



Top of the Hill News

Information for The Citizens of Fort Wright
November 2006 Eileen Hastings Editor

LORUP/BARBARA SEWER REHAB COMPLETED!

In a letter to Mayor Gene Weaver dated October 5, 2006, Sanitation District #1 notified the City that post construction monitoring of the storm water outfalls from these neighborhoods into the creek in the Nature Center along Highland Pike has verified the success of a nearly six year project to address the discharge of untreated sewage into that creek by approximately 100 private properties in the Lorup Avenue to Barbara Circle neighborhoods. In December of 2000, the City received a Notice of Violation (NOV) from the Kentucky Division of Water, for permitting the discharge of raw sewage in its storm water outfalls in the Nature Center, from homes in the Lorup Avenue to Barbara Circle neighborhoods. The City faced civil fines of \$25,000 a day if the illicit discharge continued. SD#1 replaced approximately 12,000 linear feet of public sanitary and storm sewer lines, and over 80 private sanitary

sewer laterals, all over multiple construction phases. The total project cost is about \$3.5M, paid for with storm water fee funds collected from their ratepayers by SD#1. The City contributed approximately \$350,000 to this project. The testing and monitoring of five storm water outfalls, which was repeated during dry weather inspections, indicated either no visible discharge or very light flow with relatively low bacterial and fecal coliform values of 1,000 cfu/100ml, or less, **compared to pre-construction fecal coliform values** ranging from 10,000 to 200,000 cfu/100ml.

The City and SD#1 want to acknowledge the incredible patience of property owners in these affected neighborhoods during some very trying times, with streets, sidewalks, yards, etc. disturbed for extended periods of time. In the end, these neighborhoods have increased property value, and the most up-to-date sewer infrastructure of any established neighborhood in Northern Kentucky! These sewer rehabilitation projects, spurred by directives from the federal EPA and Kentucky Division of Water, will very likely be repeated for many years to come throughout older neighborhoods across Northern Kentucky. The City also wants to thank SD#1 and its ratepayers for their technical and financial assistance, without which this project affecting only 100 homes out of approximately 1,800 homes in Fort Wright, would have placed a significant financial burden on ALL taxpayers in Fort Wright. In 2005, the City of Elsmere received a similar NOV from the Kentucky Division of Water for permitting raw sewage to be discharged from its storm water system into nearby creeks in the Swan Circle neighborhood there, and is also working with SD#1 to correct this hazard to public health.

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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 fifteen 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CITY WEBSITE

The following is a brief list of the many items of importance and interest that can be found on the City of Fort Wright's website at www.fortwright.com.

VISION COMMITTEE YEAR 5 PLAN of Long Range Plan

VISION COMMITTEE JUNE 2006 CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

U.S. PASSPORT FACILITY AT FORT WRIGHT CITY BUILDING

JAMES A. RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

BRENT SPENCE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT —www.brentspencebridgecorridor.com

DIXIE FIX FINAL REPORT LINK—www.oki.org

FORT WRIGHT TOWN CENTER FORM DISTRICT REGS. FOR KY 17

DLZ REPORT ON INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT FOR KY 17—At www.nkapc.org, to “Long Range Planning”, to “Studies”

VISION COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS ON CITY WEBSITE

Be sure to visit the City's website at www.fortwright.com to view the results of the Vision Committee's Citizen Survey conducted in June 2006 through the City's monthly newsletter, the Top of the Hill News! A very special thanks to Vision Committee Member Eileen Hastings, whose background in market research was of invaluable assistance in compiling and tabulating the survey results,! If you do not have Internet access, or are otherwise unable to access the survey results, please contact the City at 331-1700 so that a printed copy can be mailed to you.

2006 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Please note the following with regard to the holidays and City office hours. Regular City office hours are from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. City Offices will be closed on Monday January 1, 2007. City Administration Office will be open on Saturday, December 30th, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon for acceptance of tax payments ONLY. Walk in payments for 2006 property tax bills must be made by Friday December 29th at the close of business at 5:00 PM, or on Saturday, December 30th between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM (Noon). There is also a mail slot in the front door of the City Building for you to place you property tax bill payments before or after City office hours. Keep in mind that property tax payments **MUST** be postmarked or dropped off at the City Building by **NO LATER THAN** December 31st! If they are later than that date, penalty and interest fees will be added to the property tax bill. Also, please note that since December 31st is a Sunday this year, the post offices will be closed and will not postmark your payment on that date! Therefore we highly recommend that if you are mailing it to put it in the mail by Friday night to avoid penalty and interest charges.

By now, all property owners should have received their 2006 property tax bill. If you are responsible for payment rather than your mortgage company, and have not received your 2006 property tax bill, please call the City offices and a new one can be sent to you. If you have received the tax bill, but have an escrow account from which the property tax is paid, please be reminded that it is the property owner's responsibility to forward the bill to the mortgage company.

City Office hours at 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday. Questions? please call (859) 331-1700.

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

The annual Unique Boutique hosted by St. Agnes School will take place on Wednesday, November 8th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Gardens of Park Hills. Admission is \$5.00. This is a great opportunity to get some early holiday shopping done. Over 30 vendors will be attending, new and old. Proceeds benefit St. Agnes School.

ADOPT A MILITARY UNIT UPDATE

Thanks again to the following generous citizens for their support for our adopted military unit deployed to Iraq, the Iron Rakkasans; Larry Olliges of Saint Anthony Drive; Steve Wolnitzek of Beacon Hill Drive; the Crabtrees of General Drive; and Saint Agnes Parish and organizers Tom Jacober and Allen White, for their regular monthly support! Since the City of Fort Wright “adopted” a military unit serving in Iraq, a total of 69 boxes, weighing 3,062 pounds, has been shipped to Iraq to help support our men and women serving in harm’s way. Items have ranged from food, drinks, magazines, socks and t-shirts, foot powder, CD’s, DVD’s coffee pots, and stationery. Thank you, Fort Wright, for your continued support!

THANK YOU VETERANS! “COMMUNITY VETERANS HONOR LOCAL VETERANS”

On Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2006, the American Legion Post 275 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 275 are sponsoring a Community Veterans Dinner for US Armed Forces Veterans (and current enlistees) in Kenton County. The Dinner will be held at the Independence Senior & Community Center, 2001 Jack Woods Parkway, Independence, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Local Civil War historian and enthusiast Bob Clements of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board in Fort Wright will be the guest speaker, appearing in his Civil War uniform, Reservations are NOT required as dinner will be served continuously until 8:00 PM. Several local organizations and companies, including the City of Independence, Harper Oil Products, and McHale’s Hospitality Group are co-sponsoring the Dinner by providing the facility, food, and refreshments. The Dinner is **FREE** for all Kenton County veterans and current enlistees with proof of service. Members of the Sons of the American Legion and The American Legion will serve as volunteer cooks and waiters. The event will also feature a static display of military memorabilia presented by Mr. Bob Snow of Covington. “This dinner is being held to thank America’s veterans for their service to our country”, said Bryan Meade, Commander of Independence Squadron 275. For the past two years, the Sons of The American Legion has co-sponsored the Veterans Day Commemoration at Northern Kentucky University, however, because Veterans Day falls on a Saturday this year, this event is being held instead. Veterans Day is observed on November 11th each year to commemorate the signing of the Armistice ending World War I which took effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. Veterans Day was designated as a Federal holiday in 1954.

SAN JUAN ROMERO APPOINTED TO BOARD OF ETHICS

Mr. San Juan Romero of Ridgemont Avenue was reappointed to another three-year term on the City’s Board of Ethics. At the October 4, 2006 City Council meeting, Mayor Gene Weaver nominated Mr. Romero and City Council unanimously approved the nomination at the meeting. The term begins on January 1, 2007 and ends on December 31, 2009. Mr. Romero joins Board of Ethics Members Gabrielle Summe of Park Road and Donald Russell of Stony Point Drive. Thank you Mr. Romero, and Ms. Summe and Mr. Russell, for your civic-mindedness and contributions of time and talent for your community!

Happy Birthday!

Police Chief
Daniel Kreinest
November 2nd

Maintenance Worker
Nick Zumdick
November 30th

CITY OFFICES
CLOSED

Thursday, November 23rd
Friday, November 24th

For the
Thanksgiving Holiday

CARL STAMM & GENE WEBER APPOINTED TO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Carl Stamm and Mr. Gene Weber were reappointed by the Mayor and City Council to another four year term each on the Fort Wright Board of Adjustments. Mayor Gene Weaver nominated Mr. Stamm and Mr. Weber, and City Council unanimously approved their reappointment, at their regular meeting on October 4, 2006. The terms of office begin on January 1, 2007 and end on December 31, 2010. They join other Board Members, Donna Bloemer of Amsterdam Road, Harry Geimeier of General Drive, and Tom Litzler of Beaumont Court. The Board of Adjustments adjudicates requests for dimensional variances, conditional use permit requests, and appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decisions. Thank you Mr. Stamm and Mr. Weber, and Ms. Bloemer, Mr. Geimeier, and Mr. Litzler, for your civic-mindedness and contributions of time and talent for your community!

NKU DENDROLOGY CLASS AT BATTERY HOOPER PARK

On Monday, October 2, a class from the NKU Botany Department visited Battery Hooper Park for a class project, to identify the numerous native and non-native trees there. Approximately one dozen students in the Dendrology class (Study of trees), led by Dr. Mary Whitson, NKU Department of Biological Studies and Curator of the NKU Herbarium, took small samples of several trees, and inventoried others using a tree site map. It is anticipated that trees on the site eventually will be tagged so that visitors can enjoy and learn from our own mini-arboretum. Dr. Whitson reported that there were at least 30 non-native species of trees in the park, including a Chinese Chestnut and a variation of a redwood tree. The former owners of the property, Fern and Sheldon Storer, planted and cultivated this collection of beautiful trees since 1941. Mr. Storer's travels around the country as a sales representative for an electrical lighting firm presented them with the opportunity to collect various species of trees around the country and bring them back home to Fort Wright!

FERN STORER COOKBOOK SALES BENEFIT CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

The late Fern Storer, 60 year Fort Wright resident and Kentucky Post Food Editor for many years, whose 17 acre estate on Highland Avenue was acquired by the City in late 2003 as a park, was also the author of a cookbook, Recipes Remembered: A Collection of Modernized Nostalgia, first printed in 1989. This hometown treasure is now available to you just in time to be a great Christmas gift! Recipes Remembered can be purchased at the City Building, or the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, for \$19.95. Recipes Remembered is 315 pages of great recipes with a Fort Wright flavor! Give this great piece of Fort Wright history and fame as a gift for family and friends! All proceeds from these sales go to benefit exhibits and displays at the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum at Battery Hooper Park.

ANNUAL SENIORS

LUNCHEON

**Presented by Parks and Recreation
Board**

When? Thursday, November 9

Time? 12:30—2:00 PM

Place? South Hills Civic Club

**Come, join your friends and neighbors
for lunch, fellowship, fun and games.**

**For reservations please call the City
offices at
331-1700 by November 3rd**

Dirty Hands Garden Club

November Meeting:

Tuesday 28th 7:30 PM

1808 Mt. Vernon Drive

**Purpose: to make the evergreen
sprays for use on the City's
stop signs through the holidays.**

**Come to the rear
entrance, please**