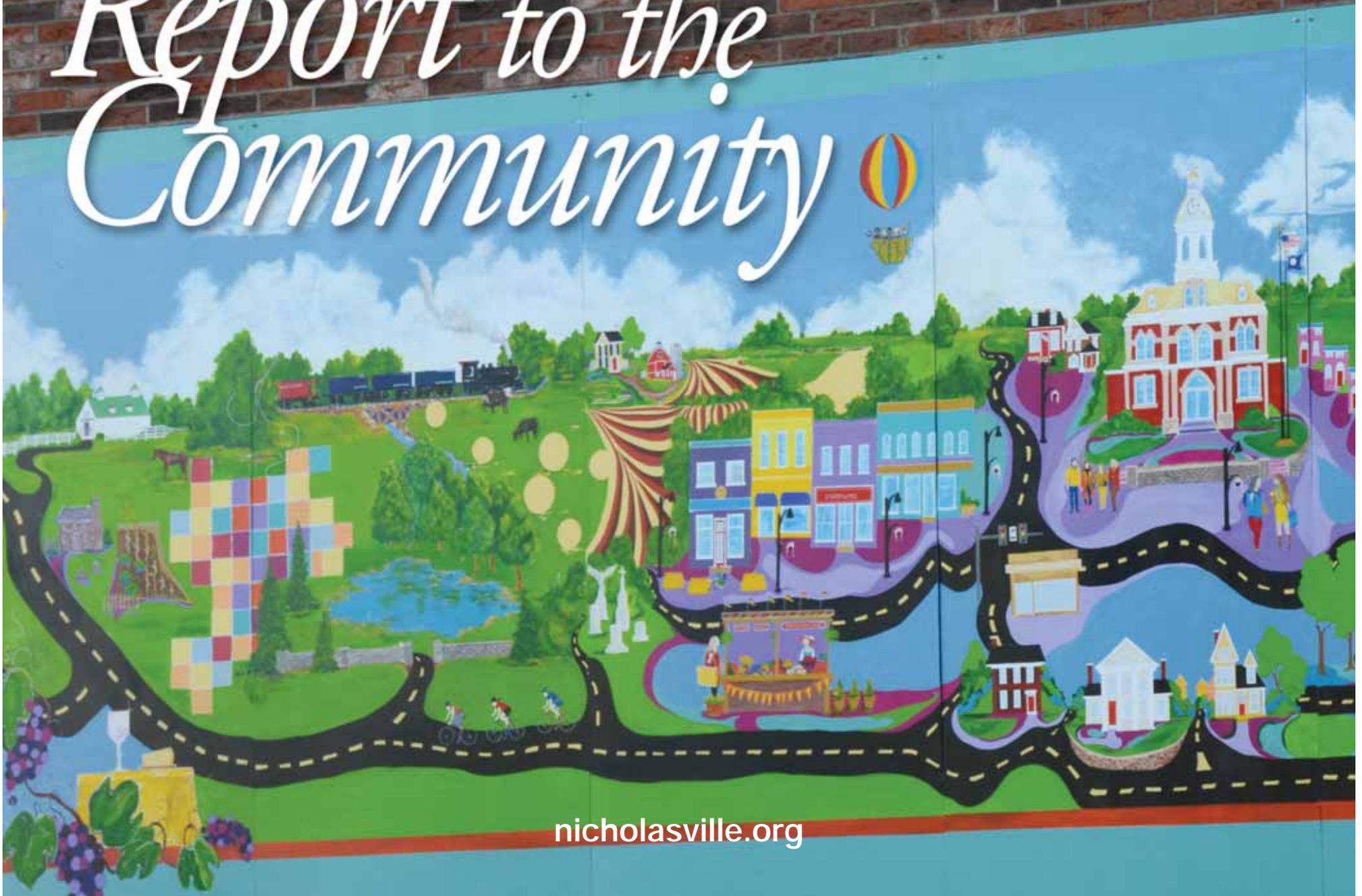


2016

The City of

Nicholasville

Report to the Community



nicholasville.org

Report to the Community

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

It takes time as well as patience, but if you have a shared vision and work together, eventually things start falling into place. I see so many positive developments in Nicholasville that I just can't help but be excited about our city.

Some of the improvements are hard to miss, such as the amazing mural on Main Street. Thanks to a grant and a lot of creative talent, the Windstream Building has become a canvas for public art. Other upgrades are ones most people will never notice. For instance, we rebuilt a retaining wall to protect our downtown businesses and homes from Town Branch Creek for years to come. That's good planning and preventive maintenance.

Many of us are counting the days until the Performance Park becomes a reality. It's a classic example of turning a negative into a positive – a gap between buildings will be transformed into a public space for performances and events of all types.

Have you noticed the awesome new playground and other upgrades at Rock Fence Park? Thanks goes to Leadership Jessamine County and our great Chamber of Commerce!

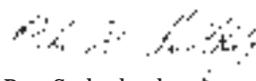
The Nicholasville City Commission has taken a leadership role in advancing another important quality of life project – the Jessamine County Bike and Pedestrian School Connector. This exciting project will improve safety and encourage our youth and adults to walk or ride bicycles more often.

We're also bringing in and keeping more jobs. AmCor's warehouse enabled our largest employer to stay here and expand. That has given us the opportunity to offer their former warehouse as space for new businesses. Add to that the 175 acres being turned into industrial land by a private venture, and we are well positioned for business growth.

It's not always easy to work out all the details to make progress happen. In fact, it's rarely easy. But your city is hard at work creating opportunities, making plans and taking steps in the right direction every day.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. And thank you for choosing Nicholasville.

Very truly yours,



Pete Sutherland

Mayor



INSIDE

Your City Commission	3
Nich Now!	4
Chamber of Commerce	5
Jessamine Public Library	6
Rock Fence Park	7
Bike & Pedestrian Path	8
Calkins Retires	10
New Director of Finance and Utilities	12
Cemetery Upgrades	13
Meyer Receives Award	14
Police Memorial Dedicated	14
Flood Repair and Prevention	15
Eastern Bypass Update	15
City Directory	15
Performance Park	16
St. 'Nich' Festival	16

Mural of local landmarks painted by Nicholasville artist
Bill Jones for the Art on Main initiative.

Your City Commission



Commissioners Andy Williams and Betty Black, Mayor Pete Sutherland, and Commissioners Doug Blackford and Patty Teater.

Finance & Administration reports a continued strong position, with a positive balance and “AA” Stable bond rating. Revenue continues to show improvement as the economy slowly improves, which will allow the City to modernize governmental functions that have been on hold for some time, such as more efficient technology systems and finance management software. An energy audit is being done to look for opportunities to reduce expenses.

The **Public Utilities** office, which had not been updated since the city converted it from a fast food restaurant into an office in 1992, has been renovated. In addition to fresh paint and carpet throughout, the building was fitted with new phone and electric lines. In addition, the customer service area is now enclosed for added safety and noise reduction, which is becoming the industry standard.

A utility payment kiosk has been installed in the drive-up area. Utility customers may pay their bills with cash or a credit or debit card. As always, the City offers convenient automated payments (ACH withdrawal) for anyone interested in not having to worry about getting their payments in on time.



The recently renovated public utilities building now has partitions for the safety of customer service representatives, such as Linda Demichele, pictured here.

The City's Jessamine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was presented a 2015 Operational Excellence Award at the 2016 KY/TN Water Professionals Conference held July 19. This is the ninth time in the last 14 years that the City has won this award. During the 2015 calendar year, the Jessamine Creek WWTP continuously operated within its KPDES discharge permit parameters. Ours was one of only 12 plants to win this award out of the 253 in the state. The combined efforts of Van Bugg, Shelby

Carrier, Dave Short, Allison Bowman, Jason Hubbard, and Brian Mason allowed us to achieve this award.

The **Nicholasville Police Department** continued to make progress towards goals outlined in its annual community report. The latest Nicholasville police department recruits – Nathan Balk, Anthony Ruggiero, Zachary Travis and Shelby Becknell, the city's fourth female officer – have nearly completed the police academy and will soon help the department inch closer to overall staffing goals.

(continued on page 11)

City Commissioners and Departments

Doug Blackford

Mayor Pro Tem

Water & Sewer

(Treatment, Distribution and Collection)

Betty Black

Public Safety

(Police & Fire)

Pete Sutherland

Mayor

Administration & Finance

Andy Williams

Electric & Meter

Patty Teater

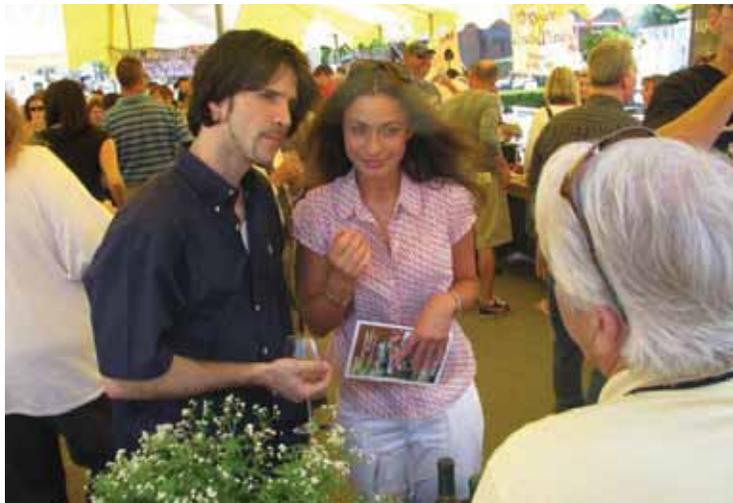
Street & Cemetery

Festivals, Spooks, Thrills, Wine and Cheer

Nicholasville Now! Hosts Events to Help Grow Tourism in Downtown Nicholasville

Nothing excites Nicholasville Now! Board Member Kelly Woolums more than when an event draws a crowd, gets lots of feedback and gets even better the next year.

“One of the greatest things about events in our community is that we can learn from previous years and get feedback from those in attendance. Our end goal is to make people in the community happy, so we are always open to ideas of improvement,” she said.



The Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest draws visitors and locals alike for music, food and wine tasting.

Despite wintry weather, thousands gather in downtown Nicholasville for the St. “Nich” Christmas Fest, this year scheduled for December 10.



Case in point: The Wine and Vine Fest drew hundreds of residents and tourists to downtown Nicholasville in May 2015.

Thanks to feedback from attendees, the event is expected to be an even bigger hit in 2017. Designated as the official wine festival of Kentucky, organizers plan for the festival to be a three-day event in May. Plans are for Thursday to be a Farm to Table dinner, Friday to be the Taste of Nicholasville as well as an equine and vine event and Saturday to be the wine sampling event.



“The last time we hosted the fest, we received wonderful feedback for improvement from those in attendance. We took this year off and regrouped and we are back in 2017 with plans for a three-day event. The festival will have something for everyone,” Woolums says.

The community’s engagement in local events has led to greater attendance.

The Kentucky Tourism Cabinet reported in 2015 that Jessamine County had over \$105 million in direct tourism expenditures due in part to events like the Christmas parade, the Fourth of July fireworks display, trick or treat events for children, garden parties and wine festivals hosted by Nicholasville Now!, which is celebrating its 24th year.

Sam Lee, board member, was amazed at the outpouring of effort from businesses for the annual Christmas parade.

“We would not be able to continue offering activities and festivals if it wasn’t for community engagement. Last year many organizations spent several hours of planning and preparation on their floats, it just goes to show you that this community loves our town and wants to support local events,” Lee stated.

Nicholasville Now! is constantly thinking about new ideas for events or activities. For a list of upcoming events, visit nicholasvillenow.org.

“We love our community so much and want everyone to know what is available. We want them to know that they don’t have to go to bigger cities to experience festivals and events,” Woolums says.

Chamber a Resource for All Things Jessamine



Director Ronda May stands outside the distinctive entry to the Jessamine Co. Chamber, which serves as the tourism center for the county's cities and fiscal court.

**What hotels are there? Are they pet friendly?
Where is the unemployment office?
What is a Hoof-A-Nanny and when is it?**

The questions above are just a few of the many Ronda May answered in her first week as executive director of the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce.

“In addition to being the association for businesses here, we are the tourism visitor and call center for the community,” said May. “We’re here for visitors and questions of all types.”

Fortunately, May has a wealth of knowledge about the community, having lived in Nicholasville 26 years and volunteered on many boards and committees, including the Chamber. She previously was development director for Hospice of the Bluegrass and then All God’s Children before accepting her new position.

“The Chamber is focused on the things that matter. It’s not just business, it’s also about children and the families who live here,” she said.

As an example, the Chamber recently hosted a “soft skills” program for high school students to help them learn how to win and keep a job. The association frequently supports charitable events, such as annual food, coat and toy drives.

In addition, the Chamber sponsors the Resource Guide, which features a map of the county. It’s a helpful publication for visitors and residents alike, as well as for the businesses that advertise in it. Other programs include monthly luncheons, lunch and learn seminars, adult and youth leadership programs, and the annual Leaders Trip.

The Chamber moved into a Main Street office in June, which May has reconfigured to create meeting space for members’ use. She is exploring with other organizations how to maximize their resources and minimize duplication of services.

May has already recruited a long-time business to join the Chamber and believes more businesses are looking to locate here due to the affordability and convenient location. She points out that there is space for business and industry, including downtown.

“There is a lot being done to make our downtown all it can be, but we need more people to share their ideas and come help,” said May, who is known for her outgoing and warm personality. “Everyone is welcome.”

Books and So Much More

If you still think of public libraries as stately buildings with dimly lit halls, shushing librarians and scholarly patrons, you haven't been to the Jessamine County Public Library (JCPL) lately.

From job fairs and movie nights to fitness training and gaming tournaments, the Nicholasville facility is proving that libraries aren't just for books anymore.

JCPL reopened at 600 S. Main St. early this year after a \$7 million expansion that will be one for the history books. The 14-month facelift doubled the size of the library to 41,000 square feet, tripled the meeting space and more than doubled the children's library to about 6,000 square feet.

The extra elbow room was much needed, said Executive Director Dr. Ron Critchfield. Aside from a small update in 2003, the library had not been renovated since it was built in 1996 and was straining to meet growing demand for more modern and innovative materials, programs, technology and services.



Subtle colors and open spaces create an inviting children's area.



Added space allowed Executive Director Ron Critchfield, shown here, to provide specialized areas for teens, children, a media studio and more.

"Before the expansion, the shelves all over the library were packed to maximum capacity with little room for the addition of new materials," said Critchfield. "The meeting rooms were always in use, so we couldn't add new programs. Community groups that asked for space to meet had to be turned away due to lack of availability."

The library has since increased the number of materials in its collection by 20 percent and its teen and adult programming by about 50 percent. The facility now boasts nearly 222,000 books in circulation and more than 800 programs, and serves about 900 guests per day. Critchfield, who holds a doctorate degree in information science and has led the library for 10 years, expects the library to serve more than 300,000 visitors by the end of the current fiscal year.

With space for crafting, an expanded computer lab and even a recording studio, it's no wonder the library is one of nine in the state recognized as exemplary by the Kentucky Public Library Association. JCPL has one of

the highest circulations in the state with 600,000 checkouts per year.

The facility was quite the hot spot this summer. The annual summer reading preview party drew 2,753 attendees and a record 4,040 children's reading logs were submitted over six weeks. The Tuesday family programs attracted 3,020.

"We are no longer a 'get in and get out' destination, but we are a place where people of all ages want to linger and spend time learning and exploring," Critchfield said.

The renovation has been a big hit with area teens, who now have a special space of their own at the library. The teen library features space and equipment to play the most popular games on Xbox One, Wii U, and PS4; laptops and iPads with pre-loaded apps; and a Minecraft server.

"Teen gaming has been a huge success," said Critchfield. "Around 300 kids play games in the teen library each month."

JCPL by the Numbers

Computers for public use:
68

Circulating material:
221,937

Children's books in circulation:
72,563

Full-time equivalent employees:
47

Annual checkouts:
600,000

Daily visitors:
800 to 900

Annual programs:
810 programs

Annual program attendees:
46,980 attendees.

LEADERS LAUNCH Park Improvement Initiative

What do you get when 14 complete strangers get together to do something great for the community?

You get an outpouring of support – some \$50,000 in donations and services – from people eager to restore a historic little neighborhood park to its former shine.

That's just what happened when the members of the 2015-16 class of Leadership Jessamine County, a nonprofit leadership development organization, joined forces to renovate Rock Fence Park early this year. Nestled in downtown Nicholasville at the corner of Third and Oak streets, the park got a much-needed facelift, complete with new, state-of-the-art playground equipment that was dedicated in October.

“It started with just an idea and a plan by 14 people who had no idea what we were doing, and it turned into something absolutely wonderful,” said Nicholasville Engineer Tim Cross, a member of the group. “So many people heard about it and got involved in the project. It was a great lesson in the impact we can all have when we invest our time, resources and talent into helping our community. It says a lot about our community as a whole when people pitch in for a great cause.”

Cross said the renovation included moving the playground from the edge of the park near Maple Street to the center of the park so that it is visible and accessible during concerts and other events in the park. The park's old playground was for ages 5 and younger, but now kids up to age 12 can also play on the new slides and swings.

John Howard, deputy director of Nicholasville/Jessamine County Parks and Recreation, said the renovation was long overdue. He estimates that the park opened in the 1940's or 1950's and the old playground equipment was about 20 years old. The stage that hosts concerts in the summer and fall was constructed around 2008.

Hundreds of people use the park each week, said Howard, who applauded the efforts of the leadership team and others who donated time and money.



Rendering of the park's new playground area.

“Anytime you make improvements to the aesthetics or safety of a park, it's good. Not just for the neighborhood, but for the community,” he said.

Jessamine County Magistrate Justin Ray, who grew up about a half mile from the park, said the community support was “pretty amazing.” In addition to financial donations, the group received about \$15,000 in in-kind donations or services and time.

“We got checks ranging from \$25 to \$1,000 and more,” he said. “These were all private donations from about 60 contributors in all. No taxpayer money was used for this project.”

The leadership class chose Rock Fence Park because it was one of the oldest of the county's 18 parks, it is centrally located, and the group could make the most impact with the least amount of money.

“Most of us didn't know each other before we started the project, but we really bonded and built a lot of camaraderie and friendships,” Ray said. “We had some

hardships and holdups along the way, but we all worked really well together.”

Jessamine Co. Leadership class members:

Christi Hack, Jessamine Career & Technology Center

Donna Pile, AG Perry Insurance

Hannah Thornton, Sen. Mitch McConnell's office

Jenna Brock, AdventureServe Ministries

Justin Patterson, St. Athanasius Orthodox Church

Justin Ray, Jessamine County Magistrate/Lee Tire

Kim Wilder, Baptist Health Lexington

Lynn Akers, First Southern National Bank

Paul Huber, Jessamine County Food Pantry

Raven Warren, City of Nicholasville

Sandy Horton, Nicholasville Police Department

Sean Callihan, Jessamine Public Library

Tim Cross, City of Nicholasville

Tim Harrison, Grace to Glory, Inc.

Bike and Pedestrian School Connector Study Moves Forward

Safety, Health and Lifestyle leading considerations

More of us are getting physically active these days as Fitbits and other types of personal fitness technology remind us to move more. In fact, walking and biking now are the most popular activities for most adults. But, for many young people who want walk or bike from school to home or other destinations in Jessamine County, there is no designated path for them to use.

Students of all ages have to walk through grass fields, next to roadways on worn paths or on the roadway shoulder, and cross at unsafe locations to get to and from school.

The City of Nicholasville and Jessamine County Fiscal Court collaborated with the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to

conduct a study to address this issue. Their goal is to provide a safe bicycle and pedestrian system that will enable students to walk and bike to school from residential areas along the way.

The group hired Strand Associates, Inc., a multidisciplinary engineering firm, to study a five-mile corridor, along KY 29 from U.S. 68 to Main Street (U.S. 27 business) and KY 39 from Main Street to the East Jessamine High School entrance. The study area contains three elementary schools, a middle school, two high schools, the Early Learning Center, and Jessamine Career and Technology Center.

A number of recreational facilities, such as parks, are near the corridor. Other pathways that already exist or

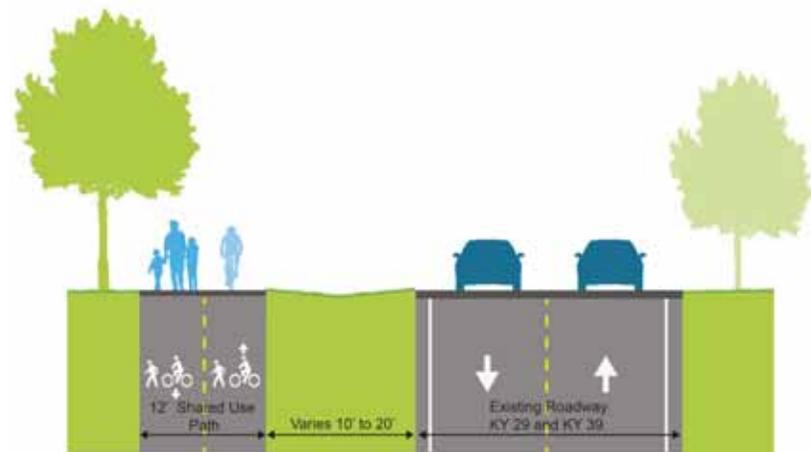
are planned could be linked to connect the region, such as a trail that eventually could go from Georgetown to Wilmore.

The study team conducted focus group meetings with students, teachers, and administrators from schools directly along and near the corridor. In addition, they held meetings with Nicholasville and Jessamine County elected officials and technical staff to identify current concerns and to understand future anticipated growth and planned development along the corridor.

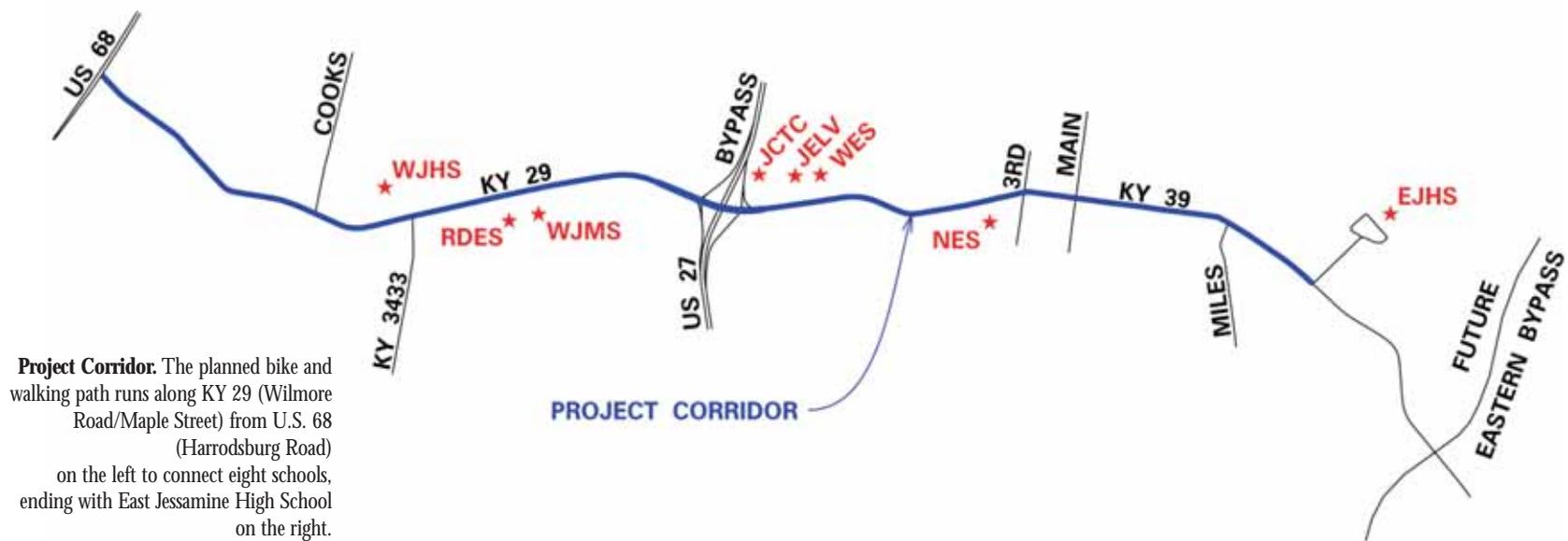
Strand's engineers also gathered physical data about the area, such as the condition of the road, sidewalks, crossings and other factors. Their corridor analysis was also supported by two public meetings to solicit input



Lack of Existing Facilities, East Jessamine Middle and High Schools. This photo shows an example of KY 29 (E. Maple St.) where there is no path for pedestrians or bicyclists.



Separated Shared-Use Path Typical Section. This illustration shows the preferred way to set up the shared-use path with separation from the roadway. This was noted as a priority at the public meeting for increased safety.



Project Corridor. The planned bike and walking path runs along KY 29 (Wilmore Road/Maple Street) from U.S. 68 (Harrodsburg Road) on the left to connect eight schools, ending with East Jessamine High School on the right.

and feedback from interested citizens on corridor needs and the improvement alternatives that resulted from the evaluation. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from the City of Nicholasville, Jessamine County Fiscal Court, the City of Wilmore, Jessamine County Schools, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Lexington MPO was involved throughout the process.

To help manage next steps with funding, design and construction, Strand divided the recommended implementation plan into six segments, each representing a distinct phase of the overall project. Of those six segments, two stood out as clear priorities: those labeled “East High” and “West Schools.”

As a result of the study and plan, the Nicholasville City Commission, Jessamine County Fiscal Court, Jessamine

County School Board, the Lexington MPO and other groups will work together to apply for funding through state and federal grants, such as the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. The complete report is available at www.nicholasvilleky.org.

This is a long-term project, but city and county officials believe it is worth advancing to create a safer and more enjoyable place to learn, play, work and live.



Conceptual Improvements at Jessamine Station for the Path and Road Crossing. The plan calls for an improved path and crossing at the intersection at Jessamine Station Road.



Conceptual Improvements Across the Existing U.S. 27 Bridge. The U.S. 27 bypass bridge that crosses KY 29 would be widened 18 feet to provide a sidewalk and path with a raised buffer to protect people from the passing cars as illustrated here.

Long-time Director Praised for Leadership, Memory

Need to know when the City of Nicholasville switched to desktop computers, or when a grant was awarded or when the council passed a particular ordinance?

No need to skim through pages and mounds of old records, meeting minutes or invoices.

Everybody knows you just “call Tom Calkins.”

“He is so intelligent and has the memory of an elephant,” said Nicholasville City Clerk Roberta Warren. “He has become a historian of city government. Ask Tom when something happened at the City, and he can narrow it down to the year.”

City employees celebrated – and mourned in some cases – Calkins’ retirement this summer after more than 27 years as director of public utilities and finance. Calkins joined the city staff in 1989 after working for a decade with a global engineering consulting firm.

The Kansas native first came to Nicholasville as one of the firm’s civil engineers.

“I fell in love with the city and the region,” he said. “When the City advertised for a utility director in 1988, I applied for the position and was fortunate to be hired in October of that year.”

Calkins worked under contract for five years before he was hired by the City Commission as a permanent employee. In 2000-2001, he was appointed to the finance director position.

Those who worked with him say he leaves behind a legacy of outstanding leadership and service to the community.

“It’s due to his foresight that our utility infrastructure is in the sound condition it is,” said Mayor Peter



As utilities director, Tom Calkins (foreground), shown with staff and a contractor, reveled in making improvements such as the installation of a new interceptor sewer line in 2009.

Sutherland. “We were especially fortunate to have a financial director who saw signs of the recession early on and helped the Commission prepare for reduced revenues before it was too late. I will miss him, however wish him all the best in his retirement.”

Warren, who was first hired by the city in 1984, said Calkins was a great teacher and mentor.

“Most people would not know that Tom has one of the biggest hearts around,” Warren said. “He truly cares for the people he works with and loves this community like he was a native Jessamine Countian. I will miss Tom for his knowledge, insight and his humor.”

Under Calkins’ leadership, the city built a new wastewater treatment plant and interceptor sewer system in 1998. In 2008 and 2009, another interceptor sewer was constructed and the plant was expanded to allow for the elimination of the old East Brown treatment plant.

The water treatment plant was expanded to nearly double its capacity in 1991 and expanded again in 2010. Over the course of his tenure, the city also

replaced a major portion of its electric distribution system without borrowing money for the upgrade, which helped the electric utility remain debt free, accommodate rising electrical demands and save customers money. Most recently, the aged and worn dams at locks 8 and 9 on the Kentucky River, which form the pool of water for Nicholasville’s drinking water, were replaced. A payment kiosk along with numerous on-line bill payment options have also been implemented.

Calkins, who holds degrees in business administration and civil engineering, has also served on a number of community boards and organizations including the Nicholasville Housing Authority, Jessamine County Youth Soccer and the Nicholasville Rotary Club. He also has served as chairman of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission and on the board of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

But Calkins declines to take the credit for decades of improvements or accolades for his community service.

“Nothing can be achieved in the municipal/governmental sector ... without the involvement of staff, elected officials, federal and state governments, regulatory agencies and, most importantly, the Jessamine County community,” said Calkins. “Having said that, I have had the good fortune of being involved in many important endeavors.”

Calkins said he is settling into his retirement. He’s spending more time with his wife of 36 years, Mary, who retired in 1994, his children and his granddaughter, 1-year-old Reagan Marie. He hopes to travel to visit his sisters and work on a very special project – getting a family piano fixed so his current and future grandchildren can take lessons.

“I can still remember my mother playing that piano,” he said.

More City Commission News

(continued from page 3)

The department now has 61 members after attrition, including the retirements of two long-time officers Brian Slone and Bill Jones – in July. The department issued 5,083 citations, responded to 1,351 alarms,



The Police Department honored Bill Jones (left) and Brian Slone with retirement cakes.

1,247 car accidents and 31,521 calls for assistance and opened 133 new drug cases in 2015. Several officers were recognized at the department's annual awards banquet. Among them: Officers Josh Filson, Colby Warren, Brandon Dennis, Mike Elder, Erik Cobb, Christopher Faas and Joseph Horton, recipients of the Fit For Duty Award, given to officers who scored in the 80th percentile in fitness; Gideon Brewer, Jacob Shepherd, Sam Wade, Brandon Smith, James Howard and Scott Adkins, who were honored for two to 15 years of safety driving; Shawn Norman and Brandon Dennis, who earned the Field Training Officers Award. Officer Jordan Lewis received the Governor's D.U.I. Award, Erik Cobb received the Governor's Occupant Protection Enforcement Award and Clint Newton received the Kentucky School Resource Officer "Rookie of the Year" Award.

A memorial to fallen police officers was erected on City Hall property and dedicated this year (see page 16 for photo and more details).

The **Nicholasville Fire Department** had several retirements and promotions. Two senior lieutenants, Rick Puckett and Mark Stewart, retired earlier this year and senior firefighter Keith Grigsby will retire in December. Firemen Brian Jenkins and Justin Lamb were promoted.

The department also plans to increase staffing levels from 14 personnel to 15 personnel per shift. Ten new recruits completed training this year, but additional recruits will be needed due to retirements and normal turnover in the ranks.

The City Commission and administration updated the city's pay scale and increased the starting pay for firefighters this year.

"This increase will make us more competitive with other cities our size and hopefully will reduce the number of firefighters leaving Nicholasville for higher paying jobs in other cities and attract a higher number of qualified applicants," Chief Mark Case said.

Also this year, the department filled a vacant chaplain's position.

"I am very excited with what Chaplain Dewayne Brewer has planned for our agency and the spiritual leadership he provides for the men and women of the department," said Chief Case.

In other news, the department:

- began the bidding process for replacing the vehicle exhaust systems with more energy efficient models that will reduce or eliminate exposure to diesel exhaust by early 2017.

- upgraded the automatic external defibrillators, or AEDs, in frontline trucks. The older units will be placed in the administrative vehicles to provide more flexibility when responding to cardiac arrest calls. If a call of this nature comes in, the City's administrative vehicles can respond and provide care if they are closer. This will hopefully increase the chances of survival for those types of patients.
- was deputized by the state fire marshal to assist with investigations of possible code violations. The department also will begin taking over some of the city's fire inspections and hopes to develop an in-house inspection program.
- continued work towards the goal of gaining national accreditation by improving data collection, updating policies and procedures and improving training.

In the coming year, the department will evaluate the purchase of a new fire engine, and begin planning for a new station in the growing Brannon Crossing area and on the east and west sides of town.



Powering Our Quality of Life

If you're ever curious about the status of Kentucky's electric power system, just ask Nicholasville's newly appointed Director of Finance and Utilities Bob Amato. He wrote the book on it, so to speak.

During his more than eight years at the Kentucky Public Service Commission, Amato served as deputy executive director and was principal drafter of *Kentucky's Electric Infrastructure: Present and Future*, an assessment of our state's electric power system.

It only takes a glance at projects like that and his varied positions as an engineer and manager to see the deep base of knowledge and expertise Amato brought to Nicholasville when he joined the City's staff three years ago as deputy director of Public Utilities.

In fact, it would be easy to think moving into a municipal government position might be a step down after holding notable roles with the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, the Public Service Commission and two engineering consulting companies.

But Amato wanted a more hands-on position, more along the lines of the one he had as city engineer in Elizabethtown.

"I enjoy municipal government work more than the regulatory side," said Amato. "I like being involved in projects from start to finish: planning, design, construction and operation. I also like having contact with people in the community and working with all the professionals it takes to make things happen."

A Frankfort native, Amato spent a good bit of his youth on golf courses with friends, especially while a member of the University of Kentucky's varsity golf team. It's a sport he doesn't get to play as much these



Newly appointed Finance and Utility Director Bob Amato has been with the City three years, previously serving as deputy director of Public Utilities.

days, but which taught him about strategy, individual accomplishment, leadership and teamwork.

"We have an excellent team of technical personnel, both in finance and utilities," said Amato, who now is responsible for about a quarter of the city's approximately 240 employees. "I'm excited about the opportunity to continue to enhance our systems and to modernize them."

He praises the job that his predecessor Tom Calkins did in building and maintaining trusted, award-winning public utility departments and providing sound financial management, especially considering some of the difficult financial challenges that occurred during his long tenure.

"Tom was here close to three decades. He did multiple upgrades to the water plant, and built a new wastewater plant, which is a real accomplishment. Both plants are in good shape and should take us many years into the future," Amato added. "I've learned a lot from him, and especially appreciate having a role in negotiating a new agreement with Kentucky Utilities for a stable source of electric power at a reliable and predictable price."

Now Amato is focused on enhancing the quality of life for Nicholasville residents and visitors by keeping a sharp eye on the city's finances and planning for the future utility needs and economic growth required to keep the community vibrant.

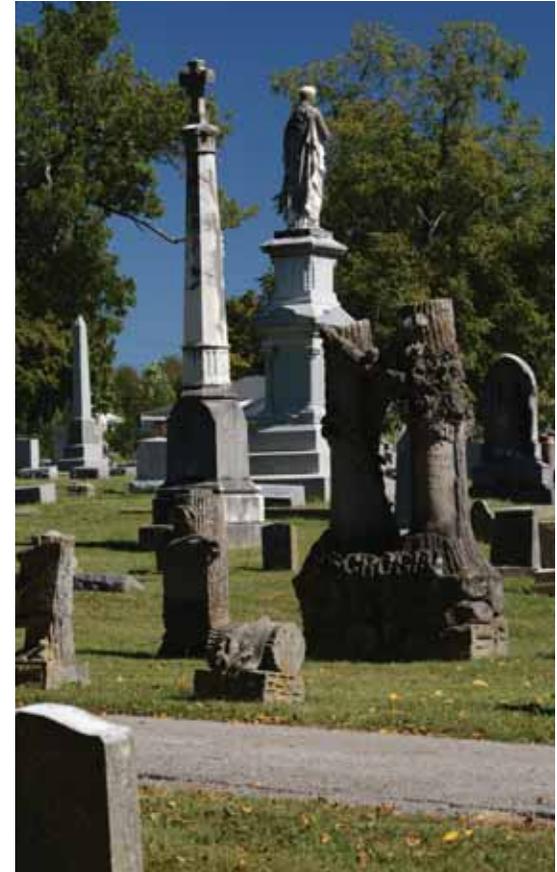
Certifications: Licensed Professional Engineer
Degree: B.S. from the University of Kentucky
Greatest Influence on Career: His father, who designed most of the state's interstate bridges over the course of his 36-year engineering career with the highway department.
Interests: Golf, tennis, fishing
Professional Organizations: Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Board, KY Society of Professional Engineers (past president), National Society of Professional Engineers Board of Director
Honors: 2000 KY Young Engineer of the Year
Personal Organizations: Nicholasville Rotary Club, Catholic Men Servant Leaders, Knights of Columbus
Other: Deacon Formation Program participant, Catholic Diocese of Lexington
Family: Wife of 25 years, Carmen; children Alex, Mary Grace, and Anna

Businesses are starting to hire more employees and expand. New residential and business developments are going up in several areas of our city," he said. "That is a direct result of the warm, welcoming community Nicholasville is, our highly desirable location and having some of the lowest utility rates in the state. We want to keep our rates low while also adequately funding a sustainable and reliable infrastructure."

More Than A Family Connection



As superintendent, Aaron Jordan is responsible for preserving the past and preparing for future cemetery needs as well as ongoing maintenance and improvement.



For Aaron Jordan, Maple Grove Cemetery is more than a final resting place for centuries of Nicholasville residents and keeping the sacred grounds safe, clean and beautiful is more than just a job.

“I’ve lived here all my life, so I know a lot of people who have family buried here and my own great-grandmother and grandfather are here,” said the 38-year-old. “I take my job seriously because I know how much the work our staff does here means to people who come here to grieve and visit with their loved ones. Families want to know that their loved one is in a place that is well managed and maintained.”

Jordan took over the superintendent role upon the retirement of long-time leader James Hubbard, who retired on Aug. 31 after almost 24 years with the city.

Under Hubbard’s leadership, the cemetery got an overall facelift. He made landscaping a priority and widened the entrances to the property. Most recently,

Hubbard oversaw a two-acre expansion that increased to about 830 the number of available burial sites, insuring that the cemetery will be an option for many more generations of Nicholasville residents. This year, a roadway in the new section that connects Richmond Road and Central Avenue was blacktopped.

Hubbard worked for the city for 24 years in all, including a short time with the street and water departments. He plans to work on his farm, maybe find a part-time job, and spend time with his wife of 35 years, Gloria, and their three children.

“It was an honor to work at the cemetery,” Hubbard said of his 21 years. “It is a special place. I know Aaron is going to do a good job.”

Jordan, who has worked for the city since 1999 and at the cemetery since 2009, said he will continue beautification efforts in the next year. He hopes to repair potholes, blacktop some of the other gravel

roads, remove some dead trees and upgrade the landscaping at the front and back entrances.

He also hopes to get new software that will allow more accurate and accessible tracking, recording and mapping of burial sites and records. The records would make it easier for families to find burial sites and research family history.

“This has been in the works for awhile and I would really like to see that happen next year,” said Jordan. “Our cemetery has a very long history – we have some graves from the early 1800s and even some Confederate soldiers buried here – and we want to make sure we have a good, electronic database of everything that people can use online.”

Legislator Hailed as Strong Voice for Cities

Former Nicholasville Mayor and current state Rep. Russ Meyer (D-Nicholasville) was honored in August with a Friend of Kentucky Cities award from the Kentucky League of Cities, or KLC, for his tireless efforts to advocate for issues that impact cities across the state.

Meyer, who served as mayor for eight years before he was elected to represent the 39th legislative district in 2014, has since made waves as sponsor of House Bill 178, which increased local government investment options, and House Bill 518, which could have saved cities \$12 million a year in sales and use tax exemptions. Meyer was also a driving force behind the John Mackey Memorial Act, a bill named after a Jessamine County paramedic, that extended line-of-duty death benefits to the families of EMS workers and volunteers who serve local governments.



Representative Russ Meyer receives his service award from J.D. Chaney, KLC's Chief Governmental Affairs Officer.

“Rep. Meyer has been a strong voice for Kentucky cities both in Nicholasville as a city commissioner and mayor and in Frankfort as a representative,” said Jonathan Steiner, executive director/CEO of the Kentucky League of Cities. “He has continued to be a champion for Kentucky cities, and we appreciate his wide-ranging and consistent support.”

Meyer, who has served on the KLC board of directors, pledged to continue to, “put the citizens of the 39th District first.”

“As Nicholasville’s former mayor, and now as a state legislator, I have been proud to work with the Kentucky League of Cities over the years to help our communities thrive,” he said. “KLC has been a great advocate for our local officials and an invaluable source of advice and help, so being recognized with its Friend of Kentucky Cities Award means a lot to me. I want to thank KLC for this honor, and I look forward to working with its leaders to do even more for our cities in the future.”

Police Memorial Dedicated

The department also honored two fallen officers with the dedication of a memorial at Nicholasville City Hall this spring. The memorial dedication marked the one-year anniversary of the death of Officer Burke Rhoads, an Army veteran, who was killed in a car crash on March 11, 2015, on his way to training in Richmond. Rhoads, who was 35, served on the NPD for seven years and was survived by his wife, Melissa,

and three children. Also honored was Paul Ketron, a night patrolman who was killed on June 25, 1941 while investigating a shooting. Ketron was 32 and had served on the NPD for almost 4 years. He was survived by his wife, Dollie.



Repair and Prevent

A project to shore up portions of Town Fork Stream near downtown Nicholasville is nearly complete.

The project, made possible by repurposed funds from a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant, included the replacement of about 700 feet of a 6-foot retaining wall that runs behind a stretch of homes on Second Street and the restoration of about 150 feet of the stream bank.

“The wall was leaning about 20 degrees off kilter,” said Nicholasville Engineer Tim Cross. “These repairs were badly needed in part due to damage from severe flooding along Second and Main streets back in 2010.”

The contractor, Connhurst LLC, started working in late August and is expected to finish the work by late November.

The \$304,000 in funding was mostly covered by the roughly \$250,000 left over from the Riney B. Park Storm Water Detention Facility project that included construction of a dam on Town Fork to regulate water rushing into downtown.

Cross said the latest project will include the clearing of overgrown vegetation behind homes on Second Street that will allow homeowners to extend their back yards.

Eastern Bypass Progress Update

Work on the long-awaited Eastern Bypass, which will allow commuters traveling east and west of Nicholasville to bypass the downtown area, likely will not begin until next fall. The project has experienced a number of delays since it was first added to the state’s six-year highway plan in 2014.

Officials have accepted bids for the first phase of the project, to include a 2.7-mile stretch from KY 39, or Sulpher Well Road, to U.S. 27 at an estimated cost of \$22.5 million.

The second phase, 1.9 miles to connect KY 39 to Kentucky 169, or Union Mill Road, will cost an estimated \$15 million. The final phase will complete the loop with 2.8 miles of roadway between KY 169 and the Nicholasville bypass at an estimated \$38 million.

Some 45,000 motorists, including commercial truckers, are expected to use the bypass, which will include a diamond interchange at U.S. 27 North.

The new bypass, which will reduce traffic on KY 39, KY 169 and the existing West Bypass, is expected to be open for traffic by late 2018.

DIRECTORY

City Hall

517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.1121
Fax: 859.881.0750

City Clerk

Roberta Warren, MMC
City Clerk
517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.1121
Fax: 859.881.0750

City Commissioners

Betty Black
Doug Blackford
Patty Teater
Andy Williams
517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.1121
Fax: 859.881.0750

Finance

Laurie Young, CMA
Finance Officer
601 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.9473
Fax: 859.885.9476

Fire Department

Mark Case
Fire Chief
1022 South Main
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.5505
Fax: 859.887.2713

Human Resources

Kathy Rhineheimer
Human Resource Officer
517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.1121
Fax: 859.881.0750

Jessamine County Economic Development Authority

Wayne Foster
President
PO Box 1042
Nicholasville, KY 40340
Phone: 859.421.4824

Legal Services

William Arvin
City Attorney
517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.1120
Fax: 859.881.0750

Maple Grove Cemetery

Aaron Jordan
Superintendent
500 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.4334
Fax: 859.881.0750

Mayor's Office

Pete Sutherland
Mayor
517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.1121
Fax: 859.881.0750

Parks and Recreation

Duane McCuddy
Director - Administrative
Operations
499 East Maple Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.9787
Fax: 859.881.5017

Planning Commission

Dean Anness
Director
517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.9385
Fax: 859.881.5263

Police Department

Barry Waldrop
Chief
510 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.9467
Fax: 859.885.1766

Tax Office

Leanne Short
Tax Administrator
601 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.7618
Fax: 859.885.9476

Utilities

Bob Amato
Public Utilities/Finance
Director
601 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: 859.885.9473
Fax: 859.885.9476



517 North Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356

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



St. “Nich” Festival

Join us for the annual St. “Nich” Festival. This year’s festival will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in downtown.

Performance Park Humming Along

Plans for a new downtown performance park are moving forward with the filing of paperwork to get state approval to purchase and demolish an old barber shop on East Maple.

Engineer John Steinmetz of Banks Engineering said bidding and construction work on the park will continue after an environmental study is completed, the building is torn down and the City of Nicholasville purchases the property. The barber shop lot will expand the park, which now includes only the empty lot beside the shop.

Meanwhile, utilities on the tract have been relocated and the city is set to order new benches, decorative lighting and planters.

The project, which got underway last year, is being funded by leftover funds from the Streetscape project, a comprehensive downtown facelift that included the installation of mast arms for signal lights and the purchase of a lot for parking. The project is expected to cost about \$248,000.

The new performance park is expected to draw more visitors to the downtown area for local performances and improve pedestrian access to downtown shopping and recreation.