

2019

Nicholasville

Report to the Community

nicholasville.org

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

How long has it been since you've spent a little time in Nicholasville? Now, I'm not talking about a brief run into the courthouse to renew your license plate. I mean shopping, dining or hanging out with friends.

Nicholasville is small but interesting. My family lives downtown, so it's easy for me to take advantage of all our city has to offer. I invite you to plan a day soon to slow down and think like a tourist in your town. Have breakfast out, shop in some of our unique stores, and participate in a special event. If you need ideas, go to visitjessamine.com.

Businesses have recognized the value of being in our city. Growing jobs and enhancing opportunities are a priority here and on page eight, you'll see some of the many companies that are coming here and established ones that are growing here.

Hard work by the Nicholasville Commission and our dedicated city personnel to make this a vibrant community is behind our success. We all take pride in thinking ahead, keeping the City's finances and plans in order and investing well for the future.

The Performance Park is a good example. It's not a big venue, but it's perfect for an intimate evening of music with friends. We held the first two Live N the Ville concerts in the fall, and it was a great start to a new event series. People brought chairs, mingled, danced and enjoyed refreshments they brought or purchased nearby.

Other advancements are not as obvious. For instance, ensuring fresh, clean water flowing into your homes and businesses when you want it and keeping the sanitary system flowing out to a treatment plant that is large enough for the growing number of people it serves.

And then there are some investments that we are proud to show off, like the three new fire engines that have been put into service during the past five years. It's ready, along with our capable firefighters, to respond when you need it.

You may have seen the sign announcing the Nicholasville Police Department's future location on North Main Street. The architects are designing the new station, which will provide the ample room our force has needed for some time. In the meantime, you can watch the progress of the fourth Nicholasville Fire station as it is built on Brannon Road.

Nicholasville is more than a place to lay your head. It's a thriving community in which to live, work and play. Thanks for being part of our great community.

Very truly yours,



Pete Sutherland

Mayor



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Mayor Pro Tem Alex Carter, Commissioner Betty Black, Mayor Pete Sutherland, and Commissioners Patty Teater and Doug Blackford



Wade Receives KYASRO Lifetime Achievement Award

Officer Sam Wade

received the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers (KYASRO) Lifetime Achievement Award in July. Better known to his West Jessamine High School students as 'Swade,' last year marked his 12th first day of school and 15th year on the Nicholasville Police force. Wade and Officer Billy King – who is stationed at East Jessamine – became the first two school resource officers (SROs) in Jessamine County in 2008. Wade joined the KYASRO board of directors in 2010 and was recognized for building a database of SROs in eastern Kentucky. He served as president of the board from 2014-2018.



Sammons Re-Elected As President of Municipal Attorney Association of Kentucky

Nicholasville City Attorney Darren Sammons has been appointed to serve a second term as president of the Municipal Attorney Association of Kentucky (MAAK).

MAAK is a professional organization that provides resources for municipal attorneys with an interest in the legal and practical issues faced by cities across Kentucky. As president, Sammons also holds an ex officio seat on the board of directors for the Kentucky League of Cities.

Personnel Briefs

Beloved K-9 Officer Succumbs to Sudden Illness

In April 2019 the Nicholasville Police Department (NPD) said goodbye to their furriest, four-legged officer.

Benton, a six-year old German Shepherd, died suddenly after serving the department since 2014. Named in honor of fallen NPD officer Brett Benton, who was killed in Afghanistan, he was the department's only K-9 and remembered fondly as a model employee who always came to work eager to contribute. Benton's position has not been filled.



Walker Inducted as Athenian Leadership Society Fellow

In May, Kathy Walker was inducted as a Fellow into the Athenian Leadership Society (ALS). Recognized by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and established in 2005, ALS Fellows receive the highest recognition and honor for Municipal Clerks seeking personal and professional improvement in their chosen profession. Out of 14,000 IIMC members, only 141 are Athenian Fellows, three of which are from Kentucky. After serving as the records division supervisor for the police department for 18 years, Kathy started in the City Clerk's office in April of 2017.

CITY COMMISSIONERS AND DEPARTMENTS

- Pete Sutherland**, Mayor Administration & Finance
- Doug Blackford**, Water & Sewer Treatment, Distribution and Collection
- Betty Black**, Public Safety (Police & Fire)
- Alex Carter**, Mayor Pro Tempore Electric & Meter
- Patty Teater**, Street & Cemetery

Tourism Booming in Nicholasville

People from all over the country are finding their way into the City of Nicholasville thanks to vibrant, new tourism initiatives.

Here's a look at how three local events – The Barbasol Championship, Wine and Vine Festival, and a new concert series in the heart of downtown – highlighted the beauty, capacity and hospitality of the City.



The Barbasol Championship

This year, 16,000 tickets were sold to the locally-held Professional Golfers Association (PGA) tournament at Champions at Keene Trace Golf Club.

This year's tournament featured 132 players. The 2019 champion was Jim Herman, making this his second career event win.

"It means a lot to the people of Nicholasville and neighboring city residents that this large, national event positively impacts our community in so many ways," said Director of Tourism, Mitchell Pearson.

The tournament goes beyond tourism and economic development with a charity arm called Caddie217 with a mission to support philanthropic organizations that benefit and empower women and children. In

2019, Caddie217 named All God's Children, Kentucky Children's Hospital (UK Healthcare), the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Refuge for Women, and the Woodhill Community Center as their charitable partners.

The City has a contract to host the event through 2023 with hopes of renewing for future years. The

2020 tournament will be held from July 16-19 at Champions at Keene Trace Golf Club.

Wine and Vine Festival

Visit Jessamine is a sponsor of the Nicholasville Chamber of Commerce's event, Wine and Vine. What started 15 years ago and proceeded off and on, is now an annual event bringing 2,500 people into town.

The event was moved to June and featured 100 craft vendors, 14 vineyards including all three local operations, music, food and inflatable activities.

"This event was a big success for the City, vendors and the community," said Pearson. "We had vendors constantly having to restock because of such high demand and excitement."

This year the music started at 1 p.m. and ran until 9 p.m. in a covered space where the public could bring blankets and chairs to watch. Fireworks closed the show with a bang.

"Attendance never really slowed, people came in and out all day and the best part was hearing how they were all able to enjoy it no matter their age," said Pearson. "That's what is important about this event, its inclusive for all people and we loved seeing how it brought so many together."

The tourism opportunities didn't stop at the event. With additional tickets, guests got to attend an equine and winery tour. The tour took place the day before the festival and featured tours of all three local vineyards, Taylor Made Farm and then dinner at Chrisman Mill Winery.

"This special feature allows guests to really experience what a beautiful place we live in," said Pearson. "We hope to continue our momentum with this festival weekend because its such a great chance to highlight our local businesses."

The next festival is set for June 2020.



Encore entertains the crowd during the inaugural Live N the Ville concert.

Live N the Ville

The new performance park off Main Street now provides a perfect spot for the City's new concert series, Live N the Ville.

When Mayor Sutherland contacted Mitchell Pearson, Executive Director for the Joint Jessamine Tourism Commission, about starting a concert series in the Performance Park, he sprung to action to make a plan.

"We want this to be inclusive for everyone to enjoy so we're offering a variety of music genres," said Pearson.

The first concert on Sept. 26, was a great success and drew a crowd of about 130 people. Encore of Lexington played while people danced and sang along.

With food and drink options like Euro Wine Bar, Public Well and others, the event provides the public with a fun, local activity that stimulates business at the same time.

The second concert in October featured Bluegrass Folk artists, the Local Honeys.

"This is all at the direction of the City," said Pearson. "It's about working together and we're seeing that collaboration produce great opportunities for our community."

After a break for the colder weather, Live N the Ville will resume in Spring 2020.

Storm Drains Are Just for Rain!



East and West Jessamine Middle School Cheerleaders are featured in one of the ads educating the public about the importance of storm drains.

You'll hear it from cheerleaders, see dogs perform tricks for it and read it on local billboards: storm drains are just for rain! That's the slogan for a new public education campaign launched by the City of Nicholasville this year.

Too often, trash, leaves or grass clippings, oil or grease, pet waste and other contaminants end up in the streets and are washed down storm drains. This pollutes our rivers and streams, and can cause flooding and impacts wildlife.

"As a municipality, Nicholasville is required by law to address stormwater issues through public outreach," said City Commissioner Patty Teater. "So while fulfilling that requirement, this campaign gives us an opportunity to keep our waterways clean and enhance our quality of life here in Nicholasville."

The new campaign features local residents like East and West Jessamine Middle School cheerleaders and dogs from local training school, Manners Matter Dog Training and Day Care.

"We were happy to jump on board to be part of this important public education message and the

dogs got to show off a few new skills for the advertisement we filmed," said Mandy Eakins, founder and head trainer, Manners Matter Dog Training and Day Care.

When pollutants get into storm drains, they can cause clogs which can cause flooding. It also contaminates our local streams hurting our wildlife and the environment around them.

"The cheerleaders were excited to be a part of this campaign and learned a lot about the importance of keeping stormwater clean for the City in the process" said Ashley Hatter, coach of the East Jessamine cheer team.

City Engineer Tim Cross believes this initiative is something every citizen can get involved with and learn from.

"Our goal with this campaign is simply to educate the people of Nicholasville about the importance of our stormwater system and why we need everybody to help keep it clean," he said.

Flower Planting Service One of Many Maple Grove Cemetery Enhancements



City Commissioner Patty Teater, who oversees the Cemetery Department, and Aaron Jordan, Maple Grove Cemetery Superintendent, pose beside begonias, like those that families can now have planted and cared for throughout the summer for a modest fee.

Old limestone headstones – weathered, crumbling and dating as far back as 1835 – tell the generations-old history of Nicholasville’s public cemetery. But recent beautification efforts at Maple Grove Cemetery are breathing new life into the hallowed grounds.

Owned by the City of Nicholasville since 1993, the 23-acre non-profit site historically has struggled financially, generating barely enough revenue to cover expenses. But thanks to the tireless efforts of City Commissioner Patty Teater, currently serving her third term in charge of the cemetery and the street department, and Maple Grove Superintendent Aaron Jordan, the cemetery is self-sustaining and has slowly undergone a significant expansion and makeover.

Among the improvements: New LED lighting, additional parking, new blacktop on interior roads, flowering trees at the entrance and along Main Street, and a new retaining wall.

Most impactful to the families of those buried at Maple Grove is the new flower planting service. Maple Grove partners with Red Barn, a local greenhouse, to purchase white, red and pink begonias guaranteed to bloom from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For a minimum of \$40, or \$10 per linear foot, families can opt to have two rows of flowers planted, mulched, and watered six nights a week by a seasonal employee.

“I got the initial idea from Lexington Cemetery, where my parents are buried, and modified it for implementation in Nicholasville,” says Teater.

Jordan said the program started in 2018, but subscriptions nearly doubled this year as word about the program spread. The cemetery plans to also add mums to their offerings for the fall.

“Most participants are elderly citizens incapable of planting or getting to the cemetery to [plant flowers themselves], and long-distance relatives,” Jordan said.

Jordan said the cemetery also plans to expand its Memorial Day flag distribution program.

“Previously flags were placed on veteran’s graves the Friday before the holiday; however, veterans are currently only identified by military headstones, which not all of them have,” Jordan points out. Next year, the staff will set up a tent on Memorial Day weekend and distribute free flags to the families of military personnel, assuring that no deserving veteran is left out.

Interested in ordering flower planting services this year? Please contact the cemetery office at (859) 885-4334 and leave a message. **All orders must be paid for on or before May 1, 2020.**

Making a Splash: City and County Save Summer

When news came that the Jessamine County Aquatic Center would be closing due to lack of funding for repairs, it seemed summer was literally going down the drain.

Previously managed by the YMCA, the pool needed numerous, expensive updates, including repairs to the splash pad and filter pumps, in order to open and function safely for the summer season.

But when the collective groans of families across the county reached the ears of the Nicholasville City Commission and Jessamine County Fiscal Court, they dove into action.

After reviewing a proposal from Professional Pool Management of Kentucky with a significantly lower cost for the necessary repairs, Judge-Executive David West asked the Fiscal Court to re-evaluate their role in the project after previously voting to not participate, and they wholeheartedly obliged.

“The recommendation passed unanimously,” said West. “We worked hard to make this happen, and this partnership gives us a great opportunity to provide important services to our community.”

Thanks to the efforts of city and county leaders, the updates were completed and the pool opened on time. As an added bonus, the pool was expected to make a profit for the first time.

“The pool is a great asset to our community so it was important to find a way to get it open,” said Mayor Pete Sutherland. “Bringing in revenue for the first time is an added benefit for the community as well, so we are pleased to be part of this partnership.”

Under the new, five-year contract, Professional Pool Management of Kentucky will complete inspections, repairs and updates during the fall and winter months so that the pool is always ready for the summer.



Above and Below: The City’s only public pool continued to serve as a cool spot on hot summer days, thanks to repairs city and county leadership.

Community leaders were praised for working together to save the pool and keep it afloat financially.

Kathy Walker. “Everyone jumped on the opportunity knowing how important this is to the community.”

“This was a great collaboration between the City of Nicholasville and Jessamine County,” said City Clerk



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A Ready Workforce, Convenient Facilities, and Luck Spur Job Growth

“If you build it, they will come” is no longer enough.

That was the economic development motto many communities followed back in the days when pre-developed industrial space was in high demand. The standard approach was to create an industrial park, build some shell structures that could later be customized by a new industrial tenant, then announce to the business world that the site was open for business.

Mayor Pete Sutherland supports the regional view and said bringing jobs to Nicholasville is a priority, even if workers in other communities also benefit.

“I want to create new jobs that will improve the opportunities our residents have,” he said. “If it’s necessary to bring people in from other communities to fill all the jobs that we have brought or created here, that’s even better.”



A ribbon cutting for Aviation Safety Resources (ASR) is one of many such celebrations held in the City last year.

These days, with unemployment rates at record lows, 3.2% in Jessamine County as of November 2019, the most important asset for a growing community like Nicholasville is a ready, reliable workforce.

Craig McAnelly, executive director of the Jessamine County Joint Economic Development Authority (JCEDA) takes a regional view.

“Our labor market includes Jessamine County and the other counties around us, which totals about 30,000 available workers,” said McAnelly. “We have to consider that, while unemployment is one of the lowest in the state, some of the people who are counted as being employed are actually underemployed or working seasonal jobs.”

That strategy – and a little creativity and luck – is working.

McAnelly reported to the Nicholasville City Commission in October that contracts for 20 of the 80 acres in the new industrial park are pending. He expects all the property to be filled within five years, probably fewer. The three lots that remained in Enterprise Park, established over 30 years ago, were sold to PETCO LLC and Event-ready LLC. One lot is under negotiation to a logistics company to be announced later.

In all, a conservative estimate would be that there are about 300 new jobs in development, with a good possibility of up to 500 emerging in the next year or so,” McAnelly said.

A Creative Approach

Nicholasville welcomes small, entrepreneurial startups often overlooked by communities focused solely on



Recovery systems for urban air mobility vehicles, such as the one shown by ASR, is an emerging industry.

major industries. Manners Matter Dog Training and Daycare and Joe Brett’s Ice Cream, which produces one-of-a-kind alcohol-laced ice cream. Both businesses are thriving and drawing regional and national customers.

Nurturing relationships with existing industries has led to recent expansions. Long-time manufacturing resident MVC USA, Inc, which uses high-tech approaches to manufacture chrome car parts, has announced an expansion. SMC, which employs engineering groups for custom engineering support, test engineering, process engineering, and systems integration will also add new jobs. Tailor Made Compounding, a pharmaceutical compounding company, recently invested more than \$1 million in its Nicholasville plant and increased its workforce by 40.

Emerging Businesses

Targeting companies that are focused on emerging technologies has helped land companies such as Badger Technologies. The Nicholasville-based

company’s fully autonomous robots roll down retail store aisles to check stock, shelf space organization and allocation, price integrity, and audit compliance issues.

Sometimes, having ready-made industrial space still pays off. That’s how Nicholasville recently landed Aviation Safety Resources, which designs, tests and produces emergency recovery systems for aircraft and Urban Air Mobility (UAM) vehicles.

“I was driving from Stanford to look at space in Lexington when I noticed an available building on Hendren Drive just off the Bypass,” said Aviation Safety Resources (ASR) President and CEO Larry Williams. “We are fortunate to find space that will

accommodate our corporate offices, production and in-house testing, which will greatly increase the efficiency of our operations and reduce costs.”

Another new employer, Cotton-Love, a wholesale textile company, will move into a former gymnasium. A hemp processing facility soon will move into an existing building in the industrial park.

Other companies that have recently opened or will soon include Cumberland Machinery Movers, iDrive Fulfillment (IDF), KCA Labs and Tiger Commissary, said McAnelly. In addition, three companies are in negotiations and will be announced later.

The Jessamine County Joint Economic Development Authority Board:

Brett Setzer, Chairman
Dexter Knight, Vice Chairman
Nick Strong, Secretary/Treasurer
Clay Corman
Dan Haney
Tony James
Mary Newton

Local Dog Training Business Draws Customers from Lexington



Left: Multiple expansions led local business owners to purchase and renovate space ideal for dog day care and training. Right: Mandy Eakins works on new skills with a student.



Is AstroTurf making a comeback? Probably not, but you can find an abundance of it at Manners Matter, Nicholasville’s premiere dog training facility.

Owner Mandy Eakins and her husband Michael purchased the warehouse on Industry Parkway in late 2018 and quickly went to work gutting it and creating an ideal space. Now a sprawling 5,500 square feet, it boasts

two private training rooms and a playroom, bathing and kennel rooms to house and accommodate daycare clients. Just off the indoor playroom lies another 2,000 square foot play yard, with plans to add a second one just as big and a backyard that spans the length of the building.

Mandy is a born and raised horse enthusiast whose childhood was spent exploring her grandparents’ farm, where family say they saw her “training an inchworm to walk on a stick,” after which she proceeded to bring home bugs, turtles and raccoons as pets.

Mandy earned a degree in environmental science and worked as a veterinary technician in the Nicholasville area. In 2007, She started training and offering in-home dog-training lessons in the evenings. Mandy also taught classes at local animal shelters. She left her full-time job at U.K. to start Manners Matter.

(continued on back page)

Utilities Keeping Pace

ZGrowth puts more stress on a city's utility systems. Here are some of the ways Nicholasville is meeting demand.

Powerful Improvements Bring Savings

The City of Nicholasville in December 2019 accomplished a significant goal by finding a way to tap the lower-cost, environmentally friendly hydropower from Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) for its customers.

SEPA harnesses the energy of the Cumberland River at several dams including Wolf Creek and Laurel Dams to create power, which the United States Department of Energy makes available to distribution companies. As a public utility, City of Nicholasville Utilities is a "preference customer," but SEPA does not own transmission facilities.

Nicholasville now has an agreement with Kentucky Utilities to transmit the hydropower. A schedule has been developed to use its 2.5-megawatts allocation at peak periods, which is when it is needed most.

The new program is expected to save between \$100,000 and \$300,000 a year, which will all be passed through to customers as a credit on each monthly bill.

New Water Main is Coming to Town

The City of Nicholasville owns and operates a 9 million gallon per day water treatment plant located on the Kentucky River. It treats the City's water and pumps it approximately 5 miles to town. The City is currently designing an additional pipeline to town at a cost of \$3.5 million that will increase our capacity from 9 mgd to 12 mgd, help to improve the water quality by allowing the water stored in our tanks to "turn over" more frequently, and it will reduce our pumping costs.



The City's wastewater treatment plant will double in capacity. Design has begun, and construction is planned to begin in early 2021. One clarifier pool (the round basin to the right) is already in place. The new facilities will be in the grassy and tree-lined section below it. The expansion will mirror the oval shaped oxidation ditch and add one additional clarifier as well as upgrade current pumps and electronic controls.

More than Fresh Paint

They say it's what's on the inside that counts, and with the Lake Street water storage tank, that's true.

If you look up, you'll see new paint and the City's logo. What you won't see is the improvement to the tank and how it works.

Recently the water tank was inspected and sandblasted on the inside to remove discoloration. Small repairs were made to protect the metal. To keep the water fresher, a bubbler system with a compressor that creates a giant bubble that pushes a 3-foot column of water down every few minutes also was installed.

Sanitary Sewer Lines for Orchard Neighborhood

An additional sanitary sewer line, referred to as the Orchard Parallel Sanitary Sewer, is being added to alleviate wastewater overflows in that area. The \$900,000 project, to be completed in the spring, to take the burden off existing lines.

Sewer overflows happen in heavy rains, primarily as a result of stormwater getting into the sanitary sewer system. This can happen due to cracked sanitary sewer pipes or illicit connections, such as people connecting a sump pump to their sanitary sewer.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

As the City grows, so does the amount of wastewater it generates. Nicholasville's award-winning wastewater treatment plant on Short Shun Pike, built in 1996, is regularly processing at 89 percent of capacity, which creates a lot of strain on the system. In 2018, demand exceeded the plant's hydraulic capacity, but operators maintained the high quality of clean water it discharges. Design has begun and construction is planned to begin in early 2021.

Fortunately, expansion space was planned when the plant was built. The capacity will be nearly doubled by building a mirror image of the existing facilities. One clarifier is already in, as shown in the photo. The \$16 million improvement will be made with a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority low-interest loan.

Keeping Nicholasville in the Zone



Planning and Zoning personnel examine submitted development plans to ensure they meet all regulations. Here Taran Collier, Paul Bradford and Dean Anness discuss a proposed Brannon Crossing project.

If you've ever wondered why the City of Nicholasville needs a Planning and Zoning department, consider these two scenarios:

You want to build a shed to keep your lawn equipment in, but your neighbor sees you preparing to pour the concrete foundation and says, "Hold on! That will be unsightly and in my way."

Who wins that fight?

Imagine the house across the street from you has sold and the buyer plans to turn the single-family home into a retail business.

Can they?

Enter Nicholasville Planning and Zoning, which currently employs seven people, including three inspectors, who manage development plans, maintain a geographic information systems, and conduct inspections of properties and buildings.

The department's well-trained personnel are the keepers of the city's land-use ordinances and regulations. Their job is to ensure developments of all types as well as building modifications meet the needs and desires of the entire community. They help developers and residents navigate the process to use property appropriately and

provide the infrastructure and housing for a diverse community that is ever changing.

In the past few years, much of the department's work has been focused on the local housing and business boom. While the city has become a popular destination, the City leaders must manage development to meet the increasing demand for infrastructure and services.

"We help elected officials make good decisions by providing information about future developments and design standards," said Dean Anness, planning and zoning director. "The goal is to ensure a full and balanced range of housing for residents with diverse needs and income levels for future growth and business."

For housing development, planning and zoning building inspectors perform a minimum of five inspections at various phases of construction for every new single-family home, saving builders and homeowners time and money for changes that otherwise might have to be made after the fact. Even before construction starts, building plans have to be submitted and approved through multiple levels and developers must ensure all guidelines and restrictions are met as the plans move along.

The department plays a key role in economic development by working with new business owners.

As Kentucky's 10th largest city, it is becoming increasingly attractive to businesses like Menards, a large building supply company that will open its first store in Kentucky in northern Nicholasville next year. The corporation is developing an entire retail complex, which will enable it to recruit other businesses that are a good fit. In addition, a new Hampton Inn is on the way and LaRosa's and Skyline Chili have joined the City's growing restaurant lineup.

Having a planning and zoning department that helps business owners navigate the relocation process and monitors growth is an asset for the community.

Nicholasville-based attorney Bruce Smith frequently represents developers before the Planning Commission and appreciates the support given by the staff.

"I have represented and worked with many planning and zoning staffs during my career as an attorney, and the Nicholasville Planning and Zoning office is one of the best in terms of helpfulness with providing information and cooperation in processing my clients' applications," said Smith.

City of Nicholasville Breaks Ground on New Fire Station 4



Left: Current and past City Commissioners joined Fire Department Leaders for the groundbreaking ceremony last summer.

Below: Mayor Pete Sutherland and Assistant Fire Chief Craig Cox Prepare to break ground by donning a hard hat and shovel.

As businesses and homes in the Brannon Crossing area continue to grow, the City of Nicholasville is responding with expanded services, including public safety. The addition of a fire station on the northern end of the town will help ensure the safety of all tenants and residents.

“The last time we were able to build a fire station was almost 20 years ago, so this is a milestone for our community,” said Mayor Sutherland. “We want this fire station to be a reminder to everyone that Nicholasville is a great place to live. We take care of our citizens, we take care of our employees, and it’s a fine place to live, work and visit.”

A groundbreaking ceremony in May took place on the site of the future Fire Station 4 at 785 E. Brannon Road featured comments by Nicholasville officials including Mayor Pete Sutherland, Commissioner Betty Black and Fire Chief Mark Case, which followed an invocation by Fire Chaplain Dewayne Brewer.

The 7,225 square foot fire station will have a modern design that features two pull-through fire truck bays, polished concrete floor for decreased maintenance, offices and a watch desk, PPE storage rooms, an exercise room, a training room, dormitory quarters and more. It was designed by architect Aaron Nickerson with GRW and will be built by Olympic Construction, a local business.

“To be honest, having a station up here is going to save lives because we’re going to be able to get there a lot quicker,” said Fire Chief Case. “Whether it’s a medical emergency, a vehicle accident or a fire, we’ll be there.”

The more than \$3 million project is expected to take about a year to complete. This location will mark the fourth fire station in Nicholasville.

“Prior to 1993, the department was all volunteer firefighters,” said Commissioner Betty Black. “Today, I am proud to say that the department consists of 48



firefighters including a chief, assistant fire chief and a fire marshal.”

New Police Station Announced to Break Ground in 2020

Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do? Dreams of a new police station – complete with space for training officers to combat crime – are about to come true.

City officials have announced plans to build a new roughly \$6 million facility on land previously set aside for a new city hall.

“Our police department is an incredible asset to the City of Nicholasville,” said City Commissioner Betty Black, who oversees the police and fire departments. “For the sake of our growing community, we have to ensure they have what they need to do their job the best they can.”

The project is currently being designed by the architect, Brandsetter Carrol. Construction is slated to begin in the summer of 2020 and expected to take approximately 12 months. The new station comes at an important time as Nicholasville continues to see significant residential and business growth.

“The new facility is a crucial development for our police department as we continue to grow and advance,” said Chief of Police Todd Justice. “It will allow us to implement new technology and house the whole agency under one roof.”

The department has outgrown the current station at 510 N. Main Street, where it has been housed for over 20 years. The new building will include space for large meetings and training all in one place.

“We appreciate Mayor Sutherland and Commissioner Betty Black giving us what we need to succeed and keep our residents safe,” said Justice. “We’re looking forward to how this will allow us to better protect and serve.”



Police Chief Todd Justice and Police Commissioner Better Black stand beside the sign announcing the location of the police station to be built on North Main Street.



As the Police Department has grown, the space, which is shared by the Fire Department, has become increasingly crowded.

Up to Code



Nicholasville's code enforcement personnel stand in front of a property that is under renovation to bring it up to code. Shown from left are Sgt. Jason Porch, Supervisor, Carla Humphrey, Sandy Horton, Tiffany Rust, Samantha Hager, Alex King and Lt. Ronnie Fuller.

Property owners beware: Overgrown grass, junk cars, neglected homes and overhanging limbs won't be overlooked in Nicholasville.

Nicholasville's code enforcement division, led by Supervisor Jason Porch and a citizen review board made up of five community members, is entering its third year of enforcing the City's ordinances with praise for helping to keep the community neat and safe.

Porch was appointed to his role in October 2016, just after new legislation mandated that code enforcement boards statewide conduct extensive reviews and update their ordinances. He established the city's first review board in early 2017.

The department has been going strong ever since, handling issues relating to blight, noise, unsafe construction, litter and other unseemly or dangerous property conditions. Porch said the most common complaints are related to overgrown grass, garbage, junk cars, and overhanging tree limbs.

This year, Porch partnered up with the City's fire marshal, planning and zoning building inspector, and city attorney for a new initiative to condemn and demolish properties and buildings in particularly desperate states of disrepair. The City recovers the cost of the demolition by placing a lien on the property that must be paid whenever the property is sold.

As of the end of the third quarter of the year, the initiative had tackled 13 residential properties and encouraged two property owners to complete their own demolitions. One of the properties, Edgewood Village Apartments, required the unfortunate displacement of tenants in 36 units but later was sold and is currently being remodeled.

As the Code Enforcement Supervisor, Sgt. Porch oversees the cases assigned to his team of four investigators, assuring those cases are handled properly and presented to the board for final orders.

The process of code enforcement begins with three simple steps: Notifying the property owner that a city ordinance has been violated, providing a deadline – which is often flexible and extended upon request – and ideally arriving at a resolution.

When a resolution cannot be reached before the deadline, a monetary citation is issued, and the board involvement begins. Next, the property owner is expected to pay their fine or make an appeal, but even if they opt not to appeal, their case still goes before the board. Property owners who appeal must appear before the board in person, at which point the board and the owner each present their claims as well as any supporting documentation, such as before and after pictures of the property.

In the event that the owners must pay but ask for leniency, Porch says, "the board is usually happy to oblige, especially in cases where the corrections were made but perhaps not within the specified timeframe."

Firing On All Cylinders

New Fleet Management Partnership Enhances Safety and Cost Savings



Employees Kyle Lamb, Scott Taylor and Ricky Boyd stand beside the City vehicles they depend on every day.

When Nicholasville Police Officer Kyle Lamb accelerates to catch a speeding driver on US 27, he doesn't pause to question the responsiveness of the vehicle's engine or the thickness of its tire treads.

As Superintendent Scott Taylor drives from the Nicholasville Meter Department office to the first neighborhood of the day to scan meters, he isn't thinking

about how long it's been since the oil was changed in the city-owned truck he is driving.

And, when Nicholasville Utilities Assistant Superintendent Ricky Boyd responds to repair a downed power line in the middle of a stormy night, a whole neighborhood needs the pickup truck to start right up.

Vehicles used to conduct the City of Nicholasville's business are a crucial part of keeping the town safe, comfortable and moving forward every single day. The City's fleet can also account for a sizeable portion of municipal budgets for maintenance, fuel and purchases.

"We have about 260 employees and I'd estimate at least 80 percent of them drive or ride in our vehicles regularly. We want to do everything we can to keep them safe on the street while also reducing costs," said Mayor Pete Sutherland. "It also is important to maintain the level of service our community has come to expect."

The City entered an agreement last fall with Enterprise Fleet Management. As a result, Enterprise is maintaining the 144 vehicles, including 75 pickups and 69 police interceptors, and will replace about 29 each year.

"All things considered, this program is estimated to save money over 10 years and reduce the time our employees spend on related labor," said Amato.

Jessica Appleby, senior account manager for Enterprise in Kentucky, said local governments all over the country are taking advantage of the expertise, buying and selling power, and full-service fleet management that Enterprise delivers in more than 50 local markets.

"In addition to ongoing savings, the City of Nicholasville will benefit from our acquisition and remarketing expertise, allowing them to save money and time while acquiring vehicles – and achieve higher returns when vehicles from their fleet are sold," said Appleby.

Accountability is also important to city officials.

"With this program, we are able to track maintenance and fleet expenses even more closely than we have previously," said Sutherland. "We now have ongoing documentation on how our fleet is performing, which is always a top priority for us."

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Since opening in 2015, Mandy estimates 90 percent of her clients have come from Lexington. The business soon outgrew its space so she rented the other half of the building before buying and renovating the current location.

Mandy offers a host of services, including private and in-home lessons, group classes, day training and light grooming for daycare clients. Currently, hers is one of the few facilities to accommodate dog-aggressive dogs, or “VIPs,” as she lovingly calls them.

Assisted by three full-time and two part-time employees, Mandy also frequently offers seminars and workshops in her spacious playroom, bringing clients from across the nation.

Mandy has earned multiple certifications and encourages her staff to do the same. As a testament to her skill with animals, Mandy’s own fur-child, Ryder, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, played Sandy for a 10-show run in the Lexington Children’s Theatre summer 2019 production of Annie in a perfect portrayal that proved that manners do, in fact, matter.

ON THE COVER: Performance Park Art Headline

The Performance Park got a little more colorful this summer with the unveiling of a mural by Jessamine County School students in May.

The project to bring art to downtown Nicholasville was made possible by a partnership between Leadership Jessamine, which provided money for art supplies, and Jessamine County Schools Arts Coordinator Amy Herrod and Superintendent Matt Moore, who helped coordinate with some of the area’s most talented young artists.

“I’m excited to see this project come to life because art is often a vital part of a city’s downtown area,” said Mitchell



Pearson, Executive Director of the Nicholasville, Wilmore Jessamine County Tourism Commission.

The theme of the art is meant to reflect Kentucky and the murals are weather tested so they can remain permanent features of the Performance Park. This addition comes after the Performance Park was completed a year ago with the intention of highlighting the art and culture of Nicholasville in the heart of the City.

“This team effort highlights how much our residents care about our community and to involve the young students of the whole County was so much fun,” said Pearson.