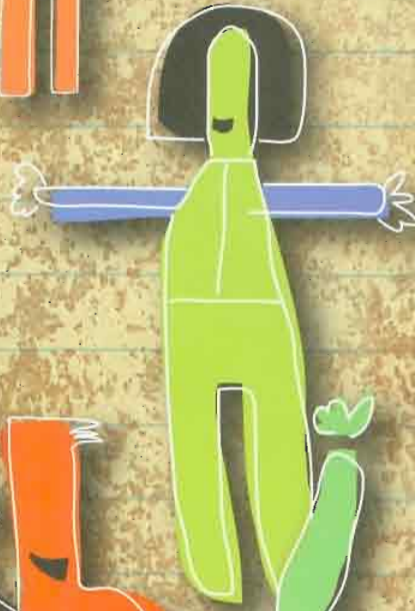


City

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A NEW ECONOMY WORKFORCE



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Colleen Blouin
is Member Relations
Manager for
the Kentucky
League of Cities.



News from Kentucky communities

State award goes to Bowling Green parks and recreation

The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department has been designated "Kentucky's Outstanding Parks and Recreation Department for 2003" by the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society.

The award recognizes a parks and recreation department that has demonstrated outstanding contributions in leisure services. Innovative programs, outstanding achievement and program inclusiveness are required to win the award.

The state society recognized Bowling Green's commitment to local programming and facilities as well as its contributions to the state group. The department was honored for program variety, the effective use of resources, a focus on customer service and fund-raising in support of the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society and Kentucky Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Paducah project receives national recognition

The City of Paducah has been honored by the American Planning Association for its Lower Town Project. The annual awards recognize outstanding efforts in the art, science and profession of city and regional planning.

A neighborhood analysis in the late 1950s found that Paducah's Lower Town was dilapidated, and the area had little attention for many years after that. Following extensive participation by neighborhood residents, the city commission adopted a plan in 2002 to redevelop blighted areas through aggressive code enforcement, flexible zoning techniques and protection of historic design. The redevelopment plan included an ambitious program to leverage \$400,000 in city funds to recruit 32 new artists and residents to

Lower Town, resulting in nearly \$6.5 million in new private investment.

Arts award goes to Berea

The City of Berea was recognized by Governor Ernie Fletcher as winner of the Government Award during a March presentation of the 2003 Governor's Awards in the Arts.

The city was described as a "lead supporter and effective partner in the development and promotion of long-term, community-based regional arts and tourism projects, including the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, a downtown tourism center with an artisan gallery, a city signage program, partnership with Berea College on development of a scenic corridor along KY 595 and provision of low-cost headquarters for the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen."

The annual awards, coordinated by the Kentucky Arts Council, are the commonwealth's most prestigious awards in the arts. They honor Kentucky individuals, businesses and organizations that have made outstanding and significant contributions to the arts in the state.

"The arts are a worthy investment in our future," the governor noted. "Cities and counties with vibrant arts and cultural amenities are the communities that attract business to Kentucky."

The Kentucky Arts Council is a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet. Working in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Council invests in programs that develop vibrant communities, provide lifelong education in the arts and support arts participation. Every \$1 in grant funds awarded by the Kentucky Arts Council helps grantees secure \$20 in earned income and matching funds from individuals, philanthropic sources and other levels of government.

Lewisport's water named the best – again

The Lewisport Municipal Water Works has been named the winner of a statewide competition to identify the tastiest water in the state. The results of the competition were announced at the Kentucky Rural Water Association's ninth annual management conference.

Water districts, water associations and municipal utilities from around Kentucky were eligible to submit samples of their water, straight from the tap. Lewisport's water sample was chosen by a panel of judges as the most appealing. Second place was awarded to the Hardin County Water District No. 2 in Elizabethtown and third place went to Columbia Utilities Commission in Columbia.

Kimball International donates building

Kimball International, the parent company of Indiana Hardwoods and the former Greensburg Manufacturing, recently donated an unused industrial building to the City of Greensburg.

"Corporate citizenship is who we are," said Marin Vaught, director of public relations for Kimball International. "We saw the donation as our way of giving back to the community and to our employees who continue to work at the Greensburg facility."

Greensburg Mayor Lisle Cheatham announced plans to use the building as a regional business development incubator to provide a place for new industries to develop. The project, which was named the Heartland Regional Micro-Enterprise Park, will foster area entrepreneurship and help businesses that may not have the resources they need to get started or to expand their operations.