

2023



 kinetic.
by windstream.

PROUD TO BE FROM



NICHOLASVILLE, KY

Report to the Community

nicholasville.org

Letter from the Mayor



Mayor Pete Sutherland is proud to have served as Mayor of the City for eight years.

It seems every 12 months we are amazed when it's time to flip the calendar to a new year. How did we get through 2022 so quickly? Perhaps it seems like that because we have been so busy making plans and executing improvements across the City.

The Nicholasville Police headquarters is now complete, and a great working environment, as is Fire Station Four in Brannon Crossing, which opened in '21. I'm pleased to share the progress we have made in hiring and retaining our police and fire personnel. We are working hard, and succeeding, as we find, train and keep dedicated people in all of the important roles across the City. They do so much to keep us safe and operating efficiently.

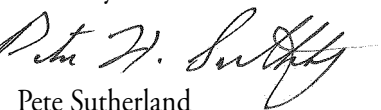
We were proud to share with the public information on the women who are leading the City. You'll see photos of them and in the Women in Leadership feature. Women are succeeding in their roles here and making a difference at every level in our City.

There is significant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and we are putting it to work on many improvements that will contribute greatly to the quality of life for our residents and visitors.

There are big plans currently in development that our residents will enjoy, and which will bring many visitors to our athletic facilities. Please stay tuned for more details and future announcements.

You can read about many of these in this Report. For example, I was so pleased to have the all-inclusive playground added to the City-County Park a few years ago. Now, we have also been able to add accessible restrooms nearby.

The end of the year concluded my eighth year as your mayor, a role I have enjoyed immensely. I'm pleased now to hand over the gavel to Alex Carter, and to again serve you as a Commissioner. Together, we and the other Commissioners and staff will keep Nicholasville moving forward!

Sincerely,

 Pete Sutherland
 Mayor

INSIDE

City Commission	3
Comprehensive Plan Update	3
New Mayor	4
New Commissioner	5
Planning and Zoning	5
Fire Safety Education	6
Park Enhancements	7
Jessamine County Tourism	8
Women In Leadership	10
Public Safety	13
Police Department	14
New Fire Marshal	15
Disaster Relief	16
Environmental Control Facility	17
Downtown Business Grants	18
New City Engineer	19
City Offices Directory	19
New Meter System	20



Your City Commission Through 2022 AND DEPARTMENTS



Pete Sutherland
 Administrator & Finance



Patty Teater
 Mayor Pro Tempore
 Electric & Meter Departments



Alex Carter
 Water Departments
 (Treatment, Distribution
 and Collection)



Bethany Davis Brown
 Public Safety
 (Police & Fire Departments)



Betty Black
 Street Department & Cemetery



Beginning in 2023, Nicholasville elected officials include (from left) Commissioners Pete Sutherland and Patty Teater, Mayor Alex Carter, and Commissioners Bethany Davis Brown and Dexter Knight.



VOICE YOUR OPINIONS

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Joint Comprehensive Plan was addressed in 2017 and it's time for it to be updated. In 2023, representatives for the City of Wilmore, the City of Nicholasville and the Jessamine County Fiscal Court will come together to finalize the vision of our community's future under the direction of Nicholasville's Planning and Zoning Director Tim Cross and Jeremy Young, Director of Jessamine County-City of Wilmore's Joint Planning Department.

The plan sets the goals and direction for land use and growth for the entire county. Therefore, it is critical for everyone to be

involved - including our citizens. The Committee is made up of the Planning Commission Chairmen and the Board of Adjustment Chairmen for both the City of Nicholasville and the Jessamine County-Wilmore Joint Commissions. Additionally, each entity also assigns one elected official and one at large member to serve on the Committee.

The process will include several public hearings and Cross hopes that the citizens of our community will make an effort to attend and participate in these hearings.

Alex Carter

Need a new construction home inspected for energy code compliance and HERS index rating, or a commercial property valuated? Contact Alex Carter. Need an advocate for local parks, a business approach to government and someone who can bring people together on an issue, contact Mayor-Elect Alex Carter.

After serving as Mayor Pro-Tem for two terms and learning that his friend Pete Sutherland was not going to pursue reelection as mayor, Carter entered the race for the top leadership position for the City. He was sworn into office December 19, along with new Commissioner Dexter Knight.

With a growing family that includes infant twin boys and a daughter who turned three on Christmas Day, Carter and his wife Colby have



a full schedule. But, for Alex, having a role in the future of Nicholasville is an opportunity he wanted to seize.

“I am passionate about Nicholasville and believe I can be a part of creating a stronger sense of identity and helping the public see that there is so much to do here, which makes it a great place to live and work,” said Carter.

He is a Nicholasville native, attended West Jessamine High School, and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration, Finance and Economics from the University of Kentucky before beginning his career in commercial real estate. He served on the Nicholasville Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments before becoming a Commissioner.

As mayor, Carter has responsibility for City administration and finance as well as leading Commission meetings.



Alex Carter



Dexter Knight

Hang out with Dexter Knight for a few minutes over coffee at Oak & Main, his unofficial office, and you’ll hear the drumbeat of a consistent message: community.

“I was blessed to grow up here. I would like everyone to know what it means to be part of a community, and to take pride in that,” said Knight, who was elected to the Nicholasville Commission in November.

Many in Nicholasville know Knight from his 30+ years as an educator, first in agriculture at Jessamine County and West Jessamine High Schools, and later as Principal of Jessamine Career and Technology Center (JCTC).

After retiring at the end of 2022 from JCTC, he accepted a part-time position with the University of Kentucky’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and will continue his landscape business and many volunteer activities.

But his desire to keep helping the people in his hometown went even deeper than that, so he ran for local office. In addition to education, Knight is interested in economic development and is enthusiastic about supporting growth of businesses downtown.

Whether coordinating Wreaths Across America, participating in Jessamine County Farm Bureau events, attending church activities with his wife Wanda, or serving on the City Commission, Knight will be a steady presence among others who have a strong desire to get things done.

And, while he gave up playing drums after seven years in his school band, if that’s what it takes to get people engaged and downtown, he’ll dig out his old snare and start making music again.



Dexter Knight was elected to the City Commission in November of 2022. Administrative areas will be chosen in early 2023.

City Growth Brings New and Exciting Developments

Nicholasville continues to be one of the top 10 growing communities in the state and is actively pursuing development opportunities that will benefit its residents and attract more people to the area, according to Planning Director Tim Cross.

First among Cross’ challenges when hired to this position was maintaining development while the City addressed its wastewater capacity. Per an agreed order with the state, some projects already in process were able to move forward.

“The development at the north end has extended our City boundary and has been a major attraction for new and exciting developments,” he said.

The north end is popular with developers in large part due to the population surrounding that part of the City, Cross said. This area helps to boost the economy in the City.

Meanwhile, Jessamine County’s Joint Economic Development Authority is focused on bringing manufacturing into its new “Opportunity Zone,” an 80-plus-acre industrial park on the south end of the 27 bypass. On both the north and south ends of the City, Cross hopes to be able to pull professional development across the county line into Jessamine County.

Attracting businesses such as medical facilities to the area is one of Cross’ priorities. The opening of the Cedarhurst of Nicholasville assisted living facility has been a much-needed service to the City.

(continued on page 18)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Driving Into a New Era of Safety & Education



2022, Cox and three firefighters, one from each shift, traveled to Mobile Concepts for operational training on the trailer. Once the trailer arrived in the City, the entire department received training on its use.

The trailer involves several interactive software tools that teach children and adults about fire safety and can be reserved for classes or events two-weeks ahead of time through the department’s Administrative Assistant.

“The more we can educate, the more successful we become at preventing fires,”

Cox said.

In addition to the trailer, Cox has contracted for a new, larger ladder truck, with a ladder on it that can reach up to 107 feet, and a new engine for the department. The new apparatuses will replace the current ladder truck and engine, which have been in service approximately 20 years. The goal, according to Cox, will be to keep the older vehicles in reserve.

“We really recognized that the need for new apparatus was very important, especially as the city is moving into a lot of multi-story, multi-family units that will require larger and better equipment to cover in the event of a fire,” he said.



Steer clear of the curb! Guess how much a fire hose weighs. Calculate the water pressure. These are some of the things the community can learn from the Fire Safety Next Gen trailer.

In March of 2022, a new Fire Safety Next Gen trailer was unveiled by the Nicholasville Fire Department, and was immediately put to use, making trips to local schools and the Jessamine County Fair. The department hosted a grand opening for the immersive, interactive and educational unit during Fire Safety Week this past fall.

“Back when I was assigned to a fire truck, we had an aging fire safety trailer built by us firefighters from which we taught fire safety education and it met the needs of our community for many years,” explained Fire Chief Craig Cox, a 24-year veteran of the Nicholasville Fire Dept. “There wasn’t much that was interactive about it except a smoke simulation. But as our population grew, so did our needs for a more interactive trailer.

“I said to myself, if I ever make the rank of Chief, I am going to try to stay up with what other departments are doing to educate the community, so one of the first things I asked for in the capital budget was this trailer.”

The trailer was designed by Mobile Concepts Specialty Vehicles in Pennsylvania over a six-month period. Starting in February

Park Enhancement Plans Underway Thanks to ARPA Funds



When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, the world came to a standstill. Some areas of the economy took a bigger hit than others, but the federal government stepped in to help with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

ARPA offered grant money to every city and county in every state to help combat the effects of the pandemic. Nicholasville was awarded a little more than \$8 million.

Commissioners Alex Carter and Patty Teater set plans in motion for some of the funding to be allocated to existing and new parks, as well as downtown Nicholasville. An \$800,000 budget was approved to put into renovating parks – as well as creating some new attractions for residents to enjoy.

“The City has made it a priority to enhance our parks for our growing community,” said Carter.

“We know people want to see their money at work, and community parks are

something they like to utilize. It builds the community up.”

Highlights of the City park updates coming within the next few years:

- A parking lot will be constructed at the JCYB baseball fields.
- The Riney B. Aquatics Center will reopen this summer with updated filtration systems, necessary repairs and a new overall look.
- The walking trail at Lake Mingo park will be repaved and widened from 3 feet to 8 feet to allow for more foot and bike traffic.
- A splash pad will be added at Lake Mingo Park.
- A multi-purpose turf field - to be used for soccer, football, and more - will be added to John Preece Park.
- There are hopes of hosting outdoor concerts at the Performance Park downtown in the summers.

- An accessible restroom has been added to City County Park.

Along with the splash pad and walking trail expansion, Lake Mingo Park will receive additional parking spaces, new restrooms, and additional lighting. All parks will receive security cameras.

“The splash pad will be an exciting addition to Lake Mingo,” said Doug Blackford, Director of General Government. “It will give kids an opportunity to rip, run, and have some fun!”

“We believe it is important to continue growing with the City, but also focus on the things we have,” said Commissioner Teater. “Allocating funds to bettering our parks, making them safe, clean, and good parks to escape to, felt like the right thing to do for the people in this City.”

(continued on page 9)

New Faces and Pretty Places Bring Tourists to Jessamine County



Charla Reed, new Executive Director of the Jessamine County Tourism Commission, is all smiles when it comes to promoting the City of Nicholasville.

Tourism is on the rise in Jessamine County, and Charla Reed, the new Executive Director of the Jessamine County Tourism Commission, plans to keep up the momentum.

The community is a great place for a day trip, weekend getaway, or long vacation. Working with Tourism Commission members, who volunteer their time, Charla's goal is to showcase that about our area and attract visitors.

Born and raised in Berea, the Bluegrass holds a special place in Charla's heart. Telling the story of our beautiful state and helping bring visitors to witness its beauty are some of the highlights of this position for her.

"Tourism and the community go hand in hand. I have been out meeting people, and it has been wonderful! It is important to build those relationships," said Charla.

Upon accepting her new role, she set out to see for herself the attractions and experiences that make our area special. One of her favorite activities was a boat ride down the Kentucky River Palisades, which was covered by WLEX (LEX 18). The Palisades are a great place to go kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, and take a ferry ride on a beautiful summer day.

There are many other attractions that draw visitors to the area, including Camp Nelson National Shrine, the Jessamine Creek Gorge, state-of-the-art wineries, and the popular country market and restaurant

Dixie Café. Some events that took place in Nicholasville and brought out a crowd in 2022 include the well-loved Wine and Vine Fest, Spooky Time on Main, Jessamine County Fall Festival and St. Nick Fest.

"This area is so rich in history, while also being extremely interesting, fun, beautiful and unique," said Charla. "I want to show that to people and have them eat, stay, and play here."

Thanks to ARPA Fund allocations from the City, and the Small Business Property Incentive Grant, Tourism is excited about the possibilities of new businesses entering the downtown area that will help to expand tourist offerings in our county. The City understands how important it is to

support local businesses and invest in the beloved downtown area, and tourism looks forward to the beautification process.

Specialty downtown businesses are taking creative initiative and putting on concerts, vendor markets, movie nights, farmers markets and more. These efforts and have been made to strengthen the downtown area and provide people with a truly local and unique experience.

More local experiences are planned for the near future, including concerts coming to the area.

Park Enhancement *(continued from page 7)*

Additional funds have been allocated to the downtown area, along with the Downtown Revitalization Grant. The City started working on this in September 2022 and \$500,000 of the ARPA funds are dedicated to bringing people downtown by repairing buildings, assisting property owners, and making overall improvements.

A beautiful new mural installed downtown is also encouraging people to visit the area, take photos, and spend some time taking it all in.

"This City has a story to tell. We want people to come here and experience the good stuff for themselves."
— *Charla Reed*

Lastly, the City is proud to allocate funds from the Cleaner Water Grant. \$2 million will go towards the Water Plant Transmission Main Expansion and \$860,000 will go toward sanitary sewer rehabilitation.

"We are very excited about the plans that we have started working on, and proud of the things we have already accomplished," said Teater. "Stay tuned, Nicholasville, exciting things are coming!"

Nicholasville's Women in Leadership: No Glass Ceilings Here

In Kentucky, 34% of elected officials are women. Across America, that number drops to 30%. When it comes to local leadership, women are often underrepresented.

The City of Nicholasville, however, stands high above their city government counterparts. Women represented 60% of the Nicholasville City Commission and elected government positions in 2022.

Fifteen women leaders were featured in a recent editorial shoot and news stories highlighting their positions in City Hall; the Nicholasville Police and Fire Departments; the Tax and Utilities Offices; the Water Department; on the City Commission; and other areas.

In November, several of the women in City leadership participated in a question-and-answer panel at Jessamine Career and Technical Center (JCTC), which about 40 female students from both high schools attended.

"It is important that we showcase the women we have leading the City for the younger generations of women, so that they know it could be them one day," said Commissioner Patty Teater. "Representation matters."



The City Commission

The City of Nicholasville has four commissioners and a mayor. From 2021 - 2022, three of them were women. The commissioners meet three times a month and make decisions to better our community. *(from left)* Bethany Brown, Patty Teater, and Betty Black have served our City well for a number of years.



Utility Department

"In this position, we help with water quality which is one of the most important things in the world," said Renee Rhineheimer *(left)*, Assistant Distribution/Collection Superintendent—Regulatory—for the City. "There are not many women in this career, and there are a lot of opportunities for them. I hope we can show younger generations that."

Allison Bowman has also worked with the City for quite some time: 17 years.

"Our work is really important to the well-being of the City, and I really enjoy it," said Bowman, Assistant Superintendent at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the City. "Keep an open mind and you never know what you'll find."



Customer Experience

Tanis Pruiett *(right)* and Kristine Goldey have been working with the City's Utilities Department in Customer Service for 21 and 24 years, respectively.

Kristine Goldey is the Utility Customer Service Supervisor and helps to answer any and all questions residents of the City may have regarding utility service and billing.

"We are lucky to work here," said Pruiett, Utility Billing Supervisor. "All young women, go for it. Apply yourself and go full force. You can do anything you set your mind to."



City Administration

The faces of City Hall include *(from left)* Kathy Rhineheimer, Human Resource Manager, Kathy Walker, City Clerk, and Raven Warren, Assistant City Clerk. It's said that these women help make everything happen.

"No day is the same, and we are all very proud of the work we are able to do to help this City be the best it can be for all residents," said Kathy Walker, City Clerk.

Women in Finance

The employees who keep the City well supplied and the books well balanced are often overlooked. Even here, you will find women leading the efforts.

City Finance Officer Laurie Young helps to oversee all financial operations conducted in the City. If you have a money question, chances are Young has the answer.

Pauline Horsely, Purchasing Agent, makes sure city funds are well spent by getting the best price and negotiating for better deals when possible.

(continued on page 12)

Women in Leadership, continued



Women in Finance (continued from page 11)

Tax Administrator Leanne Short (above, right) keeps track of the revenues that allows the City to operate. She answers the public questions on all things city bill and tax related.

Katherine Porter (left), Senior Accountant for the City, helps balance the books and make sure the budget for the City is in check.

To recognize the many dedicated women who help run Nicholasville, Mayor Pete Sutherland declared August ‘Women in Government Month.’

Nicholasville’s women in leadership are hardworking, motivated, and passionate individuals who love what they do. Now, they are inviting the next generation of women leaders to get on board.



Nicholasville Public Safety

Autumn Howard (right), now retired, was a Police Lieutenant with the Nicholasville Police Department for over 23 years. “I always knew I wanted to do this, and I have really enjoyed it,” said Howard.

Alexus Jones, NPD Police Lieutenant, is the first female Patrol Police Lieutenant the City of Nicholasville has ever had.



“This is not a career typically advertised to women,” said Loren Bewley, (above) Fire Lieutenant for the Department. “Still, I am not sure why women don’t consider it more. There’s so much room for movement and growth, no day is the same, and it is a very gratifying career.”

Strategies Help Grow and Maintain Public Safety



Less than two years into her first term, Nicholasville City Commissioner Bethany Brown is proud of what the Commission has been able to accomplish while she’s been the administrator for Public Safety.

“We’re really excited with the fact that we’ve been able to recruit and get transfers

to restaff our police and fire departments,” Brown said.

Brown, a native of Nicholasville, had a great-grandfather that served as Police Chief in the 1950s and 60s and knew some of the current personnel in both the Police and Fire Departments. Her understanding of the importance of public safety made her an advocate for the departments’ success.

“My main focus was trying to make sure we got the officers what they needed,” she said. “The Fire Department was down four or five people, so not super short-staffed, and the Police Department needed 10 to 12 officers.”

The situation was coming to a head as the city was seeing high turnover due to a growing number of retirement-eligible staff and transfers to other nearby police departments.

Opening a new state-of-the-art police department was key in creating a better, more sustainable working environment for the police force.

“Over the last couple of years, we had a lot of retirements and then some left to other agencies,” said Chief of Police Todd Justice.

Working with the finance committee over six months or more, Brown, an International Accountant with Valvoline, began crunching numbers to solve the issue.



“We wanted to get a competitive wage that not only would get people in the door, but also keep them here,” she said.

The process, Brown said, involved adjusting the pay scale from start to finish and looking at where the city’s personnel fell on the pay scale.

“The morale and staffing numbers are where we want,” Brown noted. “Most employees are tickled pink.”

According to Brown, the Police Department will be fully staffed within a few months, thanks to four newly sworn-in officers and lateral transfers. The department is also looking at a re-hire program for retired officers that will bring their considerable experience back to the department to assist in the force’s development.

“We’re trying to bridge the gap between gaining new officers and retirement. We really want to have personnel between the 10–15-year mark, that’s the sweet spot,” Fleming said. “We want to see our five-year officers become the 10–15-year veterans that can invest their experience into the department.”

For the Fire Department, the addition of staff has eliminated the need for overtime, which in turn can lead to burnout.

“We just approved three more hires for the Fire Department,” Brown said, “which gives us an extra person on each shift. Once they, along with four other new recruits, get trained up, we should see a morale boost and not as much burnout.”

In the end, wages were increased across the City, more people joined the Police and Fire Departments, and the result was well-received.



NPD Gets a New Look



Crammed into a small rundown building across from City Hall for years, the lack of usable office space had forced the Nicholasville Police Department to splinter their units around the city, among several other drawbacks.

After 22 months of design and construction that started in July 2020, the Police Department unveiled a stunning state-of-the-art building on Main Street in May of this year. The building has already made a huge impact on the department and community.

“It’s been a game changer,” said both Chief of Police Todd Justice and Assistant Chief of Police Major Michael Fleming, echoing each other.

“You can tell the officers are proud to come to work now,” added Fleming, a 21-year veteran of the force.

The pair listed off the many advantages of the new space, including the efficiency of having all the department’s units housed in one space, having conference rooms

for meetings, controlled access to the building, being able to safely secure department records and files, and a large fully equipped fitness center.

“Communication is a lot better,” Chief of Police

Justice said. “The Drug Unit can collaborate with the Criminal Divisions Unit better - they can talk to each other easier. We rarely interacted with Code Enforcement. Now we’re forming relationships with people in that unit.”

In addition, the department will now be able to host their first field training for officers. The three-day course teaches training officers how to train and evaluate recruits during their 15-week FTO phase prior to becoming solo officers.

In the past, the department had the expense of sending officers to Florida for the same class. Now, the department will utilize the building’s 112-seat, high-ceilinged Community Room with large screen TV and separate projection screen, sink

and counter, and one-touch room control features.

The room has also become the site of the City Commissioners monthly meetings and has been booked months ahead by companies, organizations and others in the community.

“It’s free of charge,” Chief of Police Justice said as he pressed a button to lower shades on the room’s large windows. “Any agency or civic organization is welcome to use it.”

With a building that provides a better work atmosphere, Justice has been able to focus on developing his police force and his outreach into the community.

Currently, the department has four open positions as well as 10 recruits. The recruits are currently in their initial 20-week law enforcement training at the police academy in Richmond, Ky. Once completed, those 10 officers will begin a 15-week in-house training program at the department.

(continued on next page)



New Fire Marshal Making An Impact

Deputy Chief Joshua “Josh” Bolton is not a new face to the Nicholasville Fire Department, having started full time in 2006. In August 2022, he stepped into a new role as Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention.

“It’s something I’ve been working for my whole career,” Bolton said of the new position.

Bolton, a graduate of Garrard County High School, started as a volunteer firefighter at 16. He has always been interested in firefighting, with both his dad and an uncle serving with Garrard County Fire District One. Fire Marshal Bolton also serves his community as Fire Chief of Garrard County Fire District 1.

Three years into joining Nicholasville Fire Department, Bolton began his training with the Fire Investigation Bureau.

“I’ve always been interested in how fires start and progress and it drove me to want to figure out more about the investigating side,” Bolton explained.

The Bureau provides courses and certifications in everything from Arson to Explosives Expert to state level certification as a Fire Inspector, all of which Bolton completed over the years.

Now he will complete training as a Certified Fire Investigator for the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), which involves several factors, including a certain number of hours giving expert witness testimony in court.

Two months into his role, a fire investigation he conducted at the end of September for a local bakery led to an arrest.

“I was on the fire truck helping to put the fire out that morning,” Bolton noted. “And I was investigating how it started later that day.”

Bolton, who will also provide ongoing fire prevention training for the department as well as in the community, said his future goal for his role is to continue to improve on what has already been started with the department and to keep communication going with other agencies and with the community.

“We are super excited to welcome Josh into that position,” said Fire Chief Craig Cox. “One of the most attractive things about hiring him for this position, was the number of national fire investigation certifications he holds. Fire investigation has interested him for a long time, and he has been a real self-starter about taking classes and becoming more educated in this area.”

“I am honored to hold this position,” Bolton reflected. “I mean, I never thought I’d be in a chief’s position, so it’s definitely exciting.”



Joshua Bolton

NPD *(continued from page 14)*

The City raised pay across the board in 2020, then more change came last year through federal COVID-19 funds which gave the city enough of a safety net to raise pay scales again, in some cases to \$20

per hour, and stop the turnover of city personnel.

Having a new building and competitive pay has also equated to the ability of the department to offer more to the community, and to other communities.

According to Justice, his department is ready and willing to assist wherever they are needed. He believes interaction with the community is key to the success of his department.

DISASTER RELIEF

Helping Others in Times of Need



As Renee Rhineheimer swipes through dozens of photos she took on her iPad of the aftermath of the Eastern Kentucky floods in Breathitt County, she is awed again by what she experienced.

“It’s just unbelievable,” she said of the devastation she saw while there.

At the request of the Kentucky Municipal Utilities Association, Nicholasville agreed to send Rhineheimer, Assistant Superintendent Regulatory for the Distribution and Collection Department, along with employees from the Water Department, Water Treatment Plant, and Street Department, along with three trucks, to assist in assessing the extent of damage to the water system in early August.

“We were split into groups,” explained Rhineheimer. “Our group was singled out for organizational and water line location skills. Then we were given a map and told to look for damaged meters or broken lines so that they could be cut off so the water [service] could be brought online sooner.”

Traveling back and forth over six days, the Nicholasville employees recorded their findings for both Breathitt County and FEMA, taking photos, talking to people, using metal detectors to find water meters, and documenting where water lines were damaged.

According to Rhineheimer, the group often traveled 70 miles each day within the water district area, many times without being able to communicate with other teams by phone due to the lack of signal in the mountains.

What she experienced astounded her, including entire homes washed away leaving only a concrete foundation, a car filled to the roof with sand, and whole sections of the land cut by deep muddy gullies from the fast-moving current.

“There were pieces of roadway picked up and tossed [by floodwater] - total devastation,” Rhineheimer said. “We couldn’t find the meters a lot of the time because there was so much mud and silt, or they were just washed away completely.”

When talking to residents, Rhineheimer learned that many had never seen such a devastating event, at least not in the 40 or 50 years they had lived in the area.

“You cannot comprehend what it’s like to lose everything,” she said. “Some people lost their homes, their cars ... their possessions were scattered, and they were just happy to get out alive.”

She hopes the photos and information she gathered will result in Breathitt County agencies being able to better know where to focus their efforts for the flood victims.

The Fire Department also assisted flood victims by providing rescue efforts in conjunction with the other departments. They collected non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, hand tools, hygiene products, bedding, clothing, and more, which were delivered to Carrie, Ky.

The Fire and Police Departments also provided crews to Western Kentucky last December when a tornado struck to assist with structural collapse searches and removal of debris from roadways.

“They were clearing out trees, clearing roads and debris,” explained Major Michael Fleming, Assistant Police Chief. “It was definitely a manual labor trip.”

The teams also set up in a parking lot to distribute toys they had collected for children in the area.

“Even while we’re staffed and paid to help our own community, we want to support others where we can, and they in turn are appreciative of our efforts,” said Craig Cox, Fire Chief.

“You wish you could do more, snap your fingers and fix it, but that’s not the reality,” Rhineheimer noted. “People complain about little things, but I saw people (in the flood area) who had clothes donated to them and didn’t have a home to put them in.”

The City of Nicholasville is proud to have employees and departments who help their fellow man in times of need.

Making Progress at the Jessamine Creek Environmental Control Facility

In December 2021, the City of Nicholasville broke ground on an expansion at the Jessamine Creek Environmental Control Facility, the City’s wastewater treatment plant.

“Our community is growing, and this expansion allows us to accommodate for that growth, while also protecting the environment,” said Bob Amato, Nicholasville Public Utilities Director.

Protecting the environment is an important part of what the Utilities Department does. Nicholasville’s water is pulled from the Kentucky River, treated, and distributed into homes, businesses, schools and other facilities.

Once used, it flows through the sanitary sewer system to the Jessamine Creek Environmental Control Facility for a thorough treatment process. Afterward, it is returned to nature cleaner than it was when first taken out.

Expanding the Control Facility will allow the City to go from treating 4.1 million gallons of used water a day to 7.1 million gallons a day, an increase of 73%.

“Keeping our local waterways clean and safe is one of the most vital parts of a successful and healthy community, and we are proud to take part in doing so,” said Amato.

This \$20 million expansion was projected to take 24 months to complete, with the contractual goal of finishing the updates in February 2024. Since breaking ground, the Utilities Department and project partners have made substantial progress. All major concrete pours for new systems have been completed, and the plant has been able to continue operations and meet all requirements throughout the expansion.

The project is currently months ahead of schedule, and, barring any unforeseen circumstances, will now finish expansion efforts around October 2023. All teams



have remained within the projected budget as well. This expansion was designed by HMB Professional Engineers Inc. and is being constructed by Dugan & Meyers.

In addition to meeting all requirements and goals, even throughout the expansion project, the Environmental Control Facility team has received the Operational Excellence Award for the sixth year in a row. Congratulations to all involved on a successful year.

Grants Now Available for Downtown Businesses

For the first time in its history, the City of Nicholasville launched a Small Business Property Incentive Grant program in the fall of 2022.

Open to brick-and-mortar businesses within the Downtown Business District, the aim of these grant awards is to increase economic development and support local business.

Business owners approved for a grant will be reimbursed for qualifying beautification improvements, such as installing exterior lighting and landscaping, as well as structural repairs and other projects. Recipients also will match a portion of the expenses based on total project cost, starting at 10%.

“We’ve had a great response,” said Stephen Pracht, Grant Administrator. “I have been meeting with many local business owners who are interested in the program.”

Winners are to be announced early in 2023.

The capital for these awards comes from federal funds the City received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). City Commissioners approved allocating \$500k of the APRA funds to the beautification of downtown.

“When we first found out we were going to receive ARPA funds, one of the biggest questions was, how we can use them to help the



residents,” shared Pracht. “A grant program was one of those ideas everyone got behind.”

Pracht, who stepped into the newly created position of Grants Administrator in 2021, is among those most excited to put these funds in the hands of Nicholasville citizens.

“My goal with this program is to make sure we have plenty of participants, and to use up all this money,” he said, laughing. “We think this will help our downtown. Every business owner has seen a decline in foot traffic since COVID-19. If we can make our downtown a little more vibrant, it should drum up interest for the entire area.”

Pracht hopes this inaugural program in downtown, or as he calls it, the “heart of the city,” will be successful, and just one initiative directed towards assisting local businesses in Nicholasville.

Now that Nicholasville has crossed the 30,000 mark in population, Cross said he expects continued residential growth.

On the horizon for the City, Cross said there will be a major upgrade of the water main line into town for four miles, replacing the old pipe system with a 24-inch water line.

Welcome to Nicholasville, Brian Claar!

There’s a new engineer in town – say hello to Brian Claar!

Brian stepped into the role of City Engineer in December 2021. Since then, he has been able to help the City in many ways.

Originally from West Virginia, Claar made his way to the Bluegrass to obtain a civil engineering degree from the University of Kentucky. Many of us are not sure what we want to be when we grow up, but that was not the case for young Brian. Engineering was something he knew he wanted to do as soon as he found out he’d be able to work outdoors, watch things being built from start to finish, and work in a broad variety of places with different focuses.

With experience in stormwater management, erosion and sediment control design, powerplant engineering and construction, and engineering consulting and business development, he has worked in several different positions before choosing to join the City.

The city engineer has a variety of duties, but no day looks the same. This role includes communication and relationship building, site inspections, plan reviews, and more. Claar says working his engineering knowledge into the role has been one of his favorite parts about the position so far.

“A variety of things come across my desk that I get to be involved in, which I really enjoy,” said Claar. “The role is local in nature, which makes all of the work feel more personal.”

Although Claar is not a Nicholasville native himself, his wife is from Jessamine County, and they are very happy to be here.

“There are such good people in this city, and I have really felt like I have been able to help them and do good for this community,” said Claar.

If you see this engineer around town, be sure to give him a big City of Nicholasville welcome!



Brian Claar

DIRECTORY

as of January 2023

<p>MAYOR’S OFFICE Alex Carter, Mayor 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>FINANCE & Public Utilities Bob Amato, Director 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>JESSAMINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Craig McAnelly, President 102 South First Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.533.0413 cmcanelly@bgadd.org</p>	<p>PARKS AND RECREATION Duane McCuddy, Director 402 Park Drive Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.9787 Fax: 859.881.5017</p>	<p>STREET & ROAD DEPARTMENT Dave Brown Superintendent 517 Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>
<p>CITY COMMISSIONERS Bethany Davis Brown Dexter Knight Pete Sutherland Patty Teater 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>FIRE DEPARTMENT Craig Cox, Fire Chief 1022 South Main Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.5505 Fax: 859.887.2713</p>	<p>LEGAL SERVICES Darren Sammons City Attorney 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>PLANNING COMMISSION Tim Cross, Director 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.9385 Fax: 859.881.5263</p>	<p>TAX OFFICE Leanne Short Tax Administrator 601 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.7618 Fax: 859.885.9476</p>
<p>CITY CLERK Kathy Walker City Clerk 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>GENERAL GOVERNMENT Doug Blackford, Director 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>MAPLE GROVE CEMETARY Jason Davis Superintendent 500 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.4334 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>POLICE DEPARTMENT Todd Justice, Chief of Police 510 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.9467 Fax: 859.885.1766</p>	<p>TOURISM COMMISSION Charla Reed Executive Director 102 South First Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.305.6040 info@visittjessamineky.com</p>
		<p>HUMAN RESOURCES Kathy Rhineheimer Human Resource Officer 517 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.885.1121 Fax: 859.881.0750</p>	<p>SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT Dave Short Wastewater Superintendent 2296 Shun Pike Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: 859.887.3100 Fax: 859.885.3148</p>	

City Growth (continued from page 5)

“The Planning and Zoning Committee recently approved a 140-unit complex for our 55 and older community for Calamar,” he explained. “This is another diverse development that will meet the needs of a different segment of our population.”



517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Presort
Standard
US POSTAGE
PAID
Lexington, KY
Permit No. 850

New Meter System Saves Costs and Improves Reliability

When it comes to utilities, the City of Nicholasville has customers' backs. Over the past year, the utilities department has been hard at work installing an Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system. AMI provides the foundation to enhance the services provided to residents.

"The residents are our main priority, so we knew installing this system was a must," said Bob Amato, Nicholasville Public Utilities Director. "This system will allow us to provide more reliable service to our residents."

Having better visibility of the distribution system will provide information that will allow the Electric Department to improve the energy efficiency, thereby reducing costs. It also will help to prevent power outages before they happen.

With the addition of this technology, the Utilities Department can receive readings from meters and detect unusual activity much further in advance. Future technology enhancements will allow

customers to see their own usage in near real time through a web-based portal.

Additionally, the AMI system alerts the department of power outages and if service goes out anywhere in

their territory. This allows City employees to be proactive in dealing with and preventing outages and the damage that follows them.

The Utility Department feels good about this upgrade and the ability to better serve the community. Reducing costs and improving reliability were two of their main goals for the year, which AMI helped them meet. This team is bettering service for the City of Nicholasville, one automated meter at a time.

