CLUCKENT Super CITIZENS LEAGUE FOR URBAN CHICKENS

PO Box 664 KENT, OH 44240 330.715.2354 Naue Ohm

September 23, 2010

Health & Safety Committee Kent City Council 217 E. Summit Street Kent, Ohio 44240

RE: MODIFICATION OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ALLOW HEN- RAISING

Dear Council Members:

We are writing to request a place on the agenda at the next Health & Safety Committee meeting to discuss the attached proposed changes to the City of Kent codified ordinance to allow hen raising in Kent. The Board of Health passed a motion at their August 10th meeting to endorse the proposal. Please find enclosed the minutes from this meeting, the proposed ordinance, and a petition of support from 50+ Kent residents. These petition signatures were collected in one visit to the Haymaker Farmer's Market. CLUCKent plans to continue to collect petition signatures and will provide updated lists as they become available. Also included are sample ordinances, and articles and information we have collected on the topic.

As you are probably aware, communities across the nation are revisiting ordinances to allow the raising of hens within municipal boundaries. While many cities have never made hen-raising illegal, Kent effectively did so several years ago when it required two acres as a minimum for "farm animals". We are proposing some simple modifications to one section of the code to make it permissible. Hen-raising has been shown to be compatible with city life, even on the smallest lots comparable to the smallest lots of Kent. Indeed, hen-raising, (no roosters allowed!) is far less disruptive to neighborhoods than dogs and cats.

Historically, hens have been raised in Kent with very few complaints, and indeed are already being raised here. Simple, common sense regulations are all that are needed to assure that it is done in a neighborly fashion.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to attending your next available meeting.

Sincerely

Bethany Snyder

CLUCKent

APPENDIX **1**EXISTING ORDINANCE

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CHAPTER 505 Animals and Fowl

505.01 Dogs, cats and other animals running at large.

505.02 Impounding and disposition; records.

505.03 Annual registration of dogs; tags required.

505.04 Abandoning animals; presumption of animal owner, keeper or harborer.

505.05 Killing or injuring animals.

505.06 Poisoning animals.

505.07 Cruelty to animals.

505.08 Nuisance conditions prohibited.

505.09 Barking or howling dogs.

505.10 Animal bites; reports and quarantine.

505.11 Hunting prohibited; Excepted areas

505.12 Coloring rabbits or baby poultry; sale or display of poultry.

505.13 Immunization of dogs and cats required; method.

505.14 Dogs or cats temporarily in this jurisdiction.

505.15 Certificates and tags.

505.16 Rules and regulations for Health Board.

505.17 Keeping dangerous animals; permit; fee.

505.18 Dangerous dogs.

505.19 Farm Animals/Livestock

505.20 Farm Animals/Livestock Permits

505.21 Animals prohibited from Special Events

505.99 Penalty.

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law

Owner or keeper liable for damages - see Ohio R.C. 951.10

Dog registration - see Ohio R.C. 955.01 Discharging firearms prohibited - see GEN. OFF. 549.12

505.19, FARM ANIMALS/LIVESTOCK

As used in this chapter:

(a) Definitions.

- (1) "Chickens" and "fowl" include chickens, duck, geese and any other similar type of fowl.
- (2) "Domestic farm animals" includes sheep, goats, cattle, swine, and any other similar type of animal.
- "Livestock" means horses, ponies, stallions, colts, geldings, mares, sheep, rams, lambs, bulls, bullocks, steers, heifers, cows, calves, mules, jacks, jennets, burros, goats, kids, swine and any animals normally found in the wild state which are being kept for exhibition purposes or as private pets. Not included are animals identified as "Dangerous Animals" as defined in Codified Ordinance 505.17.

(b) Permit Necessary

No person shall keep or harbor domestic farm animals or livestock, chickens or fowl within the City without having first obtained a permit from the Director of Public Safety. Such permit shall contain the name, age, breed, description and any special markings peculiar to such animals.

(c) Agricultural Exemption:

Those property owners who have a minimum of two acres and are engaged in commonly approved agricultural practices are exempt from the permit requirements as stated above.

APPENDIX **2**PROPOSED CHANGES

PROPOSED CHANGES TO KENT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 505.19 To allow limited raising of hens for the purpose of providing low cost healthy food. These changes would make hen raising a permissive activity with guidelines but no licensure. Nuisance guidelines are included so that neighbors can complain if hen raisers are not in compliance with ordinance. The health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Kent are improved, maintained and protected by these recommended changes.

505.19. FARM ANIMALS/LIVESTOCK (With Proposed Changes noted: Text added in bold, strike outs for text removed.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) <u>Definitions.</u>
 - (1) "Chickens" and "fowl" include chickens, duck, geese and any other similar type of fowl. "Hens" refer to female chickens only.
 - (2) "Domestic farm animals" includes sheep, goats, cattle, swine, and any other similar type of animal.
 - "Livestock" means horses, ponies, stallions, colts, geldings, mares, sheep, rams, lambs, bulls, bullocks, steers, heifers, cows, calves, mules, jacks, jennets, burros, goats, kids, swine and any animals normally found in the wild state which are being kept for exhibition purposes or as private pets. Not included are animals identified as "Dangerous Animals" as defined in Codified Ordinance 505.17.
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(c) Agricultural Exemption:

Those property owners who have a minimum of two acres and are engaged in commonly approved agricultural practices are exempt from the permit requirements as stated above.

Add the following section.¹

(d) Hens:

The keeping of hens shall be permitted on all city lots following these guidelines:

- (1) Number and type of chickens allowed.
 - (a) The maximum number of chickens allowed is six (6) per tract of land regardless of how many dwelling units are on the tract.

¹ Based on Columbia, Missouri Codified ordinance (See Appendix)

- (b) Only hens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species.
- (2) Noncommercial use only.
 It shall be unlawful to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.
- (3) Enclosures.
 - (a) Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
 - (b) Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, neat and sanitary condition at all times.
 - (c) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats.
 - (d) Henhouses and chicken tractors.
 - (1) Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
 - a. A henhouse or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and latched at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire with openings not greater than one inch square.
 - b. The materials used in making a henhouse or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
 - (2) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens shall only be located to the rear of the dwelling or other main structure and may be located in the rear yard required by Part 11, Kent Codified Ordinances. (corner lots have rear yard opposite the front door)
 - (3) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school or place of business.
 - (e) Any enclosed chicken pen shall consist of sturdy wire or wooden fencing. The pen must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing.
- (4) Odor and noise impacts.
 - (a) Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken related substances shall not be Perceptible at the property boundaries.
 - (b) Perceptible noise from chickens shall not be loud enough at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.
- (5) Predators, rodents, insects and parasites.

 The chicken owner shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by an animal control officer.

- (6) Feed and water.
 Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators.
 (Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)
- (7) Waste storage and removal.

 The chicken owner must provide for the storage and removal of chicken manure.

 All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. The henhouse, chicken tractor, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.
- (8) Chickens at large. No dog or cat which kills a chicken will, for that reason alone, be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal.
- (9) Unlawful acts.
 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this article.
 (b) It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or leaseholder of property to allow chickens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.
- (10) Registration Required.²
 The Director of Public Health or their designee shall issue a hen-raising registration upon satisfaction that the above guidelines can be met. A one-time \$15 (fifteen dollar) registration fee will be collected.
- (11) Nuisances. Any violation of this article that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of chapter 5 section 21.14 (EDITORIAL NOTE: may need to include animal nuisances in definition section 521.13)
- (11). Continuing violations.

 Each day that a violation of this article continues is a separate offense.

² Columbia Missouri does not require a registration, but Kent City Staff has recommended that a registration be issued. We have indicated that it is a one time permit. Some communities require that they be renewed.

Minutes from the Kent Board of Health meeting August 10, 2010.

Kent City Health Department 325 S. Depeyster Street Kent, Ohio 44240 HEALTH BOARD MINUTES August 10, 2010

Members Present
Doug Wagener
Susan Roxburgh
Jack Amrhein
John Gwinn
Pam Freeman

Member Absent Chris Woolverton

Others Present
John Ferlito
Bethany Snyder

President John Gwinn called the Health Board meeting of August 10, 2010 to order.

The minutes from the July 2010 meeting were distributed and reviewed by the Health Board members prior to the meeting.

Motion:

A motion was made by Pam Freeman and seconded by Doug Wagener to approve the July 2010 minutes. No objections. The motion passed.

Open Comments:

Bethany Snyder introduced herself as a member of the Citizens League for Urban Chickens (CLUC Kent). Ms. Snyder stated that she attended the meeting so that she could answer any questions or concerns the Health Board may have regarding the information their group has provided. They are requesting the Health Board endorse their request for changing the City Codified Ordinances to allow hen raising in the City of Kent. Ms. Snyder stated currently there is a restriction that you must have at least two (2) acres of property for hen raising. Their group would like that stipulation removed and allow for no more than six (6) hens on any tract of land.

Doug Wagener stated that he had read through the information that CLUC Kent provided and stated that a lot of communities have adopted other similarly structured ordinances regarding this subject.

Ms. Snyder stated that Cleveland had changed their law to allow backyard chickens in 2008. The City of Akron and the City of Medina also allows backyard chickens.

Susan Roxburgh stated that she had discussed this issue recently and is in favor of endorsing this change to the City Codified Ordinances.

John Ferlito stated that Chris Woolverton could not attend the meeting but asked that he pass his concern onto the Board Members. His number one concern is Avian Flu and home flocks of hens being infected by migratory birds. Bethany responded by stating that the Avian Flu that humans can contract has not been found in North America yet,

and it is generally spread through the feces of migratory waterfowl. Backyard hens will be in coops most of the time and it is her group's opinion that there will be a very remote possibility of backyard hens being infected. There is an environmental research group called World Watch Institute out of Washington, where an expert on the industrial farm animal production was quoted in an article in News Week Magazine stating: "if the Avian Flu is seen in North America it will most likely be seen first in factory farm poultry than in backyard chickens."

Jack Amrhein asked the Board members if there has been any mention of or requests regarding this issue by anyone in the last couple of years? John Gwinn stated that approximately a year ago, Rick Hawksley had written him a substantial letter indicating that there were groups and individuals who had interest in this subject and asked that the Board consider endorsing it.

John Ferlito stated that his biggest concern would be with odor complaints. Bethany stated that the ordinance changes that her group is proposing addresses odor and noise issues, placement of enclosures, waste removal and storage etc. as well as other standards that would need to be met.

Pam Freeman asked if there are provisions proposed somewhere that would limit the placement of enclosures to a specific area of the yard and Bethany responded no. Pam stated that she has no problem with hen raising but leaving the placement of enclosures open to allow them in the front yards is her major concern and Jack Amrhein agreed that a restriction should be added. The stated 25 feet from a residential dwelling leaves it open.

John Gwinn asked if the hens would be used for egg production or also for poultry production? He did not see anything mentioned regarding this. Bethany stated that it would be primarily for egg production but there are no restrictions indicated, so they can do both.

John Ferlito stated that he would recommend that if this proposal is passed by City Council and the codified ordinances are changed, it is important that inspections, permitting and registration for coops & coop placements etc. for hen raising should be done by or with the Health Department and they should not be confused with the 2 acre permitting for farm animals and livestock that Public Safety currently issues permits for.

Bethany stated that they would really like to take this information to City Council with an endorsement by the Health Board saying that the Board is agreeable to the proposed modifications to the Codified Ordinances.

A space requirement per hen needs to be specified and henhouse construction should be based on those requirements.

Pam Freeman stated just as a point of clarification, that our definition in the current ordinance refers to female chickens and fowl which includes geese and ducks, so while Cluc Kent is hen raising there is a possibility that changing the wording in the proposed modification would open it up to a female goose/geese and they are very loud. It would be

a good idea to consider that fact, and if you are talking chickens it should be just chickens and remove the word fowl. Bethany stated that she could do that. She can remove the reference to fowl in her proposal.

John Gwinn and Susan Roxburgh agreed that the permit fee, length of time and process should be looked at more closely.

The Health Board returned to normal business:

Statistical Report for July 2010:

Reviewed by Board Members, Animal Bite inspections should be corrected from 0 to 5.

Expenditures and Encumbrances for July 2010:

VENDOR	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Ohio Div. of Real Estate	Burial permit fee transmittal for June 2010	\$95.00
Treasurer, State of Ohio	Child abuse and family violence prevention transmittal fees for June 2010	\$1,156.71
Treasurer, State of Ohio	RFE license transmittal fees for June 2010	\$28.00
Treasurer, State of Ohio	Sanitarian Registration renewal for John Bradshaw	\$74.00
Fisher Scientific	Replacement digester assembly	\$1,866.98
Treasurer, State of Ohio	Quarterly Vital Stats Tech fee transmittal for April, May & June 2010	\$6,543.00
NSI	Lab standards for E. Coli	\$120.00
	TOTAL	\$9,883.69

<u>Travel & Reimbursements</u>	
	\$0.00
	\$0.00

Motion: A motion was made by Doug Wagener and seconded by Susan Roxburgh to approve the Expenditures and Encumbrances for the month of July 2010. The motion passed.

Commissioner's Report

During the Swimming Pool Survey it was recommended that Health Board Resolution 2006-1 be amended and the local swimming pool fees and State pool fees be listed separately in the resolution and Bathing Areas be removed since no longer applicable. Enclosed is Draft Health Board Resolution 2010-1 to amend Health Board Resolution

2006-1 for your review and Third and final reading.

Bethany Snyder, Laurel Hurst & Rick Hawksley have requested an endorsement from Kent Board of Health to change the City Codified Ordinance to allow the raising of Hens (chickens). See the enclosed information. Bethany Snyder will be attending the meeting.

I have enclosed the joint National Guard and local Portage County Public Safety Agencies, press release regarding the full-scale disaster exercise at Camp Ravenna on August 6 to August 8, 2010.

Old Business

Health Board Resolution 2010-1 was amended. This resolution is to revise local fees and state fees so that they are listed separately and the term "Bathing Areas" be removed from resolution since they no longer applicable.

Motion:

A motion to approve the Resolution Amendment and the third reading of Resolution 2010-1 was made by John Gwinn and seconded by Pam Freeman. Motion was approved by roll call; Freeman-Aye; Roxburgh-Aye Amrhein-Aye; Wagener-Aye; Gwinn-Aye. Third reading passed.

John Gwinn mentioned 2 issues with the Farmers Market. Signs indicating vendors name, and location are still missing for many vendors. This needs to be enforced. The other issue is the number of people bringing their dogs to the market. They are walking through the area with their dogs, which is overcrowding walkways. John also stated that there was an incident he witnessed where two dogs were barking and growling at each other on the walkway; this could have gotten out of hand quickly. The organizer of the farmers market should be invited to attend the meeting.

Susan Roxburgh discussed the Community Health Needs Assessment. She stated that she e-mailed a link to all the Board Members regarding an Assessment site. John Ferlito stated two days after Susan's e-mail; Portage County sent him a questionnaire for the same Health Assessment. John forwarded the questionnaire to All City employees to complete on line and send in, the forms were also distributed to Doctor's offices and clinics in the area. Board Members are concerned about the Assessment, the time period of the assessment and if those people whose data is most needed will even fill out the questionnaires. Susan stated she would like to know what this questionnaire data is going to be used for and what will be its worth. Doug stated that he had attended a meeting regarding this subject, and what he understood from the discussions was, the Assessment was to help gage the interest of community partners and gather ideas for locally funded programs and identify project ideas for Key Community Health Problems. Once there are indicators identified, the hope is to find local sponsors and/or funds to support those causes.

New Business

Hen raising proposed changes to City Codified Ordinances.

Motion:

A motion was made by Susan Roxburgh and seconded by Doug Wagener to endorse (details have yet to be worked out) the proposal to allow hen rising in the City of Kent. Jack Amrhein, Council representative abstained. All other present board members are in favor of the proposed changes. The motion passed.

Motion:

A motion was made by Pam Freeman to enter into Executive Session at: _6:45 p.m to discuss the evaluation of the Health Officer. The motion was approved by roll call; Freeman-Aye; Roxburgh-Aye Amrhein-Aye; Wagener-Aye; Gwinn-Aye.

Motion:

The Health Board returned from Executive Session at 7:00 pm., after discussions concluded with nothing to report, by roll call: Freeman-Aye; Roxburgh-Aye Amrhein-Aye; Wagener-Aye; Gwinn-Aye.

Motion:

A motion was made by Jack Amrhein and seconded by Doug Wagener to adjourn the meeting of August 10, 2010. There was no objection. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved:

John Gwinn, President

John Ferlito, Secretary

Copy of the petition signatures collected at the Haymaker Farmer's Market on Saturday, September 18, 2010.

We, the undersigned, support the right of citizens to raise flocks of hens within the boundaries of the city of Kent for the purposes of companionship and family food production.

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We, the undersigned, support the right of citizens to raise flocks of hens within the boundaries of the city of Kent for the purposes of companionship and family food production.

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THE BENEFITS OF URBAN CHICKENS From urbanchickens.org

There are a variety of reasons to keep chickens in urban environments, and its not a new fad. People have been keeping chickens in cities for centuries, and here are some of the benefits when you add chickens into your urban lifestyle:

Local source of protein

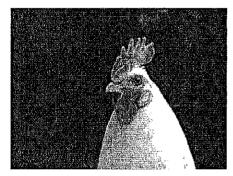


If you live in an urban environment you can grow your own fresh fruits and vegetables in your backyard. When it comes to supplying your own source of protein however, it's impossible to get your dog to lay breakfast each morning or fit a cow in your backyard. That's why chickens are so wonderful! They are small, easy to care for, and won't take up your entire yard. Chickens provide protein rich eggs, and if you choose to you can also raise them for meat (if slaughtering is legal where you live).

Better Quality

Fresh foods simply taste better! Also, when you raise your own eggs and meat, you know what the animal ate, its

living conditions, and how it was treated. No need to worry about food safety, antibiotics, or hormones.



Source of fertilizer

Chicken poop is high in nitrogen and great for your compost pile. Supply your backyard garden with compost made from chicken poop and watch your plants flourish!

Natural pest control

Got cockroaches, tomato horn worms, aphids, grubs, or any other pest you don't want in your yard or garden? Chickens are great at controlling these pests naturally- no need to put nasty chemicals in your yard. And yeschickens will even eat mice!

It's fun!

Chickens can provide a breath of fresh air in our busy urban lifestyles (as long as you don't step in their poop!). Just like cats and dogs, chickens have personalities and can be great companions. If you can't keep indoor pets, chickens are a wonderful alternative with the added benefit of providing food. Also, your neighbors and friends will come flocking over to your house to take part in all the excitement.

You can be a part of the local food movement!

The local food movement is taking off, and by keeping chickens you can take pride in being a producer and not just a consumer. Help feed your own existence!

The Four Main 'Myths and Facts' on Backyard Hens

http://knoxvillepermacultureguild.ning.com/group/knoxvillechickens created for discussion on their proposed ordinance

Myth #1: Backyard hens will be noisy.

Fact: The ordinance outlaws roosters. Hens make a little 'cluck-cluck' noise when laying an egg. They are also in their coop and fast asleep by sundown.

Myth #2: Backyard hens spread disease.

Fact: The Manager of the Environmental Health Division of the Knox County Health Department and Chair of the Animal Control Board (Ronnie Nease) independently sought the advice of Dr John New of the University of Tennessee's Vet school, who is an expert on human-animal pathogens. Dr New went on record saying that a small number of backyard hens pose absolutely no additional threat to human health.

Dr John New phone number: 974-5570 Ronnie Nease phone number: 215-5200

Myth #3: Legalizing will increase the strain on our law enforcement service.

Fact: Knoxville Urban Hen Coalition sought the experiences of Animal Control Supervisors in other cities where backyard hens have be legal for some time. This is what they said:

Bill Porter, Director of Animal Control, Fort Collins, CO: He says that since legalization of hens, he's received two complaints regarding smell and location of the coop, *and both cases were unfounded*. He said that the ordinance was written well, and because of that, there has been no problems. *Bill Porter Phone Number:* 970-226-3647

Patrick Comfort, Animal Control Supervisor, Madison, WI: He said, "there have been almost zero calls in 8 years to complain about chickens". In his estimation, legalization has been "a very positive experience". He added that he has seen that the ordinance has "opened up neighborhoods" by getting neighbors interacting. "People are looking over the fence and talking about the chickens, asking neighbors if they want some eggs, or if they will watch the chickens". Patrick Comfort Phone Number: 608-243-0309

Myth #4: Backyard hens will smell.

Fact: Hens do not smell, feces DO smell. A 4-pound laying hen produces 0.0035 cu ft of manure per day. According to FDA, an average dog generates 0.75 pounds of manure a day that cannot be composted because of the harmful bacteria and parasites (hookworms, roundworms and tapeworms) that can infect humans.

Most people's experience with hens is on a farm or industrial facility where 100's, if not 1,000's, of chickens are confined. The ordinance would limit the number of hens to a small number so that smell will not be an issue.

Missoula Montana code outline

Legalized ... under the following stipulations:

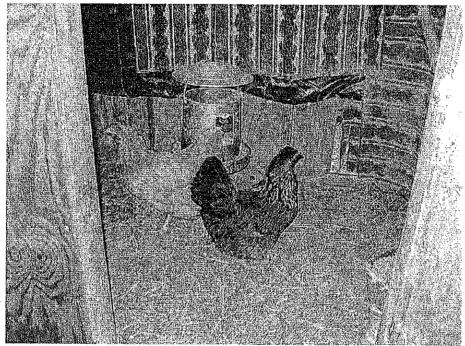
Missoula's chicken ordinance can be found in the municipal codes. Here's the gist of it:

- 1. No roosters. Banning roosters eliminates problems with noise by far the most common complaint.
- 2. Maximum of 6 hens. This reduces smell and high concentrations of manure.
- 3. Obtain a \$15 annual permit from the City Treasurer (552-6000). This is as easy as spending 2 minutes and 15 bucks at the Treasure's Office at 435 Ryman Street.
- 4. Predator-proof housing. We don't want to be a nuisance to our wild neighbors either.
- 5. Chicken house must kept clean and be at least 20 feet from a neighboring dwelling. This places a buffer zone between any fowl smells and noises from your friendly neighbors.
- 6. Chickens must be fenced and have access to outdoor enclosure. This prevents chickens from wandering the streets, digging up your neighbor's flowerbeds, and encourages adequate space for the birds to enjoy life, safe from at large dogs.
- 7. Feed must be stored in a rodent- and predator-proof container. *Feed attracts other animals more than the chickens do.*

Chicken Raising Once Again Growing in Popularity

By Amy Eddings on Tuesday, July 6, 2010. New Hampshire Public Radio

A century ago – even just SIXTY years ago – raising your own chickens wasn't unusual. Now, most of us get our eggs in cartons, and our chicken wings wrapped in plastic. But there are a growing number of people nationwide who are reviving the art of chicken rearing. As part of a collaboration with Northeast stations, WNYC's Amy Eddings reports on backyard chicken farming in an unlikely place.



Two of Greg and Debbie Anderson's chickens, (Amy Eddings)

EDDINGS: Here's something you don't expect to encounter in Brooklyn:

[A chicken can be heard clucking, loudly and angrily.]

The sound may be out of the ordinary for New York City, but the sentiment is not. This chicken is complaining. Greg Anderson translates.

ANDERSON: She's trying to convince one of the other chickens to get up off the eggs so she can sit on them //

EDDINGS: Anderson and his wife, Debbie, share the tasks of raising six hens with other members of their community garden, down the street from their row house in Crown Heights. Every morning, the Andersons feed and water the hens, and they check the coop for their reward: fresh eggs.

ANDERSON: Ah, let's see....well, they're sitting....Hey ladies! We have two! Two pretty big ones. A white one, and a brown one.

The eggs are warm to the touch. Debbie Anderson says they taste better, and are more satisfying, than supermarket eggs.

DEBBIE ANDERSON: What I get out of it, is a connection to where my food comes from.

EDDINGS: The Andersons are part of a new chicken keeping movement in America, spurred by an interest in local, healthy food. Although the US Department of Agriculture doesn't keep statistics on such small-scale farming, anecdotally, it says there are a growing number of people raising chickens in suburban and urban areas. Most people are keeping the birds for eggs, not meat. There are dozens of chicken-raising websites and online forums.

Many cities' public health and zoning ordinances don't allow chickens. In the Northeast, that's true in Boston, Albany, Providence, and Hartford. Meanwhile, chicken bans were lifted last year in New Haven, Connecticut, and Portland, Maine, due to demand from would-be backyard farmers.

In New York City, roosters are illegal, because of their crowing. But residents can raise as many hens as they want, as long as they don't stink, make too much noise, or attract flies and other pests.

Megan Paska rents an apartment in a three-story row house in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Greenpoint. She was able to convince her landlady to let her keep four hens in an old doghouse out back.

PASKA: I had already been doing gardening and composting. You don't need a whole lot of space for it. We've got a yard. The chicken manure can go in the compost bin and make our garden grow really well. It sort of completed the trifecta.

EDDINGS: Chickens may be newly hip, but they're old school in New York City's black and Hispanic neighborhoods. Karen Washington's community garden in the South Bronx started raising chickens ten years ago, after someone dropped off several chicks.

WASHINGTON: We city folk didn't know anything about raising chickens. So a lot of the members who were from Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic or down south, they said you know what. I know how to take care of chickens.

EDDINGS: Now, Washington is in charge of the garden's eleven hens. She says she used to have 12, but a raccoon ate one....a reminder that caring for livestock isn't totally carefree. Chickens can carry the bad bacteria, Salmonella, and federal health officials suggest common sense precautions, such as handwashing. The US Department of Agriculture has re-energized its informational campaign about bird flu. It's not a major threat to humans, but it can wipe out entire flocks. And backyard farmers must keep their chickens from getting too wet, or too cold. Greg Anderson sat in the coop with a hen under his coat one winter to warm her up. He didn't mind.

ANDERSON: It's great, I love it. I'm a misplaced country boy, and I think I've found my place.

EDDINGS: And intrepid New Yorkers and others across the country have rediscovered a chicken's place in their backyards.



The New Coop de Ville

The craze for urban poultry farming.



by Jessica BennettNovember 17, 2008

For Brooklyn real-estate agent Maria Mackin, the obsession started five years ago, on a trip to Pennsylvania Amish country. She, her husband and three children—now 17, 13 and 11—sat down for brunch at a local bed-and-breakfast, and suddenly the chef realized she'd run out of eggs. "She said, 'Oh goodness! I'll have to go out to the garden and get some more'," Mackin recalls. "She cooked them up and they were delicious." Mackin and her husband, Declan Walsh, looked at each other, and it didn't take long for the idea to register: Could we have chickens too? They finished their brunch and convinced the bed-and-breakfast owner, a Mennonite celery farmer, to sell them four chickens. They packed them in a little nest in the back of their Plymouth Voyager minivan and headed back to Brooklyn.

The family has been raising chickens ever since, in the backyard of their brick townhouse in an urban waterfront neighborhood called Red Hook. Every Easter, Mackin orders a new round of chicks, now from a catalog that ships the newborns in a ventilated box while they are still feeding from their yolks. When they are grown, she offers up their eggs—and occasionally extra chickens, when she decides she's got too many—to friends and neighbors, and sells a portion to a local bistro, which touts the neighborhood poultry on its Web site. She gives the chicken manure—a high-quality fertilizer—to a local community garden in exchange for hay, which she uses to pad the chickens' wire-fenced coop. Occasionally, she kills and cooks up a chicken for dinner—though, she says, her chickens are egg layers and aren't particularly tasty. "We joke and call ourselves the Red Hook Poultry Association," says the former social worker, who at one time housed 27 chicks inside her kitchen—for six weeks. "Sometimes people are like, 'This is really kind of weird'."

As it turns out, Mackin is hardly an anomaly, in New York or any other urban center. Over the past few years, urban dwellers driven by the local-food movement, in cities from Seattle to Albuquerque, have flocked to the idea of small-scale backyard chicken farming—mostly for eggs, not meat—as a way of taking part in home-grown agriculture. This past year alone, grass-roots organizations in Missoula, Mont.; South Portland, Maine; Ann Arbor, Mich.; and Ft. Collins, Colo., have successfully lobbied to overturn city ordinances outlawing backyard poultry farming, defined in these cities as egg farming, not slaughter. Ann Arbor now allows residents to

own up to four chickens (with neighbors' consent), while the other three cities have six-chicken limits, subject to various spacing and nuisance regulations.

That quick growth in popularity has some people worried about noise, odor and public health, particularly in regard to avian flu. A few years back in Salt Lake City—which does not allow for backyard poultry farming—authorities had to impound 47 hens, 34 chicks and 10 eggs from a residential home after neighbors complained about incessant clucking and a wretched stench, along with wandering chickens and feathers scattered throughout the neighborhood. "The smell got to be unbelievable," one neighbor told the local news. Meanwhile, in countries from Thailand to Australia, where bird flu has spread in the past, government officials have threatened to ban free-range chickens for fear they are contributing to outbreaks. (In British Columbia, where officials estimated earlier this year that there are as many as 8,000 chicken flocks, an avian flu outbreak four years forced the slaughter of more than 17 million birds.)

But avian flu has not shown up in wild birds, domestic poultry or people in the United States. And, as the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute (an environmental research group) pointed out in a report last month, experts including the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production have said that if we do see it, it'll be more likely to be found in factory-farmed poultry than backyard chickens. As GRAIN, an international sustainable agriculture group, concluded in a 2006 report: "When it comes to bird flu, diverse small-scale poultry farming is the solution, not the problem."

Many urban farmers are taking that motto to heart. In New York, where chickens (but not roosters, whose loud crowing can disturb neighbors) are allowed in limitless quantities, there are at least 30 community gardens raising them for eggs, and a City Chicken Project run by a local nonprofit that aims to educate the community about their benefits. In Madison, Wis., where members of a grass-roots chicken movement, the Chicken Underground, successfully overturned a residential chicken ban four years ago, there are now 81 registered chicken owners, according to the city's animal-services department. "There's definitely a growing movement," says 33-year-old Rob Ludlow, the Bay Area operator of BackyardChickens.com and the owner of five chickens of his own. "A lot of people really do call it an addiction. Chickens are fun, they have a lot of personality. I think people are starting to see that they're really easy pets—and they actually produce something in return."

Because chickens can be considered both livestock and pet, farming them for eggs—or keeping them as pets—is unregulated in major cities like New York and Los Angeles. But it isn't legal everywhere. According to one recent examination by urban-agriculture expert Jennifer Blecha, just 65 percent of major cities allow chickenkeeping, while 40 percent allow for one or more roosters. (Hens don't need roosters to lay unfertilized eggs.)

Chicken slaughter, meanwhile, tends to fall under a separate (and generally stricter) set of regulations, though they're not always enforced. Most cities that allow chicken farming limit the number to four or six per household, so many urban farmers aren't raising enough chickens to slaughter and sell anyway—though they may cook up a meal or two at home. If they want to slaughter more, there are mobile slaughterhouses in places like Washington state that will do the dirty work for you: USDA-approved refrigerated trucks will pull right up to your doorstep.

Chicken farmers are finding each other on sites like <u>TheCityChicken.com</u>, <u>UrbanChickens.org</u> and <u>MadCityChickens.com</u>. <u>BackyardChickens.com</u> logs some 6 million page views each month

and has some 18,000 members in its forum, where community members share colorful stories (giving a chicken CPR), photos (from a California chicken show), even look to each other for comfort. "I am worried that non-BYC people won't understand why a 34-year-old woman would cry over a \$7 chicken," writes a Stockton, N.J., woman, whose chicken was killed by a hawk.

Over at <u>UrbanChickens.org</u>, which launched this year, founder K. T. LaBadie, a master's student in community planning, provides updates on city ordinances, info about local chicken-farming classes and coop tours and has been contacted by activists hoping to overturn chicken bans around the nation. In Albuquerque, where she lives with her husband and four chickens—Gloria, Switters, Buffy and Omelet—residents can keep 15 chickens and one rooster, subject to noise ordinances, as well as slaughter the chickens for food. In July, LaBadie wrote in detail of her first killing: she and her husband hung the bird by its legs, slit its throat, plucked its feathers and put it on ice. Then they slow-cooked it for 20 hours. "It's not pretty, it's kinda messy, and it's a little smelly," she writes. "But it's quite real."

Meanwhile, at MadCityChickens.com, the Web site created by the Madison Chicken Underground, chat-line operator Dennis Harrison-Noonan has turned his chicken love into a mini-business: he's sold 2,000 design kits for his custom-made playhouse chicken coop, which retails for \$35. "It's really not that crazy to think that people are doing this," says Owen Taylor, the urban livestock coordinator at Just Food, which operates the New York Chicken Project. "Most of the world keeps chickens, and they've been doing so for thousands of years."

Historically, he's right. During the first and second world wars, the government even encouraged urban farming by way of backyard "Victory Gardens" in an effort to lessen the pressure on the public food supply. (Until 1859, there were 50,000 hogs living in Manhattan, according to Blecha.) "It's really only been over the last 50 years or so that we've gotten the idea that modernity and success and urban spaces don't involve these productive animals," Blecha says.

There are a host of reasons for the growing trend. "Locavores" hope to avoid the carbon emissions and energy consumption that come with transporting food. Chicken owners and poultry experts say eggs from backyard chickens are tastier and can be more nutritious, with higher levels of supplements like omega-3 fatty acids. Their production cost is cheap: you can buy chickens for as little as a couple of dollars, and three hens will likely average about two eggs a day. You can also use their waste to help revitalize a garden. "There've been recalls on everything from beef to spinach, and I think people want to have peace of mind knowing their food is coming from a very trusted source," says LaBadie. "As gas prices go up, and people realize how food is connected to oil and transportation, they are bound to realize they can get a higher quality product cheaper if they get it locally."

Keeping a chicken is relatively easy, too—assuming you don't get too attached. (That's a talk Mackin says she had with her kids early: these chickens aren't pets.) They'll eat virtually anything—"pork products, string cheese, even Chinese takeout," she laughs—and they feed on bugs and pests that can ruin a garden. They can withstand harsh weather conditions. (In one oft-told tale, a Maine woman lost her chicken in a blizzard and found it, a day later, frozen solid with its feet stuck straight in the air. She thawed it and administered CPR. The chicken made a full recovery.) And much like New Yorkers, not much bothers chickens grown in urban environments. "[Those] raised in a really controlled environment like factory farms are very fragile, both physically and emotionally," says Blecha, who lives in St. Paul, Minn., with her

partner and six chickens. "My chickens, I mow the lawn a foot away from them and they don't even look up from their pecking."

But even urban chickens, who can live more than five years, can die easily: from predators like dogs or possums, catching a cold or sometimes for no apparent reason at all. Once, one of Mackin's chicks got stuck in a glue trap. She drowned it, to put it out of its misery. "That was really sad," she says. (Mackin doesn't name her chickens, for that very reason.)

But the overall experience seems to be positive for everyone. "We have people calling weekly to say, 'This is really cool'," says Patrick Comfert, a spokesman for Madison's animal-services department, where the chicken ban was reversed in 2004. "Chicken people love it, the neighbors don't care, we have no complaints." Minneapolis enthusiast Albert Bourgeois sums up the appeal. "Chickens are really fun pets," he says. His flock is named Cheney, Condi, Dragon, Fannie and Freddie. The next one, he says, will be Obama.

COLUMBIA MISSOURI HEN ORDIANCE (USED AS BASIS FOR KENT MODIFICATIONS)

ARTICLE V. CHICKENS

Sec. 5-91. Number and type of chickens allowed.

- (a) The maximum number of chickens allowed is six (6) per tract of land regardless of how many dwelling units are on the tract.
- (b) Only female chickens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-92. Noncommercial use only.

It shall be unlawful to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-93. Enclosures.

- (a) Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
- (b) Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, neat and sanitary condition at all times.
- (c) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats.
- (d) Henhouses and chicken tractors.
- (1) Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
- a. A henhouse or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire of less than one-inch openings. b. The materials used in making a henhouse or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
- (2) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens shall only be located to the rear of the dwelling or other main structure and may be located in the rear yard required by chapter 29.
- (3) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must be located at least ten (10) feet from the property line and at least twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school or place of business.
- (e) Any enclosed chicken pen shall consist of sturdy wire or wooden fencing. The pen must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-94. Odor and noise impacts.

- (a) Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries.
- (b) Perceptible noise from chickens shall not be loud enough at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-95. Predators, rodents, insects and parasites.

The chicken owner shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by an animal control officer. (Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-96. Feed and water.

Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators. (Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-97. Waste storage and removal.

The chicken owner must provide for the storage and removal of chicken manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. No more than three (3) cubic feet of manure shall be stored. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. The henhouse, chicken tractor, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-98. Chickens at large.

No dog or cat which kills a chicken will, for that reason alone, be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-99. Unlawful acts.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this article.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or leaseholder of property to allow chickens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-100. Nuisances.

Any violation of this article that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of chapter 11.

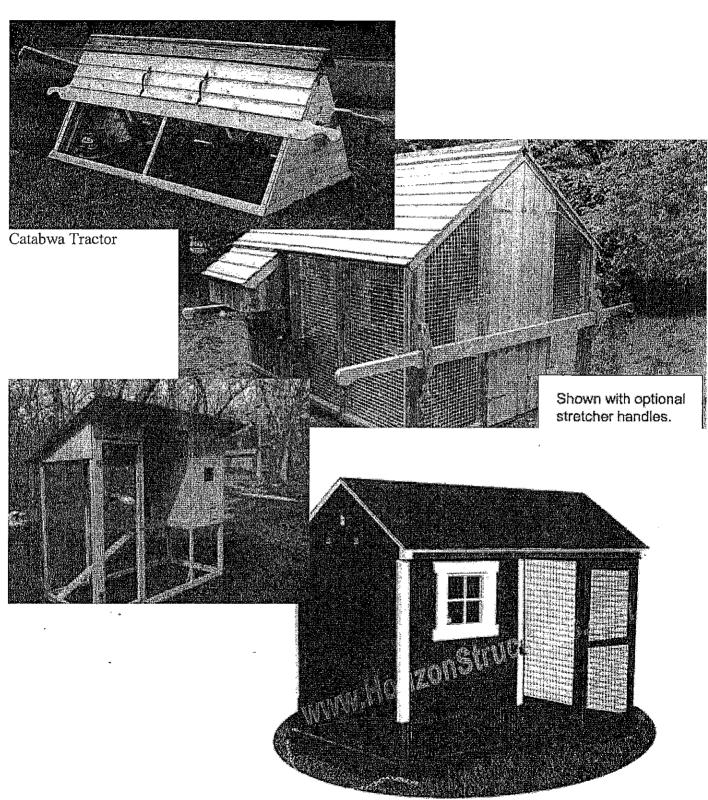
(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

Sec. 5-101. Continuing violations.

Each day that a violation of this article continues is a separate offense.

(Ord. No. 20549, § 1, 2-1-10)

SAMPLE COOP DESIGNS



CHICKEN WASTE

FROM URBAN CHICKEN NETWORK BLOG Thursday, February 5, 2009

what to do with urban chicken poop?

I was having a conversation with someone who's looking to convince their city council to allow urban chickens, and she said one of the council's concerns was the phosphorous runoff from all these incoming urban chickens.

Yes, it would easy to dismiss these concerns as folly (poppycock?), but to do so won't help get urban chicken ordinances passed. While we've got our own two hens in the back yard, I don't want to be measuring and weighing every piece of excrement that drops out their backside (we simply put it all in the compost bin).

So I did a little research to see just how much poop a chicken produces and what effect it has on the environment.

How much poop per chicken?

The <u>University of Missouri Extension</u> reports six commercial laying hens will generate approx 11 pounds of manure every week (1.5 gallons). The <u>Fisheries and Aquatics</u> <u>Department</u> cites 40g of excretia per chicken per day (that's 1.4 oz/day or 9oz/week which means six hens would put out 54 ounces in a week or just over 4 pounds).

For the sake of argument, let's go with the Mizzou stats of 11 pounds from six chickens each week. If the average urban chicken flock is 3 hens, we can cut that total in half to 5.5 pounds per week.

This seems to be the perfect amount for composting or including with the regular waste disposal at the curb or what have you (I dare say this quantity is comparable to what a cat owner puts into their trash each week?).

So, thoughts of being over-run by chicken poop seem a bit fantastical.

What about phosphorous run-off?

But let's go back to our six chicken flock and look at the phosphorus run-off concerns (a real concern when considering industrial chicken farming).

According to <u>PoultryOne.com website</u>, the average percentages (per total weight) of chicken manure is as follows: 1.8 nitrogen, 1.5 phosphate, and 0.8 for potash.

So, we've got six chickens producing 2.5 OUNCES of phosphate each week which makes ~8 pounds (2.5 x 52 weeks/ 16 oz per pound) of phosphate PER YEAR. Even if dumped directly into the nearest pond/lake, you're looking at miniscule changes to the phosphorous content of a lake for six birds.

If every household in medium-sized city (20,000 households) owned six birds each. you're still looking at a little over 160,000 pounds of phosphorous spread out across an entire city. Compare this to the industrial chicken industry practice of housing 150,000 birds in a single 500-ft long chicken house (that's 200,000 pounds of phosphorous from one chicken house), and you see it's an apples-to-oranges comparison regarding the concentration/disposal of the poop.

No wonder the industrial chicken houses stink to high heaven!

Mind you, all this build up of phosphorous in the urban chicken poop assumes there's no collection/composting/etc AT ALL from the backyard chicken coop (which I hope would signal neighbors to call animal control for cruelty charges to the owners). But that's another post entirely.

How much urban chicken poop are you dealing with and what do you do with it? Composting like me? setting it at the curb each week? throwing it under the shrubs? Please share!

Composting Chicken Manure
handout written by Judith Duncan, WSU King County Extension Livestock Advisor

Printed in Seattle Tilth

Chickens Produce Eggs and Manure. Your chicken produces an egg every 24 hours and it is wonderful to have your own home-produced fresh eggs. Your average size hen also produces 1 cubic foot of manure every six months. What are you doing with this? Manure simply can't continue to accumulate in your coop. It stinks, attracts rodents and flies, and the ammonia is not healthy for your chickens to breath.

Benefits of Chicken Manure. Don't despair; manure can be one of the greatest assets for a home gardener! Although chicken manure is too strong to be used raw on your flowers or vegetables, it can be composted and converted to "black gold". If used without composting it could damage roots and possibly kill your plants, however, once it is composted chicken manure is:

- A good soil amendment, chicken manure adds organic matter and increases the water holding capacity and beneficial biota in soil.
- A good fertilizer; chicken manure provides Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium to you plants (more than horse, cow or steer manure).

Composting Chicken Manure. If you are not familiar with composting and need to learn how, contact the Seattle Tilth Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224. Hotline staff will provide you with information about the components of composting: Carbon (browns - your coop bedding), Nitrogen (greens - your chicken manure), air, moisture, volume, and temperature. Here are some recommendations to get you started using chicken manure in your compost pile;

Collect manure and bedding. Chicken owners normally use bedding such as shavings, sawdust, dry leaves, or straw to provide a dry cushion for chickens and to control odor and

pests. The coop bedding can be collected with the manure and dumped into a composting bin. Some owners prefer to pick manure and soiled bedding out of the coop on a daily basis; others will add new bedding over droppings and collect on a less frequent basis.

- Carbon to Nitrogen balance. A combination of 30 parts Carbon to 1 part Nitrogen creates the ideal environment for microbes to break down organic material to produce compost. When combining coop bedding and chicken manure how do you achieve the ideal C: N ratio? Since the different beddings have their own C: N ratio, the proportion of bedding to manure will vary depending on the type of bedding used. To keep things simple most composters follow the general rule of 1 part brown to 2 parts green. However, because chicken manure is so high in Nitrogen you may be more successful using a 1:1 or even a 2:1 mixture.
- Use a "hot compost" recipe. By combining the correct ratio of bedding and manure at one time to form a pile, approximately one cubic yard, then adding moisture (material should be about as wet as a well wrung sponge), will produce a hot pile. It is recommend that the compost pile heat to 130-150 degrees F and maintain that temperature for 3 days. Heating is necessary to destroy pathogens but temperatures above 160 degrees F can kill beneficial microorganisms and slow the process. To help you achieve appropriate temperature you can purchase a compost temperature gauge from a local nursery.
- Repeat the heating process. Once the center of your compost pile has reached the required temperature for three days it will start to cool. After it cools, pull the center apart and move the core material to the edges and bring the edge material into the center to heat. For 1 cubic yard of material repeat the process of bringing edges into the core at least 3 times.
- Let it cure. Monitor the pile and once you are satisfied that the entire contents of your bin has been heated, loosely cover and let cure for 45-60 days before using. It's ready when most material is dark, crumbly and sweet-smelling like soil.
- Add to garden. You can add the resulting compost to your vegetable garden or flower bed by spreading it on the surface or by gently working it into existing soil.
- Composting challenges. Does your compost pile stink, never decompose, or attract pests? Get advice from the Seattle Tilth <u>Garden Hotline</u> at 206-633-0224.

Compost Bin. Your bin should be at least 1 cubic yard in size (3x3x3 feet). If possible, we recommend that you use a 2-bin compost system. One bin will be in the hot compost phase and the other will be in the curing phase. You may also need a storage site for the carbon materials you collect. This can be a 3rd bin or it can just be a pile of leaves or bags of shavings stored in a dry area. If you want to add grass clippings or weeds to your bin, you will also need a storage site for this material. The Seattle Tilth or WSU websites listed below under Resources provide plans for building a backyard compost bin.

Manure Safety Tips. Fresh chicken manure may contain disease organisms that could contaminate root crops (carrots, radishes, beets) and leaves (lettuce, spinach), so DO NOT spread uncomposted manure on the soil in your vegetable garden. The following "Safety Tips" are summarized from the Stewardship Gardening Program provided by Washington State University:

- Apply only aged or composted manure to your soil.
- · Always wear gloves when handling livestock manure.
- · Thoroughly wash raw vegetables before eating.
- Do not use cat, dog or pig manure in compost piles.
- People who are susceptible to food borne illnesses should avoid eating uncooked vegetables from manured gardens. Those who face risks from food borne illness include pregnant women, very young children, and persons with cancer, kidney failure, liver disease, diabetes or AIDS.

Resources

- -- Composting Livestock Manure, Using Composted Manure Safely in the Garden. WSU Cooperative Extension. http://gardening.wsu.edu/stewardship/compost/manure/manure2.htm.
- -- Strategies for Livestock Manure Management. WSU Cooperative Extension. King County, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Fact Sheet #539.

Compiled by Judy Duncan, WSU Cooperative Extension, King County Master Gardener and Cooperative Extension Livestock Advisor. Fall, 2005.



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE:

March 14, 2011

TO:

Dave Ruller, City Manager

FROM:

Bridget Susel, Grants & Neighborhood Programs Administrator

RE:

2011 Social Service Funding Recommendations

The Community Development Department has completed its review of the grant applications it received from organizations seeking 2011 Social Service grant funding from the City. The recommended grant funding awards for each project are listed on the attached table.

The City received applications from seven (7) different nonprofit organizations seeking support for eleven (11) different supportive service programs. Ten (10) of the programs have been funded in prior social service grant funding cycles and provide a myriad of needed supportive services for residents. including counseling, programs for the homeless, employment training, free legal assistance and home repair assistance for low income seniors.

The City will be funding only one new social service activity this year. The new program will be administered by Coleman Professional Services and will provide eviction prevention and rental housing start-up assistance to persons that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The program has been offered by Coleman for several years and had been funded through the Ohio Department of Development. In 2010, however, the State eliminated funding for the program so Coleman submitted a request for social service funding in order to continue this much needed program.

Staff will draft 2011 Social Service contracts and submit any contracts requiring Board of Control approval under separate cover.

If you have any questions concerning the 2011 Social Service grant funding allocation amounts or need additional information about any of the programs, please let me know.

Cc:

David Coffee, Director of Budget and Finance Gary Locke, Community Development Director Applicants (via e-mail)

YEAR 2011 SOCIAL SERVICE FUNDING RECOMMENDED FUNDING AMOUNTS

2011 Funding

	NOTE: Was for 2010 Adult \$7,500.00 Day Services Program										
FY2010 Grant Award	\$7,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$15,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Amount Recommended	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$15,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
\$\$ Requested	\$7,500.00	\$13,011.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00	00.000,6\$	\$15,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$10,088.00	\$5,000.00
Program	Eviction Prevention/Housing Start Up	Senior Minor Home Repair	Safer Futures	Emergency Assistance	Info and Referral	Good Neighbor	TRADE-Employment Skills	Counseling	Helpline	Residential Specialist	Legal Assistance
Agency	Coleman Professional Services	Family & Community Services	Family & Community Services	Family & Community Services	Portage 211/United Way Portage Cty	PMHA	Community Action Council (CAC)	Townhall II	Townhall II	Coleman Professional Services	Community Legal Aid

\$100,000.00

\$100,000.00

\$112,099.00

Totals

City of Kent Income Tax Division

February 28, 2011

Income Tax Receipts Comparisons - RESTATED - (NET of Refunds)

Monthly Receipts

Total receipts for the month of February, 2011	\$788,986
Total receipts for the month of February, 2010	\$785,233
Total receipts for the month of February, 2009	\$1,083,705

Year-to-date Receipts and Percent of Total Annual Receipts Collected

	Year-to-date Actual	Percent of Annual
Total receipts January 1 through February 28, 2011	\$1,815,343	17.29%
Total receipts January 1 through February 28, 2010	\$1,737,529	16.62%
Total receipts January 1 through February 28, 2009	\$1,815,673	17.32%

Year-to-date Receipts Through February 28, 2011 - Budget vs. Actual

	Annual	Revised	Year-to-date		
	Budgeted	Budgeted	Actual	Percent	Percent
Year	Receipts	Receipts	Receipts	Collected	Remaining
2011	\$10,500,000	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 1,815,343	17.29%	82.71%

Comparisons of Total Annual Receipts for Previous Five Years Percent

Change From Total Receipts Prior Year Year 2006 \$ 10,151,202 -0.36% 2007 \$ 10,540,992 3.84% 2008 \$10,712,803 1.63% 2009 \$10,482,215 -2.15% 2010 \$10,453,032 -0.28%

Submitted by Wand A. Coffee , Director of Budget and Finance

2011 CITY OF KENT, OHIO Comparison of Income Tax Receipts as of Month Ended February 28, 2011

	Monthly	Comparisons					
Month	2009	2010	2011	Amount	Percent Change		
January	\$ 731,968	\$ 952,296	\$ 1,026,357	\$ 74,061	7.78%		
February	1,083,705	785,233	788,986	3,753	0.48%		
March	845,720	809,613					
April	993,055	1,026,687					
May	988,003	877,364					
June	867,634	798,635					
July	824,083	828,960					
August	858,853	865,224					
September	729,239	762,176					
October	886,840	961,274					
November	820,876	880,655					
December	852,239	904,915					
Totals	\$ 10,482,215	\$ 10,453,032	\$ 1,815,343				

	Year-to-Da	Comparisons			
Month	2009	2010	2011	Amount	Percent Change
January	\$ 731,968	\$ 952,296	\$ 1,026,357	\$ 74,061	7.78%
February	1,815,673	1,737,529	1,815,343	77,814	4.48%
March	2,661,393	2,547,142			
April	3,654,448	3,573,829			
May	4,642,451	4,451,193			
June	5,510,085	5,249,828			
July	6,334,168	6,078,788			
August	7,193,021	6,944,012			
September	7,922,260	7,706,188			
October	8,809,100	8,667,462			
November	9,629,976	9,548,117			
December	10,482,215	10,453,032			
Totals	\$10,482,215	\$ 10,453,032			

2011 CITY OF KENT, OHIO Comparison of Income Tax Receipts from Kent State University as of Month Ended February 28, 2011

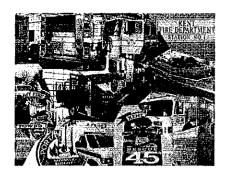
Monthly Receipts						Comparisons			
Month		2009		2010		2011		Amount	Percent Change
January	\$	344,562	\$	422,779	\$	406,862	\$	(15,917)	-3.76%
February		346,921		328,502		336,710		8,208	2.50%
March		344,275		349,936					
April		346,865		350,591					
May		340,901		348,819					
June		335,596		345,261					
July		320,155		334,650					
August		366,601		381,241					
September		287,150		291,775					
October		348,108		370,956					
November		353,917		370,551					
December		355,737		372,404					
Totals	\$	4,090,788	\$	4,267,465	\$	743,572			

Year-to-Date Receipts							Comparisons			
Month		2009		2010		2011	 Amount	Percent Change		
January	\$	344,562	\$	422,779	\$	406,862	\$ (15,917)	-3.76%		
February		691,483		751,281		743,572	(7,709)	-1.03%		
March		1,035,758		1,101,217						
April		1,382,623		1,451,808						
May		1,723,524		1,800,627						
June		2,059,120		2,145,888						
July		2,379,275		2,480,538						
August		2,745,876		2,861,779						
September		3,033,026		3,153,554						
October		3,381,134		3,524,510						
November		3,735,051		3,895,061						
December		4,090,788		4,267,465						
Totals	\$	4,090,788	\$	4,267,465						

2011 CITY OF KENT, OHIO Comparison of Income Tax Receipts from Kent State University as of Month Ended February 28, 2011

Comparisons of Total Annual Receipts for Previous Five Years

	Total	Percent
Year	Receipts	Change
2006	\$ 3,542,080	2.59%
2007	\$ 3,707,931	4.68%
2008	\$ 3,919,539	5.71%
2009	\$ 4,090,788	4.37%
2010	\$ 4,267,465	4.32%



KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 2011 MONTHLY INCIDENT REPORT

	CURRENT PERIOD 2011 2010 2009			YEAR TO DATE 2011 2010 2009		
FIRE REPONSE INFORMATION						
Summary of Fire Incident Alarms						
City Of Kent	27	32	42	56	75	87
Kent State University	16	20	23	38	29	38
Franklin Township	10	9	9	20	23	21
Sugar Bush Knolls	0	0	0	0	0	0
RESPONSES	53	61	74	114	127	146
Mutual Aid Received by Location						
City Of Kent	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kent State University	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin Township	0	1	0	0	1	0
Sugar Bush Knolls TOTAL	0	0 1	<u> </u>	0	<u>0</u> 1	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	U	ı	1	U	1	1
Mutual Aid Given	7	2	1	7	5	2
TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS	60	63	75	121	132	148
EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE INFORMATION						
Summary of Medical Responses						
City Of Kent	164	194	171	344	395	380
Franklin Township	26	16	40	45	42	72
Kent State University	32	38	35	58	62	57
Sugar Bush Knolls	0	0	0	3	4	0
Mutual Aid Given	1	0	3	2	1	4
TOTAL RESPONSES	223	248	249	452	504	513
Mutual Aid Received by Location						
City Of Kent	0	2	5	0	3	8
Franklin Township	0	0	1	1	0	2
Kent State University	1	0	1	1	0	1
Sugar Bush Knolls	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	2	7	2	3	11
Total Fire and Emergency Medical Incidents	283	311	324	573	636	661

KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 2011

	FEBRUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2011	TOTAL 2010	TOTAL 2011
CALLS FOR SERVICE	1675	1469	3440	2922
FIRE CALLS	310	284	636	579
ARRESTS, TOTAL	169	159	318	308
JUVENILE ARRESTS	7	13	23	24
O.V.I. ARRESTS	23	23	40	47
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	351	281	616	527
PARKING TICKETS	361	309	795	665
ACCIDENT REPORTS	.95	89	163	178
Property Damage	57	57	97	106
Injury	9	7	21	16
Private Property	20	13	31	33
Hit-Skip	9	2	14	13
OVI Related	1 .	2	1	6
Pedestrians	0	· /- 1	1	. 1
Fatals	0	/ 0	. 0	0
U.C.R. STATISTICS			,	
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	1	. 0	1
Robbery	1	1	2	1
Assault Total	19	14	38	32
Serious	3	2 12	11 27	5 27
Simple	16 . 5	12 8	8.	15
Burglary	23	24	56	53
Larceny Auto Theft	23 1	24	1	4
Arson	. 0	0	1	0
TOTAL	49	50	106	106
CRIME CLEARANCES				
Homicide	0	0	. 0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	1	1	1
Assault Total	13	13	26	24
Serious	1	3	6	4
Simple	12	10	20	20
Burglary	. 1	. 2	1	2
Larceny	4	2	9	4
Auto Theft	0	0	0	1
Arson	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	19	18	37	32