

WHAT'S

Happening!

in Oldham County, Kentucky TM

Fall/Winter 2009

Oldham County and the H1N1 Virus

Every fall we plan for the arrival of seasonal influenza, but this year is different. We all must plan for a potentially serious strain of the flu, the 2009 H1N1 (swine flu) virus.

The new H1N1 virus was first seen in the U.S. last April. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported higher than normal levels of flu-like illness and actual H1N1 outbreaks in some parts of the country throughout the summer months. This was very unusual for this specific time of year.

The Louisville Metro area which includes Oldham County has experienced a "widespread" outbreak of the H1N1 virus. Similar to seasonal flu, symptoms of H1N1 include fever, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Sometimes H1N1 causes diarrhea and vomiting. So far it causes illness similar to seasonal flu, but both can sometimes be severe and potentially deadly.

H1N1 can be very serious for a person with an underlying medical condition — such as asthma or diabetes — and it is especially dangerous for pregnant women. So far, it's been most contagious among children and young

adults age six months to 24 years. Health care workers, emergency medical responders, and people caring for infants younger than 6 months of age should be on guard. These folks fall into the initial target group to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

It is very important that each of us evaluate our individual habits and take this virus seriously to modify its impact on ourselves, our families, businesses, schools and our community as a whole.

Some of these precautions are simple and personal. Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use a hand sanitizer. Cough

into your elbow or into a tissue, not in your hands. Influenza viruses are transmitted primarily by droplets through the air and contact with contaminated surfaces. Be sure to receive both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine. Stay home from work or school if you are ill with flu-like symptoms for at least 24 hours after the fever has subsided without the use of fever reducing medications. Isolate anyone in your home who is ill with flu-like symptoms in a separate room. Contact your physician regarding recommended treatment if you or a family member is considered high risk.

Limited quantities of the H1N1 vaccine should be available by the end of October, with an increase in supply anticipated in November. The earliest shipment will likely be of the nasal spray vaccine, which can be taken by healthy individuals ages 2-49. Pregnant women cannot receive the nasal spray vaccine. The H1N1 injectable vaccine will follow in larger quantities.

Target Groups

Health officials are recommending that certain target groups receive the H1N1 vaccine first. They are:

- Pregnant women
- Persons who care for infants less than 6 months of age
- Health care and EMS personnel
- Children and young adults aged 6 months through 24
- Persons aged 25-64 who have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk for influenza-related complications, such as uncontrolled/chronic asthma, diabetes, neuromuscular, cardiac, renal or hepatic disorders.

However, seasonal flu vaccine is already available in many locations, and health officials are encouraging individuals, including those over 65, not to delay receiving their annual flu shot.

Continued on page 2



Walk-In H1N1 Vaccination Clinic

Oldham County Health Department will host a Walk-In Clinic for the designated H1N1 target groups.

Date: Saturday, November 14

Time: 9 am - ? (ending time dependent on vaccine supply)

Where: LaGrange Baptist Church
1139 Commerce Pkwy.
LaGrange, KY

For more information, please call toll-free: 1/877-843-7727. Or visit: www.flu.gov, www.healthalerts.ky.gov or www.oldhamcohd.com.

OLDHAM COUNTY AND THE H1N1 VIRUS, continued

It is very important to start planning now in the event your child becomes ill. Ask yourself these questions: If you work, have you made arrangements for child care? Have you talked with your employer about what to do in case you need to be out to care for a child? If our local schools close, after school child care at Oldham County elementary schools will be closed also. Ask your day care provider about policies specific to their facility. Preparation should also be considered community-wide. If you are an employer, have you cross-trained your employees to perform vital functions needed to continue business? Now is the time to plan to meet your objectives in case your staff is reduced by illness. You do not want an employee who is ill to

spread any type of influenza in the workplace.

At the national level, scientists at the National Institutes of Health, the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration have worked with vaccine manufacturers to ensure that the H1N1 vaccine is safe and effective. The H1N1 vaccine is prepared in the same tried and true methods of the seasonal flu vaccine; it just affects a different strain of the influenza virus.

H1N1 vaccines are free. Vaccination clinics are being planned for the initial target groups, again, based on vaccine availability in the community, including schools. As vaccine supplies increase, contact your local health care provider, drug store chain or Oldham County Health Department regarding vaccine availability.

Important Precautions

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use a hand sanitizer.
- Cough into your elbow or into a tissue, not in your hands.
- Be sure to receive both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine.
- Stay home from work or school if you are ill with flu-like symptoms for at least 24 hours after the fever has subsided without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Isolate anyone in your home who is ill with flu-like symptoms.
- Contact your physician regarding recommended treatment if you or a family member is considered high risk.

Oldham County Health Department

1786 Commerce Pkwy., LaGrange, KY 40031 • Ph:502/222-3516 • Fax: 502/222-0816

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm • Thursday 7:30 am - 6 pm
Friday 7:30 am - 4 pm

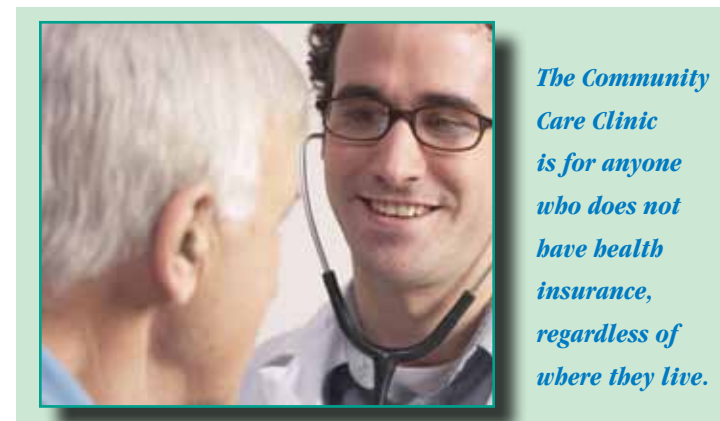
www.oldhamcohd.com

The HDB Service Group

The Community Care Clinic

Healthcare for the uninsured is a topic seen in headlines everywhere. Oldham County addressed the issue in November 2005 when The HDB Service Group, Inc. and its partners, Baptist Hospital Northeast, the Oldham County Health Department and Metro United Way, opened The Community Care Clinic located on the hospital campus in LaGrange. The Clinic has operated non-stop since it opened. The HDB Service Group, Inc. is responsible for overall operations including scheduling appointments and following up after them. The Clinic is for anyone who does not have health insurance regardless of where they live.

Volunteer medical professionals treat patients who would not otherwise get care outside of the



The Community Care Clinic is for anyone who does not have health insurance, regardless of where they live.

emergency room or self-pay urgent care centers. Each volunteer physician or nurse practitioner gives one day per month to treat non-specialty, primary care needs. There are five clinics scheduled each month with an average 55 patients and 450 patients are maintained by

the Clinic. Currently, there is a three month delay for appointments due to increased numbers of uninsured people caused by the economic downturn. Each month, an average of 37 patients needing more immediate care are referred to other clinics and five referrals are made to

specialty care providers.

The Clinic is funded through Metro United Way, HDB's fundraising events and individual contributions. Clinic fundraisers hope to have enough support for a part-time nurse practitioner so the Clinic can be open daily to augment its volunteer hours. The additional staff reduces wait time for appointments.

HDB plans a holiday celebration to honor its volunteers on December 3, 2009. The fundraising Gala is now a spring event. Watch for information about HDB's fundraising events or simply make a tax deductible donation. Visit HDB's newly designed web site, www.hdbservicegroup.com (currently under construction) or call 502/222-6400 for more information.

Outpatient Facility Slated to Open in May 2010

Construction is under way on the 12,450-square-foot Baptist Crestwood facility on the Hwy. 393 Bypass, with a completion date of May 2010. The \$2.2 million structure will house outpatient diagnostic imaging (CT scans, general radiology, DEXA bone density testing and space for mammography); outpatient physical therapy; the Baptist Medical Associates primary care practice of Richard Hefner, DO, and Donna Gatewood, MD, both family practice; and other physician office space.

The Baptist Medical Associates office will expand to accommodate after-hours and walk-in care soon after the facility opens.

Luckett & Farley is the architectural firm and Wehr Constructors is the construction management firm. The facility is being built in an environmentally-friendly manner as possible while still remaining in budget.



The new Baptist Crestwood facility has 12,450 square feet and is located on the Hwy. 393 Bypass.

First Customized Knee Replacement Performed at Baptist Northeast

On April 21, the first customized knee replacement surgery, called the OtisKnee®, was performed at Baptist Hospital Northeast on Roy Lyons of Shelby County. Eugene Jacob, MD, orthopedic surgery, performed the procedure and is one of only a handful of physicians in Kentucky trained to do the OtisKnee.

OtisKnee is a technique that, for the first time, allows surgeons to offer knee replacements that are custom fit to the individual. An MRI is done on the patient's knee, then the images are used to create a three-dimensional model of the knee. Using the model, surgical instruments are created to guide and assist the surgeon during the operation. This helps the surgeon better restore three rotational axes in the patient's reconstructed knee.



Because the fit is perfect for the individual, the patient's knee joint is brought back into alignment, no soft tissue releases are required for balance, and there is less bone loss and faster healing.

The procedure has been performed nationwide since January

Eugene Jacob, MD, orthopedic surgery, right, performs the first OtisKnee replacement at Baptist Hospital Northeast on April 21. He is aided by Jamee Blair, surgery tech, foreground; and Derric Renton, first assistant.

2006 and in Kentucky for about a year and a half. Results are better three months after surgery with the OtisKnee than after six months with conventional knee replacement surgery. The procedure usually takes less than an hour.

“Every time I do one of these, when I straighten the knee, it is stable and I have more confidence that the patient will do well,” said Dr. Jacob. “Patients rehab quickly, have less pain, regain range of motion quicker and have less bleeding. The important thing post-op is getting the proper balance for proper wear (of the joint),” Dr. Jacob explained.

Most patients stop using a cane or walker as early as two to three weeks after surgery and are able to return to activities such as driving as early as three to four weeks; gardening and golfing in six to eight weeks. With traditional knee replacement surgery, most patients are walking without a cane or walker by six weeks and return to normal activities by 12 weeks after surgery.

Baptist Hospital Northeast

1025 New Moody Lane, LaGrange, KY 40031

Patient Information: 502/222-5388

Physician Referral: 502/222-3627

baptistnortheast.com

BAPTIST HOSPITAL NORTHEAST
Close to you.

Baptist Adds More Oldham Physicians to Network

More Oldham County physicians have joined the Baptist network, increasing the options for those who wish to see a primary care doctor or specialist. Two primary care groups are now open. Donna Gatewood, MD, and Richard Hefner, DO, FAAFP, both family medicine, comprise Baptist Medical Associates Crestwood. The office is located at 6106 Crestwood Station. Baptist Medical Associates LaGrange is located at 1031 New Moody Lane, Suite 300, on Baptist Northeast's campus. Healthcare providers in that group are: Ann E. Roberts, MD, family practice; Madonna Ringswald, DO, internal

medicine/pulmonary medicine; Abby Hefner, ARNP, FNP; and Terri Clifford, ARNP, FNP. There are now two Baptist Surgical Associates practices in LaGrange. The office of Eugene Jacob, MD, orthopedics, is located at 1023 New Moody Lane, Suite 102, on Baptist Northeast's campus. Thomas Hart, MD, and Kenneth Green, MD, general surgery, are located in the same building in Suite 100.

For assistance in finding a primary care physician or specialist close to you who participates in your insurance plan, call the Baptist Northeast Physician Referral Service at 502/222-3627.

Upcoming Events

Colon cancer support group, 6 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 17. Open to anyone affected by colon cancer. For more information, call the Colon Cancer Prevention Project at 502/290-0288.

Living Well with Diabetes support group, 7 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 17. Registered Dietitian Susan Yaple will discuss "Consistent Carbs Through the Holidays." The meeting will also feature an open forum. For more information on the support group, call Angela Madden at 502/222-3344.

Safe Sitter course, 9 am-5 pm, Saturday, Dec. 5. Deadline for paid registration is Friday, Nov. 20. A medically accurate program that teaches boys and girls ages 11 to 13 how to handle emergencies when caring for young children. \$45 class fee includes a messenger bag, manual and other useful items, as well as breakfast, lunch, snack and refreshments for the graduation ceremony. Scholarships available based on financial need. Class size limited; early registration is recommended. Call 222-3877 for more information, or for a registration form.

Prenatal classes: All About Labor, 7-9 pm, Thursday, Nov. 5; **Anesthesia**, 7-8 pm, Monday, Nov. 9; **Healthy Journey for Two**, 8-9 pm, Monday, Nov. 9; **Breastfeeding Your Newborn**, 7-8:30 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 10. Classes are free. To register, call the Baptist Northeast Information Center at (502) 222-3627 or toll-free, 1-888-222-8071. Or, register online at baptistnortheast.com.

Humane Society of Oldham County

Looking Out for Your Pets!

The Humane Society of Oldham County would like to share the expanding activities we've been involved with this year. The economy has challenged many families as well as had an impact on our pets. The Humane Society has stepped up its efforts to help and none too soon.

Who exactly are we? This is a question we're asked all the time. Perhaps it's best understood by explaining who we're not — many mistake us for Oldham County Animal Control. While we have a good working relationship with them, we are not the County Shelter. Our main mission is to provide low cost spay and neuter services. We offer clinics once or twice a month to those who might not otherwise be able to afford such services.

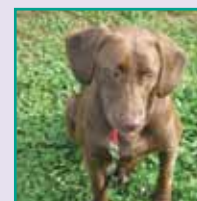
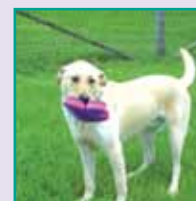
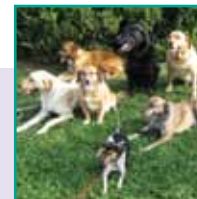
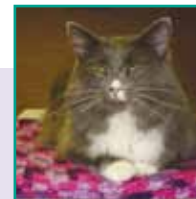
Our clinics do much to stem pet overpopulation.

Spay and neuter clinics demand most of our time and funding. We do realize, however, that there are other areas requiring attention. We have a feral cat Trap, Neuter, Release program (TNR). We make every attempt to trap mature feral adults to spay/neuter. This effort is humane and if done aggressively, will eventually curb the exploding population.

We also have a small foster-adoption program. Because we don't have anywhere to house these animals, the program must remain small, but necessary. We keep an active list of these animals on Petfinder.com

Check out these animals currently available for adoption from the Humane Society.

**Oldham County Humane Society
PO Box 727
LaGrange, KY 40031
ph: 502/222-7537**



Another new, very exciting venture this year is Camp Canine. A partnership with Animal Control, Luther Lockett Prison and HSOC, 10 dogs are pulled from Animal Control every 2-3 months. They are given to 10 inmates who are trained as dog handlers. The dogs graduate as certified AKC Canine

Good Citizens and put up for adoption. This program literally involves the whole community and benefits everyone. Initial results are outstanding!

Please contact us at 222-7537 or www.humanesocietyoldhamcounty.com. We welcome your time, donations and membership.

Letter from the Judge Executive

Since the last issue of *What's Happening!* the County has passed two important financial milestones:

1. We completed fiscal year 2009 in the black with a contribution to our reserves of nearly \$700,000; and
2. We filed with the Kentucky Department for Local Government a budget for 2010 that is also in the black, with an anticipated contribution to reserves of just over \$300,000.

I am especially proud of our Magistrates and staff for these results because they were achieved in a difficult economic environment and were the result of consistent effort over the past 2½ years. Among other things, our staff had to forego any salary increase for the first half of this fiscal year, while others went to shorter hours. Most important, it means that we can re-install our important capital improvements process which addresses the third part of our mantra to “be safe, be clean, be great.”

Again with the help of our Magistrates, staff and some very



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- Duane Murner, Judge/Executive

dedicated volunteer boards, we have made great progress toward eventually cleaning up the water quality in our streams and creeks. The two boards dealing with waste water and storm water are working cooperatively and both have now signed contracts with Veolia, Inc. This creates wonderful scale economies and brings to bear on this troublesome issue the power of a company with years of world-wide experience in this arena. Our poor

water quality is an issue that got away from us and it will take a while to correct it, but we are clearly on the right track.

We have made real progress on several “quality of life” improvements that are important for many County residents. The first phase of the three-mile greenways walking path has been opened on Commerce Parkway. By late fall we expect this will be completed all the way from LaGrange to Hwy 393.

We believe we have qualified for a stimulus-related grant for \$876,000 which will permit us to construct this bike and pedestrian trail across I-71 on the east side of Hwy 146. For years we have dreamed of a cross-county trail from LaGrange to Pewee Valley, but we never had a way to get across I-71. It appears this important connector will now be possible. And, finally we have received a \$993,000 grant for a new Park-and-Ride facility adjacent to Apple Patch in Brownsboro which will replace and expand the temporary one provided over the past several years by Bob Jones at Exit 14. This will add 50% more spaces, a shelter, a playground, bike lockers, and a walking path. It is a joint project between Fiscal Court, City of Crestwood and Apple Patch. We are also grateful to Mr. Jones for helping us get this important commuter link established.

As always, I am proud to be your Judge/Executive and honored that our residents have given me the chance to serve.

- Duane Murner, Judge/Executive

Oldham County Government Offices

Duane Murner, Judge/Executive e-mail: dmurner@oldhamcounty.net

Paula Gish, Deputy Judge/Executive e-mail: pgish@oldhamcounty.net

phone: 502/222-9357 • fax: 502/222-3210

Your Magistrates

District #1	Steve Church	292-0372	stevecod1@yahoo.com
District #2	David Voegele	222-5780	davidvoegele@aol.com
District #3	Bob Leslie	225-4441	rleslie@oldhamcounty.net
District #4	Steve Greenwell	222-7912	springhillsteve@bellsouth.net
District #5	Iva Davis	241-9309	ivadavis@bellsouth.net
District #6	Scott Davis	742-0700	mail@scottmdavis.net
District #7	Rick Rash	241-5611	rickrash@insightbb.com
District #8	Bob Deibel, Jr.	241-4992	rdeibeljr@bellsouth.net

Departments

Animal Control

Barbara Rosenman, Director - 222-7387
brosenman@oldhamcounty.net

Building Maintenance:

Bill Tucker, Director - 222-3967
btucker@oldhamcounty.net

Emergency Management / OC Dispatch

Kevin Nuss, Director - 222-0799
knuss@oldhamcounty.net

Engineering

Beth Stuber, County Engineer - 222-1476
bstuber@oldhamcounty.net

Parks & Recreation

Tim Curtis, Director - 225-0655
tcurtis@oldhamcounty.net

Planning & Development Services

Louise Allen, Director - 222-1476
lallen@oldhamcounty.net

Police

Mike Griffin, Chief - 222-1300
mgriffin@oldhamcounty.net

Roads:

Brian Campbell, Road Superintendent - 222-0426
bcampbell@oldhamcounty.net

Solid Waste, Recycling

Linda Fountain, Director - 222-9357
lfountain@oldhamcounty.net

Efforts to Ensure Clean Streams

Everyone in the County wants clean water in their streams. Oldham County has made steps to help assure that effort, but now the State and Federal government have set requirements that the County must follow in assuring clean streams. These requirements involve specific actions including setting up a program to collect input from the community, providing public education, inspecting streams and looking for illicit discharges, inspecting construction sites, inspecting permanent storm water facilities and developing maintenance procedures for government-owned facilities.

Public Input

Part of the effort in the County has involved studies of Curry's Fork and Darby Creek. These studies involve collecting public input and providing potential solutions that the

County can use. This is an ongoing, grant-funded effort.

The County has set up the Storm Water Quality Management Board to help implement the required programs. These programs have included meetings with all elected officials and staff of all local governments along with regional and state officials. An education program has started to help residents understand what they can do to help improve water quality.

Streams and Illicit Discharge

All streams, culverts, inlets and drop boxes will be mapped. This effort is underway and you may have already seen people in your neighborhood or along the road collecting data. A map is being generated with all this information. This will take some time but the effort is being

focused on the densest, urbanized areas of the County. There have already been some problems found including a home's septic system piped to a stream which the Oldham County Health Department is working to correct.

Construction Sites

Over the years there has been a lot of construction in the County, but currently, due to economic conditions, not as much now. All sites over one acre in size must have a permit issued by the State. This permit includes a plan for controlling erosion at the site. The County is stepping up monitoring of those sites to see that the contractors follow their plan.

Permanent Facilities

Many new commercial buildings have storm water facilities to collect and treat water on site. The

County is beginning to identify and inspect those facilities to make certain they are functioning properly. Some of this effort initially will be directed at helping the owners understand how their facilities function and why they are important.

Maintenance Procedures

The County and cities own a lot of facilities. An inventory and condition assessment is being made of those to determine what maintenance is required.

For more information about the County's storm water management efforts, please contact:

Ed Basquill, Project Manager
Veolia Water North America
700 W. Jefferson Street
LaGrange, KY 40031
502-225-9477 office
502-225-9468 fax
ed.basquill@veoliawaterna.com

Oldham County Fiscal Court

Property Owner's Responsibility in the Right-of-Way

Our County road department spends countless hours during the summer and fall trimming vegetation from the right-of-way of county roads. This work helps make sure that important sight-lines are open and school buses and other large vehicles are not forced into the other lane of traffic to avoid striking overhanging vegetation. While the County road crews will continue to do their work, we should all understand that the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) also requires private landowners to take an active role in helping to keep County roads safe by maintaining any County road

right-of-way bordering their property.

State law permits County road department crews to trim or remove trees, shrubs and tall grass from the county road right-of-way, and to remove vegetation that dangerously blocks a sight lines at intersections, even when the trees, shrubs, or tall grass is on private property; however, the fiscal court can order landowners or managers to do the same, and may even issue a fine for non-compliance.

KRS 179.220 and KRS 179.230, directs owners and managers of property that fronts county roads to trim any vegetation more than

five feet tall along a county road right-of way. This law also requires landowners to remove obstructions that hang into the right of way, for example, from trees or shrubs, even when the base of the plant is on private land. County road right-of-ways can extend as far as 40 feet from the center on both sides of a county road, and will never be less than 15 feet from the center-line.

Speaking of road rights-of-way, under KRS 179.380(2), it is against the law for an, "owner or tenant (to) fill up any ditch or place anything in any ditch so as to interfere with the purposes for which

it was made." This law is meant to prevent floods when a drainage ditch is blocked by debris and applies to drainage culverts and ditches along county roads as well as on drainage easements that are part of a subdivision or other development. Owners must also keep their driveway culverts clear of soil, leaves and debris and are prohibited from placing permanent structures such as walls and basketball goals or large rocks, along the roadway." Please keep these statutes in mind as you do your fall clean-up and prepare for winter.

Sewer Improvements Underway

The Oldham County Sewer District manages 13 wastewater plants, 56 pump stations and more than 100 miles of sewer line. These facilities require substantial maintenance to help keep them running, but many of the facilities are older and require even more effort. This summer the District took steps to upgrade the system and improve plant operations by spending \$1.6 million dollars on repairs and upgrades. Some of these are obvious to everyone — such as metal repairs — while other improvements are less obvious but even more important. There have been additions of electronics to remotely monitor the plants around the clock, new laboratory samplers to monitor water quality and changes in chemicals to make the plants safer for workers and neighbors.

Building for the Future

The repairs this summer are to keep the plants functioning properly as major changes take place over the next few years. The District has received funding to decommission and remove the Green Valley and Buckner wastewater plants by pumping flows from these plants to larger ones. The District plans to consolidate a number of smaller plants into a few large facilities to improve efficiencies and water quality within the county. The priority for eliminating plants is being coordinated with the State Division of Water and will initially focus on plants with the worst water quality. The pace of these efforts will largely be driven by the availability of capital to fund the expenditures and the District is pursuing a number of grant and low cost loan alternatives.



This summer the Oldham County Sewer District repaired and upgraded the sewer system and made improvements to wastewater plants.

Lines Can Be a Problem

Many of the sewer lines, just like the plants, are old. The older lines are made of clay tile and over time develop cracks which allow tree roots to enter the pipe creating a blockage as well as letting ground water enter the line. This fills up both the sewer line with excess water as well as burdening the plant with added volume. The District has begun a program of smoke testing, line cleaning and televising the sewer lines. This process helps to find the leaks in the system so that repairs can be made. The residents of Green Valley, Buckner, Ash Avenue, Orchard Grass and Willow Creek will have seen the smoke testing in their neighborhoods already and others will follow. The smoke identifies holes in the pipe or where unwanted

surface water can be infiltrating the sewer lines. Cleaning the lines involves removing tree roots, rocks and dirt from the line along with grease and other debris. The cleaning process opens up the lines to improve water flow and prevent blockages. A small television camera on wheels can then be placed in the line showing the condition of the pipe.

Odor Control and Back-Up Prevention

The District is also working to reduce odors which occur more frequently with dry hot weather. A new device has been purchased that numerically determines the strength of the odor and helps pinpoint the location. Once the source of odor is determined, chemicals can be used to help manage or eliminate the odor. A good portion of the capital repairs this summer was focused on improved aeration at some treatment plants aimed at reducing odors from those facilities as well.

Dry weather also makes tree roots grow into the sewer lines hunting water. Some residents experience back-ups which can be from their service connections which run from their house to the sewer line. Maintenance of these service connections are the responsibility of the homeowner and tree roots can be a major source of blockages. Neighborhoods with large trees are beautiful but can be the cause of a lot of sewer problems. The District's lines in these neighborhoods are being TV inspected now to help warn you of potential problems. You can help by not planting trees near your service connection or replacing existing trees with smaller shrubs or flowers.

Oldham County Sewer District

700 West Jefferson Street
LaGrange, Kentucky 40031
502/225-9477



OLDHAM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Upcoming Events and Activities

Youth Basketball League

Registration for our popular youth basketball program has begun. We offer up to an 8-game season plus a season-ending tournament or jamboree for boys and girls grades 1-8 for \$45 per child before November 12 and \$55 after. We offer a discount for parents that volunteer to coach a team. The skills evaluation will be held at Buckner Elementary School on November 14. Season begins on January 9 with all practices and games being held on Saturdays.

V.I.P.s (Very Important Preschoolers)

A program for V.I.P.s ages 2 to 5 years and their parents. Activities include music, movement, crafts, and learning games. Children will participate in activities to develop social skills and increase fine and gross motor skills. Session will be offered on Tuesday mornings from 11-11:50 am. Session lasts six weeks and costs \$35 per child (\$30 each for two or more siblings). Maximum of 10 children allowed in the class. Call Amy Middlestat at 269/275-3479 for additional information.

Your child will develop social skills and increase fine and gross motor skills in the V.I.P. Program.

Intro to Ballroom Dancing Classes

Have you ever wanted to learn the Waltz, Rumba, Cha Cha, Tango or the East Coast Swing? Well then, this is the class for you! Grab your partner and prepare to dance the night away. Classes are taught on Thursday nights, 7- 8:30 pm. The cost is \$40 per couple. The next session starts soon; call us for more information.

Scrapbooking Event

Join us at the John W. Black Community Center for our next scrapbooking event to be held in early 2010. There is a registration fee of \$10 per person, which includes pizza for dinner and soft drinks. A variety of classes full of scrapbooking idea will be offered for a minimal per-class materials fee. You can pick and choose the classes that you want to attend. Call 225-0655 for more information!



Adult Volleyball Leagues

Adult men and coed volleyball leagues begin play the last week in January each year. Matches held at Oldham County Middle School. Registration is accepted through January 8. The league fee of \$140 per team includes up to a 7-match schedule plus a single-elimination tournament.

Holiday 2 Mile Walk for the Teddy Bear Tree

On Saturday, December 12 at Wendell Moore Park, the Oldham County Parks and Recreation Department will be offering the Holiday 2 Mile Walk benefiting the Teddy Bear Tree Program. The Teddy Bear Tree Program provides needy children in Oldham County with toys and clothes during the holiday season. The cost for the walk is \$5 or a new toy.

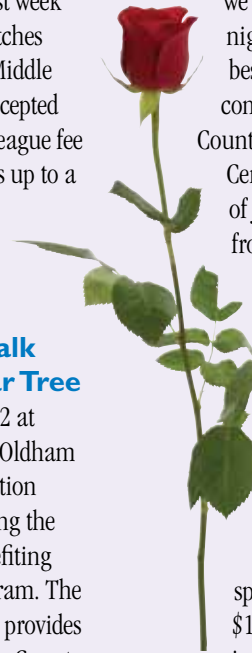
Letters from Santa

The Oldham County Parks and Recreation Department has made arrangements with the North Pole Post Office to have Santa contact your child by mail during the holiday season. Go to www.oldhamcounty.net to print off the Santa Letter information form. Due to Santa's busy holiday schedule, letters can only be mailed December 1-15.

Father/Daughter Dance

January 29 or 30, 6:30-8 pm

This event has become so popular, we're now offering two nights! Dads and their best girl (or girls) can come out to the Oldham County Community Center the evening of January 29 or 30, from 6:30-8 pm for a fun-filled night of dancing and contests. A live D.J. and light refreshments accentuate the evening as well as a photographer for capturing this special moment. The \$12 per couple cost includes a rose for your date. For multiple daughters, add \$6 each. Tickets go on sale December 15 and must be purchased by January 25 at 4 pm. Maximum of 75 couples per night.



To begin receiving the monthly Parks and Recreation e-newsletter, send an e-mail to: tcurtis@oldhamcounty.net. Type e-news in the subject line!

PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED

For information on all of our activities and events, call 225-0655 or visit our website.

U.S.S.S.A. Spring Softball Leagues

Registration for men's, coed and women's spring softball begins February 1. The registration fee is \$375 per team (includes U.S.S.S.A. sanction fee) for an 8-week schedule plus a single-elimination tournament. League play begins the week of April 13. Mandatory Captain's meeting will be held in the week prior to the league start date. League champs receive T-shirts and a sponsor's trophy. Tournament champs receive T-shirts only.

Family Survivor Night

You've seen the game on television; now join the Oldham County Parks and Recreation Dept. for our version of the popular reality game show. The event will be held on Friday, February 19 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the John W. Black Community Center. Bring your "tribe" to come compete for prizes against other families. Food will be included in the registration fee. Menu and cost TBA.

"Clover Leaf" 10K Run

Thursday, March 18, 6:30 pm
Join us for the 5th annual "Clover Leaf" 10K run on Thursday, March 18, beginning at 6:30 pm. The run will start in front of the John Black Community Center at Wendell Moore Park, in Buckner. Early registration is \$15; late registration (including on race day) is \$20. Prizes are given in a variety of age groups and all participants receive our famous "Clover Leaf" long-sleeve T-shirt. Volunteers needed for this event; call us to help out!



Classes in Ballroom Dancing and Belly Dancing are also now forming!

Tip from the Oldham County Police Department:

Call 222-1300, ext. 847 (TIP) to report criminal activity in Oldham County.

Animal Shelter: Emergency Preparedness for Pets

As we prepare ourselves and our homes for winter, we should give thought to preparing our animals in the event of a disaster. The staff members of Oldham County Animal Control have taken the courses taught by the Humane Society of the United States to prepare us to deal with both large numbers of animals in disasters and the safe housing of individual animals during times of crises. Shortly after the first Disaster Preparedness class we were struck with the infamous ice storm! We put our newly acquired knowledge to quick work and established a shelter

One of the best things pet owners can do is have a recent photograph of their pet, a two-day supply of food, water and medication for their pet, veterinary records for each pet, and a contact list of friends and family out of the crisis area who would be able to temporarily care for pets.

for the pets of citizens who evacuated due to the ice storm. We also housed the current population of the County Shelter plus stray animals who were

in crisis due to the collapse of barns and outbuildings.

One of the best things pet owners can do is have a recent photograph

of their pet, a two day supply of food, water and medication for their pet, veterinary records for each pet, and a contact list of friends and family out of the crisis area who would be able to temporarily care for pets.

Red Cross shelters and most other shelters will not allow pets to stay with their human families. Your veterinarian may also be affected by the crisis if it is widespread. The Oldham County Animal Control Shelter is prepared to assist with emergency housing, transportation, and care of both pets and livestock when disaster strikes.

From the Board Chairwoman: Joyce Fletcher



“For the 21st century, our students must be academically competitive in math, science, and literacy, but they must also be able to problem solve, use critical thinking skills, be creative, be globally conscientious, and become affirmative leaders.”

-Joyce Fletcher

On behalf of the Oldham County Board of Education, along with Superintendent Paul Upchurch, I am pleased to provide in this publication of *What's Happening!* a few highlights of the many exciting things going on in our excellent school district.

The primary focus of this Board of Education remains to make decisions based on what is

best for kids. For the 21st century, our students must be academically competitive in math, science, and literacy, but they must also be able to problem solve, use critical thinking skills, be creative, be globally conscientious, and become affirmative leaders. As members of this Board of Education, my colleagues and I work diligently to adopt strong policies and support

initiatives in the district which will enhance the work that is going on in all of our classrooms.

Two outstanding programs available in this district to round out the K-12 services are the preschool and the alternative high school. We are doing a better and better job of meeting the needs of all kids, including those with disabilities and those with true giftedness. We are also proactive in addressing state and national issues that will impact our students, such as budget allocations and proposed changes to the Commonwealth Assessment.

We continue to make the safety of our students a top priority, and have strengthened current policies with tougher consequences for drug and alcohol use and sale or distribution offenses.

As a board, we continually look for ways to improve communication and enhance representation of our Oldham County constituents: we encourage residents to address the board during the public expression portion of our monthly meetings, we are easily accessible via the website, and we invite the community to exchange information with us at our Town Hall Meetings. It is an honor and a pleasure for us to serve the students, staff, and families of this outstanding district.

Oldham County Board of Education Chairwoman

From the Superintendent: Paul Upchurch



“Our district mission is to equip every student with the knowledge, critical thinking skills and strategies required of those who will compete in a changing world economy.”

-Paul Upchurch

We are off and running into another exciting year in the Oldham County Schools. I am very proud of the dedication of all the stakeholders who work together to make our school system excellent. Our district mission is to equip every student with the knowledge, critical thinking skills and strategies required of those

who will compete in a changing world economy. We are very blessed to have outstanding classroom teachers, principals, and district staff who are passionate about the success of our students.

The Oldham County Board of Education has established five visionary learning areas that guide

school staff in their work with students. Each day students work to improve their skills and strategies in the areas of communication, critical thinking and problem solving, technology and leadership.

We are very proud of our students and the outstanding accomplishments they continue to make in all areas. Oldham County students consistently outperform and outrank students from across our state and nation. State scores released in September of 2009 place Oldham County as the top ranked county district in Kentucky. All seniors were required to take the ACT in 2009. Students in our three high schools achieved a 2009 ACT

composite score of 22.1 compared to the national composite score of 21.1.

We appreciate the ongoing support of our parents and community members and look forward to working with you throughout this school year.

Superintendent
Oldham County Schools

The 146 Campus

In Oldham County, schools are organized into campuses that describe the area of the county in which they are located. The Oldham County Adult Education Program has added a new campus to our community of schools. It is referred to as The 146 Campus which includes the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR), Roederer Correctional Complex (RCC) and Luther Luckett Correctional Complex (LLCC).

In November 2008, the Kentucky Department of Corrections contracted with the Kentucky Adult Education Program to provide an evening GED /Adult Basic Education (ABE) program at all three facilities. The Department of Corrections determined that the best approach for serving adult offenders in the prisons would be to contract with

the local Adult Education Program in the county in which the facilities are located. As you know, Oldham County happens to have three such facilities.

Ten part-time staff members were hired and the Night GED/ ABE Program at The 146 Campus began. During the first year, from November 2008 through June 2009, Adult Education teachers worked with a total of 144 student-inmates at the three facilities. Many of those enrolled in the program made educational gains and 29 participants received their GEDs. Of those 29, many went on to enroll in the community college program operated within the correctional facilities.

According to national data, 80% of the adults who are incarcerated in the United States will be released at some point and returned to the

community. Our goal is to be a fundamental part of integrating adult offenders back into the workforce in their communities by providing educational opportunities to assist them.

The Department of Corrections states, "The learning process and making a difference in lives is precisely what Corrections Education

is all about — empowering students to become self-sufficient, tax-paying citizens upon their release from the system."

The 2009-2010 academic year has begun; the goal of the Adult Education Program is to work with 150 students and have 32 GEDs earned by the end of the school year.

Oldham County Schools Adult Education

Oldham County Schools Arts Center
7105 Floydsburg Road, Crestwood, Ky. 40014 • phone: 502/241-6018

Adult Education Center

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday, 10 am - 4:30 pm

LaGrange Community Center Site

Wednesday, 3:30 pm - 8 pm

MISSION

Oldham County Schools



Graduates of Oldham County Schools will pursue a life of continuous learning, contribute to their communities, participate thoughtfully in American democracy, and compete successfully in the local, national and international economy.

Oldham County Schools

P.O. Box 218, Buckner, KY 40010 • phone: 502/241-3500 • fax: 502/241-3209

Oldham County Schools Administration:

Paul Upchurch
Superintendent

Charleen McAuliffe, Ed. D.
Deputy Superintendent

Anita Davis
Professional Development/Gifted & Talented

Shirley Lauterbach
High School Level Director

Rick McHargue
Personnel/Technology/Transportation

Dan Orman
Student Services

Will Wells, Ed. D.
Middle School Level Director

Anne Courtney Coorsen, Esq.
General Counsel

Michael Williams
Director of Pupil Personnel

James P. Ewalt
Architect/Director of Facilities Mgmt.

Melissa Abernathy
Interim Director of Exceptional Children's Services

Chuck Littrell
Finance Officer/Board Treasurer

Board of Education:

Joyce Fletcher – Chairman
Walt Schumm – Vice Chairman
Larry Dodson
Jennifer Jones
Kevin Woosley



Oldham
COUNTY SCHOOLS

Early Release Days — Thankful for the Time

If one were to ask educators what they need most to become better at their profession, the large majority of them would say “time.” And even though two hours once a month isn’t nearly enough time to accomplish everything teachers want to achieve, the first Oldham County early release day was definitely beneficial, and the time was well utilized. The scheduled early release days will provide teachers with uninterrupted work time to improve their craft of teaching and, as a result, increase student achievement. At right are snapshots representing the activities teachers worked on during the District’s early release day on September 30 and what they will be working on during the next four early release days this year.



The first Oldham County early release day provided valuable time for teachers to improve their craft of teaching.

Elementary Schools

Elementary teachers were grateful for the “gift of time” granted them by the Oldham County Board of Education. On the first early release day, teachers discussed professional books, analyzed beginning-of-year assessments, and reviewed curriculum maps. At some schools, teachers broke into four Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups (teams of teachers who work together) each with specific charges. At one school, the Kindergarten PLC looked at the results from an assessment they had given students and planned instructional next steps. The 1st and 2nd grade PLC reviewed the curriculum and developed instructional strategies for Word Work—vocabulary and writing activities. Their 3rd-5th grade PLC looked at results from an open response assessment and discussed their next steps based on

demonstrated student learning. Most schools concluded their work by sharing their findings and determining next steps.

Middle Schools

When middle school students were released at 1:30 the halls cleared quickly and by 1:40 teachers were congregated in their PLC. The discussions in which these various groups of teachers engaged were as diverse as their content. For example, language arts teachers were discussing on-demand writing and collaboratively determining which form of writing would be addressed at each grade level; science teachers were talking about the District’s writing plan and how to incorporate it into their science lab reports; math teachers were sharing ideas on their new standards-based report card, while social studies teachers were sharing the results of their first common assessment and jointly determining the process for re-teaching some missed essential concepts. Other agenda items were

also covered such as an impact check of the school’s improvement plan, sharing knowledge of student needs across grade levels, and determining how best to use early release days in the future.

High Schools

Grateful to the community for their support for early release days, high school teachers brought samples of their students’ work to analyze together as departments. This analysis, an initiative in our new writing program, helped teachers solidify the types of writing that they should expect their students to write, evaluate the skills of the writers, and discuss next steps. Teachers also broke into smaller content groups to develop learning targets for upcoming units and discussed how the Edusoft software program could be used to analyze student progress for each learning target.

The remaining early release days are:
November 11
January 27
February 24
March 24

The remaining four scheduled early release days will allow teachers additional time for in-depth analysis of student performance, which will in turn guide teachers in providing a variety of learning opportunities to meet the needs of all students. Teachers will meet in their PLC teams to work toward achieving their student learning goals for this school year. Some of the topics they will work on include the new Oldham County writing plan, interventions for struggling students, common assessments, differentiation, and other subject specific topics.

The Newcomer Center — a Key to Success in School

Imagine being in middle school. By any measure, that's a scary proposition. Now imagine that your dad, through no fault of his own, loses his job as a result of the current economic woes in the business community. You find yourself relocating to another community — different friends, different home, different school, different everything! Now, imagine you don't speak the language. Language is everything — the key to making friends, getting from place to place, and succeeding in school.

Oldham County Schools' Newcomer Center is a critical component of the English Language Learner (ELL) program. Don Craig, ELL Director, believes it is an avenue to success for children who arrive in Oldham County with very few language skills. Brooke Young, the teacher charged with day-to-day operations at the Newcomer Center, is passionate about providing a solid start for her new students. The staff must be prepared for any challenge every day. Ms. Young has created new

learning opportunities for students moving to Oldham County from South Korea, Pakistan, Japan, China, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Taiwan and Mexico — and that's just a partial list of students' home countries! So where do they start?

Upon enrollment, students are tested in critical areas in order to assess language skills. An incoming kindergartner is tested for listening and speaking skills. For students who are in grades 1 through 12, four areas are assessed: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students who qualify attend the Newcomer Center for part of the school day in order to boost language skills. Don Craig and his staff provide a safe home base for new students to work on school survival skills, social issues and academic hurdles.

During a recent visit to the Newcomer Center, a visitor was treated to an enjoyable conversation with José, who recently moved to Kentucky with his father. José attends the Newcomer Center in the

morning and then catches a bus to North Oldham Middle School in the afternoon. He enjoys the opportunity to learn new things every morning and loves going to school. José is a Newcomer Center veteran of sorts. He moved here at the end of last school year — time to make enough friends and host a "Back-to-School" party in August! José's eyes tell a story of a young man who misses his home, his mom, his nine-year-old brother (they will join José and his father soon), and his old school. José also shares with the visitor that "school here is like a university in Puerto Rico. My friends and teachers are great. I really like coming to school every day. And Ms. Young is the coolest."

José likes basketball — he will try out for the NOMS team this month — and reading. His backpack boasts a collection that includes *Narnia*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and the obligatory *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. He enjoys math and science and wants to learn to fly

airplanes and, like his uncle, become a pilot. José is well on his way to making his dreams a reality!

Sometimes students are not so fortunate to have a support system in place. Ms. Young asked a young man working in a local restaurant if he would like to go to school. After a few weeks of prodding by Ms. Young, the young man gave up trying to rebuff her determined efforts to convince him to give school a try. After two weeks, during which custody issues and arrangements were ironed out, he enrolled in school. Now the young man has just completed his first month attending school in the District. Communication problems exist, but Don Craig and the entire ELL staff of Oldham County Schools simply view communication challenges as a road map for learning. Please feel free to contact Mr. Craig at 225-6555 if you would like to learn more about Oldham County Schools ELL program and the Newcomer Center.



Transportation Service Technicians Honored

The service technicians of the Oldham County Transportation Department were recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education with the 2009 "Outstanding Transportation Maintenance Department" award. They maintain a fleet of 178 school buses that logs over one million miles annually.

Pictured from left to right: Dean King, Nick Harbin, Service Manager Jim Watson, Paul Carley, Larry Drury, Wes Adair, Chad Nieters, Director of Transportation Margaret Johnson, David Harroff, Assistant Director of Transportation James Stewart.

Always Something Happening at the Library!

This has been quite a successful year for the Oldham County Public Library. The new Main Library in LaGrange has shown a considerable increase in library users and circulation of library materials. During this past Summer Reading Program Oldham children (ages 3-12) read 447,500 minutes which is 7459 hours or 310 days, almost a solid year of reading which makes a good case that the public library is a valuable resource.

With the new large building the system has been able to schedule varied programs for all ages from toddlers to teens to adults. Look for more exciting programs and workshops in 2010. We'll be sponsoring a Writer's Forum in January; holding a contest to select items to place in a time capsule in the Main Library in February and dedicating the local history collection to Nora Duerson, for whom the first Oldham County Public Library was named, in March.

The Library will also begin teaching Internet and computer literacy in the new Computer Lab in January. Lots of other special



- Photo by Moberly Photography, Inc. www.moberlyphotography.com

The new Main Oldham County Public Library is located at 308 Yager Avenue in LaGrange.

programs are on tap in the coming months. See what's happening on the Library website at www.oldhampl.org or on our Facebook page where you can write

a book review or read one. We're still waiting to hear from the US Green Building Council on our LEED certification level so we can boast being the first LEED public library

in the Commonwealth. There's always something happening @ the Library!

- Susan Eubank, Library Director

Support Your Library — Sign Up for a Special License Plate



Some states have begun producing license plates that show support for libraries. The Kentucky Library Association is working to bring such a license plate to Kentucky. In order for the Department of Motor Vehicles to produce the plates they must receive 900 applications; so far, over 500 people have made the pledge to purchase at least one plate. The design will be posted in all of the Oldham County libraries soon to help gain support for libraries. You can sign up to add your name to the list for one or more plates at your local library.

What's Happening at the Library?

Check out the website for more news and events! www.oldhampl.org

Adults



Holiday Open House and Concert - Thursday, December 3, from 6-8 pm

The Main Library in LaGrange invites all of our library users from every part of the county to mingle and enjoy the soft sounds of Christmas at a Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 3, from 6-8 pm. Come enjoy decorations, refreshments, and most particularly the musical stylings of Kyle Meadows and Tisa McGraw on the hammered dulcimer and the Celtic Harp. Samples of their music can be heard at www.kylemeadows.com/music.html.

My Spot



Totally Teen Tuesdays - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm

Teens, join us every Tuesday for entertaining programs designed just for you. Programs include book discussions, crafts, movies, and gaming. Each program is held in the meeting room of the Main Library in LaGrange. Information about individual programs can be found at www.oldhampl.org/teen.html. Are you a teen looking to have a say in library programs, or just to have your voice heard? Check out the T.A.B. or Teen Advisory Board that meets one Saturday a month from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Check out the schedule on-line.

Twilight Mania! - Tuesday, November 24th

Can't wait for the release of *New Moon*? Come to the Main Library on Tuesday, November 24th to hear Nicole Bright, who runs the most popular Twilight Fan site on the Web, talk about her experiences interviewing the cast and crew of the movie. The program will begin at 6 pm, and offers insider information any fan would want to know. Prizes will be given away at the event, so don't miss it!

National Gaming Day - Saturday, November 14

"Wii" can celebrate National Gaming Day as a community! The meeting room of the Main Library will be set up for Wii Bowling, Guitar Hero, and other games.

Children's Library



Preschool Storytime

Storytime is for children ages 3-5. Children hear books read to them, sing songs, play games and make a small craft they can take home. Each storytime has a theme.

Toddler Time

Toddler time is for infants through two years old. Parents and children sing songs, do finger plays and are introduced to picture books. It is a time to sit and interact with your child and become familiar with the library.

Mahan Library in Goshen: Thursdays - Toddler Time, 10:10; Story Time, 11 am

Main Library in LaGrange: Wednesdays and Fridays: Toddler Time, 10:00; Story Time, 11 am

South Oldham Library in Crestwood: Tuesdays: Toddler Time, 10:10; Story Time, 11 am

After School Adventures

This program is for elementary school age children. Each week our Children's Library will focus on a different adventure from exploring science fun, to make-it-and-take-it crafts, game days and various other fun-filled activities. Please check the online calendar for the current scheduled activities.



Oldham County Public Library



South Oldham Branch Library

6720 West Hwy. 146, Crestwood

PH: 241-1108

Hours M-Th: 10 am-8 pm,
Fri. & Sat.: 10 am-5 pm;
Closed Sunday

Main Library

308 Yager Avenue, LaGrange

PH: 222-9713 FAX: 222-9730

Hours M-Th: 9:30 am-8 pm,
Fri. & Sat.: 9:30 am-5 pm;
Closed Sunday

Mahan Oldham Branch Library

12505 Harmony Landing Rd., Goshen

PH: 228-1852

Hours M-Th: 10 am-8 pm,
Fri. & Sat.: 10 am-5 pm;
Closed Sunday

Now You See Them, Now You Don't

They live in corn fields, your lawns, and your garden and in the container you use to grow tomato plants. They occur right under your feet, living and working in the dark, and mostly without your knowledge. They make a big difference in how successful your crops are or even if you are able to produce much of anything. They are right in front of you but you can't see, feel or hear them. The decisions you've made about them are either helping or haunting your crops year after year. They were here once, but now they are gone. You took for granted they would always be there simply by ignoring their existence; you thought your soil was productive enough to keep them around.

It often has been the things you didn't see that made the biggest difference in the success of your crop. It has been the bacteria, fungi, nematodes and other tiny living organisms in your soil that have kept your productivity afloat for years. Your soil management decisions now and in the future will help to determine what lives in your soil



and how well your soil and their organisms will work for you.

Most of us are familiar with earthworms and night crawlers and how they pull organic material into the soil and enrich the earth beneath our feet by decomposing the material and turning it into something plants can use. What many of us are unaware of are the millions of other bacteria, fungi, insects and tiny organisms that we do not readily see or observe. At the microscopic level, soil conditions can change from one area to the next, and a variety of soil organisms may be present in just a handful of soil.

Too often we think of enhancing the soil and promoting growth with fertilizers, additives and chemical

applications. Some thought and attention should be given to the natural processes that take place to aid in our objectives. Letting nature take its course, over time, is sometimes the best action. Under a microscope, a healthy soil is a cannibalistic war zone where organisms continuously devour each other and everything in sight. They process their prey — the good, the bad and the ugly — and then excrete it, returning a beneficial product back into the soil.

We all may have observed how well our crops or plants did in an area of newly tilled soil; some place that may not have been planted for 20 or 30 years. We probably wrote this off as simply rich soil that had

not been "farmed" in a long time. The reality was that the soil was rich (in microbes, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, arthropods and earthworms). In our attempt to make the soil more productive, we actually destroyed the "riches" and introduced an artificial wealth upon which we have become dependent.

When possible and practical, giving your soil healthy lifestyle choices can pay big dividends. Using compost and manure increases the microbial actions in the soil. Planting true cover crops, especially those with tremendous root systems, helps to build a better soil. The true productivity of your soil is built over time, not bought. Let your soil work for you instead of you working for your soil. To find out more about your soil, contact our office at 222-5123.

Don't miss our annual tree seedling give-away on March 26, 2010, 11am-12:30 pm from the porch of the Oldham County History Center.

Apply and Sign Up Now for Conservation Programs

Apply early for funding considerations for conservation programs. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Oldham County Soil and Water Conservation District have a number of programs that offer financial incentives to landowners to assist them in addressing their natural resource concerns. Applying for these programs early gives you the advantage of making a good application and one that is competitive with applications

from surrounding counties. The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers conservation planning assistance to landowners which helps in the evaluation of land uses and identifies areas where financial assistance might be available. Most of the successful applications for funding have come through this process. Making an early application for available federal and state conservation incentives programs does not guarantee you funding but it does insure that you will not

miss critical deadlines and that your application will be processed and considered when funds are made available.

There are certainly ways to improve your application score and increase the chances that your application is ranked high. Generally, most of the conservation programs are funded in the late spring, which probably means the application deadline for funding consideration is late fall or early winter. All applications require that

the farm and applicant be eligible to participate in the conservation program. If an applicant or farm is not eligible by the funding deadline, the application can be deferred until the next funding cycle. Eligibility for most of these programs include 1) acquiring a Farm and Tract Number through the USDA Farm Service Agency (502/845-2820), 2) having up-to-date eligibility documents on file with the Farm Service Agency, 3) being in compliance with "Highly Erodible

Oldham County Soil and Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS, continued

Land and Wetland” laws and/or having an Agriculture Water Quality Plan on the farm.

Financial assistance programs are available to address the following needs: development of livestock watering systems; fencing livestock away from sensitive areas such as woods, streams, wetlands, ponds and lakes; fescue eradication and conversion to wildlife friendly grasses; establishment of native grasses, trees and shrubs; developing stream crossings; correcting critically eroding areas; developing rotational grazing systems; developing field borders, riparian areas along streams and wildlife borders along woods; removal of invasive species from woodlands; timber stand improvement by thinning and

culling; wildlife habitat development with plantings and development of shallow water areas; renovation of pasture fields and the establishment of graveled heavy use feeding areas for livestock. A new program called the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been rolled out by USDA. This program is geared to farmers who are astute record keepers and are willing to apply conservation enhancements to their otherwise extensive land management program. To find out if the CSP is right for you, or for information on other USDA financial assistance programs for conservation, contact the Oldham County Soil and Water Conservation District at 502/222-5123 or Kurt Mason at 502/643-4692.



A
Young
Conservationist
writes ...

Beware to Flowers

By Meredith Burnham, St. Aloysius School

Beware young lilies,
Beware tall sunflowers,
The wicked, wretched, global warming is on its way.
Villainous heat, vivid as a tiger,
Putrid pollution, a lion on the loose,
Put into our sky by humans,
Viewed by butterflies such as me.
Red roses — beware
Petunias — take care,
For what is yet to come is grim.
Though my news, which I bring to you
On fluttering wings is sad,
The situation may improve
Even in these bleak times
Slowly at first
As humans make changes for the better
Swoosh!
As I emerge from amongst the clouds
Keep hope, stay strong!
Perhaps we butterflies will share good news
Of flowering plants and budding greenery
And say “Beware” no longer.

Oldham County Tourism

What the Heck Is in Oldham County?



**Kim
Buckler,
Executive
Director**

When you think of spending an evening with girlfriends, do you think of spending it at Girls Night Out on Main Street in LaGrange or on their famous Ghost Tour? When was the last time you took a date to Arbor Ridge Vine & Grill in Crestwood or booked your getaway weekend at the beautiful Bluegrass Country Estate Luxury Bed & Breakfast in LaGrange? Maybe you didn't know those places existed... right in your own backyard. That's where we come in!

Starting in January you will see a NEW Literature Rack in all Oldham County hotels ... one filled with only attractions from Oldham County! Oldham County Tourism is in the process of having these racks custom built so if you are a shop, restaurant or attraction who would like to reserve your space in a rack, please call the Tourism office to be added to the waiting list. Space is limited and filling fast! After you supply marketing materials, the rack service is FREE to our tourist businesses, compliments of Oldham County Tourism and must be managed by the Tourism office to keep them full. In these new literature racks, you will also find the new Oldham County Attraction Maps!

The Oldham County Tourism Commission is also forming

Tourism Committees to allow our local residents and businesses the opportunity to participate in tourist attraction in the county. Based on tourist feedback over the last couple of years, we've developed a Secret Shopper Committee and an Attraction Development Committee. The Attraction Development Committee goal is to help devise a plan to develop those hidden gems in our county into attractions!

The goal of our Secret Shopper Committee is to develop and implement a program to help

tourism businesses understand what is seen and experienced in their establishment through the eyes of a tourist. How are your guests treated by your employees? Would they shop or eat with you again? We would like to hear from you if you are interested in being “secretly shopped” for constructive feedback, or from those interested in serving on this committee.

Visit TourOldhamCounty.com for a list of our local attractions, a calendar of events, or to sign up to receive our e-newsletter.

Oldham County Tourism

P.O. Box 529, Pewee Valley, KY 40056 • Kim Buckler, Executive Director
Director's Cell: 502/817-6043 • Tourism Phone: 502/222-0056
Email: Director@TourOldhamCounty.com

News from the Arts Center

Now in its sixth year, the Arts Center is home to the School for the Arts, Arts Academy, Performance Series, Community and Adult Education Program, and the Oldham County Resource Center. The Arts Center is also home to many community arts organizations, artist residencies, and other partnerships — creating a hub for specialized instruction that capitalizes on the wealth of talent and knowledge coming from Oldham County. The Arts Center demonstrates, as a national model, how a school system can effectively provide cultural opportunities that nurture not only its schools, but the community at large. It has proven to be highly effective in providing arts education for everyone. In addition, there are many scheduled public events and concerts that span the entire year. Please join us this year as we provide for your artistic needs, and

don't hesitate to contact us with any questions — we're excited to hear from you!

Our Arts Academy is a fully functioning community arts school that provides classes open to all children and adults — in music, dance, art and theatre. Our School for the Arts provides arts education that is specifically designed for our school students — high school courses for credit, artist residencies, all-county events, workshops, scholarships, and gifted and talented cooperatives. Some of our successes from the 2008-2009 school year include:

- Annual student enrollment increased to 1,481 from 713 in 2007-08.
- 69 yearly Arts Academy classes as compared to 36 classes in 2007-08.
- 111 scholarships awarded totaling \$10,182.

- 180 concerts in the Performance Hall with 15,855 attendees for community and district events.
- The Arts Center partnered with 61 unique community events involving 2,777 participants and 1,969 attendees.
- 13,754 total participants in 2008-09 Arts Center Offerings with 19,670 attendees, not including the thousands of students involved with the Artist in Residence Program.
- Free Performance Series tickets provided to Oldham County School students, employees, and community members.
- School for the Arts Jazz Connection had its first national competition win — top honors at the 2009 Smoky Mountain Music Festival.
- Chamber Music Ensemble students received honors — three students selected for the

2010 KY Ambassadors of Music European Tour; 1st Place Senior Division winner, 3rd Place and Honorable Mention Junior Division winners — 2009 Louisville Arts Club Overstreet Competition.

- Inaugural Artist-in-Residence Harry Pickens — pianist, composer, classroom teacher on all levels, and featured artist at the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts — spent a day in every elementary and middle school and three days in each of the high schools, worked with each performing arts program over the 5-month residency, gave three public concerts that included educational components, and performed a Gala Concert with students for over 500 attendees.

Cherie Lanier 2009-2010 Artist in Residence

The Arts Center's Artist in Residence program strives to develop a community of united learners through artistic collaborations between students, teachers, and community members. The Arts Center's 2009 - 2010 Artist in Residence, Cherie Lanier, will focus on building the Center's dance program. Ms. Lanier is a professional dancer who has taught classes and maintained studios throughout the Louisville area. She specializes in Latin dances like the salsa and the tango, and will be teaching many of the social dances to the youth of the school district throughout her residency.

The upcoming residency will span the entire school year and during this time Lanier's focus will be at the elementary level. Ms. Lanier will also hold specialty workshops as requested by the middle and high schools, and will conduct assemblies, small group classes and teacher training for both the schools and community.

Ms. Lanier has brought her studio to the Arts Center and now offers private lessons and group lessons to adults and children ages 6 - 18 years in Ballroom/Latin Dance, Teen Hip-Hop and Social Fusion Dance. Many thanks go to the Sutherland Foundation for helping to fund this year's residency.



The Arts Center's 2009 - 2010 Artist in Residence, Cherie Lanier, will focus on building the Center's dance program.

New Arts Academy Classes

New classes in the theatre and music departments of the Arts Academy have already proven to be very popular among the youth in the community. Whether students' interests lean towards rock and roll, choir, or drama, the Arts Center staff is dedicated to providing a nurturing environment and professional coaching to improve their skill levels.

Greylyn Gregory, the Arts Center's Youth Theatre Director is producing an exciting program this semester that includes a full musical performance. Our Earth Rock! class is an original ecological musical that explores topics such as the environment, air quality, recycling, global warming, and the oil crisis. Students will perform this current, cutting edge musical on Friday, November 20, at 9:30 and 11:30 am; Saturday, November 21, at 11 am; and Monday, November 23, at 9:30 and 11:30 am. Tickets are \$6 each

and may be purchased by calling the Arts Center.

Haley Reed, South Middle's choir director, and private voice and piano instructor at the Arts Center, now directs the Oldham County Youth Ensemble. This is the first time an auditioned youth ensemble (ages 10-18) has been offered at the Arts Center. Members learn skills to enable them to become independent musicians and to sing all genres of choral music ranging from Renaissance to contemporary in many different languages and ethnic styles. Ms. Reed's students will work on skills in vocal technique, theory and sight-singing skills, musical standards, performance etiquette and discipline and the value of working together for a common goal.

The Arts Center now offers an expanded rock band program, directed by staff instructor, Dony Erwin. This class is for students



The Arts Center now offers an expanded rock band program, designed with a focus on group playing and advanced band technique. The program is for students who have had at least six months of private instruction.

who have had at least six months of private instruction. The focus is on group playing and advanced band technique. Band members are placed according to age and ability for these

weekly hour-long sessions. Existing bands are also welcome. A jam concert will be performed for family and friends at the culmination of the 8-week program.

Our Community Partners

Oldham-based community organizations that partnered with the Arts Center throughout the past year:

- American Dream Theatre
- Cub Scout Pack 998
- Dollars for Scholars
- Gillman's School of Dance
- Louisville Youth Theatre
- MAGIC Pre-Professional Dance Company
- Oldham County Community Band
- Oldham County Cultural Consortium
- Oldham County Educational Foundation
- Oldham County History Center
- Oldham County Homemakers Cultural Exhibit
- Oldham County Public Libraries
- Oldham County Singers
- Operation Spirit
- South Oldham Rotary Club
- Susana B. Williams' Danceforms Productions
- Suzuki Piano of Louisville

Oldham County Schools Arts Center

...Where the spirit of creativity sparks the artist in everyone

7105 Floydsburg Rd., Crestwood, KY 40014
 ph: 502/241-6018
 fax: 502/241-4068



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oldham County Schools Arts Center

Times and dates are subject to change. Call or visit www.ocsartscenter.org for current information.

NOVEMBER	<p>Louisville Youth Theatre performs, "If You Give a Pig a Party" - Laura Numeroff's classic tale with all of the beloved characters, the pig, the mouse, the moose and the cat.</p> <p>School Performances Fri., November 13, 9:30 and 11:30 am Public Performances Sat., November 14, 2 and 7 pm School Performances Mon., November 16, 9:30 and 11 am, 12:30 pm</p>
	<p>Oldham County Youth Theatre performs, "EARTH ROCK!" - An ecological musical that is current, cutting edge and timely. The experience will have students of all ages rockin' and singin' well after this memorable performance!</p> <p>School Performances Fri., November 20, 9:30 and 11:30 am Public Performance Sat., November 21, 11 am School Performances Mon., November 23, 9:30 and 11:30 am</p>
	<p>LaGrange Elementary Art Show December 2009 - LaGrange Elementary School students display their works of art</p> <p>Locust Grove Choral Concert Tue., December 8, 7 pm - Choral Director Tim Springer conducts choral students in this holiday concert.</p> <p>Nutcracker in a Nutshell Wed., December 9, 11 am - Come enjoy "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," a new shorter, family- and child-friendly version of the classic holiday tradition, the "Nutcracker."</p> <p>American Dream Theatre performs, "A Child's Christmas Carol" - Of course, there will be the familiar scary ghosts, Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and "Bah, Humbug," but this production will have plenty of special surprises too. This version of the Dickens classic features musical styles ranging from ballads to rock tunes, wild costuming, and warm holiday joy for all ages.</p> <p>School Performances Fri., December 11, 9:30 and 11:30 am Public Performance Sat., December 12, 11am</p> <p>"Holiday Youth All-Stars" and "A Child's Christmas Carol" encore - Talented, young performing artists from throughout the county showcase their talents and entertain guests during this holiday extravaganza. Fri., December 11, 7 pm</p> <p>Oldham County Singers Concert Sat., December 12, 8 pm</p>
DECEMBER	<p>Oldham County Youth Ensemble Concert Sun., January 10, 2 pm</p> <p>Oldham County Middle Schools All County Chorus Festival Fri., January 15</p> <p>Oldham County Strings Project Gala Thu., January 21, 6:30 pm - As a grand finale to our Fall Semester Strings Classes, students perform in concert</p>
	<p>OC Homemakers Cultural Arts Show Opening Reception - Tue., February 16, 5 pm</p> <p>OC Homemakers Cultural Arts Show February 16 - February 26 - Local Oldham County Homemakers Club members compete in the annual art and cultural show.</p>
	<p>OC Homemakers Cultural Arts Show February 16 - February 26 - Local Oldham County Homemakers Club members compete in the annual art and cultural show.</p>
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