

FROM THE FORT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024



Pictured: rendering for the new main Tower Park playground.

GREETINGS FROM MAYOR HAAS

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season! We are excited for 2024 as we have many projects that are planned for the city. Spring will be here before we know it which means my favorite part of the year in Fort Thomas, concerts and summer events!

I want to thank all the staff and citizen volunteers who made 2023 such an incredible year for the city. I've said it many times, Fort Thomas is blessed to have so many people helping to make this the best city in the region and state. It's amazing how many citizens are vested in our future and actively try to make things better each day. I couldn't be more proud to be the Mayor of Fort Thomas.

Winter is upon us so please stay warm and safe. There are so many businesses in town now that you can go and keep warm, eat, drink, and enjoy your friends and family while the weather outside is not the best. I'm so proud of all the businesses that choose to locate in our wonderful town.



Pictured: Mayor Eric Haas with his wife, Jan, and their grandchildren at home for the Holiday season.

Make sure to stay up to date on all city happenings by checking out the city website and by following the city on our social media platforms. There is always something going on around town.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

We are excited to start 2024 as there is already so much going on in our town. The Tower Park Playground reconstruction is in full swing and will be completed by May 24th of this year. It is an exciting project that will accommodate children of all abilities and completely update the playground equipment. This was a fun process as the staff worked with many residents and child groups to identify the most important features to be included in the park. We not only thought about the children in the design but also the parents, guardians, and grandparents. We are excited to see the project completed which will serve the citizens for decades.

Included in the park project, is also updating the entrance to Tower Park. We will be creating a plaza that will include a Gen. George Thomas statue that is being completed now.



It will be a great welcoming area for guests of the park and citizens driving by the Tower. This will be a visible improvement that even people not visiting the park will see every day.

At the last council meeting, we recapped some major projects completed or planned in 2023. Below is a quick list that captures some of the major projects:

1. Approval and start of \$3.6M Tower Park Playground. Hopeful to be completed in May of 2024.
2. 2023 Street Program Completion. Eight roads have been completed this year by the city. The State of Kentucky also repaved most of South and North Fort Thomas Ave and the city painted the lines for parking stalls.
3. Route 8 reconstruction was approved and started after many years of negotiations with KYTC District 6. We are grateful for the professionalism and dedication of KYTC District 6 staff in helping solve this problem. This project should be completed and the roadway open for residents in May 2024.

4. The city staff instituted a new financial software that gives the department heads more control over their budgets. This has been a great addition to our operation and allows better planning of expenses for the year.
5. We have continued the Zoning Ordinance Update for the city and that should be completed by July 2024.
6. Riverside Park was updated and completed with the support of the Riverside neighborhood. This is another example of a community project that makes Fort Thomas so unique in Northern Kentucky.

Over the next few months, the staff will be completing the 2024/2025 Budget for council's review in April of this year. We have many projects and new equipment that are being planned to improve operations for the city. We receive many ideas from citizens, not just staff and elected officials. If you see something we can improve on that can be included in the budget, please reach out and share your ideas. Our goal is to improve the city each year and I appreciate the feedback we receive to make that a reality.

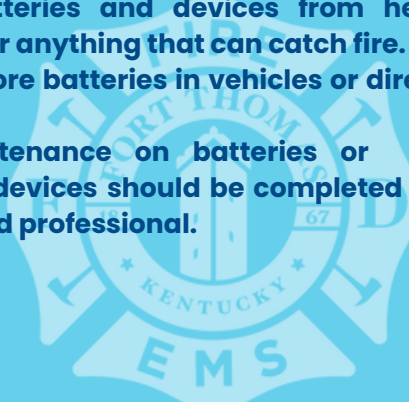


FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lithium-ion batteries power many portable consumer electronics, electric vehicles, and even store power in energy storage systems. In normal applications, the Li-ion batteries are safe, but if damaged or overheated, they can cause fires. Discontinue using devices or batteries that have an unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, are leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge.

Here are some helpful tips on how to protect your electric bike and electric scooter.

- Only use manufactured- provided or authorized batteries and charging equipment. All equipment should be certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory.
- Remove the battery or charging device from power once charging is complete to avoid overheating.
- Keep batteries and charge them at room temperature. Issues can occur below 32 degrees or above 105 degrees.
- Keep batteries and devices from heat sources or anything that can catch fire.
- Do not store batteries in vehicles or direct sunlight.
- All maintenance on batteries or e-mobility devices should be completed by a qualified professional.





UPCOMING EVENTS



Fort Thomas will be celebrating its 157th birthday on February 27. Help share the love of your community that day by sharing pictures of the town over the years and your memories of when you were growing up in the Fort on Social media.



The Easter Egg hunt returns on March 23 at Tower Park. Get there early for pictures with the Easter bunny at 10:30am followed by the hunt at noon. It is all taking place at the Mess Hall in Tower Park.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

FORT THOMAS HISTORY BOOK COMING SOON

The Museum will be hosting a book signing and reception on April 5, 2024, for the new history book on the Fort Thomas Military Installation.

From Peach Orchard to Park, written by Museum Director Deanna Beineke after extensive research based on letters, diaries, newspaper articles and original Post records, the book covers the founding of the military post back in the 1890s to its present day use as a community park. It looks into the role the post had on our community, the region, and the nation throughout its existence and has witnessed thousands of soldiers pass through its stone walls.

The museum is also happy to announce that they received a grant from the Kentucky Historical Society Local History Trust Fund. This grant allows for the purchasing of a book scanner, mobile tool chest and encapsulating supplies, assisting museum staff to conserve fragile historical documents and scan historical books/ publications so they can be safely searched in the future.

If you would like to help out with some of the museums projects, contact Deanna at fortthomasmuseum@gmail.com. Don't forget to like the Museum on Facebook for behind the scenes look at artifacts and upcoming exhibits.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, AND MORE MEETINGS!

January is the start of the new year and that means setting the board, council, and commission meetings for the 2024 year. Check back by the end of the month for the updated meeting schedules and where meetings will be taking place on the city website.

GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PLANNING ON DOING SOME PROJECTS AROUND THE HOUSE?

We are entering winter and it's time for those inside projects such as finished basements or major remodeling; don't forget to stop in for your permit. "YOU DON'T NEED A PERMIT" many of your friends will say "PERMITS ARE JUST MORE MONEY OUT OF MY POCKET." Well let me try to convince you...

Building code requirements are changing all of the time, do you or your contractor know...

- The proper insulation levels for various parts of your house; improper installation can lead to mold growth.
- The TRUE concept of firestopping; this can help prevent the spread of fire
- The proper volume of return air your room needs so your furnace can perform efficiently
- The proper ventilation of gas appliances, which, if not done properly, can lead to carbon monoxide build-up; causing possible ignition by an electrical spark or even carbon monoxide poisoning

- Upon selling your house, many lending agencies will ask for copies of any permits for projects done at your home. It's a lot easier to get a permit upfront rather than tearing out drywall to prove you've done your project properly.

The small cost of a permit can equate to lots of energy savings, not to mention that you can be assured your project is done properly and safe. You can contact us at (859)572-1210, stop by our offices between normal business hours, or visit the General Services tab of our website at www.forthomasky.org for all the information you need to complete your project.

Also, don't forget those spring projects such as decks, sheds, fences or pools. Get your application in early to beat the spring rush and assure there is no delay of your project!

SNOW REMOVAL INFO

The cold of winter is coming, and with it the possibility of snow. The General Services Department would like to remind everyone that the main arterial routes within the City are the first to be cleared of snow, and then the connector streets, followed by the side streets, and are prioritized by the traffic volume they endure.

Keep in mind that heavy snowfall may cause snow plows to leave leftover snow behind at the entrances of private drives/walk ways and cannot be helped.

If you have to drive in such conditions, you can help us efficiently remove snow from the roads by staying least 200 feet behind snowplow equipment, and by using off street parking whenever available.