

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
May 2006 Eileen Hastings Editor

MEMORIAL DAY 2006

Please mark your calendar now to attend the City's annual Memorial Day observance on Monday May 29th at 10:00 AM at the Fort Wright Veterans' Memorial on the front lawn of the City building at 409 Kyles Lane. At this special time when our nation is at war in Iraq and against worldwide terrorism there are even more reasons to commemorate the sacrifices of all of our nation's armed services and war dead, especially those now serving in hostile areas. And especially their families. The Veterans' Memorial honors all Veterans of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Any resident of Fort Wright, past or present, who is a Veteran of any of these branches of service is honored with a memorial brick paver around the base of the Veterans' Memorial. As parking and seating is limited for the Memorial Day commemoration, please walk or carpool if possible and bring a chair.

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SEX OFFENDER LINK ON CITY WEBSITE

There is a link on the City of Fort Wright's website, www.fortwright.com, to the Kentucky State Police Sex/Criminal Offender Registry website if residents want to inquire as to the identity and location of registered sex offenders. At the City's website, go to "Police", then to "Links". The Kentucky State Police website is searchable by last name, city, county, and zip code.

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT BATTERY HOOPER!

Once again there will be another archaeological excavation on Sunday May 7th and Saturday May 20th in which residents can participate. In September 2004, on two consecutive weekends, history and archaeological students from NKU led by History Professor Jim Ramage and Archaeology Professor Jeannine Kreinbrink excavated at the Battery Hooper site searching for Civil War era artifacts, using test results from Cultural Resource Analysts to focus their effort. Nearly 150 citizens participated and by all accounts everyone had a very enjoyable experience. In June of 2005, another archaeological excavation was conducted in which citizens participated. Fort Wright citizens are once again invited and encouraged to participate in the excavation on either Sunday May 7th or Saturday May 20th between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Adults, and children 10 years of age and older who are accompanied by a legal guardian, are permitted to participate and should call the City building at 331-1700 with the name(s), address, telephone number and e-mail, preferred dates and times, and age(s) of any children who will be participating. This is an exciting and interesting opportunity for you and your family, to find Civil War items that have been hidden right here in Fort Wright for over 140 years! Several Boy Scout troops and Northern Kentucky University students will also be participating. Non-residents are permitted to participate as space permits.

**SAVE THE DATE:
AUGUST 19 AND 20!**

Save the weekend of August 19 and 20! 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! More information will follow in future issues of the Top of the Hill Newsletter.

**THANKS TO ADOPT-A-
MILITARY-UNIT DONORS**

A very special note of appreciation goes to several donors 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. This combat infantry unit of 210 troops is currently deployed in Iraq. Prior to their deployment to Iraq, this unit was assigned to Afghanistan. Thanks to Steve and Katie Wolnitzek of Beacon Hill Drive; Evelyn and Edward Carney of Redwood Drive; Myrna Havlin of Harrison, Ohio; and the outstanding continued monthly support of Saint Agnes Parish and organizers Tom Jacober and Allan White, for all your support and recent contributions to make the lives of these troops more comfortable and let them know how much they are appreciated!

“DIXIE FIX” PUBLIC MEETING MAY 8

The “Dixie Fix” needs your input! There will be a public meeting on Monday May 8, 2006 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Immanuel Methodist Church on Dixie Highway in Lakeside Park, for all local residents who use Dixie Highway, to view recommended improvements, and offer input. The meeting for the “Dixie Fix: Envisioning the Future of Dixie Highway” will help to identify transportation planning and design solutions on Dixie Highway from Main Street in Covington to Turfway Road in Florence. This meeting is an “**open house**” format whereby the public can view drawings, ask questions of study team personnel, and share your opinion on improvement recommendations and priorities for Dixie Highway. For the past several months the study team has been gathering input to create a vision for Dixie Highway's pedestrian, vehicular, and public transit safety and efficiency. A goal of the Dixie Fix is to achieve a safer and improved flow of traffic along Dixie Highway and access to businesses as well as more aesthetically pleasing features such as underground utility lines, improving landscaping, benches and bus stops. The Dixie Fix study is managed by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) in partnership with the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC). The Oversight Team for the study includes all cities along Dixie Highway, Boone and Kenton Counties, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, TANK, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Diocese of Covington. To find out more information, ask questions, or provide your input, visit the project's website at www.dixiefix.org or email at info@dixiefix.org or call 513-621-6300 extension 229.

APRIL NATURE CENTER CLEANUP A SUCCESS!

On Saturday April 1 about a dozen Volunteers and Nature Center Board Members and 28 Boy Scouts met in the parking lot of the Nature Center on Highland Pike for an annual cleanup of the creek and trails. Approximately 25 bags of trash were collected in the morning from the creek and trails. In the afternoon several trails were mulched by Boy Scouts working with wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes. Invasive honeysuckle bushes were also removed so woodland flowers could return. This year everything from an old water heater to a brake assembly from a vehicle, and two wheel rims were found. Last year an axle and wheels were found so perhaps next year the rest of the car will be found! A very special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 717 for their help, and for supplying drinks and snacks, and to Panera Bread in Crestview Hills for their donation of bagels for all the Volunteers. Many, many thanks to all these Volunteers and our outstanding Nature Center Board Members Matt Bauer of West Crittenden Avenue, Tom and Nancy Hampel of Pieck Drive, Eric Wilking of Hazelwood Drive, Carolyn Traud of Mt. Vernon Drive, Esther Lenahan of Rosa Avenue, and new Member Janet Scanlon of Fayette Circle, for their generous contribution of time and dedication in making a great Nature Center!

**JAMES A. RAMAGE
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**

1402 Highland Avenue
344-1145

Fridays—Mondays:
10:00 AM—5:00 PM
Closed Holidays

For more information on the Museum, visit the
City's website at
www.fortwright.com.

For information on Group Tours or How to
Become a Museum Volunteer, call 331-1700.

Be sure to see:

the "James A. Ramage Civil War Museum:
Promoting and Preserving History" brochure
inside this issue of the Top of the Hill
newsletter! This outstanding production was
designed by Fort Wright resident and graphic
designer Ginny Ruberg, owner and operator of
Ruberg Design, working with Museum Board
Members Margaret Weaver and Bob Clements!
Thank you, Ginny, Margaret and Bob for this
world-class work!

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM NEWS

MUSEUM RECEIVES \$1,400 AWARD! The James A. Ramage Civil War Museum received a \$1,400 award on April 20th from the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table (CCWRT)! The cash award recognizes the success and dedication of the Museum and City in preserving and promoting our City's Civil War history. The CCWRT requested that the award be used to acquire an interpretive panel near the Battery Hooper to explain to visitors how the Battery operated and its purpose in the defense of Cincinnati during the Civil War.

CITY RECEIVES AWARD FROM KENTUCKY HISTORY SOCIETY. The City of Fort Wright received the annual "Government Award" from the Kentucky History Society at their 2006 Kentucky History Awards Programs on March 4th at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. These annual awards recognize the best history achievements and projects relating to state and local history. The City of Fort Wright received the "Government Award" for the Battery Hooper and James A. Ramage Civil War Museum.

MUSEUM VISITOR COUNT exceeded 3,100 at the end of March since the Museum's opening June 30th, 2005.

7 TOUR GROUPS are scheduled for the month of April including grade school students, scouts, senior citizens, and others. Call 331-1700 to schedule a tour for your group!

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. These are available for immediate pick-up at the City Building.

REMKE'S CARING NEIGHBOR PROGRAM helps to raise funds for the James A. Ramage Civil War 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 Markets will be returned to the Museum to help with future exhibits and displays and events at the Museum and Battery Hooper. Call 331-1700 for more information or a form.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sergeant Dean Russell May 14th

Firefighter/EMT Steve Vickers May 21st

Firefighter/EMT Mike Harris May 25th

Detective Michael Knight May 28th

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! 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 Civil War Museum Board is also looking for more Volunteers to help staff the Museum a few hours a 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!

RESIDENT APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR TO STATEWIDE BOARD

Fort Wright resident Ann Holstein was appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher to serve as a Member of the Advisory Council for Vocational Rehabilitation for the Commonwealth of Kentucky! Ms. Holstein is currently the Director of Professional Services at Gateway Rehabilitation Hospital in Florence, Kentucky. The Governor appoints Members for three year terms after soliciting recommendations from organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities. The Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation reviews, analyzes, and advises the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation on services provided by that Office and activities that affect the ability of individuals with disabilities to achieve rehabilitation goals. Congratulations, Ann, on this appointment and best wishes for continued success!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY (BOOSTER SEATS)

Q. A lot of parents still don't know that there is such a thing as a "booster seat", and are not aware that when their child has outgrown their child safety seat, they need to then ride in a booster seat, rather than an adult safety belt. Why is a booster seat such an important step in protecting children?

- Children who have outgrown their child safety seats (at around age 4 and about 40 pounds) are still not ready to use adult safety belts
- Adult safety belts do not fit small children properly and place children at greater risk for serious injury and death in a crash.
- Children age 4 to 7 who use booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a crash than children who are restrained only by safety belts. (Source: Partners for Child Passenger Safety/ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)
- 33 States and DC require the use of a booster seat or "appropriate restraint" use as of 1/15/06.

Q. When should parents use booster seats?

- Children who've outgrown their child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats, until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" tall.
- It is estimated that only 10-20 percent of kids ages 4-8 who should be using booster seats to protect them are actually in them.
- Children who have outgrown their child safety seat but are under 4'9" tall, need to ride in a booster seat.

Q. Why don't most parents place their children in booster seats?

- Lack of education and awareness about child safety seats and the consequences of using the wrong restraint device.
- Insufficient provisions in state child restraint laws.
- Parents incorrectly assume their children are ready to use adult safety belts.

Q. There's a bigger picture to the problem. We've heard for years that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children. Still True?

- Great strides have been made in getting parents to use the right child restraints for infants and toddlers, but not for older children.
- Nevertheless, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading killer of children ages 3 to 14 (and also for all passengers up to age 33).
- At least 4 out of 5 children who should ride in booster seats currently do not.
- Many injuries and fatalities to children can be prevented with increased booster seat usage.

Q. What do you want parents to remember during this year's recognition of Child Passenger Safety Week?

- If they are under 4'9", they need a booster seat. Many children don't reach 4'9" until age 10 or 11, making it all the more important that parents pay attention to the way the belts actually fit their children, and continue to use the booster seat, rather than "graduating" them to adult safety belts prematurely.
- Never allow a child to ride unrestrained, period.
- Regardless of what your State law may be, make booster seats the rule in your family until the adult safety belt fits correctly.
- Children under 13 are always safer riding in the back seat.
- For more information, go to www.boosterseat.gov.
- For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers should follow the **4 steps for Kids:**
 1. Use rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least one year of age AND at least 20 pounds;
 2. Use forward-facing toddler seats in the back seat from age one and 20 pounds to about age four and 40 pounds;
 3. Use booster seats in the back seat from about age four to at least age eight – unless the child is 4'9" or taller; and
 4. Use safety belts in the back seat at age eight or older or taller than 4'9".

Q. Where can a parent or caregiver purchase a booster seat?

- Booster seats can be purchased at many large toy and other retail stores.

Q. What can a parent or caregiver do to ensure that their child safety seat is installed correctly?

- Go to www.nhtsa.dot.gov and click on "Child Seat Inspections" to find an inspection site near you. Or call 1-866-SEAT-CHECK or visit www.seatcheck.org.



Plant Swap and Sale



Sponsored by Dirty Hands Garden Club

Saturday, May 6
At the City Building

Sale begins: 10 AM
Swaps accepted Saturday 9 AM or Friday 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Bring in your extra perennials and receive “Dirty Bucks” for them which spend like cash in the Swaps tent. Or you may simply buy for cash if you have no perennials to swap.

Perennials you bring in to swap should be potted if possible.

If you cannot pot them, bring them in plastic bags which will retain moisture and dirt.

We reserve the right to limit quantities accepted of a single type of plant,
and we do not accept invasive or pernicious plants.

Questions? Call Eileen at 331-7087

PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS



Watch for Fort Wright Night at
Florence Freedom Baseball in
June. Date to be announced.

Check the City website at

www.fortwright.com

or in the June Top of the Hill
newsletter.

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