

2015

The City of **Nicholasville**

*Report to the  
Community*

[nicholasville.org](http://nicholasville.org)

# Letter from the Mayor



Dear Friends,

As mayor, I have the privilege of being involved in community developments from the time they are just a seed of an idea all the way to the finish line. This has been such an exciting and positive year that it is hard to capture it in words.

Our downtown is really starting to bustle again. New businesses have opened on Main Street and existing ones are seeing increased activity. Events such as the St. Nich Christmas Fest and art walks are drawing large crowds. It is a result of a better streetscape, creative thinking and a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

I'm really excited about the approved use of state funding to create a performance park. Thanks to a generous donation of the property, we can turn a gaping hole in our Main Street storefront into an inviting place for the public to gather and enjoy music, shows, art exhibits and more.

And, I can't say enough about the hard work and dedication by our city employees. They go the extra mile, not just to meet basic standards, but also to exceed them year after year. The significant awards earned by our water and sewer departments show the kind of excellence they are achieving.

If you want to feel good about your city and help it continue to prosper, please follow us on Facebook, visit our website, and volunteer to serve with local civic organizations. We're here to serve you and the more you are involved, the better it is for all of us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Sutherland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pete Sutherland  
Mayor

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Commissioners Andy Williams and Betty Black, Mayor Pete Sutherland, and Commissioners Doug Blackford and Patty Teater.

The City of  
**Nicholasville**

# Your City Commission

The City's finances are in good condition with growing revenues and adequate reserves. Our 'AA' Stable bond rating from Standard & Poor's continues to be a testament to good fiscal management and stability. Administration has focused on keeping expenses down while responding to the needs of this growing community. The number of full-time people employed by the city this year ranged between 213 and 216.

The **Nicholasville Police Department** is making progress toward the goals outlined in their annual report. The department hired five officers and ended the year with roughly 61 after attrition, but still needs several officers to meet the needs of the city. The department had a busy year, issuing 4,590 citations, making 1,689 arrests and handling 1,250 traffic accidents, many along U.S. 27 and intersections along the bypass and Main Street.

Many NPD officers were recognized statewide for their service, including Officers Eric Cobb and Shawn Norman, who earned governors awards. Distinguished service awards also went to Officers Alexis Jones, Gil Rendon, and Shawn Norman. The department continues its focus on facilities improvements, training, implementing a records management and crime mapping systems and developing a part-time officer program.

With 270 new drug cases in 2014, the Nicholasville Police Department also is working to build its drug

enforcement team and purchase additional surveillance equipment.

**Planning & Zoning** has made all information and forms accessible online, from the official zoning map to forms required for various applications. Look for the links in the column to the right on the website: [Nicholasville.org/planning-zoning.php](http://Nicholasville.org/planning-zoning.php). Located on the second floor of City Hall, Planning has reconfigured its office space and now has a visitor desk with a computer so people can access information they may need.

**Nicholasville's Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant** received state and regional awards for operational excellence. (See details on page 13.)

**The Nicholasville Fire Department** made several changes to improve emergency response, customer service and community relations. Four firefighters were hired, bringing the department to full staff, and computers have been installed in fire trucks. The department now has active Facebook and Twitter accounts. Improvements also are being made to the living quarters at existing stations. In the next year, the department will seek accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and open a new fire station.

One of the **Street Department's** greatest achievements was the \$1.2 million state-funded Riney B Park storm water dam. The final touches are currently underway and residents should quickly see the impact the detention dam will have on eliminating flooding in downtown Nicholasville.

## City Commissioners and Their Departments

*Doug Blackford*  
 Mayor Pro Tem  
 Water & Sewer  
 (Treatment, Distribution and Collection)

*Betty Black*  
 Public Safety  
 (Police & Fire)

*Pete Sutherland*  
 Mayor  
 Administration & Finance

*Andy Williams*  
 Electric & Meter

*Patty Teater*  
 Street & Cemetery

# Planned Growth Keeps Our Economy Vibrant

A desirable quality of life and an improving economy are combining to create opportunities for growth in Nicholasville. The evidence can be seen in the level of activity in Nicholasville's Planning and Zoning Department.

"From Brannon Crossing, on the north end, all the way to south of Hoover Road, we have been processing a higher volume of annexation, rezoning and building permits than in recent years," said Planning and Zoning Director Dean Anness. "It includes industrial, commercial, as well as residential plans."

Economic Development Director Wayne Foster expects 2015 statistics to show moderate economic growth, with new jobs spread across multiple sectors, such as retail, industrial and service companies.

"Most notable is an expansion by SMC, an electronics manufacturing services company, which began operations here in 2012," said Foster. "They are investing almost \$2.7 million in their plant and equipment, which will result in about 100 jobs and a doubling in the size of their facility."

There is also good news in the area of industrial infrastructure.

Having an inventory of available industrial buildings gives a community a leg up in bringing in new businesses and helping existing ones grow. In Nicholasville, property zoned for industrial use has been in limited supply for some years. However, that is changing.

"Two properties totaling about 200 acres have been rezoned from agricultural to industrial," said Foster.

Amcor, a manufacturer of rigid plastic packaging and one of the city's largest employers, is developing a



This early site plan for proposed changes to the McMurtry farm, at South Main Street near Thompson Lane, is an example of information that must be submitted to Planning and Zoning.

which also is favorable for the Nicholasville economy. For instance, The Avenue in Nicholasville, a gated apartment complex in Brannon Crossing, has 244 units for lease. Sulphur Well Point, a development approved but put on hold a number of years ago, is back and under construction with 70 lots in the first phase.

Planning and Zoning anticipates an increase in activity and they plan to be ready. The department has reconfigured its offices on the second floor of City Hall, bringing some long overdue changes to the space. Some of the improvements include a more welcoming reception area

for the public, a central storage area providing better access to plans and files, and a small conference room for staff.

All local planning related regulations, applications for building and development, and official maps are available through the city's website at <http://nicholasville.org/planning-zoning.php>.

"We're here to answer questions and be helpful to those who are investing in our community," said Anness. "We want people to know this is a great place to live and work. For many developers and businesses, their relationship with Nicholasville starts with our department."

352,000 square-foot warehouse on South Main Street near the industrial park across from Thompson Drive.

The East Farm, which will include 178 acres in lots, is located on both sides of U.S. 27, on the South end of town, was also annexed and zoned I-1 (Light Industrial).

Another favorable economic indicator is the unemployment rate. Over the last year the Jessamine County rate has declined from 5.5% to 4.5%.

The trend in the growing housing market is for high-end, high-amenity multi-family housing complexes,

# Protect Our Waterways

Next time you take a refreshing gulp from a glass of clean, clear fresh water, Nicholasville's civil engineer, Tim Cross, would like you to think of the fish and other wildlife that need water from our streams, lakes and rivers to live and breathe.

Waterways become polluted when rainfall mixes with contaminants on streets, parking lots, sports fields, rooftops or other developed land, then washes through drainage systems and flows into nearby waterways.

Oil and grease from our vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides from our gardens and flower beds, bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems and even soap from washing our cars contribute to this problem.

"What you put down the drain, gutter or ditch at your home goes straight into our streams," said Cross. "People think our storm water is treated, but it is not."

Nicholasville is applying to renew its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4, permit. To maintain the permit, the city must meet certain requirements, including educating the public about stormwater contamination prevention.

Cross organizes community workshops, including a recent class about rain gardens, and speaks to neighborhood associations and civic groups about stormwater pollution.

Here, he shares key ways Nicholasville residents can protect our natural waterways.

1. Use fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides sparingly and according to the directions. Never fertilize before a rainstorm and consider using organic fertilizers. Also, consider planting trees because they hold rainfall. Adding mulch to your flower beds and using a soaker instead of a sprinkler also helps reduce runoff.
2. Support and attend environmental programs and classes. Take advantage of opportunities to educate your family about your neighborhood watershed.
3. When you perform maintenance work on your vehicle, including changing the oil or coolant, never dump anything down a storm drain. Always recycle used oil and antifreeze and repair leaks as soon as possible. Also, wash your car at a commercial car wash rather than in your driveway. If you must wash your car at home, wash it on your lawn.
4. Consider carpooling or purchasing a low-emission vehicle.
5. If you are on a septic system, maintain the system with regular inspections, maintenance and pumping.
6. Pick up after your pets and keep animals out of streams. Scoop and properly dispose of your dogs waste and make sure fences keep cows, horses and other animals out of streets. Also, make sure you compost manure in a designated area to prevent runoff.
7. Reduce rooftop runoff by directing your downspouts to vegetated areas, and not to the storm drain on your street. For your driveway and patios, consider putting permeable paving or patterns of cement and brick that allow water to filter through it.



Illustration courtesy of the North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources.



Nicholasville  
Chief of Police  
Barry Waldrop

## A MESSAGE FROM BARRY WALDROP, CHIEF OF POLICE

# Long-term Planning and Team Effort Enhance NPD

As I approach 20 years with the Nicholasville Police Department, I take pride in what this group of men and women have accomplished for this community and I confidently look forward knowing that much has been done but there is always much left to do.

At the beginning of my tenure, we needed a game plan that included clear direction and goals. I realized that without everyone's input and an open forum to speak to the direction we were taking, we would not gain the buy-in necessary to accomplish our goals. It took about a year and countless hours to meet with all the people involved and prioritize all the great ideas into a 5-Year and a 10-Year plan.

Our department and community leaders began to see the changes spurred on by their input and started to take ownership. It was a huge accomplishment with everyone coming to a realization that they are part of an organization that values them. My goal was to have officers, civilians, and volunteers open their minds to

other possibilities allowing them to be innovative and to take risks when necessary.

This management style intentionally created opportunities to disperse the varied and diverse experiences of our personnel to the many different units within the agency. It created a team effort and helped mold our organization into a professional police department. An open-minded leader frees the team from mental and physical restraints allowing them to be innovative and ready to take on challenges. This mentality has spread through the entire department increasing work satisfaction. Now, whenever issues arise we come together with many voices to devise a reasonable game plan that will hopefully solve the issue.

Letting officers participate and have a say in how the department functions has helped to create, I feel, one of the best police departments in Kentucky. The citizens of Nicholasville are very fortunate to have the caliber of people they have protecting their wellbeing.

## Community Services

The Community Services Division is supervised by Sergeant Scott Harvey. He along with Officer Kevin Grimes and Lieutenant Billy Jones serve as D.A.R.E. Instructors for the Jessamine County elementary and middle schools, Public Information Officers to address the media on behalf of the NPD and Fingerprint specialists. The School Resource Officers work directly out of the middle and high schools including The Providence School program that began in January 2014. These officers provide safety and security for the children, faculty and staff in those buildings. Members of the Community Services division operate, participate and serve on boards for many programs that have a direct impact on our community.



"Tip A Cop" is just one of the many community programs the NPD is involved with.

# NFD Flourishing Under New Chief



Nicholasville Fire Department Chief Mark Case (*left*) and Deputy Chief Rick Shropshire try out a new computer recently installed in a fire truck.

It takes a special kind of person to voluntarily enter homes engulfed in flames, rescue helpless victims and save their homes from extensive damage, especially when the fire is hot enough to singe the hair on your arms from yards away.

Nicholasville Fire Chief Mark Case is just that kind of person.

“I love helping people,” said Case, who recently celebrated his first anniversary as chief. “There’s nothing like knowing that you can save someone’s life or property.”

Case’s love for community and public service comes from his 10 years of military service. The Winchester native served two years in the Army, then eight years in the National Guard, including a year in Iraq, where he served as a medic.

“When I got out, I missed the camaraderie I experienced in the military and just wanted to serve and help the community,” he said. “I wanted to do something that meant something, something that made a difference.”

Firefighting filled that void and became his passion.

After 10 years as a firefighter and emergency medical technician in Garrard County, Case worked part-time for the City of Danville fire department. He started at the fledgling Nicholasville department in 1998. After a year, he was promoted to lieutenant, then to captain and training officer in 2004. In 2013, he was promoted to battalion chief, then became the chief in August 2014 after the retirement of Chief Charles Brumfield.

In his first year, Case is credited with strengthening relationships with other city and county departments. In May, NFD entered into an automatic aid agreement with the Jessamine County Fire Department.

“The agreement helps us tremendously,” said Case. “We can assist each other when staffing levels are low, when we have multiple emergencies going at the same time. It really improves safety for our personnel and response times.”

In addition, four firefighters were hired, bringing the department up to full staffing levels. NFD is also

reviewing its policies and procedures and hopes to get accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Case has worked on several equipment upgrades, including computers for the fire trucks and improvements to the living quarters at the fire stations.

NFD is also focusing more on community outreach. In addition to newspaper announcements about safety issues and services like the smoke detector programs, the department has active Twitter and Facebook accounts.

“We want people to see us at more functions and events,” he said. “Our firefighters live and work in the community and I want people to get to know us.”

In the next few years, Case hopes to build a new fire station, improve training opportunities and purchase new trucks.

“We have a great department already,” he said. “People like former Chief Brumfield and the firefighters here have worked hard to make this a great department. My goal is to make it even better.”

Case, who has three sons with his wife of seven years, Marsha, is already being praised for making a difference in the department.

“We are very proud of Chief Case and the work he is doing with our fire department. You couldn’t ask for a better person to do the job,” said Nicholasville City Commissioner Betty Black.

“Mark had some big shoes to fill, but he jumped right in and filled the void and has done a great job. We are excited about the future of the department under his leadership.”

## Report to the Community



There was a large number of people for the opening of “Collective Creativity” an exhibit of 60 pieces of work by the members of CAL’s Visual Arts Association.

# Artistry in Motion

There’s a renaissance in Nicholasville, an awakening of creativity and artistic interest and talent that no one saw coming, least of all Constance Grayson.

It all started many years ago when the Nicholasville native lived in another state.

Grayson and her husband Bert were vacationing in Italy when the culture and beauty touched her soul and creative spirit in a way she never imagined it would. She felt the same sense of community she had experienced growing up in Nicholasville.

The couple enjoyed Italy so much they planned to retire in a cottage on a hillside there, where Grayson could pursue her artwork and host tours. But, before doing that, they decided to return to Nicholasville to live, work and be close to family again.

It was good to be home, she said. But, when it came to her art, she noticed something was missing.



Creative Art League founder Constance Grayson chatted with patrons at the Polivino Family Art Center during an event.

“I found I couldn’t hook up with other artists. There was just no easy mechanism for that. I missed the encouragement and other benefits of an artist community. So I started a monthly meeting to get

artists together,” said Grayson, an attorney and artist who works mostly in acrylics and mixed media.

That’s how she came to launch the Creative Art League of Jessamine County (CAL) in 2012, along with fellow artists Stephanie Routt and Wendy Guirola-Tucker. It was not long before they realized they’d hit on something bigger than they ever dreamed.

### **An art revitalization and downtown stimulation**

“We’ve always had artistic people in this town, but there was no ‘home’ for art, no way for people to show it off,” said Doug Fain, a Jessamine County native. “The Creative Art League is providing that as well as a way for people to learn about art and be creative in many ways.”

His father, Howard Fain was well-known for his pen and ink and brush artwork. Another native son revered for his artistry is Bluegrass music legend J. D. Crowe. But, many artists may not reach their potential without the benefit of a community that supports and nurtures their talent.

“The energy level in the room when we artists get together—it almost levitates!” said Grayson.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Geri Polvino and Gulette & Grayson, PSC, the Creative Art League has a home, the Polvino Family Art Center, for exhibits, summer art camps for children, workshops and art classes for all ages, and Fifth Sunday Art Talks throughout the year.

The Polvino Family Art Center is the starting point for CAL's bimonthly Art Walks. The public response to those events caught many by surprise. Hundreds of people have attended every night, strolling to multiple locations that feature art exhibits, music and refreshments.

That means thousands of people who otherwise would not have patronized Nicholasville's downtown have done so during the walks.

### Hamming it up

Another program that caught fire, figuratively speaking, is the Old Time Radio Show. This theatrical production is an authentic reenactment of how radio shows were produced during the “Golden Age of Radio.”

In addition to the featured story, the audience hears old-fashioned commercials as well as songs by a local



Local actors get into their roles while reenacting an old time radio show for the fictitious KCAL station. (Photo courtesy of the Jessamine Journal.)

crooner. KCAL are the call letters for this mythical radio station.

“We are just amazed,” said Fain, who is one of the program's ringleaders. “We've been doing quarterly shows for a year now, and every show has been sold out. I feel as though I have hit the lottery because this has always been a dream of mine.”

It would be easy to assume such a production would draw an older crowd, but Fain said the audience runs the gamut. He's especially happy that youngsters are learning about an era in our history they otherwise might not be exposed to.

And, it's great fun for the cast. “All of us are total hams,” said Fain.

### Great results and more in the works

All of CAL's programs have been well received.

“Between June 6 of 2014 and July 17 of 2015, we documented 5,100 people who actively participated in CAL activities,” said Grayson. “Those are just the people who signed in or who bought tickets, so there well may have been many more.”

Grayson notes that sign-in sheets indicate the events are drawing from outside Jessamine County as well as locally.

In addition to classes, such as the Junior Art League's Sunday afternoon sessions for children, CAL has several public art initiatives in the works. For instance, they painted downtown windows during the holidays and a mural is planned for the Windstream building.

The non-profit group also is teaming with Jessamine County



Sculptor Luke Welch's works included clay and mixed media.

Schools to pursue grants for an art program that helps youth create portfolios. Similar programs have shown remarkable results in improving graduation rates and college attendance.

There is so much going on that it can be hard to keep up with it all.

“The Jessamine Journal has been wonderful about helping us get the word out, and we are very grateful for their coverage,” said Grayson. “We post regularly to our Facebook page and have just completed a calendar of events through the end of the year, so people are invited to request that by emailing or calling us.”

The City of Nicholasville is benefitting in multiple ways from the energy CAL has generated.

“I can't think of a better outlet for our town than the Creative Art League,” said Nicholasville Mayor Pete Sutherland. “It's enlivening our community and stimulating the economy. I hope everyone will get involved and continue to support this worthwhile effort.”

For more details, including contact information, visit [caljessamine.com](http://caljessamine.com).

# Goldey Retirement Leaves a Hole in Roads Department

For Nicholasville residents who could stay at home, the city looked like a winter wonderland. Shiny icicles covered everything and huge snowflakes coated the ice like frosting on a cake.

But for Gary Goldey, the ice storm of 2009 was a defining moment. For weeks, Goldey and his team of streets and roads department employees would work nonstop -- seven days a week and countless hours -- to clear the streets and keep the public safe.

"There was so much devastation," he recalled. "We had to hit the ground running, and we didn't stop running until it was all cleared up. It was exhausting."

Goldey, who retired on August 31, said that event was the most memorable of his 15 years as the superintendent of public works, streets and roads departments. He said he'll never forget how the city rose to the challenge.

"We all worked together," he said. "Our department worked with other departments, the city worked with the county, everyone just focused on what we needed to do to get the job done. It was a beautiful thing to see so many people come together to help our city."

Goldey has worked as a public servant for most of his life. He served as a building and subdivision inspector for Jessamine County, the City of Wilmore and the City of Nicholasville and also was elected city commissioner in Nicholasville, serving two terms from 1994-1998. He took his latest role as superintendent in 2000.

Working in so many government positions "gave me insight on how the city and county government work together."

"I've seen it from just about every point of view -- as a resident, a public employee and an office holder," he said. "I was raised here in Jessamine County and I



Twenty-one year veteran Dave Brown, (left) filled the vacancy when Gary Goldey retired as public works superintendent.

love being a part of making our community a great place to live."

Goldey said his job as superintendent "always kept me on my toes."

"Every day I came to work and I never knew what I was going to get or what direction I might be pulled in," he said.

His favorite thing about his job was when residents went out of their way to thank him and his team.

"It could be something as small as fixing a pothole or as major as blacktopping a subdivision, but it is always gratifying to know someone thought enough of your work to say thanks," he said.

His least favorite part of the job?

"I never did like removing dead animals or removing snow," he said, chuckling.

No matter what the job required, Goldey always managed well, said Nicholasville Commissioner Patty Teater.

"Gary exemplifies the caliber of people working in city government, people who dedicate their lives to making Nicholasville a great place to live, work and raise a family," Teater said. "He has truly been a wonderful asset to the city and the community, and we wish him all the best."

The city didn't have to look far to fill the hole Goldey left in the department. His successor, David Brown, applauds his former boss for leaving the department in great shape.

Brown, who started as a street sweeper in 1994 and worked his way to the head of the department, is also a Jessamine County native. His dad was a middle school principal and his mom taught at the high school.

Brown's wife, Mary, is a special education teacher at Julius Marks Elementary in Lexington. Brown has two children in college -- Allison is working on her master's degree in speech language pathology at the University of Louisville and Sam is studying agriculture and business at Western Kentucky University.

"It's an honor and a privilege," he said of his new role and of being able to work with Goldey. "All we will need to do is maintain what we're already doing and get better at it."

Goldey, who graduated from Jessamine County High School and attended the University of Kentucky, said he is proud to call Nicholasville home. He and his wife of 25 years, Kristine, have three children, Nicholas, Jacob and Levi.

Goldey, 50, won't be a traditional retiree.

"I still have some good working years in me, so won't be fishing and spending my winter in a warmer climate just yet," he said. "Maybe one day soon, but not now."

# Downtown Enhancement Continues



New mast arms hold traffic lights securely and hide wiring. The sensors mounted on the poles tell the lights when to change, based on traffic.

When it comes to giving downtown Nicholasville a facelift, some strategic nips, tucks and enhancements made this year have had a dramatic impact.

The city launched its comprehensive downtown beautification plan, called Streetscape, a few years ago, and with the addition of new benches, trash receptacles, landscaping, light poles and sidewalks, the area became the talk of the town.

“We’re very proud of our progress and excited about the feedback from the community,” said Mayor Pete Sutherland.

This year, three key projects helped move the efforts along – the installation of mast arms for signal lights,

the purchase of a lot for parking and plans for a new performance park.

The new street lights, installed early this year at four intersections, helped eliminate the old wooden and aluminum poles and overhead wiring. The lights hang on mast arms that extend over the roadway and feature sensors that tell the light when to change.

The city also made improvements to a lot at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets for public parking in July. The lot has about 20 spaces and features new blacktop and landscaping.

Finally, with savings from the Streetscape projects, the city is making plans to transform a vacant lot into a

multi-use public park complete with benches, a fountain, and an area for arts performances.

Sutherland said the park will attract visitors and improve pedestrian access to downtown for shopping, relaxation to watch performances.

He credits the beautification efforts and support from local businesses, residents and organizations for reviving the area. He said events like the art gallery walks by the Creative Art League of Jessamine County are drawing residents downtown.

“We have a very inviting downtown, so now we want to see it become more vibrant,” he said.

# Hometown Charm Draws Engineer Back

Born and raised in Nicholasville, Tim Cross tried his best to get away from small-city life.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky with a civil engineering degree, he went to work for Skilton Construction and then GRW Engineers, both located in Lexington. During his 12 years at GRW, he worked on National Guard projects, designed federal prisons and the roundabout in Hodgenville, the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. He also was in a pool of engineers that helped with municipal contracts, and it was that work that ultimately pulled him back to Nicholasville.



Tim Cross, P. E., a Nicholasville native, was glad to move back home with his family after living in Lexington for many years.



Engineer Tim Cross and Planning Director Dean Anness review a zoning map of Nicholasville.

“While I was working on a street light project in downtown Nicholasville, people I knew from childhood were honking and waving at me, and it felt good to be working in my hometown,” said the Jessamine County High School graduate.

When he heard the city was hiring an engineer, he struggled with the decision to apply. In the end, he submitted his application less than an hour before the deadline. He started working in the city’s engineering department in February 2014.

“It’s kind of funny that you can spend half your life trying to get away from your hometown, and in the end, something draws you right back,” he said.

Since then, Cross, his wife, Melissa, and their two sons, Bennett, 10, and Weston, 6, have settled into the small Jessamine County farm where Melissa lived as a child. The family has 14 goats – and counting, he says with a chuckle – four dogs, two cats and several chickens. Cross is a cub master for Troop 45

and the family is actively involved at Faith United Community Church.

“We love it here,” he said. “Sometimes I still can’t believe I’m here and living on a farm. I never dreamed I’d be back and loving my life here.”

Cross has worked on several projects in his new role, including the installation of the mast arm traffic signals in downtown Nicholasville, part of an overall effort to beautify the downtown area. The new lights eliminated the old wood and aluminum poles and overhead power lines and match the street light poles.

Cross also serves on the city’s transportation task force and the board of Nicholasville Now, a group that promotes downtown beautification, business growth and community events. He also leads efforts to keep the city’s stormwater clean and safe.

“I really like that I am part of making the community a great place to live and raise a family,” he said.

# WJHS Baseball State Champions

They ate meals together. They went to the movies and hung out together. They practiced and perfected their plays together.

And in the end, they made history together.

The West Jessamine High School boys' baseball team now has bragging rights as the first baseball team in the district to win a state championship and also joined the ranks of the girls' slow-pitch softball and golf teams and the boys' golf team in snagging a state title for the school. The baseball team trampled the best teams in the state at the 2015 State Championships, held this summer at Whitaker Bank Ballpark in Lexington.

"As a coach, I mostly did the same things with this team as any team – we emphasized the fundamentals and told them to play smart," said Coach Jody Hamilton. "This team was special. They had real great chemistry. Now they will share those memories for the rest of their lives."

The team's big win will be a source of local pride for generations to come, said Ken Cox, Jessamine County Schools athletic director.

"That's the stuff dreams are made of. It's what kids play so hard for and what motivates every other team for

years to come," said Cox. "These were extraordinary young men who represented themselves, their families, the team, the coaches, the school, the district, the county and the entire state well. We're so proud of them."

Cox said a celebration banquet held August 4 at RJ Corman was attended by nearly 300 students, families, community leaders and past team members. Nicholasville Mayor Pete Sutherland presented each member with a key to the city and the team was praised by Rep. Russ Meyer and Jessamine County Judge-Executive David West.

# Award-Winning Water & Sewer



The Wastewater Treatment Plant earned the 2014 Operational Excellence Award presented this summer during the Kentucky/Tennessee Water Professionals Conference. It was the eighth time in 13 years the Jessamine Creek Environmental Control Facility took home this quality award.

The Water Distribution Department won the Operational Excellence Award in 2014.

Nicholasville's Water Department was recognized for superior performance with the Award of Excellence for Water Treatment Plant Operation Kentucky, Medium Plant Category. It was one of 13 drinking water systems to receive special recognition, with a gold seal on their certificate, for achieving the goals of Kentucky's Area-Wide Optimization Program goals 100 percent of the time in 2014.

*(Top photo) Water Treatment, (back row, from left):* Anthony Irvine, Cory Olsen-Lee, Jim McDaniel, Anthony Areaux, Edison Cross, Scott House. *(Front row, from left):* Corey Johnson, Travis Ward, Matt Hubbard, Tim Baker



*(Bottom photo) Wastewater Treatment, (from left):* Van Bugg, Jason Hubbard, Brian Mason, Shelby Carrier, Allison Bowman, Dave Short

# Renowned Chef Chooses Nicholasville

When you have the 30-year culinary resume of the legendary Chef Joe Milanich, you can open a restaurant anywhere in the world.

Best known for his work at Turf Catering on the hallowed grounds of Keeneland, Milanich has graced the kitchens of top Lexington restaurants including The Campbell House, Acres of Land Winery, The Red Mile, Friends and Company, a la lucie, and Roy and Nadines.

But when he decided to open a restaurant of his own, the seasoned chef didn't look for space in the big city. Instead, he followed his heart. And his heart led him to a small town closer to where he raised his family in Lancaster. Chef Joe's Bistro opened its doors last year at 11 Wichita Drive in Nicholasville.

The location is convenient for Milanich's Lexington fans and for people in Jessamine and Garrard counties – and it eliminates the commute to Fayette County that the chef made for about 15 years.

“Joe loves this area and the people here,” said Daniel Reid, Milanich's son-in-law. “He believes every little town should have a special place where you can have a great experience with good food and local people. Our motto is ‘fresh local food for fine local folks.’”

“It says a lot about Nicholasville that another fine chef has located his restaurant here,” said Pete Southerland, Nicholasville's mayor. “Our location is a plus, but it wouldn't work without the support of residents who appreciate and patronize restaurants with well-prepared, quality food.”



Chef Joe's Bistro prides itself in offering locally grown meats and produce.

If you love the white-tablecloth, fine-dining experience that big-city eateries offer, but also relish the down-home fare and casual atmosphere of hometown restaurants, the bistro has you covered.

The menu offers choices like Grandma's Meatloaf, Kentucky Hot Brown and Cornmeal Fried Catfish for folks with a hankering for Southern-style staples alongside Dijon Crusted Seared Lamb Rack and Fried Duck with a Cherry Port Wine Sauce for guests with a taste for more sophisticated dishes.

Better still, diners can catch a glimpse of the chef hard at work through the Western-style bistro doors to the kitchen. Milanich was awarded the Taste of the Bluegrass Best Entrée Award in 2004 and served as past president of the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Culinary Federation.

Guests will notice two things, said Reid. One is that the restaurant prides itself in offering locally grown

meats and produce. The other is that there are now big-screen televisions in the party room for watching UK games.

“We wanted this to be a place that truly supports our local farmers,” Reid said. “We also wanted this to be a place where families could have an intimate meal.”

The bistro doesn't open for lunch. However, the restaurant books business lunches and other private events during those hours.

Dinner hours are 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. or 10 p.m., depending on the day. Reservations are not necessary but are recommended for large parties. The bistro seats 82. Specials change daily and are posted on the bistro's social media accounts on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Chefjoesbistro](http://www.facebook.com/Chefjoesbistro)) and Twitter (@chefjoesbistro).

# Eastern Bypass Moves Forward



This map, from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's website, shows the plan for the new bypass.

Some 45,000 motorists, including commercial truckers, are expected to use the bypass, which will include a diamond interchange at U.S. 27 North.

Work on the long-awaited Eastern Bypass, which will allow commuters traveling east or south of Nicholasville to bypass the downtown area, is expected to move full speed ahead this fall after years of stop-and-go progress. The project switched gears this summer, when officials announced the state would accept bids for part of the \$123 million project in October and start construction no later than spring of 2016.

State lawmakers, led by former Nicholasville mayor and current Rep. Russ Meyer of Nicholasville, released the

breaks on the project by funding the first phase, which will include a 2.7-mile stretch from KY 39, or Sulphur Well Road, to U.S. 27 at an estimated cost of \$16 million.

The second phase, 1.9 miles to connect KY 39 to Kentucky 169, or Union Mill Road, will cost an estimated \$13 million. The final phase will complete the loop with 2.8 miles of roadway between KY 169 and the Nicholasville bypass at an estimated \$38 million.

“Safety is always a consideration with transportation, especially when there is growth along the lines of what we are seeing in Nicholasville,” said Meyer, who has been involved in the project since the late 1990s. “This bypass will bring more economic opportunity to the eastern side of the community and ease downtown traffic concerns.”

Meyer said the finish line for the project is now in sight. The new bypass, which will reduce traffic on KY 39, KY 169 and the existing West Bypass, is expected to be open for traffic by late 2016 or in the spring of 2017.

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## NJCPR is on the Ball

There is a lot of talk today about how we should put down our cell phones, drop the computer mouse and get outside to really experience life. Well, the Nicholasville-Jessamine County Parks and Recreation department (NJCPR) is providing ample opportunities for us to do just that.

Want to learn to square dance? There's a class for that. Need to learn how to handle your firearm in a safe and responsible manner? There's a class for that. If you'd like to give your child the thrill of hooking and reeling in a fish, yes, they can do that right in the heart of Nicholasville.

Many people may know one or two aspects of what NJCPR offers, such as its seasonal athletic programs, but in recent years, the department has grown its outreach and services, despite a small budget.

"It's amazing what NJCPR is able to accomplish with seven employees," said Nicholasville Commissioner Doug Blackford, who also is a NJCPR board member.

"They have been very creative in developing partnerships with other organizations and reaching out to segments that have not been served before, such as more adults."

Director Duane McCuddy, a life-long Nicholasville resident, said working with Jessamine County Public Schools, Nicholasville Now, and local businesses has opened doors for programs the department's budget wouldn't support on its own.

"We've collaborated on everything from tournaments to races. NJCPR provides the programming and we share facilities," said McCuddy. "We allow groups, such as school sports teams, to run our concession stands as fund raisers. This provides refreshments for participants, which we couldn't offer otherwise, and helps the teams generate funds. It's a win-win arrangement."

The Coolidge Building, purchased jointly by the Jessamine County Fiscal Court and the city of Nicholasville for use by NJCPR in 2013 from the



The Coolidge Building provides NJCPR office space, classrooms and a gym.

school system, has greatly expanded programming opportunities.

"We want people in this community to lead active, engaged lifestyles," said McCuddy. "Thanks to the continued support of the City of Nicholasville and the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, we've maintained and grown our programs to help residents and visitors alike."

To keep posted on NJCPR activities or learn more about the county's extensive parks, visit [njcpr.org](http://njcpr.org) and sign up for the department's newsletter.