



# Top of the Hill News

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

**Dear Neighbors,**

I would like to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts with you. As many of you know by now, Mayor Gene Weaver and City Administrator Larry Klein resigned earlier this year to pursue business and personal endeavors. First I would like to thank them both for their service to the citizens of Fort Wright. As a result of their resignations, I was appointed to the position of Mayor by the City Council. To date, it has been both a trying and rewarding position. I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to thank our department heads, City Council, committees and our unbelievably valuable employees for their help and efforts during the transition. I can assure you that during my brief time serving you, my neighbors and friends; that I have come to a deeper appreciation for all of these people who make this City the most desirable place to live and raise a family.

Perhaps the most important task we faced as a council was finding a new City Administrator. I chose to share this responsibility with all of council as opposed to making the decision solely at my discretion. Our search committee narrowed the field of close to 150 candidates to roughly 20 early in the process. We conducted a series of three interviews with the entire City Council participating. Following each round of interviews Council voted to see which candidates moved to the next round. These interviews were very thorough and the decisions were not easy as we had a highly qualified pool of candidates. In the end, we met an average of 3 nights per week for most of the summer. As a result of everyone's efforts and due diligence I believe we have chosen the best possible candidate for Fort Wright at this particular time.

It gives me great pleasure as the Mayor of our hometown to introduce Gary Huff as our new City Administrator. Gary recently retired from Washington Township, Ohio near Dayton. He served in various capacities for Washington Township for close to 25 years. His last 12 years he served as the Township Administrator. Washington Township has nearly 30,000 residents and covers nearly 20 square miles. Gary has a tremendous amount of experience in Zoning and Planning as well as Budgeting. Gary graduated from NKU in 1976 after studying political science and urban planning. He went on to earn an MPA in Public Administration.

Both Gary and his wife Barb are natives of the area. Barb grew up in Fort Wright, while Gary grew up in Park Hills. They have children in the area and this opportunity provides Gary and Barb the opportunity to be close to their children and grandchildren.

I am very excited about Fort Wright's future with Gary on board. I hope that you will join with me in welcoming Gary and Barb home. If you should find yourself in the area of the City Building I would encourage you to take the opportunity to stop by and introduce yourself to Gary and the rest of the staff. They are very approachable and are here at your pleasure and for your service.

Thank you for the trust and support that each of you invest in our Council, Staff and committees. It is an investment that everyone involved in the City appreciates and strives to return in the form of outstanding customer service.

Respectfully  
Joe Nienaber, Jr.  
Mayor

## **HALLOWEEN**

### Trick or Treat Hours

October 31<sup>st</sup>

6:00 – 8:00 PM

There will be refreshments available at the Fort Wright Fire Department from 7:00 – 9:00 PM on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This will also serve as a safe meeting place for families who may become separated during the evening while trick or treating.

### **Great Fort Wright Pumpkin Party**

The Fort Wright Parks and Recreation Committee will hold **The Great Fort Wright Pumpkin Party** Saturday, November 1, 2008, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the City's Firehouse. The event will include a Halloween costume judging contest in three age groups, a pumpkin decorating contest, and a "game alley." There will be costume contests in Ages 0–3, Ages 4 –7, and Ages 8–12 with nine (9) total prize winners. The game alley is geared to the same ages and will include a Halloween themed craft, and several small games (prize to all contestants). All attendees can view the imaginative pumpkins entered in the pumpkin decorating contest (see below). Attendees will also receive free treats, including water, popcorn, and cookies. This event is open to all Fort Wright's residents.

#### **Pumpkin Decorating Contest**

All residents of Fort Wright are eligible to enter the pumpkin decorating contest which will be held as part of the Great Fort Wright Pumpkin Party. Three winners will be selected. Each will receive a \$15 prize. Pumpkins may be carved, painted, colored, sculpted, stacked, dressed or have items stuck or placed in or on them. Moms, dads, kids, teens, seniors, the next door dog and your Fort Wright neighbor are eligible! *No open flames permitted at the event. Flashlight or flashing light IS permitted in the pumpkin.*

### **MUSEUM TO HOST VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM**

The City of Fort Wright, Kentucky is pleased to announce that it's James A. Ramage Civil War Museum (JARCWM) will host a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell on Sunday, November 9th at 2:00 PM.

The Museum and its volunteers, in cooperation with the Sons of the American Legion, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the staff of Highland Cemetery, will be paying tribute to both living and deceased military veterans from every war or conflict represented in the cemetery.

The Sons of the American Revolution will be present to do the Invocation, play taps, and provide a 21-gun salute. A military-related flyover will take place between 2:10 and 2:20 PM to honor all veterans. WW II Veteran Vierling A. Blum will be our keynote speaker. He is the adjutant of Wesley Werner American Legion Post 513 in Mount Healthy; he served from 1943 to 1946 in 102<sup>nd</sup> Division in Germany.

This year our Civil War veteran will be 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Colonel James Martin. He was the ancestor of the late Don Martin a former mayor of Fort Wright. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Col. Martin served with the Union in company G of the 41<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Regiment during the siege of Cincinnati. He did good service during this critical time in our history.

The JARCWM, in keeping with its mission to both educate the public and keep alive the memory of military veterans, is proud to be sponsoring this event.

For more details please contact Kathleen Romero chairperson and museum board member at 859-331-2499. Additional details will be posted on the City's website at [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com) in October.

## **OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH, Change Your Clock—Change Your Battery.**

Submitted By Chief Stephen Schewe

As the time change approaches on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Fort Wright Fire Department wants to remind residents to make another change that could save their lives-changing the batteries in their smoke alarms.

Communities nationwide witness tragic home fire deaths each year. An average of three children per day die in home fires and 80 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Non-working smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms: worn or missing batteries.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends replacing your smoke alarm every ten years.

To save lives and prevent needless injuries in Fort Wright, the Fort Wright Fire Department has joined forces with Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs for the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery campaign. The program urges all Americans to adopt a simple, lifesaving habit: changing smoke alarm batteries when changing clocks back to standard time each fall, this year on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

“The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most families are sleeping,” says Chief Stephen Schewe. “Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely”.

In addition, Chief Schewe recommends residents use the “extra” hour they save from the time change to test smoke alarms by pushing the test button, planning “two ways out” and practicing escape routes with the entire family.

Tragically, fire can kill selectively. Those most at risk include:

**Children**—Approximately 1,000 children under the age of 20 die each year in home fires. Children under age five are at twice the risk of dying in a home fire. Eighty percent of fatal home fire victims who were children were killed in homes without working smoke alarms.

**Seniors**—Adults over age 75 are three times more likely to die in home fires than the rest of the population; those over 85 are 4.5 times more likely to die in a home fire. Many seniors are unable to escape quickly.

**Low-Income Households**—Many low-income families are unable to afford batteries for their smoke alarms. These same households often rely on poorly installed, maintained or misused portable or area heating equipment -a main cause of fatal home fires.

For more information, or help with testing or changing smoke alarm batteries please call Fort Wright Fire Department at 859-331-2600

### **FIFTH ANNUAL SENIORS LUNCHEON**

Looking ahead to November, the City's senior citizens are invited to the Fort Wright Senior Luncheon, presented by the City's Parks and Recreation Committee.

When? Thursday, November 13, 2008

Time? 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Place? South Hills Civic Club

Please come and join your friends and neighbors for lunch, fellowship, and fun.

Reservations are required and should be made by November 7, 2008, by calling the City offices at 331-1700.

Please let the City know if you will need transportation.

## **Fort Wright City Council Candidates Forum**

Fort Wright, KY, September 19, 2008: The Fort Wright Business Association will host a candidates forum on Wednesday October 8, 2008 at 7pm. The forum will be held at the Council chambers in the Fort Wright City Building at 409 Kyles Lane. Citizens will have the opportunity to evaluate the candidates vying for seats on the Fort Wright City Council.

Brandon Devault, Vice President of the Fort Wright Business Association, will moderate the event.

## **PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

### **St. Agnes and Vidot Street Project:**

Lonkard Construction has been awarded the contract to replace the storm and sanitary sewers. Work will begin the end of September. Portions of the street will be closed at times and there may be delays. The contract deadline for the storm and sanitary work is April 10, 2009. Contracts for the water main and street replacement will follow in the next few months.

### **Hooper Park Improvements:**

The project has been awarded to Jeffery Allen Corporation. The plans call for two shelters and a playground area. Construction has begun. Clearing and excavation for the playground area has been completed and the project is progressing. Concrete for the footings has and will be continuing. Look for equipment and structures to be set the end of September and the beginning of October. The completion date for the project is October 9, 2008.

### **Kyles Lane Henry Clay Avenue Intersection Realignment Project**

The highway department has been working the timing of the lights and the other lights along Kyles in order to maximize efficiency. Traffic appears to be moving much better!



### **St. Vincent de Paul's Annual Coat Collection – “Make a Difference Day”**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is preparing for their annual coat giveaway on October 18<sup>th</sup>, “Make a Difference Day”. Coats are provided to anyone residing in Northern Kentucky in need of a coat for the winter.

As the winter weather approaches, we would like to ask for your support by bringing your new or gently used coats, as well as hats and gloves to the Fort Wright City Building. There will be a barrel set up in the front lobby for you to drop your items in.

The Coat Drive will take place at the City Building from October 1<sup>st</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

# PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY FROM THEFT

Detective Travis Brown



One of your most valuable assets is your good name and credit. In days gone by, people paid for goods and services with cash. Times have changed with the advent of personal checks and credit cards. In the past, thieves who stole checks and credit cards had to utter them in person. Credit card companies and banks installed better safeguards over time that made this form of theft more difficult. Today, however, thieves steal entire identities to establish credit and obtain goods and services with little fear of detection.

With the coming of the Internet Age, identity theft has become a real threat. Now, anyone can make purchases with credit cards with complete anonymity. More importantly, a criminal can obtain new credit in your name as long as they have enough information to provide to the credit company.

How do thieves obtain identity information? Some thieves pick through garbage and retrieve bank statements, credit card applications, bills, and other documents containing personal information. Many such items arrive in the mail each day and most people tear them up and discard them into the trash. Garbage that is out at the street is there for anyone to take legally. Some thieves will even look through mailboxes and take these items before the homeowner retrieves their mail. Increasingly, however, thieves steal personal information without ever visiting a home by using the Internet.

Thieves can send unsolicited email known as "spam" that clutter our inboxes daily. If you respond to one of these emails, you may be opening the door to personal information stored on the computer such as passwords or stored credit card numbers. Another type of email will appear to be from a legitimate business and it will ask for personal information. However obtained, the thief will be able to use this information to access personal online accounts or to make unauthorized purchases, often without detection for long periods of time. How often do you look closely at your bank and credit card statements?

What can you do to protect yourself from identity theft? There are many simple rules to follow. First, don't give personal information to anyone over the phone, the Internet or email. There are cases locally where thieves called people at home and said that their credit cards were stolen. The unsuspecting cardholder answered several questions asked by the supposed bank employee providing the caller with mother's maiden name, date of birth, and credit card number. A bank will have this information on file already, they will not call and ask you for it. Never share information over the Internet unless the site is secure, it is generally safe to make purchases on sites with SSL, or Secure Sockets Layer, which encrypt personal information.

Second, purchase a crosscutting shredder and destroy all documents containing personal information before discarding them. There are cases of thieves stealing shredded documents from trash and taping them back together. Crosscut shredders insure that the document is completely destroyed. Third, check your bank and credit card statements closely every month. If there is something on the statement that does not belong there, investigate closely and obtain a new credit report. Look closely to make sure new credit lines have not been established in your name. You can obtain a copy of your credit report from your bank, or from one of the three reporting services, Equifax, Experian (formerly TRW), or Trans Union.

If you think you are a victim of identity theft, contact your local Police Department immediately and then notify the Federal Trade Commission by telephone toll-free at 1-877-ID THEFT (877-438-4338) or TDD at 202-326-2502, or by mail to:

**Consumer Response Center, FTC**      <http://www.ftc.gov>  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20580.

**Federal Trade Commission's identity theft website:** <http://www.consumer.gov/idthe>  
**Identity Theft Center:**

**Kentucky Attorney General's identity theft website:** <http://www.idtheftcenter.org>  
List the following helpful links"

**ID Theft Victim Kit (1.06 Mb PDF)**

<http://ag.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/03BEBF96-F293-4F293-4ED6-97D6-698216AA1CFD/O.idtheftkit.pdf>

**FREE annual credit report** <http://annualcreditreport.com/>

**Tips for Victims**      <http://ag.ky.gov/consumer/identity/tips.htm>

**Don't get hooked by a "phishing" scam (PDF)**

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/>

**ID Theft brochure (1.54mb PDF)** [http://ag.ky.gov/DR/rdonlyres/AB840224-00DF-47DC-B211-F51BF6D3539F/O/idtheft\\_brochure.pdf](http://ag.ky.gov/DR/rdonlyres/AB840224-00DF-47DC-B211-F51BF6D3539F/O/idtheft_brochure.pdf)

**Information for Businesses (PDF)**

<http://us.bbb.org/WWWRoot/storage/16/documents/ecurityPrivacyMadeSimpler.pdf>

**2008 Property Tax Bills**

2008 Property Tax Bills are out. Please note that we are aware of a printing error. The due date states 12-31-2007 - This should be 12-31-2008. All other information on the bills is correct.

If you have received your bill and your taxes are escrowed, it is your responsibility to forward the bill to your mortgage company. You received the bill because your mortgage company did not request it.

If you have any other questions please contact us at the City Building, Monday - Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

## **Entertainment Books**

Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. once again has Entertainment Books available for sale at the City Building – the price of books is only \$20 – so be sure to get yours before they are gone.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Police Officer Travis Brown – October 12<sup>th</sup>

Firefighter/EMT Ron Becker – October 14<sup>th</sup>

Firefighter/EMT Jeff Hatter – October 18<sup>th</sup>

Police Officer Daniel Martin – October 28<sup>th</sup>