

Spring, 2015

PARK HILLS NEWS

From Your Mayor

First of all, I want to say that I am honored to represent the citizens of Park Hills as your Mayor. I believe there are few responsibilities in life more significant than serving as an elected official and I greatly respect this position of civic trust. Though my learning curve has been steep, the experience, knowledge and dedication of our City Council, City staff and departments have greatly assisted me during this period of transition.

Three years ago, my wife and I chose Park Hills as the place to call home and raise our family. Nestled amongst our quiet tree lined streets and extraordinary homes are our friends and neighbors. We love the proximity to Devou Park and downtown Cincinnati and all of the locally owned businesses on Dixie, and couldn't feel more fortunate to live in this close-knit community.

Over the next few years, Council and I will work closely to maintain the amenities and services we expect, while also looking for new development opportunities within our City. Continued maintenance and improvement of our roadways, infrastructure and green spaces remains a priority. We will also explore prospects to expand walking and biking connections across the city and have an established program (tax-deductible) that provides residents an opportunity to plant yard trees. These enhancements will enrich the beauty, health and long-term prosperity of Park Hills.

City Council and I are committed to establishing new connections across Park Hills as well as cultivating new relationships county-wide. Our police department contract with Bromley affords us the luxury of 8 officers (7 full time and 1 part time) who provide us with continuous experienced police protection. Our volunteer fire department is staffed with qualified personnel to assure residents they will receive excellent first response care. Our public works director ensures the quality of all road projects, maintains our green spaces and clears roadways of snow in the winter. Our administrative office employees are always available with a friendly attitude and willingness to help.

Council and I are prepared to face both the challenges and opportunities ahead, and with our collective experience and dedication we pledge to serve the residents of Park Hills with integrity, fairness and the compassion that each of you expect and deserve.

As my Mayoral journey continues, I hope to encounter many more of you as both friends and neighbors. I look forward to having the pleasure and pride of calling Park Hills our home for a long time, and hope every one of you do too!

Sincerely,

Matt Mattone, Mayor

YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT



MAYOR

MATT MATTONE

COUNCIL MEMBERS

GREG CLAYPOLE
STEVE ELKINS
L.F. "SKIP" FANGMAN

MONTY O'HARA
PAMELA SPOOR
KATHY ZEMBRODT

POLICE CHIEF

CODY STANLEY

FIRE CHIEF

J. SCOTT RIGNEY

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DANIEL VONHANDORF

CITY ATTORNEY

TODD MCMURTRY

CITY ENGINEER

JAY BAYER (BAYER BECKER)

KENTON CO. PLANNING COMMISSION

PHILLIP RYAN

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS

CHARLES MEYERS
DAVE FANGMAN

ROBERT SWEET
DEBBIE NEWTON

TREE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

MIKE CONWAY

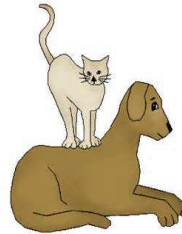
TBNK REPRESENTATIVE

RICHARD LANG

KENTON COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT MEMBER

DAVID GRAY

For the convenience of our residents, the city will begin collecting the vehicle decal fees and animal tag fees during the month of September to coincide with the collection of the city's property taxes.



ANIMAL TAGS

All dogs and cats must be registered at the city building. The cost is \$5.00 per pet. There is a limit of five pets per household. As the weather warms, pets spend more time outdoors. We ask that you please be courteous of your neighbors by keeping pets in their own yard and any dog barking to a minimum. Please obey the leash law and clean up after pets during walks.



VEHICLE DECALS

The city will once again be selling vehicle decals at the city building located at 1106 Amsterdam Road. This replaces the \$15.00 that used to be paid to the Kenton County Clerk upon registration of your vehicle. A removable window decal, which will be visible on the driver side windshield, is \$15.00 per vehicle and will be due every year during the month of September. Money generated from the sale of the tags will go to the upkeep of the city streets. All residents of the city must have a decal for their vehicles even if the vehicle is leased through your company and/or if you have out of state plates. If paying by mail please include your vehicle's year, make > model and license plate number along with a self-addressed stamped envelope so that the clerks can return your decal by mail. As of October 1st, a \$20 late fee will be added to the cost of the decal.

Citations will also be issued to those who do not have their cars registered. The citation fine for not displaying your vehicle decal is \$25.00. If the citation is not paid within 7 days, the fine is doubled with a \$10.00 administration fee added. Please note; you may be cited every day you are in violation and your vehicle may also be towed.



RECYCLING IN PARK HILLS

Your waste removal service Rumpke is offering one free garbage tote and one free recycling tote for the city's residents. You may order your totes by calling Rumpke at 859-472-7339.



---FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE---

TREES= PROPERTY VALUE INCREASES

City of Park Hills Tree Board

The City of Park Hills Tree Board completes its third year of the "Plant-A-Tree" program exceeding its goal of over 30 trees planted in the city. The program was established in 2012 after the Tree Board, Village Green and City Council approvals. The program was launched in May 2013 with "Plant-A-Tree" applications being posted on the City of Park Hills website. Applications are due in June of each year for Tree Board review and approval on a first come first serve basis while funds last. Planting occurs in the fall of each year after Tree Day in Park Hills. This year Tree Day was October 3, 2015.

This innovative program allows homeowners in the City of Park Hills to apply for a tree to be planted in their lawn at no cost to the homeowner. The Tree Board requests the homeowner make a \$100 tax deductible contribution to the city tree fund in return and agreeing to care for the tree. Homeowners have a choice of a number of trees both large and small which were selected as best for our region. For more information go to: <http://www.parkhillsky.net/index.php/city-council/city-of-park-hills-committees/>

Why are these endeavors important for a community? Trees not only add to the beauty and enjoyment of our citizens and visitors they improve property values and save energy. You don't want to wake one day and say what happened to all our beautiful trees so planning is important. The Arbor Day Association has published research on communities who have consistent growth in property values and a major contributing factor is a strong tree canopy. Your Tree Board's Ten Year Goal is to plant 1,000 trees in our city. This goal cannot be accomplished without everyone's support.

Your Tree Board thanks you for your support of the innovative "Plant-A-Tree" program and encourages everyone to visit Park Hills website and submit an application now for 2015.

We look forward to the continued growth of our city.

BUILDING PERMITS

As the weather warms, many homeowners look to do home improvements. Please remember, before you begin any project on your home you should contact the Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS); formally named the Northern KY Area Planning Commission. The PDS has taken over the issuing of permits for the City of Park Hills.

You can call them at 859-331-8980 or check out their website at www.pdskc.org.

The site gives you information about fees, what projects need permits and how to obtain them. Please note: the police department can issue a Stop Work Order until the proper permits are filed for your project. Also remember, your outdoor projects may affect your neighbors around you. Please consider how your project may change the direction of water flow or create other potential nuisances for your neighbors.

Please keep your grass cut and weeds under control.



MUNICIPAL INSURANCE TAX

As many of you may have noticed, the city charges a 10% municipal insurance tax on insurance premiums. The City of Covington will be raising their insurance tax to 12% on July 1st. Since we share the zip code of 41011 with some of Covington, we encourage our residents to check their insurance bills to make sure they are not being charged a higher rate than 10%. If your insurance bill charges Covington's 12% rate, or you have any other questions regarding the tax, please call your insurance company.

By Fire Chief John Rigney

As warm weather is approaching, so is the yearly task of spring cleaning. Many of your yards may be littered with sticks and remnants of winter's fury. While it may be tempting to just pile these up and burn them, you must first consider a few regulations. First, try and minimize the burning of any material in the environment. Consider placing items in the trash or other disposal method. Limited Open Burning is permissible in the City of Park Hills only between the months of October and April and must follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Only sticks, twigs or limbs may be burned- (NO construction debris, trash, or treated lumber).
- ✓ All burning must be at least 50ft. from any structure, and have a water hose readily available.
- ✓ Burning is not permitted during high winds or declared Fire Emergency.
- ✓ NO leaves may be burned at any time.
- ✓ Fires creating a nuisance or producing excessive amounts of smoke will not be permitted.
- ✓ Any fire shall not be in excess of 3' x 3'.
- ✓ Open burning other than commercially made fire places shall cease by 6 PM.
- ✓ Fires must never be left unattended.
- ✓ Notify the Park Hills Fire Department prior to Any Open burning other than Outdoor fireplaces

The KY Division of Air Quality restricts ALL open burning between the months of May and September in the State of Kentucky. For additional information please see www.air.ky.gov.

Recreational fires in commercially made outdoor metal fireplaces and chimeras are permitted within the city throughout the year. However, please remember they are subject to the above guidelines.

ANY fire will be subject to extinguishment if found to be causing an unnecessary disturbance to the neighborhood. PLEASE be courteous to your neighbors.

Also, as we spring forward, please remember to test your smoke detectors and change the batteries. If you require assistance or have any questions concerning open burning regulations or smoke detectors please contact the Park Hills Fire Department at 431-4333.

For additional information please visit www.parkhillfire.com



Figure 1 Commercially made Outdoor Fireplace

BECOME A MEMBER!

As part of our 2015 Recruitment Drive, the Park Hills Fire Department would like to reach out to our residents. Since 1942, citizens of Park Hills have been providing volunteer fire protection to their city and surrounding cities. We are seeking more residents to become part of this tradition. Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a great way to give back to your community. No prior experience is necessary, and the department provides all training, uniforms and equipment at no cost.

70% of all firefighters nationwide are volunteers; however, every volunteer department operates differently. In Park Hills, in the event of an emergency call, members typically respond to the firehouse from home, then proceed to the scene with PHFD equipment. Training drills are conducted once a week, with the opportunity for additional training available if desired. A common reason qualified applicants choose not to volunteer is because they don't have enough time. While members are encouraged to attend drills as much as possible, weekly attendance is not mandatory. We realize that we all have everyday responsibilities and obligations. Currently, our active members range in age from 18-65. We are students, parents, "9-5'ers," and everything in between. The trait we have in common is our desire to give back to our community.

In its simplest form, the Park Hills Fire Department is a group of neighbors helping one another in their time of need. Once joined, members become part of a tight-knit fraternity who spend time together at department social functions, training events, and even outside the FD. We are currently seeking applicants that live within city limits, or within a reasonable response distance to the city. For more information, we encourage you to contact us by phone at 859-431-4333, by email at parkhillfire@live.com, or by finding us on Facebook through a general search for Park Hills Fire Department. Those interested can also feel free to stop by the firehouse on any Tuesday night during training drills.

PARK HILLS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

In order to establish swift and reliable communication with our residents, the city of Park Hills is establishing an emergency communication system. This system will be employed to notify residents of snow emergencies, municipal services such as street cleaning or sanitation pickup schedule changes or police notifications. We are encouraging all residents to fill out the contact form below and provide the City with your communication preference. Please return this form via email to Julie Alig (jalig@parkhillsky.net) or drop it off in the City Clerk's office or mail it to the City Clerk at:

**City of Park Hills, KY
1106 Amsterdam Road
Park Hills. KY 41011**

This information will be maintained in confidence by the City and used solely for emergency communication purposes.

Name:	
Address:	
Email:	
Cell Phone:	
Home Phone:	
Preferred Contact Method:	

Please note: if there is more than one driver in your household, please provide their contact information also. This will allow the City to efficiently notify residents of emergencies that require residents to use off street parking. This will greatly facilitate snow removal.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Alig, City Clerk at 859-431-6252. The City of Park Hills thanks you in advance for your cooperation and participation in the Park Hills Emergency Communication System.

Save the Date: Monday, May 25th

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Park Hills Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the Park Hills Civic Association and the City of Park Hills. The parade starts at 11:30am at Notre Dame Academy and concludes at Trolley Park with a flag raising ceremony and a tribute to our Grand Marshals, Don and Missy Catchen.

Citizens of all ages are encouraged to join in the parade and we especially encourage participation from our local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops as well as all school-related groups. We are also actively seeking participants who have a convertible they could ride in the parade and for people who would be available to help with set up and tear down duties.

If you are interested in joining, or have questions, please send an e-mail to parade@phcahub.org. We look forward to seeing you at the parade!



City of Park Hills
1106 Amsterdam Road
Park Hills, KY 41011

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
DATAMARK

Contact Information

Park Hills City Building	(859) 431-6252
Park Hills Civic Assn.	hub@phcahub.org
Park Hills Fire Dept.	(859) 431-4333
Park Hills Police Dept.	(859) 431-6172
Park Hills Public Works	(859) 431-3396
Park Hills Contact	jalig@parkhillsky.net

