

# Watterson Park Word

VOLUME XVII, ISSUE 3 ★ A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WATTERSON PARK, KENTUCKY ★ SUMMER 2017

## Do you know? It's the Law!

**Residents/property owners are responsible for the upkeep of their property.**

**Abandoned Vehicles:** It is illegal to keep or store abandoned vehicles (inoperable, unlicensed, or vehicle parts) on residentially zoned property unless they are stored in an enclosed structure.

**Front Yard Parking:** It is illegal to park in the required front yard of residential property.

**High Weeds and Grass:** Metro Code Enforcement officers have the authority to issue a citation and a \$100 fine to a property owner for high grass or weeds and to demand immediate compliance. If the citation is ignored, the fine can be increased to \$1,000. For vacant properties, Metro Government is allowed to cut the grass of that property and then attach a lien for the costs.

**Parking on Sidewalks:** It is illegal to park vehicles on any portion of the public sidewalk.

**Vehicle Repair Businesses:** It is illegal to operate a vehicle repair business on residentially zoned property.

**Heavy Trucks:** It is illegal for heavy trucks (dual rear axles) to park in residentially zoned areas. This includes driveway and street parking of semi-trucks, trailers, and commercial vehicles.

**Fence Heights:** Fences can be up to 8 feet tall on side and rear yards and 4 feet tall in front yards. Fences or objects (shrubs, trees, etc.) on corner lots cannot be over 2 feet tall to allow proper vision at an intersection.

**Display of Address Numbers:** All residential property in Jefferson County is required to display the appropriate address number. The numbers must be 4 inches in height and a different color from their background. They shall be standard Arabic numbers.

**Louisville Metro Rental Registry:** Non-owner-occupied properties must be registered with the Louisville Metro Rental Registry so the property owner can be contacted by Code Enforcement in the event of an emergency or if there is a lack of general maintenance on the rental property. Code Enforcement began enforcing this Ordinance on April 3, 2017. Failure to register is subject to a fine of up to \$100 per day per housing unit.

From Louisville Metro District 10

## FROM THE *Mayor*



The number-one complaint received from residents in Watterson Park is property upkeep.

Recently I had a conversation with a Metro Code Enforcement Officer. He mentioned that some property owners—both residential and business—have told him they feel like their property is being targeted for violations, and they wonder why. So the Officer asked them to walk around their property with him so he could point out some of the violations, such as peeling paint; gutters falling off; tall grass and weeds; weeds growing in fences; overgrown vines, shrubs, and trees; brush stacked up on the property; abandoned/wrecked vehicles; and vehicles parked in the yard.

If someone is driving down a street, more than likely he or she will notice a poorly maintained property before a well-maintained property and will report that unkept property to Metro.

As a resident or business owner in Watterson Park, you have a responsibility to your neighbors to maintain the appearance of your property so as not to diminish the property value of theirs.

This newsletter contains information regarding property upkeep provided by Metro Louisville's Department of Inspections, Permits & Licenses as well as by Louisville Metro District 10.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer!

*Linda Chesser*

Linda Chesser, Mayor

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Your City Council is checking into the possibility of hiring off-duty Louisville Metro Police officers to patrol our residential and commercial streets on a part-time basis. This service would not replace but would enhance the protection already being afforded by Louisville Metro Police and would target concerns specific to our community. An additional police presence would provide added security and hopefully deter criminal activities.



We will be making a final decision in the near future.

# WOW! What a great trip!

I believe I said the same thing last year when we went to Bernheim Forest. But this year’s trip to Indianapolis Zoo was equal to or maybe even surpassed last year. Those of you who missed it...I wish you could have been there. We had 55 participants, including 14 children, and everyone said they had a good time. The weather was perfect, the bus trip was fun, and the lunch was very good and filling. We saw not only lions, tigers, and bears, but also lots of other animals, including monkeys, which one little girl talked about over and over. We saw dolphins perform and ended with walks through a butterfly garden as well as a tropical garden. We were back on the bus at 4 p.m. and home by 6:15.



The children watched movies on the bus trip to keep them occupied, but the last movie on the way home was also nap time for some of the younger ones. All and all, it was a fun and enjoyable day!

~ Marlene Welsh,  
Councilwoman/  
Events Co-Chair



Councilwoman Tiffany Woodson  
enjoying an interactive feeding at  
the Flights of Fancy exhibit.

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## EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Metro Louisville’s Department of Inspections, Permits & Licenses is committed to providing a clean and safe environment for all neighborhoods in our community. Active participation from all residents is essential to meeting this goal.

Outlined below are some minimum requirements and guidelines established in the Property Maintenance Code for the exterior maintenance of your home, attached structures, and other buildings and accessories.

**SANITATION:** All exterior property and premises must be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition.

**GRADING & DRAINAGE:** All premises must be maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and the accumulation of stagnant water.

**RODENTS:** All structures and property must be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation.

**EXHAUST VENTS:** All pipes, ducts, fans, and other similar devices must not discharge gases, steam, hot air, or other wastes onto another property or unit.

**PREMISES IDENTIFICATION:** All buildings must have approved address numbers placed in a legible and visible location from the street at least 4 inches high and .5 inch in stroke width.

**MOTOR VEHICLES:** No inoperative, unlicensed, or disassembled motor vehicle can be parked or stored on any premises. No major vehicle overhaul or painting is permitted unless in an approved area.

**DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY:** Damage, mutilation, or defacement of any exterior surface, including markings, carvings, or graffiti, is prohibited. It is the responsibility

of the owner to restore and maintain the property.

**STRUCTURAL MEMBERS:** Structural members must be free from deterioration and able to support the imposed loads.

**FOUNDATIONS:** Foundations must be plumb and free from open cracks and breaks. They must be kept secure to prevent the entry of rodents and other pests.

**EXTERIOR SURFACES:** All exterior surfaces—including doors, windows, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences—must be in good condition and sound repair. Peeling, flaking, and chipped paint must be eliminated and surfaces should be repainted or protected by other approved material.

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:** All accessory structures, including garages, fences, retaining walls, gates, and swimming pools, must be kept in good repair and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

**ROOFS:** All roofs and flashings must be sound and tight and not admit water/moisture to the structure. Roof drains, gutters, and downspouts must be maintained in good repair and be free from obstructions.

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**DECORATIVE FEATURES:** All decorative features, such as cornices, belt courses, and corbels, must be maintained in good repair. Signs, marquees, and awnings must also be kept in good repair and securely anchored in a safe condition.

**STAIRWAYS, DECKS, PORCHES & BALCONIES:** These must be maintained in a safe and sound condition and in good repair with being properly anchored and able to maintain the imposed loads.

**CHIMNEYS & TOWERS:** All chimneys, cooling towers, smoke stacks, and similar devices must be kept in a safe and sound condition. All metal surfaces must be protected from the elements against rust and decay.

**HANDRAILS & GUARDS:** Every handrail and guard must be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and maintained in good condition.

**WINDOWS, SKYLIGHTS & DOOR FRAMES:** Every window, skylight, and door frame must be kept in sound condition, good repair, and weather tight. All window glazing must be free from cracks and holes. Every window, other than a fixed window, must be easily openable and capable of being held in position by window hardware.

**DOORS:** All exterior doors, door assemblies, and hardware must be maintained in good condition. Locks at all entrances to dwelling units, rooming units, and guest rooms must be tightly secure.

**BASEMENT HATCHWAYS & WINDOWS:** Every basement hatchway must be maintained to prevent the entrance of rodents, rain, and surface drainage. All basement windows that are openable must be supplied with rodent shields, storm windows, or other approved protection against rodents.

**SIGNS:** All signs must be protected from the elements and against decay and rust by the periodic application of a weather-coating material such as paint or other protective equipment.

**ABANDONED OR DANGEROUS SIGNS:** A premise may not have on site an abandoned permanent or temporary sign or a dangerous sign.

**PORTABLE SIGNS:** All portable signs must have all necessary permits and conform to standards and guidelines as set forth in Chapter 8, Part 5 of the Land Development Code.

**FENCES:** The location and height requirements must conform to standards set forth in the Land Development Code. (See *Do You Know? It's the Law!* on page 1.)

**PARKING:** All vehicles must be parked on a hard durable surface and in locations permissible in the Land Development Code.

**WEEDS:** All noxious weeds and grasses may not be taller than 10 inches.

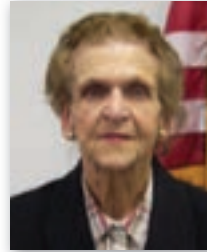
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Find services, crime tips, Ordinances, City data, meeting agendas and minutes, contact information, and much more on our official website:

**WattersonParkKy.com**

**“What we have once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”**

~ *Helen Keller*



It is with great sadness that the City of Watterson Park announces the loss of former Council member **LILLIAN WILD**, who passed away on March 29, 2017. Lillian served on the Watterson Park Council from the City's inception in 1981 until her retirement in 2014. Among her many accomplishments as a Council member, Lillian worked closely with our City arborist to establish our Forestry Program as well as with the Arbor Day Foundation to obtain our status as a Tree City USA. We will be forever grateful for her 33 years of dedication and service and for her many contributions to our Watterson Park community.



**BRIGHTSIDE**  
*Beauty*



Thank you to all who participated in the Brightside Community-Wide Cleanup on April 15. Watterson Park had close to 30 volunteers who worked to keep our city beautiful. Your help on this day and every day makes us a wonderful community. The next Brightside cleanup will be October 21. More info to follow in future newsletters and on our website, [WattersonParkKy.com](http://WattersonParkKy.com).

~ *Tiffany Woodson, Councilwoman/Events Co-Chair*

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Address any comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter to:

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## Welcome...



to the newest member of our City Council, **BRANDON PAUL**. Brandon has been a resident of Watterson Park since 2011. He was selected to fill the Council seat vacated by Lanette Douglas, who resigned in May. Brandon is looking forward to serving the Watterson Park community.

### CITY OF WATTERSON PARK COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

- Mayor..... Linda Chesser
- Councilwoman.....Helen Arnold
- Councilman..... Steve Fortwengler
- Councilwoman..... Gina Garrett
- Councilman..... Brandon Paul
- Councilwoman..... Marlene Welsh
- Councilwoman.....Tiffany Woodson
- Clerk.....Aggie Keefe
- Treasurer.....Jerry Wild

## Arbor Day Foundation Names Watterson Park Tree City USA

Watterson Park was named a 2016 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the 14th year we have received this award.

On April 15th, we celebrated this achievement with a reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation and the presentation of the Tree City USA flag.

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling cost, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.



We should all be proud to live in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority, and we hope that you are excited about this accomplishment.

~ Lanette Douglas,  
Former Councilwoman