

Watterson Park Word

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WATTERSON PARK, KENTUCKY

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Insurance Premiums Tax

As you may know, City and County governments impose license taxes on premiums paid to insurance companies (except for worker’s compensation and health insurance). This represents a significant source of revenue for the City of Watterson Park and helps to keep other taxes lower than they would be otherwise.

You can help us make sure that these taxes are properly paid to Watterson Park and not to some other city by notifying your insurance company that the premium tax you pay should be forwarded to the City of Watterson Park, P.O. Box 35334, Louisville, KY 40232. **Doing so will not increase your taxes or the cost of your insurance.** Instead, it will help us ensure that the license tax on insurance companies that is already being collected is properly received by the City of Watterson Park and used to pay for services for your benefit.

This tax should not be confused with the state insurance premium surcharge, which is also assessed on most types of insurance policies. Those revenues are dedicated to the Firefighters Foundation Program fund and the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund. Policyholders should see the local tax (if it is imposed) and the state tax as two separate line items on their premium notices.

From the Mayor



I am pleased to announce that Watterson Park has once again reduced your real property tax rate. The reduction—from 8.2¢ to **7.1¢** per \$100.00 of assessed valuation—should provide some much-needed financial relief to our businesses as well as to our residents.

With your taxes, Watterson Park provides trash, recycle, and yard waste pickup for residential properties; snow removal; street light installation and rental; maintaining rights-of-way; street and boundary signs; road and sidewalk paving and repairs; tree planting and maintenance; and off-duty police patrol, among other services.

The real property tax rate in Watterson Park is among the lowest in the entire state. For the 2018–2019 fiscal year, the average real property tax rate for cities in Kentucky was 22.59, with 404 districts reporting; the rate for Watterson Park was 8.2. **In Jefferson County alone, Watterson Park was the third lowest of 90 cities reporting.** You can view tax rates for all Kentucky cities via revenue.ky.gov. (Note: Tax rates for 2019–2020 have not yet been released by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Revenue.)

So when you receive your tax bill this fall, if it’s not being paid through your home mortgage escrow account, PLEASE mail your payment so we can continue to offer the services our residents and businesses deserve and to which they have become accustomed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please refer to the Contact Us page on our website, WattersonParkKy.com.

Thank you, and I hope you’re enjoying this beautiful fall season!

Linda Chesser, Mayor

Homestead Exemption: What is it?

Kentucky’s Constitution allows qualified property owners to receive the Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. **The exemption for 2019–2020 has been increased to \$39,300.**

To qualify for the exemption, you must be 65 years of age or older, and you must own and occupy the property as your primary residence on January 1 of the year in which you apply for the exemption. If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Exemption, the exemption amount is subtracted from your property’s assessed value, reducing your property tax liability.

Only one exemption (Homestead or Disability) is allowed per household. Once approved for the Homestead Exemption, you are *not* required to reapply annually.

Contact the Jefferson County PVA for application forms and additional information.

The 2020 Census: Everyone Counts!

The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—our population, where we live, and so much more. The once-a-decade Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

The Census tells us much more than just the population of our country, your state, and your community. It produces a wide range of statistics about the makeup of those populations, from ages and races to how many people own their home.

The Census data helps businesses, researchers, and communities make decisions. Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. The data can help inform where your community needs a new fire department, more funding for school lunches, or new roads. Census data can help older Americans afford housing. The U.S. Census Bureau data helps communities respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments. The results also determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You can respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

~From 2020census.gov

Louisville Zoo Trip

And another City-sponsored trip for Watterson Park residents has been completed.

According to everyone who participated, it was very enjoyable. This year we stayed locally at our own awesome **Louisville Zoological Gardens**. We had an hour before lunch to get acquainted, and then a hot buffet lunch with a lot of great food. After lunch, two volunteers brought in animals—a chinchilla and a hedge hog. There were stories and a lot of petting, which was supposed to be for the children but was also enjoyed by the adults (of which I was one). If you didn't make this year's trip, I'm sorry you missed it.



Our annual trip is a wonderful way to get acquainted with your fellow residents while enjoying nature at its finest!



~ Submitted by
Councilwoman
Marlene Welsh;
photos courtesy
of Councilwoman
Tiffany Woodson.

Watterson Park Resident Recognized with U.S. Congressional Award Gold Medal



Watterson Park resident Lucas Fortwengler is Kentucky's first youth with Down syndrome to receive the prestigious U.S. Congressional Award Gold Medal. Lucas was presented this award by Congressman John Yarmuth in Washington, D.C., on June 20 of this year.

The Congressional Award Gold Medal is the highest honor a member of Congress may bestow upon a youth civilian. This prestigious award recognizes young people ages 14 to 24 who have devoted at least 800 hours towards voluntary public service, physical fitness, personal development, and expedition/exploration over the past two years.

Students recognized with this gold medal go above and beyond standard academics to engage with their community and develop personally.

Lucas has been in the Boy Scouts of America since age 7 and is currently an Eagle Scout. He works part-time in the Camping Department at Cabela's. Lucas lives in Watterson Park with his father, former Watterson Park Councilman Steve Fortwengler.



Lucas receiving the medal from Congressman John Yarmuth.

According to Lucas's sister, Kaitlin, "This young man is astounding. I am overly proud to say I am his sister.... [Lucas] is moving mountains and he doesn't even know it. He is fighting a battle he isn't aware of; he is a beacon of hope for other people with disabilities. HE IS TRULY AMAZING."



Lucas with his father, Steve, and sister, Kaitlin.



Lucas along with the other 2019 recipients from Kentucky.

Photos courtesy of Steve Fortwengler.



City of Watterson Park

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LOUISVILLE, KY 40232

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NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Seven state executive offices are up for election in Kentucky's upcoming general election:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Agriculture Commissioner
- Auditor
- Treasurer

Polls are open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. You can find your polling location by visiting jeffersoncountyclerk.org/wheredoivote or by calling the Jefferson County Clerk's Office at **502.574.6100**. Sample ballots are available online.

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

Free Website Listing

If you would like to list your business on the Business page of our Watterson Park official website, please email the following information to WattersonParkInfo@att.net:

- Business name
- Address
- Phone/Fax number
- Website URL
- Email address
- A short description of your services

This service is provided **FREE** to all businesses within our City.

City of Watterson Park Council and Officers

Mayor.....	Linda Chesser
Councilwoman.....	Helen Arnold
Councilman.....	Brett Ashley
Councilwoman.....	Gina Garrett
Councilman.....	Phil Johnson
Councilwoman.....	Marlene Welsh
Councilwoman.....	Tiffany Woodson
Treasurer.....	Jerry Wild
Clerk.....	Aggie Keefe

Removing Fall Leaves

A small amount of leaves can easily decompose in your lawn, but too many leaves can keep your grass from getting the sunlight and nutrients it needs. You can ensure your lawn comes back healthier next year by performing timely maintenance this fall.

If you have a small yard with a few trees, mulch the leaves into your yard using your lawn mower. This is a great way to get rid of them with very little effort.

For larger jobs, use a leaf blower or lawn vacuum. Wear a dust respirator or a dust pollen mask when handling dry leaves. For easier cleanup, blow the leaves onto a tarp and empty the tarp into your compost container or leaf bags. Then set them out to be collected on yard waste pickup day.

You can also recycle your leaves. Use your shredded leaves as mulch in your flower beds or garden, or add them to your compost pile.

Leaf litter can pose a serious hazard when it accumulates in storm drains and gutters, so never blow your leaves into the street or onto sidewalks. Proper disposal will keep the gutters clear and help prevent flooding.

Remember to remove leaves from your house gutters as well, as wet leaves can damage your gutters and can cause your roof to deteriorate prematurely.

