



Top of the Hill News

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

KYLES AND HENRY CLAY INTERSECTION

The bid for the realignment of the Kyles Lane and Henry Clay intersection was awarded at the February 6th City Council meeting to Bray-Arnspenger Company in the amount of \$306,432. There was a total of nine (9) bids submitted ranging from the low of \$306,432 to the high of \$444,932. Work is expected to begin as soon as weather permits. The initial phase of the project will begin with the relocation of the water main along Kyles Lane. Also, as work is performed on East Henry Clay Avenue, ingress and egress there will be completely restricted for about three weeks, during which time traffic from Highland Avenue in Covington will be diverted at the bottom of East Henry Clay, to Kyles Lane and the traffic light there. This will help to reduce any increased traffic away from East Crittenden and Cumberland Avenues during construction. Afterwards, the West Henry Clay side of Kyles Lane will be closed during that part of the project. Once the realignment is completed, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will install the traffic light.

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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 monitor local television stations and the City Website at www.fortwright.com, and 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. **Also, by signing up for the Let's Sign Up Fort Wright email notification system on the City's website at www.fortwright.com you can receive Snow Emergency notices electronically.**

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

At the February 6th City Council meeting, Mr. Bernie Wessels, of Wolfzorn Court, was sworn in to office by Judge Ann Ruttle as the newest City Council Member. Mr. Wessels resides on Wolfzorn Court with his wife Donna, and son Kent. He replaces Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek who retired from City Council in January of 2008 after twenty years of elected service to the City. Mr. Wessels is associated with their family business, Wessels Construction and Development located in Fort Wright, and is the City's past representative to the Kenton County Planning Commission. Congratulations, Mr. Wessels!

SENATOR JIM BUNNING OBTAINS \$350K FOR KYLES & FARRELL DRIVE

Thanks to U.S. Senator Jim Bunning, there was \$350,000 in the federal Omnibus Transportation Bill recently passed by Congress for the Kyles Lane to Farrell Drive road improvement project. Kyles Lane, a state road, and Farrell Drive, a Fort Wright and Covington City street, would be improved through a \$2.7 million road improvement project that includes improved access to Saint Charles Care Center, Fort Wright Elementary School, Atria Highland Crossing, and NorthKey Community Care. In addition, Fort Wright residents of Mount Vernon subdivision and Fort Wright Trace condominiums would benefit from the improved sight distance and sidewalks. This project has been recommended for inclusion in the state's next Six Year Road Plan, where final funding and implementation would occur.

\$2500 DUKE ENERGY GRANT AWARDED!

Duke Energy recently awarded the City a \$2,500 grant to develop a concept plan for active and passive recreation along the Banklick Creek in Fort Wright! The City is working with the NKU Center for Applied Ecology which has proposed to spend approximately \$330,000 along the Banklick Creek in Fort Wright near KY 17 and KY 1072. Phase I of the project is funded 100% by the NKU Center and would include the removal of debris, including car parts and tires; fill eroding gullies and restore 1,800 feet of bottomland tributaries; create multiple stormwater wetlands to treat urban stormwater runoff from KY 17 and enhance wildlife habitat; re-grade 15 acres of disturbed bottomland and establish native grass and wildflower meadows; remove invasive plants and plant native plants, and install informational and educational signage. Later phases would include walking and biking paths and the multi-purpose fields for further enjoyment of this area by the public. Thank you Duke Energy for supporting our community!

GOTTLIEB HEEB: A SOLDIER'S STORY

The story of German immigrant L. Gottlieb Heeb (January 19, 1840 to June 2, 1887) is now on display at the City's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. Many of the Heeb family descendants still reside in Kenton County and Northern Kentucky. Born in Winzerhausen, Württemberg, Germany, Gottlieb Heeb immigrated to the United States in 1857. At age 17, he departed from Havre, France aboard the 98-ton ship Alleganean. Traveling on the same ship was six-year-old Marie Kraemer, who would become Gottlieb's wife eleven years later in 1868. Gottlieb Heeb originally resided in New York but, responding to the call to arms as many young men of the day, enlisted as a Private in the 58th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and served in multiple campaigns, earning the rank of Sergeant. He was captured during the Battle of Chancellorsville and was sent to Alabama as a prisoner of war. He would eventually regain his freedom through a prisoner exchange, but then immediately re-enlisted. He would see additional service as part of the Army of the Cumberland. Heeb was discharged from the Union Army on October 1, 1865. He settled in Cincinnati after the Civil War and married Marie Kraemer in 1868. The Heeb family display at the Museum includes his rifle with bayonet, sword, discharge paper, pension papers, and an 1868 photo of him. The display is on loan from Gottlieb Heeb's descendants.

Senior Crime College

Fort Wright Police Department is hosting the Senior Crime College conducted by the Kentucky Attorney General Office. April 8, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at South Hills Community Center. Please call Sergeant Michael Knight for Reservations at 331-2191.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE FOR RAMAGE MUSEUM

The Fort Wright Parks and Recreation Board and the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum have formed a landscape committee to restore the gardens and design landscaping around the museum. Watch for exciting plans and opportunities for donations and volunteering over the next few months.

Donation opportunities will include memorial trees/shrubs, theme gardens, benches, walls, and many other exciting projects. April 5th will be one volunteer opportunity. The National Civil War Preservation Trust hosts their Park Day on April 5th. We plan to host a day at Battery Hooper Park where people can help garden, mulch, prepare beds for planting, and many other valuable services that will enhance the beauty and ambiance surrounding Fort Wright's Civil War and local historical heritage. To volunteer on April 5th please call 344-1145 and leave your name and contact information.

COME JOIN THE SPRING "EGGS" TRAVAGANZA!

The City's Parks and Recreation Board will welcome Spring with an "Eggs" Travaganza at Totter's Otterville at Johnny's Toy Store in Latonia on Saturday, April 5th, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who must present a photo ID as proof of Fort Wright residency. Cost is as follows: adults accompanying children may enter for free, first 4 children in a family are free, more than 4 children are \$4 each additional child. Totter Otterville features a ball pit; tubes and tunnels; indoor playground; face painting; infant play area; wooden trains; play house with kitchen and grocery store; and much more! During the afternoon, two puppet shows will take place. A nursery rhyme themed craft will be available all afternoon, as well as chalkboards and craft items. An outdoor children's train ride will be available from 3:00 - 4:00 PM for Fort Wright guests. The train will stop at a platform where the Easter Bunny himself will hand out an egg to each child! The first 200 guests will also receive a coupon for a free ice cream cup. Totter Otterville also operates a café where attendees may purchase drinks, food and snacks, if they choose.

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS IN MARCH

At their regular meeting of February 6th, City Council approved an ordinance that would add an additional City Council meeting caucus each month. Currently, City Council meets once a month on the first Wednesday at 6:00 PM, in a legislative meeting, at which official actions can be taken. Beginning in March, in addition to the legislative meeting on the first Wednesday, there will be a City Council meeting caucus on the third Wednesday at 6:00 PM, at which only discussion can take place, but no official action can be taken.

ROBERT E. RUBERG HONORED BY NKY BAR

The Northern Kentucky Bar Association honored Fort Wright resident and attorney Robert E. Ruberg with its 2007 Distinguished Lawyer Award. Mr. Ruberg was associated with the law firm of O'Hara Ruberg Taylor Sloan and Sargent in Crestview Hills. He had attended Saint Gregory Seminary; was a staff Sergeant in the US Army; and is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and its law school in 1949 and 1951 respectively. Mr. Ruberg was also a Juvenile Court Judge for 16 years; a member of the state's blue ribbon Pritchard Committee on Education; Kentucky State Board of Education; and President of the Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society. He is also a past recipient of the Bishop Hughes Award; chair of the Thomas More College Board of Trustees, and the first lay chair of the Diocesan Board of Catholic Education. Congratulations to Mr. Ruberg and his family on this award and such a distinguished legal career and service to others!

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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 where you can enroll at "Let's Sign Up Fort Wright!" to receive news and information about the City, including City Council meeting agendas; press releases; snow emergency notifications; and other important information! The name, address, and telephone number of residents is requested, and once you have signed up an acknowledgement will be emailed back to you!

OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Fort Wright Fire Department has named Mr. Drew Averdick, a 5-year member of the Department, as the 2007 "Outstanding Member of the Year" at the Annual Appreciation Dinner, which was held Saturday, February 9th.

Length of service awards went to Chris Murphy, Justin Brinkman, Drew Averdick, Leah Martin and Mike Nicholas each with 5 years; Mark Nutter, Sharon Lankheit and Mike Gorman each with 10 years, and Dean Russell with 30 years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Assistant City Clerk
Jennifer Lipson
March 7th

Assistant City Clerk
Julie Bosley
March 29th

4TH ANNUAL BATTERY HOOPER DAYS COMING IN AUGUST!

The City's 4th Annual Battery Hooper Days is coming on the week-end of August 16th and 17th! Mark your calendars now! Last year more than 1,300 people attended this two day event and enjoyed live bluegrass music, a petting zoo, archaeological excavations, children's games, and more! If you would like to be a business or an individual sponsor of this event, contact City Administrator Larry Klein at 331-1700 for more information.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR FUTURE FUN EVENTS!

The City's Parks and Recreation Board and Museum Board are busy planning events for 2008! Mark your calendar now for the confirmed events below. More activities will be publicized in the coming months. On May 17th the Museum Board will host a public archaeology and a Civil War Toy Soldier workshop from Noon to 4:00 P.M. at Battery Hooper Park. On May 18th, the Parks and Recreation Board will host a "Safe Summer City" Day for Fort Wright, from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the City Building and Fire/EMS Department This event includes a Bicycle Rodeo; information on the City's Senior Watch program; child safety seat checks; and child-oriented demonstrations on bicycle helmets, safe medicine use, seat belts, and much more. Plan to join your neighbors to prepare for a safe summer! The Museum Board will host the 4th Annual Battery Hooper Days in August and once again the Antiques Appraisal Fair in October. The Parks & Recreation Board is planning a new event, "All Things Chocolate", in September at the South Hills Community Center; the "Great Fort Wright Pumpkin Party" for Halloween; and the Senior Luncheon in November.

APRIL

Apr 5 (Sat)	Spring "Eggs"travaganza	1:00 - 5:00	Totter Otterville
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MAY

May 17 (Sat)	Public Archaeology	TBD	Battery Hooper Park
May 17 (Sat)	Civil War Toy Soldier Work- shop	Noon - 4:00	Battery Hooper Park
May 18 (Sun)	"Safe Summer City" Day	1:00 - 4:00	City Building/Fire/EMS
May 26 (Mon)	Memorial Day	TBD	Battery Hooper Park

AUGUST

Aug 16-17	4th Annual Battery Hooper Days	TBD	Battery Hooper Park
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SEPTEMBER

Sept 27	Fort Wright Taste of Chocolate	TBD	South Hills Community Center
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OCTOBER

Oct 11	2nd Annual Antiques Fair	TBD	Battery Hooper Park
Oct 26	Victorian Mother & Daughter Tea	TBD	Battery Hooper Park

NOVEMBER

Nov 1 (Sat)	Great Fort Wright Pumpkin Party	3:00 - 5:00	City Building/Fire/EMS South Hills Community Center
Nov (Thurs)	Fort Wright Senior Luncheon	TBD	Center
Nov 9 (Sun)	Veteran's Day Commemora- tion	TBD	Highland Cemetery

DECEMBER

Dec 6	Civil War Christmas & Tree Lighting, Carriage Rides	5:00 - 7:00	Battery Hooper Park
Dec 7	Civil War Christmas	TBD	Battery Hooper Park