News for the Citizens of Southgate

Citylines

November 2026 | Southgate, Kentucky – City of Friendly Homes | Vol. 21, No. 2

To the Residents and Friends of Southgate,
Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening.



I hope you and your family are doing well.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve you and the City of Southgate over the past 36 years, first as a City Council Member and later as your mayor. As I conclude this chapter of public service, let me begin with two simple but heartfelt words: ***Thank you.*** Thank you for the trust and confidence you placed in me through your votes and continued support. Thank you for allowing me to serve as one of your City Council Members from 1990 to 2006 and as your mayor from 2007 through 2026.

I would also like to thank the many City Council Members with whom I had the privilege to serve. Your ideas, guidance, dedication, and willingness to step forward whenever challenges arose were invaluable. Your support was especially important given that Southgate operates without a City Administrator. Together, we faced obstacles, celebrated successes, and worked for the betterment of our community.

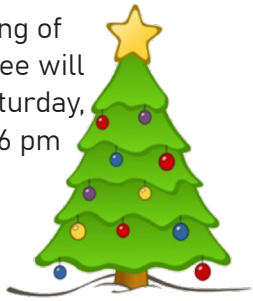
Over the past 36 years, Southgate has achieved many significant milestones. A few of those include: In 1991, the City Council approved the purchase and construction of our Community Center and trail system. In 2009, we completed construction of our new firehouse. In 2012, we reformed the Police Department and successfully pursued grant funding that has now exceeded $2.5 million over the past two decades, with additional funding extending through 2030.

We have repaved twelve city streets, with more improvements planned and hopefully through future grant opportunities. We assumed responsibility for the medians along U.S. 27, transformed the former Beverly Hills property into Memorial Pointe and will soon see vertical construction begin at Sunrock. Today, Southgate is recognized as one of the safest cities in Kentucky.

Looking ahead, I am confident that Southgate is well-positioned for continued success. The City should be able to maintain or further reduce property tax rates, as we were able to do this year, and our strong financial foundation should serve residents well for many years to come.

(Continued on page 3)

Christmas TREE LIGHTING



The annual lighting of the Christmas Tree will take place on Saturday, November 28 at 6 pm at the Veterans Memorial Park (Evergreen & Electric corner). Come join us for Christmas carols and holiday cheer! Afterwards, hot cocoa and cookies will be served at John R Little VFW. Come and take photos with Santa! Everyone is welcome!

City of Southgate Taxes Due Nov. 30th



Payments must be postmarked or dropped in night slot at City building (122 Electric) by Nov. 30. Office hours are Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:00

Bills are available on website www.southgateky.org

PLEASE NOTE: City offices closed Nov. 26 & 27

The City accepts credit cards. You can pay your tax bill online by credit card or by Electronic check.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Public Works Dept. will pick up trees from curb
Or drop off at Public Works garage 260 W. Walnut St.
Dec. 28 to Jan. 12

Stay Connected in Southgate!

https://southgateky.org

Visit the City of Southgate website for the latest information and subscribe to the City's calendar to receive community events, City Council Meeting dates, and meeting Agendas sent directly to your calendar.

Facebook - www.facebook.com/cityofsouthgateky

Visit the City's Facebook page for event information and important updates.

Southgate Police Department - Get the Kentucky Police Connect mobile app to receive

important alerts, set up vacation house checks and more.

Light Up Southgate!



The Park and Tree Board invites all Southgate residents to light up their homes to participate in the Christmas Home Awards! ***Turn your lights on from 7 to 9pm starting Monday, Dec. 7*** for a chance to win a prize in one of the following categories:

Classic Christmas - a pretty look that reminds everyone of Christmas.

Toyland Christmas - a look that reminds everyone of a children's Christmas.

Fantasyland Christmas - highlighting creativity and imagination.

Multi-family Home - for multi-family homes, apartments, and condos, a festive display that shows an eye for design.

Awards will be announced and winners will be contacted on Sat. Dec. 11. Prizes will be awarded at the Sweets with Santa event at the Southgate Fire Department on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 11 to 2pm Let's light up Southgate and enjoy the beautiful displays celebrating the season!

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.

Winter driving- unfortunately bad weather will be upon us soon. Please slow down and be sure to pay attention to the roadway conditions. Remember to yield to snow plows and when the city declares a snow emergency, please do not park on streets where the city designates no-parking during a snow emergency. This helps the snowplow drivers and prevents your vehicle from being towed.

Police App - Please download the app from the QR code located on the city web site. This app is completely free of charge to all citizens. The police department will send out vital information directly to app users. Plus, the app allows you to fill out vacation check forms, crime tips and much more.

Congratulations- Officer Joseph Boyce was awarded the Governor's Highway Safety Award for DUI enforcement. He led the department in DUI arrest and was recognized by the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety.

Finally, this is a reminder to lock your doors of your vehicle 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!

Happy Holidays!

SWEETS WITH SANTA

Join us at the Southgate Fire Dept (128 Electric Ave.) for Sweets with Santa! Saturday, Dec. 12 from 11am to 2 pm. Take photos with Santa and enjoy treat bags provided for the children by the Southgate Fire Dept. Join us for refreshments, sweet treats, and fun for all!



Snow Emergencies

No parking on designated streets when snow exceeds 3 inches or during a declared snow emergency. Any vehicle parked on any designated street during a snow emergency shall be removed from the street within 3 hours of the declared emergency between 6am and 8pm.

If an emergency is declared between 8pm and 6am, then the vehicle shall be removed prior to 9am that morning. Vehicles may be removed at the owner's expense. Snow emergencies may be broadcast on local TV and radio stations.

From the Mayor *(continued from page 1)*

While I am proud of these accomplishments, none of them would have been possible without the support and sacrifice of my family. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to my wife, Joyce; my sister Judy Hunkemoeller; our children; grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and great-nieces and great-nephews. Throughout the years, they allowed me to miss family dinners, celebrations, school events, sporting activities, and countless other moments.

Most especially, I want to thank Joyce, who has truly been my rock.

Her contributions to Southgate deserve special recognition. In 2005, she became Chair of the Park and Tree Board and led the organization through 2020. Under her leadership, the Board completed numerous beautification projects that enhanced our city's appearance and quality of life. Many of the awards and recognitions displayed in our Council Chambers are a direct reflection of her vision and dedication. Joyce helped establish the tradition that continues today of Southgate being recognized as a "Tree City USA" community. Southgate also remains one of the oldest cities in Kentucky to consistently receive the "Tree City USA Growth Award", thanks in large part to her initiative, Board and leadership. Her vision to pursue these programs brought lasting recognition and benefits to our city.

Joyce, thank you for your love, support, patience, understanding and leadership. Thank you for sharing in the victories, enduring the frustrations and disappointments and most importantly, keeping our family together.

A huge Thank You goes to our current city staff and retired staff as well. I am leaving Southgate with the best and strongest staff this city has had in its history. Thanks go to our Department Heads especially, Brandi Barton City Clerk, John Christmamm our Police Chief and Richmond Stortz our Public Works Foreman. Because of their efforts, Southgate will continue to have a bright future. I also want to thank the Kentucky League of Cities, the Northern Kentucky Area Development District, and the Municipal Government League of Northern Kentucky for the opportunity to serve on your board. It was an honor to work alongside so many dedicated public servants throughout our region and Commonwealth.

To our newly elected City Council, I wish you great success! Congratulations to Mayor-elect Mark Messmer and to Council Members Phyllis Yeager, Aileen Okura, Elizabeth Hartman, Jason Lanham, Dan Speier, and Alec Angel. Congratulations as well to Phyllis for earning the highest vote total in the Council race. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Tom Whitehead and Jackson Curry and all other Council Members with whom I served, for their service and commitment to our community during their time on the City Council.

This is not a farewell. Rather, it is simply the beginning of a new chapter. I look forward to seeing you in the years ahead and watching Southgate continue to move forward. And so, may God bless you and your family, may God bless me, and may God continue to bless our wonderful City of Southgate.

And finally, Joyce - ***I'm coming home!***

Respectfully,

Jim Hamberg, Mayor



Leaf Collection

Public Works will pick up leaves week of Nov. 9 -11
WEATHER PERMITTING
Rake leaves to edge of curb.
Do not put in street or on sidewalk
Please call clerk's office if you need additional pickup thru Dec. 11

Mayor & Council / City Departments

(effective 1/1/2027)

Mayor: Mark Messmer
Council members:
Aileen Okura
Elizabeth Hartman
Alec Angel
Jason Lanham
Dan Speier
Phyllis Yeager

Thank you to outgoing elected officials
Mayor: Jim Hamberg
Council Member: Paul Melville
Council Member: Tom Whitehead
Council Member: Jackson Curry

Police Chief:	John Christmann
Police Dept Non emergency	859-441-7473
DISPATCH emergency	859-292-3622
Fire Chief:	John Beatsch
Fire Dept	859-441-1422
Public Works:	Richmond Stortz
City Clerk:	Brandi Barton
Admin/Clerk's Office	859-441-0075
Code Enforcement:	Neil Berkley
City Treasurer:	Patty Edgley
City Attorney:	Mary Ann Stewart
Community Ctr/Police Clerk	Chelsie Shay



The Southgate Pumpkin Walk was great!

We had a great turnout for the Pumpkin Walk! Thank you to all who attended, helped, and promoted the Pumpkin Walk! It was one big party! Special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers. This could not happen without you:

John R Little VFW 3186 and VFW Auxiliary 3186, Campbell County

Public Library Book Bus, Read Ready Southgate, Papa John's Pizza, Blu Moon Galleries, Mary Bridewell and Park and Tree Board, Jason

Lanham, Tommy Whitehead, and Theresa, NKU Theta Chi Fraternity,

Public Works Department, Southgate Public School and St. Therese School, Pumpkin Decorators - Minuteman Press; Cub Scouts; Mia, and Ryan H., Candy Volunteers - VFW Auxiliary; SVFD Chief and Mrs. Beatsch; Andy Venneman and Regal Maid; Tara Hoy and Elli Jewell; Madison Susey.

Thanks to all residents and visitors who attended and helped make this a success. You make Southgate great!! We hope to see you again next year.

See the following link for a video of the event:

https://campbellmedia.org/video/61076/





From the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department

I want to explain how the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department operates and how you can help. Our department provides fire and Emergency Medical Service to Southgate and our neighboring cities. In turn, they provide support for our department when necessary. We employ part-time fire and EMS personnel to man our ambulance and provide first response to any emergency. Many of our part-time employees work full-time for other fire departments and work for Southgate on their off days. Our volunteer members provide additional manpower during emergencies and other events. Most of our volunteers join at a young age with the goal of eventually being hired to a full-time position with a paid department. We have had over 60 volunteers hired by full time departments since 2000.

The Southgate Fire Department is funded primarily by contracting with the city of Southgate. The money provided by the city is substantial, ($790,000 in 2026/27). That may sound like a lot, but payroll and payroll related expenses account for about 85% of that money. To provide all the equipment needed to safely equip a Combination Fire Department, we rely on fundraising to supplement the money we receive from the city. Our department as it is constructed provides excellent service to the city at a considerable savings over a full-time paid department. A full-time department with 4 firefighters per shift and a paid chief would cost in excess of 1.5 million dollars annually.

This is not a request for money. This is an opportunity for you to play a vital role in the protection of your city. If you are unable or unwilling to become a firefighter and/or EMS responder, the fire department needs volunteers to provide support functions in the department. The department has two ways you can help. You can join as an Associate Member. An Associate member is an individual who performs non-emergency functions for the department. Associate members assist in fundraising, fire prevention and education, maintenance duties as well as clerical and administrative functions. Anyone aged 18 or older can be an Associate member.

The Southgate Fire Department Auxiliary is a subordinate organization of the fire department. It functions in support of but separately from the department. The Auxiliary meets monthly and holds a variety of social events and fundraisers primarily designed to raise money for the fire department. The Auxiliary provides money to the department to purchase items not covered in the budget with the city. Over the past ten years the Auxiliary has provided over $75,000 to the fire department. Anyone over 18 can join the Auxiliary although currently the Auxiliary consists of all females.

If you are interested in learning more about being an Associate or Auxiliary member or if you are interested in becoming a firefighter or EMS responder, contact Chief John Beatsch by email at johnbeatsch@icloud.com or stop down the fire station and someone will be glad to help you.

Thanks for your time,
John Beatsch, Fire Chief

City Calendar 2026-2027

First & Third Wednesdays of month - Council meetings 6:30
at City Building 122 Electric Ave.
Second Monday of month – Park & Tree Board meetings 6:00
at Community Center 301 W. Walnut

Nov. 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Holiday – Office closed
Nov. 28	Christmas tree lighting 6:00 pm Memorial Park by VFW
Nov. 30	Tax bills are due
Dec. 7-10	Home decorating/lights contest
Dec. 12	Sweets with Santa – Fire Dept. 11:00-2:00
Dec. 24 & 25	Christmas Holiday – Office Closed
Jan. 1, 2027	Happy New Year – Office Closed
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed
Feb. 15	Presidents Day – Office Closed
Mar. 26	Spring Holiday – Office Closed
Apr. 30	Arbor Day celebration – community center
May 31	Memorial Day – Parade - Office Closed

Check the City website or facebook page for the most current events happening in the City of Southgate.
www.southgateky.org or www.facebook.com/cityofsouthgateky

City of Southgate
Veteran Banner Sponsorship

If would like to sponsor a banner to honor a veteran, please fill out the form below and send a check for $200 to the City Clerk's office at 122 Electric Ave. Southgate, KY 41071. These will proudly be displayed on light posts on Electric Ave. from Memorial Day May thru Veterans Day.

The deadline is May 3 for the banner to be hung by May 31.
Banners will be hung until they are deemed not to be in good condition.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS:
·All images must be scanned in at 300dpi or higher and be a vertical portrait of the veteran.
·Send all images via email to clerk@southgateky.org
·Images can be in color, but may be converted to black and white for consistency.

Your Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____

Name of Veteran _____
Branch of military & rank _____

