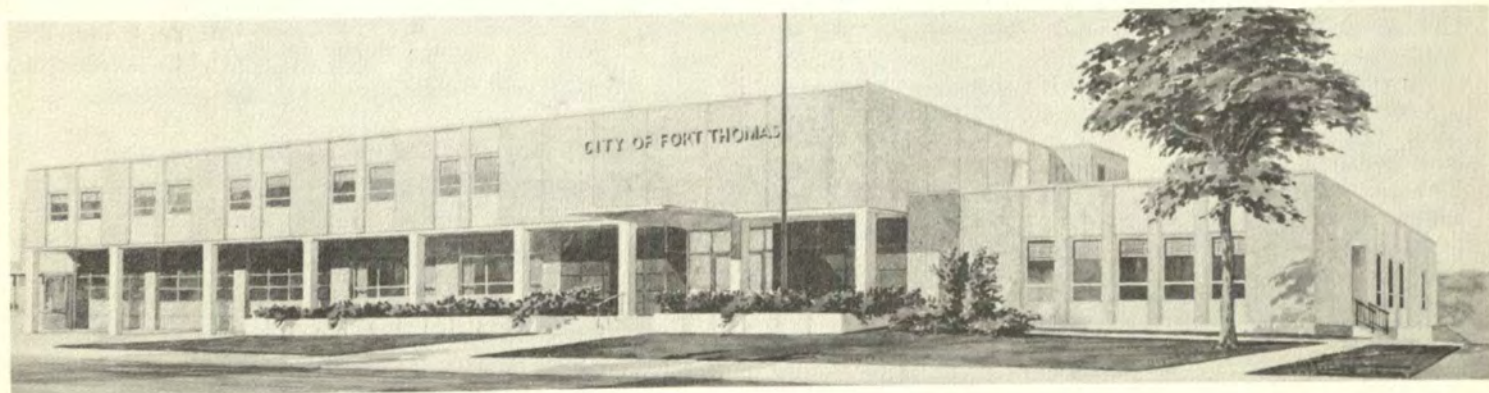




107th YEAR

The City of Fort Thomas, Ky.
ANNUAL REPORT
1973



"WE'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW"

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MAYOR AND BOARD OF COUNCIL

Honorable W. Bruce Ross was re-elected for a four-year term. Bruce is President of the Kentucky Municipal League (KML). The Annual KML Conference will be held September 24, 25 and 26, 1974 at Quality Inn Riverview, Covington. Fort Thomas has been a member of the League continuously since its organization in 1929. His father, several other past Mayors, Councilmen and other officials have been officers and directors. This will be the first Annual Conference in Northern Kentucky.

The Board of Council members were all re-elected for two-year terms except Clem R. Fennell who declined to run again after serving over nine years. He was replaced by Jack W. Greer. Other members are Robt. W. Bugie, Fred W. Erschell, Jr., Jos. J. Imhoff, Dennis R. McAtee and Howard W. Wendling, Vice Mayor.

FORT THOMAS "CITISTICS"

Inc. Dist. of Highlands		1867
Renamed "Fort Thomas"		1914
Area	Sq. Miles	5.43
Elevation — Sea Level Datum		450-850
Ohio River Frontage	Miles	4.3
Population		16,705
Number of Families		5,463
Streets	Miles	47.26
Street Lights		745
Fire Hydrants		345
Park and Playground	Acres	252
Sewers — Storm	Miles	17.802
— Sanitary	Miles	77.28
Schools — Public - High		1
— Elementary		3
— Parochial - High		1
— Elementary		2
Churches		11
Officials and Employees — Full-time		67
— Part-time		20

CITIES ARE WHAT MEN MAKE THEM

Cities are what men make them,
Wherever those cities may be;
Whether out on the desolate desert,
Or set by the surging sea.

Though they cleave to the breasts of mountains
Or nestle by rivers broad,
Cities are what men make them,
On the land that is given of God.

Cities are what men make them,
What men demand they shall be,
Slothful, sloven, sleepy,
Progressive, beautiful, free.

COMMUNITY

TANK

Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky received \$3.4 million from the sale of bonds in late December. This is operating funds of which \$381,000 was used to repay loans to-date. A tax of 2.6¢ per \$100 will pay for these bonds. This will mean \$5.20 per year on a home assessed at \$20,000.

A federal grant from UMTA has been approved and will be used to purchase 78 new buses and other related equipment. Bids must be taken and delivery will require about ten months with probable delivery in May 1975. Twenty used buses were obtained from Kansas City making 83 now in service. Fares were reduced to 25¢ for adults and 20¢ for school children. The number of riders increased 18% in December and 30% in January. Service has been improved with more frequent schedules.

NKSC

The Northern Kentucky State College is the most rapidly growing higher education institution in the State. The student body numbered 4,404 last fall with a faculty of 170 on a 300-acre campus. The third building will be completed in April and will bring the total cost of the three buildings to nearly \$14 million. A fourth building for Fine Arts is under design at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million to be started in 1974.

ST. LUKE HOSPITAL

The new \$6 million, 80-bed wing addition is progressing well. Other remodeling improvements will bring the total cost to \$9.5 million. Construction of a new entrance roadway off Grand Avenue was the first step taken. Completion date is scheduled for December 1974. The remodeling will provide ancillary services sufficient to support up to 400 beds in the long-range plan for the next ten years.

COMMITTEE FOR FORT THOMAS

The committee sponsors the solid waste recycling of bottles and tin cans. They are to be brought to the rear of the City Building on the third Saturday of each month between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Waste paper collections by the City sold for about \$3,000. Organizations which provided volunteer workers are as follows: Garden Club; Library; First Baptist, Christ, Methodist, Presbyterian and St. Andrews Churches; Johnson & Woodfill PTA; St. Catherine-St. Thomas Mothers Clubs; Optimists; Retired Men's Club; Ecology Club of H.H.S. and Lions Club.

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

The property at 155 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue (S.W. cor. Forest Ave.) has been purchased by the City. The cost was \$70,000 of which \$15,000 was a donation. The library moved into the ground floor on October 20. The second-floor apartment will be rented. The City will maintain the building and the Ft. Thomas Library Assn. operates the library. It is open to the public Mondays & Wednesdays 4-8 P.M.; Tuesdays 10 A.M.-Noon; Saturdays 10 A.M.-2 P.M. The staff are mostly volunteers. There is no charge for citizens of Fort Thomas. Donations are welcome.

AN ACCOUNTING OF YOUR MUNICIPAL FINANCES

1973 REVENUES

CITY TAXES	BUDGET EST.	ACTUAL
Real Estate	\$ 629,657	\$ 634,669
Autos and Trucks	57,000	49,731
Stock and Fixtures	5,360	5,076
Franchise	39,168	43,355
Bank Shares	1,505	1,505
Delinquent Taxes	7,000	9,427
	<u>\$ 739,690</u>	<u>\$ 743,763</u>

OTHER REGULAR REVENUES

City Automotive Decals	\$ 40,000	\$ 41,326
Alcoholic Beverage Licenses	5,350	5,368
Insurance Premium Licenses	75,000	73,810
Other Occupational Licenses	22,500	22,628
Municipal Court Fines	27,500	29,085
Rents, Buildings & Grounds	35,000	34,887
Building and Zoning Permits	4,000	5,191
School Tax Collection Fees	17,500	18,001
Police Radio Contracts	1,320	1,320
Recreation Program Fees		5,432
Waste Paper Sales		2,977
Interest On Treasury Bills	5,000	3,837
Special Boards Fees		1,698
Other Minor Revenues		1,645
Reserve Funds — 1972 Balances		
Emergency Fund	75,000	75,000
Capital Projects Funds (Reg.)	180,000	180,000

SPECIAL SOURCES REVENUES BUDGET EST. ACTUAL

State Gasoline Tax Sharing	\$ 73,913	\$ 59,634
Ky. Crime Comm. — Equip. Grant	2,250	2,250
Ky. Law Enforce. — Incentive Prog.	19,347	19,347
Special Refuse Disp. Contracts	19,800	33,610
Ft. Thomas Library Assn. — Gift For Bldg.		15,000
Federal Revenue Sharing — 1972	133,608	133,608
Federal Revenue Sharing — 1973	121,084	116,738
Total City Revenues Shown	<u>\$1,597,862</u>	<u>\$1,626,155</u>
Board of Education Taxes Collected		\$1,226,633

1973 OPERATING EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES	BUDGET EST.	ACTUAL
General Administration & Govt.	\$ 149,504	\$ 140,347
Police Dept. Operating Expense	267,611	248,240
Police Dept. State Incentive	19,347	19,347
Fire Dept. Expenses	165,439	156,255
Waste Collection, Disposal	125,800	119,546
Street Maintenance Expenses	88,125	69,820
Street Lighting Expenses	38,524	32,589
Sanitary Sewer Maintenance	17,700	9,198
Recreation Areas, Programs	72,115	59,334
City Building Maintenance	28,385	35,543
Welfare Expenses	500	0
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 973,050</u>	<u>\$ 890,219</u>

CAPITAL PROGRAMS EXPENSES

New City Building Debt Reduction	\$ 40,386
Tower Park Property Debt Reduction	12,500
Library Property Purchase Price	70,000
New Fire Truck Ordered, Not Received	—0—
Caterpillar Traxcavator Loader	53,174
Street Dept. Dodge Truck, Dump Body	6,741
Two 1969 Pick-up Trucks	3,000
Two Salt Spreader Units	2,466
Street Dept. Tractor With Mower	4,210
Street Dept. Chain Saw	215
Police Dept. Office, Photo Lab. Changes	4,587
New Sanitary Landfill Preparation	9,916
Insurance Premiums On Property	3,495
James Avenue Relocation — Material Cost	3,794
New Annexation Areas Engineering	584
Utility Changes At Tower Park	11,500
Ballfield Preparation	2,049
Tennis Court Preparation	1,610
Various Street Improvements — City Cost	12,288
Central Business District Study Balance	126
Sanitary Sewer Extensions	3,315
Building Improvements At Tower Park	4,237
Total Capital Expenses	<u>\$250,193</u>

IMPORTANT CITY DATES

Due		Penalty Added
Jan. 1	Assessment Date	
Feb. 1	Motor Vehicle Decal	April 1
Mar. 1	Homestead Application	
May 1	Occupational Licenses	June 1
May 1	Insurance Premium Licenses	June 1
May 6	Board of Tax Supervisors	
May 28	Primary Election	
July 1	Beer & Liquor Licenses	
July 1	City Real Estate Taxes	Nov. 1 *
July 1	Business Stock & Fixtures Tax	Nov. 1 *
July 1	Auto & Truck Taxes	Nov. 1 *
Nov. 5	General Election	

* Dec. 31 Second Tax Penalty Added

ASSESSED VALUATIONS \$123,951,610

Tax Rate	Per \$100	Distribution
City	\$0.612	37.62%
School	1.015	62.38%
Total	\$1.627	100.00%

NEW DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	1973	1972
Permits Issued	\$ 165	202
Fees	\$4,529	\$5,370
No. Single Family	35	42
No. Apt. Units	1	44
Total New Family Units	36	86
VALUE	\$1,208,350	\$1,565,100
Residence Remodeling	24	23
VALUE	\$ 95,820	\$ 74,000
New Business	5	2
VALUE	\$ 198,000	\$ 169,100
Other Buildings	100	91
*VALUE	\$6,232,175	\$ 209,892
TOTAL VALUE BLDGS.	\$7,773,345	\$2,018,092
Taxable Value Buildings	\$1,619,045	\$2,012,192
Buildings Razed	1	8
*St. Luke Hospital	\$6,100,000	
Zoning Permits -	49 \$ 526 69 \$	657

SUBDIVISIONS

Eleven new subdivisions, containing 46 lots and 6 re-subdivisions of 7 deed plats were approved and recorded in 1973.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Board heard 13 cases, granted 9 variances, 2 conditional uses and denied 1 variance. Conditions were imposed on all appeals granted. Mr. E. R. Morlidge was appointed to replace Hubert E. MacDowell who resigned.

PLANNING - ZONING

ANNEXATION

Ordinance 0-1-73 adopted February 5, 1973 provided for the annexation of 165 acres of unincorporated land in the I-471-Newman Ave-Water Works Rd. area adjoining the cities of Fort Thomas-Newport and Woodlawn. At the end of the year this matter was in the Campbell Circuit Court. About 66 acres of the better usable vacant land has been reclassified as multi-family on the NKAPC Comprehensive Plan. (A January 1974 court hearing resulted in approval of annexation of the major portion of the area.)



DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

NO.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	EST. COST	STATUS
1971	The Villa	1 Building - 17 Apts.	\$257,045	Complete
D-1-72	Kent Acres	2 Buildings - 24 Apts.	\$201,212	About Complete
D-2-72	Convenient Food		\$ 81,585	Complete
D-4-72	Sonsrena	Addn. 1 Bldg. - 32 Apts.	\$290,125	Not Started
D-4-72	Best Furniture	Store Addn.	\$ 6,500	Complete
D-1-73	Marathon Oil	Service Sta.	\$ 54,050	Not Started
D-2-73	Imperial Apts.	1 Addn. Bldg.	\$123,450	"
D-3-73	Spinks Est.	8 New Bldg. - 96 Apts.	\$	"
D-4-73	Gettysburg Sq.	2 New Bldg. - 31 Apts.	\$356,700	"
D-5-73	Long John Silver	Restaurant	\$ 69,740	Under Const.

PUBLIC WORKS

STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The Water Works Road-Burnet Ridge improvement started in 1972 was completed at a cost of \$18,069 of which \$5,113 was paid by the City, the balance assessed against the property owners.

The widening of North Shaw Lane-Henry Avenue-Henry Court was completed at a cost of \$23,410 of which the City paid \$2,540. The City also paid the cost of some preliminary work. The assessment rate was \$8.72 per foot. Both of these projects greatly improved appearances and traffic on these streets.

A section of James Avenue was relocated and paid for jointly by the City and the Fort Thomas Swim Club. This is one of the entrances to Highland Hills Park.

MUNICIPAL AID

Projects financed with gasoline tax funds through the first year's allotment under the Ky. Bureau of Highways are shown below.

PROJECT	BUDGET	ACTUAL
1. James Avenue - Partial	\$ 8,332	\$ 7,589
2. Burnet Ridge-Water Works Rd.	15,426	17,628
3. Henry Avenue-Ct.-Shaw Ln.	12,330	8,483
4. Asphalt Maintenance	17,250	15,074
5. Slippery Streets	15,200	5,183 (to 1/1/74)
6. Crack Filling	3,300	4,552
TOTAL	\$71,838	\$58,509

Two STATE-FEDERAL Highway projects under the TOPICS program planned for next year are South Ft. Thomas Avenue-River Road intersection and South Ft. Thomas Avenue-Alexandria Pike-South Ft. Thomas-Woodfill Avenue.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The City of Fort Thomas now disposes of solid waste from Cold Spring, Dayton, Southgate, and Crestview under contract.

A new roadway, including relocation of Four Mile Creek and a new culvert has been built at a cost of \$7,578. Other site preparation work cost \$10,358 in 1972-73 on the new 54.5-acre leased farm.



A new caterpillar dozer-loader was purchased for this work at a cost of \$53,174 of Revenue Sharing Funds.

INTER-STATE HIGHWAYS

1977 is the scheduled completion date of I-275 in the Greater Cincinnati Area. The Circle Freeway I-275 is nearly all under construction. The Ohio River Bridge at Brent-Coney Island superstructure contract should be let in the summer of 1974. The same date is expected for the last Kentucky section in the Highland Heights-Ft. Thomas Area.

The I-471 section in Campbell County should be also started soon. The Ohio River Bridge-Newport should be completed in 1975. The energy crisis could change this schedule.

STREET LIGHTS TO BE BRIGHTER

One hundred and seventy-seven incandescent lights are being replaced by 244 mercury vapor lights on 12 major streets at an added annual cost of \$6,379.

RECREATION

SUMMER PROGRAM

CLINIC

A nine-week schedule (June 11-August 10) of clinics in tennis, basketball, softball, volley ball, golf, track, bowling and badminton were held with total attendance of 2,673. Basketball and tennis drew the largest turnout. An inter-city tennis tournament attracted 125 players. A youth team of 20 girls and boys, age 10-16 played other Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati teams. Coaches were volunteers.

CANTEEN

The youth center was operated in the reconditioned Armory Building June 11-August 25 - six days a week 7:00-11:00 P.M. - Attendance 5,735, Average 89. Six dances with live bands were held in the gym. Average attendance 150.

MERCURY II THEATER

Fifty youth met 6 nights per week and put on 3 productions.

JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

The 17th successful season afforded about 1,500 boys and girls recreation under 220 coaches and managers using City-maintained fields.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

This league played at Winkler and Rossford fields with practice for 250 boys five nights a week with games scheduled Sat. A.M.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

The City assisted HARC in their program again this year.

FALL AND WINTER

The gym and canteen have been open Mondays and Wednesdays 7-10 P.M., Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 P.M. - 25¢ Adm. Attendance 2,300. Senior citizens Tuesdays 9:30 A.M.-Noon. Av. 15.

VOLLEY BALL

An adult volley ball league of 10 mens and 8 womens teams with 200 persons participating has had a very successful season.

GROUPS

Many organizations are using the gym, such as YMCA, Highland High School, Womens Tennis, Baseball teams, Drum & Bugle Corps., Square Dance, Churches, etc.



IMPROVEMENTS made in 1973 include Armory Building interior - Gym & Canteen and utility changes. Other improvements planned or in progress include the following: Six tennis courts - estimated cost \$52,500; baseball-football field; Armory Building - locker room, crafts room and entrance improvement.

The BOR 50% Federal Grant for \$132,500 has been approved.

INTER-CHURCH VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Seven churches cooperated to operate the program June 18-29 for 367 children under 72 teachers with 86 teen-age helpers. Christ, Christian, Episcopal Methodist, Presbyterian, and two Roman Catholic churches participated.

RANDOM NOTES

CALENDAR - LICENSE AND TAX DATES

January 1	Tax Assessment Date
February 1	Motor Vehicle Decal Tax due
April 1	Motor Vehicle Decal Tax delinquent - penalty
May 1	Insurance Tax due
May 1	Occupational Tax due
May 6-10	('74) Board of Tax Supervisors meet
June 1	Occupational Tax delinquent - penalty
June 1	Insurance Tax delinquent - penalty
June 1	Alcoholic Beverage License due
July 15	Real Estate - stock & fixture tax due
November 1	Real Estate - stock & fixture tax delinquent - penalty 5%
January 1	('75) Additional penalty of 5% on all delinquent ad valorem taxes

OTHER DATES

1st and 3rd Monday - Board of Council meets at 8:00 P.M.

3rd Wednesday - Jan., March, May, July, Sept. and Nov.

Planning Commission meets at 4:30 P.M.

Other Boards and Commissions meet on call.

CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY

A recent study of City-owned property gives the following facts:

Number of parcels 21 - Acres 270.38

This is part of the City's assets and will continue to increase in value. Most of the land is open space park and recreation land.

PERMITS AND LICENSES

Information on City Regulations is given here in response to frequent inquiries:

1. A **BUILDING PERMIT** is required:
 - (a) To erect or remodel any building interior or exterior - plans required. (Zoning conditions have to be met.)
 - (b) To erect a fence, wall or sign - plans required.
 - (c) To build or install a swimming pool - plans required. (A fence is required if depth is 18" or more.)
2. A **CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY** is required for any change of building use even though no remodeling is required.
3. A **SIDEWALK OR DRIVEWAY PERMIT** is required to build or repair a sidewalk or driveway approach on a public street.
4. A **CITY VEHICLE LICENSE** is needed for each vehicle regularly used in the City - See "Calendar."
5. A **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE** is necessary if you do business or offer a service in the City - See "Calendar."

ENERGY CRISIS

The energy crisis was recognized by Resolution No. R-11-73 adopted December 3. It calls upon citizens to conserve gasoline and other fuels by reducing speed and unnecessary use of electricity. This emergency could be a blessing in disguise by saving lives on the highways and making citizens aware of our wastefulness of natural resources. We cannot keep doubling everything every few years. We must learn to conserve and protect our environment.

CITY DIRECTORY

Boards and Commissions

1. BOARD OF COUNCIL

W. Bruce Ross, Mayor
Howard W. Wendling, Vice Mayor
Robt. W. Bugie
Fred W. Erschell, Jr.
Jack W. Greer
Joseph J. Imhoff
Dennis R. McAtee

2. PLANNING COMMISSION

C. E. Glass, Chm.
E. R. Morlidge, V. Chm.
Elmer Duncan, Sec'y.
Robt. W. Bugie
Richard K. Fritsche
David K. Noran

3. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Marshall J. Ney, Chm.
John Popp, V. Chm.
Elmer A. Duncan
John M. Long
E. R. Morlidge
Jas. S. McLane
Wm. E. Wood
Chas. H. Kuhn, Sec'y.

4. PLAYGROUND & RECREATION BD.

Gilbert W. Riches, Chm.
Jack P. Hagedorn, V. Chm.
Mrs. Richard Heilman
David H. Hudepohl
Ronald Pendery
Chas. H. Kuhn, Sec'y.

5. BOARD OF BUILDING AND HOUSING APPEALS

Douglas Munster, Chm.
Wm. E. Harvey, V. Chm.
Harold M. Allen
Richard E. Delozier

6. MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES CORP.

Dr. E. G. Heiselman, Chm.
Brent F. Peacher, V. Chm.
Alvin P. Miller, Sec'y.
Harry D. MacKnight, Treas.
Edwin J. Hengelbrok, Jr.

7. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

John Deering, Chm.
R. V. Anderson
John Bankemper, Jr.

MAYOR AND BOARD OF COUNCIL ELECTIVE — ALL OTHER APPOINTIVE

Other Officials

David K. Noran, City Engr.-Coordinator
Mrs. Thelma S. Schulte, City Clerk
Louis E. Arnold, City Attorney
Charles E. Bateson, Director of Planning
Harry D. MacKnight, Treasurer
Paul L. Lankisch, Office Manager,
Purchasing Agent
David G. Mahaney, Assessor
Hershel Roell, Bldg. Inspector -
Supt. Public Works
Donald R. Brindle, Dir. of Recreation
Arthur R. Heckerman, Municipal Judge
Edward G. Schmitt, Police Chief
Earl C. Reppetto, Fire Chief

CITY BLDG. 130 N. FT. THOMAS OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Sat. Feb. Mar. Sept. Oct.
8:00 A.M. - Noon

Council Meets 1st & 3rd Mon. 8:00

VISITORS WELCOME

PHONES

Adm. Offices	441-1055
Fire Dept. — Fires	441-0010
— Life Squad	441-0010
— Business	441-8393
Police Dept.	441-0300