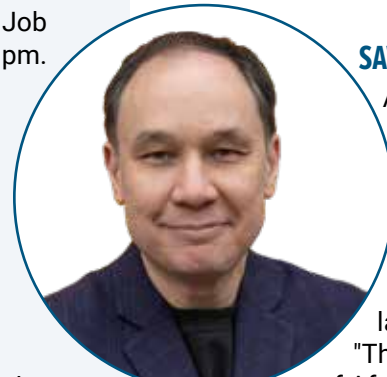
Wed., Feb. 1- Tues., Feb. 28

Open hours

Covington Branch



My Ostraka art series by Cynthia Kukla (Professor Emerita, Art) is on display at the Covington Branch of the Kenton County Public Library from February 1-February 28. Throughout My Ostraka series, Cynthia references well-known and lesser-known sculptures and artifacts of Egypt as well as a whole series on the revered Egyptian lotus. Please see our events page for other programs inspired by Egypt.



SAVE THE DATE!

Author **Jamie Ford**, award-winning author of books including "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," "Love and Other Consolation Prizes," and "The Many Daughters of Afong Moy: A Novel"

will offer a presentation at the Erlanger Branch on **Thursday, April 20**. Please see kentonlibrary.org/events for details.



COVINGTON BRANCH
502 Scott Boulevard, Covington, KY 41011

ERLANGER BRANCH
401 Kenton Lands Road, Erlanger, KY 41018

WILLIAM E. DURR BRANCH
1992 Walton-Nicholson Road, Independence, KY 41051



At NKU, Learning Doesn't End at Graduation

Many working professionals want the chance to grow and develop their skills without slowing down. Actively seeking educational opportunities not only helps employees continue to climb the ladder and adapt to an ever-changing workplace, but also allows companies to hold onto their most talented employees longer.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY (NKU) IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THOSE PATHWAYS FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES—WHETHER IT'S FOR ENJOYMENT, INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION OR CAREER ADVANCEMENT.

"People often look at non-university programs or consultants for professional training and don't realize they have a resource in their community," says Carmen Hickerson, NKU's assistant vice president of economic engagement and government relations.

NKU offers a wide variety of opportunities that allow learners to continue their education and develop new skills—or sharpen existing ones. There are more than 22 advanced degree programs to choose from, in fields like business leadership and data management, that can enhance employability.

NKU also offers more than 30 micro-credentials, all of which are aligned with relevant industry standards. These for-credit courses allow learners to easily

build on their career and demonstrate their mastery of relevant workplace skills, abilities and competencies more quickly. Many micro-credentials can be stacked as a pathway toward a degree.

However, not everyone has the time or interest in long-term programs. That's why NKU also offers flexible non-credit courses, certificate programs and online courses for learners who are at various stages in their career. These learning opportunities are designed to allow professionals to have a work-life balance while they study.

Learners have the option to enroll in NKU's self-paced classes that can be accessed online anytime, anywhere. These courses, which provide practical skills training, are taught by industry leaders and are curated by NKU faculty. Courses cover a variety of areas, including data literacy and management, technology, leadership and project management.

Additionally, NKU partners with local companies in the region to upskill their employees, which prepares them for a modern, ever-changing workplace, by providing a variety of customized training courses.

"Employees want opportunities to grow; employers want to retain their best workers. It's a win-win situation," Hickerson says. "Organizations get to keep their employees as they develop their skills—skills that they'll then use to support the business."

WHY NKU?

At its core, the NKU is committed to learners of all ages and backgrounds and to moving the region forward. Through online, in-person and hybrid learning opportunities, NKU offers flexibility and pathways that fit busy lifestyles.

Pursuing professional development opportunities at NKU gives learners the chance to engage with respected, experienced instructors and training facilitators who provide practical, cutting-edge training.

No matter which path learners take, NKU offers a vast catalog of courses, which is based on what our world needs now. Learners leave with tangible skills and knowledge that not only make them highly marketable but can transform their industries and make an incredible impact where it matters.

"Our goal at NKU is to give all students—whether they're recent high school grads or mid-career professionals—the learning experiences they need to succeed in their careers." Hickerson says. "We're proud to help them on their way."

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW NKU'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS CAN MOVE YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD BY VISITING NKU.EDU/PDCE OR CALL 859.572.5236.

Talking to Kids About Alcohol and Other Drugs



Research suggests that one of the most important factors in healthy child development is a strong, open relationship with a parent. It is important to start talking to your children about alcohol and other drugs before they are exposed to them - as early as 9 years old.



www.underageddrinking.samhsa.gov

5 CONVERSATION GOALS

- 1 SHOW YOU DISAPPROVE OF UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRUG MISUSE.**
Over 80 percent of young people ages 10-18 say their parents are the leading influence on their decision whether to drink. Send a clear message that you disapprove of underage drinking and use or misuse of other drugs.
 - 2 SHOW YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SUCCESS.**
Reinforce why you don't want your child to drink or use other drugs—because you want your child to be happy and safe.
 - 3 SHOW YOU'RE A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS.**
You want your child to make informed decisions about alcohol and other drugs with reliable information about its dangers. You don't want your child to learn about alcohol and other drugs from unreliable sources. Establish yourself as a trustworthy source of information.
 - 4 SHOW YOU'RE PAYING ATTENTION AND YOU'LL DISCOURAGE RISKY BEHAVIORS.**
Show you're aware of what your child is up to, as young people are more likely to drink or use other drugs if they think no one will notice. Do this in a subtle way, without prying.
 - 5 BUILD YOUR CHILD'S SKILLS AND STRATEGIES FOR AVOIDING DRINKING AND DRUG USE.**
Even if you don't think your child wants to drink, or try other drugs, peer pressure is a powerful thing. Having a plan to avoid alcohol and drug use can help children make better choices. Talk with your child about what they would do if faced with a decision about alcohol and drugs, such as a texting a code word to a family member or practicing how they'll say "no thanks".
- Keep it low-key. Don't worry, you don't have to get everything across in one talk. Plan to have many short talks.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
DIANA.OTOOLE@ERLANGER.KYSCHOOLS.US
AMY.COOLEY@ERLANGER.KYSCHOOLS.US

What's Happening!TM is an apolitical, secular, semi-annual reference publication mailed to county residents to inform them about local government services, programming and resources available in their area. What's Happening! has been a trusted, community-building publication for over 30 years because while it informs, it doesn't persuade. What's Happening! does not host advertisers. Please contact us at info@whatshappeningnews.com if your government or non-profit organization is interested in participating. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. WHAT'S HAPPENING!TM is published by Rivertown Communications. Although all information is believed to be reliable, Rivertown Communications cannot guarantee the accuracy of information presented in this publication. All articles and images are submitted and approved by participating organizations and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the publisher. Participating organizations are legally responsible for images they provide. ©2022 All rights reserved.



KENTON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR



*Greetings from the PVA Office,
Darlene M. Plummer, Your PVA*

COVINGTON OFFICE

1840 SIMON KENTON WAY, SUITE 3300,
COVINGTON, KY 41011

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:15 AM - 4:15 PM

PHONE: 859.392.1750 FAX: 859.392.1770
INFO.KENTONPVA@KENTONCOUNTY.ORG

INDEPENDENCE OFFICE

5272 MADISON PIKE,
INDEPENDENCE, KY 41011

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM,
CLOSED: 1 - 2 PM

PHONE: 859.392.1750 FAX: 859.392.1770
INFO.KENTONPVA@KENTONCOUNTY.ORG



KENTONPVA.ORG

Property Review

In accordance with the State of Kentucky requirements, the PVA office is required to inspect properties at least once every four years. For the assessment year 2023, the PVA office will review properties in Elsmere/ Elsmere Fire, Erlanger, Ft. Mitchell, Lakeside Park, and Park Hills. Representatives of the PVA Field Team are in these areas to capture up-to-date exterior pictures around your home. Field Team Members are equipped with PVA badges and business cards. If there is a change in the property's value, the property owner will be sent a notice of the new value, typically in April. *Reduce the taxable value of your home with the Homestead Exemption!

Did you know that you may qualify for a reduction in the taxable value of your home thereby reducing your property taxes?

The Kentucky Homestead Act is a tax exemption established for the benefit of the senior or disabled homeowner. To qualify for the homestead exemption, a person must be at least 65 years old during the tax period and the property must be owned and occupied as your primary residence on January 1. **NO NEED TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR BIRTHDAY – APPLY NOW!** Disability Exemption: A person must be classified as 100% totally disabled under any government and/or most private retirement system(s). For more information, please visit our website at www.kentonpva.org or call us at 859-392-1750. (Only one exemption is permitted per household.)

PVA FAQs!



We appreciate the inquiries our office receives on a regular basis, some of which are included below. Please visit our website for additional FAQs.

PVA HAS MY HOME AS A MULTI-FAMILY, BUT WE'VE CONVERTED IT TO A SINGLE-FAMILY. CAN YOU UPDATE YOUR RECORDS?

Sure, we'd be happy to update that once we've verified the conversion. Just give our office a call to let us know!

I SOLD/TOTALED/JUNKED A CAR – WHY AM I STILL RECEIVING VEHICLE TAX NOTICES? I DON'T LIVE IN KENTUCKY ANYMORE – WHY AM I STILL RECEIVING VEHICLE TAX NOTICES?

The County Clerk and PVA Office work together on car issues. Proof of sale or a totaled/junked receipt is required in order to remove taxes. Proof of vehicle registration/title in another state is required to remove taxes if the KY title has not been surrendered.

HOW DO I ADD OR REMOVE SOMEONE'S NAME FROM MY PROPERTY TAX BILL?

In most cases, recording a "Quit Claim Deed" with the Clerk's office will accomplish this. The PVA Office cannot add or remove a name without legal documentation.

HOW DO I CHANGE MY MAILING ADDRESS?

The PVA Office requires all address changes to be in writing. This can be easily done via our website (see "Quick Links", Change of Mailing Address).