



Top of the Hill News

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

TAKE NOTICE: HIGHLAND PIKE SPEED LIMIT REDUCED!!

The City of Fort Wright for several years petitioned the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to reduce the speed limit on Highland Pike from 55 MPH to 45 MPH between Werner Drive and Reeves Drive. In late April the state highway department reduced the speed limit in that area and posted new signs to that effect.

The speed limit from Dixie Highway to Werner Drive remains 35 MPH, the speed limit from Werner Drive east to KY 17 (Madison Pike) is 45 MPH.

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SAINT AGNES & VIDOT COURT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The FYE 2007/2008 annual budget of the City includes funding for the improvement of Saint Agnes Circle and Vidot Court. The improvements will include new curb, gutter, storm water improvements and pavement. It is also planned the Northern Kentucky Water District will replace the water main on both streets prior to street reconstruction, similar to the Saint Anthony and Marcella Drive road improvement project. In the past few years, several City streets are or will have been completely reconstructed, including Saint Anthony, Marcella, Kennedy, Lake, Barbara Circle, Hermitage Court, Montpelier, and Knob Hill.

KYLES LANE & HENRY CLAY TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPDATE

As you may have noticed, the house at the corner of West Henry Clay and Kyles Lane has been razed in preparation for the realignment of that street with East Henry Clay and a traffic signal to be installed by the state. At this time the project design is complete and has been approved by state highway officials, and it is ready to go to bid. The City is awaiting additional funding on the project from the state and it is expected to be completed in 2007.

GARDENS OF FORT WRIGHT TOUR

On Sunday, June 24, the Dirty Hands Garden Club will be hosting a "Gardens of Fort Wright" tour of a number of lovely gardens in the City of Fort Wright. The tour will feature hardscaping, decorative plantings, garden railways, shade plantings, music in the garden and more!

Time is 1 - 5 PM. Tickets will be available that day at 1808 Mt. Vernon Drive or 508 Bunker Court. Maps will be provided, along with light refreshments.

Master Gardeners will be available to answer any of your questions about gardening in Fort Wright.

The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

**YOUTH FOOTBALL
SIGN UP**

Bengal Tiger Youth
Football Organization

Call 541 TDTD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to...



City Clerk
Joyce Woods
June 26th

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS

At the regular meeting of Fort Wright City Council on May 2, 2007, Ms. Julia Hurst and Ms. Jennifer Keating were appointed to the Fort Wright Parks and Recreation Board, by Executive Orders 6-07 and 7-07 respectively! They replace Jeanne Lenhof and Tammy Eckerle whose terms expired at the end of 2006. Thank you Julia and Jennifer for your willingness to serve your community, and to Jeanne and Tammy for a great job in making Fort Wright a fun place to live! Thanks also to Tom Eckerle who also served through the end of 2006! Julia and Jennifer join Parks and Recreation Board Chair Floyd Hastings.

**DIOCESAN CATHOLIC
CHILDREN'S HOME
SUMMER FESTIVAL**

Friday, June 8, 6-11 PM
Saturday, June 9, 4-11 PM
Sunday, June 10, 4-10 PM

FOUND!

A small hand-held
Walkie-talkie in Fort Henry
neighborhood last year
around Halloween.
Yours? Please call Tom
Jacobson at 331-3710.

THANK YOU MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS!

The Museum Board of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum hosted a special "Museum Volunteers Appreciation" event on April 27th! Several Volunteers were honored with door prizes for the enormous number of hours they have spent as docents at the Museum in the past year! Top Museum Volunteers were John Johanneman who logged 165.5 hours; James Rader with 159.5 hours, and Dan Houston with 120.5 hours! Other Museum Volunteers donated a total of 2,092 hours in the past year!

They are: Gordon Blitch; Randy Burnett; Cristin Crabb; Paul Dennis; Dan DiOrio; Kittie Dupps; Bill Dupps; David Eickhoff; Mike Gerst; Larry Gollahon; Caitlin Grothaus; Dick Haughaboo; Scott Hiltibrand; Linda Hornsby; Katie Hushabeck; Julie Langenderfer; Pat Logan; Rob Long; George Lude; Patty Maryan; Richard McCormick; Tim Pieper; Rick Raabe; Ed Schneider; Wally Smith; Roger Von Strohe; Cindy Weisenberger; Alan Weiss; and Bud Zeeks.

All these Volunteer hours are in addition to countless hours spent by the Museum Board, chaired by Bob Clements, with Members Alvin Bartlett, J. D. Carruthers, Mary DeSalvo, Chad Kinsella, Jeannine Kreinbrink, Kathy Romero, Jim Ramage, Larry Schell, Arden Steffen, Bethany Sterling, and Margaret Weaver, in developing exhibits and programs, and planning and carrying out other events at the Museum!

VISION COMMITTEE RELEASES DRAFT YEAR 6 PLAN

The following is a draft of the Vision Committee's Year 6 Plan for the City's Long Range Plan. These projects and ideas are based on input from residents, City Council, the Vision Committee, and City staff, as well as prior year projects still in progress. The final Year 6 Plan will be presented to City Council for consideration and adoption later in the summer. Please let the Vision Committee Members or City know what you think about this Plan by writing to the City building at 409 Kyles Lane, Fort Wright, Kentucky, or by emailing to lklein@fortwright.com by June 15th. The Vision Committee is chaired by Tom Jacober and includes Members Ann Flood, Eileen Hastings, Tom Litzler, Chuck McHale, Joe Michels, Roger Schroder, Margie Witt, and City Council Member Adam Feinauer.

- 1) Master Plan for KY 17 Development (South of I-275)
Recommendation: To Complete in 2007
- 2) Manage Traffic Flows
 - * Realignment and Signalization of Kyles Lane and Henry Clay Avenues
Recommendation: To complete in 2007
 - * Kyles to Farrell Drive Road Improvements
Recommendation: Get Project on KYTC 6 Year Plan
 - * Dixie Fix Plan
Recommendation: Initiate Dixie Fix Recommendation at Kuchle Property
Redevelopment and George Huser Drive
 - * Extension of KY 1072 (Highland Pike) into Fidelity Investment Campus
Recommendation: Monitor Traffic Impact
 - * Amsterdam Road Improvement Funding
Recommendation: Get on KYTC Unscheduled Projects List
- 3) Signature Park
 - * Phase I Plan
Recommendation: Complete and Implement for 2007
 - * Phase II - Improve Pedestrian Access
Recommendation: Implement Community of Faith Church to Park and Park to
Swim Club Segments of Trail System
Recommendation: Make Pedestrian Connection from Swim Club to South Hills
Civic Club
- 4) Active/Passive Recreational Opportunities
 - * Pedestrian Trail Connections between new TANK Park 'n' Ride and Sanitation
District Public Service Park and Speedway, and Develop Soccer Fields in
Vicinity of Fidelity Road
Recommendation: Acquire Property and Develop Plan in 2007/2008
 - * Continue to pursue BP site for Soccer Fields
Recommendation: Seek Commitment from BP to Concept of Soccer Fields
- 5) Promote City Image
 - * Website
Recommendation: Solicit Volunteer to Maintain City Website
NOTE: Leslie Cain of East Crittenden Avenue has generously volunteered!
- 6) South Hills Civic Club Exterior Improvements
 - * Recommendation: Complete South Hills Civic Club Exterior Improvements
- 7) Rejuvenate Parks and Recreation Board
 - * Recommendation: Achieve Parks and Recreation Board that Represents Demographics of City
 - * Recommendation: Work on "Community Center" Ideas with public facilities in City, including
Civic Clubs, and partner with them.
 - * Recommendation: Define Interests in City of Fort Wright

THANK YOU FOR FIXING UP THE GARDENS!

A big thanks to the folks of our own Dirty Hands Garden Club for all the work they have been doing to put our City Garden in good condition for the summer. Those who have been seen "getting their hands dirty" include: Nick and Cyrilla Brake, Jane Fangman, Betty Goetz, Floyd and Eileen Hastings, Jennifer Keating, Bob and Joy Kress, Norma Rolf, Mary Lee Scheper, and Harry Schwabe.

If you haven't enjoyed the City's gardens recently, give them a look soon, especially the circular garden cut into the hill by the City driveway (enjoy the waterfall on a hot day!). This garden includes plants to smell (flowers and leaves), touch (some are furry or silky), or listen to (as leaves rustle on a breezy day) as well as look at.

We are still at work here but it looks good already.

MUSEUM NEWS

School Tours in April and May included 50 fifth graders from Fort Wright Elementary and 70 fifth graders from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Hebron along with teachers and adult chaperones. Many thanks to Museum Board Member Kathy Romero for scheduling these tours, who, along with Museum Board Member Mary DeSalvo and Volunteer Tim Pieper, made their visit even more special in period dress! Other Museum Volunteers who helped guide the tours were Dan DiOrio, Pat Logan, and Gordon Blich.

"Saving Cincinnati! Summer 1862" Mr. James Kyle Hill, a senior at Beechwood High School in Fort Mitchell, chose the City's Museum as the back drop for his production "Saving Cincinnati! Summer 1862" for his entry into a national competition program, "Saving Our History". Mr. Hill's ten minute video production told the story of the Siege of Cincinnati in 1862 during the Civil War, wherein Northern Kentucky, and modern day Fort Wright, played an integral part. The "Saving Our History" project solicits untold or forgotten chapters of American history. If his project is chosen, a full fledged documentary will be produced. Mr. Hill is to be commended for his initiative and great work, and spotlight on Fort Wright! He is the son of Jeannine and Casey Hill of Iris Road in Fort Mitchell. "Saving Cincinnati!" has been aired several times on Channel 15 and has been used by at least three local elementary schools in their lesson plan on American history for fifth grade students.

Trails at Battery Hooper Park. It was Alex Schneider Day in Fort Wright, on May 14th, as declared in a Mayor's Proclamation for this Eagle Scout candidate, for his recent project on April 21st at Battery Hooper Park, by clearing 1600' of brush and small trees along a future pedestrian trail in the wooded area of the Park between the Museum and the Blue Grass Swim Club. Alex and company, about 25 in all, also coordinated all the volunteers, material and equipment needed for this project. He is a member of Troop 18 from Rossmoyne, Ohio, and a student at Moeller High School. He learned of our Park and Museum in the newspaper about two months ago, and initiated contact with the City about the project. A note of appreciation also to the Blue Grass Swim Club for allowing Alex and his Volunteers to use their parking lot as a staging area for the day! Also, a Boy Scout Troop from Florence, led by Museum Volunteer George Lude, has been busy clearing and mulching a trail from the Community of Faith Church to join the entire Park trail system. It won't be long before residents can enjoy a scenic, healthy, and enjoyable walk through Battery Hooper Park!

Summer Safety Tips

Sun Safety

- Avoid sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating
- Use a sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or greater
- Look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of ultraviolet rays
- Wear a hat with a 3 inch brim or a bill facing forward

Mowing Safety

- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones and toys by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins
- Children should not be allowed to ride as passengers on a riding mower
- Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing

Water Safety

- Children should wear life jackets at all times when on boats or near bodies of water
- It should always be worn as instructed with all straps belted
- The jacket should not be loose
- Blow up water wings, toys, rafts and air mattresses should never be used as life jackets or life preservers
- Adults should wear life jackets for their own safety and to set a good example

Grilling Safety

- Check for gas leaks, following the manufacturer's instructions, if you smell gas or when you reconnect the grill to the LP gas container.
- Check tubes leading into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease
- Make sure that there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing
- Replace scratched or nicked connectors which can eventually leak gas