

Citylines

Southgate, Kentucky – City of Friendly Homes

May 2008 - Vol. 5, No. 2



City Administration:

Mayor:	Jim Hamberg
Community Events:	Ron Bertsch
Public Safety:	Virgil Miller
Public Works & Waste:	Dan Speier
Public Building, Parks & Recreation:	Ron Bertsch & Chris Robisch
City Attorney:	Mary Ann Stewart
City Treasurer:	Don Berkemeyer 441-0075
Police Chief:	Mike Hall 441-0927
Fire Chief:	John Beatsch 441-1422
Public Works:	Arvil Bowman 441-8009
City Clerk:	Jody Anderson 441-0075



Memorial Day Parade



**Assembly begins at 9:00 A.M.
- Step off at 9:30 A. M.**

Everybody loves a parade! Come join the fun or at least line the streets and watch the fire trucks and police cars and dignitaries on this special day. Let's not let it rain on OUR parade. It all starts at the intersection of Bluegrass and Electric Avenues. The parade route is as follows: right on Walnut to Maple, left on Maple Street to Center Street to Walnut Street and back to Electric Avenue to the War Memorial Monument. The Veterans of Foreign Wars ceremony, Civic and Church group presentations and Taps will be played. For the young of heart, a short walk through the cemetery to view and pay special respect to those who paid the supreme sacrifice at any and all wars. A reception sponsored by the Southgate V.F.W. will follow the ceremony with free soft drinks, ice cream and cake. The grill will be hot and other drinks are also available. Our special thanks to Mr. Ray Muench and Commander Terry Conley of the Vets who have worked this event for many years. If your group or family would like to participate in the parade contact Councilman Ron Bertsch at 581-5790.

Mayor's Remarks...



On behalf of your City Council I hope you and your family are enjoying the spring and getting ready for a nice summer. Thanks to Arvil Bowman and

his crew of Jeff Stolz and Miles McMillion for their hard work and times away from their families during times of snow removal and for their help in the remodeling of the City Offices as well.

Please welcome new Police Officers Richard "Dale" Robbins and Tim Kramer. Dale will be attending the Police Academy beginning in late May through October and be out on the streets and on patrol by November. Tim is a seasoned officer and requires three weeks of training to be certified. He will be out and on the streets sometime in June of this year. Thanks to officers Spaulding, Hodge, Rowland, and Compton and of course Chief Hall for filling in due to recent resignations.

As you know, we have been working diligently on developing our Code Enforcement Board. Tom Eigel, our Code Enforcement Officer, has been out educating residents and businesses to realize the need for cleanup, removal of garbage and debris. Most notable is the cleanup of the Beverly Hills site. We've received many compliments on how US 27 looks with the removal of the satellite dish and trash. Tom has also been instrumental in addressing potential blight issues with owners and non-owner occupied residents. Council members Blanchet and Speier have been a real asset to the Blight and Code Enforcement program. This program will have a

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Southgate Public School News

Students at Southgate School have had an exciting Spring, as there have been lots of activities taking place as the school year winds down. On Thursday, May 1st "Fine Arts Night" was presented by PEMA (Physical Education, Music, and Art teachers) and this year focused on Colonial America. Visitors had the opportunity to view artwork, listen to music, watch dances, and play games that were popular in colonial times. The Virginia Reel was danced by 4th and 5th graders while square dancing was displayed by 1st and 2nd graders. Both beginning and intermediate bands showed off their musical talents while 3rd, 6th, and 7th graders created music that one may have heard as a colonial American.

The school held their second Family Literacy Night on Thursday, May 8th. Author, Adam Seif, presented his book, Tacos, Beans and Rice! Of course, everyone was served tacos, beans and rice for dinner! There were also fun activities and plenty of BOOKS to purchase from the Book Fair that night!

The year will wind down with a Kindergarten celebration on May 21st and the Eighth Graders graduate on May 22nd at 7:00 pm. All students will enjoy their last day, "Field Day", in which they have awards and lots of physical activities, fun treats, and prize giveaways. The Lions Pride will be actively involved to make the day a great ending to a fantastic year!

Once school is out, students will still be hanging out this summer at the school for "Summer Programs"! Please check out the school's website for information on the fun activities and events taking place this summer. One of the highlights will be the "Southgate School Night" at the Florence Freedom Baseball Game on Wednesday night, June 11th. The Southgate School Band will be playing the "National Anthem" and Southgate students and families are encouraged to join the Southgate crowd for an evening of minor league baseball fun. We hope many Southgate residents will join us!

BLIGHT BEAT

It is springtime. The season when everything begins to grow and grow and grow. That means the residents of Southgate need to make sure they maintain their grass and prevent tree limbs from obstructing the sidewalks and streets. Please make sure that any cut tree limbs or mowed grass are disposed of properly. Please do not leave your grass clippings in the street or on the public sidewalk. Cut tree limbs may be bundled into less than five-foot lengths and set out for the trash. Grass clippings may be placed in tight-fitting containers with lids.

The City's code official will be on the lookout for these property maintenance violations and will be mailing notices and if necessary issuing citations to those property owners who fail to maintain their property.

If you have any questions about City Codes or the inspection process, please feel free to contact Tom Eigel, Code Official at 760-0926 or email at tomeigel@southgateky.org.

News from the Southgate Fire Department

The Southgate Fire Department would like to congratulate **Michael Rath** on receiving a Scholarship from the Point Pleasant Fire Department and Toyota.



Michael is a senior at Newport Central Catholic and has been a member of our Fire Explorer Post since 2005. Michael is very active with the Explorers and the Department.

Michael will be attending Cincinnati State in the fall for Fire Science. In exchange for the scholarship he will be working for the Point Pleasant Fire department.

Michael follows two other members that have gone through our Explorer program. Richard Lang is currently in Point Pleasants scholarship program and Mason Muench in the Hebron Fire Department Scholarship program. The Department would like to recognize these young men for their hard work and dedication.

What is a Fire Explorer?

The Explorer program is part of the Boy Scouts. The program is open to young men and woman who have completed the Eighth grade and are 14 years of age and up to the age of 18.

The Explorers train with the Fire Fighters but have limited duties in an emergency situation.

The Explorers gain life skills, service learning, leadership experience, comraderee and a sense of community spirit while helping others.

The Explorers also have the ability to get scholarships or apply for Career opportunities. After turning 18 the explorers are eligible to join the Fire Department as a Regular Member.

Anyone wishing for more information please contact the Fire Department 859 441-1422 or any firefighter or explorer.

Have you thought about joining the Fire Department, Life Squad or the Auxiliary? We are always looking for members.

The Southgate Fire Department Block Party is Saturday July 19th Bring your family and friends and join us for music, food, and games. Help us celebrate the departments 99th birthday. We will be around with our major raffle tickets a few weeks preceding the Block Party.

Southgate Optimist Club

The Southgate Optimist Club is proud to announce that **Michael Rath** and **Matthew Ritter** are the winners of the Southgate Optimist Club college scholarships this year. Please join us in congratulating these fine young men for their efforts. We wish them well in their future studies.

For more information about the Optimist Club and scholarship opportunities, visit our website at www.southgateoptimist.org

St. Therese Summer Festival June 27 & 28 6:00 -11:00 p.m

Please plan to attend the annual summer festival this year. There will be plenty of activities for the young and young-at-heart. Bring your family and friends and enjoy your summer-time favorites from our grill. Visit some of the many booths and activities such as our "Pot of Gold", Pull tabs or our Major Raffle booth for your chance at winning part of \$3,500 in prize money and don't forget our large selection of children's games. There will be plenty of cold drinks to satisfy your thirst. Come and join your community for an evening "under the stars", we hope to see you there!

Green Thumb Award

Spring has sprung and it is time to begin sprucing up our yards. The Southgate Park and Tree Board will again be awarding Green Thumb Awards to Southgate residents and businesses who do an outstanding job of beautiful landscapes. These awards are given monthly, May through October.

To nominate a home for the Green Thumb Award send an email stating the Southgate address to: clerk@southgateky.org - or call the City Building at 859-441-0075

Mayor's Remarks... (continued from page 1)

positive impact on our City for many years to come.

The remodeling of the city building continues; so far, we: upgraded our phones and computers, replaced the windows in the entire building, installed central heating and air conditioning on the second floor, and installed a projection screen for presentation in the city chambers. We hope to have an Open House sometime in late July of this year.

The Bluegrass and Electric Storm Water Replacement Project is nearly completed. Trees and topsoil will be planted and placed by the time you receive this newsletter. We thank the residents of Bluegrass and Electric as well as the businesses for their patience during the project. The benefit is that we have a functional pipe for many years to come.

In April, Council decided to discontinue the Post Office in Southgate effective July 1, 2008. We will continue to sell stamps at the City Office.

Congratulations to our Park and Tree Board for having our City selected for Tree City USA status and for receiving the Growth Award for 2 consecutive years. We are one of 4 cities in the entire Commonwealth to receive this recognition.

Council continues to work on the fire department issue. Once the drawings are received, we hope to bid out the structure. We will have information to you

regarding the type of structure required for current and future needs of the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department.

I am very proud of accomplishments over the past year including: forming a Building Committee to work with the Fire Department Building Committee; developed a plan for the financing of a proposed firehouse; maintaining budget integrity throughout the year; and providing Representative Keene with information for the Department of Homeland Security in the hopes of receiving 4 backup generators. Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade; look for a change in route this year. Council member Bertsch is in charge of the parade and has also worked with field permits for the J. Reno Deaton Ball field.

Special thanks to State Representative Dennis Keene for his efforts in helping us obtain a \$100,000 grant/reimbursement for our Bluegrass and Electric Storm Water Sewer Replacement Project. Dennis was instrumental in placing these funds in the State Budget for Southgate along with Senator Katie Stine, who secured these funds in the budget through the Senate. Thanks for their help and support in a trying budget year for the Commonwealth.

Always feel free to call upon me if I may be of service to you or your family. Have a GREAT Summer!

Care about those who care about you and who care about others... Jim

SOUTHGATE FIRE DEPARTMENT

BLOCK PARTY!

Saturday, July 19th • 5:30 p.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**GAMES • MAJOR RAFFLE
FOOD • ICE COLD DRINKS
Live Muisic by: DeLagrange**

...Turtle Races all evening

Come early for the food, stay late for music.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Firehouse update

After several planning sessions, the Southgate Fire Department and City Council building committees have finalized a general layout for the new fire station proposal. The plan would call for a separate facility to be built on the property at Walnut and Electric Avenue, just north of the current city building. The building would be 52' wide by 102' long by 22' high. The front portion would consist of a single story three door engine bay 52' by 52'. The bay would house all four of the current vehicles owned by the fire department and would be long enough to house an aerial, if that became necessary in the future. The ceiling in the bay area would be 18' high which would allow for the lifting of the engine cabs, thus allowing the servicing

of the trucks to be done indoors. The back portion of the station would be a two story area 52' wide by 50' long. The first floor would contain a Training Room for 36- 40 firefighters, an exercise room large enough to hold 5 pieces of exercise equipment, a day office for the part-time paid staff, a laundry room and tool storage area. The second floor would contain two offices, sleeping quarters for 6-8 personnel, male and female shower facilities, and a day-room and kitchen. The fire department meeting room in the basement of the current city building would continue to serve as the meeting room for the department.

The building is designed to meet all present and future needs for fire

protection in Southgate. It would be serviceable if the department became a fully paid department, a combination paid and volunteer department, or it could serve as a sub-station of a consolidated fire service.

The structure would be primarily a steel facility. The outside of the building would be covered by either a brick veneer, or some other material that would assure that the building blends pleasantly into the neighborhood. Cost of the project will be determined after the plans are submitted for bid, which we hope will take place in early summer.

Fire Chief John Beatsch

Southgate Park and Tree Board - Arbor Day Celebration



Park and Tree Board Members Jean and Bill Theis, Chairman Joyce Hamberg, and Nora Williams proudly display Tree City USA flag.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.


Students from St. Therese School and Southgate Public School attended the event. Reverend Clarence Heitzman opened the ceremony with a special blessing for trees. Matt Haywood and Luke Saunier of the Kentucky Forestry Service presented the awards to the city

and also explained the proper planting of a tree. Chairman Joyce Hamberg explained the importance of trees in our community. All enjoyed refreshments after the event.

Due to the wet soil, the tree planting had to be postponed. Additionally, seedlings have been ordered to give to all students that were in attendance.

Mayor Jim Hamberg declared April 4 as Arbor Day in the City of Southgate. Arbor Day in Southgate, KY was indeed a day for celebration. A special celebration was held on April 4, 2008 at the Community Center. The city earned the Tree City USA for the third straight year and the Growth Award for the second consecutive year. There were only four cities in Kentucky to earn the prestigious growth award this year.

The prestigious Growth Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities.



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of Northern Kentucky

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