



For Immediate Release: October 15, 2012  
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**HORSE CAVE, BEAVER DAM, GLASGOW AND OWENSBORO RECOGNIZED WITH 2012 ENTERPRISE CITIES AWARDS**

***Cities of Greensburg, Southgate, Central City and Paducah named runners-up.***

***AWARDS CEREMONY PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.***

*Contact KLC Communications at 1.800.876.4552.*

LEXINGTON, KY – The cities of Horse Cave, Beaver Dam, Glasgow and Owensboro were recognized with Enterprise Cities Awards by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) during its annual Conference & Expo on Friday, October 12 in Lexington.

The Enterprise Cities Awards, given since 1999, go to municipalities in four population categories that have demonstrated entrepreneurship, innovation and excellence in local governance. Entries are judged in seven key areas: innovativeness or creativity of the project, long-term value to the community, adaptability to other cities, use of public/private partnerships, ability to achieve project benchmarks, community-citizen participation and program efficiency.

“Cities learn from each other,” said Jon Steiner, KLC executive director/CEO. “In these challenging times, it is a priority that communities are innovative and resourceful to serve citizens and promote their local uniqueness. These cities have demonstrated the kind of initiative that can serve as examples for all Kentucky cities.”

This year, sponsorship from Collins & Company, Inc. allowed KLC to make a \$1,000 donation to all four winners and a \$250 donation to runners-up in support of their projects.

**Cities with a population under 2,500**

**Winner**

**City of Horse Cave - Hidden River Cave Trail**

The recently completed Hidden River Cave Trail marks the pathway above the cave that lies below Horse Cave’s historic downtown. The trail markers tell the story of the city since its founding, but also go back literally thousands of years educating visitors about the cave and its ecology. To complement the trail, the city also developed a cell phone tour and a website ([www.horsecavestories.com](http://www.horsecavestories.com)) that features historic photos and oral histories about the culture in a city with a cave as its basement. The city’s clever use of modern technology brings Horse Cave’s history to new audiences young and old. Best of all, the Hidden Trail involved members of the community throughout the project’s development. As a result, it led to pride and enthusiasm about sharing Horse Cave’s rich history.

**Runner-up**

**City of Greensburg - Clark Casual Property and Fitness Park Development**

Using a former factory property donated to the city, Greensburg, in partnership with a Recreational Trails Grant, the Department of Forestry and the local FFA student group designed and developed a recreational facility which features a walking/hiking trail, workout stations, picnic areas and a disc golf course with other features yet to come. The old factory building now serves as a recycling center operated voluntarily by high school students on the mayor's Youth Advisory Council. Recycling is free to the community and the city profits from the aluminum and metal products recycled.

### **Cities with populations between 2,501 and 5,000**

#### **Winner**

##### **City of Beaver Dam - Beaver Dam Park**

After losing existing baseball fields due to construction of a new elementary school more than 500 children in Beaver Dam who participated in baseball leagues were affected. A group of parents and league leaders asked the city for help and offered to assist in building a new park with baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, picnic shelters, outdoor fitness equipment and other amenities including a Farmer's Market Pavilion. The city found the perfect site with 33 acres located on Main Street just one block from the core downtown district. Beaver Dam city officials collaborated with the Ohio County Fiscal Court, the Ohio County Area Conservation District, the Kentucky Ag Development organization, the local business community and the Beaver Dam Baptist Church which is adjacent to the park property. Now, the kids can play baseball again and the new park provides activities and entertainment for all ages, encourages healthy living, instills a sense of pride among the residents and offers great economic development benefits to the community.

#### **Runner-up**

##### **City of Southgate - Southgate Police Department**

When Mayor James Hamberg received word in October, 2011, that the Highland Heights-Southgate Police Authority was disbanding, he was faced with a seemingly insurmountable task to ensure public safety for his city. The mayor put in place a team and a plan to create the Southgate Police Department. With help from local city officials and surrounding cities that provided advice, assistance, equipment and police protection during the five-month transition period from the combined police authority to a stand-alone city police department, Southgate met its goal. The cities of Wildwood, Ft. Thomas, Newport, and Alexandria, and the Kentucky State Police provided the city with equipment, weapons and other items essential for a well-equipped police department. Today, the city has a police chief and seven full-time police officers serving the city.

### **Cities with populations between 5,001 and 14,999**

#### **Winner**

##### **City of Glasgow - "Glasgow's Going Green"**

Just over a year ago, Glasgow set the goal to expand its recycling services. The city created a multi-faceted recycling program designed to encourage and promote recycling in Glasgow and surrounding communities. The result was "Glasgow's Going Green" which refocuses, coordinates and expands recycling opportunities by taking advantage of new technologies and processes. The program promotes "reuse and recycle" by not only reducing the amount of waste going into the landfill, but also by finding value in items traditionally discarded. It now includes residential and commercial recycling, curbside recycling and drop-off sites and public and private partnerships.

New equipment was purchased to sort and collect the recycled items more efficiently, recycling carts were clearly labeled and placed in parks to collect recyclable material and a three compartment dumpster was purchased to separate glass, paper and cardboard. Glasgow's "green" initiative is providing a valuable service to residents while helping the environment and generating "green" in the form of revenue for the city.

#### **Runner-up**

##### **City of Central City - Central City United**

Central City United was an effort created by the mayor and the leadership of Central City to improve the appearance of the city and, in turn, to make the city more attractive to both citizens and visitors. Over a period of six Saturdays in 2011, local citizen volunteers came together to paint fireplugs, sweep streets, place trashcans, remove debris, paint buildings and create public art throughout the city. The entire downtown has had a facelift thanks to the commitment shown by local residents and city officials through Central City United.

#### **Cities with population of more than 15,000**

#### **Winner**

##### **City of Owensboro - Riverfront & Downtown Revitalization Project**

Using citizen guidance and input from public meetings going back to 2004, and using federal and city financing, Owensboro has literally transformed its riverfront and downtown areas. The brand new riverfront features a playground, performance amphitheater and scenic walkway, all on the banks of the Ohio River.

A \$40 million river wall project for flooding and a shoreline park as well as additional \$52 million in city-financed projects have added promenades, a water-jet fountain, a riverfront playground and a street and sidewalk design that invites more foot traffic and businesses like cafes, bars and other leisure businesses that thrive in an active downtown environment. Private development will complete the construction of two new hotels on the riverfront. The city is also in the process of constructing a 169,000 square foot indoor convention center nearby.

Now the riverfront brings new life to downtown Owensboro, hosts concerts, fairs and festivals, and is a destination for local residents and families as well as visitors from Kentucky, Illinois and beyond.

#### **Runner-up**

##### **City of Paducah - Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program**

After noticing an increasing number of children setting fires in the Paducah area, fire department officials decided to develop a program to educate children and their parents about the risks and consequences of playing with fire. A task force of community stakeholders was created, with several members receiving training through the National Fire Academy to become the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialists organization.

Juveniles are referred to the program through a variety of ways including school referrals, by firefighters and police officers at the scene of a fire, the court system and parents. More than 32 juveniles have completed the program. Safety fairs and school presentations have also been conducted as a result of the program. By raising awareness and identifying juveniles with fire setting tendencies, the program is helping to make Paducah a safer place and providing assistance to young people that need it.

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