

# Top of the Hill News

April 2006 Information for  
The Citizens of Fort Wright  
Editor: Eileen Hastings

## THANK YOU FORT WRIGHT POLICE DEPARTMENT

In last month's Top of the Hill newsletter, the City's elected and appointed officials, employees and Volunteers were all acknowledged by name and position, department, Board. However, the names of the Fort Wright Police Department were erroneously omitted! With our sincere apologies, the Members of the Fort Wright Police Department are recognized as follows and greatly appreciated:

Chief of Police Dan Kreinest	Sergeant Dean Russell
Sergeant Randy Newsom	Specialist Marc Schworer
Detective Michael Knight	Patrol Officer Mark Spanyer
Patrol Officer Andy Vonderhaar	Patrol Officer Danny Martin
Patrol Officer Travis Brown	Patrol Officer George Kreutzjans
Patrol Officer John Mairose	

Thank you Fort Wright Police Department for a job well done!

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## SENIOR GAMES OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Senior Games are for everyone in Northern Kentucky who is 50 and older. Events include: bowling, golf, tennis, fishing, horseshoes, basketball, shuffleboard, cornhole, bocce ball, disc golf, billiards, track and field competitions and more. Registration fee of \$15 covers all events, including t-shirt and medals for top three winners in all age groups. Games are scheduled from May 16 - May 22 and held in various locations in Northern Kentucky. For more information and to get a registration form, contact Northern Kentucky Senior Games at NKADD at (859) 283-1885.

## THANKS ADOPT-A-MILITARY-UNIT DONORS!

Once again Fort Wright has come through for our adopted Military unit, the Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, of the 101st Airborne (Air Assault), also known as the Iron Rakkasans! This 210 member unit is commanded by Captain Robert William Phillips and is currently deployed in Iraq and prior to that was assigned to Afghanistan. Thanks go out once again to Saint Agnes Parish ad organizers Tom Jacober and Allen White. Also thanks to Margie Witt of Bunker Court and her friends who helped out this month, as well as to John Graham of General Drive; Mr. And Mrs. Lee Stauber of Kyles Lane; Mr. Frank Henn of Olivia Lane; Sue and Bill Osterhage of Rivard Drive; Helen and Bob Zembrodt of Lorup Avenue; Debbie Dorning; Carolyn and Tom Eickhoff of Morris Road; and Mitzie O'Neill of East Henry Clay Avenue!

## SAVE THE DATE REMINDER: AUGUST 19 AND 20!

Save the weekend of August 19th and 20th! The Fort Wright Parks and Recreation Board and the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board are sponsoring a very special event for these two days at the Battery Hooper Park on Highland Avenue! Come for music, reenactors, an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, and more!

## SPRING REMINDER: KEEP THOSE SHRUBS AND TREES CLEARED!

As Spring is around the corner, when those shrubs and trees begin to grow again, please take care to keep them trimmed back from public sidewalk areas so pedestrians have safe and convenient passage. Also, please help to keep any trees and shrubs trimmed back from public street sign such as speed limit signs, no parking signs, street identification signs, etc. So motorists can have clear visibility. This is a great help to our Public Works Department!

## SEX OFFENDER LINK ON CITY WEBSITE

There is a link on the City of Fort Wright's website, [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com), to the Kentucky State Police Sex/Criminal Offender Registry website if residents want to inquire as to the identity and location of registered sex offenders. At the City's website, go to "Police", then to "Links". The Kentucky State Police website is searchable by last name, city, county, and zip code.

## 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 2006. They have requested our assistance in providing the schedule to residents in advance of the testing dates.

City of Fort Wright's hydrants will be tested during the following weeks for 2006.

April 24th - April 28th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

&

August 28th - September 1st from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

A reminder note will be sent in the August newsletter.

## FERN STORER COOKBOOK SALES BENEFIT CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

The late Fern Storer, 60 year Fort Wright resident and Kentucky Post Food Editor for many years, whose 17 acre estate on Highland Avenue was acquired by the City in 2003 as a future park, was also the author of a cookbook, Recipes Remembered: A Collection of Modernized Nostalgia, first printed in 1989. This hometown treasure is now available to you as a great gift or collector's item by completing the Order Form below and remitting to the City. All proceeds from these sales go to benefit the exhibits and displays at the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, which is located in the former Storer home. Recipes Remembered is 315 pages of great recipes with a Fort Wright flavor! Order this piece of Fort Wright history and fame now as a great gift for family, friends, neighbors, and yourself!

### Recipes Remembered: A Collection of Modernized Nostalgia (1st Printing - June 1989)

315 pages

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cook Book (\$19.95 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Qty. \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cook Book Total

Will pick up at City Building \_\_\_\_\_

Will pick up at Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Priority Shipping \$ 4.75 for up to 2 books

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Media/Book Rate \$ 2.26 for up to 2 books

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra shipping: \$1.50 per book x \_\_\_\_\_ books

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **City of Fort Wright**

Mail To: City of Fort Wright, 409 Kyles Lane, Fort Wright, Kentucky 41011

## CIVIL WAR MUSEUM NEWS

On Friday February 10th, the City's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum hosted a very special group of visitors from the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Cincinnati. Approximately 20 outpatients from the VA Hospital visited, led by Activity Director Pat Nagel who read about the Museum and called to schedule a group visit. In addition, thanks to several employees (Marc Schworer, Tim Maloney, Joyce Woods, Dan Kreinest, Nick Zumdick, Jeff Bethell, Randy Newsome, Jennifer Lipson, Steve Schewe, and Larry Klein) a catered lunch of hot roast beef and all the trimmings from Chef Barone's was provided for them at the South Hills Civic Club after their tour. Museum Board Member Kathy Romero was present to help as well and to take photographs of this special event!

The Veterans were joined by 10 third and fourth grade members of Troop 773 from Fort Wright Elementary School and their Principal Margaret Hoffmann. Mr. Mark Habig, a resident and Treasurer of Troop 773, also helped organize the Scouts' visit. The Veterans and Scouts greatly enjoyed each others company, as the photograph reflects. It was quite an honor for our City and our employees to extend our appreciation and hospitality to these Veterans!



JAMES A. RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM  
1402 Highland Avenue  
344-1145

Fridays - Mondays: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Closed Holidays

For more information on the Museum, visit the City's website at [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com).  
For information on Group Tours or How to Become a Museum Volunteer, call 331-1700.

## REMINDER FOR VETERAN'S 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' Memorail, located in 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 of our annual Memorial Day service.

## NATURE CENTER CLEAN UP

The Nature Center Board has set April 1 as the date for the spring clean up. We will clean up the creek, add mulch to trails, and plant where appropriate. We need everyone who uses the Nature Center to bring gloves and boots, and a shovel if you have it. Meet at the parking lot at 10:00 AM. Hot chocolate provided by the Boy Scouts!

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**  
April 8th  
Jeff Bethell  
Public Works

April 10th  
Chuck Rice  
Part Time Firefighter/EMT

April 14th  
Tim Maloney  
Pubic Works Director

April 20th  
Larry Klein  
City Administrator

**PLANT SWAP AND SALE**  
Coming Saturday May 6

City Building 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Bring in your perennials to swap for  
"Dirty Bucks" to spend on other perennials  
On Friday from 5:30 - 8:00 PM or  
Saturday 9:00 AM



Also available - some annuals for cash  
Questions?

Call Eileen Hastings at 331-7087



## **CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY MINORS PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY**

By: Garry Edmondson, Kenton County Attorney

As the weather improves, students begin making plans for prom, graduation and other celebrations. As plans for these events begin to unfold, it is important to remind parents and students of the legal ramifications involved with underage drinking. At the request of several principals, I am providing this information for you.

Under Kentucky law, you **must be twenty-one years of age** in order to **purchase or consume** alcohol. We are very aware if underage individuals drinking alcohol at parties at friends' homes or other locations where a parent or an adult knows that the consumption is occurring and sadly sometimes even encourages this irresponsible activity. **The law does not discriminate against location: it is illegal for minors (less than 21 years of age) to drink alcohol anywhere.** Even if an adult (including parents) approves, **it remains illegal for a minor to consume alcohol.**

It is a criminal offense to permit underage drinking on private or public property if the parent knew or should have known about the drinking. Penalties for this offense can range from a \$250 fine per violation to a \$500 fine and/or 12 months in jail. My office will prosecute parents or adults who facilitate a minor's consumption of alcohol, seeking the maximum punishments the law provides.

In addition to the criminal ramifications, parents are subject to severe civil suits in case of personal injury or property damage due to minors consuming alcohol on their property.

I know it is tempting and may be somewhat traditional in some families to host a party for a high school senior and allow minors to consume alcohol, but the risk of injury or death to the students or other citizens is not worth it.

**Let me reiterate: my office will prosecute any violation of Kentucky law or city ordinances concerning this problem.**

## ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

The City's annual audit report for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, was formally accepted by City Council at their regular meeting on February 1st. Mr. Jim Sparrow, of the Fort Wright public accounting firm, Rankin and Rankin CPA's, presented the annual audit, which is required by state law and must be performed by an independent public accounting firm. Inside this Newsletter are two (2) pages from the audit which detail the City's "governmental funds" revenue and expenses by department for the year. The other page details "proprietary funds" revenue and expenses, which include the City's residential waste collection fee and expenses, and sanitary sewer repayment fund. Also inserted is an easier-to-read pie chart with categorized descriptions of the City's revenues and expenditures for all City funds combined. In addition, the "Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget" narrative from the audit further explains the City's financial condition.

### **CURRENT FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET** (from Annual Audit for FYE 2004/2005)

Current and anticipated development in the City in the next twelve months and over the next several years will provide additional revenue but will also further tax our ability to deliver high-quality services, especially in the area of emergency services and snow removal, as calls for service will increase with development in the City's commercial corridors. Payroll and business-related tax revenue in the current budget are increasing as a result of that recent commercial development, which will fund those future cost increases to ensure the delivery of high-quality services. Further, and perhaps most importantly, increased revenues from commercial development must result in additional benefits for residents beyond the maintenance of these current services which residents enjoy, such as, but not limited to: a more aggressive street infrastructure repair program; new or expanded services; parks and recreation facilities and programs; increasing reserve funds; reduced taxes; or any combination thereof. As a recent example of these increased revenues and service demands, the next budget (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) includes one (1) additional full-time Firefighter/EMT to maintain a high-quality emergency service; and the acquisition of an additional two-ton truck and equipment to maintain our high-quality level of snow and ice removal service.

The trend of rising operating costs, especially that of competitive personnel-related compensation, and general liability insurance, are a challenge to meet in order to maintain the high level of services our citizens have come to expect. The City has maintained a competitive personnel compensation system due in large part to annual revisions to employee health insurance benefits to maximize taxpayer dollars. All City departments are constantly vigilant to costs, and opportunities to reduce them, as well as opportunities for supplemental funding sources, all with the intent of maximizing taxpayer dollars. The City has continued to work cooperatively with other communities, especially in the area of emergency medical services, wherein costs can be shared with those communities and with no reduction in the level of service to our residents.

The City continues to pursue its long term plan as defined by the Vision Committee and as adopted by City Council. In the next budget, the City's annual street program will resume in full

## **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET - Continued**

after a two-year period during which those funds had to be diverted to complete storm water improvements as a result of the Kentucky Division of Water's Notice of Violation to the City, received in December 2000. Due to increased revenues from commercial development in the City, additional funds can be committed toward a more aggressive street repair program in future budgets. In addition to an increased infrastructure program, the acquisition of park property in 2003 and its development to date, which includes a Civil War Museum, public involvement in archaeological excavations, public parking and vehicular and pedestrian access, is helping the City to realize its goals in the long term plan and the City's Vision Statement.

In summary, the City of Fort Wright enjoys a very high level of professional services, excellent facilities, vehicles and other equipment, and ist importantly, a well-trained, experienced, and committed workforce, as well as host of similarly qualified and dedicated Volunteers in the Fire/EMS Department, Nature Center Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Garden Club, and Museum Board and Volunteers, and all at comparatively low tax rates. Further, the City's future is promising in terms of continued economic development and its consequent ability to maintain high-quality services and programs for its residents provide that a balance can be struck between increased revenues and increased service demands.

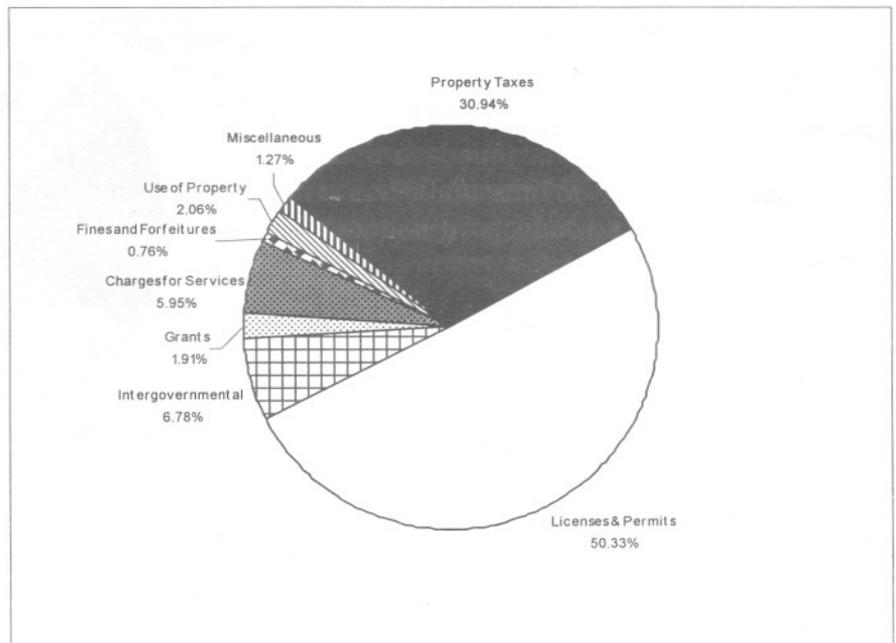
## ALL CITY FUNDS' REVENUES

The table and pie chart below represent the City's revenue received in the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, for all City funds: General Fund; Capital Fund; Municipal Road Aid Fund; Fire/EMS Fund; Asset Forfeiture Fund; and Sanitary Sewer Repayment Fund.

"Property Taxes" include taxes on all real property, residential, commercial, and residential, in the City; personal property such as business equipment and inventory; automobiles; and bank deposits. These are called "ad valorem" taxes, meaning that the tax is based on the value of the property, which is determined by the Kenton County Property Valuation Administrator, a state office. The City sets the tax rate on each of these classes of taxable property. "Licenses and Permits" includes business licenses; alcoholic beverage licenses; payroll taxes withheld from employees who work for businesses, schools, or government agencies in the City; and taxes on the gross receipts of businesses; and tax on the premiums of insurance policies on automobiles and property in the City. "Intergovernmental" includes any funds received from other government agencies such as the state or federal government, such as the incentive pay from the state for police officers and firefighters of \$3,100 per year per person; municipal road aid funds from the state gasoline tax (\$85,000); and a fixed annual portion of state citations written by the Police Department (\$15,000). "Grants" include grants received from state, federal, or private sources, such as the \$45,000 Homeland Security grant the City received for an emergency building generator that will keep the City building and equipment in operation during a power outage. "Charges for Services" includes Board of Adjustment hearing fees and special detail income for police services for dances, athletic events, etc; residential waste collection fees; and Kenton Vale and Park Hills' fee amounts for contracted emergency medical services. "Fines and Forfeitures" includes parking citations, false alarm fees, and penalty and interest payments on taxes paid after the due date. "Use of Property" includes interest earned on City funds in bank accounts and use of City property as polling places for elections (\$50 per location per election). For example, in the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, the City received interest earnings of \$65,170 on all City deposits. "Miscellaneous" includes sale of surplus City property such as police vehicles retired from service and City newsletter advertisement income.

### Revenues

Property Taxes	977,490
Licenses and Permits	1,589,958
Intergovernmental	214,278
Grants	60,391
Charges for Services	187,872
Fines and Forfeitures	23,874
Use of Property	65,170
Miscellaneous	40,220
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>3,159,253</b>



## ALL CITY FUNDS' EXPENDITURES

The table and pie chart below represent the City's **expenditures** for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. "General Government" includes salaries of Mayor and Council, City Administrator, City Clerk, and two Assistant City Clerks, and associated benefits. Also included is City general liability insurance; worker's compensation; independent annual audit (\$9,500); property assessment roll service (\$21,000); legal services; bookkeeping services; legal advertising; printing; and office supplies. "Police" includes all salaries, wages, and benefits for police officers; vehicle and general liability insurance; fuel (\$22,000); maintenance and repair of equipment and vehicles; uniforms; vehicle washing; training and education; and radio maintenance. "Fire/EMS" includes salaries, wages, and benefits for all full and part time firefighters and EMT's and incentive pay for Volunteer Members; repair and maintenance of equipment; fuel; pagers; training and education; ambulance supplies; uniforms; community education; fire hydrant repair; vehicle and general liability insurance. "Public Works" includes salaries, wages, and benefits of employees and vehicle and general liability insurance; fuel, maintenance and repair of equipment and vehicles; salt; snow removal equipment and maintenance; residential waste collection; professional engineering services; street sweeping; and radio maintenance. "Capital Outlay" includes purchase of new or replacement police, fire, and public works vehicles or equipment; computers, etc. "Easements" include payments the City made for the legal right to use private property for a public purpose, such as a storm sewer. "Plant" includes those items not necessarily allocable to each department such as Internet service; water and sanitation; gas and electric for City facilities, and traffic and street lights; property and contents insurance; animal control services paid to Kenton County; lawn mowing; postage; City newsletter printing and mailing expense; and Parks and Recreation Board events. "Principal" and "Interest" are payments made for debt service on the City building, fire truck, and park property.

### Expenditures

General Government	361,912
Police	985,548
Fire/EMS	445,116
Public Works	468,505
Capital Outlay	115,678
Easements	8,150
Plant	112,904
Principal	160,384
Interest	40,902
<b><u>Total Expenditures</u></b>	<b>2,699,099</b>

