



# Top of the Hill News

Information for the Citizens of Fort Wright  
February 2008 Eileen Hastings Editor

## SANITARY SEWER FEE REPEALED

The City's sanitary sewer user fee is being repealed by City Council effective March 1, 2008. The fee has been in place for decades, and was last increased in 1995 when the City's then-municipally owned and operated system was merged into the Sanitation District #1 regional system that now covers 39 cities and counties in Northern Kentucky. As part of that 1995 Merger Agreement, each City agreed to turn over its existing sanitary sewer system, in varying conditions city by city, and to pay 50% of an estimated amount needed to bring the system up to an acceptable standard. The City's 50% share at the time was about \$517,000. This note, which was interest free, has now been completely paid off, one year earlier than expected, so the sanitary sewer user fee collected from users in the City to repay the note can now be repealed.

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## BE A MUSEUM VOLUNTEER!

See if becoming a Museum Volunteer at the City's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum on Highland Avenue is something you want to do! There will be an Orientation Day for prospective Museum Volunteers on Saturday, January 26th, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. It's a great way to meet new people, make new friends, and serve your community!

## JAMES A. RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM REOPENS AFTER WINTER BREAK ON FEBRUARY 1st WITH NEW EXHIBITS! CHECK IT OUT!



## AMSTERDAM ROAD TO GET LONG TERM REPAIRS!

Thanks to State Senator Jack Westwood, the cities of Fort Wright and Fort Mitchell jointly received \$500,000 in December from the state toward the long term repair of a section of Amsterdam Road that is slipping due to an unstable hillside. Short term repairs of new pavement, crack sealing, and new guardrail, were installed in December. Long term repairs, that include the placement of concrete piers drilled into bedrock to stabilize the hillside slippage and road bed, will likely occur over the summer months in 2008.

## **KYLES/HENRY CLAY REALIGNMENT & TRAFFIC LIGHT**

The project to realign and signalize Kyles Lane with East and West Henry Clay Avenues went to bid on January 10th with the bid opening set for January 25th. A recommendation on the best bid will be made at the February 6th City Council meeting, with construction to begin in April/ May as weather permits. It is expected that the project will include an estimated three week closure of East Henry Clay at Kyles Lane to all traffic so that the contractor can work more quickly and cost-effectively with both lanes of traffic on that side closed at the same time. Once that side is completed, then the same procedure will be done with regard to West Henry Clay. This method will accelerate completion of the project.

### **10,000TH MUSEUM VISITOR!**

Mr. Douglas Vonderhaar of Ashlawn Place became the 10,000th visitor to the City's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum on Sunday, December 8th, 2007, when visiting there with his family during the City's third annual Civil War Christmas weekend! Congratulations to Mr. Vonderhaar, who was presented with a Mayor's Proclamation at the January 2nd City Council meeting declaring Friday, January 11th as "Douglas Vonderhaar" day in Fort Wright! He was also presented with a very nice gift basket at the meeting from Museum Board Members Mary DeSalvo and Kathleen Romero that included gift certificates to Fort Wright restaurants and other businesses!



### **LET'S SIGN UP FORT WRIGHT!**

The City of Fort Wright has initiated a new opportunity by which residents can receive general news and information electronically. Go to the home page of the City's website at [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com) where you can enroll at "Let's Sign Up Fort Wright!" to receive news and information about the City! The name, address, and telephone number of residents is requested, and once you have signed up an acknowledgement will be emailed back to you!

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS!

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: George Hammons; Don and Diane Russell of Stoney Point Drive; Jack and Ginny Schaaf of Mount Vernon Drive; Audrey Weiskittel of Saint Anthony Drive and; Mark Teipel of Lorup Avenue. 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! Let's show how much we care!

## SNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

By City ordinance, in the event of a "Snow Emergency", residents 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. 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.

## PLEASE HELP KEEP FORT HENRY AND PICKETT DRIVE CLEAN!

The City is requesting your help in eliminating the dumping of yard waste and other items that has been occurring for some time near the Fort Henry and Pickett Drive area. Most of the dumping is yard waste and occurs on private property, which by law is considered criminal trespass. This is illegal and subject to fines of up to \$500.00. More importantly, it is an unsightly addition to an otherwise beautiful and well maintained neighborhood. It has also been reported by neighbors that some of the yard waste is being brought to this dumping site in vehicles from other neighborhoods, even though "No Dumping" signs are posted there. The City's waste hauler, Rumpke, will pick up yard waste that is properly bagged or bundled and set at the curb on regular pick up days. Please help us to eliminate this activity and keep your neighborhood beautiful! If you observe any illegal dumping please report any information you have to the City at 331-1700.



## **“SHOP WITH A COP” BRINGS JOY OF THE SEASON!**

The Fort Wright Police Department participated again this year in the local Fraternal Order of Police “Shop with a Cop” program that brought Christmas to many children in the area on December 14th. A total of 15 children went shopping with area Police Officers including Officers Danny Martin and John Mairose from the Fort Wright Police Department. In the true spirit of Christmas, at the top of all these children’s shopping lists were gifts for their families first, before themselves. All the children received new clothes and school supplies in addition to toys and games. If you know of a child or family for next year’s “Shop with a Cop” event, please let a local school counselor know, or any of the following participating law enforcement agencies including Fort Wright, Park Hills, Kenton County Sheriff’s Department, Lakeside Park/Crestview Hills, Taylor Mill, Kenton County Jail, Kenton County Probation and Parole, and the Grant County Detention Center. Thanks to the following businesses and individuals who demonstrated the true meaning of Christmas, that of giving: Wal-Mart, Roger Schroder of Foreign Auto Salvage; Republic Bank; US Bank; US Bank customers; Shell customers; Heritage Bank customers; Bank of Kentucky customers; Taylor Mill businesses; and Yvonne Wagner and Dan Kreinest. Donations for “Shop with a Cop” can be made at any time throughout the year by making a check payable to “Kenton County FOP Shop with a Cop” at any US Bank.

# **FIRE!**

Did you know public safety is the single most important service your City provides? Have you ever considered becoming a member of your local Fire/EMS Department?

If you have, it’s time to make and fulfill your 2008 New Year’s resolution. The City of Fort Wright Fire Department is accepting applications for Fire and EMS volunteers to serve on the City’s fire and EMS department. We are currently seeking (6) six individuals, women or men over the age of 18, who possess high integrity, self-motivation, extreme reliability, self confidence and respect of others, coupled with a willingness to learn. Our current staff includes members employed in the following professions: Accountant, Airline personnel, Engineer, Machinist/Millwright and Security just to list a few, and we accept students as well. The special skills and knowledge each member brings with them provides the department with a more well rounded and diverse team. We only accept team players, so if you think you have what it takes to become a high-end player on a winning team, this is for you.

All training is provided/reimbursed by the City of Fort Wright. If you are interested in our organization please call 331-2600 or e-mail [sschewe@fortwright.com](mailto:sschewe@fortwright.com) and we will get an application packet out to you at once. An orientation and information session is being scheduled for the very near future, so do not delay.

*“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” since 1953*

