

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**  
**CITY OF CRESTVIEW HILLS, KENTUCKY**

**JANUARY 12, 2023**

**MAYOR PAUL W. MEIER**

We have just completed another productive year in the City of Crestview Hills - 2022 ends my 24th year as Mayor. The City was still able to accomplish a number of project initiatives, but economic and supply chain circumstances have delayed some of them.

I am happy to say that our City survived the pandemic and services are still being provided at a high level that residents and businesses have been known to expect from our employees and contractors.

The following highlights significant events over the past year:

**Economic Development**

- The Town Center has lost very few businesses over the past year and weathered the pandemic well. Anderson Realty has been able to add new tenants, such as SOMA, Pet People, and Asiana. Other tenants completed or are completing renovations, such as Buffalo Wings & Rings and Bath and Body Works. Amazing Lash Studio and Restore Hyper Wellness are slated to open in 2023.
- The annual Business Appreciation Luncheon was able to occur this year. It's important to recognize all our Thomas More Office Park workers for their hard work over the past year.
- Crown Point continues to have home construction, with one home currently under construction. At least two homes were constructed in 2022.
- The City has been working with a developer to construct a high-end apartment complex at the end of Centre View Blvd. Kenton County Planning Commission recommended the needed zoning approvals to allow for 232 Luxury Apartments in this location. This will be called Centre View Terrace and will be adjacent to the current Grandview Summit Apartments.
- During the pandemic, the City lost a large call center employer on Chancellor Drive. However, last year we worked to recruit a business to buy the building and backfill that space. Whitehouse Freight LLC, a logistics company, moved into this vacant space in late December and is expected to hire up to 450 employees over the next 10 years.
- This past year council approved having Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDSKC) review the Cities current zoning code through a process called Z21. This process will start moving faster in 2023.

## **Public Works**

- KYTC continues to work on the engineering of the options for the improvements to Turkeyfoot Road (KY1303) and Thomas More Parkway intersection. The City worked to secure a commitment to construct a decorative wall to shield College Park residents from the planned Thomas More Parkway extension.
- Repaving on Summit Lane was completed from Dixie Highway to Dixie Lane.
- Drainage work was completed on Shinkle Road with repaving to be completed this coming spring from Crowne Point to Secretariat.
- Citywide Street Sweeping was completed three times in the City this past year, with main arteries swept other times.
- Just in time for the winter blast, new HVAC units were installed at the City/Police Building in December.
- The City named a new City Engineer, Mike Yeager with Prime AE Group after a RFQ process and interviews.
- The City started the process to convert all Duke Energy streetlights to LED bulbs, and also to convert streetlights on Thomas More Parkway to LED lighting.

## **Recreation**

- Trick or Treat at the Town Center, along with the December dinner with Santa, was held as planned.
- The City held three Concerts in June, July and August at the new venue of Thomas More University's baseball field. I want to thank Republic Bank, the Title Sponsor, Thomas More University, and other companies for their assistance.
- Work has continued to improve Centre View Park. With assistance of NKU Arts department, three metal sculptures created by Peyton Harshfield were installed in the park in October. Landscaping improvements, new trees, and sprinklers were installed as well. A new shelter – the Frank Sommerkamp Shelter - is expected to be installed this coming spring.
- In December, the City held its Annual Holiday Lighting Contest "Light Up the Night". Awards of Town Center Gift Cards were provided to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners for College Park, Old Crestview Hills, Summit Lakes and Lookout Farm areas.
- This past summer, the City transitioned management of the Crestview Hills Farmer's Market from the Town Center to the City of Crestview Hills. Thanks to Gloria Dei Church partnering with us to utilize its parking lot for the market. The market will return in 2023

- In October, the City approved a contract to construct a crosswalk on Thomas More Parkway to provide a safe crossing for Thomas More University staff, students, and faculty. This project is close to completion.

### **Public Safety**

- The Lakeside Park Crestview Hill Police Authority was able to add one new officer to its ranks this past year.
- The City renegotiated the building lease with the LPCHPD to incorporate maintenance costs into the monthly cost.
- In April 2022, Crestview Hills had new Fire and EMS contracts go in effect with the Cities of Edgewood and Fort Mitchell, which reduced Crestview Hills' cost. In 2022, Edgewood provided 92 Fire runs and 483 EMS runs for a total of 575. Ft Mitchell had 105 Fire runs and 271 EMS runs for a total of 376. Total runs for the entire City was 951. I want to thank both Cities and their staff for providing these services to Crestview Hills.

### **Administration**

- The City received the second of two deposits from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of \$433,000 in June, which was used to offset public safety costs.
- The City slightly increased its property tax rate to \$1.67 per \$1,000 evaluation. Crestview Hills still has the lowest overall tax rate of cities in Kenton County.
- The City kept its Garbage / Recycling fee at \$125 a household, which is still under the rate being paid to Rumpke each year.
- The City again received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Excellence in the financial reporting of our annual audit. This is the twentieth year in a row the City was designated as meeting the highest standards for financial reporting.
- In November the Council heard from our auditor, Chamberlin Owens on the 2021-2022 City Audit. The City received an unmodified (clean) opinion.
- In May, City Council appoint Mark Lehman to fill an unexpired council term.
- In December the City Council approved a revised City Investment Policy.
- The Tax Compliance Officer position has brought in over \$200,000 in delinquent taxes and fees over the last two-year period.

I am pleased to report that Crestview Hills remains financially strong and well managed. Our combination of location, low taxes, and first class amenities makes Crestview Hills a top location choice for residents and businesses. The City is well regarded throughout the region as an innovative and high quality community. We look forward to an exciting and productive 2023 – there are many exciting projects and initiatives on the horizon.