

Make it
Safe & Happy



Top of the Hill News

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

\$50,000 MODERN ROUNDABOUT STUDY FUNDED

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, at the request of Mayor Gene Weaver, has agreed to fund a \$50,000 feasibility study to determine whether or not modern roundabouts, one in the southern end of KY 17 in Fort Wright, and the other at the northern end, near the TANK facility, will help to facilitate the safe and efficient flow of traffic on KY 17 through Fort Wright, and prevent future traffic congestion as that area and Independence continues to grow. The study will also determine what if any other traffic improvements can be made for KY 17 if modern roundabouts are not deemed feasible. Modern roundabouts have already been designed for the intersection of I-275 and North Bend Road in Hebron, and two more are currently being studied for implementation near the NKU campus in Highland Heights. The use of modern roundabouts was included in the Madison Pike Corridor Land Use and Economic Development Study which was adopted by Fort Wright City Council and the Kenton County Planning Commission in late 2004.

INSIDE

Coming Events

Lights Awards

Another Historic Home

Appointments for 2006

**City Adopted Another
Military Unit**

SNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Although it occurs very seldom and is 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 three Snow Emergencies in the past fourteen 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. *(See more on Page 2)*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

Do you want to become involved in your community? Do you want to meet other residents? Do you want to learn how your City government works? Do you want to save lives? There are numerous ways to get involved in YOUR community! Street Captains welcome new residents with packets of information about the City. There's a Parks and Recreation Board that is always looking for more people to help run its events throughout the year. The Nature Center Planning Board is always looking for people to help with projects in the Nature Center on Highland Pike. The Fire/EMS Department is always looking for a few good Volunteers, where all training, classes, and uniforms are provided. The newly-formed Museum Board is also looking for more Volunteers to help staff the Civil War Museum just a few hours each month. The Dirty Hands Garden Club helps with flowers and other plantings around the City and holiday garland around the City at Christmas time. The City's Adopt-A-Military Unit program can also use help in weighing and packing items for our adopted unit in Iraq. Call the City at 331-1700 to find out more information about how you can help improve the quality of life in your community! If none of these Volunteer opportunities seem like the right one for you, call anyway and perhaps another position is the right one for you!

WINTER REMINDERS

Snow and Ice

Snow and Ice are just around the corner (in fact have already been here!) We offer the following suggestions during snow and ice events to minimize the hassle and discomfort that goes with it. If possible park in your driveway, parking in the street puts your car at risk; snow plows leave pushed snow around your car. Shoveling snow from your driveway into the street will most likely result in snow being plowed back into your driveway. No parking is permitted in any cul-de-sac within the City (at any time!) Please allow room for the plows to push snow from the cul-de-sac, driveways tend to take up most of the curb area in a circle and this makes it difficult to push snow away from driveways. The Public Works Crew will continue to push snow until it is cleared from curb to curb. The reason for this is to allow melting snow to drain properly from the street and avoid refreezing conditions on the roadway. Our goal is to keep our city streets as safe as possible.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees will be mulched on January 18th; please drop off trees by January 17th. 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, as these can foul the equipment.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS

TOM LITZLER TO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Tom Litzler has been reappointed by the Mayor and City Council to another four year term on the Fort Wright Board of Adjustments. The term of office begins on January 1, 2006, and ends on December 31, 2009. He joins other Board Members Donna Bloemer of Amsterdam Road, Ken Ramey of Morris Road, Carl Stamm of Beacon Hill Drive, and Gene Weber of Beaumont Court. The Board of Adjustments adjudicates requests for dimensional variances, conditional use permit requests, and appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decisions. Mr. Litzler is currently the Chairman of the Fort Wright Board of Adjustments and a Member of the City's Vision Committee, a past Mayor and Council Member. He is also a current Member of the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Council. Mr. Litzler and his wife Pat live on Beaumont Court.

GABRIELLE SUMME TO BOARD OF ETHICS

Ms. Gabrielle Summe of Kennedy Road was reappointed to another three-year term on the City's Board of Ethics. At their December 7th meeting, City Council approved Executive Order 6-05 making the appointment official. The term begins on January 1, 2006 and ends on December 31, 2008. Ms. Summe joins other Board Members Mr. San Juan Romero of Ridgemont Avenue and Mr. Donald Russell of Stony Point Drive.

FLOYD HASTINGS TO PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Floyd Hastings of Mount Vernon Drive was reappointed to another four-year term on the Parks and Recreation Board. At their December 7th meeting, City Council approved Executive Order 7-05 reappointing Mr. Hastings, who is also the current Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. He joins other Board Members Tom and Tammy Eckerle of Pickett Drive, Jeanne Lenhof of Mount Vernon Drive and Julie Moynihan of Pickett Drive. The City of Fort Wright is fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and dynamic group of individuals who provide many fun and exciting recreational opportunities for residents of all ages throughout the year!

CITY ORDINANCES ON WEBSITE

At least once every five years, the City is required by state law to recodify its Code of Ordinances, updating its current printed Code based on all City ordinances and changes in state law in the prior five years. The City's Code of Ordinances is available on the City website, www.fortwright.com. Click on "Administration" and then click on "City Ordinances". This takes you to a link at American Legal Publishing, which contains the City's Ordinances. All City Ordinances are searchable at this location as well.

CITY ADOPTS A SECOND MILITARY UNIT!

The City of Fort Wright has "adopted" a second military unit, the Headquarters Company 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), also known as the Iron Rakkasans. Earlier in the year, the City adopted the 50th Medical Aviation Unit of the 101st Airborne, which recently returned to Fort Campbell. The City will continue to support both units, although their individual needs may have changed now. The Iron Rakkasans are currently deployed in Iraq and will be there at least twelve more months. Prior to Iraq, this unit was assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. They are commanded by Captain Robert William Phillips. This 210 member unit is nicknamed the "Headhunter Company". The Iron Rakkasans consists of a command group; personnel section; intelligence section; operations section; logistics section; communications and automation section (similar to an IT department); four combat platoons that include scouts, snipers, mortars, and medical platoons. Captain Phillips has expressed his unit's great appreciation of our community's support during their deployment! Many, many thanks go to Saint Agnes Parish, and especially members and organizers Tom Jacober and Allan White, for their continued monthly collections for our adopted military units! This is a tremendous demonstration of community and moral support for our troops who sacrifice so much! Other donors include Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Appel of Mount Vernon Drive; Ozzie and Marguerite Aylor of Sydney Australia, who are the uncle and aunt of Angie Aylor of East Henry Clay Avenue; Frank Henn of Olivia Lane; Helen and Bob Zembrodt of Lorup Avenue; and Steve Wolnitzek of Beacon Hill Drive. Please continue to contribute items, cash, and letters of support to send to our adopted troops. All items can be dropped off at the City Building on Kyles Lane during regular business hours. In December a total of 15 boxes were shipped to Iraq, nearly 1,000 pounds of everything from pens and writing paper to coffee makers to shampoo to socks! The deployed units have particularly requested flavored coffees and creamers, coffee makers, cigars, and DVD's, new or used. Thank you, Fort Wright for your continued patriotism and support of our nation's best!

ADDITIONAL ROAD FUNDS!

At their regular meeting on December 7th, Fort Wright City Council approved Resolution 18-05 whereby the City will receive an additional \$75,000 in Municipal Road Aid funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. This is a one-time allotment of additional funds from the state, which are the result of proceeds from bonds issued by the state to assist cities and counties with street repair. The \$75,000 has been budgeted to assist with street repair on Kennedy Road and Lake Street on FYE 2005/2006, and Saint Anthony Drive and Marcella Drive in FYE 2006/2007. It is expected that the repair and improvement for all these streets will be bid as one project, even though it entails the street program for two fiscal years, so that a more competitive price can be obtained.

JAMES A. RAMAGE
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
Closed December 20th to February 3rd
(For New Displays, Exhibits, and Maintenance)
For more information on the Museum visit the City's
website at www.fortwright.com.
New Volunteer Orientation Day - January 28th.
Call 331-1700 to RSVP or for Information.

DIRTY HANDS GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Now for the winners of the Lights Award '05!

West of the Highway the winner was:

Patrick Allen

451 Glengarry Way

East of the Highway the winner was:

Bernard Vormbrock

1848 Mt. Vernon

Congratulations to both families.

We will resume Yard of the Month winners in the Spring.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Monday, January 2 for
the New Year's
Holiday

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
January 8th
Firefighter/EMT
Greg Aylor

ANOTHER HISTORIC FORT WRIGHT HOME!

In last month's Top of the Hill newsletter, the Knochelman house at the corner of Kyles Lane and East Henry Clay Avenue, and some experiences of its former resident, Mr. Bill Roth, while living there, were highlighted. The Kennedy-Rivard Homestead, at 50 Rivard Drive, is another Fort Wright landmark! It has been owned by only two families in 165 years, the Kennedys and the Rivards. It is currently owned and occupied by Ms. Madelon Rivard Nortker, and was constructed in 1850 by Thomas D. Kennedy (1795-1869), the homestead's original owner and namesake of Kennedy Road. It was designated a Kentucky Landmark in 1995 by the Kentucky Heritage Council. It is a very good local example of the Greek revival architecture that was popular in the Midwest from 1830-1850. The fieldstone foundation was also reportedly constructed by slaves. The lot was part of 100 acres of woodlands originally deeded to him by his father Joseph Kennedy (1768-1825) in 1819.

Joseph's father, Thomas Kennedy (1741-1821) was also one of the original settlers at the Point, later incorporated as Covington, and one of the first trustees of the City of Covington. Campbell County deed books (from which Kenton County originated) indicate that the elder Kennedy purchased the land as part of a larger 366 acre parcel from Rawleigh Colston of Virginia around 1815. In the War of 1812 Thomas D. Kennedy saw action along with his father, who had been commissioned a general. General Joseph Kennedy died in 1825. Thomas D. Kennedy was also a member of the Henry Clay Whigs and served as Engineer of the Covington and Lexington Turnpike (predecessor to Dixie Highway); Civil Engineer for Covington, and Director of the Farmer's Bank in Covington. He died in 1869. Thomas D. Kennedy and his wife, Nancy, and six children, of whom his daughter, Mary (1822-1900) married William Gedge, an English-born merchant doing business in Covington. In 1870 Mary, now a widow and 48 years old, received the Kennedy Homestead from her father's estate, along with Lots Nos. 1 and 2 and 8. After her death in 1900, the homestead and surrounding property were deeded to Llewellyn Gedge and his wife Jessie. In 1916 they sold the Homestead and Lots 1 and 2 to Harry and Florence Rivard, which officially ended the Kennedy ownership after 76 years.

The Rivard family also owned horse and cattle farms along Bristow Road, the site of the present Kenton County Golf Course. Harry Rivard (1873-1940) owned cattle, horses, two butcher shops in Covington, and race horses. He originally also tried to raise cattle on his 32 acres (Lots 1 and 2) of his property which bordered Dixie Highway. In 1916 he laid out his property as Hillsdale and sold lots over time. He also built homes on Rivard Drive which connected with Kennedy Road, which was mostly an old access road with a barn that connected to Kyles Lane. The Rivards made building improvements over the years including an upstairs bath, a side porch, enclosed the rear wing, and added a subgrade garage in the rear with a concrete veranda as the roof. The two car garage also has a wine cellar. The Rivard children, Yvonne, Harry, Mary Jane, Madelon, and Russell, were encouraged as youngsters in artistic development by their grandmother, who was at one time the Park Hills Elementary School PTA President, and also active in church, and other social activities. The children had ponies, stabled at the present location of the Fort Wright Civic Club. In 1994 the Homestead was deeded to Madelon Rivard Nortker after a series of other Rivard family owners.

Is there an interesting history to your home in Fort Wright? If so, please contact the City at 331-1700. We would greatly appreciate learning about it and letting others know as well.

ALVIN L. BARTLETT APPOINTED TO MUSEUM BOARD

Mr. Alvin L. Bartlett III, volunteer Curator at the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, and student at Northern Kentucky University, has been appointed by City Council to a four-year term on the Museum Board. At their December 7th meeting City Council approved Municipal Order 20-05 appointing Mr. Bartlett, who was unanimously nominated for this position by the Museum Board, in recognition of his dedication and hard work to date for the Museum. He joins other Board Members Sharon Blank, Bob Clements (Board Vice-President), Mary DeSalvo, Dan DiOrio, Jeannine Kreinbrink (Board President), Dr. James A. Ramage, Kathleen Romero, Lawrence Schell, Arden Steffen, Bethany Sterling, and Margaret Weaver. The City of Fort Wright is very fortunate to have such talented and dedicated individuals who have created the second largest Civil War Museum in Kentucky, second only to the Museum in Bardstown, Kentucky.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

On Saturday and Sunday, December 10th and 11th, visitors to the City's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum were treated to a very special holiday event with Christmas trimming, decorations, and entertainment, 1860's style. Civil War reenactors were also present to demonstrate how Union and Confederate soldiers spent the holidays. The Saint Agnes Elementary School Choir performed Christmas songs for visitors on Saturday afternoon. Many local businesses and residents donated goods and money to help decorate the Museum for Christmas inside and out. Thanks to Remke Markets in Fort Mitchell and Manager Mark Ash; Krogers; Wal-Mart; Jackson Florist; Stevenson Road Greenhouse owners Peggy and Mike Wesselman; Raymond's Landscaping; Fedders Feed and Seed; the Christmas Shoppe at Main Strasse in Covington; Kinko's Printing; and Mr. San Juan Romero of Ridgemont Drive and Mr. Roger Schroder of Foreign Auto Salvage on Highland Pike.

A very special thanks to all our Museum Board members and Museum Volunteers who decorated the Museum and organized the entire weekend events for the more than 200 visitors they hosted.

In other Museum news, the Saint Agnes 7th grade made a field trip to the Museum along with teachers and parents on December 1st. Also, Fort Wright resident and Dixie High School honor student Trey Catchen, son of Don and Theresa Catchen of General Drive, is completing service hours for school by compiling a mailing database of the more than 2,200 Museum visitors to date. Also, the park benches and waste receptacles donated by National City Bank in Fort Wright have been installed and offer a very comfortable place to relax and enjoy the view at the Battery! Thanks again National City Bank!

MUSEUM NEEDS OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF CITY!

Once again, if any Fort Wright residents, relatives, friends, or businesses, have old photographs from around the City, even as recent as the 1970's and 1980's, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to display a copy in the History of the City of Fort Wright room at the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, with an acknowledgement given to the contributor. 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.

Coming Events

To Watch For In the Coming Months...

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| January 21 | Town & Country Sports Family Night |
| February | Bowling - Lookout Bowl |
| March | Movie - Great Escape Theater |
| April | Easter Egg Hunt |
| May | Bicycle Rodeo |
| June | Florence Freedom Game |
| July | Outdoor Movie |
| August | Florence Freedom Game |
| September | To Be Announced |
| October | Fall Harvest Festival |
| November | Senior Luncheon |

*Some of the above are tentatively scheduled

FORT WRIGHT NIGHT TOWN & COUNTRY SPORTS

Saturday, January 21
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Free to Fort Wright Residents

City Residents Can Enjoy the Following:

Indoor heated pool
Exercise equipment for adults

Basketball

Rock climbing

Kids exercise gym, ages 6 - 12

Aeroball

Baseball/Softball -
pitching/hitting tunnel

Food concession open - pay as you go

FIRE!!!

Have you ever considered becoming a member of your local Fire/EMS Department?

If you have, it's time to make and fulfill your 2006 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 seeking at least (8) eight individuals (women and 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 Industry, Engineer, Machinist/Millwright and Security just to list a few. We gladly 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 be a high-end player on a winning team, this is for you! All training is provided or reimbursed by the City of Fort Wright.

If you are interested in our organization, please fill out the form below and return it to the Fire Department. Call (859) 331-2600 or e-mail sschewe@fortwright.com and we will get an application out to you at once. An orientation/information session is being scheduled for the very near future, so do not delay.

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Name: _____ | Fire: _____ |
| Address: _____ | EMS: _____ |
| _____ | Both: _____ |
| Home Phone: _____ | Other: (____) _____ |

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" since 1950

Christmas Decorations

The Fort Wright Police Department has recovered some Christmas Decorations, some of the recovered items were identified as stolen from Fort Mitchell area. If you have any missing items, please contact the Police Department at (859) 331-2191 to see if we have your holiday decorations.

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

Help Prevent break-ins and thefts in your area.

- Lock your car when it is unoccupied
- Lock your home, when you are away and at night
- Close garage doors when you are not around that immediate area of your home
- Leave an outside light on at night
- Leave at least 1 light on in your home at night or if you are out for the evening
- For women - when shopping - carry your purse and keep a hand on it at all times. An open purse in a cart is tempting to criminals.