

SUMMER HOURS
For City Offices
June July August
Monday—Friday
7:30 AM—5:00 PM

Top of the Hill News

Information for The Citizens of Fort Wright
August 2006 Eileen Hastings Editor

BATTERY HOOPER DAYS AUGUST 19 & 20!

Be sure to visit Battery Hooper Park on Highland Avenue on August 19th and 20th for Battery Hooper Days! This two-day event will include Civil War reenactors, living history actors portraying Abraham Lincoln, John Hunt Morgan, Harriet Tubman, and Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Foster who will perform and interact with visitors! Other events include musical performances by our own Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers, the Sons of Dixie Barbershop Chorus singing period music, and the Dixie Drama DoLoTTas from Dixie Heights High School directed by Priscilla Roberts. This ensemble will sing Shenandoah and other Civil War period songs! There will also be food and drinks, homemade ice cream, and games for children and adults! See Schedule of Events flyer inside for more information!

INSIDE
Hydrant Testing

Street Repairs

BP Oil Site

Lookout House Photos
Needed

Hazardous Waste
Disposal

FORM DISTRICTS COMING TO FORT WRIGHT!

It started several years ago with a proposal to develop a new Wal-Mart Super Center on Madison Pike. It developed with the recommendation of the Fort Wright Vision Committee and subsequent adoption by Fort Wright City Council in 2003 to have a Development Plan for the Madison Pike corridor. It continued through public input and Steering Committee meetings and the development of the Madison Pike Land Use and Economic Development Study by Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC) staff for the City of Fort Wright in 2004. It took another step after a public hearing on April 6, 2006, and when the Kenton County Planning Commission voted on April 19, 2006 to recommend approval of Northern Kentucky's first form (zoning) district to the Fort Wright City Council. After another public hearing conducted by Fort Wright City Council on June 7, the rezoning of approximately 200 acres on both sides of Madison Pike from I-275 north to Howard Litzler Drive from a variety of residential, industrial and commercial zones, to Town Center Form District (TCFD), was finalized with approval at the July 5th City Council meeting.

"Our study had two main goals," said Keith Logsdon, AICP, Deputy Director for Long Range Planning at NKAPC, the agency that worked with the City to develop the regulations. "The first was completion of a market study by outside consultants (Gem Public Sector Services of Dayton, Ohio). The second was a corridor development plan intended to build on Wal-Mart's synergy in accordance with the findings of the market study." While traditional zoning focuses on uses and intensity, form-based zoning adds outward appearance to the mix to bring about aesthetics the City believes to be in its best long term interest including building design and planned outdoor amenities (plazas, outdoor dining, etc.) to help create an attractive built environment. These elements intentionally create a place to be rather than just a shopping destination. "The City began this process with provisions it required of Wal-Mart. It's now expanding on that success with regulations and design and transportation standards that will create the environment and appearance it wants throughout the corridor," said Logsdon. "We want people to come and stay awhile (in the district) instead of just shopping and leaving. The market study completed in 2004 showed that there is more room in the area for businesses to

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Form District—continued succeed in proximity to the Wal-Mart Super Center. “Not every business will do well there,” said Logsdon. “especially if it’s a business where the same products can be found cheaper at Wal-Mart, but there is room for different businesses and more specialty shops.” In Kentucky, form-based codes are used in Louisville and Jefferson County, and elsewhere in Florida, California, Illinois, North Carolina and Virginia. The text of the Fort Wright TCFD form district regulations can be found on the NKAPC website at www.nkapc.org/fort-wright.html, and an example of a form district development is included above and next page top.

CITY WANTS YOUR IDEAS ABOUT BP OIL SITE

The City is looking for suggestions from residents on how the former BP Oil refinery site on Howard Litzler Drive in Fort Wright might be used for active or passive recreational uses, given the constraints it has as a brownfield site. The approximately 38 acre site, which lies on both sides of Howard Litzler Drive and abuts the CSX Railroad and the Banklick Creek, was an oil refinery (Sohio) for many decades. All refinery structures and facilities were removed in the 1990’s by BP and a cleanup using federal EPA funds was begun. As a result, there is a permanent liner approximately 4’ beneath the surface of the ground. BP has been conducting monthly air, ground, and water tests at the site since then, and all signs are that the site is safe. BP is currently discussing with the Kentucky Division of Water, which monitors the site, how some types of public uses on the property might develop. While BP would remain the property owner, they have asked the City to consider any potential recreational uses on the site that the City would facilitate, given the constraints of the underground liner which preclude any extensive excavation or filling. Some suggested uses have been: walking and biking trails; soccer fields; Frisbee golf; miniature golf; picnic shelters. The Fort Wright Vision Committee has discussed the site several times as part of their annual Long Range Plan development and even visited the site to evaluate the potential for active and/or passive recreational uses. If you have any suggestions or ideas, the City would like to hear from you. Please contact City Administrator Larry Klein at 331-1700 or by email at lklein@fortwright.com, or any Vision Committee Member: Council Member Matt Barker; Ann Flood; Eileen Hastings; Tom Jacober; Tom Litzler; Joe Michels; or Roger Schroder.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

If you have Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) items to dispose of, such as old paint, solvents, motor oil, anti-freeze, car batteries, products with freon, insecticides, and household cleaning products, CALL the HHW hotline at 341-4151 OR go to www.NKYHEALTH.org for more information.



EXTENSION OF HIGHLAND PIKE PROJECT TO FIDELITY BEGINS

The extension of Highland Pike (KY 1072) to the Fidelity Investments campus in Covington has begun. Hicon, LLC, a Bardstown, Kentucky road contractor, was awarded the bid of approximately \$14 million by the state last month to begin construction of this four-lane road with two bridges, one over Banklick Creek and the other over the CSX Railroad. The road is expected to open in December 2007. Several residents had inquired about the large pile-driving equipment near the Speedway gas station on KY 17. This equipment is currently driving large steel beams into the ground as part of the bridge construction over the Banklick Creek. Other elements of the project have also begun as many trees were cleared out across the creek where dirt is now being hauled in and compacted to make way for the bridge abutments on the other side of the Banklick Creek. Once this road is completed, TANK's new 200 parking space Park 'N' Ride will also have access to this new road so that buses and riders will be able to have quick and easy access to a traffic signal from the TANK facility and the Park 'N' Ride lot.

SUMMER REMINDER—KEEP THOSE SHRUBS AND TREES CLEARED!

As the summer months proceed, please help our Public Works Department by trimming back any trees or shrubs from streets and sidewalks on your property so that stop signs, speed limit signs and other safety signage, is visible to motorists and pedestrians; and please keep sidewalks clear so walkers can safely pass.

THANKS ADOPT-A-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 and organizers Tom Jacober and Allen White. Also thanks to Nick and Cyrilla Brake, who are regular supporters, for their most recent contributions, and to Larry and Mary Schrand!

BOAT AND CAMPER PARKING

With warm weather and summer time activities here now, please remember that City zoning ordinances require boats, campers, trailers, etc. to be parked behind the rear corner of the property owner's house, and must also be parked on a paved surface. Please contact the City at 331-1700 if there are any questions about these regulations.

YARD OF THE MONTH

It's time for Yard of the Month awards again this month. The "Dirty Hands" Garden Club of Fort Wright awards these through the spring, summer and autumn months to whomever we believe has a good looking yard. We look at neatness, design, and care as well as color (all colorful flowers is not a requirement!)

The first winners this year are:

Joy and John Riche'

513 Montpelier

Congratulations, John and Joy!!

MUSEUM NEEDS OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF LOOKOUT HOUSE

If any Fort Wright residents, relatives, friends, or businesses, have old photographs from the Lookout House, a popular restaurant and night club in Fort Wright on Dixie Highway before it burned to the ground in the early 1970's, we would greatly appreciate a copy. The City is currently developing a display on the Lookout House for the History of the City of Fort Wright room at the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. Tom and Jeanne Dressman of Mount Vernon Drive have already contributed a set of original drink glasses from the Lookout House, which are now on display. All donors are acknowledged along with their contributions. If you have not yet had a chance to view the many old photographs of the City at the Museum, please make a visit soon and enjoy this pictorial history of the City. If you have photographs to share, please call City Administrator Larry Klein at (859) 331-1700, or Police Sergeant Dean Russell at (859) 331-2191.

HYDRANT TESTING NOTICE

Rusty Collinworth, 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.

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

August 28th—September 1st
From 8:00 AM—4:00 PM



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

With apologies from your editor
for missing July's Birthdays!

Sergeant Randy Newsom July 12

Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe July 20

Firefighter/EMT Justin Brinkman August 5

Officer John Mairose August 19

CONGRATULATIONS!

...to Assistant City Clerk
Jennifer Lipson
And her husband
on the birth of their daughter
Arielle
on June 1st.

All three of them are doing well.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES A. RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Since the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum opened to the public on June 30, 2005, there have been nearly 4,000 visitors from here and many other states and even countries such as Canada, Germany, and the Ukraine! The Museum is operated by a very talented and enthusiastic Board of twelve members: Alvin Bartlett, Sharon Blank, Vice-Chair Bob Clements, Mary DeSalvo, Dan Diorio, Chair Jeannine Kreinbrink, Dr. James A. Ramage, Kathleen Romero, Lawrence Schell, Arden Steffen, Bethany Sterling, and Margaret Weaver; and staffed by approximately 25 equally dedicated and enthusiastic Museum Volunteers! Many thanks to all of you for an outstanding year!

Covington Art Club—When the Covington Art Club and Ms. Mary Middleton visited the Museum on April 17th with thirteen other Members, they were so impressed they later sent a note of appreciation with a \$200 donation to the Museum! Thank you Covington Art Club and Mary Middleton for your support! This contribution will help to develop new exhibits and displays at the Museum!

Dirty Hands Garden Club of Fort Wright recently contributed \$150 to the Museum Board to help beautify the grounds with new flowers and mulch! The Garden Club also combined with the old South Hills Civic Club to contribute \$1,000 in plant materials and mulch, and all the labor to plant many shrubs and flowers around the Museum and grounds to prepare for its formal dedication on August 20, 2005. Thank you so much to all Dirty Hands Garden Club Members for your continued support and recognition!

Xavier University Professor Dr. Paul Simon led a workshop for 25 local high school social studies teachers on June 19th at the Museum to reinforce their teaching skills during the summer break using local history as background!

JAMES A RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

1402 Highland Avenue
344-1145

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

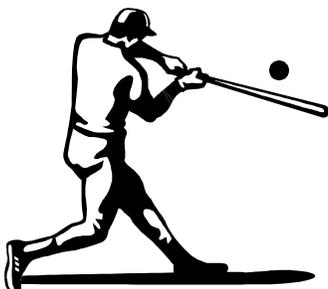
For more information on the Museum, visit the City's website at www.fortwright.com

For information on Group Tours or How to Become a Museum Volunteer, call 331-1700.

NIGHT AT FLORENCE FREEDOM RE-SCHEDULED

Since we had such a cold rainy night for the last Fort Wright Night at the Florence Freedom, we have re-scheduled and we are now doing our thing on

Friday, August 4



Tickets are available at the City building
Cost: Fort Wright residents \$5.00, non-residents \$7.00.
Come join your friends and neighbors for a fun evening.
There are things for everyone, especially the kids, to do.
Food and drinks available at less cost than at Great American Ballpark.

SAINT ANTHONY/MARCELLA DRIVE REPAIRS COMING

At their regular meeting on July 5, City Council accepted the lowest and best bid from Eaton Asphalt, in the amount of \$826,000, for the complete reconstruction of Saint Anthony and Marcella Drives. At the same meeting City Council accepted the low bid of \$304,000 for new water mains on both streets, which will be paid for by the Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD). The street reconstruction will include new curb, gutter, catch basins, and asphalt pavement, and replacement of existing sidewalks. NKWD will replace the water main lines on Saint Anthony and Marcella Drive in conjunction with the City's street repair project. This was done at the City's request since NKWD has higher than average breaks on water mains on those streets. This is done at *absolutely no cost whatsoever to Fort Wright taxpayers*. This joint project benefits residents of those streets, City taxpayers, and NKWD ratepayers. There is reduced disruption to water service due to breaks and subsequent repairs; unnecessary and unsightly cuts to newly-reconstructed streets to repair future breaks in water lines is eliminated; water discoloration from old water lines is eliminated; and water flow pressure is improved. (It is City policy to notify ALL utility companies at least one year in advance of street repairs so that utility repairs may occur before, or at the same time, to eliminate street cuts after street repairs have been made, and eliminate duplicated restoration work.)

With the completion of street repairs to Saint Anthony and Marcella Drives, the City's 5-year Street Program comes to an end, and in 2006 another list of streets to repair for the next five years will be developed by our City Engineer, and recommended to City Council for work over the next five years.

CITYWIDE DAILY TRASH PICKUP CONTINUES

For the past four years the City of Fort Wright has provided almost daily pickup of trash along the main thoroughfares of the City. With the assistance of a Volunteer from the Kenton County Detention Center; literally thousands of bags of trash, tires, and other debris are collected and removed from streets in the City each year! This program is made possible through the efforts of **Kenton County Jailer Terry Carl** as a way for communities to benefit from those incarcerated in the Kenton County Detention Center. All Volunteers have non-violent records and are carefully selected by the Detention Center before participating in this program. Volunteers in the past have also helped to paint and clean the interior of the City building; clean the South Hills Civic Club; shovel snow; paint over two hundred fire hydrants in the City; and numerous other duties very beneficial to the City. The City provides transportation and lunch and all City Departments help to coordinate the efforts of this Volunteer with supervision and transportation. Since January 1, 2006 alone, there have been 644 bags of trash collected!!! Please do your part as well to keep those residential areas litter free!

5K RUN/WALK: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24

Skyline Chili and the St. Agnes Boosters invite you to participate in the 4th annual Booster Boogie 3.1 mile run/walk on Sunday Sept. 24th at 4 PM. Pre-registration cost is \$10 or \$17 depending on age and includes a T-shirt, free food/drinks, prizes and awards to all top finishers in various age groups. Last year's race drew hundreds and we are encouraging all local residents to get involved. The Boosters of St. Agnes support hundreds of local young athletes in Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball and Soccer. They are responsible for maintenance of safety and well-being of each player by keeping fields and facilities in optimal condition. This fund raiser helps us reach that goal and encourages all of us to stay in shape! For additional information, call Tami Eckerle at 578-8944 or visit www.sprunning.com. Registration forms will also be available at the City building. *Sponsor opportunities are also available. Call 578-8944 if interested.* Course: Mulloy Drive, Sleepy Hollow, Old State, Aberdeen, Hamilton, Amsterdam, Rose Circle, Audubon, Lawton, Hillcrest, Amsterdam, Terrace, Old State, Mulloy Drive.