

Empty Bowls to celebrate 20 years

Applications for organizations available until Aug. 31

BY FREDDIE BOURNE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Empty Bowls of Owensboro will celebrate its 20th anniversary with its annual fundraising event from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 6 in the lobby of the RiverPark Center, 101 Daviess St.

“... It’s very gratifying to see that there are those in our community who still want to remain involved, who still see the value of what we do, who still want to support us,” said Tina Kasey, who oversees the entity’s marketing and public relations. “... It makes me feel a lot of gratitude to our community for continuing to support Empty Bowls for 20 years.

“We are eternally grateful,” Kasey said.

The Owensboro chapter of

Empty Bowls — an international grassroots movement dedicated to combatting hunger by raising awareness and funding for organizations that provide food resources — launched in 2005 by former art and ceramics professor Stephen Driver with Brescia University after seeing similar initiatives taking shape in other cities.

“Because (Stephen) was so involved (with) ceramics in the community, he was like: ‘Why don’t we bring this to Owensboro?’ He really spearheaded the whole thing,” Kasey said. “Since 2005, Brescia has been heavily involved in Empty Bowls — from allowing us to make bowls

in their clay studio, to helping donate clay and glazes, from even hosting it many, many times.”

The concept behind Empty Bowls aims to bring local artists, community members and more together to create and design ceramic bowls that are filled with soup for those in attendance at the event.

The organization’s goal is to have “roughly 300 to 350 bowls available,” Kasey said.

Attendees at the event in November will receive a soup meal donated by local chefs and churches, along with bread provided by Great Harvest Bread Co. and water.

“(A) main theme (since) its

infancy in 2005 has been a simple meal because we want to reflect the fact that there are those who are going without. There are those who are not having a five-course meal at home, so we’ve always wanted to keep the meal simple,” Kasey said. “... We really want it to be symbolic.”

Kasey, who got involved with Empty Bowls while working in Brescia’s marketing and public relations office, has been with the organization for more than 18 years and has continued to see the initiative and the reach grow.

“(Since) I started, the community would come out; so it’s always (felt) like a very full house when we would have our fundraiser dinner. That part has never

changed — the support of our community,” Kasey said. “I think what has changed is the volume of donations that have come in. As more people, even businesses, have come to rally around Empty Bowls, we have added a silent auction.

“That also is another opportunity to raise more funds to give back to the community,” Kasey said of implementing the silent auction into the event.

Empty Bowls is currently accepting applications from local organizations that are hoping to be selected as the recipients of the funding generated from the evening November event.

“Any organization in Daviess County (that’s) primary mission is to feed the hungry in the area, they can apply,” Kasey said.

SEE **BOWLS/PAGE B4**

Music census deadline extended to Friday

More than 400 responses expected

BY KEITH LAWRENCE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Greater Owensboro Music Census has been extended until Friday to give local musicians, venues and music industry workers more time to get their responses in.

The survey is available at greaterowensboromusic.org.

Steve Johnson of RepresentGPA Government and Public Affairs and the Bluegrass Music Initiative, is facilitating the study.

“The response has been great,” he said Monday. “But the more responses we have, the better it will be.”

Johnson said people don’t have to make money off music to participate. “Volunteers at the RiverPark Center would be included,” he said.

Johnson said Nashville got 5,000 responses to its census.

“We need at least 400,” he said. “We’ll go well beyond that.”

People involved in music in Daviess, Hancock and McLean counties can participate.

The census data will be compiled into a report with findings by Sound Music Cities, an Austin, Texas, firm.

“Even if you don’t make any money from your music, you should take this music census survey,” said Don Pitts, founder of Sound Music Cities. “If you teach music lessons, DJ on the weekends, pour drinks at a bar that books bands, perform at your church or help run production there, your voice is part of this ecosystem.”

Johnson said Sound Music Cities will look at the data in mid-October and compile a report which will be released later this year.

“We’ll get a lot of good data and some recommendations,” he said.

All responses are anonymous.

In 2018, Brand USA selected Owensboro as one of its Top 10 American music cities.

In 2021, Rolling Stone magazine said there were seven “Must-Visit Places Country Music Fans Should Flock to Now.”

SEE **CENSUS/PAGE B3**

SWINGING FUN



Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | awarren@messenger-inquirer.com

Maci Myers watches her son, John William Myers, 2, as she gives him a push while they have some fun swinging on the play structure Monday at York Park. John William was asking his mom to push him from behind with a running start as they played at the park.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Man drowns after being rescued from river

Walter Felix drowned near Brenner’s bar at Tell City. He was attempting to swim the Ohio River and was out in deep water. One of his companions, one of the Zuelly boys, rescued him and brought him to the bar. While lying on the bar in the sand at the edge of the shallow water, the current carried him off and out into the river again. An attempt was made again to rescue him but failed. Attempts are now being made to locate the body. A gravel digger dragged the river at this point the past spring and the river bed is very uncertain.

- **Aug. 4, 1925**, Arthur Heberer, one-time popular young citizen of Owensboro, ran amuck in Evansville, the Press of the city relates, staging a startling fight in the lobby of a popular hotel just as members of a club were returning downstairs. The Press said: the screen doors to First street entrance were flung open and a man ran into the lobby, blinked in the sudden glare after the gloom of the outside, and prepared to defend himself from another man pursuing him.
- **Aug. 5**, C.L. “Shorty” Crow, son of the parkkeeper at Legion Park, was fined \$40 in Evansville police court for participation in a crash in that city two weeks ago. When in company with Johnny Huff, the car they were driving ran into a telephone pole. Just preceding Huff’s crashing into the pole a woman was run down by an automobile driven by a drunken man and an effort was made to connect Huff with this incident.
- **Aug. 6**, Ralph L. Wible, of Owensboro, has been called to Louisville on account of the critical condition of his brother,



LESLIE MCCARTY
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

SEE **RIVER/PAGE B4**

Public Utility Commission approves new area code for 502 region

BY PAXTON MEDIA NEWS GROUP

A new area code will be added to north-central Kentucky, joining the current 502 area code to ensure enough phone numbers remain available for residents and businesses, the Kentucky Public Service Commission announced Thursday.

According to a news release from the PSC, the commission has approved an all-services distributed overlay for the 502 ser-

vice region. The change will allow current customers to keep their phone numbers and the 502 area code, but all local calls will eventually require dialing the full ten-digit number.

The need for a new area code became apparent when the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) projected that the current supply of numbers in the 502 area would be exhausted by the third quarter of 2027.

NANPA filed for relief with the PSC on Oct. 14, 2024, leading to the current plan’s approval.

The PSC release said the new area code, which has not yet been assigned, will cover the same geographic region as the 502 area code. Created in 1947 as one of the original area codes, the 502 code now serves north-central Kentucky, including Louisville and Frankfort.

Implementation of the new area

code will follow a 13-month rollout schedule. Network preparation is set to begin June 1, 2026. A permissive dialing period—where calls can be made using either seven or ten digits—will begin Dec. 7, 2026. Mandatory ten-digit dialing will start on June 7, 2027, and the first numbers with the new area code could be issued as early as July 5, 2027.

The PSC will announce the new area code in a future release once it

is assigned by NANPA, the release said.

The full order, a video of public hearings, and additional records related to the case are available at psc.ky.gov, under case number 2024-00333.

The Kentucky PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It oversees more than 1,100 utility providers across the state.