



## State of the City

As we move into 2026, I would like to thank Council for working collaboratively and accomplishing so much together. Through our shared efforts, Cold Spring has remained successful and continues to be a great place to live. I am excited to see our commitments take shape and become reality. We have made meaningful progress in updating our parks, strengthening our infrastructure, and supporting economic growth—all while serving the needs of our entire community.

### Staff Overview

#### **Police Department**

The Police Department currently has 13 full-time officers, with one additional officer in the process of joining the team. The department is an accredited agency and continues to enhance its capabilities to better serve the community. Most recently, a drone program was implemented to further support public safety efforts throughout the city. In addition, the Chief oversees one part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

#### **Public Works**

Public Works is staffed by six full-time employees with extensive experience in construction and maintenance, resulting in significant cost savings for the city. Team members hold a variety of professional certifications and consistently demonstrate flexibility by adjusting their schedules to meet the city's needs. Whether responding to inclement weather or supporting city events, this team is always willing to step up and meet any challenge.

#### **Administration**

The Administration Department consists of three full-time employees: the City Clerk, Assistant City Clerk, and Director of Operations. The City Clerk is a Certified Municipal Clerk, and the Assistant City Clerk is currently training in that program. In addition to their administrative responsibilities, both clerks assist with planning and organizing city events and manage Community Center rentals. The city also employs two part-time staff members who assist with open gyms and provide setup support for rentals or events as needed. The Director of Operations provides oversight for all city departments and manages the city's daily operations.

#### **Boards**

The city is deeply grateful to everyone who serves on its boards. Their dedication does not go unnoticed, and we sincerely appreciate the time and commitment they give in service to our community.

- Board of Adjustments
- Board of Ethics
- Code Enforcement Board
- Planning and Zoning Commission



## **Growth**

In 2025, the city experienced substantial growth, with construction activity occurring throughout the community. Looking ahead to the spring and summer of 2026, several new businesses are expected to open. This continued growth is anticipated to create expanded opportunities for residents, businesses, and the community as a whole.

## **Financial Stability**

The city remains financially sound, and Cold Spring continues to be one of the lowest-taxing cities in Northern Kentucky. City revenue has increased modestly through payroll, insurance, and occupational taxes, a trend expected to continue as current developments are completed. Once again, the city chose not to adopt the suggested compensating tax rate, resulting in no tax increase for residents. The city also remains debt-free.

## **Expenses**

The city exercises disciplined oversight of all expenditures, even amid rising costs, to ensure taxes remain low. This approach reflects strong fiscal management and a commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources. Continued fiscal responsibility has allowed the city to come in under budget year after year.

## **Strategic Funds**

The city continues to maintain its strategic funds, providing financial stability and a strong foundation for future planning and operations.

## **Infrastructure**

The city has consistently financed street reconstruction projects without assessing residents, a practice made possible through careful planning and fiscal management. A comprehensive US 27 corridor study was recently completed, providing valuable data related to safety, traffic, and aesthetics. Using this information, the city successfully secured a \$1.49 million grant from OKI to realign the Downing Street and Buning Lane intersection, creating a safer commute for all. The city looks forward to beginning this project once federal grant funds are released.

This grant is just one of many the city hopes to pursue, utilizing data collected through the US 27 corridor study. Additionally, the city is gathering information to develop a new strategic 20-year street plan to guide future infrastructure improvements.

## **Moving Ahead**

- Cold Spring Pointe is slated to welcome several businesses this spring and summer, including Hobby Lobby, Marshalls, Five Below (February or March), Publix (May), and several others throughout the summer and fall.



- Cold Spring Town Center is also expected to see new businesses open this spring and summer, including Gold Star, 7 Brew, First Watch, and McAlister's.
- Kroger Marketplace is currently under construction and making great progress.
- An additional toddler playset will be installed at Municipal Park.
- A new playset will replace the existing one at Friendship Park.

Since being elected Mayor by the residents of Cold Spring, I have much to be thankful for. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our department heads and all city employees for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to making our city a better place. Having a team that truly cares about our community is the foundation of our success.

I also want to thank our residents for the trust and confidence you have placed in me as Mayor. My door is always open—Monday through Friday—and you are welcome to call, email, or stop by at any time. Our department heads and qualified staff are always ready to assist you.

With your ongoing support, and by continuing to work together with City Council, I am confident that Cold Spring will achieve even greater accomplishments in the years ahead. Together, we will continue to strengthen our community, enhance quality of life, and make Cold Spring an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Thank You,  
Mayor Angelo Penque