



Gertrude Porter Park Meeting



On Saturday, March 29, 2014, Kingston Mayor Troy Beets, City Manager David L. Bolling, Parks & Recreation Director Rick Ross met with area residents regarding future plans for improving Gertrude Porter Park.



HOME FROM THE COLD

Vice Mayor Tim Neal thought he would be warm when he left Alaska last month—and he is “a little.” True to form our East Tennessee weather appears to be having a problem settling into Spring! Tim traveled to Alaska as part of his position with D.O.E.

ANOTHER AWARD FOR KINGSTON

At an April meeting in Nashville, Mayor Beets represented the City of Kingston by receiving a 2014 John S. Wilder Rebuild Tennessee Award in recognition of our Ladd Landing Greenway System. Mayor Beets plans to present the award to City Council members during the May Council meeting on May 13th.

Special points of interest:

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**Do not mistake
temptation for
opportunity!**

Firefighter Training



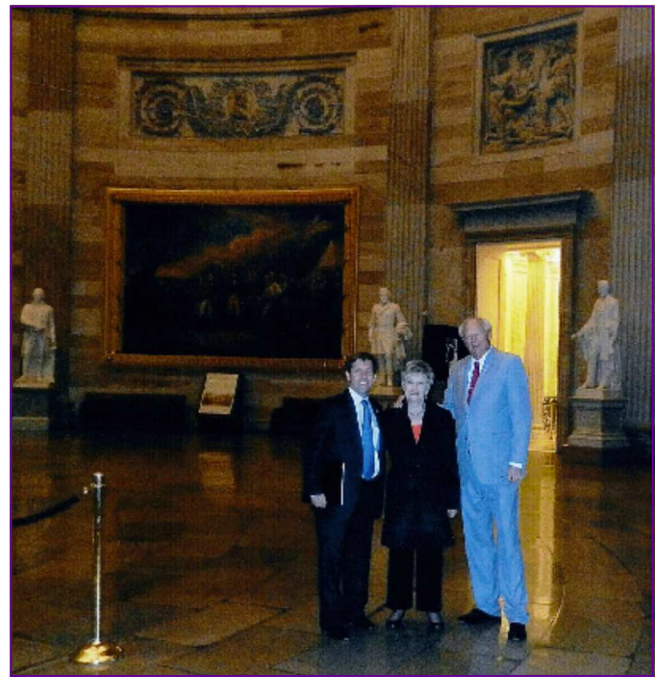
Kingston firefighters have been traveling to Oak Ridge for training as part of the effort to lower the ISO rating from 4 to 3 and reduce homeowner insurance costs for Kingston citizens.



←Public Works employees work with Roane County prisoners to mow and clean Bethel Cemetery.



↑ Kingston employees from Public Works and the Water Department work together to pick up blocks donated to them from a



Washington Visitors!

Mayor Beets and Miss Carolyn are pictured with Congressman Chuck Fleischmann at the infamous Rotunda where our deceased presidents “lie in state.”

Personal Notes, Etc.



- **Wastewater Treatment Plant** manager **Tony Workman's wife Amy** is still valiantly fighting cancer.
 - **Water Department** employee **David Loy's wife Teresa's** cancer has progressed to her liver.
 - **Water Department** Superintendent **Mike Jolly's** sister who lives in Michigan has recently had three strokes.
 - **Police Department Training Officer Roy Montgomery** had surgery to repair a tear in his bicep several weeks ago.
 - **Police Department** Part-time officer **David Lewis** had a partial-knee replacement on April 15th.
 - **Councilman Tony Brown** is scheduled for surgery on May 14th.
- Please keep these folks and their families in your prayers!**

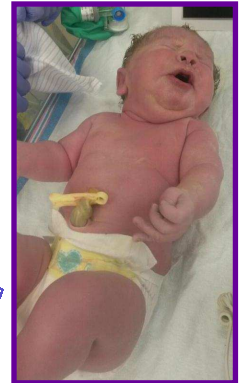


She's back! Pat Mills of the Water Department is back from her annual trek to Florida!



Congratulations Marsha!

Marsha's newest granddaughter, Lucille, was born on April 29th. She weighed in at 10 pounds 3 ounces (pictured on the right at 12:22 p.m. CST)



Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about!

PLAY BALL!

Councilman Tony Brown is pictured on the left in his new role with the Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball. Their opening date was April 12th at Ramsey House in Knoxville.

Love the "Duds" Mr. B.





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May Birthdays

Thomas "Jamie" Melton	5/11
Larry Cox	5/20
David Lewis	5/22
Cathy Rakestraw	5/27

Remember: The mightiest
oak was once a little nut that
held its ground.



*Though your beginning was insignificant,
yet your end will increase greatly.*

Job 8:7 NAS

From the City Manager. . .



Our employees are busy people. Whether it be patrolling our streets and neighborhoods, responding to a fire or first responder call, fixing a water leak or, last but certainly not least, making sure that our streets and parks stay at the wonderful level that we've come to expect, their plates are full. As such, from their perspective, a lot of city business goes on "behind the scenes" and often doesn't involve them until after the fact. That recently changed in a small but, I feel, very important way.

Health Insurance is single largest expense the city has. It's also something that affects the lives of every employee and, in many cases, their families. We may often take something like this for granted, but many of us have seen firsthand what a blessing it is to have good insurance when you need it.

The city pays 93% of the cost of our employees' health insurance, including family coverage, at a current cost of just under \$800,000. Nationwide, the average employee contribution is 18% for single coverage and 29% for family coverage. Clearly, our 7% is well below average and that means more money on payday for our employees and their families. The City of Kingston takes pride in the fact that we can provide our employees with this benefit, but it comes at cost.

As resources get tighter and the cost of providing services increases, we have an obligation to look at every aspect of city government to see how we can be more efficient. One of the ways we did that this year was to request bids for our insurance coverage. While no decision has been made to change coverage at this time, we felt like it was our responsibility to review our options. As this impacts our employees, I felt it was important that they be a part of that.

I asked each department to appoint an employee to serve on an Insurance Advisory Committee, and tasked them with reviewing the different plans submitted, sharing them with their co-workers, and returning a recommendation on our coverage for the coming year. I provided them with the information they needed and gave them an overview of the process but then walked away so they could have the freedom to formulate their own opinions. Their willingness to be involved was much appreciated, and their feedback was invaluable.

Ultimately, the policy decision rests with the City Council. However, I know that as they consider the issue, they will certainly place great value on the opinions of our employees. Given the uncertainty and rising costs of health care, we'll no doubt be revisiting this again. When that time comes, I look forward to having these busy employees step up to the plate again and I know they will be up to the task.

Meetings & Events

April 2014

1	City Council Work Session	6:00 p.m.
8	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Beer Board Meeting (Immediately following Council Meeting)	
8	Water Board Meeting (Immediately following Council Meeting)	
15	Planning Commission Meeting	6:00 p.m.

May 2014

6	City Council Work Session	6:00 p.m.
13	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
13	Beer Board Meeting (Immediately following Council Meeting)	
13	Water Board Meeting (Immediately following Council Meeting)	
20	Planning Commission Meeting	6:00 p.m.
30	Employee Spring Meeting	8:15 a.m.

KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR
W. Troy Beets

VICE MAYOR
Tim Neal

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tony Brown
John Byrkit
Teresa Nichols
Norman Sugarman
Don White