



# COLD SPRING NEWS

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**APRIL 2020**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Before I begin the State of the City recap, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the current COVID-19 situation and thank all residents for their cooperation during this unprecedented time.

COVID-19 may force us to close our parks, limit services, and cancel our much-loved traditional events, but it hasn't lessened the kindness and generosity of Cold Spring residents. Thank you for taking care of one another by following the guidelines set-forth by our governor and City Administration, I know it hasn't been easy. Thank you for your generosity during our recent food drive – with your contributions, we will be able to assist families in our area. And thank you for your kind words of encouragement for the City Council and Administration while we navigate this uncharted territory.

If we take anything from this tragic time, let's remember what a great community we have and when we come out on the other side of this, let's take all the positivity and keep it going. Until that time, please continue to follow all issued guidelines, they are in place for your safety and the safety of those you love.

Now, the State of the City:

### Overview:

- Staff: The City currently employs 21 full-time and four part-time employees in the following departments:
- Police Department: 14 full-time and three part-time employees.
- Public Works: Five full-time employees.
- Administration: Two full-time and one part-time employee.

Additionally, the City relies heavily on boards and commissions. On behalf of the City Council and myself, I wish to personally thank everyone on the following boards for their time and efforts:

- Board of Adjustments
- Board of Ethics
- Code Enforcement Board
- Parks Recreation & Tree Commission
- Planning & Zoning Commission

### Growth:

- Residential growth: There has been little residential growth over the last year. The primary reason is that the City no longer has large tracts of land available on which developers can build subdivisions. However, real estate values and market values for homes available in Cold Spring remain high, and available homes within the City remain at a premium.

- **Commercial Growth:** The City continues to see commercial growth with several establishments being completed or started in 2019. These commercial establishments contribute to our tax base which enabled the City to lower its property taxes for the first time in over 13 years.
- **Financial stability:** The City continues to be financially stable. Over the past year, the City's revenues from Payroll, Insurance and Occupational taxes, basically remained flat year-over-year. The City of Cold Spring remains one of the lowest taxing entities in Northern Kentucky; with fiscal year 2021 seeing a property tax REDUCTION.
- **City's expenses:** The City has maintained good control of all City expenses. Although it may be hard to believe, I am happy to share that expenses for the three main areas of the City - Administration, Police, and Public Works, increased only slightly with the majority of the increase due to the rise in waste collection charges.
- **City's strategic funds:** The City has been able to maintain our strategic funds over this period and the funds remain healthy. Some of those reserve funds were used in the road programs for fiscal year 2020, but rest assured, the City remains on plan and the reserves are where they should be.
- **Infrastructure:** The City continues to invest in our infrastructure. Over the past year, the City invested more than \$900,000 in roadways. This includes rebuilding sections of Springhouse, Henry, Ripple Creek, and all of Winters Lane that lies within the City's boundaries. With these projects, the City has almost finished its 20-year road plan, doing so approximately two years ahead of schedule.

The City continues moving forward. Over the past year, the City faced a number of changes and challenges. However, it continues to move forward in a number of areas. In 2019, the City Council and I have accomplished the following:

- Passed or sponsored appropriate changes to aid new business development within the City to meet our resident's needs.
- Passed a \$3.6 million operating budget for the 2019/2020 fiscal year that began July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020 that remained flat to prior years.
- Approved and oversaw the reconstruction and expansion of over three miles of City streets.
- Approved the engagement of an architectural firm to help scope the new City Police Building and Civic Center.

## **Department updates:**

### **Police Department:**

- Hired three new full-time officers to replace officers that retired or resigned for personal reasons.
- Converted our part-time Investigative Officer to a full-time Investigative Officer.
- Continued its public outreach to the community using social media and networking.
- Traffic accidents decreased by 4% in 2018 from 324 to 314 in 2019.
- Overall traffic offenses increased 35% from 1,482 in 2018 to 2,043 in 2019.

### **Public Works:**

- Did an outstanding job managing 2019's snow events. Our streets were cleared early and often.
- All six city parks were routinely maintained throughout the year to include the maintenance and upkeep of the walking trails and park equipment as well as landscaping and brush control.
- Significant work was done in the new Robert J. Barth Park to include, clearing and pouring of new side walks around the park interior, as well as some landscaping, and infrastructure work.
- Replaced various sidewalk sections throughout the City.
- Replaced various road sections throughout the City.

#### Finance and Administration:

- Maintained a flat, year-over-year budget of \$3.6 million for fiscal year 2019/ 2020.
- Through diligence and strict budget oversight, for the first six months of the current fiscal year, the City is running \$400,000 UNDER budget.

· Your City Clerks, Robin and Ann, sent out 2019's city tax bills in October and collected the revenues in November and December. 3,250 tax bills were issued and only 104 remain unpaid. Because of your prompt payment, the City only has a 3% delinquency rate for tax bills – thank you residents!

Parks Recreation & Tree Commission: My many thanks to the volunteers on the Parks Recreation and Tree Commission who held over ten events in 2019 for our City residents. They work hard coordinating these events for us and fun was had by all who attended.

Planning and Zoning: As a special note, I would like to thank the Planning and Zoning Commission for all the hard work that they put in over the past year working on the new businesses that have been building in the City. Through their efforts, the conveniences we all enjoy have been coming into the City, but the same town feel we all love hasn't disappeared.

As I close out the 2019 State of the City, I would like to take a moment to thank our 2019 City Council for their efforts. Together in partnership we worked hard to responsibly move the City forward. I am excited about continuing that partnership in 2020 with the newly elected Council to provide Cold Spring residents with a city administration who operates as a cohesive unit in managing the City with their best interest in mind. I believe together we can accomplish many good things for the City in 2020!

Thank you, our residents, for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I continue to be available in the office, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm. Please feel free to stop in or call the city building at any time. With your support, the Council, the City Administration teams, and I look forward to 2020. There are many exciting possibilities and opportunities in front of us!

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## CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Chuck Taylor

Some things to remember:

- If you have a boat, trailer, camper or any other recreational vehicle that you wish to keep on your property, it must be parked in the rear of your home on a paved concrete or asphalt surface or in a completely enclosed building. It cannot be parked in your driveway, the front or side of your home, or on the street. If it needs to be parked in your driveway for loading, unloading or cleaning purposes, please advise us by calling the city building to avoid a violation.
- Vehicles are not to be parked in any grassy area of your property at any time.
- The exterior of your home must be maintained. Grass must be cut regularly and shubbery must be trimmed back.
- If you wish to put up a shed, fence, deck, swimming pool etc., you must obtain a building permit through Campbell County Planning & Zoning. Many of their forms can be found online at [campbellcountyky.gov](http://campbellcountyky.gov) or you can reach them at 859-292-3880.
- If you need a temporary yard sign, you must obtain a permit through the City Clerk's office.
- When walking your dog in the community, remember that it should be on a leash. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Please take a baggie with you to pick up waste as needed and dispose of it properly.
- Debris, litter, rubbish salvage materials, tires, or miscellaneous trash shall not be openly stored.
- Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles in a residential zone shall not be stored unless it is in a completely enclosed building.

To report any violations, please visit our website at <https://coldspringky.gov/code-enforcement/> or call the city building at 859-441-9604 ext. 130.



## **When you fertilize the lawn, remember... you're not just fertilizing the lawn.**

It's hard to imagine that a green, flourishing lawn could pose a threat to the environment, but the fertilizers you apply to your lawn are potential pollutants! If applied improperly or in excess, fertilizer can be washed off your property and end up in streams, rivers and ponds in the area.

This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive. If you fertilize, please follow directions and use sparingly.

### ***Clean water is important to all of us.***

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from stormwater runoff, which picks up pollutants like leaking oil from cars, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water - and that adds up to a pollution solution!

### ***Why do we need clean water?***

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water-and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, streams, marine, and ground waters clean.

### ***What's the problem with fertilizers?***

Fertilizer is a "growing" problem for ponds, rivers, and streams, especially if it's not used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow into lakes or streams. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae causes water quality problems and makes boating, fishing, and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, it uses up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.



## **COLD SPRING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Steve Collinsworth

First and foremost, I want to remind everyone that your police department is at full strength and actively patrolling our City. We have made some temporary adjustments in the manner that we perform our duties but rest assured we are here to protect and serve this community.

The best and fastest way to get the assistance of the police department is to call either 911 for an emergency or 859-292-3622 for a non-emergency call for service. If you simply have a question, or wish to speak to someone at our department then please call 859-441-6289.

Due to COVID-19 we have currently suspended fingerprint services and will be handling situations over the telephone whenever feasible.

# CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City Clerk Robin Morency

- Election season is quickly approaching! Please visit [elect.ky.gov](https://elect.ky.gov) to find information such as your polling place, election dates, and you can even register to vote online.
- Have you noticed a street light out in your neighborhood? Duke has an upgraded tool on their website to report outages! The website is <https://www.duke-energy.com/customer-service/request-light-repair>. It is user friendly, only takes a minute, and Duke will keep you informed of when the repair is finished.
- Just a reminder that due to COVID-19 the City Building is currently closed to the public. Please visit our website [www.coldspringky.gov](http://www.coldspringky.gov) for up-to-date information. If you need any assistance from the city staff, please call or email. All city staff and council member emails can be found on our website.
- Mayor Penque would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to our Food Drive! We received many donations and we are very grateful that we are able to assist in helping those that are in need during this difficult time. We want to give an extra shout out to the Springside Community for coming together to donate so many items to the Food Drive - what an incredible effort!
- Did you know that Campbell County has a year-round large appliance recycling program? Visit [www.campbellcountyky.gov](http://www.campbellcountyky.gov) for more information. Please keep in mind that due to COVID-19 they may be closed, or have different hours. You can call 859-292-3838 with any questions.
- Due to COVID-19 some of our events have already been cancelled. Please check our Facebook and website for the status of our upcoming events.



## CENTRAL CAMPBELL COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Fire/EMS Chief Dan Schultz

p. 859-441-7631 | f. 859-781-5115

I hope everyone is staying safe during these unprecedented times of COVID-19. I want to briefly remind everyone about available COVID-19 resources. One of the best websites for Kentuckians for information is [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov). Another resource for information is the Kentucky COVID -19 hotline 1-800-722-5725. Please listen to all of the directives given by the governor and local officials.

### **Please remember to practice social distancing!**

Here at Central Campbell Fire District we are implementing changes in our daily operations and especially on our EMS runs. We will be in extra Personal Protective Equipment when we are treating a patient. This consists of an N-95 mask, eye protection, and gloves at a minimum. We may also be wearing a protective gown, and ask you (patient) to put on a surgical mask, or we may place one on you. Thank you for your support and cooperation. Stay safe!



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## Complete your Census!

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more.

**Set the record straight!** An accurate count is critical to communities across the country. Don't let misinformation keep your friends and family members from responding. One of the best ways you can show your support for the 2020 Census is by making sure you know the facts. Review basic facts about the 2020 Census and how the Census Bureau protects your data—and then share these facts with others. If you have questions about something you've heard about the census, [visit https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/rumors.html](https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/rumors.html) to get the most accurate information. You can also report rumors and misinformation at [rumors@census.gov](mailto:rumors@census.gov).

It's your patriotic duty and it's going to help us rebuild following #COVID19. Visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)