

# City of Fort Thomas, From the Fountain Newsletter

## 2022 Fall/Winter Edition

*Mayor:*

*Eric Haas*

*Councilmembers:*

*Ken Bowman*

*Jeff Bezold*

*Adam Blau*

*Lisa Kelly*

*Ben Penderly*

*Roger Peterman*

*City*

*Administrator:*

*Matthew Kremer*

*City Clerk:*

*Melissa K. Beckett*

*Website:*

*[www.ftthomas.org](http://www.ftthomas.org)*



### **From the Desk of Mayor Eric Haas**

I am excited to introduce Fort Thomas native Matt Kremer as our new City Administrator, who started with the city in May. Matt served five years as a city administrator in another Northern Kentucky city. He is also a combat veteran who served two tours in Iraq. Matt retired from the US. Army Reserves after 20 years of service in 2018. He served most of his career with the 478th Engineer Battalion located here in the city. He retired as a Major and the Battalion Executive Officer of the 478th. Matt's extensive leadership and operational experience has already assisted the city in the short time he's been here. I am looking forward to working with Matt and continuing the progress this city has seen over the years. Now I will allow him to introduce himself. I hope everyone continues to enjoy our summer events!

### **From the Desk of City Administrator Matthew Kremer**

I want to thank the mayor, council, citizens and staff for all the words of encouragement and support that I've received since starting this position. This is an exciting time to be a resident of Fort Thomas and I am honored to be a larger part of the process in this great city. Like the mayor said, I grew up in Fort Thomas and now live here with my wife, Angie, and our three children. Prior to my experience as a city administrator, I was a police officer for 11 years, which has provided me even more experience and perspective for my current position. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know more citizens and hearing issues that citizens are facing throughout the city.



Communicating with our residents is one of the best parts of the job. Although we may not always share the same opinions, hearing other views makes me and this city better.

I look forward to completing the many projects we have underway and on starting many others that have been planned and approved. There are so many positives happening in the city, as I said before, it's a great time to be a Fort Thomas resident. Here are some highlights of current operations:

The renovation of the City Building is nearing completion. It has been a long process but the new space will be much more inviting and accessible for all citizens and staff. The official move-in date will be posted on the city's webpage and social media. We are excited to welcome citizens back to the city building and conduct business as usual in the improved location. We have so many city projects to look forward to in the next 12 months.

After being delayed by COVID, many of our road projects are completed or underway. The city's Public Works team is in full force, replacing necessary curbs and sidewalk sections prior to street repaving. This is critical to improve drainage and safety along our roads while also improving the overall look of our city. The team does excellent concrete work and really makes a road project stand out once complete. Our park projects are also continuing! The Tower Park shelter and restrooms near the softball field are nearing completion, a project that includes many tree plantings, green space and pedestrian connectivity from Cochran Avenue to Clitz Street. This complex will be named after former City Administrator Ron Dill; a ribbon cutting will be held when the project is finished. Improvements are also planned for the Tower Park playground next year along with the addition of a small splash park at Highlands Hills Park. Both projects are set to enter the bid process this fall with the project completion anticipated in the spring of 2023.

We are truly excited that the Brandfuel Company is working on new branding for the city. This process will involve soliciting input from citizens and businesses along with council and staff. The project is projected to be completed by early 2023 with the implementation of signage and other branding options as the process moves forward.

The Central Business District is certainly booming, which means residents need places to park when visiting businesses. Please be respectful of the surrounding neighborhoods and their needs. The city owns the parking lot behind 18 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., which can now be accessed by Miller Lane. This is a convenient place to park and walk to all the wonderful businesses on the avenue. Although it will receive improvements in the future, it is a great asset to the citizens and business owners now.

The north reservoir project with the Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD) has been completed. This was a necessary improvement to ensure a fresh water supply for all of Northern Kentucky. The NKWD will soon begin the south reservoir project to clean out the remaining water storage on that site. We are working with the NKWD to minimize the impact to our citizens and businesses in the area.



**TRICK OR TREAT:  
MONDAY, OCTOBER  
31ST FROM 6-8 P.M.  
RAIN OR SHINE**



The Fort Thomas Farmers Market is enjoying a busy season! The market will continue normal weekly operations until November 16th. They will host their festive Christmas markets on November 30th, December 7th and December 14th. All markets take place at the Mess Hall. [www.fortthomasfarmersmarket.com](http://www.fortthomasfarmersmarket.com)

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**PUMPKIN WALK AND CONTEST  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022 6-9 P.M.**

The 2022 Pumpkin Walk will be held on Friday, October 28th from 6-9 p.m. in Tower Park. Looking to earn service hours? Volunteer to help carve pumpkins for the walk after school (around 3 P.M.) on Wednesday, October 26th. Contact Kat Disney at 859-781-1700 or [kdisney@ftthomas.org](mailto:kdisney@ftthomas.org)



**2022 MERCHANTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL**

For the first time ever Merchants & Music will be a two-day event taking place on Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24 in Tower Park. Friday, September 23, 2022, will kick off in the Mess Hall with NKY music, artists and beverages inside the historic Mess Hall. We will have a bar set up along with an art gallery showcasing local artists from around our region. Northern Kentucky Open Box Outlet will also be bringing several pieces of furniture to style the hall. Art and furniture will be available for purchase.

Saturday, September 24, 2022, will begin with kid's activities followed by music on the amphitheater stage. This year we are excited to bring Dylan Scott to Tower Park as our headliner! He will be taking the stage on Saturday at 9 p.m. Prior to him making his appearance, Kentucky's own Noah Thompson, winner of American Idol will take the stage from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will also be various musicians from the region performing from noon-7p.m.

Kick start your Saturday morning with St. Elizabeth's Young Patrons Guild Kickball Tournament. If you are interested in participating or getting a team together, go to [www.stelizabeth.com/kickball](http://www.stelizabeth.com/kickball) or text Kickball at 41444 to get more information and to register.

The Kids Zone will be from 2-7 p.m. There will be games, face painting, inflatables, jugglers, a bubble wagon and more provided by Cincinnati Circus. In addition to music and fun, we will have our full list of merchants available closer to the festival. Several of our hometown favorites such as Midway Café, Grassroots and Vine, and Texas Joe will be serving up delicious foods and drinks.

As always, the outdoor festival has always celebrated the merchants of Fort Thomas, KY and pairs them with nationally acclaimed recording artists as well as fun activities for the entire family. It includes live music, shopping with our local merchants, and food vendors. The festival is FREE to the public and takes place at the historic Tower Park Amphitheater on September 23 & 24, 2022. Make sure you don't miss a single bit of the action! Follow the city on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to stay up to date on everything going on this weekend along with checking out [merchantsandmusic.com](http://merchantsandmusic.com) and the Fort Thomas app. for additional details.

**2022 HEADLINER**

**DYLAN  
SCOTT**

**TAKING THE STAGE  
SEPTEMBER 24TH  
@ 9PM**



**Merchants  
& Music  
September 23 + 24**

## **A NOTE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT: CHIEF CASEY KILGORE**

The end of summer marks the return of our school year, and the accompanying traffic flow changes. This is always a good time to remind all motorists to watch out for crossing pedestrians, and to remind all crossing pedestrians to make sure traffic has stopped before crossing. Also, several flashing yellow beacons are in place around town. These beacons serve as a warning to motorists that someone is about to cross, but pedestrians must still wait a few seconds to give traveling vehicles the chance to come to a complete stop.

We have a wide variety of transportation devices here in Fort Thomas. Everything from electric bikes, to golf carts, to electric scooters, and everything in between. If you ride a bike, electric scooter, golf cart, etc., or your children do, it is your responsibility to know the ordinances and laws regarding that device. While there are an abundance of laws and ordinances that cover various transportation devices, please always use common sense, drive safely, follow all traffic laws, and look out for other people.

Please keep your valuables safe. Do not leave valuables in your car if possible. Lock your doors. If you must leave something in your car, lock it in the trunk or stow it under a seat out of sight.

Finally, if you see something suspicious or witness a crime, please call dispatch right away. Dispatch is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our police line goes to our office, which is only staffed during normal business hours. Campbell County Dispatch: 911 for emergencies, 859.292.3622 for non-emergencies.

## **Pedestrian Travel Alert!**

### **Be kind and enjoy our pedestrian connectivity!**

The city has been made aware of issues regarding people walking through town and encountering bikes, electric scooters and even dog walkers. These situations create challenges that could be solved through awareness of others and common courtesy by everyone. Our town has great pedestrian connectivity, which sets us apart from other communities. If you drive through Fort Thomas, you always see walkers, runners, and bikers - even in the rain! While this is a wonderful aspect of living in Fort Thomas, we need to be aware of all parties enjoying and accessing the sidewalks. Bikers and electric scooters should be traveling with traffic. If walkers chose not to use sidewalks, they should walk against traffic for better safety. There are some areas of the city that may be dangerous to ride in the roadway, depending on the operator's age or comfort level. If this is the case, please be respectful of others using the sidewalk. Slow down or stop and make your presence known to others by using a bell or speaking to the pedestrian if possible. Being courteous and kind goes a long way and keeps everyone safer. We ask that parents and guardians of children who operate bikes and electric scooters through town have a discussion regarding personal safety and the safety of others. Ensure that your children understand the rules and consequences if they are hit by a vehicle or harm someone by running into them. There have been too many reports of children operating electric scooters unsafely in the roadway and on the sidewalk. We do not want to see anyone injured while enjoying our city and the nice fall weather that will shortly arrive. If you have any questions about safe travels through the city, below is a good resource:

<https://www.safekids.org/walkingsafelytips>

## **WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!**



Welcome new City Administrator Matt Kremer. Matt started with the city on May 23, 2022. Matt and his family reside in Fort Thomas and we are excited to have him on our team!



Please welcome our newest fire employee, Glenny Riggs, who began with the City on May 2, 2022. He will serve as a Firefighter/Paramedic on Shift 1. Glenny started his fire service career in 2010 with the Mason County Fire Department. He received his paramedic certification in 2012. In 2019, he switched departments and served the City of Wilder Fire Department until May. Glenny has been a State Fire Rescue Instructor since 2014 and also is a CPR instructor. He is married to his wife, Chloe, and they have two children. We are delighted to have Glenny as part of our staff.



Welcome new Green-space employee, Eric Rixson. Eric grew up in Fort Thomas and graduated from HHS and UK. He currently resides in Bellevue, KY.

***City of Fort Thomas,  
Kentucky***

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***130 N. Ft. Thomas  
Avenue  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075  
Phone: 859-441-1055***

***Recreation:  
859-781-1700  
www.ftthomas.org***

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***City Offices have been  
temporarily moved to 950 S. Ft.  
Thomas Ave.  
Monday—Friday  
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.***

***Open Saturdays in  
October from 8 a.m. to noon  
for tax payments***

**PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DATAMARK**

## **2022 Calendar of Events**

### **September**

- 3- Labor Day Pickleball Tournament, Tower Park 8-Noon - See Website for signup
- 4- Kentucky Symphony Orchestra The 'Pack is Back! — The Rat Pack returns (Sinatra, Martin, Davis) for a nostalgic and fun show. | 7:30pm | Amphitheater, Tower Park
- 4- Labor Day Tennis Tournament, Tower Park 7-Noon - See Website for signup
- 6- Fall Volleyball Starts | check website for more information
- 17- Music in the Woods with Chuck Keller | 10am - 1pm | Harlan Hubbard Studio and Nature Preserve
- 23 & 24- Merchants & Music / Great Outdoor Weekend | Kick-off Friday at 5pm | Tower Park

### **October**

- 2- Flea in the Fort / Touch a Truck | 10am-3pm | Mess Hall, Tower Park
- 5- FTFM (Indoor) (October 5- December 21) | 3pm-6pm | Mess Hall, Tower Park
- 5 -Fall Fest and Mobile Mammography Unit at Farmers market | Tower Park
- 15- Flights of Fancy | 10am - 1pm | Harlan Hubbard Studio and Nature Preserve
- 28- Pumpkin Walk | 6pm-9pm | Tower Park
- 29- Halloween House Decorating Contest | 6pm | Community
- 31- Trick or Treat | 6pm-8pm | Community

### **November**

- 12- Veterans Day | 11am-1pm | Charters of Freedom, Tower Park
- 24- Thanksgiving-Turkey Trot Race | Tower Park | see website for more information
- 26- Shop Small Saturday – see website for more information
- 30- Fort Thomas Farmers Holiday Market Inside Wednesdays: November 30- December 21 | Mess Hall, Tower Park

### **December**

- 4- Holiday Walk | 4pm | Tree Lighting Inverness - TBD
- 22- Holiday House Decorating Contest | 6pm | Community