



WELCOME TO THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

— A Newsletter for New Residents —

Welcome to Bowling Green from Mayor Mike Aspacher

As a new resident, it is our sincere hope this informational bulletin helps you with the “settling in” process. The city takes pride in offering quality services and strives to provide services efficiently and effectively. BG has the distinction of being one of few cities in Ohio featuring an internationally-accredited Police Division and Fire Division ready to respond to emergency needs. Over the years, the city provided utility services have proven to be both reliable and affordable.

We are notably proud of the beautiful parks and recreational facilities, along with our historic downtown. In many respects, the city is a traditional American college town with all of the elements that typify such a setting.

We hope you soon discover the many reasons this community is a great place to live!



**Get Plugged in...
...For City News**



Find BG on Facebook, Twitter, and Sign-up for Emails:



www.bgohio.org



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Administrative Offices: Simpson Building, 1291 Conneaut Avenue

Phone: (419) 354-6223

Community Center Address: 1245 W Newton Road

Website: www.bgohio.org/parks

Social Media: www.facebook.com/bgparks.rec & www.twitter.com/bgparks

Through the support of the citizens of Bowling Green, the city provides quality parks, facilities and year-round programs and events for people of all ages to enjoy. In a recent national poll, the City of Bowling Green was ranked as one of the Top Ten Places to Raise a Family in the nation and a large factor in this ranking was the number and quality of public parks. While the National Recreation & Park Association states the typical agency has 9.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents; we have an amazing 12.4 acres per 1,000 residents! With 373 acres of park land, 11 parks and the Bowling Green Community Center for residents, there are plenty of opportunities for people to get active or enjoy the beauty of nature. Check out our website at www.bgohio.org/parks for information on all the sports, fitness, recreational, cultural, and community events and programming we offer year-round to residents as well as a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities available to rent for special life moments. One of the parks listed below is within 1.5 miles of your residence so take advantage of all they have to offer:

- ATHLETIC FIELDS** - 1330 Haskins Road **BLACK SWAMP PRESERVE** -1014 South Maple Street **BELLARD PARK** - 600 Kenwood Avenue **RANEY PLAYGROUND** - 545 Buttonwood Avenue **CARTER PARK** - 401 Campbell Hill Road
- CITY PARK & CITY POOL** - 520 Conneaut Avenue **RIDGE PARK** - 225 Ridge Street **SIMPSON GARDEN PARK** - 1291 Conneaut Avenue **DUNBRIDGE ROAD SOCCER FIELDS** - 711 South Dunbridge Road **TRAINING & COMMUNITY CENTER** - 1245 West Newton Road **CONNEAUT HASKINS PARK & SLEDDING HILL** - 855 Conneaut Avenue
- WINTERGARDEN / ST. JOHN'S NATURE PRESERVE** - 615 South Wintergarden Road



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works collects Refuse and Recycling 4 days a week for 1- & 2-family dwellings. Your collection day can be found by calling 419-354-6227 or checking the Refuse Collection map at www.bgohio.org under Public Works.



Things to know:

Public Works has the following Pickups:

- Large Item (call for limited pick-ups, see website)
- Brush Collection (call for limited pick-ups, see website)
- Leaf Collection (late fall, see website or call for schedule)
- Christmas Tree Pickup (one week in January)

Other tasks:

- Street Maintenance and Street Sign Maintenance
- Street Cleaning and Sweeping
- Snow Removal from City Streets and City property
- City Arborist and City Tree Maintenance
- Oak Grove Cemetery Care and Maintenance

- Refuse containers cannot be stored in the front yard and lids must be down at all times, including for pick-up.
- Your refuse containers must be at the curb by 7am of your collection day and removed within 24 hours from the right of way.
- Set the refuse containers 5' apart from any other object as an Automated Collection vehicle is used for pickup.
- Call or visit this website for a full list of what recyclables can be placed in the recycling bin for automated pick-up: <https://www.bgohio.org/departments/public-works-department/public-works-division/refuse-recycling/automated-curb-side-recycling/>
- Bowling Green Recycling Center, a 24-hour recycling facility (not operated by the City), is located at 1040 N. College Dr. Visit the website for more information: <http://bgrecycling.com/>
- Wood chips from brush chipping are available at no charge by calling the department—local delivery only.
- Public Sidewalks should be cleared of snow/ice within 24 hours from the end of a winter storm.
- The City has a Snow Street Policy that is enforced.

FIRE DIVISION

Emergencies: 9-1-1

Contact Information: 419-352-3106

East side station: 552 East Court Street

West side station: 1060 Pearl Street

www.bgohio.org/departments/safety-department/fire-division

Recognized for professional service:

- Internationally Accredited (CFAI)
- ISO Class II

Full-time staff:

- Career firefighter / Emergency Medical Technicians
- Advanced life support (ALS) paramedics
- Fire prevention specialists
- State Certified Fire Safety Inspectors (CFSI)
- Fire Investigators

Services include:

- Fire prevention (education and enforcement)
- Fire suppression
- ALS Emergency Medical Service
- Fire safety inspection
- Home fire safety inspection
- Juvenile fire setter intervention
- Specialty rescue: Confined space, trench, high-angle, ice
- Fire extinguisher training
- Walk-in blood pressure checks
- Station tours on request
- Annual Open House in October



POLICE DIVISION

Emergencies: 9-1-1 **www.bowlinggreenpolice.org**

Police station: 175 West Wooster Street

Contact Information: (419) 352-2571

Blotter



The Bowling Green Police Division is a 24/7 police agency that adheres to a Community oriented Policing philosophy. The division must establish relationships and partnerships with the community that we serve in order to be successful. The division is Internationally Accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement. Employees of the police division are very active in the city's local schools through the D.A.R.E and EZ+ programs. The division provides services to the business community through Business Watch alerts and Liquor Education and Enforcement Training. The Police Division's partnerships extend into the residential neighborhoods with Block Watch and Home Security Surveys. The police division also provides animal control services and enforces parking ordinances.

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT SECTION

Contact Information: (419) 352-1131

Email: Civilenforcement@bgohio.org

- Grass is required to be maintained under 8 inches in height and yards are required to be clear of noxious weeds.
- Sidewalks must be kept clear of snow and ice.
- Inoperable vehicles (no valid plates and appear inoperable) are not permitted.
- Parking of vehicles, trailers, campers, boats, or recreational vehicles is permitted on a hard, dustless surface only.
- Recreational vehicles, campers, and boats can be parked in the driveway (in the front yard setback) for 10 days per calendar year only.

Planning Department

Contact Information: (419) 354-6218

Email: bgplans@bgohio.org

www.bgohio.org/departments/planning-department

Enforcement utilizes a proactive approach to equitable enforcement of City ordinances to strives for achieving a high quality of life for City of Bowling Green residents. Common regulations to be aware of:

- Zoning permits are required for any new construction, reconstruction, or alteration to your home or structures (such as, fences, sheds, pools, signs, decks, driveways, patios, home occupations, etc.). Zoning restrictions and applications can be reviewed on the City website or by calling the office.
- Portable on-demand storage units (POD's, 160 square feet or less) can be located on a legal driveway for a maximum of 7 days per calendar year.
- The number of unrelated occupants permitted in a single-family dwelling, zoned Single-Family, is based upon the number of bedrooms.

The City has a Comprehensive Plan that can be viewed on the City website, under "Planning". The Planning Department also serves as a liaison to the Planning Commission (zoning change requests, for example), Zoning Board of Appeals (variances from the Zoning Code regulations), the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Wood County Health District.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



Responsible for management and operation of city-owned utilities, including electric, water treatment, water distribution, wastewater collection and water pollution control.

Director of Utilities Office: (419) 354-6246

Water, Sewer, and Electric Billing & Service Requests:
(419) 354-6252

Report Street Light Out, Power Outage (Electric Division):
(419) 354-6260

Water Supply & Testing (Water Treatment Plant):

(419) 823-1647

Report Water Leaks, Sewer Backups, Water Service Disruption:

(419) 354-6277

For After Hours Electric Water or Sewer Emergency Service

(Nights/Weekends/Holidays):

(419) 352-2571

- Make sure utilities are listed in your name. If you have not signed-up, the previous customer might have them scheduled for disconnect.
- Municipal Utilities bills can be viewed on-line and paid via credit card or an auto-payment account set-up at: www.bgohio.org/departments/utilities-department/utility-business-office/
- The City participates in an Efficiency Smart Program. You can learn how to save money and the environment with energy saving programs by visiting: www.energysmart.org
- You can buy part or all of your electricity in Bowling Green from renewable resources. Utility customers can learn about "ecosmart choice" at: www.ecosmartchoice.org
- Natural gas providers within the City are Columbia Gas or Suburban Natural Gas.



Income Tax Division

Contact information: (419) 354-6288

www.bgohio.org/departments/finance-department/income-tax-division

All residents are subject to the income tax rate of 2% on all earned income, whether you work in Bowling Green or in another city. The annual tax return due date is April 15th. All tax forms are available at our website, under "forms", or at the Municipal Building.

Property Taxes are administered by the Wood County Treasurer, (419) 354-9130. The School District Income Tax is administered by the Ohio Department of Taxation.



Grants Division

Contact Information:
(419) 354-6221

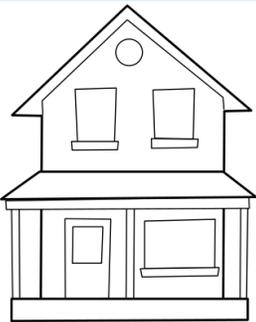
<http://www.bgohio.org/departments/municipal-administrator/grants-administration/housing-programs/>



To schedule a ride, call:
1-800-579-4299

B.G. Transit

Need a ride? Consider using the B.G. Transit, Bowling Green's public transportation system. **The transit is fully accessible, and open to everyone.** The B.G. Transit operates within Bowling Green as well as within one-mile outside the corporation limits of the city of Bowling Green. Personal care attendants and children under the age of 4 ride free of charge. To find out more about reduced fares for older adults, persons with disabilities, and children ages 4-13, call 419-354-6203. To learn more about the B.G. Transit, including days/hours of operation and fare rates, visit: <http://www.bgohio.org/departments/municipal-administrator/grants-administration/public-transportation/>.



Housing Programs:

The City of Bowling Green currently administers seven housing programs that assist very low-, low-, and moderate-income households. For more information about the programs offered call or visit the website.

Elected Officials



Bowling Green is a Charter city, with the Mayor as the Chief Executive

Officer and Municipal Administrator responsible for day-to-day operations. The legislative branch consists of 7 City Council members (1 from each of the City's 4 Wards and 3 At-Large representatives). More about Bowling Green elected officials can be found on the website: www.bgohio.org/elected-officials/council-directory. City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday's of each month (unless the date falls on a holiday). Citizen engagement is important to making Bowling Green a strong community. There are many opportunities to become involved in a variety of City activities, such as serving on a board, committee, or commission. Contact the Mayor's officer for more information.

Did you know? Bowling Green...

- Has a population of 30,028 (2010 Census) & was established in 1833
- Is home of Bowling Green State University (established in 1910)
- Has a historic downtown, with many events, including the nationally-known Black Swamp Arts Festival
- Is the county seat of Wood County, with many county services located here
- Is home to Ohio's 1st utility-sized wind farm and Ohio's largest solar field (popular tourist attractions)
- Offers free Wi-Fi in public areas, including downtown BG
- Purchased and established electric & water systems in 1946.
- The top 3 employers (based on number of employees), are Bowling Green State University, Wood County Government, and Wood County Hospital.

CITY & COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Convention & Visitor's Bureau	(419) 353-9445
Chamber of Commerce	(419) 353-7945
Downtown BG	(419) 354-4332
City Schools	(419) 352-3576
License Bureau of BG	(419) 354-2886
Post Office	(419) 352-7545
United Way of Wood County	(419) 352-2390
Wood County Auditor	(419) 354-9173
Wood County Building Inspection	(419) 354-9190
Wood County District Library	(419) 352-5104
Wood County Hospital	(419) 354-8900
Wood County Health District	(419) 352-8402
No Wrong Door	2-1-1

BG City Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY:	9-1-1
Police Non-Emergency:	(419) 352-1131
After-Hour Utility Emergency:	(419) 352-2571
Animal Control:	(419) 352-1131
B.G. Transit:	(800) 579-4299
City Pool:	(419) 352-2174
Community Center:	(419) 354-6223
Civil Enforcement:	(419) 352-1131
Fire Division:	(419) 352-3106
Income Tax:	(419) 354-6288
Mayor's Office:	(419) 354-6204
Municipal Court:	(419) 352-5263
Parks & Recreation:	(419) 354-6223
Planning Department:	(419) 354-6218
Public Works:	(419) 354-6227
Report Street Light Out:	(419) 354-6260
Utilities Business Office:	(419) 354-6252



The City and Bowling Green State University have committed to providing a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for all of our friends and neighbors. For more information visit: www.bgsu.edu/not-in-our-town



The City has been designated a **Tree City USA Community** for 38 years and the **Growth Award 24 times!**

City of Bowling Green
 Planning Department
 304 North Church Street
 Bowling Green, OH 43402