



# THE CITY OF PARK HILLS NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 2016  
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## Mayor's Update



Past, present, and future continue to live robustly together in Park Hills; as summer fades into autumn, we find ourselves in the midst of another season of change. And once again, I want to say what an honor it is to represent the citizens of Park Hills as your Mayor.

Just over four years ago, my wife and

I chose Park Hills as the place to call home and raise our family. Nestled amongst our sinuous tree-lined streets and extraordinary homes are the folks we call our friends and neighbors; we couldn't feel more fortunate to have discovered such a beautiful and close-knit community.

Since Park Hills' inception, around 1924, our founders, the Lee & Simmons Development Co., sought to create Park Hills as a community known for its connections to the natural landscape and proximity to city conveniences.

Now, nearly 100 years later, their objectives have been largely met; Park Hills is noted as being one of Kentucky's most beautiful cities.

Council and I have worked dutifully together to preserve the existing charm of Park Hills, while continuing to seek new opportunities to improve and enhance our allure for current and new residents.

Some of our successes this year include:

- Implementation of capital road improvement and infrastructure projects, with several additional projects being reviewed for next year.
- Enhancement of public sidewalks and paths to increase the walkability across the City.
- Secured \$1.13 million in the State Biennium Budget to complete sidewalks from N. Arlington into Covington.
- Enhanced official City communications delivered by the police department via the Kentucky League of Cities REACH Alert System.
- Procurement of a digital messaging board at the intersection of S. Arlington and Dixie Highway, with generous financial support from the Fire Department.
- Launching of the web-based Open.Gov platform to transparently link elected officials and citizens alike, with City data.
- Tree Board funding to assist with the replanting of City street trees.
- Over \$600,000 in savings in the City's cash reserves accumulated by the continued vigilance of the Financial Oversight Committee.

- Comprehensively reviewing and updating our residential infill development controls as well as our Planning and Zoning policies.
- Collaborating with Covington and Planning and Development Services to redevelop the Gateway and old Park Hills School property.

*"I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty."*

I Believe, John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Nearly two years ago, motivated by my affection for Park Hills, I recognized a call to action as a citizen, and volunteered to serve our community. With local, state and national elections upon us, it is once again our responsibility to both answer that call of duty and fulfill our obligation to vote.

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 openness that each of you expect and deserve.

As this 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!

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. I can be reached personally, by leaving a message at **859-816-3061** or [mmatttone@parkhillsky.net](mailto:mmatttone@parkhillsky.net).

I am proud to serve as your mayor, and please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matt Matttone, Mayor

# In Memory of a Park Hills Champion

## **Councilman Skip Fangman**

On July 3, 2016, Park Hills lost a councilman, friend, volunteer and champion when Skip Fangman passed. Skip was a devoted steward of Park Hills. He worked tirelessly to make Park Hills the great place it is to live. The accomplishments of Skip and his wife Millie run the gambit from the construction of the Public Works building to the establishment of Trolley Park.

The Tree Board will honor Skip Fangman with a memorial tree planted near the play area of Trolley Park. It will be commemorated with a memorial boulder. The tree will be a native Yellowwood – a lovely shade tree that has a panicle like white spring bloom and spectacular autumn color.

Council selected Skip Fangman's replacement, as required by Kentucky law, at the July 28, 2016 Special Meeting after interviewing publicly two applicants: Mark Cooper and Jason Reser. Council chose Mark Cooper who will fulfill Skip Fangman's term of office. Mr. Cooper was appointed by Mayor Mattone to the Communications Committee and Personnel Committee.



**Mr. Leonard "Skip" Fangman**  
October 13, 1934 - July 3, 2016

## CITY CLERK'S UPDATE



By Julie Alig

### IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The tax bills for the City of Park Hills for 2016 were sent out at the end of August. Tax bills were due during the month of September and became delinquent on October 1, 2016. This year, tax bills were sent to the homeowners only and not to the mortgage companies. If you have not received a tax bill, please call the clerk's office at 431-6252 as a penalty and interest fee was added to all delinquent tax bills on October 1st with no exceptions. Tax bill payments are the responsibility of the property/homeowner.

Property owners 65 years of age, or older, are entitled to a Homestead Exemption on their property taxes. The current exemption is \$36,900 which is subtracted from the assessed valuation before taxes are calculated. It reduces the amount you pay for city and county taxes. You must live at the address in order to qualify for the exemption. In addition, the law grants this exemption to disabled persons, regardless of age, if the disability meets certain state requirements. For more information, please call the Kenton County Property Valuation (PVA) office at (859) 392-1750, or to apply.

The city clerks are not able to make adjustments to your tax bill such as assessment amounts or address changes. These changes are also handled by the PVA.

To remove a deceased person's name from the tax bill, the following criteria must be met:

- ❖ The survivor's name must appear on the deed as an owner and state right of survivorship.
- ❖ A copy of the death certificate must be provided.

This information allows the name to be removed from the tax bill only. A new deed must be filed to remove a name from a deed. For more information, please contact the Kenton County Clerk's Office at (859) 392-1650.

### NO PARKING DURING DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCY

Please be advised, there is no parking allowed on city streets during a declared snow emergency. A snow emergency will be announced on all local television channels and radio stations. The city's Public Works Director, or police officer in charge at the time, shall determine if falling snow, sleet and/or freezing rain requires that parking be restricted in order to plow and clean the streets. A snow accumulation of three (3) inches or more will also constitute a snow emergency. It is important to keep the streets clear of vehicles so that the snow plow has room to pass streets safely and do an effective job. As many of you know, parking in the city is limited so having a plan in place beforehand will help to cut down on road clearing delays. The police department is required to enforce the snow emergency ordinance and if your vehicle is parked on the street during a snow emergency, it will be ticketed or towed.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### OCTOBER is Fire Prevention Month



Fire Chief  
Scott Rigney

This year's Fire Prevention Month campaign is; "Don't Wait- Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years." This is the final year of the NFPA's campaign to educate the public about the importance of smoke alarm safety. The reason behind all of their efforts has been to clear up misconceptions about smoke alarms and minimize the risk in homes.

Why do I need to replace my smoke alarms every 10 years?

It is required that smoke alarms be replaced within 10 years according to NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. They are not permitted to remain in use longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture. Also, the manufacturer's instructions for most smoke alarms state they are to be replaced when they fail to respond or after 10 years. Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms must be replaced when the end-of-life signal sounds or 10 years after the date of manufacture.

The bottom line is; smoke detectors 10 years or older may not function properly in the event of a fire. This can lead to a delay or no warning of a fire in the home! Even though they may beep when you press the TEST button, they may not detect smoke early enough to give an adequate alert. This means that you could be depending on an alarm that is not reliable.

To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm: if it is 10 years or older, the unit should be replaced. For more information please visit; [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

The Park Hills Fire Department also reminds you to use care with heating appliances as cold weather approaches. Remember to have your furnace and fireplaces inspected and install a Carbon Monoxide detector. Use extreme caution with space heaters and avoid extension cords when operating. For questions or any additional info please call (859) 431-3333.

Monday October 31st, the Park Hills Fire Department will be hosting the 62nd Annual "Halloweenies" at the firehouse. Please come and join us for hotdogs and soft drinks from 6:30 to 8:30.

For information on becoming a Park Hills Volunteer Firefighter, please call (859) 431-4333 or visit: [parkhillfire.com](http://parkhillfire.com)

## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



Police Chief  
Cody Stanley

We will be more proactive in traffic enforcement over the holidays.

We urge you to take advantage of Lt. Webster's email distribution and view the PH Police Department FB page as we share valuable information in a real time basis.

The work on the Trolley Park security system should start within the next month as we are just awaiting the final materials. Our hope is that this pilot program will prove successful and become the template for future systems aimed at continuing to improve our cities safety.

We are hoping to have our new updated body cameras (remember we were one of the first police forces in our area to have body cameras) and in-car cameras by the end of November.

Traffic studies are going to be conducted on Audubon, Lawton, and Park Rd to gain information related to the proposed Audubon Forest sub-division.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES

### COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

By Steve Elkins

- ❖ Business Meetings Venue Change- Beginning in January/2017 our regular monthly meetings will be held at Notre Dame Academy.
- ❖ Future Communication Meetings will be scheduled from the beginning of the year on a Quarterly basis so as to allow for ease of scheduling and drive engaged attendance. Other meetings will be held as necessary
- ❖ Alternative delivery mechanisms for the Newsletter are being studied, i.e.: email, website, etc. Methods on how to sign up for the various delivery methods will be communicated in the near future
- ❖ **“Meet the Candidates”** at **[parkhillslife.org](http://parkhillslife.org)**.  
You can watch interviews with some of the Council candidates. Note that this site is one that belongs to a private citizen of the city and is not endorsed, controlled, or managed by the City of Park Hills.
- ❖ We will be soliciting for Ads in the next and future newsletters so please be on the watch for more details on that initiative.
- ❖ **New Digital Sign** – City Council members decided a digital sign might be an effective way to communicate with our residents. After agreeing on the idea, Councilman Greg Claypole began researching various sign options. Council noted that the City of Fort Mitchell was in the process of replacing their current digital message board. Claypole met with Fort Mitchell city officials and expressed an interest in their sign. After various communications, Fort Mitchell offered to donate their sign to the city of Park Hills with the stipulation that Park Hills be responsible for removal and transportation of the sign. Councilman Greg Claypole, Mayor Matt Mattone, and Public Work Director Dan VonHandorf helped in that task. Next came an analysis to determine the most cost effective way to repair, modify and where to best re-plant the sign. After much consideration, it was decided to place it on the Southeast corner of Dixie Highway and Arlington. Council members Pam Spoor, Monte O’Hara and Greg Claypole worked diligently to obtain the sign for our community. Additionally, due to a generous donation of \$5,000 from the Park Hills Fire Department, a \$7,000 savings from the reuse of Fort Mitchell’s sign and a savings of nearly \$3,000 in labor costs provided by our city officials, the total out of pocket cost for Park Hills will be \$11,705. The city is working to place the sign before winter with the hope of sharing upcoming events, snow emergencies and important city messages with our residents.



### Finance Committee

By Kathy Zembrodt

The financial position of Park Hills is doing well. The budget shows that funds/reserves are up and roads are moving along. Our departments are doing well in maintaining their budgets and saving money for future needs. There is money in the budget for future lighting and cameras for safety, sidewalks to better access the main highway and maintaining our parks. A thanks goes out to All residents and employees of Park Hills.



## PARKS, BEAUTIFICATION AND RECREATION

By Pam Spoor

Through the hard work, skill and generosity of Greg Claypole, Louise Claypole and their daughters Holly, Jill and Amy, Trolley Park became home to the “Little Library”. It is a charming addition to our park located near the children’s play area. It contains books which may be taken, read and returned or replaced with new books. It is very popular with both children and parents. My little granddaughter found a treasure of a book there and looks forward to checking the Little Library every time we visit the park. The Little Library encourages reading, sharing and generosity. Books are being donated in honor of Park Hills residents and we are most appreciative.



We are seeking ways in which to provide green recreation space to the South side of Park Hills and ways in which to fund it such as grant opportunities. We are also looking for additional volunteers for maintenance of city public areas. Anyone willing to serve our community in this way can contact Pam Spoor or Julie Alig, City Clerk. Your time and talent will be much appreciated.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

By Steve Elkins

We have met and discussed the procedures for adopting updated personnel policies. We have reviewed a lot of the personnel policies from various local cities and those in our own city. We gained invaluable assistance from the NKAAD as they have the staff with the experience and scope to provide a well crafted policy.

We have met with the employees of the city to get their input before making any final decisions.

This has been a long and tedious procedure and our target is to be able to start to adopt the new policy at the November Business Meeting.

Thank you.

## PUBLIC WORKS



### LEAF PICK UP AT YOUR RESIDENCE

The City's Public Works Department has purchased a leaf vacuum to attach to the City's truck. This will allow the City to schedule leaf pickups for residents of Park Hills.

The cost is **\$35 per residence per pick up**. We ask that you rake your leaves to the curb  
**(not into the street)**

To take advantage of this service, please bring a check, cash or money order to the City Clerk's office. Office hours are

Monday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

You may call the clerk at 859-431-6252 if you have questions.

You may also mail your payment to:

City of Park Hills

1106 Amsterdam Road

**Please give the date you want your leaves picked up with your check**

If you are interested in having yard debris (sticks, twigs, etc.) picked up, please contact our Public Works Director, Dan VonHandorf at 859-486-9541

## ORGANIZATION UPDATES

### PARK HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

*Please see the informative insert from the Civic Association included with your newsletter.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Hills City Building (859) 431-6252

Park Hills Civic Assn. [hub@phcahub.org](mailto:hub@phcahub.org)

Park Hills Fire Dept. (859) 431-4333

Park Hills Police Dept. (859) 431-6172

Park Hills Public Works (859) 486-9541

Please contact the City Building @ (859) 431 6252 or via email [jalog@parkhillsky.net](mailto:jalog@parkhillsky.net) with your mailing preference or with any comments or suggestions