

2018

Nicholasville

Report to the Community

nicholasville.org



Letter from the Mayor



Dear Friends,

Have you ever seen Nicholasville looking more beautiful or welcoming?

I am partial to my hometown, so I'd love it regardless. That makes it especially rewarding to say that I don't recall it ever looking better or having more going for it than it does today.

This issue of Report to the Community will share many details about where projects stand and how they are progressing. As mayor, I get to be involved in most projects from beginning to completion, so I can't help but get excited as we move them along the process.

We are putting out the open-for-business sign for more industries and small businesses. The industrial park that's under development will give more companies the opportunity to experience the hospitality that Nicholasville has to offer.

There also are new spaces for people to relax and recreate. The sky is the limit now in the heart of our city with the recently completed Performance Park that now provides a unique venue for the arts and special events. In addition, a new accessible playground brings a completely new dimension to the City County Park. Inclusion is what we as a community strive for and this community-supported effort is right on the mark; as is the National Park System's decision to recognize the significance of Camp Nelson as Kentucky's first National Monument.

Infrastructure and public safety are what keeps our city livable. From the walking/biking path to the eastern bypass and the extension of Brannon Road to Tates Creek, we are more connected than ever before. In the coming year, we will bring greater fire protection to those on the north end of Nicholasville with a new station in Brannon Crossing.

Nicholasville Utilities is making sure there is a plan to meet the needs of our growing population and businesses. Of course, keeping all of our departments well staffed and our personnel well trained and fairly compensated is always a high priority.

Some of our favorite people have recently retired, so they no longer are gracing City Hall's offices or meeting spaces. Fortunately, they will remain our friends and have prepared us for the transition with extremely capable successors.

There are a lot of good things happening and Nicholasville just keeps getting better.

Very truly yours,

Pete Sutherland
Mayor

INSIDE

Department Briefs	3
Camp Nelson Cemetery	4
Pedestrian Bike Path	5
Inclusive Playground	6
Fire Department	7
Performance Park	8
Barbasol Championship	10
City Clerk Retires	11
Economic Development	12
Public Utilities	13
Eastern Bypass Update	13
New Positions Filled	14
City Directory	15
Fire Box Program	16



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

The City's Jessamine Creek Environmental Control Facility was presented a 2017 Operational Excellence Award at the KY/TN Water Professionals Conference in Nashville, TN. This is the 11th time that the City has won this award.

The department had two new hires and the retirement of Brian Mason. Damien Rucker and Matthew Leasor have recently joined the team. The Water Distribution Department also saw the retirement of a longtime employee, Superintendent Ragan Cobb.

Nicholasville Police Department Update. The Nicholasville Police Department has been growing and streamlining processes this year. With a continued need for keeping the City safe the department is pleased that in April they received a grant from Cardinal Health for 283 NARCAN kits. The need for more safety comes as the department responded to an increased number of overdoses.

The department hired 11 new recruits, Dylan Baker, Carson Gentry, Mitchell Watson, Justin Wilson, Zachary Bowerbank, William Neujahr, Zachary Lawson, Jeremy Balltrip, Matthew Rue, Steven Willis and Elijah Stevens. The department also celebrated the retiring of Sergeant Scott Harvey and Officer Brian McClure this year.

Lieutenant Michael Fleming was promoted to Captain in the Administrative Division and lateral transfers included Officer Adam Teater to Community Services Division, Officer Shawn Norman to Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division and Officer Erik Cobb to School Resource Officer.

The department responded to 36,985 calls for service. Of those, 1353 were alarm calls and 165 drug overdoses.

Your City Commission

DEPARTMENT BRIEFS

City Commissioners and Departments

Pete Sutherland
Mayor
Administration & Finance

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

Betty Black
Public Safety
(Police & Fire)

Andy Williams
Electric & Meter

Patty Teater
Street & Cemetery

Kentucky's First National Monument



U.S. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, Congressman Andy Barr and Judge Executive David West celebrate the naming of Camp Nelson as a National Monument.

Tim Webb photo

Beyond its breath-taking views and vast natural beauty, Camp Nelson played an instrumental role in the Civil War and American history. Because of its significance, it has been named a national monument.

Established in 1863, Camp Nelson was the first African-American recruiting station, a refugee camp, an Army supply depot and a cutting-edge equine care center.

Achieving this distinction is an incredible honor and is not easily obtained. Currently, there are only 117 national monuments in the country and we now have one in our backyard. The process for earning this title takes time, political support and legislation and it's due to the joint effort of several public officials that it has finally happened.

Jessamine County Judge Executive David West and Congressman Andy Barr led the charge locally and nationally to make this happen.

"It's a place with such important history and I want to share that with the whole nation," said Judge West.

More than 10,000 African-American soldiers reported to Camp Nelson to join the Army during the Civil War. It was third largest recruiting and training depot for African Americans in the nation. As many of their families came to Camp Nelson as well, an official refugee camp was established. Thousands of African-Americans came to Camp Nelson and eventually gained their freedom.

"It is because of the brave men and women who made the trek up here and served our country that we want this place to honor and remember them," said West.

Camp Nelson was named a National Monument on October 27, 2018 because of its cultural and historical significance. This is the first time President Trump has exercised his authority to name a national monument under the Antiquities Act. With this designation, Camp Nelson's 380 acres are maintained by the government and protected from development. This means a lot for the entire community and will draw even more people to the area. "We have such a great working relationship between Jessamine County, the City of Nicholasville and City of Wilmore and this will bring good to us all," said West.

Camp Nelson is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. It offers guided tours, multiple Civil War museums and four different hiking trails.



This section of East Maple Street is an example of where the path would make a difference for bikers and pedestrians.

Moving Forward on the Pedestrian Bike Path

A safer path for students walking to and from schools along Wilmore Road and East Maple Street moved closer to construction this summer as the city approved preliminary design plans for a portion of the corridor.

The plan to construct a wide, asphalt path along a five-mile corridor was identified as a need in the 2016 Bike and Pedestrian School Connector Study commissioned by the City of Nicholasville, the Jessamine County Fiscal Court and the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The path eventually will stretch along Wilmore Road from US 68 to Main Street and along East Maple Street from Main Street to the East Jessamine High School entrance. This area includes three elementary schools, a middle school, two high schools, the Early Learning Center and the Jessamine Career and

Technology Center as well as a number of parks and other recreational facilities.

"Students over the years have worn a goat path along that corridor," said Nicholasville Engineer Tim Cross. "There are some sections of the path that are rural, some that cross over busy intersections and some that don't have lighting."

Nicholasville and an engineering consultant team led by Strand Associates, Inc. have completed preliminary right-of-way plans for the first two projects identified in the study. Designs for the two projects were funded by two federal grants through the Transportation Alternatives Program awarded by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), said Chase Wright of Strand Associates.

The first project, dubbed the East High Project, will include a path along the north side

of East Maple Street from Central Avenue to East Jessamine High School along with roadway, drainage, and lighting improvements. The project has been given top priority because it is closer to residential neighborhoods and has more foot traffic.

Wright said the design team collaborated with KYTC District 7 to identify safety improvements for students crossing East Maple Street to get to the path, such as a median refuge island, signage and lighting, and ways to slow traffic.

The second project, the West High Project, will include a path along Wilmore Road from West Jessamine High School past West Jessamine Middle School and Rosenwald Dunbar Elementary School to Allie Run.

(continued on back page)

New Playground for All



There is nothing sadder than a child sitting on the sideline as others play on equipment in a park. Fortunately, that doesn't have to be the case in Nicholasville.

The City of Nicholasville now has an all-inclusive playground where everyone has the opportunity to swing, slide, and climb, regardless of their physical ability or needed accommodations in the City-County Park.

Thanks to the vision of the organizations, All Abilities Drama Camp and Kendyl and Friends Foundation was a no brainer decision for City Commissioner Doug Blackford. Within minutes of hearing about the project Blackford went to work immediately to find funding for the project.

"I'm extremely proud that everyone jumped on board and made it a reality so fast," said Doug Blackford.

The playground was completely funded back in June with the Jessamine Fiscal Court donating the land



Nicholasville's latest playground (top) is designed to accommodate every child. Representatives of All Abilities Drama Camp and Kendyl and Friends Foundation had the honor of cutting the ribbon on the new center in October.

and the Nicholasville City Commission 100 percent funding the playground.

The playground is the first of its kind in the area, which will now give the chance to hundreds of individuals to enjoy the simple joy of playing at the park with other kids. There are wheelchair accessible swings, ramp accessible play towers, mirage swings, inclusive swings, wheelchair accessible merry-go-

round, accessible flooring to accommodate mobility needs and much more.

"This is a huge community asset," said Blackford. "Giving everyone the opportunity to play and have fun is a tremendous benefit to Nicholasville." But the work doesn't stop at the playground, the City plans to move forward with raising funds for a splash pad park adjacent to the playground.

When Minutes Matter

When a fire is ravaging your home or when a loved one is struggling to breathe – you don't want distance and traffic to get in the way of emergency assistance.

If you live or work on the north side of town, help will come a bit more swiftly starting next year, when a new fire station is expected to open on East Brannon Road.

"That side of town is growing very quickly, and our response time has been only borderline acceptable due to the travel distance," said Chief Mark Case of the Nicholasville Fire Department. "The new station will not only help us serve the Brannon Crossing area better, but it also gives us room for future growth."

The addition comes as the department is handling a marked increase in fire-related calls citywide. The department's 2017 report showed a roughly 17 percent increase in total call volume from the previous year and an almost 50 percent increase in the number of incidents responded to over the last 3 years. EMS related incidents also increased by roughly 37 percent over the last year and about 71 percent over the past three years.

Case said architects should complete the design for the new station by the end of the year and the construction should be completed in 2019. The station is expected to include two equipment bays, living quarters and office space. Including facilities on North Main Street, South Main Street and Elizabeth Street, the city will have four stations after the new one is constructed.

"Our commissioners continue to be very supportive of our efforts to make this community as safe as possible, and this station will make a big difference," Case said.

He applauded the commission for approving several other efforts this year, including the purchase of a new fire engine. The engine is identical to one purchased in 2014 with some upgrades. The truck officially joined the fleet as the new Engine 1 in May,



Dedicated firefighters need up-to-date equipment, such as this recent addition, and strategically located stations, like the one planned for East Brannon Road.

replacing an older engine that was renamed Engine 7 and will go on reserve status.

"It was a very good purchase by the city," Case said. "We needed one for a while, but this was perfect timing."

Case said the commission also approved the hiring of a fire marshal to handle building inspections and code enforcement. Battalion Chief David Johns started in the new role in August.

"In the past, we used the state fire marshal, but their time was limited," Case said. "Our staff was conducting inspections and finding a lot of violations, so we knew it was time to have someone dedicated to this full time."

Additional shuffling among fire department staff included the promotion of two lieutenants to

captain. Captains Mike Bales and Troy Randall will serve as second in command to the battalion chiefs and as hazard materials leaders. Lt. Kaszuk was also promoted to captain but was later promoted to battalion chief to replace Johns.

Deputy Chief Rick Shropshire retired in February after about 25 years with the department. He started as a volunteer firefighter in 1993 and joined the staff in 1995. Shropshire was replaced by Battalion Chief Craig Cox, and Lt. Johnny Adams replaced Cox as battalion chief.

The department has 49 firefighters who serve more than 25,000 residents over an area of eight square miles.



Clay Corman officially opens the Main Street entrance as family members and elected officials and friends look on. Corman donated the property to the City.

Performance Park Open to the Public

Once an empty lot and an old barbershop, visitors to the downtown performance park now see a site transformed into an inviting urban park with benches, brick pavers, decorative lighting and colorful landscaping. But for those who worked behind the scenes to develop the park, the real beauty runs deeper.

“This was just a hole in the ground, almost like a missing tooth in a smile, but people came together with a vision to make it a place we could all be proud of,” Nicholasville engineer, Tim Cross said. “It’s really

neat – a great example for other cities of how you can repurpose a piece of property into something great.”

Tim said, with the exception of the decorative metal entrance to the park, customized to make it blend in with the streetscape, the work was done by local companies and city employees. Much of the materials used in the park, including the cedar planks and the planters, were locally sourced as well.

The park also now has some sentimental value to the community. The Main Street entrance to the park

was dedicated to the memory of the late Nicholasville businesswoman Bernice Corman, wife of Clay Corman, who donated the lot. There is also a plaque in memory of the late realtor Patrick Pinkston visible at the Maple Street entrance.

Furthermore, the park represents the ongoing efforts of city leaders to stretch taxpayer dollars. The park was made possible by obtaining permission from the state to transfer funds left over from the downtown Nicholasville beautification effort a few years ago.



The family of Patrick Pinkston cut the ribbon to the Maple Street entrance in his honor.



“We were able to save money on one project that we could put to use on another project,” Cross said.

In all, the park cost about \$260,000 and already is helping revitalize the surrounding area.

“It’s great to see people grabbing a bite at the restaurants nearby and going to the park to eat,” Cross said. “I’ve noticed, too, that buildings nearby are being fixed up due to the increased foot traffic. This project has really kick started the block.”



Barbasol Championship



For the first time in decades, the PGA Tour returned to Kentucky.

This summer, the Barbasol Championship was held on the Champions course at Keene Trace Golf Club.

After three years in Alabama, the championship relocated to the Bluegrass for the 2018 tournament and will be held in Jessamine County for the next three years. With the three-year commitment and the national recognition and following of the PGA Tour, City officials are very hopeful that the attendance and growth of the event will drive visitors to Nicholasville.

“This is a great opportunity for Jessamine County tourism and it gives our community a chance to highlight all we have to offer to a national audience,” said Tommy Cobb, president of Jessamine Tourism Commission.

Despite stormy weather that challenged players and fans, the tournament still drew over 25,000 people to the property for the week. Organizers hope that in the upcoming years, if the weather cooperates, they will be able to double that attendance number.

Fans watch as Josh Teater's shot takes flight at Keene Trace Golf Club.

Director of Tourism Mitchell Pearson said, “The Barbasol Championship is a great opportunity to draw people from around the world to our community and show them how much Jessamine County really has to offer.”

Not only does the tournament grow tourism, it also is an opportunity to give back to the community through Birdies for the Bluegrass. This program invites people to pledge a donation to a charity of their choice for each birdie tallied during the tournament. The Barbasol Championship provide an additional percentage as well.



With any first-time event, there will be room to improve and grow. Pearson is already working with Brian Miller from the Bluegrass Sports Commission on ways to be more involved to help build City awareness.

“Next year we will have a tent with Visit Jessamine information and promo items to encourage visitors to come to our community. This also will get us on the Barbasol’s website so guests can choose to stay in our community and not Lexington,” said Pearson.

The 2019 tournament is scheduled for July 18 – 21.

The Keeper of City Information Retires after 34 years



Roberta Warren served the City in several capacities over 34 years, more than half of those as City Clerk. She retired this summer.

It may be hard for some younger people to imagine, but when Roberta Warren was hired as the Nicholasville city clerk, Commission meeting minutes were taken by hand and typed on a typewriter.

“This was before we had personal computers,” she said. “When you were looking for information on something that happened at a meeting, you had to scan through tons of paper files to find it.”

Perhaps that was Warren’s early incentive for developing such a keen memory, one that served her and city leaders well over her 20 years as the city’s official record keeper. She retired in September, after 34 years as a Nicholasville employee.

“Roberta has more City history in her head than you could find in a book,” said new City Clerk Kathy Walker, who was promoted upon Roberta’s retirement. “If only we could just download everything she knows. She deserves to have a great retirement after years of dedicated service, but she will definitely be missed.”

Warren first joined the city staff in 1984 as the police chief’s secretary. From there, she joined the customer service team at the utilities department, then became a bookkeeper before getting promoted to city clerk in 1999.

She thanks city leaders for trusting and supporting her over the years, even down to making sure Walker was hired a year early to give her time to acclimate before Warren’s retirement.

“I’ve been given a lot of opportunities here,” she said. “A lot of people had faith in me and got me to where I am today. I got formal training, but nothing beats the lessons you learn from people who truly want you to be successful and don’t mind taking the time to tell you what you need to know and giving you the tools and support you need to do your job well.”

Mayor Pete Sutherland said Warren, who has served at least five mayors, is “a treasure to me and the City of Nicholasville.” Sutherland said Warren was one of the first people he called when he first considered running for mayor to make sure she wouldn’t retire if he took office.

“Although I have known Roberta for only eight years, I have grown to be tremendously fond of her,” said Sutherland. “She has been a friend, a mentor, a sounding board and a confidant. I want to thank her for her friendship and dedication to me and the City of Nicholasville.”

When asked what she plans to do during her retirement, Warren happily rattles off a list topped by spending time with her family,

including her parents, Barbara and Bobby French; her fiancé, Dana Hammonds; her son, Jacob, a Navy veteran and diesel mechanic; her daughter, Raven, who is recently married; and her 7-year-old granddaughter, Abigail.

She also plans to work on her bucket list.

“I’m going take my first airplane trip and my first cruise,” she said.

Still, she’s a little sad to leave her career behind.

“I started working for the city when I was 20, so I feel like I grew up here,” she said. “The people I work with are my family, and I will miss them.”

Warren applauds city leaders past and current for their work on behalf of the residents.

“Our elected officials really do have the best interest of the community at heart, and it has been a privilege to be a part of it all,” she said. “I have lived in Nicholasville all my life, my parents are also lifelong residents, and I couldn’t be more proud to have worked here for so much of my life.”

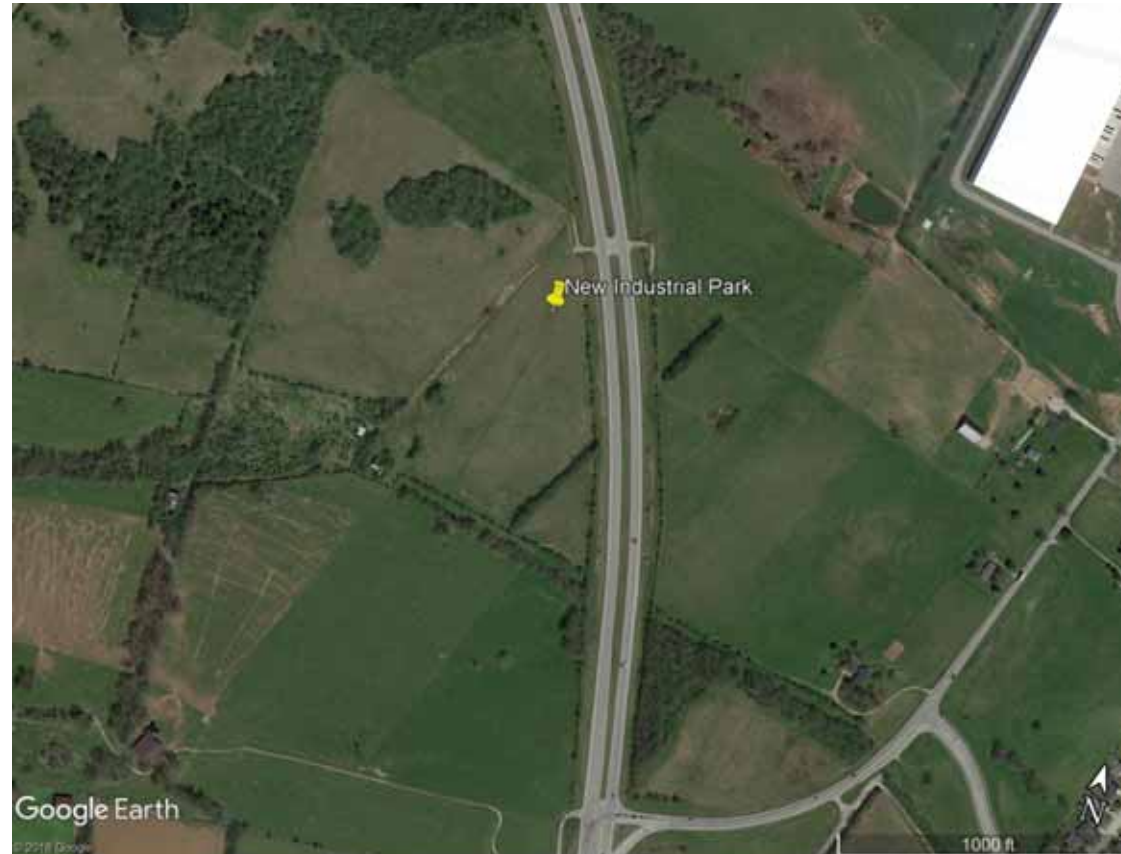
Booming Economy Brings New Developments

If you're an entrepreneur looking for a place to start, move or grow your business, Nicholasville should be at the top of your short list of prospects.

At least that's what Nicholasville economic development leaders are banking on as they invest in a new nearly 80-acre industrial park on the western bypass that is expected to bolster the city's recruiting and economic efforts.

In a joint effort between the Nicholasville and Jessamine County governments, the property was purchased this year. It is expected to provide the increasing number of corporations interested in bringing jobs to the area with properly zoned, competitively priced, low-tax places to build. The move comes as the city's existing park, the 114-acre Enterprise Industrial Park off Main Street, is nearly at capacity.

With a low tax base and proximity to all the amenities Lexington offers, Nicholasville is becoming a mecca for small businesses, said Craig McAnelly, executive director of the Jessamine County Economic Development Authority, or JCEDA. He applauds city and county leaders for their strategic efforts to stay ahead of the small business growth. McAnelly joined JCEDA this summer following Wayne Foster's retirement.



Construction of the infrastructure for a nearly 80 acre industrial park is set to take place in the spring.

"They are building a new economy, putting stock in the city's future," he said.

The Joint Economic Development Commission has made steady progress in getting the park open for business. It is expected to cost about \$2.2 million to get the property prepped for business, including the installation of a four-lane roadway and curbs and gutters.

The JCEDC is already working to recruit companies to the new site, which offers easy access and visibility to US 27.

"Our hope is to move things far enough along to start construction of infrastructure in the spring," said McAnelly.

Your granny used to warn you not to get too big for your britches.

In some ways, that's exactly what the Nicholasville Utility Department is working to prevent as the city's recent growth spurt continues.

As businesses, industries and homes crop up across the Nicholasville landscape, the department is making sure what's underground – water, sewer, electric and even internet lines – can handle the increasing demand.

"We're doing some long-range planning to identify any problem areas and seeing where we need to upsize and upgrade," said Public Utilities Director Bob Amato. "We hope to have a plan in place by spring so it can be incorporated into the budget in the next cycle."

Meanwhile, the city is already working to increase its capacity.

By the end of the year, the department plans to complete the installation of a water line in front of West Jessamine High School that will connect the City system to the Jessamine-South Elkhorn Water District. This project will give the city and the Water District an alternative source of water which could be critical in the event of a main break or contamination issue.

Work is also underway on the design of a new water line that will run about four miles from the water plant on Water Works Road almost to East Jessamine High School. Installation is expected to begin next summer and the new line will run generally parallel to the existing line.

"These projects will increase the capacity, or the amount of water we can get into town," said Amato. "It gives us more flexibility in how we operate the water plant and helps us become more energy efficient because less pressure will be required."

This summer, the utility department prepared for the Kentucky Wired Project, a statewide initiative to install fiber optic cable that will allow Internet service providers to extend faster service throughout the state, especially in more rural towns. The new system is expected to be installed in Nicholasville by the end of the year.

"Broadband is just as important as electricity, water and sewer in attracting new businesses and residents to the area," Amato said.

Eastern Bypass Update



begin relocating facilities to make way for the roadway. This section is expected to be under construction by 2024.

The final phase, which will complete the loop with almost three miles of roadway around the northeast side of Nicholasville between KY 169 and the Nicholasville bypass is planned to soon follow the second phase.

As of September, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet was negotiating the acquisition of the remaining 12 parcels out of the total 93 needed to complete the entire East Nicholasville Bypass.

The new four-lane bypass will feature a shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists on KY 39 and a single-point diamond exchange that will be similar to the one at Winchester Road at New Circle Road in Lexington.

Some 38,500 motorists, including commercial truckers, are expected to use the bypass. The roadway is expected to relieve traffic congestion, shorten commutes around Nicholasville and improve safety with wider lanes and greater sight distances.

Construction of the long-awaited Nicholasville Eastern Bypass kicked into high gear this summer and the first phase is on target to be completed by next fall.

The first phase, which includes about three miles that will stretch from Danville Road (US 27) around the southeast side of Nicholasville to Sulphur Well Road (KY 39), is expected to be complete in time for holiday traffic in mid-October of 2019, said Natasha Lacy, a Kentucky Transportation Cabinet spokeswoman.

Work on the next phase, about two miles to connect KY 39 to Union Mill Road (KY 169), is already underway. Lacy said design plans are being finalized, right-of-way acquisition is complete along this section, and utility companies will soon

Friendly Faces of Nicholasville

The City of Nicholasville has been making progress on many fronts and all this momentum has brought new people and roles to the City. Some are familiar faces in new positions and others are new to Nicholasville altogether.

While their job descriptions span a wide variety of tasks, one thing seems to ring true for all - their commitment to help continue the vibrant growth of Nicholasville.

City Attorney: Darren Sammons

Since becoming city attorney in July, Darren Sammons has hit the ground running in his new position. His primary role is giving legal advice to city officials and helping with any legal problems that the city might encounter and he wears many other hats.

He works with officials throughout the City, collaborating on many projects.

"Nicholasville is filled with great people. I look forward to getting to know more people locally and finding any challenges I can help with," said Sammons, a newcomer to the area.

Sammons brings with him years of varied experience. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard's 20th Special Forces Group, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, multiple corporate law firms in Lexington and most recently the Department of Local Government in Frankfort.

Sammons is ready to combine his career experience and passion for local government to make the most of his position to serve the City of Nicholasville.

"Nicholasville is one of the fastest growing cities in Kentucky and I'm looking forward to doing my part to help facilitate that growth and be involved in any

initiatives that can help make Nicholasville an even greater town."

Sammons lives in Lexington with his wife, Cathy and their two children, Nick and Kira.

Director of Safety: Michael Wayne

Michael Wayne is not a stranger around the City of Nicholasville. In fact, he's lived in Jessamine County his whole life. As a firefighter at the Nicholasville Fire Department for years, Wayne dedicated his career to protecting the people of Nicholasville and promoting safety.

Transitioning to this new role as safety director means expanding that dedication to safety standards across every department in the City. This position is in charge of ensuring everyone is operating in the safest conditions and that all policies are being followed.

"It's my job to make sure everybody goes home at night," said Wayne.

Wayne is eager to do his part in helping Nicholasville grow by maintaining the highest standards of safety possible.

"Nicholasville is seeing expansion like never before; it's exciting and great for our community. But as we continue to grow, we want to make sure we are doing



Nicholasville City Attorney Darren Sammons

so safely and taking care of all the people who serve it."

Michael lives in Nicholasville with his wife Jennifer and son Cooper.

Chief of Police: Todd Justice

Following two decades of working for the Nicholasville Police Department, Todd Justice was named the Chief of Police in December of 2017.

Justice attended Eastern Kentucky University and holds a degree in police administration. After 21 years as a police officer, he has served in several different roles including as a patrol officer and in investigation.

Justice now leads the department and sees it as an opportunity to serve the community he loves even more.

"Being from Lexington, I have a big appreciation for the welcoming and tight-knit community we have here in Nicholasville and I look forward to getting the police department even more involved in it," said Justice.

After several retirements in the department this year, Justice says he has focused on recruiting, hiring and training new members of the police department.

He said, "As the City continues to grow and improve, we want ensure we have the highest



Director of Safety Michael Wayne

standards of safety and well-prepared police officers to serve it."

Justice lives in Richmond with his wife Jennifer and son Ethan.

Exec. Director, Jessamine Tourism

Cabinet: Mitchell Pearson

Mitchell Pearson is no stranger to the tourism industry. A native of Madison County, Pearson led motor coach tours for Berea Tourism and graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in parks and recreation management.

Pearson has worked at the Kentucky Horse Park, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill and Prestonsburg Tourism where, he saw firsthand how Kentucky culture could mix with tourism dollars.

Although not a native to Jessamine County, Pearson has fond memories of visiting his relatives in the area. With his new position as executive director of the Jessamine Tourism Cabinet he is excited to work to showcase the community's amenities.



Todd Justice succeeded Barry Waldrop as Chief of Police in late 2017.



Executive Director of the Jessamine Tourism Cabinet Mitchell Pearson

"I am grateful and excited to work within this community that has been so kind and welcoming," said Pearson.

He believes Jessamine County has many features that can create new opportunities for tourism to

draw visitors from near and far.

"The joint tourism cabinet is an invaluable collaboration unlike most other places. The partnership gets more done and is able to set larger goals with the help of multiple players," said Pearson.

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Tourism Commission
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(Path...continued from back page 5)

Wright said this project includes major roadway improvements, including relocating the high school exit to create a traditional intersection at Jessamine Station Road, installing a median refuge island for the path crossing, raised crossings at school entrances, and potential for a future traffic signal at the new Jessamine Station / West High intersection.

The next step in the process will be to secure funding to carry the project through construction. The East High project is expected to cost about \$2.5 million. The West High project is expected to cost about \$1.7 million.

Wright said Nicholasville plans to submit additional grant applications to secure the remaining needed funding with local match funds provided by the City of Nicholasville, Jessamine County Fiscal Court, and the Jessamine County School Board.

Fire Dept. Introduces 'Fire Box' Program

The Nicholasville Fire Department is now accepting applications for a new program that will allow firefighters to access businesses after hours in the event of an emergency.

“Time is precious when it comes to a fire or a burglary in progress,” said Fire Chief Mark Case.

“With the KnoxBox program, we don't have to wait for the owner or designated key holder or break into the building and potentially cause damage.”

Qualified businesses can get a KnoxBox mounted on the outside of their facility to hold keys, access cards, contact information, emergency planning documents and other information. First responders will have a master key to access the box for rapid entry.

The boxes are built to withstand vandalism and extreme weather conditions. Businesses will be able to



choose from a variety of features, including recessed or surface mounting, tamper alerts and a variety of colors. The boxes meet electrical standards and are compliant with the national fire code.

Case said schools, retail and industrial buildings, multi-apartment complexes, medical centers and government buildings are eligible to apply online or via paper forms.

For more information, contact the fire department at 859.885.5505.