



# Personalities

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## Benefits Corner

### Spring Wellness Series:

The City of Bowling Green's Annual Spring Wellness Series is underway. This year's topics include: Energize with Exercise, Meal Planning, and Time Management. E-mails will be sent with registration information. Lunch will be provided.

<b>May 9</b>	Meal Planning	Parks Community Room	11:30 a.m.
<b>June 6</b>	Time Management	TBD	11:30 a.m.

### Spring Fitness Challenge:

The Spring Fitness Challenge has been postponed by one month. Information will go out the first week of May.

### Meritain:

The Meritain website has been updated to reflect the correct 2018 HRA balances. The HRA incentive (\$300 for completing health risk assessment and review with provider) has been updated and was added to the employee's HRA balance. Meritain has also completed the 2017 FSA rollover. Meritain's website is [www.meritain.com](http://www.meritain.com).

### Mark your Calendar:

**This Month** Spring Fitness Challenge

**May 9** Spring Wellness Series

**May 15** EAP Online Seminar: DIY - Apps and Guides for Household Management

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## Grilling Tips

- \* Grills should be placed well away from buildings, bushes, and other objects. Never use a grill on or under a balcony.
- \* Grills should never be used indoors or inside an unventilated area, as doing so would be both a carbon monoxide poisoning risk and a fire hazard.
- \* When grilling over charcoal, only use starter fluid developed specifically for barbecue grills.
- \* To start a charcoal fire, soak your briquettes with starter fluid & let them sit for a few minutes before lighting.
- \* To reignite a sluggish charcoal fire, use paper or kindling. Never add starter fluid to hot, glowing or flaming charcoal.
- \* Children and pets should be kept away from the grill until the equipment has fully cooled.

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## Congratulations

### Promotions (April):

**Chris Britton**, to Fire Apparatus Operator/EMT

**Tim Butts**, to Building Inspector

**Scott Hunt**, to Electrical/Building Inspector

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# Focus on...

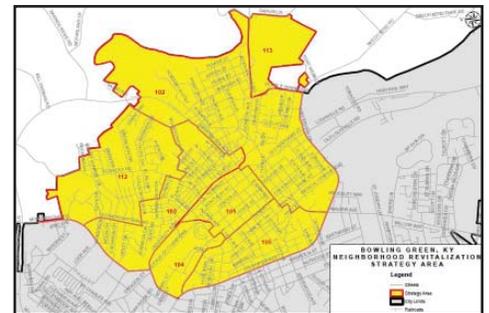
## What's Happening this Spring at Neighborhood & Community Services:

Neighborhood & Community Services is engaged now more than ever in partnerships and collaborations with other City departments and agencies in our community. Here's the highlights of what's going on right now:

**Housing Choice Vouchers for Veterans:** The City of Bowling Green's Housing Division was invited to apply for additional housing choice vouchers designated specifically for veterans. Previously, these vouchers could only be awarded out of offices in Nashville, TN. Now, NCS is able to manage these cases locally, while adding to our overall number of vouchers for housing assistance that are available for residents of Bowling Green.

**Redeveloping Brownfields:** NCS and Public Works are partnering to attract investors to redevelop old industrial or other sites in the City that may be overlooked due to environmental concerns. The two departments are collaborating with a private business called Ensafe to present a workshop on May 16 to potential developers, bankers, site selectors, and others who have an interest in redeveloping property for higher and better uses.

**Neighborhood Improvement Program:** This innovative and strategic use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds is helping to inject new infrastructure, amenities, and housing opportunities into Census Tract 112, which is bounded by Old Morgantown Road, Old Barren River Road, Morgantown Road, and Normalview. NCS awarded a bid to Housing Authority of Bowling Green to help homeowners to do exterior home improvement projects in the neighborhood. Projects can include new driveways, roof repairs, tree removals, and other efforts to enhance the physical appearance of the neighborhood. Additionally, NCS will partner with Habitat for Humanity to complete the streets, drainage, and sidewalk needed to add another 24 homes, including new single family homes, in the Durbin Estates development.



**A More Walkable Bowling Green and Park System:** Through the NIP and in partnership with Public Works and Parks & Recreation, NCS is helping to add new walking paths and sidewalk to connect neighborhoods in and through Lampkin Park and Pedigo Park. When all planned projects are completed, residents could walk sidewalk or shared use path from Lee Pointe Apartments on North Lee Drive to Glen Lily Road, from there to North Sunrise either to Pedigo Park or to and through Lampkin Park to Morgantown Road and then to the Walmart at Morgantown Road and Veterans Memorial Boulevard. New sidewalk, patio area, and a bus shelter were also recently constructed at Reservoir Hill Park. This new connectivity also means park users will enjoy easier access from existing parking facilities to ball fields, restrooms, and other areas at these parks.



**A Better Process for Builders and Developers:** With a record number of structures going up throughout Bowling Green and Warren County, efficiency and oversight is needed now more than ever! In cooperation with Planning Commission staff, Warren County government and others, NCS is working to make the approval process more comprehensive and efficient for developers, builders, and homeowners. By reorganizing the sequence of reviews and approvals, the goal is to reduce the risk of mistakes, code violations, and errors that can require costly rebuilds and drive housing and building prices even higher.

**Gateways for Growth Challenge:** At the end of 2017, International Communities Coordinator Leyda Becker learned that the City of Bowling Green was selected as one of 25 Gateways for Growth Challenge communities from New American Economy (NAE) and Welcoming America. The Gateways for Growth Challenge is a competitive opportunity for local communities to

receive direct technical assistance from NAE and Welcoming America to develop multi-sector plans for welcoming and integrating immigrants. NAE also provides tailored research on the contributions of immigrants and matching grants to select communities as part of the Challenge. As a Challenge awardee, the City of Bowling Green will receive a customized quantitative research report from NAE on the demographic and economic contributions of immigrants in Bowling Green. This information can be used to focus efforts to connect immigrants to the many job opportunities our businesses and industries are struggling to fill. A news conference announcing the results of this report will be forthcoming later this spring.





**Animal Control:** Spring brings lots of new life, including a proliferation of stray and roaming cats and dogs. While animal control officers always encourage everyone to spay or neuter their pets, NCS is also reviewing Chapter 5 (Animals) of the Code of Ordinances for any needed updates and changes.

**Vacant Properties:** Empty structures and vacant land can be problematic for the physical condition and overall vitality of a neighborhood, with impacts that can sometimes affect public safety. With this in mind, along with the real need to increase the availability of decent and affordable housing units, Code Enforcement completed a Vacant Property Review Study (VAPR) in the Bowling Green Reinvestment Area to evaluate and determine what properties are vacant or abandoned. We located approximately 340 vacant properties including 186 lots and 137 structures. These numbers change, of course, but NCS is working with Legal Department and others to target properties that are ripe for redevelopment or reinvestment by new owners.

**#BGGovToGo:** #BGGovToGo brings information about City services and programs out to special events and to neighborhoods while modeling low cost ways for neighbors to get to know one another and advocate for the needs in their area. This focus on meeting people where they are continues with the kickoff of our #BGGovToGo neighborhood outreach with a Star Wars themed May the 4th Community Block Party. While last summer's #BGGovToGo neighborhood block parties on Sandra Street and on Creekwood Avenue brought out hundreds of diverse residents to meet their elected officials and eat lots of hot dogs, pop ice and watermelon, it's not all just lawn games and sidewalk chalk. These conversations also resulted in several new feet of sidewalk being planned for construction next fiscal year in both locations. Grab your Star Wars gear and come out and see us at SOKY Marketplace on Friday, May the 4th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and may the force be with you!

## NOT SO LONG AGO IN A NEIGHBORHOOD NOT SO FAR AWAY...

May the 4th Community Block Party

Friday, May the 4th

5-8 p.m.

SOKY Marketplace

636 Center Street



May the Force be with you on May the 4th!

Come celebrate Star Wars Day as we kick off

#BGGovToGo with free fun for everyone!

Wear your favorite Star Wars gear, meet local heroes up close,

enjoy food and games, and inspect the Imperial Fleet and

Armory (public safety vehicles and more).



# Sensational Sirloin Kabobs



- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic pepper seasoning
- 4 fluid ounces lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage
- 2 pounds beef sirloin steak, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 green bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces skewers
- 1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, stems removed
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 1 fresh pineapple - peeled, cored and cubed

1. In a medium bowl, mix soy sauce, light brown sugar, distilled white vinegar, garlic powder, seasoned salt, garlic pepper seasoning, and lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage. Reserve about 1/2 cup of this marinade for basting. Place steak in a large resealable plastic bag. Cover with the remaining marinade, and seal. Refrigerate for 8 hours, or overnight.
2. Bring a saucepan of water to a boil. Add green peppers, and cook for 1 minute, just to blanch. Drain, and set aside.
3. Preheat grill for high heat. Thread steak, green peppers, mushrooms, tomatoes, and pineapple onto skewers in an alternating fashion. Discard marinade and the bag.
4. Lightly oil the grill grate. Cook kabobs on the prepared grill for 10 minutes, or to desired doneness. Baste frequently with reserved marinade during the last 5 minutes of cooking.

## May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Jordan Reinhart	<b>2</b> Maritza Arnett Delbert Reeder	<b>3</b> Chase Ledford	<b>4</b> Richard Harrison Patrick Henderson Evan Scharlow	<b>5</b> Robert Kirby
<b>6</b> Jan Tuttle	<b>7</b> Thomas Burris Benjamin Storey	<b>8</b> Jeremy Maynard Kristopher Mitchell Jeremy Purichia	<b>9</b> Jordan Tyree	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> John Arnemann	<b>12</b> Corey Mahaney Omar Rogers Joe Webb
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Robert Balge Jean Hurt	<b>15</b> Kacy Brown Michele Owen	<b>16</b> Isaac Anthony David Bragg Joseph Dougherty Ryan Johnson Samantha McDonald Justin Reesy	<b>17</b> Scott Blair Pamela Boose James Napier	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Moe Hillard Michael Jonker
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> McKenna Hill Kayce Kirkpatrick Del'Qwania Payne	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> April Fulcher Easton Reynolds James Thibault	<b>24</b> Pamela Ritter Brian Scott Benjamin Williams	<b>25</b> Bradley Akins Chloe Jones Hallie Mooney Jonathan Moyers Ashley Rimington	<b>26</b> Joseph Harbin James Hillard
<b>27</b> David Norris	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Michael Alexander Todd Edge Steven Nikitas	<b>31</b>		