

2020

Nicholasville



Report to the Community

nicholasville.org

Report to the Community

Letter from the Mayor

We've all heard the jokes about 2020 – most of them negative. Since we are in a fresh new year that is full of promise, my goal is to be positive and focus on the City of Nicholasville's accomplishments despite the hardships.

Public Safety protected our residents as they are trained to do. We broke ground for a much-needed new police station, and it is progressing with remarkable speed. Watch it grow as you drive along North Main Street.

A new, well-designed fire station was completed, giving us all greater comfort as our professional Fire Department grows to meet our City's needs. We look forward to opportunities for the public to tour Fire Station 4 when that is once again practical. In the meantime, the new, state-of-the-art fire truck has been put to great use.

The sewer facility expansion plans are complete, and funding is in place. Construction should begin in the spring. Like most utilities, our water system often is taken for granted until Mother Nature throws us a curve or another interruption occurs. We are glad to have this important expansion under way to keep water flowing in the right direction.

Our beautiful parks were filled with people getting fresh air and exercise and new playground equipment has made Lake Mingo Park even more fun for the children who play there.

New employers chose to make Nicholasville their address, and existing businesses expanded. Yes, job opportunities grew. Our efforts to recruit more businesses is gaining momentum as our newest industrial park is under construction.

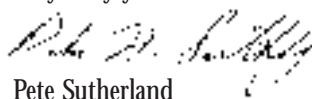
Planning and Zoning stayed busy overseeing new subdivisions and infrastructure development, enforcing zoning and building codes and more. Steve Foote joined our staff as planning director, and we are appreciative of Michael Eakins, who capably served as interim director.

Your government found innovative ways to conduct business, so Commission meetings continued after a short hiatus. At the end of 2020, we said thank you to long-time Commissioner Doug Blackford, who decided not to run for re-election last year. And we greeted incoming Commissioner Bethany Davis Brown with ~~open arms~~ elbow bumps.

The resilience of this community never ceases to amaze me, even though as a lifetime resident, it shouldn't. Once again, we have met challenging conditions with creativity, determination, and teamwork. I have no doubt that 2021 will be a year of continued growth and renewed prosperity.

Thank you, Nicholasville.

Very truly yours,



Pete Sutherland
Mayor



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COVER PHOTO:
Provided by Walt Roycraft Photography

Your City Commission



Pete Sutherland
Mayor
Administration & Finance



Patty Teater
Mayor Pro Tempore
Meter Department



Betty Black
Streets and Cemetery



Alex Carter
Water Departments
(Treatment, Distribution and
Collection)



Bethany Davis Brown
Public Safety
(Police & Fire Departments)

The Nicholasville City Commission quickly resumed meetings following the mandated halt on government in-person meetings in the spring of 2020. Using Zoom and all appropriate health protocols, the Commission adapted to using video conferencing to conduct official meetings. Doug Blackford did not run for re-election and Bethany Davis Brown won the open seat.

To contact a commissioner, call 859.885.1121 or email them using the following pattern: firstname.lastname@nicholasville.org.

Welcome Commissioner Brown

The newest City Commissioner, Bethany Davis Brown, was born and raised in Nicholasville

and has a passion to serve the community she's loved all her life.

Her role will be to oversee Public Safety, which includes the Police and Fire Departments. She'll work to ensure the departments have the equipment they need and help manage numbers in recruitment and hiring.

"The purpose of all the Commissioners is to serve the employees of Nicholasville, work on budgetary needs for the City and development and plan for City needs," said Brown. "I look forward to working alongside the great Commissioners and City employees we have."

At 26 years old, Brown is the youngest member of the Commission, but she's wanted the opportunity to serve the City for several years. When she first sought to run, she missed the age requirement of 21 by only a few weeks.

"I believe you need a range of voices, perspectives and experience to have a successful

team, so I'm excited to bring my experience to the table and represent the large population of young people in Nicholasville," said Brown.

Brown knows the distinctive sense of community that exists in Nicholasville. She said some of her favorite moments are when the town gets together to celebrate sports teams' state and local victories.

"You can't find that kind of support and camaraderie just anywhere, so I'm proud to be part of a city like this," said Brown.

Brown works as an international accountant for Valvoline, Inc. and enjoys hunting with her chocolate lab, Millie, and playing with her other puppy, Abbey. She also has a lifelong love of softball, which she plays on a national traveling team. She also coaches younger players in town. She enjoys visiting Hickman Creek, spending time at the ball field for lessons and dining at local restaurants.

Blackford Bids Adieu



Doug Blackford values the opportunities he had to serve the community while Commissioner. Here he talks with Commissioner Alex Carter during the opening of the Performance Park in 2018.

Baseball great Yogi Berra famously said, “Trust your instincts. Most importantly, act. When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

Doug Blackford, a lifelong resident of Nicholasville and Jessamine County, served 12 years as a City Commissioner with a love for the community and a passion for service. Soon after his victory in 2018, he saw the proverbial fork and decided not to run for re-election.

From starting during a national economic recession to leaving on the high of new police and fire department facilities, Blackford has seen it all, working on projects spanning pools, parks, City revenue opportunities, a new water treatment facility and more.

Reflecting on his time in public office, Blackford believes he’s leaving the City better than he found it.

Throughout his time as a commissioner, Blackford served primarily over the Water Department but also on many committees like finance and special projects. He was also the

Parks and Recreation chairman and even served eight years as Mayor Pro Tempore, also referred to as Vice Mayor.

Blackford started his tenure on the Commission in 2009 in the wake of the financial recession and many economic challenges for the country.

“One of the things I’m most proud of looking back is the way we came together through that time to seek new revenue opportunities,” said Blackford. “We never reached into our citizens’ pocketbooks and even ended up moving the City forward in such uncertain times.”

Among many accomplishments during his tenure, Blackford oversaw many important City projects that have had lasting impacts. The new water treatment facility allowed the City to grow by meeting demand for more water and greater reliability. The new fire station that was completed and the police station now under construction are rare additions for a community.

“Blackford credits the hometown feel of Nicholasville and its residents for maintaining the sense of community it has even after 15 years of tremendous growth. “The people here make our city what it is,” said Blackford.

“Because of those citizens, the City employees, my fellow commissioners and two great Mayors that I served with, I was just as passionate on my last day as I was on my first.”

His appreciation for the people he served fueled his passion and involvement for so many years as City Commissioner, a sentiment he leaves as his legacy from an incredible tenure of service.

“I hope the folks of Nicholasville know how much I truly appreciated serving in public office,” said Blackford. “I never took it lightly and I am blessed to be a small part of it all.”

New Director Brings Experience to Planning & Zoning

Following a national search to fill the vacated Planning and Zoning Director position, the Nicholasville City Commission unanimously voted to approve the selection of Steve Foote for the role.

Requirements for the position emphasized experience, which was deemed especially important as the Commission seeks to build a team that can keep pace with growth and changing demographics. With more than 32,000 residents and a two-percent growth rate, Nicholasville is now the ninth largest city in Kentucky.

“For smaller towns, planning and zoning is fairly straightforward, but we have moved beyond that,” said Nicholasville Mayor Pete Sutherland, who oversees the department. “Our Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments, and the City Commission increasingly rely on the leadership and expertise of our personnel. Steve more than met our search standards.”

Foote (pronounced “foot”) brings 30-plus years of planning experience. He and his wife Jane previously lived in Georgia, Alabama, and Arizona and Tennessee where he held planning positions. He most recently was planning director in Spring Hill, TN, outside of Nashville, where he oversaw multiple initiatives including the adoption of a new Unified Development Code, revisions to the Bicycle and Greenway Plan and progress on the downtown square development, which is creating a hub of city facilities, retail and park space.

Among his first impressions of Nicholasville is the number of wonderful older buildings in the downtown, which he believes is a unique asset.

“A lot of cities will protect their historic buildings because many cities don’t have that,” he said.

Foote sees his role as an advocate and resource to elected officials.

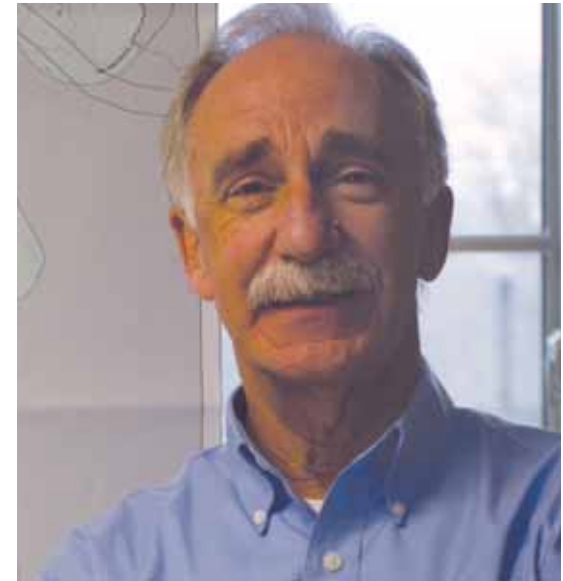
“In Planning and Zoning, our role is to provide options and information that will help leaders and management make good decisions regarding growth and development,” said Foote. “Everything is about choices – we take one path or another for the community.”

The American Institute of Certified Planners’ motto, “Making great communities happen,” is what Foote aspires to do.

“It takes a plan and a specific approach to make things happen,” he said. “I look forward to having a role in making Nicholasville even better than it is today.”

Ironically, Foote didn’t set out to work in urban planning when he went to college, where he majored in geography. But a professor’s suggestion that he consider coursework in land use analysis and a subsequent job offer in the field opened the door that would lead to him to his life’s work.

“It’s a career that can bring a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction, especially if you can look back and see that you had a positive impact, that you have improved the quality of life and development for a community,” said Foote.



Steve Foote says his role is to be an advocate and resource to elected officials as they make growth and development decisions.

To do that, he added, it’s important to look beyond the comprehensive plan, which is the roadmap. Planners must look at regulations to see if they protect and achieve the desired outcomes.

This requires creating achievable goals, which are met through ordinances that address specific issues. Examples include requirements for trails and walking paths, landscaping parking areas, and the removal of signs when a business has closed.

Foote also focuses on customer service, which means making the development review and entitlement process as efficient as possible while conforming to applicable regulations. The Planning and Zoning Department has seven employees, including Foote. Roles include planning, geographic information system mapping (GIS), building inspection, engineering, and administrative support.

An avid bicyclist, Foote may soon be spotted enjoying the bike and pedestrian paths around Central Kentucky or hiking our rolling hills.

Public Safety



Station 4 opened in 2020 with little fanfare due to COVID-19, but public engagement will resume as soon as it is safe. Photographs provided by Walt Roycraft Photography.

From new facilities and community outreach programs to top-level accreditations and everything in between, Nicholasville’s public safety units answered the call to redefine safety and community in a year of unbelievable circumstances.

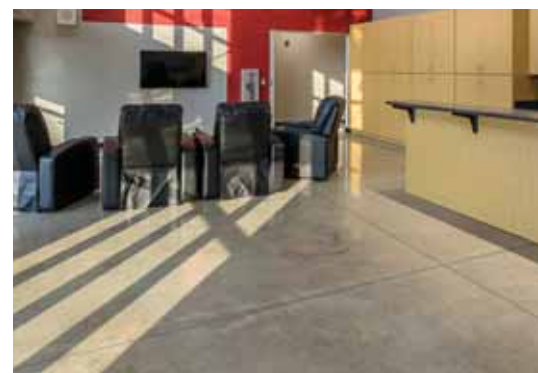
THE NICHOLASVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

(NFD) opened the new fire station at Brannon Crossing. Fire Station 4 is a 7,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility featuring air circulation technology, training rooms, larger truck bays and more.

“This new station stands as a symbol for how far we’ve come,” said Fire Chief Mark Case. “Our department is growing alongside our City and this new location will allow us to better serve the full community with faster emergency response times as well as providing jobs.”

The department also saw personnel growth and high-level accreditations. Danny Eades received an international accreditation for Officer II and Mary Kaszuk was promoted to Training Chief. Lt. Michael Pierce was named captain, and four firefighters were promoted to lieutenant: Donnelly Barnes, Aaron Davis, Travis May and Loren Bewley, the first woman to attain that rank.

“Our department is strong because of our team and their dedication to serving the people of Nicholasville,” said Chief Case. “This mission to be the best for our community only strengthened in the midst of the pandemic.”



The activity room allows space for relaxation for firefighters who are on duty around the clock.

The Fire Department went above and beyond to serve at-risk community members during the pandemic like their program to test smoke and gas alarms promoting resident’s safety even while they stayed home.

THE NICHOLASVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

(NPD) broke ground on the long-awaited new police station in July. The building will feature two floors spreading 25,000 square feet to house training rooms, equipment rooms and a community room that will be used for City Commission meetings and public events.

The NPD has grown significantly in the 37 years since 1983 the current building was dedicated and now has 67 sworn firefighters and seven administrative personnel. However, the department has continued to occupy a small building shared by the Nicholasville Fire Department.

After a detailed review, the City Commission determined the need for a well-designed and spacious police facility was the city's top priority. Property originally purchased for a new City Hall on North Main Street was allocated instead for the NPD.

“We’re grateful for this next step in the department’s journey,” said Police Chief Todd Justice. “It shows how far we’ve come and will allow us to continue to grow well into the future.”

The department also achieved a gold-standard rating of 100 percent on its safety audit from the Kentucky League of Cities, which saves the City money on insurance and demonstrates the commitment to keeping liability low.

Within the department, many officers received accolades and new certifications. Detective



Commissioners and special guests celebrate the official Police Station groundbreaking July 16, 2020.

Travis Steward was named Officer of the Year and Lieutenant Scott Adkins was named Supervisor of the Year. Alex Fogle received a national-level Drug Recognition Expert Certification.

As new safety protocols went into effect during the pandemic, the Police Department wanted to ensure citizens could rely on them to continue to serve. They launched programs to deliver prescriptions to at-risk residents across town. They also continued their “Cruisers to Extend Hope” program where they drive by children’s birthday celebrations with lights and sirens on.

“We’re proud to serve the City of Nicholasville because our community cares about each other,” said Chief Justice. “We will always look for opportunities to step up and be there for them no matter the circumstances.”

Collaborating for the Community

The Police and Fire Departments also celebrated their annual public safety parade, driving different routes on alternating days to ensure they reached as many people as possible. The parade was one of the few City events residents got to experience in 2020 with the COVID-19 cancellations.

“The new facilities for both departments along with their outstanding work this year especially, is a sign of the growth and prosperity of the City of Nicholasville,” said Mayor Sutherland. “We’re thankful to have such strong public safety departments to serve our community.”

Staying Ahead of the Game

Sanitary Sewer System

Did you grow up playing the game "Waterworks" by Parker Brothers?

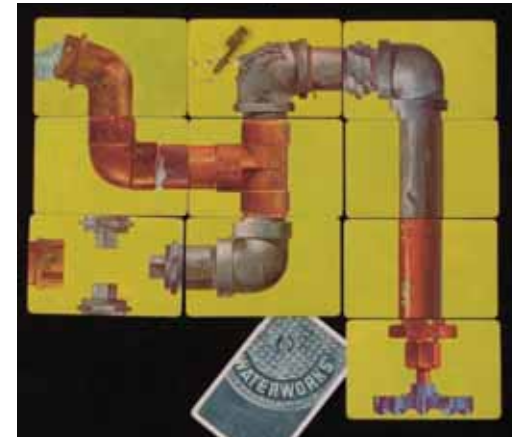
The board game includes cards that show sections of pipes along with 10 tiny metal wrenches. The object of the game is to be the first to build a leak-free pipeline from the valve to the spout. Like in real life, the copper pipe sections were less likely to leak than the iron ones.

Keeping the waterworks system in good condition for a growing community like Nicholasville is much more complex than a board game. In addition to getting clean, safe water into homes and businesses, Nicholasville Utilities also must make sure the wastewater system that removes used water from homes is operating well, too. A handful of miniature wrenches are not enough.

Utility Director Bob Amato doesn't have any cards up his sleeve for maintaining the water systems, just a lot of planning, budgeting and hard work by a team of professionals and experienced contractors.

"We have been adding capacity and focusing on preventive measures to ensure Nicholasville is a step ahead of the major issues that could arise with our utility infrastructure," said Amato. "We have made sanitary sewer system improvements totaling more than \$13 million since 2008. Additional improvements are scheduled to begin this spring and into the coming years."

A \$1 million infrastructure project last summer reduced overflows in three areas of the City. Overflows that occur during heavy rainfall in the Lone Oak subdivision are also being addressed.



The City's Short Shun Pike Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion is on track to break ground in the summer of 2021. Treatment capacity will nearly double as the existing facilities will be mirrored in property planned for that purpose. The City was able to take advantage of historically low interest rates to finance the \$17 million project through General Obligations Bonds.

Electric

Another example of how Nicholasville Utilities plans ahead is procuring backup transformers in case one or more goes down. Nicholasville has six substations at four sites with three transformers for each substation. Transformers are not available on short order, so redundancy is essential to reducing the risk of a prolonged outage should one or more fail. The City now has three backup transformers, enough to replace a whole substation if needed. Over the last two years, the city has spent close to half a million dollars on substation upgrades. Some of them were more than 25 years old, so it became more economic to replace the units once they started having persistent maintenance issues than to continue repairing them. The department consistently tests equipment and performs preventative maintenance.

Superintendent Robert Blackford said the Electric Department has significantly upgraded the system overall in the last 10 years, which has cut down on outages.



A wet well installed in March of 2020 will reduce flooding near John Preece Drive.

Among the upgrades:

- System automation has been added. This enables an automatic reset within about three seconds of a fault on a system. The result is a brief interruption in service rather than the longer down time required for a service person to respond and manually reset it.
- Tree trimming has cut outages by more than 60 percent and has saved the high costs of having workers repair lines broken by branches during storms that otherwise would occur. The department uses arborists to ensure trees are pruned or cut back in the most beneficial ways.
- Pole replacement ensures safety. About 50 poles in the Foxwood area have been replaced for the first time since the neighborhood was established. The replacement program will move to Rolling Acres in late spring or early summer.

Preventive maintenance is a wise investment to provide consistent, reliable power to the businesses and residents living here.

Clean Energy

Most people are quick to say they don't have a crystal ball when asked to tell the future. But Travis Ward, Assistant to the Utility Director, was challenged to predict daily peak electricity usage for the City beginning in 2019.

Ward researched historical trends, the weather and other factors to build a model of when the most power would be used each day. The schedule he devised has been right more than 80 percent of the time, far exceeding a 50 percent accuracy goal.

Why is this important? As a municipal utility, Nicholasville is a "preference customer" of Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) and can distribute lower-cost, environmentally friendly hydropower the facility produces. Kentucky Utilities agreed to deliver the 2.5 megawatts of hydropower Nicholasville has available over its transmission lines so that the City can use the power for Nicholasville customers, reducing their cost; but it must be used during peak usage periods, which is where Ward's crystal ball comes into play.

The bottom line is significant: \$30,000 - \$40,000 per month in credits is being shared proportionately across Nicholasville's electric customers as a result of the SEPA program. To see how it is positively impacting your electric costs, look for the line Power Cost Adjustment, ES01, on your next bill, which includes this reduction and power cost fluctuations.

Customer Service

Nicholasville Utilities has gone digital in a big way this winter with an upgraded customer service and billing system that includes a customer portal.

This system allows customers to:

- Create your own portal account
- Sign up for eBills
- View or print your bills
- View your billing and payment history
- View your usage history
- Pay your bills via electronic payment



The Electric Department is responsible for putting up the decorations that line Main Street each year.

Communications

Competition came to town in 2020 with Metronet joining Windstream and Spectrum as communication providers in Nicholasville. The company ran fiber optic and cable throughout the city so it is now an option for cable and internet services. More information is available online at metronetinc.com.

Help Maintain Our Sanitary Sewer System:

- Never connect storm drainpipes, gutters, or sump pumps into a municipal sanitary line.
- Replace broken sanitary sewer pipes on your property.
- Discard fats, oil or grease in trash, *never down drains*.
- Avoid flushing household products such as baby wipes, facial wipes and other materials that cause blockages.
- Ensure the home cleanout pipe is capped.
- Report sanitary sewer issues promptly.



Safety Director Michael Wayne is watchful for anything that could be a risk to employees or the public.

Michael Wayne has spent most of his life in dangerous occupations. From combat tours in Iraq during his military career to nearly two decades as a firefighter, he's had to take safety seriously because his life – and the lives of those around him – depended on it.

"I'm a pessimist, so I've always looked for the worst thing that could happen in any scenario," he said. "I see all the hazards associated with even routine tasks, so I'm able to plan for it and mitigate it."

His passion for keeping others safe is what drives his work as Nicholasville's first Safety Manager, a position he was hired for in 2018. The role was the perfect fit for Wayne, a Kentucky Army National Guard Major who serves as a Liaison Officer for the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell.

His responsibilities include writing safety plans for utility workers, reviewing and implementing office safety procedures, conducting safety training and inspections, and ensuring that city departments comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, regulations.

Taking Safety Seriously

He also serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator, working in cooperation with the director of Jessamine County Emergency Management to make sure the city is prepared to protect and serve residents during disasters like tornadoes and mass flooding.

His role became even more critical this year as the city worked to keep its employees and residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lucky for Nicholasville, Wayne's inner danger radar activated long before most Americans realized how widespread and impactful the virus would become.

"I read a small news report about a new virus in China early in January, started learning all I could about it and realized it could go worldwide," he said.

He started sending emails to city leaders about the virus and began preparing for more personal protective equipment like masks and gloves.

"People thought I was crazy, but with the support of our leaders, Nicholasville was preparing for this a few months before others were," he said.

As a result, the city was able to continue providing essential services when other cities were scrambling to coordinate responses.

"We still have a mission to accomplish,

whether it be conducting emergency services or repairing a municipal water main, and the employees have to be able to work safely around each other and the public," he said.

"It has been a great comfort to have Michael leading our safety effort during this unprecedented threat," said Mayor Pete Sutherland. "We knew he was identifying and addressing potential concerns before they even hit our radar. He's a tireless advocate for employee health and safety."

Beyond the city's pandemic response, Wayne is credited for getting employees to embrace the renewed focus on safety. Among his accomplishments: Getting utility employees trained and certified in confined space entry and rescue, preparing them to safely work in and around excavation sites, underground vaults, silos, storage tanks and other areas.

The Jessamine County native also is working to create a safety committee with representatives from each department that will advocate for safe work practices and work together to find solutions to unique safety challenges in each department.

One unexpected result of Wayne's diligence has been a decrease in the city's expenditures for workplace accidents.

(continued on next page)

On the Record

Just call her a small-town clerk with big-city standards and a world-class reputation. Kathy Walker hasn't let the size of her city or her staff limit her pursuit of excellence in her field.

Appointed as the Nicholasville City Clerk just three years ago, Walker is the official record keeper for the government. She has already made her mark on the position and among her peers.

Kathy recently was elected President of the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Association, or KMCA, an organization dedicated to the professional development and innovative advancement of clerks across the state and

(Safety...continued from page 10)

“We have been able to decrease worker’s compensation and liability claims to a point where our insurance provider has stabilized our rate,” Wayne said.

There is still work to do.

Besides continuing to keep the city safe during the ongoing pandemic, a priority in the new year will be to make safety training more accessible to city workers.

“I would like to start a virtual or digital training program for employees to access training online,” he said. “My goal is for everyone to go home safe at the end of each day.”

region. During her two-year term, she will spearhead efforts to provide training, resources and networking opportunities to advance the profession.

The new role also included an appointment to the Kentucky League of Cities Board of Directors, where she will serve alongside city and county leaders from across the state.

“Kathy is highly respected among her peers,” said Hopkinsville City Clerk Crissy Fletcher, past president of KMCA. “She has been nominated for Clerk of the Year, has presented at our state conferences, is a mentor to other clerks and recently received one the highest honors for municipal clerks when she was inducted as a fellow in the Athenian Leadership Society of our international organization. She is definitely someone who sets the bar high and leads by example.”

Walker also reached another professional development milestone this year by earning Master Municipal Clerk certification, an achievement that requires advanced education hours, community leadership and volunteerism.

Walker said she believes she owes it to the residents of Nicholasville to continue her education.

“It’s important to always strive to be the best at what you do and that requires seeking



Nicholasville City Clerk Kathy Walker

opportunities to learn and to grow,” she said. “I was raised here in Jessamine County, and I love my community and want to provide the best service possible.”

Her new KMCA role and other leadership positions also benefit Nicholasville.

“One thing I’ve learned is that no matter how big or how small your city may be, we’re all facing the same issues — just maybe on a different scale or cycle— so we can all learn from each other,” she said. “It saves us time and resources when we can avoid pitfalls and solve problems without recreating the wheel.”

Raven Warren Trainor, Nicholasville’s Assistant City Clerk and legal assistant, applauded Walker’s efforts and her support of Trainor’s development. Trainor also earned a municipal clerk certification this year after completing a three-year KMCA program.

“Kathy is very passionate about development and it has rubbed off on me,” she said.

“Getting certified has built my confidence and allows us to provide the best possible service for the City of Nicholasville.”

Economic Opportunities Abound

Those who live or work in Nicholasville realize many of the advantages this community offers, like a lower cost of living, proximity to big-city amenities without the big-city hassles, and the hospitality and friendly nature of its people. However, there are more reasons than most people realize to have a business in Nicholasville.

Develop in an Opportunity Zone

But did you know that a portion of Nicholasville is designated as an Opportunity Zone (OZ)? This means people who invest in qualified businesses here are eligible for significant federal tax benefits.

A Kentucky Opportunity Zone is a low-income U.S. Census tract that encourages individuals and corporations to invest in a variety of economic development projects through Opportunity Funds.

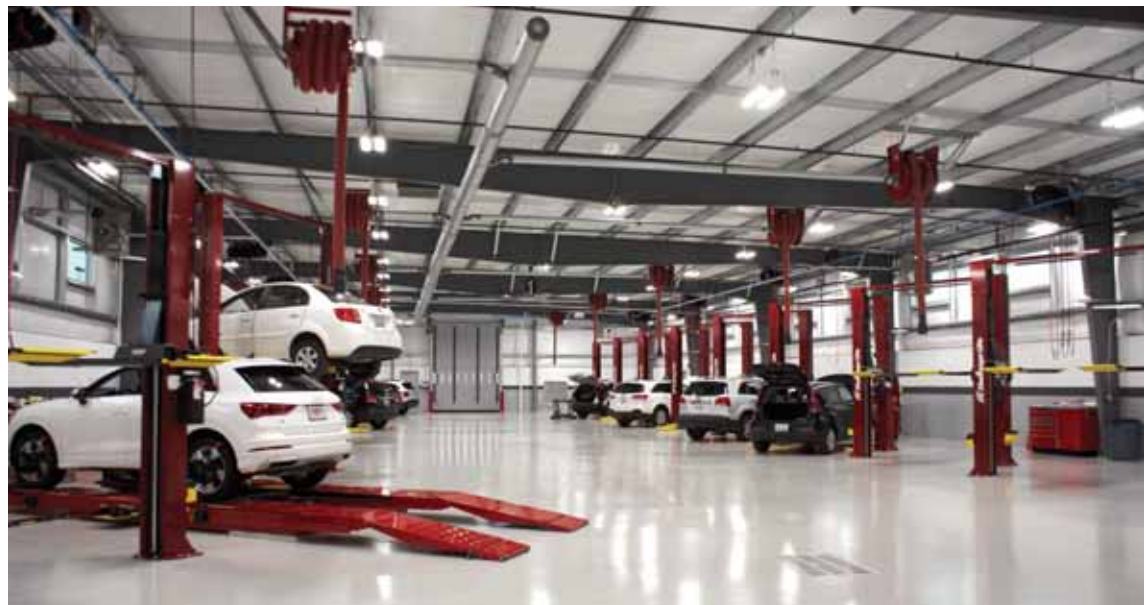
These designated areas in Kentucky – both urban and rural – have been classified as low-income or underdeveloped. Opportunity Zones were created by Congress to encourage long-term investments in these areas. In Kentucky, 144 sites in 84 counties have been designated as Opportunity Zones.

Craig McAnelly, Executive Director of the Jessamine County Joint Economic Development Authority, explained that those who invest in businesses in the new industrial park, currently in development, or other property within an OZ, can realize significant capital gains tax savings. For details, visit ozky.org or contact McAnelly at 859.533.0413 or cmcanelly@jessamineeda.com.

Expansions and Announcements

Car Town Kia's newly-built showroom and service center is more than 30,000 square feet and includes 20 high-tech service bays. The previous showroom will be razed, and a portion of the building converted into a car wash and additional service features. Customers come

Badger Technologies, a product division of global company Jabil, has expanded facilities multiple times on Brannon Crossing. The corporation's retail automation solutions feature autonomous robots that capture and share valuable data designed to improve operations and financial performance. To date, more than



In-demand cars and reliable service has fueled Car Town Kia's growth. The new service center features 20 high-tech service bays.

from all over the region and beyond to purchase the popular cars, especially the new Kia Telluride SUV, which earned the title 2020 World Car of the Year.

Dan's Discount Jewelry & Pawn has purchased the former Frisch's building at 891 N Main St. for an expanded facility near its initial location on Main Street.

500 Badger Technologies autonomous robots have been deployed throughout the United States, Australia and New Zealand while 15 pilot deployments are currently underway.

Aviation Safety Resources recently announced the appointment of Richard V. Spencer to its Board of Directors in conjunction with his recent investment into the company. Aviation Safety Resources, Inc., based in Nicholasville,

designs, tests, and produces whole aircraft emergency recovery parachute systems designed to safely bring down the entire aircraft and its occupants in the event of an in-air emergency.

New Businesses

More companies are locating in Nicholasville, from manufacturing to logistics and service providers. New businesses include:

- Clean Sweep Car Wash, a new facility where Golden Corral once was, near HWY 27 at Plaza Drive.
- Art's Rental Equipment at 701 Nicholasville Road in the former Southern States building.

Enterprise Industrial Park

- BF Logistics has expanded operations to now include 200,000 square feet. Sharp Lawn purchased and has occupied one of the buildings.
- Cotton Love also is locating in this park. The linen manufacturer out of Miami will initially employ about 30 and is expected to add more jobs.

Coming Soon

Menards, a home improvement chain, plans to build in northern Nicholasville near Brannon Road on the same side of Nicholasville Road as Cracker Barrel. The company will be part of a development that includes plans for additional stores and other out-parcels that have not been announced yet.

Jennette Industrial Park

The newest industrial park in Nicholasville, located in the southern end of the city, is under development. It has seven lots of various sizes, two of which are large. Two sales are pending.

The location, in an Opportunity Zone, the lot size and workforce make this a desirable location for a variety of businesses, such as manufacturing, logistics and professional services.



A New Website

A website has been developed to better enable companies to obtain current information about business opportunities in Nicholasville: jessamineeda.com



Menards soon will establish a Central Kentucky store in Nicholasville near Brannon Crossing.

185 Years Old and Going Strong

It's a fact of life, but death is a topic many families avoid, even when it looms for a loved one, until absolutely necessary.

"An important part of our job is to track the number and location of burial plots to make sure the cemetery will have space for future generations," said City Commissioner Patty Teater. "We want families to have the opportunity to lay loved ones to rest in the same cemetery if they so choose."

Recently City leaders learned that the supply of spaces is limited and may only suffice for about five years.

There are about 500 plots left for sale with an average of about 70 or 80 burials a year. There is also a need for more shelter options for graveside ceremonies.

Commissioner Teater took up the charge, urging City leaders to make a decision about the cemetery's future.

The options: Let the remaining spots sell or fill, then continue to care for the existing plots; reach out to the owners of property surrounding the cemetery to see if they would sell to the City; or purchase land for another cemetery in another area of town.

The Commission decided that purchasing surrounding land was the best option for families with loved ones in the existing cemetery — and for conserving City resources.

"Even though we may have been able to purchase land cheaper in another part of the city for another cemetery, it would require us to have two crews and two sets of equipment," Teater said.



The City is planning ahead to ensure Maple Grove Cemetery will accommodate the generations to come.

After a market analysis of the property around the cemetery, the city purchased a few lots on Central Avenue that will eventually be developed for burials and a possible second shelter.

"The new land will give us the opportunity for expansion for the next 30 to 40 years," she said.

Developing the newly acquired lots will be an extension of an ongoing beautification effort at the cemetery. The City has owned the cemetery since 1993, but the oldest grave at the site dates back to 1835.

During the past few years, cemetery personnel have given the 23-acre graveyard a much-needed facelift by replacing lights, adding

parking, blacktopping the interior roads and installing a new retaining wall. A flower planting service that started in 2018 and was expanded to include fall mums this year also gave the area a cosmetic boost.

Teater also helped secure funding to replace aging trucks and purchase a mini bulldozer.

"The City of Nicholasville is committed to investing in Maple Grove Cemetery to honor those who are buried here even though the cemetery only generates enough revenue to cover expenses," said Teater.

Tourism Ready to Resume

In 2019, Nicholasville tourism was booming. Numbers at a record high, the Barbasol championship, a feature in Garden and Gun magazine, a new motorcoach program touring through town and so much more.

Then, as the idiom goes, crickets. The music did not play in the Performance Park, restaurants operated at nominal levels if at all, sports fields were empty, and most people opted to stay safe at home.

Like so many industries in 2020, no one in tourism was prepared for something like the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications. In-person events and exciting new programs came to a halt for the rest of the year.

This void made the positive impact of tourism on each community even more apparent.

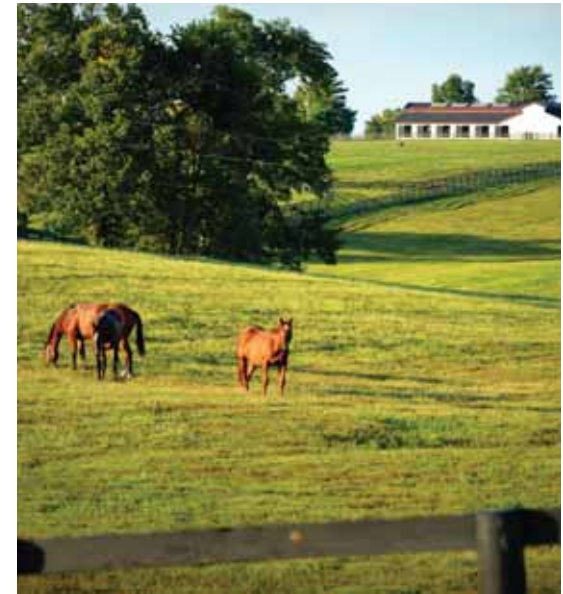
“What can get overlooked is the value of

tourism to our Nicholasville residents,” said Mitchell Pearson, Executive Director of the Nicholasville, Wilmore – Jessamine County Tourism Commission. “More visitors bring more spending to our local businesses and benefits our community as a whole; it's absolutely crucial.”

Looking at the year ahead, the Visit Jessamine team is keeping a hopeful eye on the future but making the most of what we have now.

While Nicholasville doesn't rely on airport or destination travelers like some cities might, it counts on weekend travelers visiting wineries and horse farms, guests from surrounding counties and events that bring people together like the concert series and scenic tours.

“We'll be ready when it's time to safely resume tourism activities we've always loved,” said



Farm tours and other tourism activities were curtailed in 2020 but are expected to bounce back.

Pearson. “But in the meantime, we have a chance to support our city with local tourism and distanced activities that continue to support the value of tourism in Nicholasville.”

(continued on back page)

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Meter Department Powers Through

Come hell, high water or — in the case of 2020 — a raging pandemic, the essential workers at the Nicholasville Meter Department always power through to serve their customers.

Meter Department Superintendent Scott Taylor said his employees practiced good hygiene, wore masks and observed social distancing by reducing the number of staff in the meter shop and restricting vehicle occupancy for most of the year.

The team completed up to 75 service orders a day, including meter maintenance, meter installations, service transfers and shut-offs at homes, mobile home parks, apartment buildings, schools, businesses and horse farms across Nicholasville.

The department also made progress on two major projects this year.

The team continued installation of an automated system for reading electric meters that will allow data collection via radio waves from a distance. The new technology provides more accurate, real-time readings and limits intrusions at homes and businesses.

“We are currently at about 50 percent completion and we anticipate completion in about three years,” said Taylor.

The department also continued preparation for a new billing software system that is expected to take effect in early 2021.

“The system will enable us to be more efficient in conducting our day-to-day responsibilities,” said Taylor. “This will give our customers easier ways to monitor their bills and different ways to pay as well.”

(Tourism...continued from page 15)

Some of those activities this year included the open walking trails at Camp Nelson, golf courses with limited groups, and smaller tours at Taylor Made where people can safely distance while enjoying the unique experiences offered.

In December, Visit Jessamine and the Chamber of Commerce worked together to put on a holiday lights competition, spreading the holiday spirit across town. Businesses and residents competed in multiple categories, bringing a sense of togetherness and fun throughout the City.

“Celebrating community is something Nicholasville is great at,” said Pearson. “Even in the midst of this challenge for tourism, we’ve still seen support for our local businesses from our residents and engagement in the limited activities we could offer which just goes to show our City’s support for each other and help us emerge even stronger.”