



Top of the Hill News

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

LABOR DAY CRACKDOWN *The Tragedy of Drunk Driving*



As long as I've been a police officer, I've never gotten used to the sorrow I feel when I'm called to reconstruct a crash where a person has died due to impaired driving. Yet this senseless loss of human life is a daily reality all over America year after year.

Imagine the public outrage if 33 jumbo jets each carrying about 400 people crashed every year in America, killing all on board. That's the equivalent of the toll our country suffers annually due to impaired driving. But where's the indignation over this catastrophe?

The fact is that impaired-driving deaths *did* decline dramatically during the 1980s through the early 1990s. Social activism, including the rise of organizations such as MADD, led to tighter laws that helped bring the death toll down. During that period, every State plus the District of Columbia made it illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams per deciliter or above. Plus the legal drinking age was lifted from 18 to 21.

But within the last decade, the numbers have been essentially stagnant. In 2006 alone, the latest year for which we have data, nearly 13,500 people died in crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was legally drunk, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Particularly shocking is that among those dead were 306 children under age 15 innocent victims of crashes that could have been avoided.

Because we're committed to ending this tragedy, the Fort Wright Police Department will join with others throughout the Nation during the coming Labor Day holiday period for an intensive crackdown on impaired driving. This nationwide enforcement campaign, bolstered by \$30 million in radio and TV advertising, is aimed at the worst offenders, 21- to 34-year-old males. It runs from August 15 through September 1.

As police officers, our message during this crackdown and all year long is clear and unwavering: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* With stepped-up law enforcement throughout the Nation — including sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols — if you drive drunk, you are going to get caught.

As always buckle up, and drive safe. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to call me, Sgt. Marc Schworer at the Fort Wright Police Department, 859-331-2191.

LOOKING FOR PAST FIRE/EMS MEMBERS

If you or someone you may know served as a member of the Fort Wright Fire/EMS department in the 1950's or 1960's please let us know. The Fire Department is working on creating a permanent record of all past members and to recognize these folks in a permanent display in our Fire Station. Our records are very accurate from the 1970's to date, however we want to be sure not to miss anyone that may have been involved in the early years. Please e-mail Steve Schewe at sschewe@fortwright.com or call at 859-331-2600 and we'll make sure they are in our data base.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

**Monday, September 1, 2008
For Labor Day Holiday**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

EMT Eileen Malone
September 9

MOMS Club of Fort Mitchell Open House

Submitted by: Emily Albers
Fort Wright resident and co-president of MOMS Club of Fort Mitchell

Hello moms! Join us for a fun carnival celebrating you and your children! The MOMS Club of Fort Mitchell is hosting an Open House on September 10, 2008 from 10 am to 1 pm. The Open House will be held at Immanuel Methodist Church in Lakeside Park. Please enter the church through the ramp by the playground. Come ready to meet local moms and their children! MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club(R) is an international nonprofit organization of support groups specifically for mothers who have chosen to stay at home to raise their children.

Our members include mothers of all ages, with children of all ages, who may or may not work outside of their homes. For information, please contact Emily Albers at 344-1514.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Amsterdam Road Repair Project:

Project has been completed and the road has reopened!

St. Agnes and Vidot Street Project:

The Project Design is complete. Duke energy is finishing up the gas line work. The contract for the storm and sanitary sewer work is currently out to bid. Bids are due by August 28, 2008. The project should be awarded sometime in September and work can begin immediately after. 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 of the playground area has been completed and the project is progressing according to schedule. The completion date for the project is October 9, 2008.

Park / Church Entrance Drive Relocation

Project has been substantially completed.

Kyles Lane Henry Clay Avenue Intersection Realignment Project

The project has been substantially completed. The highway department will monitor the timing of the lights in order to maximize efficiency.

Fire & Safety Tips for Residents from Fort Wright Fire/EMS

Keep Your Family Safe

- Never leave small children alone in the home, even for a minute.
- Place a barrier around open flames.
- Do not allow children to play near fireplaces, radiators, space heaters or kitchen stoves.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing near a stove, fireplace, or open space heater.

Fire Prevention

- Do not smoke in your home, especially in bed.
- Dispose of cigarette butts, matches, and ashes with care.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Be sure your gas water heater is off the ground. Spilled flammable liquids will be ignited by the pilot light.
- Have your heating system and fireplace checked and cleaned yearly. Fall is a great time to do this.
- Leave plenty of room around space heaters. They should be at least 3 feet from anything that might burn, like curtains and furniture. Turn space heaters off and unplug them when you go to bed or leave the home.
- Check electric appliances and cords regularly for wear or loose connections.
- Use only appropriate fuses for lighting circuits. Never use a substitute for a fuse.

Family Preparedness

- Install long-life smoke alarms with lithium-powered batteries on every level of your home, especially in furnace and sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms once a month. If long-life alarms are not available, change the batteries at least once a year.
- Plan several escape routes from the house. Plan a place to meet right after leaving the house.
- Conduct home fire drills with your family. Even preschool-aged children (3 and older) can begin to learn what to do in case of a fire.
- Place fire extinguishers around the home where the risk of fire is greatest - in the kitchen and furnace room, and near the fireplace.

In Case of a Fire

- Get everyone outside right away. Go to your planned meeting place.
- Do not stop to dress or put out the fire. (Most deaths occur from suffocation due to hot fumes and smoke, not from direct burning.)
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.

If you have questions or need assistance with any fire or safety related issues including smoke or CO detectors please contact the Fire Department at 331-2600 We will be happy to assistance you in any way to create a safe environment for you and your family.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

ROBBERY – BEAUMONT COURT

On Monday, August 11, 2008 at approximately 21:21 hours Fort Wright Police were dispatched to the intersection of Highland Pike and Beaumont Court in reference to a man with a gun. The victim reported at approximately 21:20 hours he was inside his garage on Beaumont Court with the door open and had turned away from the driveway toward the back wall. Upon turning around, he discovered a male, wearing all black, including a ski mask, and brandishing a large silver automatic handgun, standing in his driveway at the entrance to the garage. The suspect then demanded the victim's wallet and car keys.

The victim advised while the robbery was occurring, a blue van pulled up and stopped near his residence. At that time, the suspect took off running up Beaumont toward Mount Vernon. The suspect is described as a male, black, approximately 5'9" and slim build. Officers from several police agencies set up a perimeter and searched the area with the assistance of a Kenton County Sheriff's K-9, the suspect was not located. We spoke with residents later who saw suspicious activity that night but did not call the police. Please call **911** immediately if you see anything unusual or suspicious in your neighborhood. In this case a young man saw something and told his dad to stop and go back up the street and that interrupted the robbery in progress and may have saved the victim from severe injury or death.

BURGLARY – GLENGARRY WAY

On Thursday, August 14, 2008, we had a residence broken into on Glengarry at approximately 7:30 PM. The entry was through a rear window, the owner reported jewelry missing. The burglary was unusual in that the residence has an alarm and there was a large dog in the residence. The Police Department is continuing to investigate this case.

ROBBERY – BP STATION

On Sunday, August 17, 2008, at approximately 12:22 PM, a female entered the store and demanded money implying she had a weapon. The clerk complied; the suspect fled the store in a small white car. Witnesses were able to get a license number of the vehicle. The Police Department is seeking a warrant at this time.

TRAFFIC LIGHT – KYLES LANE & HENRY CLAY AVENUE

The traffic light on Kyles Lane at Henry Clay Avenue is functioning in a normal mode, please be careful and watch for stopped traffic. Hopefully, the traffic light will provide much needed relief to get out of our neighborhoods along Kyles Lane.

AMSTERDAM ROAD

Construction is now complete and Amsterdam Road is open from Bromley Crescent Springs through Fort Wright. A reminder that Amsterdam Road is still closed in the Covington/Park Hills area near the Vocational School.

LET'S SIGNUP FORT WRIGHT – EMAIL NOTIFICATION

The City of Fort Wright has an Email Notification that can get citizens some of the news of emergencies and important issues as soon as possible. To sign up you can go to the Fort Wright City web site, www.fortwright.com and go the Let' Signup Fort Wright on the home page or to this link <http://signup.fortwright.com/signup.html>. The City will put issues such as street closures, snow emergencies, police events such as robberies or burglaries; sign up and stay informed.