

WHAT'S *Happening!*

in Boone County, Kentucky TM



Spring/Summer 2021

Providing high quality service to the community

Boone County Animal Care & Control continues to focus on providing high-quality service to the community, and has taken a number of steps to maintain those services while also bearing the safety of our residents in mind.

■ Annual dog licensing has been improved to allow for easy, fast online registration. Anyone in Boone County may utilize this service rather than in-person licensing if they so choose. Just go to Boonecountyshester.org for more information.

■ **BCACC is in need of volunteers!**

Volunteers help with daily tasks like cleaning, interacting with animals, assisting visitors and more. New volunteers are being successfully and safely trained monthly via Zoom, and volunteer scheduling allows for maximum productivity while keeping all participants safe. **Please email slee@boonecountyky.org for more information on the program.**



In this issue:

BC Conservation District: 7
BC Cooperative Extension: 8
BC Fiscal Court: 1-4
BC Golf Courses: 3

BC Parks & Recreation: 2
BC Public Library: 10
BC Schools: 14

BC Solid Waste Mgmt.: 9
CVG: 16
City of Florence: 15
NKY Health Department: 11

St. Elizabeth Healthcare: 12-13
Sanitation District 1: 6
TANK: 5

We're ready for 2021!

We began accepting Shelter Reservations on March 1.

Reserve a Shelter online at www.boonecountyky.org/parks, in person at 5958 Garrard Street in Burlington, KY, or by calling Boone County Parks at 859/334-2117 between 8 am - 5 pm (M-F). Shelters at Boone Woods Park, Central Park and England-Idlewild Park have either been replaced or are currently in the process of being replaced.

Boone Woods Park - Burlington, KY

Shelter 1 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Shelter 2 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Shelter 3 - 30'x50' (seats 100) \$75

Restroom Buildings, Grills, Electricity and Nearby Water Available

England-Idlewild Park - Burlington, KY

Shelter 1 - 30'x50' (seats 100) \$75

Shelter 2 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Shelter 3 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Port-O-Lets, Grills, Electricity and Nearby Water Available

Walton Community Park - Walton, KY

Shelter 1 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Shelter 2 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Shelter 3 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Restroom Building, Grills Electricity and Nearby Water Available

Central Park - Union, KY

Shelter 1 - 20'x40' (seats 80) \$45

Shelter 2 - 30'x50' (seats 100) \$75

Restroom Buildings, Grills, Electricity and Nearby Water Available

Giles Conrad Park - Hebron, KY

Shelter 1 - (seats 70) \$45

Port-O-Lets, Grill and Electricity Available

Sperti Park - Burlington, KY

Shelter 1 - (seats 25) \$45

Restroom Building, Grill, Electricity and Nearby Water Available

*Limited Parking (6 spaces) *No Parking on the street*



New shelter under construction at England-Idlewild Park



Shelter III at Boone Woods Park

SUMMER CONCERTS & FAMILY FUN NIGHT PERFORMANCES

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sat., June 5 | Swingtime Big Band |
| Thurs., June 10 | Madcap Puppets-Jack & the Gentle Giant |
| Tues., June 15 | String Theory Trio |
| Sat., June 19 | Blue Chip City Big Band |
| Tues., June 29 | Forest Hills Bluegrass Band |
| Tues., July 6 | Fillmore Brass Band |
| Thurs., July 15 | Madcap Puppets-The Story Quest |
| Sat., July 24 | London Street Band |
| Tues., July 27 | Saffire Express |
| Sat., July 31 | Florence Community Band |
| Thurs., August 5 | Cincinnati Shakespeare Company |
| Sat., August 7 | Forever Diamond, Neil Diamond Tribute Band |

IN THE PLANNING STAGES:

Children's Park Programs

Nature Programs

Children's Craft Kits to make at home

Camps

Virtual Activities

Senior Games

Community Yard Sales



Don't miss the Forever Diamond, Neil Diamond Tribute Band on August 7!

Boone County Parks Department

**5958 Garrard Street
Burlington, KY 41005
859-334-2117**



Visit the Boone County Parks website and our Facebook page for updates and news!

Boone Links Golf and Event Center

Boone Links Golf and Event Center is the perfect setting for your special day. A stunning renovation doubles the size of our banquet facility with the majestic Boone Links Golf Course providing the backdrop for your elegant event.

With seating for up to 240 guests, as well as our complimentary bridal suite, our facility will offer one-stop shopping. From the moment you begin your journey, Boone Links Golf and Event Center staff will be available to help navigate your path each step of the way, making your special occasion truly memorable. With our new outdoor wedding venue, updated menu, covered patio, additional parking, and new bar area featuring 16 taps and a large bourbon selection, we look forward to being a part of your perfect day.



We are ready to host your next function!
Call (859) 334-4853 to book your Special Event.



The NEW clubhouse is a MUST SEE!

The gorgeous dining room seats 225 guests with panoramic views of the golf course. It's a complete wedding venue with outdoor ceremonial gazebo, bridal suite, enhanced dining menu, and ample parking.

Check out MiniGolf at Boone Links!

One of our newest additions is our 18-hole miniature golf course. Located on the backside of the clubhouse, our 18-hole miniature golf presents multiple obstacles and water features. Come check out this awesome new feature here at the Boone Links Golf and Event Center!

Prices per 18-hole round:

Adults (13 and over) - \$7.50

Kids (12 and under) - \$5



Boone Links – (859) 371-7550

19 Clubhouse Dr. Florence Ky. 41042

www.boonecountygolf.com



911 emergency response time improves

The Boone County Public Safety Communication Center (PSCC) provides emergency dispatching and 911 service for all police and fire agencies in the county. Each year our center receives around 200,000 911 and nonemergency calls from the public. This department of county government is always focusing on the use of technology to improve service to the public and police/fire first responders. Our center is currently in the process of implementing new software that will offer enhanced information to first responders and improve response

times and the accuracy of 911 call locations.

Smart911 software will now give the public the option to enter more information and/or special needs of 911 callers and their family members into the 911 system. Residents who may have specific medical conditions/disabilities, elderly parents, children with special needs and other unique personal information will now be able to import this information into the 911 system to advise first responders during an emergency event. Residents must “opt-in” to the system and all

information will be protected, linked specifically to your cell phone number, and only used during emergency 911 calls. Furthermore, this information would be available in other areas of the country where local dispatching centers utilize similar technology during a 911 call. More information relating to special needs will better equip police and fire responders during emergency situations.

A second software enhancement will introduce RapidSOS, a product that will utilize the latest technology to more precisely locate 911 calls

originating from cell phones. The ability to quickly locate 911 calls from individuals located in a park, shopping mall or even a rural road is critical for first responders.

More information and the ability to quickly and precisely locate callers are critical factors to effective emergency response. Please be looking for more information in the very near future regarding opportunities to participate in this service and enable first responders to provide the best possible emergency service to your family and loved ones.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MARK IHRIG



Mark Ihrig

Mark Ihrig has been the Boone County Emergency Management Director for 10 years. Mark has served the people of Boone County through the Emergency Management Department since 2000. Emergency Management is the department of local government charged with developing and maintaining a comprehensive emergency management program intended to reduce vulnerability to hazards and enable the community to cope with significant emergencies and disasters. The comprehensive emergency management program

includes many partners who share you, the citizen, as a common customer. Emergency Management efforts include the mitigation of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from threats to public safety from all hazards. Mark is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through the International Association of Emergency Managers and a Certified Kentucky Emergency Manager through the Kentucky Emergency Management Association.

Mark is a graduate of Thomas More College and the Salmon P.

Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. Mark and his wife Jennifer have three sons. Evan is a sophomore Systems Engineering student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Aaron is a freshman Aerospace Engineering student at the University of Cincinnati and Sean is a sophomore at St. Henry District High School. Mark is actively involved in Scouting and coordinates the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) courses for the region through the Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts of America.

Burlington KYTC Regional Driver Licensing Office now open



The Burlington KYTC Regional Driver Licensing Office is now open and offers standard and REAL ID credential services. Extra measures have been taken to ensure sanitization and proper social distancing to protect the health of customers and

employees, including the launch of a new online appointment scheduling system to minimize wait times and lines. Qualifying applicants may make appointments online at realidky.com to apply in person for a standard or REAL ID credential. Walk-ins are also welcome. The Regional Driver Licensing Office, 6159 First Financial Drive, will be open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

NOTE: While some services require an in-person visit, Kentuckians are encouraged to use mail or drop-in options to renew or apply for standard credentials if they are able:

- Those whose licenses, permits or ID cards were lost or expired – or will expire – any time from March 1 through Feb. 28, 2021 and who do not require testing may apply for renewal or replacement remotely through the

circuit court clerk in their county of residence.

- Check with the clerk as to preferred method, such as drop-off form or mail-in form. The forms can be downloaded here - <https://kycourts.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. In addition, check with your circuit clerk or online at drive.ky.gov for updates.



Let's go! New TANK schedules now available for all routes!

After many months of work the System Redesign hit the road in January 2021. We have improved our service and our fare structure is simplified to make riding to and from your destinations a better experience.

We offer four service types including:

TANK Frequent Service

- Frequent Service which offers service every 30 minutes or less 7 days a week! Some routes move to 40 minutes after 8 pm. You will find this type of service along the Madison corridor (n. of 11th), Latonia Center, CVG, Florence/Dixie Hwy and Alexandria Pike/NKU.

TANK Neighborhood Service

- Service every 40 minutes during the week, with hourly service on weekend. Late night and/or weekend service will be improved greatly in places like Ludlow, West Newport, Crestview Hills/Medical Village, and Holman Ave/City Heights.

TANK Jobs Express

- Jobs Express routes offer shift-aligned schedules to major employment centers in Hebron, as well as all-day, hourly service to the Florence Industrial Area. These routes also offer park and ride options for local residents heading to Cincinnati.

TANK Commuter Express

- Serves Park-and-Rides and inbound/outbound commuters

We know the most important route is the one YOU ride every day! We encourage you to visit our webpage with route specific information at tankbus.org/2021-service-changes

TANK is hiring!

TANK is hiring fixed-route drivers for full-time openings. We are seeking applicants with the talent to communicate, interact and create the best experience for our riders and who strive to provide excellent service to our community.

We offer paid training, excellent health benefits and paid time off.

To apply visit tankbus.org/connect/careers




Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky

TANK is the public transit authority that provides bus service in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties and downtown Cincinnati.

Contact us! Phone: 859/331-TANK (8265) • Web: www.tankbus.org

Connect with TANK!

 Facebook TANK (Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky)

 Instagram @tankbus



SD1 returning to normal business

Water shutoffs, penalties resumed in January

Sanitation District No. 1 returned to normal business operations on January 1 after months of suspended penalties and water disconnections due to nonpayment.

Gov. Andy Beshear issued an executive order in October that ended the suspension of utility disconnections for nonpayment as of Nov. 6, continuing the waiver of penalties on late payments for residential customers through December 31 and setting parameters for default payment arrangements for residential customers.

“SD1 appreciates the fact that even though these restrictions were lifted by the governor on November 6, some of our customers may still be enduring hardships during these unprecedented times,” said Executive Director Adam Chaney. “That is why we made the decision to delay the reinstatement of disconnections and penalties until after January 1.”

To comply with the governor’s order, the District placed all residential customers with a past-due balance into

a default payment arrangement that requires monthly payments equal to 1/6 of the past due amount plus the current monthly charges. Nonresidential customers were not defaulted into a payment plan, and can call SD1 to make payment arrangements.

Letters went out in October to customers with a past due balance explaining their options and laying out the terms of residential payment arrangement plans. Customers can pay the full amount due immediately to avoid entering into a payment arrangement, and can pay more than is due under the default agreement to shorten the term of the arrangement.

Customers who pay their new monthly charges and the past-due payment arrangement on time will remain in good standing and will not be subject to penalties or disconnection for nonpayment.

“We know there are customers who will continue to struggle,” said Chaney. “The six-month payment arrangement will help those hit the



SD1 resumed water shutoffs and penalties for nonpayment in January.

hardest get their accounts caught up over time. Despite COVID-19 and its impact on our community, the vital services SD1 provides across our region to manage wastewater and storm water never stop. SD1 believes the gradual return to normal business operations is the appropriate balance between the economic realities of our customers and our commitment to reliably protect public health, property and

the environment and to support the economic vitality of our community.”

SD1 continues to offer a Customer Assistance Program in partnership with the Brighton Center for low-volume customers who qualify. Additional information about the SD1 program and other assistance is available at <https://sd1.org/164/Customer-Assistance-Program>.

We all play a role in storm water management

Most of the rain that falls from the sky seeps into the ground, but the rain that doesn’t can cause real problems in local communities. If the ground is saturated, frozen or covered by hard surfaces like driveways or parking lots, the water flows over the land, creating what is known as storm water runoff.

This runoff picks up pollutants like litter, oil, pet waste and chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides and carries them into SD1’s storm sewer system, which is designed to discharge storm water into the nearest creek or river.

Excess storm water runoff can also cause flooding and erosion in developed communities, resulting in expensive and inconvenient property damage.

SD1’s Disconnection, Redirection, Infiltration Program (DRIP) provides homeowners with step-by-step guides to implement methods of managing storm water runoff in their own yards and neighborhoods.

A few effective methods homeowners can use to help manage storm water runoff include:

- Downspout Disconnection: This simple procedure cuts off a segment of your home’s downspout and redirects the flow of storm water runoff from your roof to your lawn, a rain barrel or other vegetated area.
- Rain Barrel: Rain barrels are containers that collect and store

storm water runoff from your roof that can be used to irrigate landscaping. This offers the added benefit of potentially reducing your water bill.

- Rain Garden: These shallow, vegetated areas are designed to capture, store and clean storm water runoff. They can also beautify your property.

You can learn more about these storm water management methods, including illustrated step-by-step guides, at www.sd1.org/Projectsand-Programs/DRIP.aspx.

SD1



1045 Eaton Drive
Fort Wright, KY 41017
phone: 859/578-7450

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday
8 am - 4:30 pm
www.sd1.org

Protecting our natural resources

The Boone County Conservation District (BCCDKY) works to protect and conserve the beautiful forests, fields, and streams of our community. We provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to residents, landowners, businesses, and public agencies to promote the wise use and protection of natural resources for future generations.

Boone County receives funding for focused conservation project

Despite recent large-scale industrial developments that impact natural habitats and waterways, much of Boone County remains forested. Not only do forests provide habitat for wildlife such as deer, foxes, owls, and migratory birds, they also filter pollutants out of the air and keep streams and rivers clean.

To protect forest resources in Boone County, BCCDKY is partnering with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on a focused conservation project in the Middle Creek watershed, which has over 7,000 acres of forest habitat. This project, funded by NRCS, will support conservation practices such as invasive species management, tree plantings, and riparian vegetation protection. Private landowners within the program area will be eligible for project funding and technical support. Public lands such as Middle Creek Park and Boone Cliffs will also receive support for improved land management.



Almost 50% of Boone County is made up of forests, which provide clean water, air, and wildlife habitat.

light Ohio River resources and increase access for recreational use.

- **Stream Mitigation:** Local streams have been identified for restoration projects to offset the impacts of large-scale developments.
- **Wildlife Research:** Students from NKU and TMU are collecting data on local wildlife populations to learn more about the health of our forests.

Family nature programs

BCCDKY has partnered with the Boone County Parks Department to offer free nature programs each month. Join us for socially-distant hikes, wildlife explorations, and virtual events that will help you get to know the natural environment in our com-



The Ohio River and its tributaries provide an important resource for drinking water, transportation, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

munity. Visit bccdky.org/calendar-of-events for program details.

Upcoming Programs

February 27: Boone County Hikes
March 20: Salamander Search
April 15 and 24: Stream Clean Ups
May 1: Wildflower Walk
June 12: River Sweep

Board meetings

The BCCDKY Board of Supervisors conduct regular business meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. Meetings are held virtually and are always open to the public. To view the agenda or attend a meeting, visit bccdky.org/public-records.

2021 conservation programs

This year, BCCDKY is involved with several new conservation programs. These long-term programs are a result of collaborative efforts from many agencies and will support conservation projects in the community for years to come. To get involved in a project or to view updates, visit bccdky.org.

- **Ohio River Trail Collaboration:** New resources are being developed to high-

Boone County Conservation District

Contact us!

859/586-7903
info@bccdky.org

6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005

Bccdky.org

Follow us!



@bccdky

Prepare for spring!

Extension classes and programs continue

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service continues to provide classes and programs. We all hope to

be able to return to face-to-face programming soon, but until it is safe, many of our classes and programs will be offered online.

Please check boone.ca.uky.edu for the latest details. Registration is required for ALL programs. Programs are free of charge unless otherwise

stated. After you sign up, you will receive notification of program location and if any changes are made to the delivery method.

Upcoming Family and Consumer Science Programs

Call 859/586-6101 for information.

Classes

Exploring Microfibers for Cleaning, Clothing & More

(Kenton County Extension 859/356-3155 to register)

- Tues., 5/4, 10-11:30 am: Microfiber Merchandise
- Thurs., 5/6, 10-11:30 am: Cleaning and Microfiber Cloths: Magic or Matter-of-Fact?

Be a Trash Superstar

- Tues., 5/11, 1:30-3:30 pm (OR) 6:30-8 pm

Making the Most of Your Life Journey (adults only)

- Fri., 6/4 (OR) Sat., 6/5, 10 am-Noon (OR) 6-8 pm

Money Story Walk

- Tues., 7/13 & 7/20, available between 9:30 am and 1 pm

Connect with Others

Being connected socially and emotionally with others is just as, if not more, important than eating well and being physically active for healthy living and aging. Boone County Extension Homemakers can provide that social connection! There are clubs that meet monthly and mailbox members that participate as their time allows. The group focuses on lifelong learning, community service, and developing personal skills and networks. All are encouraged to join. Call our office for information about joining this dynamic group.

Boone County 4-H: What's it all about?

4-H is a youth organization committed to building outstanding leaders with marketable skills to succeed in today's global society. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. Any young person ages 9-18 may be involved in Kentucky 4-H.

What is 4-H? 4-H Youth Development is part of Kentucky Coop-

erative Extension. Extension's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of Kentucky citizens through non-formal education for the entire family. Extension agents and volunteers take the results of university research & explain it in such a way that different age groups can learn & apply the information to their own lives.

Head, Heart, Hands & Health are the four Hs in 4-H, which represent the

four values members work on via fun and engaging programming.

- Head - Managing, Thinking
- Heart - Relating, Caring
- Hands - Giving, Working
- Health - Being, Living

The purpose of a 4-H club is to provide positive youth development opportunities to meet the needs of young people to experience belonging, mastery, independence and generosity

— the Essential Elements — and to foster educational opportunities tied to the Land Grant University knowledge base.

Boone County 4-H has 12 different clubs that meet throughout the year. The Boone County Cooperative Extension Service office has a list of the clubs with the club leaders' contact information. We encourage you to get involved and take advantage of these opportunities.

Boone County Cooperative Extension Service



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



Disabilities accommodated
with prior notification.

P.O. Box 876 • 6028 Camp Ernst Rd.
Burlington, KY 41005
PH: 859/586-6101 • FAX: 859/586-6107
E-mail: boone.ext@uky.edu
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4:30 pm

Contest winners

We are excited to announce our 28 winners of the 2021 'Quit the Littering' Calendar Contest! This annual contest is open to all Boone County elementary-age kids. The goal of this contest is to educate students about litter — where it comes from, why it exists, and how to stop it. With over 300 entries, we

were so excited to see the creativity and awareness of our students!

A huge thank you to all of our schools' principals, teachers, staff, and parents for making this possible. A special thank you to our calendar judges, as tough decisions had to be made!

WINNERS:

Cover

Art: Tyler Bollin- New Haven Elem. (5th)
Slogan: Collins Napier- New Haven Elem. (2nd)

Runner-Up

Art: T.R. Rash III- Kelly Elem. (2nd)
Slogan: Ollie Gray- New Haven Elem. (5th)

January

Art: Kennedy Weber- Kelly Elem. (4th)
Slogan: Benjamin Heinze- Longbranch Elem. (5th)

February

Art: Addy Hartwig- St. Paul Catholic (4th)
Slogan: Logan Cayze- New Haven Elem. (4th)

March

Art: Brynlee Rice & Joseph Mangine- St. Paul Catholic (6th)
Slogan: Gracie Brummett- St. Paul Catholic (6th)

April

Art: Hailey Bell- New Haven Elem. (K)
Slogan: Carter Young- New Haven Elem. (3rd)

May

Art: Zack Kramer- Shirley Mann Elem. (2nd)
Slogan: Cameron Lenhof- New Haven Elem. (2nd)

June

Art: Claire Ewing- Kelly Elem. (3rd)
Slogan: Caleb Flaig- Immaculate Heart of Mary (4th)

July

Art: Teegan Ellison- St. Paul Catholic (6th)
Slogan: Mila Sowder- New Haven Elem. (1st)

August

Art: Mallory Bischoff- New Haven Elem. (3rd)
Slogan: Johanna Heinze- Ballyshannon Middle (7th)

September

Art: Levi Estey- New Haven Elem. (1st)
Slogan: Alena Howard- New Haven Elem. (3rd)

October

Art: Noah Gamble- St. Paul Catholic (K)
Slogan: Tyrus Rash- Kelly Elem. (K)

November

Art: Matthew Steht- Longbranch Elem. (1st)
Slogan: Avery Melrose- New Haven Elem. (1st)

December

Art: Izabelle Estey- New Haven Elem. (5th)
Slogan: Kennedy Vice- Kelly Elem. (5th)

To get a calendar, stop by our office!



**"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall,
Who's the Cleanest County of
them all? Boone!"**

Winning cover art and slogan

COVID Big Blue Bins: The Big Blue Bins have expanded to additional locations. Recycle your items here:

- North Pointe Elementary School (875 North Bend Road, Hebron)
- Corner of Idlewild Road & Maplewood Drive
- Union Park (10165 Old Union Road, Union)
- Walton Fire Protection District (12600 Towne Center Drive, Walton)

Check out www.bigbluebin.com for updated locations.

Accepted items: Plastic bottles & jugs; Glass bottles & jars; Metal cans; Mixed paper; Cardboard

What's the big deal about litter?

The kids learned — now it's YOUR turn! Litter is expensive. Each year, around \$250,000 of our tax dollars are spent cleaning up litter in Boone County; in the state of Kentucky, it's around \$9 million! The estimated cost of litter pickup is 30 cents per piece of litter. In 2020, our volunteer groups spent over 120 hours cleaning up roadsides and parks in Boone County and collected over 17,000 pounds of litter!

So ... What can I do? There are a few things that can help our case of the litter. Here are some easy ones:

- NEVER LITTER!
- Talk with friends, parents, and anyone who will listen about littering and its effects.
- Secure loads and remove any loose trash in your car.
- Never throw a cigarette butt on the ground — use a cup as an ash tray instead!
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood — if you don't, who will?
- Don't throw food out the car window — animals can cause accidents when trying to eat this food.

HHW Collection Event results

On November 7, 2020, over 300 volunteers safely gathered to collect Northern Kentucky's household hazardous waste — the biggest household hazardous waste event in Kentucky! In 6 hours, 2,534 residents dropped over 293,000 pounds of waste, all of which were diverted from the landfill. If you participated this past year, give yourself a pat on the back!

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Electronics | 124,856 lbs |
| Cleaners & Aerosols | 6,253 lbs |
| Paint & Adhesives | 117,443 lbs |
| Pesticides & Poisons | 6,520 lbs |
| Batteries | 5,608 lbs |
| Corrosives, Flammables, & Fuels | 23,017 lbs |
| Cylinders & Tanks | 5,935 lbs |
| Bulbs | 3,878 lbs |
| TOTAL | 293,510 lbs |

Boone County Solid Waste Management

Boone County Solid Waste Team

- **Mike Wilson**, Solid Waste Services Supervisor
859/334-3629; mike.wilson@boonecountyky.org
- **Megan Clere**, Community Outreach Coordinator
859/334-3151; mclere@boonecountyky.org
- **Dennis Gosney**, Recycling Manager
859/334-4808; dgosney@boonecountyky.org

Sign up for our newsletter, *The Recycler*, online! Updates for upcoming cleanup events, litter issues, educational opportunities, burn bans, recycling information, and more can be found on www.bigbluebin.com.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



Imagine meeting your Kindergarten teacher for the first time and proudly saying “I just finished reading 1000 books!” Boone County Public Library has created a program that makes this possible. Families and caregivers read together every day while accomplishing a major goal. Studies show that reading with young children is the single most important activity adults can do to prepare children for kindergarten; it builds vocabulary as well as language skills. In as little as 15 minutes a day, families can build the skills for future school and life success.

The average picture book takes just 5 minutes to read. Three books a day, which totals 15 minutes a day, for one year, equates to 1,095 books. And you can even take more than one year

if you prefer. You can also include books read at childcare centers, waiting at the doctor’s office, watching BCPL Virtual Storytimes, listening to books on CD, or walking along the StoryWalks in Boone County. And you can read the same books over and over! So there’s no need to hide that favorite book you have already read 10 times this week. It counts as 10 books and counts as more every time you read it.

BCPL uses the FREE Beanstack Tracker app. To register your preschooler, download the app available from Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Or if you prefer paper, visit bcpl.org for a printable Reading Log. Any time your child reads a book, or you read a book to him/her, mark it in the electronic or paper log. Each time your child completes a 100 book milestone, visit any BCPL location for a milestone reward!

Check out bcpl.org for all the details! If you need additional assistance, please contact us at 1000books@bcpl.org.

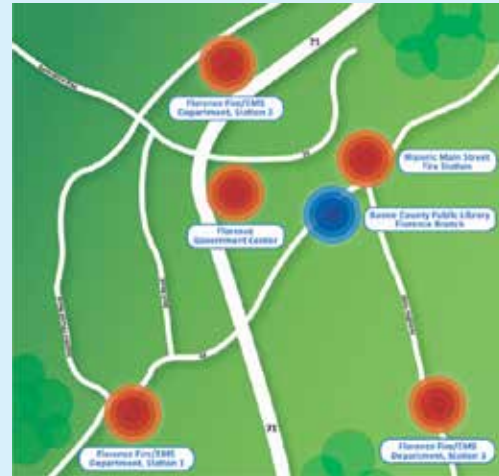
Milestone Rewards

100 Books
Receive a drawstring bag and a 100 Books button to add to the backpack.

200-900 Books
Receive a numbered button (example 400 Books) every time you finish another 100 books until you decorate your bag with nine buttons, representing 900 books read!

1000 Books
Receive a 1000 Books button, a certificate, and a photo opp with Tales the Library Dragon, which will be posted on our social media platforms (requires a signed photo release form).

BCPL’s Wide-Area Mesh Network



The Wide-Area Mesh Network is an effort to reduce the digital divide in our community making necessary and social connections a little less stressful.

The digital divide in Boone County became more apparent during the pandemic. The switch to work-from-home, telehealth, and virtual schooling brings to light the lack of internet access in our community. A working group was formed by the Library to focus on digital inclusion in Boone County in an effort to alleviate the strain placed on families. The Library Board of Trustees voted to amend the Library’s Capital Projects Budget to include money to create the Wide-Area Mesh Network. The cost of the equipment to create the network is \$16,000.

The first stage of the project calls for the Library to bolster the Wi-Fi signal surrounding our six locations by increasing the indoor access points and installing outdoor Wi-Fi access points. Think of each library location sitting in the center of a circle with a 1,000 foot diameter. Once the equipment is in place, the secure Wi-Fi network will be available within those circles.

The second stage of the project is to share this signal with partners in the community. From working

with schools in Boone County, we know that approximately 11% of students lack internet access with the largest digital divide in the Florence area. BCPL has partnered with the City of Florence to get Wi-Fi to households in the community that do not have an internet connection. A Wi-Fi access point will be mounted at the Historic Firehouse along with a fiber optic internet line. The Library’s circle will now touch the circle at the Historic Firehouse, each with a diameter of 1,000 feet. Together these two circles will reach about 200 households in the Florence area. Eventually, additional access points can be daisy-chained out to create a larger network of access.

The network acts as if the user is actually in the Library, so it is secure with content filters as well as security encryption in place to stop hackers.

The Wide-Area Mesh Network is an effort to reduce the digital divide in our community making necessary and social connections a little less stressful.

Helping ourselves and family members stay safe and healthy during winter

The arrival of snowy weather and colder temperatures also brings an increased risk of illness and injury. This year in addition to the flu, we have the added threat of COVID-19. In addition to personal precautions you can take to fight these deadly viruses, it's also important to stay informed of guidelines and restrictions that have been put in place to help protect you and your loved ones. The Northern Kentucky Health Department (NKY Health) is dedicated to informing and educating people about health concerns like the seasonal flu and COVID-19, and is dedicated to empowering the members of the Northern Kentucky community with actions to take to avoid health hazards including illness and injury. NKY Health is your partner in helping all of Northern Kentucky to stay safe and healthy this winter season.

Take precautions to prevent the spread of seasonal flu and COVID-19

- Make sure you (and your family) are up to date on your immunizations. This includes the seasonal flu shot which is readily available at health care providers and many community pharmacies and clinics. This year it is more important than ever to receive a flu vaccine. Getting vaccinated can not only protect



Stay healthy and safe this winter!

- you and the people around you, it also protects our health care system from becoming overwhelmed with caring for those who may become seriously ill from either COVID-19 or seasonal flu.
- When it's your turn, get your COVID-19 vaccine.
- Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands often, with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wear a face covering and stay six feet apart from others whenever you are in public and around people who do not live in your home.
- Avoid crowded places while still "visiting" your favorite places by utilizing store and restaurant curbside pick-up or delivery.
- Stay home from work, school or community events if feeling ill. Don't spread your germs to others.

- Find healthy ways to deal with stress – talk to someone, get enough sleep, check out the many apps and websites available to help with stress.
- Contact your health care provider if you are having flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, sore throat, cough and body aches.
- Seek immediate medical care in the event of an emergency.

Staying safe

- Wear outdoor clothing appropriate to the weather conditions: layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and water-proof boots.
- Avoid using alternative heating sources — such as portable generators, kerosene heaters, propane gas stoves and ovens

heated with gasoline — indoors because this can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

- When planning to go out, be aware of current and forecasted weather and road conditions.
- Always wear your seat belt and buckle up children in car seats, booster seats or seat belts on every trip, no matter how short.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded (such as blankets, first aid kit, food and water, & flashlight) For more information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/features/winterweather/index.html>.
- Check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults and individuals with special needs or living with a long-term illness.
- Work slowly when doing outside chores.
- Be sure that sidewalks, porches, steps and pathways are clear of snow and ice.
- Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector and test batteries monthly.

By following these tips, individuals will be prepared to beat winter-time hazards and more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall. For more information on how you can better plan for winter, visit www.cdc.gov.

NKY Health



Boone County Health Center

7505 Burlington Pike, Florence, KY 41042
phone: 859/363-2060

District Office

8001 Veterans Memorial Drive, Florence, KY 41042
phone: 859/341-4264

To stay up-to-date on the latest information on COVID-19, please be sure to follow us:

- www.facebook.com/nkyhealth/
- [@nkyhealth](https://twitter.com/nkyhealth)
- www.instagram.com/nkyhealthdept/

St. Elizabeth Healthcare opens state-of-the-art Cancer Center

New 250,000 square-foot cancer facility will change the future of cancer care

St. Elizabeth officially opened its new 250,000 square-foot Cancer Center this past fall. The comprehensive center will meet the needs of patients in both the region and nation.

Kentucky faces the highest rates of overall cancer incidence and death in the United States. The Commonwealth also leads the nation in lung cancer incidence and death and colorectal cancer incidence. With the ability to treat nearly 500 patients in a day, St. Elizabeth's six-story facility will lead the way in providing personalized care and treatment in the region.

"The opening of the St. Elizabeth Cancer Center is a momentous occasion for our community as we work together to fight cancer," said Garren Colvin, president and chief executive officer of St. Elizabeth. "Many Kentuckians rely on St. Elizabeth for quality treatment across the healthcare continuum. Now, we can provide even greater access to more individuals facing a cancer diagnosis, right here in our region and nation."

The St. Elizabeth Cancer Center offers cancer detection, diagnosis, and care — all under one roof. With an emphasis on precision medicine and

genomic health, screening education and prevention, clinical research and advanced, innovative technology, St. Elizabeth provides a seamless experience for patients undergoing treatment. St. Elizabeth is also a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, consulting with Mayo Clinic cancer specialists and providing patients access to second opinions at no extra cost. In addition, as a member of the UK Markey Cancer Center Affiliate and Research Networks, patients also have access to additional clinical programs.

"As a cancer survivor myself, I know all too well how important it is to have a multidisciplinary approach to care," said Dr. Doug Flora, executive medical director of St. Elizabeth Oncology Services. "Our new Cancer Center leverages the best healthcare practices to provide an advanced and personalized experience to our patients. With everything our patients need under one roof, they will spend less time worrying about where their next appointment is and more time on what matters most — healing."

The Cancer Center has been intentionally designed to provide a leading caregiving experience for



patients and includes design elements that help slow the spread of germs, especially important amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about the Cancer Center, visit stelizabeth.com/cancercenter.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare



St. Elizabeth Covington

1500 James Simpson, Jr. Way
Covington, KY 41011
859/655-8800

St. Elizabeth Dearborn

600 Wilson Creek Road
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812/537-1010

St. Elizabeth Edgewood

1 Medical Village Dr.
Edgewood, KY 41017
859/301-2000

St. Elizabeth Florence

4900 Houston Rd.
Florence, KY 41042
859/212-5200

St. Elizabeth Ft. Thomas

85 North Grand Ave.
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
859/572-3100

St. Elizabeth Grant

238 Barnes Rd.
Williamstown, KY 41097
859/824-8240

One of nation's first implant of bluetooth-connected heart device at St. Elizabeth

Dr. Mohamad Sinno recently performed one of the first implantations in the U.S. of a Bluetooth-enabled biventricular implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD) at St. Elizabeth Edgewood. The new device, the Abbott Gallant, recently received FDA approval for a new technology assessment and is available in only a few centers in the U.S. during this assessment phase.

Internal defibrillators are implantable devices for patients who are at risk of life-threatening heart rhythm problems. "This next-generation device communicates wirelessly to the patient's physician and also lets patients access information about the device using an app on a smartphone," explained Dr. Sinno, a cardiac electrophysiologist with the St. Elizabeth Heart & Vascular Institute. This device is the first ever implantable cardiac device to

communicate via Bluetooth with a smartphone app for the patient.

The smartphone connectivity in this device is expected to substantially improve patient remote monitoring rates and patient engagement in monitoring. Research has shown that better patient engagement and compliance with monitoring translates into reduced hospitalizations, better clinical outcomes, and improvement in survival. The smartphone connectivity offers patients flexibility compared to traditional bedside monitors. The app allows easy transmission of data manually and access to device status such as battery longevity, all done in a cybersecure mode with enabled two-way authentication.

"At the St. Elizabeth Heart & Vascular Institute, we are very excited to offer our community new and enhanced technologies such as this device that have been proven to



improve patient access to care, patient compliance, and clinical outcomes," said Dr. Sinno.

For more information, contact the St. Elizabeth Arrhythmia Center at 859/331-3353.

Dr. Sinno and team performed one of the first implantations of a Bluetooth-connected heart device.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare first in region to offer new treatment for mesothelioma

St. Elizabeth is the first in Kentucky and the only health system in the region to offer a new wearable, non-invasive treatment for mesothelioma. Optune Lua is a portable device that delivers low-grade electrical fields to the tumors to slow the growth of cancer cells.

"Optune Lua is a new treatment that slows progression and improves the quality of life for people living with mesothelioma," says Dr. Goetz Kloecker, medical oncologist with St. Elizabeth Physicians. "It is the first FDA-approved treatment for mesothelioma in 15 years."

Malignant pleural mesothelioma is a rare and aggressive cancer that attacks the lining of the lungs, abdomen, and heart. Once diagnosed, most patients only live for 12-18 months. Mesothelioma is typically caused by exposure to asbestos. There is currently no cure for mesothelioma for the absolute majority of patients.

Doug Flora, MD, executive medical director of St. Elizabeth oncology services, said, "Our commitment to cancer treatment for the region is evident in our new cancer center. As we create a center

of excellence for thoracic cancers, it is important that we continue to bring new and innovative treatment options like this to St. Elizabeth and our community — options that aren't readily available elsewhere in the region."

In clinical studies, the Optune Lua in combination with chemotherapy, extended life by 50%, and 97% saw their mesothelioma shrink or stop growing. The device is portable and is worn to deliver wave-like electric impulses to the lungs. These electric waves are created by adhering large pads on the skin over

the area on the front and back of your body. The pads are then connected to a portable battery. Surgery and chemotherapy are standard treatments for mesothelioma. The Optune Lua device when used with chemotherapy is shown to extend the effect that chemotherapy has on treating mesothelioma.

Dr. Kloecker added, "Currently, St. Elizabeth Healthcare only treats mesothelioma with the Optune Lua. In the future and after more clinical studies, we hope the use of low-grade electrical fields may be used to treat other forms of cancer."

Celebrating the diversity of language learning in the Boone County Schools

By Dr. Geniene Delahunty,
Director of Language Learning

Boone County Schools is becoming more diverse in the different languages spoken in students' homes. The number of students assessed annually for English language proficiency grew from 868 English Learners (ELs) to 1055 in 2020. Our schools have experienced huge growth, and not only in the number of ELs and the different languages spoken, but also in the diversity of birth countries. Our students currently represent 75 different countries with 64 unique language

This diversity is definitely something to be celebrated, with Boone County being the third largest district in Kentucky, the impact of having around 7% of our school population (formerly less than 5%) identified as English Learners is significant.

Boone County has experienced a few enrollment waves from cultural groups that previously were not represented in our schools. While the move of Toyota out of Northern Kentucky did relocate some of our Japanese students and families, the affiliate companies still hire and bring in many Japanese families. The most recent waves of enrollment were first Somali speaking students and now French/Lingala speaking students from the Congo. This has changed the demographic makeup of our ELs. Spanish is still our largest percentage of ELs. It may be surprising to most that 63% of our ELs are actually born in the United States. Our top three languages are represented are Spanish (1,279 students), French (213 students) and Somali (142 students).

It is also relevant that while Northern Kentucky does not have a resettlement agency for refugees, nearby cities of Columbus, OH and Louisville, KY do have them. While refugees do not make up the majority of our EL population, we have seen Boone County become a popular destination once families have gone through resettlement.

While the term "language barrier" is popular to use, in the schools we are embracing the term "language difference." Having a different

language does initially present a challenge, but with 'asset thinking' we are able to see the strengths that students with bilingual or multilingual backgrounds bring to the classroom. Our English Learner teachers and paras work tirelessly to provide services to increase students' English proficiency and ability to 1) thrive in their new environment; 2) begin to understand and access content through the language lens; and 3) to support classroom teachers in the implementation of accommodations

their Program of Service Plans (PSP) mandate.

Never before has the saying "it takes a village" been more true in the Boone County Schools. Our village has many diverse needs, and it also has many strengths. Working together and connecting with each other might be more challenging with our current pandemic, however we are resource rich, and we can draw upon that to meet the learning needs of all students.



Boone County Schools is becoming more diverse in the different languages spoken in students' homes.

Boone County Schools



**8330 US Highway 42
Florence, KY 41042**

**Phone: 859/283-1003
Fax: 859/282-2376**

Follow us on social media!



Spring Cleanup program

The week of April 19 - April 25 is Spring Cleanup week in Florence. Florence residents (must show proof of residency) may bring their unwanted trash and debris (excluding hazardous waste) to the Public Services

Maintenance Facility located at 7850 Tanners Lane for disposal. Facility hours are 7 am-7 pm Monday through Friday and 9 am-7 pm on Saturday and Sunday.



Florence Senior Activity Center

The Florence Senior Activity Center is a Silver Sneaker facility managed by the YMCA located at 7231 US 42. A variety of virtual activities are available for seniors 60 and older. For more information please contact the Senior Center at 859/282-4061.

Upcoming events

Check our website at Florence-ky.gov for upcoming events within the City. Current events and cancellations will be updated on our website and social media. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Join our e-news mailing list

Do not miss out on the latest Florence news and updates. Receive our e-news items announcing upcoming events and all the happen-

ings and goings-on in your Florence Community! Subscribe today by visiting: florence-ky.gov/enevs.

World of Golf

Visit World of Golf located at 7400 Woodspoint Drive. World of Golf features an 18-hole executive golf course, FootGolf, golf simulator, indoor and outdoor driving range, miniature golf, and more. Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-8 pm and Sunday 9 am-5 pm all year round. It is the perfect place to practice, play, and learn. Call 371-8255 for additional information or visit www.landrumgolf.com.



FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| Administration..... | 859/647-8177 | Police or Fire/EMS (non-emergency).... | 859/371-1234 |
| Finance..... | 859/647-5413 | Public Services..... | 859/647-5416 |
| Fire/EMS Administration..... | 859/647-5660 | Water/Sewer..... | 859/647-5413 |
| Police Administration..... | 859/647-5420 | | |

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Visit www.whatshappeningnews.com for all the news in Boone, Kenton, Campbell and Oldham counties

CVG Airport

CVG Airport infrastructure update

CVG Airport is a key economic driver for the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region with an annual impact of \$6.8 billion on the local economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has struck every industry hard, especially aviation. CVG is seeing less passenger traffic than previous years, however, with its diversified operations, cargo traffic has been breaking records — increasing 14% in 2020, which remains a positive in these difficult times.

The Airport and overall region will recover. To speed that recovery, CVG is moving critical infrastructure projects forward this year, including the rehabilitation of runway 9/27 — CVG's longest and most utilized runway which directionally runs east/west. Much like roads need repaving, so do airport runways. Did you know, because of the length of this runway, aircraft are able to fly direct from CVG to DHL's hub in Hong Kong?

Runway 9/27 is critical for air cargo operations at CVG, which supports jobs and economic vibrancy. The project and subsequent closure of this runway will take place starting in spring 2021 and will impact aircraft landings and takeoffs for approximately six months —

moving much of the aircraft operations to other runways. During the project, air traffic to the east and west of the airport will likely decrease, and operations flying north and south of CVG will temporarily increase.

CVG is grateful for the support and patience of the community as this important infrastructure update is completed.

To minimize impacts on operations and surrounding communities, CVG has worked with the Federal Aviation Administration and cargo partners to compress the project schedule to one year versus the typical two years it would take for a project of this size. CVG is grateful for the support and patience of the community as this important infrastructure update is completed. To learn more, please visit CVGairport.com/Noise.

