"Fort Thomas is a wonderful city, with the best schools in the state, and the best citizens anywhere. I’m honored to serve as Mayor and I am truly enjoying working with our outstanding City Administrative Officer, Ron Dill. I’ve asked him to share an update on our progress on the implementation phase of our Community Plan.” - Mayor Haas

Mayor Haas and City Council have challenged our staff to provide the structure for full implementation of our adopted Community Plan. With significant investment and with impressive citizen participation in the development of the plan, it is easy to realize the importance of the success of implementation. I have partnered with Chris Manning, Human Nature Inc., to engage our staff, elected officials and residents in this process. Together, we have developed several tools to assist our efforts including project worksheets that track progress. Council members have spent significant time in committee reviewing information and providing direction. These efforts have resulted in exciting progress in planning our city’s future.

The Public Works/Transportation committee has already developed a street program policy that reduces the direct cost to residents for the assessment of street improvements. This policy also identified the long term planning for replacement needs for our aging streets and identified alternative funding options to consider offsetting costs. Other initiatives include working with the KY Department of Transportation for potential realignment/lane adjustments on S. Grand Ave. and the Highland & Grand Ave. intersections that will provide better traffic movement and pedestrian safety.

The Buildings & Utilities committee is working with design professionals Ehmet Hayes & Associates to evaluate the needs and service delivery aspects of the City Building. This fifty three year old building has some infrastructure needs including HVAC, roof and window replacement. Other considerations include study of form & function as we endeavor to deliver quality services and maximize what the city building has to offer our residents.

The Recreation Committee recently held a public meeting at the Mess Hall to share the numerous projects that are in progress and planned. The “Shelter 3” redevelopment is underway with a new shelter, basketball courts, volleyball court, Bocce/Corn hole, enhanced playground and additional parking. Plans to add additional restroom facilities and complete renovation of Tower Park ball field are also being designed. Parking lot expansion, reconfiguration of access/roads and paving around the Mess Hall will coincide with completion of the Alexander Homes renovation this summer. The fill material placement occurring in Highland Park will provide the foundation for consideration of other amenities detailed in the Community Plan in that park. The walking/hiking trails are also being upgraded in large part through volunteer efforts. Rossford Park will see installation of exercise equipment station and trail development this year. You can visit the city website to view all the details of the public meeting presentation.

An important and exciting long-term effort is a result of the Regional Collaboration Committee that originated from our plan update. The City is now formally linked with our neighboring communities and business partners to form the US27 Smart Corridor group that is collaborating on opportunities and solutions for improvements along this entire corridor. This is a great initiative that will see regional benefits for many years.

I am proud and encouraged by the progress to date but much more lies ahead. Our community plan captures the design for our future but our residents, elected officials, partners, businesses, civic leaders and city staff combine to make it real for all of us! Please visit www.ftthomas.org to see details not referenced, photos and design documents. If you want be engaged in the process moving forward please follow progress through the website and public meetings or reach out to staff for opportunities.
CITY WIDE YARD SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH: 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M. (Property Owners Discretion)
This event will be held rain or shine. To sign up, please email mbeckett@ftthomas.org or sign up at www.ftthomas.org

2020 RENAISSANCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer Amphitheater Concerts
• June 11: Northern Kentucky Legends
• June 23: Naked Karate Girls and Brighton Center
• July 21: Fillmore Brass Band
• August 7: Catalina Wine Mixer
• August 18: Iconx
• September 1: Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra
• September 26: Merchants and Music

• Earth Day 2020: April 26th Noon to 5 p.m.
• Sam Scott Memorial Slow Ride: May 16th at 1 p.m.
• Art Around Towne: June 19, July 17, August 21
• Pub Crawl: July 3rd
• Independence Day Celebration: July 4th
• Veterans Day Celebration: November 7th at noon, Charters of Freedom in Tower Park
• Holiday Walk: December 6 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Fort Thomas Military and Community Museum is opened March through December, Wednesdays through Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 3 through October 30
3 to 7 p.m. Tower Park Tennis Courts Parking Lot

Easter Egg Hunt
April 4th
12:00 Tower Park
• Ages 1 - 2 - 3 hunt around the Mess Hall
• Ages 4 - 5 - 6 hunt on the ball field
• Ages 7 - 8 hunt the main playground
Breakfast and Pictures with the Easter Bunny
10:30am-11:45am.
FREE Pictures with the bunny

Earth Day 2020
presented by
The Fort Thomas Forest Conservancy
and
The City of Fort Thomas
Sunday, April 26th
Noon – 5 p.m.
Fort Thomas Tower Park – Mess Hall
Over 50 Things to Do!
Kids Activities, Food Trucks, Vendors, Educational Opportunities, and more!
A NOTE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The FD wishes FF/P Wulfeck and Captain Amon well in their retirements. Both men retired at the end of 2019 with 20 years of service to the FTFD. Thank You and Good Luck. Rick Daugherty was promoted to Captain and Kyle Kaufman was promoted to Lieutenant in December of 2019. We congratulate both of them! With the new year, the Fire Department is pleased to announce the addition of FF/P Adam Hinkel and FF/P Matt Fite to our Department and wish them well in their tenure at FTFD.

A note from Renaissance Director, Debbie Buckley

This November we will be dedicating the statue of General George H. Thomas at the entrance to Tower Park on the opposite corner of our Historic Water Tower. In the meantime you will see several changes occurring at the entrance to the park in preparation. We look forward to a safer, more beautiful spot where the statue can be seen by all.

Many of us have copies of the history book written in 1967 by Paul T. Knapp for the City's Centennial. Mr. Knapp writes a compelling narrative about General Thomas' genius and the respect he earned from his peers and soldiers alike. Although he was offered a promotion to Lieutenant General by President Johnson, Thomas refused "believing he was being used as an instrument to displace General Grant in command of the Army."

Mr. Knapp went on to say, "This, then, is the heritage of Fort Thomas, named for a man who placed honor and duty and country above all else, a heritage of which the community can be proud."

We can be proud to show this community a statue of a man who exemplified these traits. We are still collecting donations. If you would like to donate, please send your check to the Fort Thomas Development Fund, 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue; Fort Thomas, KY 41075.

Recreation Department Dates

Softball/Pickleball/Tennis Registration is now open. Summer playground program/Tiny Tots registration will open April 1st. Tower Tuesdays start June 2nd. Camp dates are June 1-5, June 8-12, June 15-19, and June 22-26. June 27– Renaissance Fair (partnering with the Campbell County Library at Tower Park). Ken Shields Basketball camp is July 1st and 2nd. On July 4th there will be a tennis and pickleball tournament. September 12th– Touch A Truck at the Mess Hall.
MERCHANDS AND MUSIC
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
HEADLINER
THE BRET MICHAELS BAND

ALSO PERFORMING ARE:
DAVID TUCKER
THE LEFTOVERS
MAD COSTANZA

A few more things..........

There is a drug drop box in the lobby of the city building where you can bring your old prescriptions for safe disposal.

There is a flag drop box in the lobby of the city building where you can bring your old flags for proper flag disposal by the Boy Scouts of America.

Campbell County Spring Clean-up is scheduled for April 24th and 25th.

You can call the City Clerk, Melissa Beckett at 859-572-1202 or email at mbeckett@ftthomas.org and request a free recycling toter. (1 per household).

The streets to be resurfaced in 2020 are: Beechwood Avenue, Crowell from US 27 to the corporate limit, Greenwood Avenue, Holly Lane, Mayfield Avenue, Military Parkway, Robson Avenue and North Fort Thomas Avenue from Covert Run to the corporate limit.

The city will recognize Arbor Day 2020 during the Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 26th.