



# Citylines



May 2022

Southgate, Kentucky – City of Friendly Homes

Vol. 17, No. 1

## A Note from the Mayor...



*Good Morning, Good Evening or Good Afternoon:*

I hope this article finds you and your family well and looking forward to the

upcoming warm weather! Thought I would bring you up to date on a few on-going and forward moving items.

### Memorial Pointe

The Memorial Pointe Project continues to move forward. Recently, Fischer Homes announced they will construct 60 single family homes and Ashley Builders Group will construct 20-24 homes. North American Properties will be constructing Class A luxury apartments and we expect the announcement of the senior facility shortly which will be a 90 bed facility.

### American Recovery Program

The US Treasury forwarded ARPA dollars to all cities, counties and states earlier this year. The second set of funds will follow later this year. Southgate is evaluating the best ways to utilize these dollars. Especially for capital projects which have been delayed due to other budget priorities over the past few years. The official use of the ARPA monies will be announced during the budget process. It is planned Council will review the ARPA and City Budgets and approve both prior to June 30.

### Blossom Lane

For all who live off of Blossom Lane, you notice the "HUMP" every time you enter or leave your homes. Blossom

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## Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies Monday May 30 at 10:00 am

Route will start at Bluegrass & Electric then proceed to Blatt, Evergreen, Walnut and back to Electric to end at the Veteran's Memorial Park for the ceremony. Civic groups throughout the community will participate. We hope to see you there!



## Southgate Park and Tree Board News



Arbor Day, 2022, was observed on Friday, April 29, 2022, at the Southgate Community Center and was a tremendous success. The City of Southgate was named Tree City USA for

the 17th year and received the Growth Award for the 16th year from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The topic for Arbor Day was Smile and Say Trees. Southgate Elementary School 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers and students did an outstanding job creating posters for the poster contest honoring Arbor Day and the importance of trees to us all. Winners were recognized with First Place, Second Place, Third Place and Honorable Mention ribbons, and all students received Participation ribbons.

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade winning posters will be on display at the Ft. Thomas Branch of the Campbell County Library through May 15. Please stop in and enjoy the creative works of our students.

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# Message from the Chief of Police

**John Christmann**

-If you see a potential problem or need the police, don't hesitate to call us at 859-292-3622 this is the number to police dispatch. The dispatcher can send an officer to you or have them call you directly 24 hours a day. In an emergency always call 911. If you simply need to talk with someone in a non-emergency, feel free to call the police department direct line at 859-441-7473.

-Summer is fast approaching so please be on cautious while driving through our city. Kids will be out playing and the police will be out watching your speed and stop signs.

-We have had a few reports of attempted scams to citizens within Southgate. As a general rule "if something sounds too good to be true", then it probably is! Don't fall victim to an internet or phone scam. Scammers are especially active during stressful times. For more information or to report a scam please check out [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov)

-As you complete your spring cleaning, don't forget that we have a drug take

back box at the city building. Any old, outdated or no longer wanted prescription drugs can be dropped into the box. These pills will be destroyed so they do not end up in the hands of those that should not have them. The drug drop box is available during the city office business hours of M-F 8am-4pm.

-You can sign up for alerts from the Southgate Police Department (and other public safety agencies in our area) simply by visiting our city website and clicking on the police department link. There you will find the signup for Nixle alerts. Nixle is a free program that can help you stay informed of safety issues as well as community related events in our area.

-A reminder to lock your doors of your vehicles and your homes. Please call the police if you see something suspicious in your neighborhoods. Being a good neighbor is sometimes as simple as looking out for each other!

***Have a great summer!***



# General Information...

**Joyce Avenue**

The completion of this project from US27 to Linden Avenue, should be sometime in mid-May. The completion of new underlayment and storm sewers under the sidewalks connecting to US27 and the overlayment will alleviate the water issue which has plagued this street for over five years. Later on this year, we will repave Joyce from Linden Avenue to Washington in Fort Thomas. Also, Joyce from Linden to Washington will become One Way "up". Proper signage will be placed prior to this change.

**Tennis Courts**

You probably noticed the Tennis Courts remain closed. An old storm water pipe is under the court closest to Electric Avenue. That underground pipe caused the courts to shift and crack the courts as well as form a depression in one of the courts. Council requested an engineering study to consider repairing and fixing the courts. Costs range in mid to upper mid 6 figures. City Council is working with the Optimist Club and Park and Tree Board to determine the best use for this area of the City. As of now the thought is to reconstruct the area and make it a green space or calming pocket park for the downtown core with park benches and nice landscaping. Council is reviewing all other alternatives and will decide on the best way to utilize this area.

**Ridgeway**

City Council recently approved repaving of Ridgeway in late Spring or early Summer this year. Homeowners along Ridgeway, please inform the City at 859-441-0075 if you would like a quote on repairing your driveway pad attached to the street. It is our hope to address areas along Electric Avenue and plan for

# Southgate Park and Tree Board News

*(continued from page 1)*



Plaques were given in memory of Ruth Kramer and Juanita Bittner, distinguished citizens of Southgate and lovers of nature. They will be

remembered and missed by all.

The keynote speaker for the event was Luke Saunier, Kentucky Division of Forestry, who gave an interactive

presentation on how trees communicate to help them survive. This is Luke's 15th year serving as our keynote speaker, and the kids always love him – and so do the adults!

The City of Southgate Park and Tree Board is happy to welcome new board members. Please reach out to City Clerk's office at [clerk@southgateky.org](mailto:clerk@southgateky.org) if you are interested in joining. The Park and Tree Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Southgate Community Center. Residents are welcome to attend the meetings.

future repaving of Tracy, Heather and look at Valley View as well in the coming years.

### New Faces

We have new faces on City Council. After an Application and Interview process, Council chose the following to join them due to Councilmembers Hayley and Owens moving out of the City:



**Tommy Wegener** came on Council in late 2021, replacing Pat Hayley.

Councilmember Wegener works directly with City Treasurer, Teresa Franklin and review all financial matters.



**Aileen Okura** came on Council in early 2022, replacing Tyler Owen. Councilmember Okura

works directly with Public Works Foreman, Arvil Bowman and City Clerk, Brandi Barton. She is the liaison with the Park and Tree Board.

We hope you will welcome these new Councilmembers who diligently work hard for you daily. **Keep in mind we still have openings on the following boards and ask that you contact the City Office if you would like to serve or have any questions in reference to the following:**

- Code Enforcement Board
- Police Citation Review Board
- Park and Tree Board

### Southgate Community Center & Picnic Shelter Rentals

Call Chelsie, Community Center Coordinator, for availability & cost.

**Phone: 859-781-8878**

Email: [center@southgateky.org](mailto:center@southgateky.org)

## Fire Department News

You may have noticed that the Southgate/Wilder Emergency Medical Service (SWEMS) has a new ambulance. Earlier this year a brand new Horton Ambulance on a Ford F550 Chassis was purchased at a cost of nearly \$250,000. The new ambulance will split time between Southgate and Wilder and is manned by fire department personnel from Southgate and Wilder. In case you were wondering why the new ambulance is white in color rather than the traditional red, the ambulance manufacturers have decided that painting the ambulance red will cost an additional \$12,000 over white. That is why our ambulance, like many other new ambulances in the area, is white.

Soon the fire department will be taking delivery of a brand new Rosenbauer fire truck. This new pumper will replace our 1996 Sutphen pumper which has served the city well for over 25 years. The Rosenbauer pumper can carry seven firefighters and can pump over 1,500 gallons per minute. The new engine will hopefully arrive sometime in late May or early June. The new pumper was ordered and paid for early last year, avoiding many of the recent price increases in material and labor costs. The new engine has a price tag of a little over \$600,000. We at the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department work hard to make the best use of the budget provided to us by City Council as well as the financial support that you provide through donations and support of our fundraisers. The fire truck manufacturers do not charge extra for red paint so our new engine will be traditional red with a white top.

## Block Party - July 16th

This year the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department Annual Block Party will be returning to the third Saturday in July. **The Block Party will be held on Saturday July 16, from 5:30 to 11:30** in front of the fire house and city building. The Block Party is the highlight event of summer in Southgate. You can count on our usual assortment of food, drinks, live music and hospitality that you expect. Profits from the Block Party are used to provide additional equipment, uniforms and other items that our budget with the city does not provide. Mark your calendars for July 16 and come hang out with your friends, neighbors and the members of your Southgate Fire Department.

## Southgate Super Seniors - We're Back!

The Southgate Super Seniors were founded in March of 1981 and the last meeting was held in June 2019. Let's start this up again! **Beginning Thursday, June 16, we will once again hold monthly meetings on the third Thursday of the month at the Southgate Community Center, 301 West Walnut Street.** Doors open at 11:30 am. Meeting at 1:00 pm followed by bingo. Let's meet and play cards, bingo, plan trips, and enjoy and develop friendships. Please join us. Cake, coffee and soft drinks provided. Please email Council Member Aileen Okura with any questions and suggestions ([aokura@southgateky.org](mailto:aokura@southgateky.org)).

## A Note from the Mayor... *(continued from page 1)*

Lane is a county road until you get to Bonnie. We've worked with the county over the last 12 years to have them increase the sight distance for safety, especially in the area of the hump. Southgate and Fort Thomas residents utilize this Lane daily. Over the years, the county refused to address the road issues. So, Southgate decided to take on the project of finding ways to finance the reconstruction of the "HUMP" in order to increase sight distance and help alleviate the angle of the curve outbound. We are working with Fort Thomas and the County. In June of last year, we applied for an OKI Grant for \$113,750. Only to find out in late September the grant request was refused. We then applied for Discretionary Road Funds through KYTC in early October. That request was also refused in March of this year. However, working with Representative Sal Santoro, we were able to secure the \$113,750 to help finance this project. The cities of Fort Thomas and Southgate have also agreed to add \$20,000 each making the project a total of \$153,750. We thank Representative Santoro for his help and diligence in helping Southgate secure these funds from the Commonwealth. The county will be in charge of this project since it is their road. They will use our engineering estimates for bidding and construction. We are hoping to bid this project in late winter 2022-23 and construction beginning in early to mid-spring 2023.

Joyce and our family wish you and your family a happy and safe summer! I hope to see you and your family on Memorial Day, Monday May 30th. The Parade is something I look forward to every year. Stay well and remember to care for those who care about you and who care about others. I'll see you soon.  
My Best to You and Yours, *Jim*

## 2022 Calendar of Events

Council meetings at City Bldg. - 122 Electric Ave

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| May 30       | Memorial Day – Office closed—Parade at 10 am |
| June 7 & 21  | Council meetings 6:30 pm City Building       |
| July 4       | Independence Day – Office closed             |
| July 6 & 20  | Council meetings 6:30 pm City Building       |
| July 16      | Fire Dept. Block Party                       |
| Aug. 3 & 17  | Council meetings 6:30 pm City Building       |
| Sept. 5      | Labor Day – Office closed                    |
| Sept. 7 & 21 | Council meetings 6:30 pm City Building       |
| Sept. 10     | City Wide Yard Sale 8:00 – 4:00              |
| Oct. 5 & 19  | Council meetings 6:30 pm City Building       |
| Oct. 31      | Halloween Trick or Treat 5:30-7:30 pm        |

## City Administration

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Mayor:                   | Jim Hamberg      |
| Community Events:        | Aileen Okura     |
| Finance:                 | Tommy Wegener    |
| Public Safety:           | Joe Anderson     |
| Code Enforcement:        | Mark Messmer     |
| Public Buildings & Park: | Chris Robisch    |
| Public Works :           | Paul Melville    |
| City Attorney:           | Mary Ann Stewart |
| City Treasurer:          | Terri Franklin   |
| Police Chief:            | John Christmann  |
| Police Dept              | 441-7473         |
| Fire Chief:              | John Beatsch     |
| Fire Dept                | 441-1422         |
| Public Works:            | Arvil Bowman     |
|                          | 441-0075         |
| City Clerk:              | Brandi Barton    |
| Clerk's Office           | 441-0075         |
| Code Enforcement:        | John Lauber      |
|                          | 441-0075         |
| Community Center:        | Chelsie Shay     |
|                          | 781-8878         |

## Reminder

Please sweep/blow grass clippings out of street into the lawn. This is a City ordinance and it keeps grass out of the storm drains.  
*Thank you for your help!*



## Visit the Southgate Facebook Page

Do you ever ask yourself, "Will there be a Memorial Day Parade this year in Southgate?" or any other questions regarding events and you don't know the answer? You can easily find and have access to the events going on in the city! The City of Southgate has an official Facebook page to keep residents informed about upcoming events within the city. The page will also post photos of the events and happenings. Please like and follow the page! <https://www.facebook.com/cityofsouthgateky/>  
There is also a calendar of events on the City of Southgate website at [www.southgateky.org](http://www.southgateky.org)

## City Wide Yard Sale

The Annual City Wide Yard Sale will be Saturday, September 10 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

No permit is needed to have a yard sale. However, this is a great time to hold your yard sale. A list of participants will be available at City Building the day before the sale. The City will place an ad in the paper. Everyone is invited to join!

A registration form is needed to join the sale which is available on City website and in the Clerk's office. Anyone who wishes to donate items after the yard sale can drop them off at the City Building for St. Vincent De Paul to collect.



## Sign up for Nixle Alerts!

Sign up now and receive text and/or email alerts from the Southgate Police Department for emergencies and hazardous situations in the City of Southgate! Go to Nixle.com and follow the instructions to receive text alerts, or sign up online and complete the form to receive text and email alerts.

We are all better prepared to help each other when we are well informed. Please take advantage of this free service **and** sign up now. We look forward to expanding the email alerts to include more public safety messages. Please sign up now and let's make this happen!



Resident Government Agency Business Nixle in Action

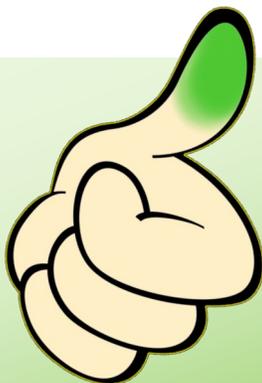
Looking to Receive Alerts from Your Local Agencies?  
**TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 888777 TO OPT-IN**

Receive alerts for

- Severe Weather
- Criminal Activities
- Severe Traffic
- Missing Persons
- Local Events

A hand holding a smartphone. The screen shows a text message from 888777 that says: "Hi! You are now signed up to receive Nixle alerts. Text your zip code to 888777 to opt-in." The phone's keyboard is visible at the bottom.

Nixle keeps you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety departments & schools



## Green Thumb Awards

Park and Tree Board's Green Thumb Awards run from May - October. Two awards are given each month to Southgate residents who have made special effort to add beauty to their landscape. Please call 859-441-0075 if you have someone you would like to nominate.

## Pet waste stations

The City has installed pet waste stations in several locations: Community Center Park, Memorial Park, and tennis courts. Please use the bags to clean up after your pet. Thank you for helping keep the City clean.



## Street Obstruction Permits

If you need a dumpster or moving POD in the street in front of your home, you will need to obtain a Street Obstruction Permit 48 hours in advance. This form is on the City's website at [www.southgateky.org](http://www.southgateky.org). Go to the department tab at the top. On the Public Works page there will be a form that you can complete and submit online or you can come into the Clerk's Office. There is no charge for this permit.

# Southgate Optimist Club News

## Easter Egg Hunt—April 17th

The Optimist Club hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. The weather cooperated for the most part, just a little chill in the air. We had close to 90 children collect close to 1000 eggs in a matter of minutes. The Easter Bunny was chauffeured to the event courtesy of the Southgate Fire Department. Thank you to the Fire Department and the volunteers. We hope everyone enjoyed the day with their family and friends.

## Fishing Derby—May 14th

The Optimist Club hosted the annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, May 14th, we had several families attend with about 15 anglers. Prizes were awarded in four age groups for the Most Fish Caught and the Largest Fish Caught. We had wonderful weather this year. Lunch was served to conclude the derby and then an award ceremony.

## Kash for Kids Raffle

If you haven't already done so, please remember to mail, or drop off at the city building your raffle tickets. It is through this and other fundraisers, and your support that we are fortunate enough to provide these and other programs for the youth in our community.

## New members always welcome

The Optimist Club of Southgate celebrated our 75th year providing opportunities and programs for youth. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at the John R. Little VFW at 6:30 p.m.

Thanks in advance for your support and the support we receive from the administration at the City of Southgate.

***We hope you have a great summer!***



**Please help us keep our playground clean and in good condition, pick up some trash during your next visit. Thank You**

