

Watterson Park Word

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WATTERSON PARK, KENTUCKY



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Watterson Park Council and Officers

- Linda Chesser.....Mayor
- Jay Bourke..... Councilman
- Becky Ewan.....Councilwoman
- Steve Fortwengler.....Councilman
- Gina Garrett.....Councilwoman
- Phil Johnson..... Councilman
- Marlene Welsh..... Councilwoman
- Jerry Wild.....Treasurer
- Aggie Keefe Clerk

Watterson Park Business Owners

We are offering businesses located in Watterson Park a **FREE** listing on our website, WattersonParkKy.com. We will provide a direct link to your website as well as email links. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please email the following to WattersonParkInfo@att.net:

- Business name
- Contact person
- Address
- Phone number
- Website URL
- Email address(es)
- A short description of your company and the services or products you offer

"City Tax Rates Slashed; Lowest in Jefferson County"



Our City has always attempted to be a good steward of our financial resources because of our commitment for service to our taxpayers — both residents and businesses. Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that we have recently passed tax ordinances that reduce our rates for the three major taxes we impose. Since the creation of our City, the real property tax rate has been reduced by 60% — from 16¢ per \$100 of valuation to the new rate of 6.5¢.

- The Real Property tax rate has been reduced to **6.5¢** from 7.1¢.
- The Tangible Personal Property tax rate has been reduced to **5.0¢** from 6.5¢.
- The Motor Vehicles/Watercraft tax rate has been reduced to **7.0¢** from 7.5¢.

Note: Tax rates listed are imposed per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The Kentucky Department of Revenue's website provides 2020 tax rates for the 91 home rule cities in Jefferson County, Kentucky. (Rates are not yet available for 2021.) Using this data, we have done a comparison of Watterson Park's tax rates with those of other home rule cities in Jefferson County for 2020.

Real property taxes are assessed on land, buildings, and permanently attached fixtures. The real property tax rates for home rule cities in Jefferson County in 2020 ranged from 6.7¢ to 35.1¢. Watterson Park now has the lowest rate in Jefferson County. The tax rate for the Louisville Urban Services District (formerly the City of Louisville before its merger with Jefferson County) was 36.71¢. Additionally, of the more than 400 cities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the City of Watterson Park has the ninth lowest rate!

Tangible personal property is comprised of physical property owned by a business and includes items such as equipment, furniture, and vehicles. Of the home rule cities who taxed tangible property, Watterson Park's rate was the lowest; the highest rate was listed at 36.6¢. The rate for the Louisville Urban Services District was 56.6¢.

The Property Valuation Administrator lists, values, and assesses the property tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft as of January 1 of each year. For calendar year 2021, we had one of the lowest rates on these vehicles in Jefferson County. It should be noted that the number of cities in Jefferson County that impose tangible property and watercraft taxes are far fewer than those that impose real property taxes.

We are proud of the fact that we can reduce your tax burden yet still offer the myriad services our residents and businesses not only deserve as taxpayers, but also to which they have become accustomed. Your Watterson Park Council works diligently to improve the quality of life for all and to make Watterson Park one of the best cities in Jefferson County.

If you have any questions or concerns, please refer to the Contact Us page on our website — WattersonParkKy.com — where you will find a list of committees, chairs, and members along with contact information.

I hope you are enjoying the breezy days and cool, crisp nights during this beautiful fall season!

Linda Chesser

Linda Chesser, Mayor

Build a Kit: Prepare for an Emergency

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for several days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. Once you take a look at the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- ✓ Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ✓ Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and an NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Extra batteries
- ✓ Whistle (to signal for help)
- ✓ Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- ✓ Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- ✓ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ✓ Manual can opener (for food)
- ✓ Local maps
- ✓ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Since spring of 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended people include additional items in their kits to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or other viruses and the flu. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/kit> for more information.

~ From ready.gov

Interview with

MARLENE WELSH

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK COUNCILWOMAN



Marlene Welsh is currently our longest-serving member of the Watterson Park City Council. She was elected to the Council in 2006 and has been re-elected to every term since. Marlene has always been very active in her community. Anyone who meets her can't help but be impressed by her knowledge, energy, and candor — traits that help to balance our hard-working City Council.

For how long have you lived in Watterson Park?

I have lived on Larkmoor Lane since 1954. My parents were originals on this street. My husband and I became homeowners on Larkmoor Lane in 1961. Our only child, Joe, was born and raised here.

You are very active in your community.

Yes, I try to be a good neighbor and to set an example on the street. Most people here do a great job of maintaining their property and looking out for each other. I tell them that this is Mayberry and I'm Aunt Bea. If they have a problem, I will try to solve it.

Tell us how you first became involved with Watterson Park.

I became interested in Watterson Park and the Council when the City was first formed. My husband, Joe, was a Councilmember from the inception of the City and was part of the original planning of the rules and regulations. I went to the meetings with him and was happy to be a part of it. In 2006 I became a member of the Council and am still glad to be a part of it.

What do you like most about being a Councilwoman?

I like participating in the decision-making process and contributing to the progress of the City.

You are extremely active on the Watterson Park Council. In addition to your duties as a Councilwoman, you are Chair of the Events Committee and a member of both the Sanitation Committee and the Urban Forestry/Green Space Committee. I have been a part of several committees, including Sanitation and Urban Forestry. But the most interesting is the Events Committee, where I get to plan the City trip. It is really involved and time-consuming, but it's so much fun.

What has been your favorite trip so far?

We've had trips to gardens, zoos, and several other places. Everyone seemed to have fun, especially the children at the zoos. Last year because of COVID there wasn't a trip, but we hope to be able to resume the tradition soon. Being an animal lover, if I had to pick a favorite, I think it would be the trips to the zoos.



Marlene and her late husband, Joe.

You retired in 2006 after a long career in finance. What did you do, and for how long were you employed in that industry?

I worked for 50 years in the financial industry. I survived five mergers and continued to progress. I dealt with dealers and contracts and did a lot of traveling with my job, teaching three different computer systems and putting remote offices on those systems. I taught corporate "intranet" instead of internet. Perhaps this is why my internet is sometimes confusing! I retired after 50 years and have been retired for 15 years now. Do I miss it? Yes. I always enjoyed the travel — it was all very interesting. They asked me to work longer, but I thought 50 years was long enough!

Tell us about your volunteer work in the community.

I have volunteered with AARP doing taxes for the past five years and, in doing so, have met lots of nice people.

You were married to Joe Welsh, a former Councilman and one of our founding members. Tell us about him.

I was married for 57 years to Joe, a fantastic man who was extremely loving. And he was also very patient — a necessary

“ This is Mayberry and I'm Aunt Bea. If they have a problem, I will try to solve it.

trait to be married to a super energetic woman like me. Joe died in 2014 at the age of 82.

Tell us about your family.

My son, Joe, just recently retired and is still teaching EMTs. He has his own company and works harder now than ever before. He is an only child, as I am; but he has accomplished a lot more. He is now on a national register with his company. I have four grandchildren who are all grown and doing well. And I also have four great-grandchildren.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment in my personal life is my son, Joe.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my spare time I don't accomplish much — lunch and dinner with friends, and sometimes a movie.

What is the most daring thing you've ever done?

The most daring thing I have done is a hot air balloon ride on my 50th birthday, provided by my son. Although I flew a lot in my job, this was so much more exciting. It was a thrill to be flying high in something other than a plane.



Marlene, husband Joe, and their grandchildren.

Do you have a favorite family tradition?

Yes, getting together with family on holidays.

What is on your personal wish list for the next five years?

My personal wish for five years is to stay healthy and still be able to walk two miles every day!

City of Watterson Park

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Lillian Wild Walking Path



County Wide Lawn & Landscaping added some fall décor by the fence on the walking path. They removed the spring flowers, planted some mums, and added a few corn stalks. This 1/6-mile paved path is the perfect place to get in some exercise.

Address any comments regarding this newsletter to:
Aggie Keefe, Editor • City of Watterson Park • P.O. Box 35334 •
Louisville, KY 40232 • WattersonParkInfo@att.net

Call the LOU HEALTH COVID-19 Helpline: 502-912-8598

- › Not sure what to do if you test positive?
- › Need to know when to go back to work or school after testing positive or being a close contact of someone who tested positive?
- › Need to find a place to get tested?
- › Want information on the COVID-19 vaccine?
- › Need support to safely stay home if you tested positive or were around someone who was positive?

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Language translation services available.

More information:
kycovid19.ky.gov | www.louisvilleky.gov/covid19

from Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness

Snow Removal

Watterson Park has contracted with County Wide Lawn & Landscaping to provide snow removal from City residential streets this winter season. They will also treat streets with brine when necessary. When significant snowfall and/or ice is forecast, please park your vehicle in your driveway so that brine can be applied and/or snow can be removed safely and quickly. Thank you!

