



Dyersburg City News

Vol. 4 Issue 1

Special Delivery



Little did Alea Johnson know that soon after clocking in on December 15th she'd be assisting in the delivery of the most precious gift one can receive.

Just 38 minutes into the morning of Tuesday the 16th, Alea received an emergency call from Connie Turner stating that her daughter was in labor. Emergency crews were immediately dispatched, but because of the winter storm conditions and treacherous road ways there would be a delay in their arrival. Alea continued to respond to the caller and began asking routine questions; one of which was how far apart the contractions were. Upon timing the contractions, Alea knew this call would be different. The first contractions were 15 seconds apart and the second set only 12 seconds apart. Alea is trained to stay calm and collected; her job would be to keep the caller calm and collected as she prepared her to deliver a baby. Alea instructed Connie get her daughter comfortable and then collect necessary supplies; towels, a blanket, a shoe string (no hot water!). Next she had to help Connie talk the mother through her delivery. Ten minutes later, little Artavis Anderson was born. Still instructing grandmother Connie on how to care for her new grandson; clearing his air passage, confirming his breathing, tying his umbilical cord (Connie could not find a shoe string and had to use the drawstring from the pants her daughter was wearing when she went into labor) and placing him on his mother's belly; Alea finally heard his first cries. Only after Fire Department emergency personnel and an ambulance arrived (soon after the delivery) did Alea allow herself to feel the miracle of moment. Mother LaTara Rice and her new baby boy, who was due on Christmas day, were then transported to the hospital for further care.

Alea went home after her shift was over and returned later that morning to meet with grandmother Connie and television crews. Connie Turner extended an emotional thank you to Alea for her help and said that it was Alea's calm manner and professionalism that allowed her to get through this unforgettable experience.

Mom and baby are doing fine.



MAYOR'S OFFICE

2008 has come and gone and 2009 will bring many more challenges and opportunities. I want to thank each of you again for a great year last year. I hope that each of you and your families had great holidays and that you were able to spend time with family and friends.

As many of you know, we are experiencing trying economic times that our country has not seen in quite some time. This certainly has an effect on our community, our citizens and on the operations of the city. We must continue to look for ways to reduce our costs while providing necessary services to our citizens. As we make preparations for the 2009 / 2010 budget I would ask that if you have any ideas on ways to reduce our costs, that you share them with your department head. We are not immune to the current economic conditions and we will take steps to insure the future success of the city operations.

The 2007 / 2008 audit is complete. Thank you Steve Anderson and City Hall employees for the timely completion of this audit. We also appreciate Newbill and Henry for their great work and guidance in preparing this audit.

Thank you for all that you do, lets have a great year and if ever I can be of any assistance to you, please let me know.

Mayor Holden



All In A Days' Work

Sanitation refuge workers collected, by hand, a total of 27.86 tons of household garbage on Monday, Dec 29th. Three trucks ran, each truck having 3 men. That averages out to each man collecting 3.10 tons or 6,200 pounds of household garbage. The next time you take out the trash, consider yourself blessed.

John Damesworth
SWM Superintendent

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Prevent Fires & Burns

Did you know that having working smoke alarms cuts your family's risk of dying in a home fire almost in half? Protect your loved ones from fires and burns in the home.

Things to do today-



1.

Have working smoke alarms and hold fire drills. If you build a new home, install fire sprinklers.

2.

Stay by the stove when cooking, especially when you are frying food.



3.

Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Turn them off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

4.

If you smoke, smoke outside. Use deep ashtrays and put water in them before you empty them. Lock matches and lighters in a place where children can't reach them.



5.

Only light candles when an adult is in the room. Blow the candle out if you leave the room or go to sleep.

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH SMOKE ALARMS OR BATTERIES CALL EXT. 614 OR 677

Safety Committee

If you have any safety concerns, questions or ideas that you would like to discuss, you may schedule time to speak with your department head or with one of the committee members which include:

Keith Burns—Chairperson (Fire Dept.)

Tiffany Parker—Secretary (Water Plant)

Sue Teague (Human Resources)

Kerry Owens (Street Dept)

Michael Hunter (Gas Dept)

Mike Kesterson (Water/Sewer)

Kevin Joslin (Codes)

Greg Williams (City Hall)

Rickie Tidwell (Police)

Lloyd Stewart (Parks & Rec)

Kenneth Moody (Solid Waste)

THINK SAFETY!

SAFETY TIP: When working with or around electricity make sure you cut off power to any of the machinery you are working on, use insulated tools, when appropriate. Watch for "defects" and other situations that could cause a spark/sparks.

FEEDBACK

I sent out an email asking if anybody had anything they would like to be considered for the newsletter. I certainly enjoyed the responses I got. One was the article about Officer Chris Clements who was featured in the "Spotlight". Is there a city employee you would like to see spotlighted? If so, just send me an email and the reason why you feel this employee deserves to be spotlighted along with any other pertinent information and a picture of the employee.

Another response I received was the wonderful letter of gratitude from Pat Kilzer, Safety/Traffic Supervisor for the Police Department. You know, there are so many things we can all be thankful for. Sometimes all it takes is just thinking about it. If you can't think of anything to be grateful for, "fake it till you make it" is a pretty good attitude to adopt. You see, what we really have when it comes right down to it is what we have inside our heart. I can think of so many reasons to be enormously thankful for my life and my position in life. That doesn't mean I don't have bigger dreams, that gives me something to look forward to, but while I look forward I do not want to forget what has gotten me where I am today. And I think that must be what Pat Kilzer feels as well. Look for her letter of gratitude in this month's newsletter.

Since it is the first month of a new year, the time most people make resolutions to better their lives, make a resolution to be grateful for what you have that is good in your life. I'll bet you can think of countless reasons to be thankful. Now, what do YOU have to be grateful for?

I look forward to hearing from you!

Penny Damesworth

Goodwill toward men...



Wayne Caldwell and Andre Alston of the Street Department deliver boxes of food to city residents through the Goodfellows food program. Community volunteers, civic clubs, local businesses, area students and local residents, through the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club, labor year long preparing to provide these offerings to area families in need at Christmastime. Street Department employees have been coming in in the early morning hours to deliver these food baskets to families within the city limits for more than 30 years.

Everyone is invited to take part in the warm atmosphere of this charitable event each year. If you would like to participate next year contact any Kiwanis Club member.

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men".
Luke 2:14

CodeRED

The City of Dyersburg had it's first opportunity to notify the entire population of residents and businesses within the city limits with a high speed Communication Service implemented mid-November called CodeRED.

With the National Weather Service issuing a winter storm warning on Monday, December 15th, the city prepared for the possibility of freezing rain and ice accumulations between .25 and .50 inches and sleet possibly accumulating 1—2 inches throughout the night.

Mayor John Holden and EOC Director, Mark Grant watched the weather scenario closely and determined it was in the public's best interest to be notified of the chance of temporary power outages, falling limbs, trees and power lines that can be associated with an accumulation of ice and the dangers of driving on icy roads. Citizen's were asked to stay indoors and not attempt to drive on potentially dangerous roadways. The alert also advised citizen's and businesses that the American Red Cross was on standby and prepared to activate a shelter in the event of a prolonged power outage. All City offices were closed at 3:00pm on the 15th with the exception of continuous operation departments who were advised to keep essential personnel in order to continue vital operations such as Fire, Police, WWTP, Water, Street and EOC. Delayed schedules were implemented at City Hall on Tuesday. Public Works employees with the exception of the Street Department were notified that the Public Works offices would be closed to ensure the safety of employees and citizens.

The CodeRED Emergency Notification System is a high volume—high speed Communication Service available for mass emergency notifications. With a one of a kind internet mapping capability for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized pre-recorded emergency messages direct to homes and businesses, notifications can be launched in lightening speed.

CodeRED was used initially to alert area residents near Bekaert of a fire and to recall a shift for the fire department when Bekaert caught fire on December 1st.

Mayor Holden made the decision to implement the far superior notification tool to better serve the community and help construct the best emergency notification tool available. The City has a database of landline numbers and addresses. However, in order for calls to be completed to VOIP telephones or cell phones, you must register your number and address per Mark Grant. This can be accomplished by visiting www.dyersburgtn.gov and follow the link for CodeRED.

pmd

NOTICE

As a benefit of your employment with the City, you may be eligible to purchase Verizon Wireless equipment and wireless service at discount. The quickest way to register for an employee discount is use the online registration by visiting www.verizonwireless.com/getdiscounts. Or you may also complete and fax a form which you can get from your department head.



Congratulations and Welcome!



*Michael Anthony Duzan; born on December 11, 2008.
He weighed 7lbs. 9 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.*

Proud parents are:

Michael and Maria (City Court) Duzan.

And



*Joseph Gunner Lee Climer; Born November 29, 2008.
He weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz and was 20 inches long.*

Proud parents are:

*Jerry (Street Dept.) and Tracy Climer.
Little Joseph has a sister, Haley Grace, 2;
And brother Jonathan Paul Climer; 11.*

SPOTLIGHT

Like the variety of equipment worn on a police officer's duty belt, a police officer wears a variety of hats. While their responsibilities are extremely broad, their main responsibilities include keeping the peace, enforcing the law, protecting the public and property and preventing and detecting crime; some go above and beyond the call of duty.

Police Officer Chris Clements is one such officer. Born and raised in Dyersburg, Chris has been with the Dyersburg Police Dept. since 2001 and was voted Police Officer of the Year in 2004. Chris serves as a bike/narcotics officer. He stays in touch with the community and gives frequent talks to civic groups on gang and bicycle safety. The humanitarian side of him guides him to mentor as well. He is known to buy gifts and presents for community kids who would not otherwise celebrate special occasions. In the summer time you'll find him taking kids to the Bruce Community swimming pool when their parents can't or won't take them swimming.

Chris is also an avid reader, loves animals and enjoys mixed martial arts.

Thank you, Officer Clements, for being an outstanding citizen and a great asset to Dyersburg and the Dyersburg Police Department. Your fellow officers and the City of Dyersburg appreciate you!



Dyersburg Police Department



The Police Dept. recently hired five new police officers and one records clerk. Welcome: Officer Brent Davis, Officer Brent Hill, Officer Stewart McLemore, Officer Jerry Mealer and Officer Rod Ward. We also welcome Records Clerk Brenda Joes.

Bike Unit Report: From January 1, 2008 through December 16, 2008, the bike officers have arrested 426 individuals and seized \$28,369 in cash from drug cases.

Drugs seized January 1, 2008 through December 16, 2008

Crack cocaine	85.6 grams
Marijuana	3,564.2 grams
Cocaine	233.9 grams
Zanax pills	24 pills
Lorcet pills	3 pills
Seroguel pills	18 pills
Cannabis plants	2 plants
Vicodin pills	45 pills
Hydrocodone pills	9 pills
Valium pills	31 pills
Morphine	5

The bike officer's relationship is a close one with the community as the barrier of the patrol car has been removed (when the weather is tolerable) so the public views the officers as approachable.

A part of the patrol unit, their schedule is flexible as they are not assigned to zones in the city and do not answer calls for service unless the shift needs assistance. Operating as a unit they spend their time working gang investigations, drug cases, execute drug search warrants, and handle other serious crime issues in the city. Currently there are four officers on the unit.

Captain Steve Isbell

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With

Alderman Lewis Norman and family
and the family of Mr. William "Bill" Norman

~~~~~  
Dalton Cruz (W/S) and family,  
Gloria Spence (EOC) and family  
and the family of Joy Beatrice Ditto

~~~~~  
Sharon Windle (DPD) and Family
And the family of Jessie Lee Pruitt

~~~~~  
Get well soon-Alderman Freeman Dudley



## Words of Gratitude

2008 has been a hard year...with gas prices sky-rocketing the first of the year...finances tight and health problems. But I have been blessed with (a) loving, caring family, friends and fellow workers. God has been there taking up the gap. I am a firm believer in if you do all you can, God will take care of the rest. Sometimes you don't need all you think you may. There is a difference in wants and needs. Never feel sorry for yourself...look around; there are many that are worse off than you. If you busy yourself with helping others you will forget your own problems.

Having a job that gives you a sense of being needed and respect is a blessing within itself. I appreciate my people that get out in all kinds of weather for the safety of our city's children. They are a blessing to me. We operate as a family, a blessing within itself. To be referred to "Mama Pat" makes the heart feel warm.

I have a wonderful boss. (Ricky Tidwell) He works hard to keep our department on its toes at all times. I appreciate his fairness. His respect and trust make my job easier than it could be.

We have a good man that oversees our city. Mayor John Holden is a wonderful leader but more important to me is he is a good Christian man. We have so many blessings.

Pat Kilzer, DPD

Think You Have a Gas Leak?

Call:

288-7604 from: 8:30 – 5:00

After Hours and Weekends:

285-1212



DYERSBURG GAS SYSTEM

Happy Anniversary  
Jerry Climer (Street) and wife  
Tracy  
December 29, 2008—1 year





***Wanna help avoid those painfully high water bills?***

***The Bite:*** You'll bruise less if you use less – so skip pre-rinsing your dishes before you put 'em in the dishwasher...just scrape off any food into your compost bin or trash.

***The Benefits:***

Cleaner than if you'd swabbed 'em with iodine. If you have a dishwasher made in the past decade, it's designed to handle food residue.

Saving water supplies. Most faucets spout out 2 gallons per minute.

Less work than putting a bandage on a boo-boo. Why wash your dishes before you, er, *wash your dishes?*

***Wanna Try?*** Resist the urge. Scrape off the big stuff and let your dishwasher do the dirty work.

***Bang for the Bite:*** If 10,000 people with dishwashers cut out the pre-rinse, in a year we'll save enough water to fill about 487 municipal water towers.

From the website [www.ideabite.com](http://www.ideabite.com)

## **PARKS AND RECREATION NEWSWIRE**



Santa meets with kids after the Holiday Night of Magic. The Magic show featured the Illusions of Jim Princeton, the exotic animals of David Silverman and entertainment by Toby the Eve. Toby the Eve magically made Santa Claus appear for the crowd.

### **Current & Upcoming Events within the Dyersburg Parks and Recreation Department.**

- The 2008 boys and Girls Basketball Season at the Dyersburg Activity center are in full swing.
- The cardio Room and Weight Room are open and free to all city employees. Come check out all the Equipment and put it to good use to kick off the new year.

# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Mirick Ahmad  
 Margaret Ann Avery  
 Heath Ennis  
 Anna Carol Gandy  
 Robert Gonzales  
 Tyler Hammet  
 Mike Henson  
 Donnie Hutcheson  
 Conell King  
 Randy Littles  
 Cody Pierce  
 Rodger Pleasant

William Price  
 Christopher Reeves  
 Penny Rice  
 Connie Sentell  
 Christopher Simpson  
 Jenny Spence  
 Corinthians Walker  
 Lynn Waller  
 Shawn Wells  
 Dustin White  
 Ronnie Wilson  
 Richard Jaret Wright

# **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](http://www.dyersburgtn.gov)

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

**Dyersburg Municipal Golf Course**—  
 Every Wednesday at 9:00 am. 55 years and up.  
 Play from Senior Tees.

January 1st—New Years Day! - Offices Closed

January 19th- Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Offices Closed



# **HAPPY EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY**

Jimmy Frazier—30 years  
 Eddie Brimm- 23 years  
 Tracy McIntosh- 21 years  
 James Lyons—21 years  
 Rickie Tidwell—21 years  
 James Joyner- 19 years  
 Kevin Joslin- 18 years  
 Donna Hicks-17 years  
 Charles Barrineau-16 years  
 Jimmy DeSpain- 16 years  
 John Damesworth- 14 years  
 Paul Daniel Wilson- 14 years  
 Jason Alexander- 13 years  
 Mike Henson- 13 years  
 Pamela McKelvy- 13 years  
 Ruby Bernard- 12years  
 Alan Dunevant-11 years  
 Debbie Sanders- 11 years  
 Carrie Virginia Campbell- 10 years  
 Shawn Wells— 9 years  
 Earl Wheatley— 7 years  
 George McCaig— 6 years  
 Richie Anderson— 5 years  
 Jimmy Hurst—5 years  
 Sterlin Wright— 4 years  
 Cody Pierce— 3 years  
 Steve Anderson—2 year  
 John Holden—2 year  
 Mike Galloway—1 year  
 Michael Mahoney—2 year  
 Jannifer Ross— 1 year

# **NOTICE**

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to receive your own copy each month, email [pdamesworth@dyersburgtn.gov](mailto:pdamesworth@dyersburgtn.gov)  
 If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter from the City of Dyersburg, email [tparker@dyersburgtn.gov](mailto:tparker@dyersburgtn.gov)



**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  
 View online: [www.dyersburgtn.gov](http://www.dyersburgtn.gov)  
 Thanks Everyone!