



Top of the Hill News

Information for the Citizens of Fort Wright

Fall 2010

Fort Wright Website
www.fortwright.com

HealthPoint Hopebox Derby!

Saturday September 11, 2010

The 3rd annual HealthPoint Hopebox Derby 'A Race to Help the Homeless' will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010 on Wright's Summit Parkway in Fort Wright, KY (near the corner of Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway).

The event begins at 2:00 pm and ends at 8:30 pm.

(more information on next page)

See Inside:

- eScrap / Shred-It Day
- Annual Senior Luncheon
- Upcoming Museum Events
 - Entertainment Books
 - Holiday Trash Schedule
 - Tax Bill Information

Street Tax on November 2nd ballot

The Fort Wright City Council voted August 4th to approve language placing a .10 per \$100 appraised value street tax on the November 2nd general election. Council voted 5 to 1 for this resolution. Unlike the street tax request in 2002 this proposal does not include money for new sidewalks. Specifically, the money generated by this property tax will be used for "Maintenance, Repairs, Overlay and Replacement of Public Streets and Roads in the City which have been accepted for Maintenance". Existing sidewalks may be repaired, but no new sidewalks will be built.

If this tax is approved by voters it is anticipated \$500,000 per year will be generated. The cost for a property valued at \$150,000 will be \$150 per year. This will allow the City to keep up with a Comprehensive Street Repair Program which has fallen behind because of the lack of funding. Fort Wright has the 3rd lowest property tax rate in Kenton County and simply does not have the necessary amount of money to address the needs of the streets throughout the city. If the city were to attempt an aggressive street improvement program, financial projections indicate that the city's carry over balance would go from approximately \$ 2 million dollars (which our independent auditor indicates a city our size should have) to an approximately \$ 1.3 million dollar deficit in five years.

In 2002 the city requested a property tax increase of .09 per \$100 assisted valuation via a ballot initiative, which failed by 47 votes (1,057 for/ 1,104 against). Since that time the condition of city maintained streets has continued to decline. The City is seeking a modest .10 per \$100 valuation. Park Hills received .235 in 1995, while Fort Mitchell received .60 in 1988. The new revenue raised by the street tax, by law, can ONLY be used on street repair and related work, it cannot be spent on anything else.

Over the last couple of years the City has taken many new cost saving measures, for example:

- Reclassification of two full time positions to part time status
- Charging for the use of South Hills Community Center
- Eliminating funding for Battery Hooper Days
- Required the Civil War museum to find external funding within a year
- Discontinued the volunteer appreciation dinner
- Reviewed and continuing to review every aspect of the budget for further cost savings
- Aggressively attacked city debt through an additional \$100,000 payment per year. Significant debts such as the City Building could be paid off in as little as 2 years resulting in \$80,000 per year future savings.

Street Tax on November 2nd ballot (continued)

Collectively, these efforts will save approximately \$50,000 per year for three years, then after that \$130,000 per year. Unfortunately, costs to provide basic city services still exceed current revenues.

The City is and has been actively pursuing new revenue sources through business development and marketing initiatives. If new revenue sources are found, the ordinance states the tax rate can be lowered at any time. This street tax not only provides a dedicated funding source for streets, it is equally distributed to commercial and residential property. City council (your neighbors who are also required to pay this tax) is asking for your educated vote to help maintain property values, not simply forcing a new tax on citizens.

If the tax does not pass, the city will only be able to patch streets, and the longer we wait to address repairs, the more it will cost. This is especially true now due to economic conditions. We have saved approximately 30% on recent construction projects.

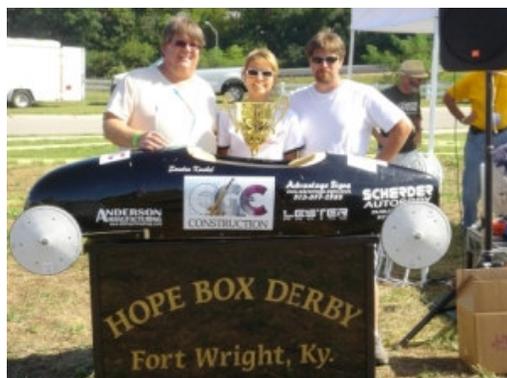
We take enormous pride in our city, and excellent infrastructure is necessary to maintain high property values. History has shown that as streets are improved adjacent property tends to be better maintained improving property values throughout the city. Your property value is not merely dictated by the street in front of your house, but all streets throughout the city. Part of the value of our homes is the impression visitors have.

The city will host two informational meetings to explain the necessity of the street tax and answer questions. The first meeting will be on October 5th at 6:30 PM at the Fort Wight Civic Center, 115 Kennedy Road, and the second will be on October 7th at 6:30 PM at the Lookout Heights Civic Center, 1661 Park Road. If you are unable to make either one of these meetings and have questions please call Gary Huff, City Administrative Officer, at 331-1700.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

HealthPoint Hopebox Derby! Saturday September 11, 2010 (continued)



2009 Winner - EGC Construction

Festivities include soapbox car races, live music, a car show, kids' activities, Sponge Bob inflatable, Rip Curl inflatable slide, food from Sub Station II, Snappy Tomato Pizza, Dan the Corn Man, Barbeque, funnel cakes, beer sales and more!

There will also be a raffle to win airline tickets to New York City!

The event is free to attend.

All proceeds benefit HealthPoint's Pike Street Clinic for the Homeless in Covington, the only clinic in Northern Kentucky that provides medical care and prescription drugs at no cost to homeless people. In 2009, homeless patients made 2,800 visits to the walk-in clinic.

If you have questions or would like to sponsor the event, please call 859-655-6157.

Annual Senior Luncheon

The Annual Senior Luncheon will be held, **Thursday, November 11, 2010,**
from 12:30 - 2:00 PM.

Please contact the City at 331-1700 with your name and address and number in attendance! Come and enjoy a great meal, visit with friends and make some new ones! Reservations are required and should be made by **November 4, 2010**, by calling the City offices.

2010 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Tax bills will be sent out around the first week of October. If you have not received your tax bill by October 15, and are responsible to pay it, please contact the City Office. If you do receive the property tax bill, but have an escrow account from which the property tax is paid, please be reminded that it is the property owner's responsibility to forward the bill to the mortgage company. With the holiday schedule for this year, the City Office will not be open on December 31st, therefore, walk-in payments must be in by Thursday, December 30, 2010. The property tax payments **MUST** be postmarked by no later than December 31st. If they are later than that date, penalty and interest fees will be added to the property tax bill. If you drop your bill in the mail on December 31st, there is a chance that it may not be postmarked until January 3rd, making it delinquent, so if you will be mailing your payment, we recommend that you put it in the mail by no later than December 30, to ensure proper postmark.

Please note the following with regard to the holidays and City office hours. Regular City office hours are from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. City Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 23, Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31, 2010. City Administration Office will be open on Thursday, December 30th from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 PM, for acceptance of tax payments. Walk-in payments for 2010 property tax bills must be made by Thursday, December 30th at the close of business at 5:00 PM. There is also a mail slot in the front door of the City Building for you to place your property tax bill payments before or after City office hours, prior to December 31st. For any additional questions, please call (859) 331-1700.

Holiday Trash Collection:

(This has been copied straight from Rumpke's website.)

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 25, 2010

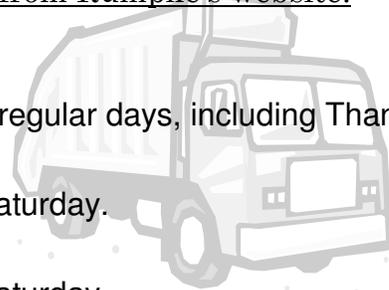
There will be NO DELAYS, trash will be picked up on regular days, including Thanksgiving Day.

Christmas Day: Saturday, December 25, 2010

There will be NO DELAYS, as the holiday falls on a Saturday.

New Year's Day 2010: Saturday, January 1, 2011

There will be NO DELAYS, as the holiday falls on a Saturday.



LUDLOW CIVICS CLUB WINE-TASTING EVENT

Wine-Tasting featuring four Northern Kentucky Wineries. September 25th from 4-8pm. Will be held on the grounds behind the K of C Hall at 828 Elm Street, Ludlow, KY. This event is sponsored by the Ludlow Civics Club. The purpose of the event is to introduce N.K. wineries to the communities they service and to have a good time! No cost to attend the event; Tickets will be available for wine-tasting at \$10 for four tastes and a wine glass

For questions or additional information, call 859- 291-5675 or email us at clnolan3@fuse.net

Happy Birthday!

October

October 12 - Detective Travis Brown

October 14 - Assistant Fire Chief Ron Becker

October 18 - Fire/EMS Lieutenant Jeff Hatter

October 28 - Police Specialist Daniel Martin

November

November 2 - Police Chief Daniel Kreinest

November 30 - Public Works Nick Zumnick

December

December 15 - Police Officer George Kreutzjans

December 21 - Police Officer Mark Spanyer

City Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed on the following dates for the Holidays:

Monday, September 6

Thursday, November 25

Friday, November 26

Thursday, December 23

Friday, December 24

Friday, December 31



Trick or Treating

Trick or Treat times will be on Sunday,
October 31, 2010 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM



Museum News

September 11 and 12

Public Archaeology

Digs are scheduled in 2-hour increments each day:

9-11, 11:30-1:30 and 2-4

Call 859-344-1145, leave a message to reserve a spot

November 7

Veterans' Day Observance

2:00 at Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, KY

This year we'll focus on Korean War veterans

October 2

Antique Appraisal

1-4 PM

For a \$5 donation, have 2 items verbally appraised.

Items must fit into a child's wagon.

December 12

Civil War Christmas

Noon - 5

See how Christmas was celebrated during the 1860s

News from Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department Corporation

The Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., is selling the Entertainment Book again this year.

The books are currently available for Sale for \$25. Once again, there are bonus savings cards with these books, These cards are \$5 off any purchase at each of the following locations: Papa Murphy's Pizza; Lazer Kraze; Johnny Rockets; Entertainment Junction; Grandview Tavern & Grille; The WEB extreme entertainment. These coupons are the size of a credit card, so you can slip them in your wallet and always have them (until you use them), without needing to remember to take your book. These are one-time coupons. There are also quarterly Kroger coupons, for \$5 off \$75 order.

Stop by the City Office to pick up your book today!

Checks should be made payable to Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

Fort Wright “Shred-It” and “Kentucky eScrap” Day

On Saturday, October 9, 2010, the City of Fort Wright will be hosting 2 on-site disposal services to its residents. Both services will be on site from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. **These services are provided for Residents Only - Photo ID is required.**

The first service is the 2nd Fort Wright Shred-It Day - Cintas will be at the City Building for residents to bring old documents to be shredded

The second service is through Kentucky eScrap, below is a listing of acceptable and un-acceptable items for that day. Please note, they have also provided a listing of items that they will not accept at the City Building, but are items that they will accept at their facility in Florence, Kentucky.

Businesses may participate in the eScrap event, BUT items must be taken to Florence Facility either Friday, October 8 or Monday, October 11, 2010, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM, at 7430 Industrial Road, Florence, KY 41042. The phone number for the eScrap office is 859-292-8696, and website www.KYescrap.com.

Kentucky eScrap

Items Accepted for Recycling:

Computers (desktops/laptops)	Video Game Consoles	Computer Fans
Keyboards	Video Cameras	Floppy Disks
Mice	Audio Equipment (no wooden speakers)	Litho Film
Speakers (metal or plastic, No wood)	Stereo Equipment (no wooden speakers)	X-Ray Film
Cables/Wires	Ink Cartridges (not leaking)	Circuit Boards
LCD Monitors	Toner Cartridges (not leaking)	Power Supplies
Network Switches	CD's / DVD's (please remove all paper and cases)	DVD Players
Network Equipment	IC's (Integrated Circuits)	Disk Drives
Servers	UPS Battery Backup Systems	CD Drives
Telephones		DVD Drives
Cell Phones		RAM
Wireless Devices		Rechargeable Batteries

CRT Monitors (~~\$7 recycling fee~~) No fee

Printers/Fax/CopyMachines(~~\$1 recycling fee~~) No fee

KY eScrap will have on site the portable Hard Drive Destruction Machine for a \$2/Hard Drive fee. Resident is responsible for this fee, if you would like to witness the destruction of your Hard Drive.

Items NOT Accepted for Recycling during No Fee Collection event (though we can recycle at the Florence facility, some for a fee), most items create a logistic hazard.

Ferrous + Non-Ferrous Metals
Paper/Cardboard
Microwaves (please remove all food waste)
Refrigerators/Freezers (must be Freon free and no food waste)
TV's (\$17 up to 30inch / \$25 over 30inch screen)
Packing Material (Bubble Wrap + Packing Peanuts in sealed bags)

Items NOT Accepted for Recycling (though we can refer to other recyclers)

Mercury Containing Items (Thermostats, level switches, etc.)
Paint
Light Bulbs
Food Waste
Liquids
Ballasts with PCB's
Styrofoam
Toxic Waste
Fluorescent Bulbs

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