



Top of the Hill News

Information for the Citizens of Fort Wright
December 2007 Eileen Hastings Editor

CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS & TREE LIGHTING & CARRIAGE RIDES!

On Saturday December 8th from 1:00 P.M. to 7: 00 P.M. and on Sunday December 9^h from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., there will be a special celebration of Christmas, as celebrated 1860's style, at Battery Hooper Park! Both days will include music, and special activities for families and children, including on Saturday carriage rides through the park and the South Hills neighborhood and a special visitor from the North Pole!! Santa will arrive at 5:00 P.M, and horse-drawn carriage rides will take place from 5 – 7. The City's annual tree lighting will take place there at 5:00 P.M. and Girl Scouts will be on hand with some holiday caroling! Cookies, hot chocolate and coffee will be served under the big tent! Join your neighbors for some fun and holiday cheer! Watch the City's website at www.fortwright.com for complete details and times!

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SNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Although it occurs very seldom and used only as a last resort, there are several things you need to know when a "Snow Emergency" is declared. Only the Mayor or City Administrator has the authority to declare a Snow Emergency. Once the Emergency has been declared, citizens have three hours to remove their vehicles from the streets. Police officers are authorized to tow or affix a citation to any vehicle parked on a City street during this time. The City has only declared a few Snow Emergencies in the past sixteen years. The City has exercised restraint in declaring these emergencies. Please cooperate when a Snow Emergency is declared, in the interest of public safety, so that police, fire, and ambulance vehicles and equipment can safely and quickly access each residence and place of business in the City.

HOLIDAY WASTE & RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Normal Pickup

Christmas Day – One day delay (Tuesday, December 25th pickup will take place on December 26th. The rest of the week will be delayed one day, with Friday's normal pickup day being picked up on Saturday)

New Year's Eve – Normal Pickup

New Year's Day - One day delay (Tuesday, January 1st pickup will take place on January 2nd. The rest of the week will be delayed one day, with Friday's normal pickup day being picked up on Saturday)

VETERANS' DAY OBSERVANCE

Over 400 people, including many Veterans, braved the rain and chill on Veteran's Day to attend a Veteran's Day Observance at Highland Cemetery on Sunday November 11th 2007! The Observance was sponsored by the Cities of Fort Mitchell and Fort Wright, the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board, and Highland Cemetery. As the photo indicates there was standing room only at the Observance held in the



chapel at Highland Cemetery due to the rain, but with the doors swung open another 150 people stood outside and listened attentively to various speakers. A brief summary of each of America's wars and conflicts was read by a Veteran in the uniform of that day, from the American Revolution to the War of 1812, to the Mexican War, to the Civil War, to the Spanish-American War, to World War I and World War II, to Korea and Vietnam, and to the Persian Gulf War to Afghanistan and Iraq! Fort Wright resident Charles Pangburn, a full Colonel in the United States Marine Corp, in dress blues, who returned from active duty in Iraq in 2005, read about the US led War on Terror. Fort Wright native Bob Hebbeler, Jr. a US Army Major who served in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star, read about the Vietnam conflict. Bob Williams, a soldier in the US Army 82nd Airborne, who jumped into Normandy on D-Day in World War II, read about the "greatest generation's" war. The Observance featured retired Navy Commander Ed Schneider as the keynote speaker, who encouraged everyone to support all Veterans, of war and peacetime, each and every day, not just on November 11th. Commander Schneider is an active Civil War Museum Volunteer and is retired from the Navy and NASA where he was a test pilot for over 20 years of his career, setting many records and earning numerous recognitions and awards. A walking tour of grave sides of a Veteran from each war who is buried at Highland Cemetery took place after the ceremony, from General Thomas Sandford of the American Revolution to Douglas Love of the Persian Gulf War. Committee Chair Kathleen Romero and Chad Kinsella and Jim Kiger spent countless hours at the library and on the Internet researching the life stories of these Veterans and their service to our country who are buried at Highland Cemetery. For more information on the walking tour of Veterans' grave sites at Highland Cemetery, visit the City's website at www.fortwright.com. Many thanks to Committee Chair and Museum Board Member Kathleen Romero who chaired this event along with Bob Clements, Steve Clifford, Mary DeSalvo, Linda Hornsby, Jim Kiger, Chad Kinsella, Ruth Korzenborn, Richard McCormick, Bernie O'Bryan, San Juan Romero who had organized the military flyover, and Arden Steffen. Also, a great note of appreciation to Kenton County Sheriff Chuck Korzenborn, who played taps. Please remember to thank EVERY Veteran who has ever worn the uniform of this nation, whether in war or in peacetime!

THANK YOU, VETERANS, EVERY DAY!!!!

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS

At the regular meeting of Fort Wright City Council on November 7th, Ms. Donna Sheehy of West Crittenden Avenue was appointed by Mayor Gene Weaver to the City's Parks and Recreation Board by Executive Order 13-07. Also, Ms. Laura Knight of Barbara Circle was appointed by the Mayor by Executive Order 14-07, and Ms. Dawn Bloemer of Morris Road by Executive Order 16-07! Thank you Donna, Laura, and Dawn for your willingness to serve your community and to make it a fun place to live! They join Parks and Recreation Board Members Floyd Hastings and Julia Hurst.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS!

“How are you and how is Fort Wright”, writes 1st Lieutenant Davis O., Executive Officer of the City’s adopted military unit currently deployed to Iraq? “I’m sorry I have not been in touch lately - we received your packages a few days ago with all of the supplies. Thank you so much! We have already begun distributing small amounts during our patrols and we are organizing larger donations through schools and medical clinics. I’ll do my best to get some pictures to share with you the next time we deliver some items. C Troop is doing well. Our area has continued to be very quiet with no significant problems to speak of. We hope this is a result of our patrols and operations and continue to get positive feedback from the local population that they appreciate the work we have done and continue to do. The weather has begun to cool off slightly and most nights remind us that winter and the rainy season is coming soon. The wet weather will prove to be a new test as the roads have given us problems ever since we arrived and will only get worse in the coming months. Our soldiers have begun their mid-tour leave rotations and everyone is looking forward to when their 'turn' will arrive. The first soldiers to take leave have already returned and now have to settle in for the long haul. That is about all of the news from over here. Because things have been so quiet for the past few months, there isn't much to report. Everyone seems to have settled into the routine of day to day activities. Thanks again for the packages - we all appreciate everything that you have done for us. Hope to hear from you soon”.

Thanks to the following people who donated in the past month to our City’s adopted military unit, C Troop of the 3/73 Cavalry Unit, stationed near Baghdad, Iraq: Mae Peare of Hermitage Court; Harry Eagan of Pickett Court; Steve and Katie Wolnitzek of Beacon Hill; Carolyn and Tom Eickhoff of Morris Road, Helen Zembrodt of Lorup Avenue; Audrey Weiskittel of St. Anthony Drive, and Floyd & Eileen Hastings of Mt. Vernon Drive, regular monthly contribution from Saint Agnes Parish organized by Mr. Tom Jacober and Mr. Allan White. Please keep the following items coming for our troops: **DVD’s; beef jerky; calling cards; Little Debbie Snacks; poker chips; powdered Gatorade; and Time and US Weekly magazines.** School and medical supplies such as: **pens, pencils, notebooks, paper; also, band-aids and bandages, Tylenol/Advil/aspirin, anti-infection creams such as Neosporin, are also welcomed for our troops to distribute to Iraqi children and families.**

Thank you Fort Wright for supporting our troops!

SAFE SHOPPING

Submitted By: Specialist Dean Russell, Crime Prevention Officer, Fort Wright Police Department

As the holiday season approaches, malls, other retailers and grocery stores are more crowded than usual with busy shoppers. Whether you are about to celebrate a holiday in the coming weeks or not, keep the following in mind when going out to shop (and the rest of the year too):

- Keep careful track of your bags and other packages. If you leave something behind, it could get stolen or discarded.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies when taking mass transit: report any unattended packages to security or staff.
- Be sure not to buy more than you can carry. If your packages are making it hard for you to walk upright or see, ask a store employee to help you carry them to your car.
- Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pen and thoroughly scratch it out.
- Double check that you have your credit cards and checkbook after you pay for your items.

If you go shopping with children over the next several weeks, keep the following advice in mind for everyone’s safety:

- Ensure that any children with you know your cell phone number. Give cards with contact information to any who don’t
- Make a plan with children in case you get separated. Have a central meeting place, and review with your children who they can turn to for help if they find themselves alone.
- Go over the dangers of strangers with them so that they know who not to talk to or follow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Police Officer George
Kreutzjans
December 15

Police Officer Mark Spanyer
December 21

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Please note the holiday schedule for the Fort Wright City offices, we will be closed on Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th, for the Christmas Holiday, and on Tuesday, January 1st for the New Year's Holiday, we will be open on Monday, December 31st to accept tax payments.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT JUDGING

The Dirty Hands Garden Club will again be judging outdoor Holiday displays around the City. The judging will take place sometime during the week of December 9—15 so be sure you have yours in place by then! Awards are yard stakes with holiday themes you can reuse year after year. Good Luck!!!

SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER A SUCCESS!

More than 50 Fort Wright Senior Citizens enjoyed good food and good company at the South Hills Community Center at their annual luncheon on Thursday, November 8th hosted by the City's Parks and Recreation Board! Many thanks to those who attended, and the Parks and Recreation Board for their preparation, and Chef Barone's Catering! Make your plans now to attend next year's Senior Citizens dinner!

CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees will be mulched on January 16th, please drop off trees by January 15th. Trees can be dropped off at the City Building anytime after December 27th. An area will be marked as in years past. Again, we ask that you remove all ornaments, twine, garland and wire from the trees.

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department is selling 25" fully decorated wreaths for \$25.00. Please Call 331-2600 or stop by the Fire Department for Details. Wreaths will be available beginning December 1st.

BE KIND TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!

A few residents have asked the City to remind everyone of their responsibility to clean up after their pet's "business" on others' property, City streets and sidewalks. By doing so, our City and sidewalks are more sanitary and accommodating to walkers, children, and others.

2007 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Please note the following with regard to the holidays and City office hours. Regular City office hours are from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. City Offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2008. City Administration Office will be open on Monday, December 31st from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM for acceptance of tax payments. Walk-in payments for 2007 property tax bills must be made by Monday, December 31st at the close of business at 5:00 PM. There is also a mail slot in the front door of the City Building for you to place your property tax bill payments before or after City office hours. Keep in mind that property tax payments **MUST** be postmarked or dropped off at the City Building by no later than December 31st. If they are later than that date, penalty and interest fees will be added to the property tax bill.

If you are responsible for payment rather than your mortgage company, and have not received your 2007 property tax bill, please call the City office and a new one can be sent to you. If you have received the property tax bill, but have an escrow account from which the property tax bill is paid, please be reminded that it is the property owner's responsibility to forward the bill to the mortgage company. For any additional questions, please call (859) 331-1700.

THE GREAT FORT WRIGHT PUMPKIN PARTY



Nearly 200 people from all over Fort Wright attended the City's first-ever Great Fort Wright Pumpkin Party on October 27th hosted by the Fort Wright Parks and Recreation Board! The Halloween event featured three costume contests, a children's craft, a free raffle and snacks, and vendors with displays for seasonal shopping. Residents were also invited to bring decorated pumpkins and desserts for display and judging. The Fort Wright Elementary Boy Scouts Pack 773 was present to sell popcorn, the scouts' largest fundraiser,

thanks to leader Angie Gerrein. Eighteen prize winners were named. The Great Fort Wright Pumpkin, pictured here, was from Pickett Drive. Decorated Pumpkins: 1st Place: Jenny McClurg of Pickett Lane; 2nd Place: Adam Feinauer Jr. of Pickett; and 3rd Place: Eric Hurst of West Crittenden.

Raffle Winners were: Micaela Holbrook who won Tastefully Simple products; Lori Wall who won a necklace from Lia Sophia; Diane Stamper who won a candle from Partylite; and Teresa Myers who won a family four-pack of passes to Totter's Otterville at Johnny's Toys! Decorated Desserts: 1st Place: Mary Jean Anderson; 2nd Place: Sherri Feinauer; and 3rd Place: Charlotte Nienaber.

Every ghost, goblin, and child in the costume contests looked great and received a candy prize! Gift certificates for \$15 to Johnny's Toys were awarded as follows:

Ages 0 – 3: Sasha Holbrook as a doctor and Simon Fieler as a golfer; and Madison Stamper as a lion. Ages 4 - 7: Alexander Ferguson as a pirate, Riley Hurst as a fireman on Fort Wright pumper 752; and Caroline Hicks as a Dorothy from Wizard of Oz. Ages 8 – 12: Emily Sims as a sockhop dancer; Dillon Hansen as a wounded soldier; and Billy Lommel as a zookeeper.

Thanks to the following sponsors: Fort Wright Fire/EMS Department and Chief Steve Schewe; Sanitation District No. 1; and Wal-Mart. Special thanks to Johnny's Toys and Totter's Otterville who provided more than \$150 in prizes for the event. Thanks to event Volunteers Lieutenant Mike Harris, Mike Gorman, Gary Knight., Police Specialist Dean Russell, Laura Knight, Stani Kyntchev, Jack and Charlotte Nienaber, and Julia Hurst. Mayor Gene Weaver and City Council Members Adam Feinauer and Dave Hatter were volunteer judges.



MUSEUM NEWS!

RECENT MUSEUM GROUP TOURS included Redwood Rehabilitation School students; INFUSE, a group of young adults associated with Vision 2015; and English-as-a-Second Language adult students from Kenton County Adult Education including natives of Armenia, South Korea, Turkey, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Libya, Thailand, and Somalia, whose spouses are working locally in the US.

ANTIQUE APPRAISAL FAIR on October 13th was a great success with 150 participants who brought a wide range of interesting items for a verbal appraisal by Annie Kramer of Opulent Annie's in Covington's Mainstrasse area and Tim Dwight of Motch Jewelers and Museum Volunteer Randall Burnet!! Items ranged from an 1899 French doll valued at \$1,625, to a rare 1900 swinging elephant clock to three Victorian table clocks purchased at a garage sale in Fort Wright for \$5.00 each but worth \$300! Another item included a copy of Mein Kampf with an original signature by its author, Adolf Hitler!

MUSEUM CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 16 AND REOPENS FEBRUARY 1.