



# Top of the Hill News

Information for the Citizens of Fort Wright  
January 2009 Eileen Hastings Editor

## **CITY OFFICES CLOSED**

City Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in Observance of the New Year's Holiday. We will be open on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> from  
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Please remember tax bills are due before the end of business day on December 31<sup>st</sup>!

## **The FORT WRIGHT POLICE DEPARTMENT needs your HELP!!! PLEASE LOCK YOUR CARS AND REMOVE ALL VALUABLES**

More information on next page

*Dear Neighbors,*

On behalf of the City Council and Staff, I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. Although it seems more difficult every day in tough economic times to have a positive outlook, I invite you to join with us in resisting the temptation to place our optimism on the shelf.

I will share with you that I have never been so excited about the opportunities that this New Year presents to the citizens of Fort Wright. We have an outstanding staff, active council committees, active volunteerism and a community spirit that has seen Fort Wright through times of prosperity and hardship since 1941.

I can assure you that no one particular person or group makes Fort Wright the finest community on earth. There is no "Man behind the Curtain". We have forged on through the concerted efforts of every citizen in every neighborhood. This truly is a City based on "Neighbors helping Neighbors".

During these tough times it is imperative that we look out for our neighbors. We have recently experienced an increase in criminal activity that I believe is a result of several factors. Whatever the root of the problem, one thing is certain. We have an obligation to ourselves and each other to bring these activities to an end.

I am not trying to induce panic. Fort Wright is one of the safest places on earth to live. This activity is simply not tolerated in Fort Wright and will be handled with the highest of Priority.

Our Police Department, City Staff and Council are making every effort to eradicate this problem. There have been arrests made in some instances, but there have also been several missed opportunities. We are frequently hearing that people witnessed suspicious behavior, vehicles or activities in their neighborhoods and either didn't call or waited to call.

Many people are asking whether they should call the private line or 911. Time is critical in catching these individuals. They are generally on foot which makes them very elusive. Do not concern yourself with whether or not you are overreacting or putting our police department out. We are happy to respond to your calls.

**How can you help?**

- **Lock your car doors.** Almost all of the thefts from cars were a result of unlocked cars.
- **Do not leave valuables in your vehicles or homes in plain view.**
- **Be aware of suspicious activities, vehicles or situations and report them immediately.**
- **Dial 911**

Together we can assure that 2009 is both prosperous and safe for every citizen of Fort Wright. Be proud of our City and each other.

*Wishing you the Happiest of New Years,*

*Joe Nienaber Jr.  
Mayor*

## ***Police Need Your Help***

On Tuesday, December 09, 2008, the City of Fort Wright was again the target of thieves. We had several cars entered and numerous items stolen, this includes satellite radios, GPS systems such as a Garmin or TomTom. We had a pistol stolen and a car with the keys in it was stolen. The neighborhoods that were the primary targets of the thefts were Barbara Circle, August Avenue, East and West Crittenden and Basswood Circle. The Police Department has taken an occasional theft report in the last month but not a significant series of thefts like this night. There was one notable exception on December 1<sup>st</sup> we did have a vehicle on Mount Vernon Drive where a computer, handgun, GPS, tools, brief case and a stock certificate were stolen. The Police Department is continuing to investigate these crimes and does have some leads and suspects however we need your help. **Please lock your cars and remove all valuables from your cars and trucks.**

On another note we have had at least two different incidents where a resident noticed something suspicious and did not report it immediately to the police, these two occasions were residential burglaries. The Police Department has been able to arrest one suspect and recover some of the property in one case; possibly if we were called right away we could have recovered all the property and made the arrest instantaneously.

**Please call the police immediately if you see something unusual or suspicious.** If your dogs start barking in the middle of the night it might be a good idea to get up and look around, do not turn on all the lights, just watch and call the police. Call **911** or the 24-hour Dispatch number **727-2424, PLEASE CALL.**

# Safety Tips for Parents

Submitted by Stephen Schewe, Fort Wright Fire Department

Whenever children are outside playing there are questions we need to ask our children and ourselves.

1. Is your child safe playing outside?
2. When your child is playing outside, do they know how to be safe?
3. Does your child know what to do if an emergency occurs?

Do you know what to do if your child is injured?

To assume that our children know how to play safe and know what to do in an emergency would be very wrong. Children need to be taught what to do. Listed below are a few things you should talk to your children about.

- Do not to talk to strangers and why it is dangerous.
- Always play in groups and never by themselves.
- Always wear a helmet and pads when riding their bikes, scooters, skateboards, roller-blades and dirt bikes. Explain what could happen if they fall and strike their head.
- Always informing an adult when they are playing away from the house and ensure they know how to get help if an emergency arises.

Review how to get an ambulance if an emergency happens.

Do you know what to do if your child becomes injured while playing?

- The first thing for you to do is to stay CALM. If you are calm it will help your injured child stay calm and not increase any chance of further injury.
- Call or have someone call 911. Make sure to give all information about the injury to the 911 operator.
- Keep the injured child from moving and have them lay still until the ambulance arrives.
- If the child has a bleeding wound, cover it with a clean cloth and apply direct pressure to the wound with your hand.
- If the child appears to have a fracture to either their arm or leg, ensure that the extremity does not move.

If the child is found to be unconscious, leave the child in position found and call 911.

## **In Case of Emergency - Mobile Phones:**

The Fort Wright Police Department recommends that you put an entry in your mobile phone address book under the name: "ICE", for In Case of Emergency. You may want to enter more than one person or number; you can enter them as "ICE-1, ICE-2, etc. The purpose for the entry is to identify a person to call if the owner of the phone cannot communicate with emergency or hospital personnel due to being incapacitated in some manner. A number of issues can cause a person to be unable to communicate such as a stroke, diabetic reactions, injuries due to any type of accident or other medical conditions; this phone entry is a good idea for everyone. It is also a good idea to put a card in your wallet with similar information on who to contact in case of an emergency as you may not always have your phone or it may not be charged or it could be damaged.

This entry in your phone will not help if you password your phone as emergency personnel will not be able to access the phone. Also contrary to popular myth no one can put charges on your phone if you enter this information. A popular web site for checking if rumors, urban legends or other stories are real or fiction is: <http://www.snopes.com/snopes.asp>

It is Christmas time please be safe and enjoy the holidays and watch out for your neighbors. If you imbibe in holiday spirits please do so responsibly and have designated driver. A taxi cab ride from anywhere in Greater Cincinnati is much cheaper than a D.U.I. and you get to spend the night at home with your family.

Merry Christmas

Col. Daniel J. Kreinest & the Fort Wright Police Department

### **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 cooperate when a Snow Emergency is declared, in the interest of public safety, so that police, fire, and ambulance vehicles can safely and quickly access each residence and place of business in the City.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Christmas trees will be mulched on January 6<sup>th</sup>, please drop off trees by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Trees can be dropped off at the City Building anytime after December 29<sup>th</sup>. An area will be marked as in years past. Again, we ask that you remove all ornaments, twine, garland and wire from the trees.

The Civil War Museum  
closed December 15th and will re-open on February 6th.

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

Firefighter/EMT Greg Aylor – January 8<sup>th</sup>

Firefighter/EMT Mike Gorman – January 11<sup>th</sup>

