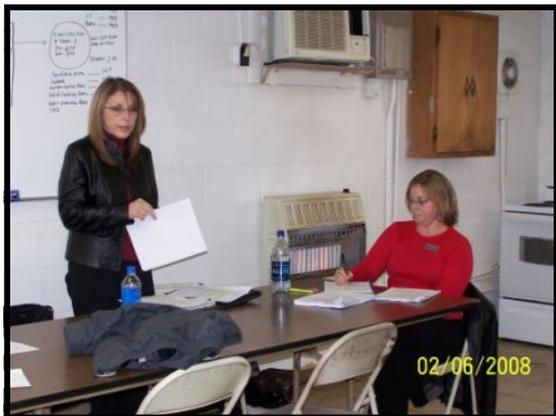




Dyersburg City News

Vol. 3 Issue 3



RETIREMENT MEETINGS

During the month of February, meetings were held to inform all City employees about the City of Dyersburg Pension Plan; a defined benefit. First Citizen's Vice Pres. & Trust Officer of Investment Mgmt., Judy Burns and Representative Teresa Thomson stayed with each department until the last question was asked and every concern was addressed.

I found my meeting to be educational and enlightening. For instance, I didn't know what a "defined benefit plan" was. I didn't even know it was a "defined benefit plan". I didn't know anything about "the plan" at all! What I know now is that this is a benefit I will receive at some point in time in the future and that the longer I stay in the City's employment the bigger my benefit will be. I learned that the City absorbs all risks and expenses. I now know who is on the Retirement Board; and they are: Mayor: John Holden, Treasurer: Steve Anderson, City Recorder: Gleyen Twilla, Police Chief: Terry Ledbetter and Fire Chief Bob Veal.

Most of all, I believe I am investing in a "good thing" as Martha Stewart might say and that as long as I stay in the plan and continue to make contributions I will be building a nest egg for my retirement that I can depend on.

I know too, that it is up to me to keep the Retirement Committee informed of my marital status (although, I don't plan to change it, life events do happen!) because that may affect my beneficiary information. I know that I may contact Steve Anderson or Judy Burns at First Citizen's National Bank if I have any questions and I can expect honest and open information and that there will be no more secrets about our pension plan. That too, is a "good thing".

If you have questions about your City of Dyersburg Pension Plan, contact Steve Anderson at 288-7609 or Judy Burns, at 287-4244.



pmd

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Currently the City has several teams participating in the Walk Across Tennessee Campaign, which is designed to encourage people to incorporate more exercise into their daily routine. Please encourage your fellow employees involved in these teams to keep up the good work.

It is once again time for the Relay for Life activities to begin. We hope that everyone received the email giving you the opportunity to participate. The City will have a team together with County Clerk Diane Moore's office again this year. We will be having a pre-Easter bake sale at City Hall on March 20th. We hope that you will come by and check out all the goodies. And to those that love to bake, we will gladly take your donations!

Recently we held a series of meetings with the various City departments concerning the employee pension plan and retirement benefits. We hope these meetings were beneficial to you and helped to answer any questions that you had concerning your retirement. In the future we plan to hold more meetings similar in this nature to further communicate any items of interest to City employees.

A Disaster Preparedness meeting was held at the EOC on Feb. 22nd to discuss updating and improving the City's Emergency Response Plan. Some of the needs discussed include: acquiring automatic cut-off valves for the water system, the efficiency of the city's diesel fuel supply, storing the city's critical resource equipment in more than one location, and the continued marking of storm shelters throughout the area on a GPS system. Another meeting will be scheduled within the next quarter to further identify and address these needed changes.

As always, I appreciate all of the City employees and all that you do. If ever I can be of assistance to any of you, remember, my door is always open.

Mayor Holden

Information, Please!

For information on **Residential Garbage Pick up Service** by the Sanitation Dept. and **Curbside Trash Pick Service** by the Street Dept. visit the City' of Dyersburg Website: www.dyersburgtn.gov

Good for You Dyersburg!

"Never underestimate the lure of the small southern town," states Reece Halpern, Grand Times.com founder. Dyersburg has been picked as a top spot for retiring in the Southeast. Per the Council for Economic Research, Dyersburg has the lowest cost of living in the U.S.

Congratulations

Franklin and Stephanie Gooch.
On the birth of their 6th child; baby girl,
Fenetra,
born February 23rd. She weighed 6lbs. 1 oz.

AIM FOR ZERO INJURIES -

James Baltimore—Safety Director

All employees help each other stay safe, by working safe.
Report all unsafe conditions to your immediate supervisor.
The City of Dyersburg is an equal opportunity employer.

James Baltimore

Water Treatment

The DWP plant clarifier was painted last month. The clarifier was painted beige to blend with the rest on the water plant's buildings.

Water Question: Can home filters improve the taste of drinking water?

Some can, partly because they remove the chlorine added during treatment. (Another way to improve the taste is to refrigerate tap water in a clean container overnight, this causes the chlorine to dissipate out.) If you use filters, maintain them carefully, they can become breeding grounds for bacteria.

tlp



POLICE

Congrats!

Lieutenant Mike Dobis was transferred to administrative duties where he now serves on the Command Staff and is the Senior Lieutenant of Patrol Services.



The Police Dept will be holding their Citizen's Academy.



If anyone is interested they can pick up an application from the PD receptionist. There will be 6 sessions and we ask they commit to miss no more than 1. Dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday, April 29.....6pm-9pm
 Tuesday, May 06.....6pm-9pm
 Saturday, May 10.....10am-4pm
 Tuesday, May 13.....6pm-9pm
 Tuesday, May 20.....6pm-9pm
 Saturday (Graduation) May 24.....10am-4pm

This is an excellent time to learn about YOUR police dept and have a great time! Participants must be 18 years of age and no children are allowed to attend any of the sessions. We encourage city employees to attend!

9-1-1, WHAT IS YOUR EMERGENCY?

February 16th, 2008 marked the 40th Anniversary of the first ever 9-1-1 call. The initial call was placed in Haleyville, AL City Hall by Alabama Speaker of the House, Rankin Fite to U.S. Rep. Tom Bevill at the city's police station.

In 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enf. and Adm. of Justice recommended the creation of a single, universal number that could be used from coast-to-coast to report emergencies.

"We have overcome many challenges over the years to create the world's best emergency communications system. 9-1-1 is a brand that the American people know they can rely on in times of crisis, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said NENA (National Emergency Number Association) President, Jason Barbour.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 9-1-1 !

~~NENA Member News~~

CC

Your Benefits Q & A

Question: What is the "Retirement Committee" of the City of Dyersburg Retirement Plan?

Answer: The Retirement Committee of the City of Dyersburg Plan is appointed by the Board of Mayor and Alderman. The Board shall appoint three (3) or more persons to be known as the "Retirement Committee" to administer the Plan, to keep records of individual Member benefits, and to notify the Member of the amount of his benefits annually. The City will notify the Trustee and the Actuary of the names of the members of the Retirement Committee and of any changes in membership that may take place from time to time.

The current members of the Retirement Committee are Mayor John Holden, City Recorder Gleya Twilla, City Treasurer Steve Anderson, Police Chief Terry Ledbetter, and Fire Chief Bob Veal.

Question: I am a participant in the Retirement Plan and I am going to change jobs. I have been a participant for 3 years. Will I receive the five percent (5%) I have paid in?

Answer: In the event of voluntary or involuntary termination of service in which retirement, disability or death benefits are not payable, a Member shall always be entitled to the return of his Employee contributions plus interest as provided by the Plan.

Parents

Recently a great deal of media attention has been focused on school shootings. Whether or not you were directly affected by a violent event, it is normal for students to feel anxious about their own safety and to want to make sense of the situation.

Tips for Students

If you or someone you know needs immediate help please contact the one of the following crisis hotlines:

- Youth Crisis Number: 1-800-499-9130
- **Youth Mental Health Line:** 1-888-568-1112
- **Child-Help USA:** 1-800-422-4453
- (24 hour toll free)
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**
- 1-800-273-TALK(8255) English speaking callers
- 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish-speaking callers

FIRE DEPT.

The DFD is finishing up their annual 20 hours of medical training, for "Continuing Education". These classes are necessary to maintain "Emergency Medical Technician" licensure and more importantly, their skills. Rescue training can also be incorporated. Last year for example, there was a 4 hour *vehicle extrication* class and this year, four personnel attended a 50 hour *rope rescue* course. But, of that 50 hour class only 10 hours can be used for continuing education. This is because the state only allows 10 hours of rescue training toward renewal. The state only requires 20 hours every two years, for license renewal. The DFD goes above and beyond that requirement with 40 hours every two years. January, February and a portion of November for *EVOG (emergency vehicle operations course)*, are the months set aside for the training. This year as usual, we ended up with more than we needed, 23.5 hours. Air Evac was kind enough to teach a 4 hour block this year, which included; *Critical Thinking, Trauma Assessment, and Landing Zone Operations*. These classes were very much appreciated and well taught. Other classes taught within the department included; *CPR, Trauma Assessment & Scoring, Bites & Stings, Poisoning & Over-dose, and Eye injury & Face/Neck Trauma*.

As you can see the FD is constantly learning new skills as well as honing old ones.

Also, a very special thank you should be sent out to the PDC ("Professional Development Center"). The PDC graciously allowed the DFD to utilize one of their class rooms for the classes taught by Air Evac. The PDC was approached about the use of a class room because personnel from the DRMC Ambulance Service also sat in on the classes, which made our training room to small.

POLICE & WATER TREATMENT



The Police Dept SRT (Special Response Team) held their training at the Water Treatment Plant. The Water Plant employees were able to participate in different scenarios used in their training. Although we had lots of fun and learned a lot of different things the Water Plant employees didn't seem to have a chance! Both Departments were able to work together and provide valuable information to each other about their services. Thanks to all who participated.



PARKS AND **RECREATION** **NEWSWIRE**

2008 DAC Spring Girls Softball ages 6-18.
Register now through March 24th
@ the Dyersburg Activity Center.

Walk Across Tennessee is off and in full swing!
Hopefully every team within the City of
Dyersburg are making and taking "strides"
to help their team have a successful sea-
son.

Good Luck to all the City of Dyersburg
TEAMS!

**"People say that losing
weight is no walk in the
park. When I hear that
I think, yeah, that's the
problem."**

---Chris Adams

Spring is on the way and its
time to start making our way out to
Okeena Park. Okeena Park offers
pavilions, lighted basketball and vol-
leyball courts, play ground equip. as
well as a .94 of a mile walking trail.
To walk or run a *FULL* mile, continue
past your starting point 0.06 miles.

OKEENA PARK IS
WAITING FOR YOU!



From the Dept. of Sanitation:

Everyone should be aware by now that the
city has gone to once a week garbage pick up. The
transition has been and is a challenge.

Teamwork by the Sanitation employees is es-
sential to making this new system work well. Revi-
sions are still being made to the routes to make them
run as efficiently as possible. City residents may go to
www.dyersburgtn.gov to see the most recent sched-
ule by street names or you may call 288-7630 if
you're not sure what day your garbage will be picked
up.

Collecting and disposing of garbage properly
is critical to the citizen's having clean and environ-
mentally safe surroundings. The City requires all
residents' household garbage to be contained in a
covered garbage can to keep garbage from getting
wet or freezing to the bottom of the can and to pre-
vent animals and insects from scattering or breeding
in the garbage. Please also bag your garbage.

Last but not least I'd like to thank my men.
You are doing an exceptional job. I appreciate your
joint efforts and value each and every one of you.

John Damesworth

DYERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT GRADUATION 2008 BOSTON BUTT/BBQ BOLOGNA SALE

Boston Butt Tickets are \$25.00 each

BBQ Bologna is sold by the pound (lb) and is \$5.00 per
pound

Tickets and money need to be turned in on Friday Feb. 29th.

Meat will be cooked on Friday March 28th

Pickup will be Saturday morning March 29th at Dyersburg
High School.

Call John Murray at 288-2582 for tickets.





STREET DEPT.

WATCH FOR ICE ON BRIDGES



At the first warning of ice/sleet/or snow, the Street Dept jumps into action to make every effort to keep the roadways within the City of Dyersburg safe for all travelers. Street Dept employees meet to discuss areas which are particularly prone to accumulate frozen precipitation posing a danger to drivers and pedestrians as well. Crews are dispatched to evaluate bridges and roadways while others prepare to use the appropriate equipment such as salt spreaders knowing it is better to prevent a dangerous situation than to clean up after one. Crews are on standby after hours prepared to come in and assist.

Most of us know first hand what it is like to lose control of a vehicle on an icy road, bridge or overpass. Even small accumulations of ice or snow can be extremely dangerous. Bridges cool faster than roadways on solid ground and will accumulate ice and snow long before the rest of the roadways catching drivers by surprise. The consequences can be catastrophic often causing chain-reaction type accidents.

Here are some **WARNING SIGNS** to watch for:

- ✦ Ice/snow on small bridges & culverts. Smaller bridges can be warning signs that larger, more dangerous bridges will be icy.
- Ice/snow on road signs, guardrails & parked cars. If snow or ice is visible, particularly on metal objects it could also be present on the bridges and overpasses.

Here is **WHAT TO DO** during these conditions:

- ✦ SLOW DOWN and pay particular attention to bridges, overpasses, and entrance and exit ramps.
- ✦ DO NOT BRAKE SUDDENLY. Sudden braking can trigger unrecoverable slides.
- ✦ TURN SLOWLY.
- ✦ TURN INTO A SKID. If the rear begins to slide, turn your wheel into the direction of the skid. Prepare to re-correct in opposite directions multiple times to regain control.
- STAY PUT. If you do not absolutely have to be on the roadway, stay put until conditions are more favorable. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

DYERSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

NOVELTY CIGARETTE LIGHTERS SHAPED LIKE TOYS, CARTOON FIGURES AND OTHER FIGURES ATTRACTIVE TO CHILDREN ARE COMING UNDER FIRE ACROSS THE USA. STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE NATION HAVE BANNED OR CONSIDERING BANNING DISTRIBUTION OF NOVELTY LIGHTERS.

THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION AGENCY REPORTS THAT IN 2002 CHILDREN PLAYING WITH FIRE CAUSED 210 DEATHS AND 13,900 STRUCTURE FIRES.

THE U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REPORTS THAT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 CAUSE MORE THAN 5,000 RESIDENTIAL FIRES EVERY YEAR.

A SEPTEMBER 2007 HOUSE FIRE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO TODDLERS IN RUSSELVILLE ARKANSAS, AS A RESULT OF THE CHILDREN PLAYING WITH A MOTORCYCLE - SHAPED LIGHTER THAT FEATURED A FLAME FROM THE TAILPIPE.

LIGHTERS IN THE SHAPES OF TOYS CAN AND DO CREATE DEADLY CONSEQUENCES. THIS SHOULD BE A CONCERN FOR US ALL.



Alzheimer's Support Comes to You!

The Mid-South Chapter of the Alzheimer's Assoc is offering a Toll-Free Telephone Support Group. Its first meeting will take place Monday, March 3rd. All the caregiver has to do is call 1-866-296-6505 by 1:55 p.m. and enter the password "8335456". The "meetings" will take place the 4th Monday of each month from 2-3:00 p.m.



Tornado Safety

There's a lot to be said about living in tornado alley. We have experienced violent weather in the past couple of months, and very close to home. You may even know someone who has had the bad luck of being on the receiving end of Mother Nature showing her strength.

Do you know what to do or where to go in the event of severe thunderstorms, lightening or even tornadoes? First of all, take the severe weather warnings seriously! These warnings are provided for YOUR safety. While it may be interesting to watch for flashes of lightening or dark and ominous clouds or even funnels, if you are close enough to see them you are in the danger zone. Here are some things to look and listen for; if you see them, take shelter!

- o Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base.
- o Whirling dust of debris on the ground under a cloud base—tornadoes sometimes have no funnel!
- o Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation can't be seen.
- o Day or night – Loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.
- o Night – Small, bright, blue-green to whit flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm (as opposed to silvery lightening up in the clouds). These mean power lines are being snapped by very strong wind, maybe a tornado.
- o Night – *Persistent* lowering from the cloud base, illuminated or silhouetted by lightning – especially if it is on the ground or there is a blue-green-white power flash underneath.

WHAT TO DO AT WORK

In an office building:

Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building – away from glass. Then crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly. Stay off the elevators; you could be trapped in them in the power is lost.

In a car or truck:

Vehicles are extremely dangerous in a tornado. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Otherwise, park the vehicle as quickly as safely as possible – out of the traffic lanes. Get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If in the open country, run to low ground away from any cars (which may roll over on you). Lie flat and face-down, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

St Jude Toy Drive and Benefit for Molly Kate Duncan.



Where: Dyer County High School

When: Saturday, March 8, 2008

Time: 11am to 3pm



If you'd like to donate a cake, help with the benefit, or for further information please contact:
Karen Caldwell 731-627-0250 or email kjcaldwell@srob.com

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

Board Meetings—1st & 3rd Monday of each month. To be placed on the agenda for a meeting you must call 286-7600 before noon on the Thursday before the meeting. The meeting can be viewed on channel 4. The agenda and minutes of the Board meetings are on the City's web site. www.dyersburgtn.gov

Lifeline Blood Mobile is at Dyersburg Electric the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Help save lives; Give blood.

March 9th—Daylight Savings time begins (Spring Forward)

March 17th—St. Patrick's Day

March 20th—Spring Begins
Relay for Life Bake Sale-City Hall

March 21st—Good Friday—Offices Closed

March 23rd—Easter

March 29th—Project Graduation—pick up day for Boston Butts or BBQ Bologna-DHS



Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With

Chief Veal and family and to the family of retired Lt. Pat Bryan during their time of loss.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Walter Lowery
Joe Stevens
Donna Hicks
Linda Pujol
Parrish Norman
Greg Taylor
Kevin Weaver
Robert Palmer

Farris Cagle
Donald Holland
Joseph Schultz
Barry Scobey
Khyra Payne
Judy Jones
Charles McCright
Shannon Walker

Think You Have a Gas Leak?

Call:

288-7604 from: 8:30 – 5:00

After Hours and Weekends:

285-1212



DYERSBURG GAS SYSTEM

Weather Radio

FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards) codes that would most affect our area. These codes identify state and county. It is important to know if your NOAA radio comes with S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Encoding) technology. This allows you to program in your specific FIPS code(s). If you are in the market to buy a radio, look for this technology and battery backup. There should be instructions telling a person how to program theirs. If you do not have this technology you will get warnings as far away as Oklahoma!

For Tennessee: 47033 Crockett Co.
47045 Dyer Co.
47053 Gibson Co.
47095 Lake Co.
47097 Lauderdale Co.
47013 Madison Co.
47131 Obion Co.
47053 Weakley Co.

For Missouri: 29069 Dunklin Co.
29155 Pemiscot Co.

For Arkansas: 05031 Craighead Co.
05093 Mississippi Co.



City of Dyersburg News
Compliments of Mayor Holden
Editors: Tiffany Parker



Penny Damesworth

Please contact us with any questions you may have or any information to submit.

288-0724 or 288-7639

Thanks Everyone!