

## 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  
June 2006 Eileen Hastings Editor

## PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 7TH AT 6:15 PM

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 7 at 6:15 PM  
**WHERE:** Fort Wright City Building, 409 Kyles Lane  
**WHAT:** Public Hearing (to receive Public Comment on Proposed Rezoning of 238 Acres on KY 17 for Commercial Development, and Associated Regulations)

At its regular Council meeting on Wednesday, June 7th, City Council will also conduct a public hearing on the rezoning of approximately 238 acres along KY 17 from I-275 to Howard Litzler Drive, from various residential, industrial, and commercial zones to a proposed new zoning designation, "Town Center Form District (TCFD)". A public hearing was also held on April 6th at the Kenton County Planning Commission in Fort Mitchell, as is required by state law. After that public hearing and much discussion the Kenton County Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the rezoning to Fort Wright City Council.

At the May 3rd Council meeting, representatives of the Fort Wright Business Association (FWBA) presented a letter to the Mayor and Council requesting another public hearing for the purpose of providing new information and testimony. In the FWBA letter dated May 3rd, the FWBA stated that it supports "...the idea of making the Corridor (KY 17) an attractive entrance and feature to our City...", but also expressed "...concerns over the restrictive requirements the Form District places upon business operations...". Form-based zoning differs from conventional zoning in that it focuses on form (appearance and building design) and function (how it functions with regard to roads, access management to reduce traffic congestion, pedestrians, etc). It also permits a greater mix of uses, such as allowing a mixture of residential and commercial (office and retail) uses, rather than a strict separation of uses commonly associated with conventional zoning. The stated purpose of the Form District is: "Safe Access that will facilitate traffic movement on Madison Pike; A circulation system that balances multimodal uses (vehicles, pedestrians); A mixture of moderately intense uses including civic, shopping, restaurants, *Continued on Page 2*

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## CITY TO RECEIVE \$250,000 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In late April it was announced that the City of Fort Wright will receive a direct \$250,000 appropriation from the state of Kentucky for "...Civil War Park improvements..."!!! This is great news for the future of Battery Hooper Park on Highland Avenue! Thanks to Senator Jack Westwood, and Representative Jon Draud for all they did to help our community realize such a large amount of funds! A great note of appreciation also goes to the rest of our Northern Kentucky legislative caucus Members: Senators Dick Roeding, Katie Stine, Damon Thayer, Addia Wuchner, Joe Fischer, Jon David Reinhardt, Dennis Keene, Paul Marcotte, Arnold Simpson, and Tom Kerr, and Governor Ernie Fletcher who also supported this \$250,000 for the City of Fort Wright. This is a great return of our state tax dollars for Fort Wright! The Master Park Plan includes an amphitheater, shelter/restroom facility, play areas, walking trails, picnic shelters, tables and benches, in addition to the outstanding James A. Ramage Civil War Museum already open to the public!

*Public Hearing—continued* offices and residences; An aesthetically pleasing appearance of building mass, placement, and materials, lighting, landscaping, and vehicular areas; Coordinated development between adjacent properties including shared parking, vehicular and pedestrian movement and appearance; Development in areas containing steep slopes and floodplains need to be designed so as to minimize erosion, landslides, and/or flood damage. Any grading or disturbance in such areas shall be mitigated and restored.” The public hearing is open to anyone to attend, listen, and/or speak. If you are unable to attend, written, signed statements are also accepted but must be received prior to the public hearing. The Madison Pike Corridor Land Use and Economic Development Plan began in 2003 and included a market study to determine what types of businesses would be the most sustainable in the Corridor. To learn more about the Madison Pike Corridor Land Use and Economic Development Plan, go on-line to the NKAPC website at [www.nkapc.org](http://www.nkapc.org). From the list on the left-hand side of the home page go to “Applications and Documents”. Then go to “Comprehensive Plans and other Reports”; then “Other Reports”, then Madison Pike Corridor Land Use and Economic Development Plan 2004”.

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### THANKS TO BUSINESSES

Thanks Fort Wright Businesses for  
Museum Volunteers Night!

On a beautiful Friday evening, April 28th, the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board hosted its first “Volunteer Appreciation Night” for the many Museum Volunteers who donate so much of their time to guide and instruct visitors through the Museum; AND host tour groups from school children to senior citizens to Veterans’ groups and ladies’ societies! A very special note of appreciation goes to several Fort Wright businesses that donated gift certificates and other items as prizes for our Volunteers with the most hours of service. **Frisch’s Restaurants** donated gift certificates and several delicious cheesecakes! Gift certificates were also donated by **Golden Corral** on Orphanage Road, **Bob Evans** on Orphanage Road; **Stein Mart** on Dixie Highway; **Skyline Chili** on Dixie Highway; and **Texas Roadhouse** on Valley Plaza Parkway. Many thanks to ALL of our Museum Volunteers and Board Members for all their dedication and commitment to making Fort Wright a great place to live! Also, please take the opportunity to patronize there Fort Wright businesses that support our community so well!

### POLITICAL SIGNS OF THE TIMES

It’s that time of year again! Spring flowers are in bloom, everything is “greening up”, and of course there’s a lot of red, white, and blue, and many other colors too, of political signs! By the time this issue of the Top of the Hill reaches your door, the May 10th primary election will be over, and all political signs should have been removed. But, they shall return come September, when political signs are once again allowed, some sixty (60) days in advance of the general election in November. The City receives many inquiries this time of year from residents about the requirements for political signs and what is legal and not legal. In the Fort Wright Zoning Ordinance Section 14-5 (3) regarding political signs, it states that: “...on each lot, there may be located one (1) sign per candidate supporting the candidacy of any person for local, state, or national office, or any local or state issue. Permission to install the signs must be obtained from the occupant of the premises. Such signs shall be permitted **not more than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election and not more than ten (10) days after the date of the election.** Such signs shall not exceed forty (40) square feet in size nor be located closer than five (5) feet to any property line”. Also, **NO political signs, or signs of any type** for that matter, are permitted in the public right of way, generally about 10—12 feet from each side of the road, nor **affixed to any utility pole or street sign.** We hope this explanation of the rules about political signs is informative!

## **VISION COMMITTEE**

### **2006 SURVEY ENCLOSED**

Please take time to complete the Fort Wright Vision Committee 2006 Survey about the many Projects and Ideas that the Vision Committee has initiated over the past five years and some that are yet to come! At the bottom of the Letter on the Survey is a list of Projects and Ideas and their current status. The Vision Committee greatly appreciates your input! Once completed, please fold in half, tape or staple closed, then affix a 39 cent stamp and return! Summary results will be published in a future issue of the Top of the Hill!

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### **RIDGEWOOD DRIVE SEWER**

In late April, it was announced that Sanitation District #1 (headquartered in Fort Wright) will receive a \$140,000 direct state appropriation to assist residents of Ridgewood Drive off Amsterdam Road to obtain public sanitary sewer service! A very special thanks to Senator Jack Westwood for sponsoring this important public health project in the state budget during this past General Assembly!

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### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Police Officer George Kreutzjans and family on the birth of their son George Anthony Juliano Kreutzjans who weighed in at 9 lbs. 5 ozs.

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### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

June 26th  
City Clerk  
Joyce Woods

## **SAVE THE DATE: AUG. 19 & 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. At the same time, the Community of Faith Church, who shares their parking lot with us, is hosting their annual Ice Cream Social. More information will follow in future issues of the Top of the Hill newsletter. There will be something for everyone!

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### **THANKS TO DONORS**

A very special note of appreciation to donors in April who contributed items for the City's adopted military unit, the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, also known as the Iron Rakkasans. Thanks to Nick and Cyrilla Brake of Fort Henry Drive and once again to our Top Donor, Saint Agnes Parish, led by organizers Tom Jacober and Allan White. Thanks to all for your support and recent contributions to make the lives of these troops more comfortable and let them know how much they are appreciated!

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### **I-75 RIGHT OF WAY CLEARING**

Many residents have noticed the area along southbound I-75 is looking less cluttered these days. Thanks to our Public Works Department of Tim Maloney, Director, and Nick Zumdick and Jeff Bethell, much of the brush, weeds, and trash has been disappearing over the last few weeks. The area along southbound I-75, between Kyles Lane and Rivard Drive had become overgrown in the past with a wide variety of brush and weeds, and also contained a large amount of trash and debris. Once the area has been cleared it will be much easier to keep it free of trash and debris. In addition to our appreciation to the Fort Wright Public Works Department, a great note of appreciation also goes to Kenton County Jailer Terry Carl for allowing ten (10) Volunteers from the Kenton County Detention Center to spend several Saturdays assisting our Public Works crews chipping the brush and trees (making mulch for trails in the Nature Center). A note of appreciation also to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 6 in Fort Mitchell, for their great assistance in obtaining the necessary permits from the state to carry out this project which will help to improve the view along I-75 in Fort Wright! The entire project is expected to be completed by June 30th.

## YARD OF THE MONTH

It's Spring and time for Yard of the Month awards again this year. 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:

Michael & Toni Ash

1728 Mount Vernon Drive.

Congratulations to the Ash's!

## ANOTHER EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT!

Eagle Scout candidate Matt Cleves, a resident of Villa Hills, junior at Covington Latin School, and Member of Troop 717 in Lakeside Park, will be completing his Eagle Scout project in the City's Nature Center on Highland Pike in May and June. The project includes removing non-native invasive plants such as honey-suckle bushes and replacing them with plants native to Kentucky. He will also install erosion control around a foot bridge in the Nature Center using a system of metal rods. Lastly, he will clear and mulch a 30' long trail. At the end of the trail he will make a clearing and construct a bench there for resting and viewing near the creek. He will also place tall grasses around a 3' high sewer manhole to screen it from view. Matt, son of Joe and Mary Jo Cleves, has organized adults and other Boy Scouts to assist him in this project and the equipment and material he needs to accomplish his goal. Once again, the Fort Wright Nature Center is greatly benefiting from the tremendous work of Eagle Scouts! Thank you Scouts, leaders, families and helpers!

## J. 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)

Information on Group Tours or

How to Become a Volunteer, call 331-1700

**Museum Visitor Count** exceeded 3,500 at the end of April since the Museum's opening June 30, 2005.

**Public Archaeological excavations** took place at Battery Hooper on Sunday May 7th and Saturday May 20th. Many interesting items were found including mini balls and pieces of horseshoes. Boy Scouts, college students, parents and children, participated on both days. There will be more archaeological excavations open to the public in the future!

**Fern Storer Cookbooks available** by calling the City at 331-1700. This piece of Fort Wright history is available for \$19.95 and all proceeds benefit the Museum exhibits and displays!

**Museum Volunteers** on May 10th gathered in the late afternoon to plant flowers around the Museum grounds. Many thanks to Museum Volunteer Linda Hornsby for organizing this event, and to Kathy Romero and Mitzie O'Neill who helped that day to beautify the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, and also to Wal-Mart for donating the flowers and mulch!

**Remke's Caring Neighbor Program** helps to raise funds for the Museum. Preferred Customers at Remke's can participate by completing a very short name and phone number application, which is available at the City building. A percentage of all purchases at Remke's will go to the Museum for exhibits and displays and events. Call 331-1700 for information or a form mailed to you.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

- June 11** Fort Wright Night at Florence Freedom Sunday Evening 6:05 PM  
Tickets \$5 for City residents, \$7 Non-residents, children 2 and under free.  
Available at the City building June 5th through June 9th, 8 AM—5 PM. Parking is free and food inexpensive. Lots of family oriented fun. A good time was had by all last year!
- July 14** Outdoor Movie Scheduled for Friday evening. Details will be in the July Issue of the Top of the Hill newsletter
- July 26** Baseball Camp The Parks and Recreation Board is sponsoring a baseball Instructional clinic on Wednesday, July 25 from 8:30 to 11:30 AM at the St. Agnes baseball fields. This camp will be conducted by Chris Hooks, a former major league player who has been associated with Florence Freedom for the past several years. Cost will be \$10 per player, payable at the camp. More details including age limits in the July Top of the Hill newsletter.



### BUSINESS/GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE EVENT

Each year the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce hosts several Business/Government Exchange programs in cities and counties throughout Northern Kentucky. The meetings bring local businesses together with elected officials and staff to create a dialogue between government and the business community. This allows businesses to be well informed about the City's plans and activities, while providing the City governments an opportunity to gain feedback and to better understand the needs, issues and reactions of businesses. Every attendee will be given an opportunity to ask a question, give feedback and comment on the issue of their choice.

*The Chamber and the City of Ft. Wright, along with the event's sponsor, Remke's, will host an event on Thursday, June 15th. This complimentary luncheon event will begin at 11:30 AM and will take place at the City of Fort Wright offices located at 409 Kyles Lane in Fort Wright. The event is free, but space is limited. To RSVP, please call Jane Clair at 859 578-6399 or register at [www.nkychamber.com](http://www.nkychamber.com).*

### DRIVE NOW. TALK LATER!

Hello! I'm Specialist Marc Schworer with the Fort Wright Police Department, I'm one of the Vehicle Crash Reconstructionists for the department, along with Officer Travis Brown. We get called out to investigate vehicle crashes that involve loss of life or involve crime charges. I enjoy writing a couple of articles to you each year to keep you informed about traffic laws and traffic concerns.



A big concern is cell phone usage while driving. Some states are banning the use while driving, other states are looking into bills to restrict their use while driving. It is not uncommon for me to sit at any intersection in the City of Fort Wright and see over half of the people around me driving while talking on their cell phone.

There are two dangers associated with driving while talking on your cell phone. First, the user has to take his/her eyes off the road to dial. This can cause big problems if something happens in front of you. Remember if you are driving in a 25 mph zone you are traveling about 35 feet per second. It takes about 2 seconds to react to something you see which requires you to stop. You will have traveled over 70 feet or 7 car lengths before hitting the brakes!

*Continued on Page 6*

## *Cell phone continued*

Secondly, most people become so involved in the conversation that they concentrate on the conversations rather than the act of driving. Research suggests this is true. Two weeks ago, I watched the show Mythbusters on the Discovery Channel. They wanted to see if it was true; is it just as dangerous to drive while talking as it is to drive intoxicated. The result was yes; they made just as many mistakes driving the course while talking on the cell phone as they did driving at a breath alcohol level of .08 (legally intoxicated).

Here are some tips to help you be a better cell phone driver. Make safe driving your first priority. Make sure you buckle up; keep both hands on the wheel and keep your eyes on the road. If you have to use your cell phone, use it **after you have pulled off** the road and parked your vehicle. Use it at a red light but be brief. If you have to use your cell phone while driving leave **at least two vehicle lengths** between you and the vehicle in front of you, this will give you increased stopping distance. Never dial or take notes while driving. If your phone rings while driving, let the voice mail pick it up.

Keep in mind if you are observed by a Fort Wright Police Officer weaving because you are talking on your cell phone you can be stopped and cited for careless driving. It could be the most expensive phone call you ever make: the fine is \$145.00.

Please be safe on the road this summer, slow down and enjoy the sunshine. If you have any concerns please feel free to call me at the Fort Wright Police Department: 859 331-2191.

## **MORE FORGOTTEN LAWS** By Spec. Marc Schworer

Last year I wrote an article about some forgotten laws, and had a positive response from you. Well, I'm back to feed you more forgotten laws.

One of the emails I received asked what to do at an intersection when the traffic lights are flashing yellow. A flashing yellow means you must slow down and watch for others. A flashing red means you **must come to a full stop** and proceed only when the way is clear.

For those who like to try to beat the yellow: you can clear an intersection on a red light but it is **against the law to enter an intersection** after the light turns red.

Another emailer wanted to know what the right of way laws were for a pedestrian. This is very important: a driver **must yield** to a pedestrian in a crosswalk at an intersection and if there is no traffic light. When turning a corner and pedestrians are crossing with the light you must yield to them.

Still another emailer wanted to know who has the right of way at an intersection. Drivers **turning left must yield** to oncoming vehicles which are going straight ahead or turning right. Drivers on a side street must yield to drivers on a main road. At a 4-way, 3-way, or 2-way stop the driver reaching the intersection and stopping first should go first.

For all you motorcycle people, you must have a valid motor vehicle license with a valid motorcycle instruction permit before operating a motorcycle on any public roadway in Kentucky. The driver must use approved eye protection, and both driver and passenger (if any) must wear approved headgear. The exceptions to the headgear law; drivers who are at least 21 years of age and have a valid motorcycle license and have proof of insurance.

Lastly and most important: some rules for motorists **concerning bicycles**. The sun is out and the weather is warm—you are going to see bicycles on the road. When passing a bicycle on the road, leave ample room when going around, if you pass too close or too fast you may blow the cyclist over. Remember, bicycles are not special or privileged; they have to follow the same rules as you do on the roadways.

All of this information was collected from the Kentucky State Police Driver's Manual. You can find these manuals at the Fort Wright Police Department in the lobby.