

Top of the Hill News

Information for The Citizens of Fort Wright
April 2007 Eileen Hastings Editor

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT BATTERY HOOPER

Once again there will be another archaeological excavation on Sunday April 15th from 9 AM to 4 PM in which residents can participate. Several public archaeological excavations have been held in the past and hundreds of people have participated! NKU Archaeology Professor and Battery Hooper Project Manager Jeannine Kreinbrink will lead Volunteers in excavating at the Battery Hooper site searching for Civil War era artifacts. Adults and children 10 years of age and older who are accompanied by a legal guardian, are permitted to participate in two hour shifts, more time if space permits, and should call the City building at 331-1700 with the name(s), address, telephone number and email, preferred times, and age (s) of any children who will be participating. Please come dressed for the weather and be prepared to get dirty! This is an exciting and interesting opportunity for you and your family to find Civil War era items that have been hidden right here in Fort Wright for over 140 years!

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Congratulations

Ruby Tuesday's Coming

Healthy Workers

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Easter Egg Hunt

REMINDER FOR VETERANS' MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS

Any resident of Fort Wright, past or present, who is a Veteran of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marines, is honored with a memorial brick paver around the base of the City's Veterans' Memorial, located on the front lawn of the City building. If you know of any past or present resident of Fort Wright who does not yet have their memorial brick paver, please contact Assistant City Clerk Jennifer Lipson at 331-1700 with the Veteran's information including name, rank, branch of service and dates of service if known. Each year the City installs additional brick pavers for our City's Veterans at no cost to them, in time for our annual Memorial Day service. This year, the City's annual Memorial Day observance will take place at Battery Hooper Park, where Union troops and citizen militias put their lives in harm's way 145 years ago! Let us honor all of those who have lost their lives in our nation's conflicts up to present day Iraq and Afghanistan!

GIRL SCOUTS SPONSOR SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Girl Scouts of all the schools of Fort Wright/Park Hills/Ludlow Service Unit will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on Friday, May 4, 2007. The location of the dinner is Community of Faith Presbyterian Church, 1400 Highland Avenue (the same parking lot as the Battery Hooper Park) and time of the event will be from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door. Dinners will include spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and a drink. Bake Sale items will be available as well.

The proceeds from the dinner will benefit all the girls in the troops of the Service Unit including those in Fort Wright School, St. Agnes School and Ludlow School, providing programs, materials, and more. Girl Scout materials and memorabilia will be on display. Please call Jennifer Beach at 291-8034 for more information.

ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER HELD ON FEBRUARY 10TH

Please see the enclosed list of elected and appointed officials, employees and Volunteers who help to make Fort Wright the great community that it is! All these very special people were honored at the City's annual Appreciation Dinner held on Saturday, February 10th at the Gardens of Park Hills on Dixie Highway. Thank you all for another great year for Fort Wright and all that you do in contributing your time and talent for the betterment of our community! Please take the time to thank these individuals the next time you see them!

VISION COMMITTEE PREPARES FOR YEAR 6

The Fort Wright Vision Committee began meeting last November 2006 to begin their sixth year of Long Range Planning for the City. Chaired by Mr. Tom Jacober, and joined by Members Ann Flood, Eileen Hastings, Tom Litzler, Joe Michels, Roger Schroder, and with new Members Council Member Adam Feinauer, Chuck McHale, and Margie Witt, the Vision Committee convenes each year to review last year's Long Range Plan and progress, and to develop a Long Range Plan for the coming year to recommend to City Council. Past projects include: establishment of a Parks and Recreation Board; development of a KY 17/Old KY 17 Land Use and Economic Development Plan; a "signature" City park; an intersection realignment and traffic signal at Kyles Lane and Henry Clay; sharing Emergency Services including the City's contracted service with Park Hills for ambulance service, and others. This year the entire Vision Committee and Mayor and City Council, and City staff, held a joint brainstorming session on Saturday, January 27th at the City building. The following is a brief list of some of the projects and ideas generated by this group in just one Saturday morning!

Community Center

Senior Center

Part Time Paid Recreation Person

BP Oil Site for Soccer Fields

Signature Park

Regularly Scheduled Projects for Volunteers

Study Merger Possibilities with Other Cities

Corporate Sponsorship of City Equipment

Cross Section of Residents on Parks and Recreation Board

Pedestrian tunnel/overhead bridge on Kyles Lane to Connect Neighborhoods

"Sponsored By" Signs in Neighborhoods for Landscaping and Other Projects

Not Leave City for Recreational Activities

Put Sign on I-75 for Battery Hooper Park

Refine City Website

Improve Kyles Lane

Beautify Dixie Highway with Trees

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYEES AT WORK!

We are very happy and proud to report that employees of the City of Fort Wright made use of only 6.25% of the sick time available to them during 2006! Two Departments used no sick time at all! This means healthy employees and higher productivity as no overtime cost is incurred to cover employees' shifts and all work projects proceed at full speed! In addition, several employees "gave back" to the City in the form of forgone vacation and personal time during the year, up to two weeks per employee in some cases. The "lost" vacation and personal time does not accumulate or roll over into the next year. In addition, the average weekly hours worked for the City's salaried employees, City Administrator, Police Chief, Fire/EMS Chief, and Public Works Director, ranged up to an average of 54 hours per week!

This is great dedication and commitment
on the part of **YOUR** City employees!

Happy Birthday

April 8th
Jeff Bethell
Public Works

April 10th
Chuck Rice
Part Time Firefighter/EMT

April 14th
Tim Maloney
Public Works Director

April 20th
Larry Klein
City Administrator

EASTER EGG HUNT

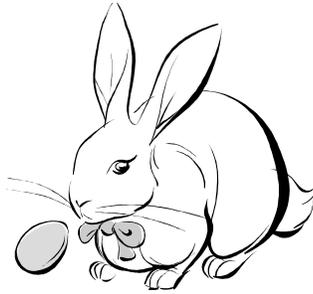
This year's hunt will be on *Sunday, April 1*

At the Museum

Time: 4:00 PM

The Easter Bunny
will make an Appearance

Rain date is Saturday, April 7
Same Time—Same Place



HYDRANT TESTING NOTICE

Rusty Collinsworth, the Field Service Supervisor with the Northern Kentucky Water District, has contacted the City with the hydrant testing program schedule for 2007. They have requested our assistance in providing the schedule to residents in advance of the testing dates. The City of Fort Wright's hydrants will be tested during the following weeks for 2007:

April 23—27

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

August 27—August 31

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

A reminder notice will be in the August newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS!

**Police Officer Tim Pangallo and
his wife Melissa on the birth of
their son on March 21, 2007.**

THANK YOU DIRTY HANDS!



Members of the Dirty Hands Garden Club have been very busy cleaning up the gardens around the City building. There was some damage to trees by the winter storms and also last year's growth to clear away. We would like to thank those who helped with the clean up. They include: Cyrilla and Nick Brake,



Jane Fangman, Eileen Hastings, Jennifer Keating, Bob Kress, Clarence Lassetter, Norma Rolf, and Mary Lee Scheper. When it is planting time, there will be new things blooming in these gardens. Thanks to all of you!

JAMES A. RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

1402 Highland Avenue

Friday—10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday—10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday—Noon to 5:00 PM

MUSEUM UPDATE

Our Moment of Glory in the Civil War, Revised Edition, by Chester F. Geaslen, has been expanded for a new generation of readers with the support and encouragement of the Geaslen family, with additional and updated information about the defensive fortifications and role of Northern Kentucky during the Civil War. The 104 page book includes a new biographical tribute to Chester F. Geaslen; expanded data on the fortification system; the famed Black Brigade of Cincinnati and their role in the defenses and construction of the fortifications; and biographies of important participants in our own homeland security crisis of 1862! The original book by Mr. Geaslen remains intact while maps and images from the National Archives in Washington D.C. update its look! The book is on sale for \$20 at the Museum or City Building and all proceeds benefit the City's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum.

Fern Storer Cookbooks Available by calling the City at 331-1700. This piece of Fort Wright history is available for \$19.95 and all proceeds benefit the Museum exhibits and displays. This book is also on sale at the Museum or City Building.

Museum Visitor Count exceeded 6,000 at the end of March since the Museum's opening June 30, 2005.

"The Lookout House" is the newest display in the City History Room at the City's Museum at Battery Hooper Park! Many residents may remember the famed and often notorious Lookout House Supper Club on Dixie Highway that was located on the present day site of the Lookout Corporate Center! The original Lookout House was constructed some time in the mid to late 1800's and was renovated numerous times until its fiery demise in 1971. Come visit the Museum and read about the Lookout Club's reported connections to organized crime! One photo donated by Nancy Oelsner Baute is dated around 1895 and includes several individuals, some identified, and one on horseback, standing in front of the Lookout House! A great deal of credit also goes to Fort Wright's own "History Detective", aka Kathleen Romero of Ridgemont Drive and a Museum Board Member, who has a great talent for "tracking down" many old photos and newspaper articles! Thanks also to Bob and Helen Zembrodt of Lorup Avenue for several old newspaper articles detailing the Lookout House's notorious past; Tom and Jeanne Dressman of Cloverfield Drive for a set of four drink glasses; Floyd and Eileen Hastings of Mount Vernon Drive for some swizzle sticks; Mr. and Mrs. Schlickman of Beaumont Court for a post card, matches, and poker chips; and Fred Caldwell of Reeves Drive for some original Lookout House menus! If YOU have any old photos from around Fort Wright that you believe would be of interest to other residents, and for possible display in the City's Museum, please call the City at 331-1700. All photos can easily be copied and originals returned to their owners!

RUBY TUESDAY'S COMING TO FORT WRIGHT!

Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant development plans have been approved and they plan to start construction of their newest store at the corner of Orphanage Road and Valley Plaza Parkway in the next few weeks! They will be located on the vacant lot behind Frisch's on KY 17 and next to Tire Discounters. They plan to open some time in the fall of 2007!

MULCH

The Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. still has mulch available for sale, if you missed the deadline. You can drop off an order with payment at the Fort Wright City Building. A 2.0 cubic foot bag is \$3.50 and will be delivered on April 14th.

Thank you for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS TO POLICE SERGEANT MICHAEL KNIGHT!

On March 7, 2007, Fort Wright Police Detective Michael Knight was appointed a Police Sergeant. He achieved the highest score in a competitive promotion process. The process included a written examination developed and administered by Professor Wright from the University of Cincinnati for the Fort Wright Police Department; a peer review assessment; and an oral interview assessment by three police administrators outside the City's Police Department.

Two other Fort Wright Police Officers participated in the process. Specialist Marc Schworer and Officer George Kreutzjans. They are to be congratulated for making it a very competitive process!

Sergeant Knight joined the Fort Wright Police Department January 27, 1997. In 1999, Michael was presented the Northern Kentucky Police Chief's Association's Police Officer of the Year Award, and in 2006 was a nominee once again! In 2002, he was named the first Greater Cincinnati Crime Stoppers Police Officer of the Year. He has worked as a Patrolman, DARE Officer, Detective, Evidence Room Manager, and Public Information Officer. Sergeant Knight was also responsible for the Senior Watch Program for several years, increasing its membership significantly. He improved and added services to assist our senior citizens, including distributing carbon monoxide/smoke detectors, beacon lights, and distributing gift packages on several holidays throughout the year. He coordinated the Senior Crime College with the Kentucky Attorney General's Office, which had the largest attendance ever for the program.

He has been assigned as the Police Department's Detective since July 1, 2003, working most of the felony investigations in the City. He has been instrumental in solving some very serious crimes in Fort Wright; and is working currently on an investigation of serial robberies of fast food restaurants throughout the tri-state area.

Detective Knight was one of the primary investigators on the "blue-eyed rapist" case, and was the officer who first identified the suspect as a serial rapist. He helped form the Investigation Group that included local investigators from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, state investigators and the FBI. The suspect was subsequently arrested and charged with several sexual assaults and robberies in Fort Wright and other communities in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, both on state and federal charges.

Again, congratulations to new Sergeant Michael Knight and thank you to his wife Laura and their children for supporting him and putting up with his frequent calls into work at all hours!
