

Chamber announces creation of Greater Owensboro Music Commission

Owensboro Music Census planned for this year

BY SCOTT HAGERMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce announced Wednesday the official establishment of the Greater Owensboro Music Commission.

The commission is a new initiative aimed at cultivating and advancing the region's ever-growing music community.

Steve Johnson, of RepresentGPA Government and Public Affairs and the Bluegrass Music Initiative, is facilitating the commission's startup.

"Owensboro's musical

roots run deep," Johnson said, "and this commission is the next step in growing our cultural and economic impact through music. Whether it's bluegrass, Americana, folk, rock, symphonic, R & B, gospel or contemporary, our community has the talent and the heart to lead on a global stage."

A key priority for the commission includes conducting an Owensboro Music Census — in partnership with Sound Music Cities of Austin, Texas — to better understand and strengthen the local music ecosystem and to broaden engagement and performance opportunities.

Johnson said the survey will cover a broad swath of

the industry.

"You'll have everything such as how much money is being generated by musicians, how many of the musicians who are leaving to do gigs in other parts, like Nashville, what are the barriers for musicians playing in Owensboro — maybe its parking or maybe its housing," Johnson said. "Some of the venues, what's the real economic impact that is generated from those, and how much percentage of the buildings are being utilized?"

Johnson said the survey is in its early stages, with his expectation it will be available in July. The commission hopes to receive the results by September

or October, and to release the results by November.

The census is part of the bigger goal to position the Owensboro region as a rising global music hub.

"Communities around the country have realized that music is a tremendous vehicle to bring people in to celebrate a community," Johnson said. "We're a smaller market ... but this is an opportunity for us to be on the cutting edge of music and the development of the music and the music industry in our region and celebrate that to a global audience."

The commission's mission is to connect music makers, music commerce and the community through performance, education and promotion, enhancing opportunities

for artists, businesses, youth and audiences.

"Quality of life has a direct impact on our local economy, and there is no doubt that our musical performing arts groups and venues stand above most communities," said Candance Castlen Brake, president and CEO of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited to see how this will grow."

"We are thrilled Steve Johnson is driving this initiative. His passion for our community inspires all those around him."

The commission can include 15 members, with 13 members having been appointed to date, with each having been strategically chosen to cover a broad spectrum of the music industry.

The Commission will collaborate with a wide range of community and regional partners, including: City of Owensboro, Daviess County Fiscal Court, Visit Owensboro, Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp., The Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum, Bluegrass Music (Capital) Initiative, Riverpark Center, Friday After Five, Owensboro Symphony, Downtown Owensboro businesses and local schools, higher education music programs, music venues and promoters.

Johnson said the commission aims to amplify the city's creative spirit and economic potential to solidify Owensboro's reputation as a thriving destination for music lovers.

Parks department expanding pickleball at Moreland Park

BY JAMES MAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The city parks and recreation department is planning to expand access to pickleball by adding courts at Moreland Park.

Meanwhile, the department hopes to be ready next month to solicit for contractors to build the planned pickleball complex at Ben Hawes Park, and a member of River City Pickleball said fundraising for group's portion of the project has been strong.

City Parks Director Amanda Rogers said Monday pickleball



Amanda Rogers

continues to expand in popularity, with the sport being played at colleges and among younger people.

"We have been looking at other locations to have pickleball in the community," Rogers said. "It would be nice to have one or two locations for young people who don't drive."

The plan calls for a pickleball court, or courts, to be built at the current basketball court at the park. New basketball courts will be build across the street from the the park, near the

intersection of West Parrish and Hickman avenues.

Rogers said a goal was to place the basketball courts in a more visible place, like the basketball courts at Legion Park, which are visible from the road.

Sometimes, you get passionate people (playing basketball in Moreland Park) and they use foul language and trash talk, and it doesn't blend well" with the nearby T-ball field or the tennis courts, Rogers said.

The Legion Park basketball courts are open 24 hours a day.

"It's in a high-traffic corner, and we have very little issues there," Rogers said.

Regarding pickleball courts, Rogers said, "We are looking at preferably two" courts in Moreland Park. Some funds already exist for the projects, since there were funds in the current city budget to resurface the basketball courts in the park.

Parks officials are also looking at other areas for local courts, including Chautauqua Park.

"For right now, it's just an idea in the can for consideration," Rogers said about putting pickleball courts at Chautauqua Park.

Drawings for the multi-court pickleball complex at Ben Hawes Park are not yet complete. Changes had to be made to the

plan, but the goal is to have the project ready to bid out in May, Rogers said.

"That's my hope. We are waiting on the final construction drawings to come back," Rogers said.

City government has committed up to \$1 million for the project. The city said previously it would provide \$2 for every \$1 raised by River City Pickleball, a community group that will have some designated courts for them at the Ben Hawes complex.

Alex Ross, of River City Pickleball, said the group has had a strong response to its fundraising campaign.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY'S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU") is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan ("2025 Plan"). (Collectively, KU's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU's "tariff filing.") If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU's existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers' bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU's Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU's Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU's 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU's tariff filing at the Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU's website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.

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