

Keysville City Messenger



CITY NEWS

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Chaper 12, Section 2 of the Charter states, "The City must create the appropriate information and forms to allow for strict adherence to the official City of Keysville Procedure for Requesting Sanitary Sewer Service. As part of this procedure it must be mentioned that no customer is allowed to obtain Sewer service without having City Water." If you only have one service please connect to the second service by the deadline date.

Note: Water meters are City property and are maintained by authorized City workers only. Tampering with water meter and shut off valves are prohibits and could result in a fine or jail time.

For your convenience: The city now accepts credit cards in person or over the phone (There is a \$2.00 fee for this service)

Property Taxes Notices: The tax assessors office determines the fair market value for all real and personal property in the county and the various cities.

BEAUTIFICATION

Building & Houses: If you own a home that is unfit for living and would like to have it removed from your property at no cost to you, please contact City Hall for infromation.

SAFETY

LAW AND ORDER

Please **secure your pets**, Pitbull's and other dogs are roaming the streets. This poses a danger to our citizens as well as the animals. We have received several reports of animals being shot and poisoned for taking up residency on someone else's property.

Locking Your Home

Times have changed, and locks have changed, but burglars still look for homes that are easy targets.

What's Going On

City Council Meeting January 9th @ 7:00pm.

The City will be Celebrating MLK Day-on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The City celebrate this day from 9-5pm. Quotes and Treats. Come Come Come

Health & Wellness
January 31, 2017 Cardio Gospel
Class5:30pm-6:30pm Charles Walker Bldg

WELCOME ABOARD! (000054)
We are very pleased to announce that John Allen (J & A Water Testing) will be joining us as the Water & Sewer Superintendent. He will be overseeing the operations of the City water treatment facility.

SPECIAL THANKS

Concern Citizen
Daisy's Creation Decorations
Keysville Volunteers
Special Blend
And all wo participated in our
annual Christmas Party

CITY BUSINESS

Water & Sewage

If your household sewage is being processed by the City of Keysville and you do not pay water and sewage, your sewage pipelines maybe on the list for disconnection. The deadline for notification has passed, November 30, 2016.

Marting Luther King Jr. Day!!!

SEEK AND FIND



READ, READ you could be our next winner

, find **your** water account number in this issue of the Messenger How to receive **10% off** your water account bill. If your household account number is listed in this volume newsletter. You will receive 10 % off your account only. Rule: The account number found must belong to you to receive the 10%.

CITY COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION

The Mayor, City administrator, and City Council are working on several projects to enhance the quality of our community. In the process, there will be changes to our normal approach to business, some of these changes will not be pleasant but we assure you the end process will be well worth it. Our goal is to create a community with a stable infrastructural that can accommodate affordable housing and attract new businesses.

Councilwoman Watts and our **Housing Inspector Mr. Wiggins** will be working to ensure our houses and mobile homes are safe within guideline with our city ordinance.

Councilman Griffin will continue to work on plans to improve our water system and hopefully reduce the number of broken pipes, and monitor the installation of our new well.

Vice-Mayor Neely continues to keep our city safe by ensuring our city streets, parks, and neighborhoods are safe and well lighted. Speed bumps are coming to slow traffic on Tyrone Brooks, as well as an emergency plan for tornados, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Councilwoman Harlemon is working on plans to improve recreations in the city and need your help with kickball, softball, volleyball, and flag

football for the spring and summer seasons. Also, Center Street is scheduled for paving and repairs January 2017.

Councilwoman Terrell and City Administrator are making sure the city finances are following applicable laws and regulations and to provide transparency into the way the city spends the fund provided.

ADVERTISEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Therapeutic foster parent

If you are interested in becoming a therapeutic foster parent, register by calling Pamela Reynolds at (706) 868-7200 or pamela.reynolds@benchmarkfs.org for more information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. Can I pay my water bill in cash?

No, only credit card, check or money order.

Q2. Can I pay with a postdated check?

No, City Hall will not accept postdated checks.

Q3. After I received my disconnection notice can I place my payment in the mail or night deposit box?

No. Payments must be processed by office personnel

Q4. Can I advertise in the City Messenger?

YES. Advertisements/special announcements in the City Messenger are accepted for a small fee, please contact City Hall.

All announce must be submitted by the 15th of each month and will be available the following month. For example, information submitted Dec 15th will be printed in January 2017 Issue.

Q5. If I give the city my delapidated home/building to demolish, can the city take my land also?

No, the city will take ownership of the building /house ONLY. The county will not demolish the building unless it is owned by the city. This does not affect your land. A contract must be signed by the owner and the city before homes/buildings can be torn down, for more information please contact City Hall (706) 547-3007/3008.

Q6. How is my property value determined?

Property tax is an ad valorem tax based upon the value of property, both real and personal. Real property is defined as land and generally anything that is erected, growing, or affixed to the land.

Personal property is boats, airplanes, business inventory, and any equipment, furniture, and fixtures needed to run a business. Property taxes are charged against the owner of the property of January 1st, and against the property itself if the owner is not known. Property tax returns are to be filed between January 1st and April 1st with the county tax assessor's office.

Fair Market Value

The Assessors are charged with establishing the fair market value of the taxable real and personal properties in Burke County. Fair market value means "the amount a knowledgeable buyer would pay for the property and a willing seller would accept for the property at an arm's length, bona fide sale."(000076)

Q7. How can I appeal my assessment?

After the assessors establish a new value on a piece of property, the tax payer is sent a assessment notice. The assessment informs you of the new proposed valuation of your property. You have 45 days to appeal the new valuation if you feel its incorrect. The appeal must be filed in writing. Late appeals are invalid. Basis for appeal

After you have given careful consideration to the value placed on your property and if you feel its incorrect, your appeal should be based on one of the following areas of appeal:

- TAXABILITY
- UNIFORMITY:
- VALUE: Appeals Process

When you file an appeal, the Board of Tax Assessors reviews it and determines whether a change in the valuation is warranted. If no change is made, it will then go to the next level of appeal, the Board of Equalization. Its specific function is to hear unresolved appeals from taxpayers. After hearing both the assessors and the taxpayer's position, the Board of Equalization renders a decision on the valuation. If either side disagrees with the decision of the Board of Equalization, the taxpayer or the assessor may proceed to the next level of appeal, Burke County Superior Court.