

Top of the Hill News

Information for the Citizens of Fort Wright

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Summer 2015



City Offices Closed

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

Monday, September 7
Thursday, November 26
Friday, November 27

Fort Wright End of Summer Picnic

Picnic at Battery Hooper Park, near the Civil War Museum

Saturday, September 26, 2015

from 1 until 6 PM

Free Burgers, Brats, Metts, and Hot Dogs - Chips - Cookies - Soft Drinks

Fort Wright Dirty Hands Garden Club

Run for the Roses

Check out the Ft Wright Garden Club's entry in the Purple People Bridge container planting contest. The theme for the plantings on the bridge this year was "Sports of All Sorts" in honor of the all-star game. So the Garden Club chose Kentucky's most famous sport, horse-racing, for the theme of their container plantings. A sphagnum horse with succulents in his mane and tail runs through drift roses with a white fence in the background. It will be there until October. Go and see!

Monarch Garden

The Ft Wright Garden Club has refurbished the monarch way station in front of the waterfall at the city building. Plants are labeled so residents can see what they can put in their own yards to attract the beautiful monarchs and provide them some place to feed, lay eggs and create the next generation.

Dirty Hands Garden Club Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, from September through May at the South Hills Civic Club.

Anyone who is interested in gardening is welcome to attend. Find them on Facebook (Ft Wright Garden Club) to check upcoming programs and meeting locations.

For additional information, please call (859) 359-0205.

Residents of Fort Wright

On September 1, 2015, I will retire from the Law Enforcement profession after having served 24 years. I had the privilege of serving the past 18 years as a member of the Fort Wright Police Department.

I have met many of you through the Senior Watch Program, D.A.R.E instruction, as a fellow resident and daily in my everyday activities. It is without a doubt that I have been blessed to not only serve, but live in the greatest community around. I respect and identify with the struggles and joys of this community.

I wanted to thank you, the citizens of Fort Wright, for blessing me and my family. It has been an honor to serve and protect you! I wish you and your families many years of happiness and good health.

Sincerely,

Michael Knight



Saturday, Sept. 12th 11-5 pm

**Kyles Lane & Dixie Hwy.,
Fort Wright, KY**

**All proceeds benefit
HealthPoint's Pike Street Clinic for the Homeless.**

Healthpoint's Annual Hope Box Derby will be held Saturday, September 12, 2015 on Wright Summit Parkway from 11 AM—5 PM

The annual fundraiser benefits the [Pike Street Clinic](#) in Covington, Kentucky which serves the homeless population of Northern Kentucky by providing free medical care on a walk-in basis.

The event features soapbox derby races as well as car show, a family friendly festival area and food, beverages and other fun activities.



Happy Birthday

August

August 5 - Firefighter/Medic Justin Brinkman
August 6 - Firefighter/Medic Greg Wuestefeld
August 13 - Firefighter/Medic Jason Matthews
August 24 - Fire Lieutenant Cindy Ford

September

September 3 - Firefighter/Medic Scott Lewis

October

October 8 - Firefighter/Medic Brentley Wuest
October 14 - Asst. Fire Chief Ron Becker
October 18 - Fire Lieutenant Jeff Hatter

November

November 2 - Police Chief Dan Kreinest
November 14 - Police Officer Bradley Keller
November 30 - Public Works Nick Zumnick

CONGRATULATIONS

MARC SCHWORER

Marc Schworer was promoted to Captain on June 07, 2015, making him the second in command of the Police Department.

Marc started his law enforcement career in 1989 as a Kenton County Police, Reserve Officer, he was hired as a full-time Officer in 1990 by the Park Hills Police Department. He went to the Villa Hills Police Department in 1991 and was hired by the Fort Wright Police Department on January 03, 1996. Marc was first promoted on July 01, 2003, becoming the first Police Specialist on the Department. His next promotion was to Sergeant on July 01, 2007.

Captain Schworer has an Associate Degree from Xavier University and was on the Dean's List and is currently taking classes to obtain his Bachelors Degree. Marc is an F.B.I. National Academy graduate of Class # 247 in December 2011. He completed the "Yellow Brick Road" obstacle course challenge while at the National Academy and has also successfully completed the Academy of Police Supervision at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training in October 2008.

Marc is the Police Department's senior Firearms Instructor/Armorer, he is a Field Training Officer and is a Traffic Accident Reconstructionist. He was an instructor for the Kenton County Citizens Police Academy and is a former Kentucky Governor's D.U.I. Award Winner. Captain Schworer has written and managed the Kentucky Governor's Highway and Traffic Safety Grants for several years which paid for overtime for officers working traffic enforcement and equipment for the Department.

One of the Police Department's foremost accomplishments, was in May 2000 when we became an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. This accomplishment would not have happened without Marc Schworer. He was the Accreditation Manager and was responsible for writing and editing a complete Police Policies Manual. He then had to document that we were following those policies, and meeting the standards required for Accreditation. The first Accreditation process was a several months long project that brought the Police Department to a new level of professionalism and accountability largely due to his perseverance and efforts. The Fort Wright Police Department was reaccredited thanks to Marc who was the Accreditation Manager again, in 2005, 2010 and 2015.

Marc Schworer is an outstanding officer who works hard every day. He continues to be one of the Department's most active officers and he does this despite his numerous administrative responsibilities.

Again, congratulations to Captain Marc Schworer.

NEW OFFICERS

The Police Department has hired two new well qualified Officers to replace officers who have left our Agency they are:

Benjamin Wiesner

Ben has been a Police Officer for almost ten years, he has worked for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Dayton Police Department, Taylor Mill Police Department and Park Hills Police Department. He joined the Fort Wright Police Department on May 10, 2015. He is a resident of Covington.

Bradley Keller

Brad has been a Police Officer for about ten years with the Loveland Ohio Police Department and for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office about a year. He joined the Fort Wright Police Department on July 05, 2015. Brad has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Justice Studies from Northern Kentucky University. He is a resident of Independence

Please welcome these new officers to the City of Fort Wright.



BODY WORN CAMERAS

By: Captain Marc Schworer

The Fort Wright Police Department recently purchased Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) for the safety of our community and our officers. The "BWCs" are being issued to officers beginning the week of July 27th, 2015, so you will start seeing our officers wearing these devices on the street.

City Council unanimously approved money for the body camera program to purchase six of these devices this fiscal year and six more in years to come. Made by Vievu, (<http://www.mobilcomm.com/public-safety/body-cameras.htm>) BWCs will be worn by police officers when patrolling, and the six devices will be rotated among officers who are actively on patrol to ensure that all officers are equipped with a BWC when out on the streets.

The Police Department purchased the BWCs from Mobilecomm in Cincinnati, Ohio and the purchase also included a new digital storage unit for video, a charging/download station for the devices and maintenance for the system.

Our Police Department adheres to the highest professional standards and does a great job, and we are certain that our new BWCs will continue to confirm that fact. We have been recording our traffic stops for almost 20 years with dashboard cameras in each patrol car, so recording interactions with the public is nothing new. BWCs are another great addition to our arsenal for evidence collection, public safety and customer service. Whether it's a criminal investigation, a bad interaction with a citizen or an outstanding job by one of our officers, we'll have it all on video with accompanying audio.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Police Department at 859-331-2191.



Always On Duty and Ready to Respond



In Northern Kentucky, we have many firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, police officers and dispatchers on the job helping us in our times of distress every day. Sometimes these professionals aren't on the job but find themselves in a situation where someone needs their help – their expertise. Without hesitating, they use their skills to improve the outcomes of those in need. Here's one such story.

Twenty five years ago, on July 13th of 1990, a group of friends from Northern Kentucky were headed to Lake Cumberland in southern Kentucky. Before they made it to the lake, they were stopped in traffic because of a car accident which had occurred a few minutes before them in traffic on a rural road. At the time, all four young men were volunteer firefighters and EMTs with the Ft. Wright Fire Department. When they saw the accident scene, they took immediate charge of the scene. There were no local fire or police responders there yet. In fact, the accident hadn't even been reported.

Four people were seriously injured and needed help including the driver trapped in one of the vehicles. With the equipment they carried in their car, which included a first aid kit with trauma shears, one of the four crawled into the car to assess and treat the driver's injuries. Then another positioned himself beneath the driver, cut her seatbelt strap, and supported her while he and the other two freed her from the car. It wasn't a simple extrication. The car had landed on its side in a three foot ditch with the passenger side down in the ditch. The driver was hanging upside down by her seatbelt which had kept her safe during the crash.

It was a good thing these guys were there and were able to get the driver out of her car as quickly as they did. The driver was semi-conscious after the crash, but became unresponsive and had difficulty breathing shortly thereafter. The longer she was trapped in the car, the less likely it would be that she would survive without permanent injury or survive at all. But she did survive and survived well with a concussion which she fully recovered from and a broken elbow which to this day is slightly painful every once in awhile but reminds her of how lucky she was that fateful day.

After recovering from her injuries, she never had the opportunity to meet the four young men - Tim Deye, Troy Bertke, Doug Becker, and Dave Finan – who were so crucial in her survival until January 2013 when she met one of them - the one who cut her seatbelt strap. Why it took me so long to meet him is a story all of its own including the fact that I was luckier than most at the scene. I'm glad I finally met him and thanked him. I hope to meet the other three as well. I was very lucky these guys were on vacation that day and carried with them the expertise and desire to help others. I will always be grateful for that.

Linda T. Dietz (July 13, 2015)



Barbecue Safety for the Summer

Submitted by Stephen G. Schewe, Fire Chief

Throughout the United States, the summer months are those months where millions of Americans find themselves enjoying the outdoors or chilling in the backyard. With summer come barbecues and evenings outside. It's important to remember that barbecues require a certain amount of safety when in use. To help you in your summer celebrations, keep these safety tips close by when using a barbecue this summer.



Barbecue Tips

Grilled food is a true treat, especially when you don't want to cook inside during the warm summer months. Grills should always be used outside, in a well ventilated area. To ensure safety, grills should be stationed away from the home, deck railings and away from any low hanging tree branches or plants.

The most important thing to remember is to never leave the grill unattended, especially if you have children and pets. The second most important safety item is to remember to keep the grill clean by removing grease and fat buildup. You can also clean or replace any trays that sit below the grill and collect food waste, oil and other grill debris.

Propane Tips

Propane can be found in both liquid and gas form. Naturally odorless, an additive is added to the gas to give it a distinct odor to help people identify when the gas is around. Propane, when stored under pressure, is a liquid. When you hook up a propane tank to a gas grill, the tank is opened which allows propane gas to leave the tank and power the grill. Liquid Propane is very cold, so cold that it can cause freeze burns if it comes into contact with skin.

Storing propane is an important part of propane use. A propane tank should always be stored and transported upright, and proper propane storage requires the tank be in a temperature controlled area. If you store a propane tank in an area that's susceptible to high temperatures, there is a risk of the pressure release valve opening and releasing gas, which is a fire hazard.

When transporting propane, make sure the pressure release valve is closed and that there is cap or plug over the valve outlet. Tanks should always be transported in an upright position, sitting on the tank's foot. During transport, the tank should be secured, even if it's empty. You can secure the tank with a safety strap, the seat belt, or some kind of other container to prevent the tank from tipping over.



Information for the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum

Join us for Battery Hooper Days.

Saturday August 15, 2015 from Noon - 6 PM

Sunday, August 16, 2015 from Noon - 5 PM

Event held at James A. Ramage Civil War Museum in Battery Hooper Park, 1402 Highland Avenue, Fort Wright, Kentucky

PLEASE PARK AT Community of Faith Presbyterian Church next door

Attractions and Exhibits:

Music and entertainment (food and drink available next door at the Community of Faith Presbyterian Church)

Fully equipped Civil War field Hospital, including Hospital 8-bed ward, surgeon, steward, kitchen and laundry; sponsored by

Artillery soldiers with cannon, Infantry with muskets, cavalry with horses and civilians, ladies living history groups

General Lew Wallace's Headquarters; Topographer (surveyor and map maker)

Guest Speakers topics include: (Presidents Lincoln and Davis, Lincoln Assassination, Civil War Hospitals, Ladies 1860's fashion and more)

Model train exhibit

Civil War era children's games and activities

Petting Zoo and children's playground

Gift shop (cash or check only please)

NEW: Over 1000 hard to find Civil War books and used books on all subjects (cash or check only please)

NEW: Silent Auction will be held each day to benefit the Museum (cash or check only please)

The **Antique Fair** will take place on Sunday, October 11, 2015 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM at the Community of Faith Presbyterian Church, at 1400 Highland Avenue. The public is invited to bring 2 items to be appraised for a donation to the museum of \$5.00 per item. There will be certified appraisers on hand to appraise all items.

There will also be a bake sale.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK at James A. Ramage Civil War Museum.

Questions, please message us on Facebook, email ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com, or leave a message at 859 331-1700, extension 250.

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