



THE CITY OF PARK HILLS NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 2012

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MAYOR'S UPDATE



By Mayor Don Catchen

Financial Report

We are refinancing the City's debt to obtain a lower interest rate which will save money and enable us to pay off our debts more quickly. In fact, we will be able to pay off the fire truck loan a year early. Our budget is on target for the year. There is a summary of the year to date budget information included in the newsletter. That information is also available on the City's website. By being frugal, we have been able to save approximately \$100,000 which has been secured in the City's Operating Reserve Fund. We will continue to accrue savings there to create backup for the City's fiscal needs and operations. Most importantly, we will place on the November ballot the permanent repeal of the Fire Truck/Economic Development Tax which will result in a .80 per \$1,000 of valuation tax reduction, if approved by the voters.

Police Department Report

Our City is being served by an excellent Police Department consisting of: Chief Cody Stanley, Sgt. Dwayne Cox, Detective Richard Webster, Officer Cyrus Harris, Officer Ricky Grigson, Officer Jack Prater, Officer Jeff Hagedorn, Officer Steve Giffords and Police Administrative Assistant Chris Heubner. Street patrols have increased and police have a higher visibility. We continue to upgrade equipment and training has been stepped up. The office exchange between the Police Department and the City Clerk's office was made possible by the Police Department's volunteering to move upstairs for the benefit and convenience of our residents.

City Clerk's Office Report

The City Clerk's office has officially moved to the ground floor so that our residents can walk right in without having to use the stairs. A handicapped parking spot located right outside the doorway will also help make it easier to visit the Clerk's office. The City Clerk will be working with a professional archivist from Frankfort (there is no charge for this service) to sort and archive much of our paperwork. This will allow us to make the best use of our limited space. Also, the City Clerk will be maintaining our upgraded city website. The hours remain 8:00am to 6:00pm for the convenience of our residents.

Public Works Department Report

The entire City Building has had the asbestos removed and new carpeting installed. In addition the City Building has been painted, including the Public Works garage and most of the interior. The Public Works Department worked to make the necessary improvements to the new Clerk's office and the new police office. This was accomplished with minimal expense.

Fire Department Report

The new generator obtained by grant through the Fire Department has been installed and is operational. It covers the Fire Department and the entire City Building.

Public Improvements Report

Duke Energy representatives, at the request of council, met with city council and residents to address concerns about excessive power outages. The meeting was productive and resulted in Duke Energy working hard in Park Hills to clear their utility line easements, update



City of Park Hills, KY
1106 Amsterdam Road
Park Hills, KY 41011
Phone: (859) 431-6252
cityofparkhills@insightbb.com

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MAYOR'S UPDATE – CONTINUED

equipment, replace transformers and install squirrel guards in order to minimize and shorten power outages in our city. This investment by Duke Energy was without cost to our city.

Public Properties Report

The property located at 1530 Dixie Highway is officially sold to Charter Oak Investments and the grant for \$124,000 which was used to relocate the sewer lines and

realign the roadway has been completed and we have been fully reimbursed by the State. The property will be used for a commercial purpose.

Finally, the City is in improved financial condition and we will keep working to make it even better. Council and I are working hard to make good decisions for our City. I take my duties as mayor very seriously and will continue to do my best for our City. Thank you.

Budget Data

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

	2011-2012 BUDGET	12/31/2011 ACTUAL	2011-2012 Projected	
General Fund Revenue	\$1,340,521	\$865,018		% Received 65%
Total Revenue	\$1,340,521	\$865,018	\$0	65%
General Fund Expenditures				% Spent
Administration	\$150,249	\$89,160		59%
Public Works	\$72,464	\$26,936		37%
Police Department	\$575,500	\$245,375		43%
Fire/Rescue	\$115,664	\$51,043		44%
Utilities	\$43,000	\$13,393		31%
City and Maintenance Buildings	\$24,000	\$21,258		89%
Capital Improvements	\$31,250	\$28,311		91%
Contracts	\$273,446	\$133,070		49%
Total Expenditures	\$1,285,573	\$608,545	\$0	47%
Revenue (over)/under expenditures	\$54,948	\$256,473	\$0	



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

❖ Welcome to the new incoming Civic Association Officers

➤ Carey Kruer ➤ Duane Kruer
➤ Jan Swendiman ➤ Jason Hiltz

CITY CLERK'S UPDATE



By Julie Alig

VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS

The Park Hills Vehicle License Tags were due in the month of February. If you have not already done so, you may purchase your tag at the City Building, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The fee is \$15.00 per vehicle (plus a late fee of \$20.00) and is payable by cash or check. You may also mail your payment to the City Building at 1106 Amsterdam Road. Please include your car's year, make and license plate number along with a self addressed stamped envelope so that we can mail your tag to you. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk at 431-6252.

ANIMAL TAGS

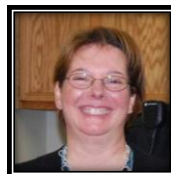
Animal licenses are due and payable at the City Building by the end of the month of May. The fee is \$5.00 per dog and/or cat. The city has a limit of five pets per household. Please remember to clean up after your pet during walks and obey the city's leash law by not letting your pets run at large. Also, remember that if your pet is lost the tag is a good source of identification.

*Animal tags are available now at the City Building so that you can purchase them along with your vehicle tag(s)

Concerning your Trash pick-up, we have kept the fees in line and Rumpke also has offered a free large trash can or recycle can. You can call to request they drop this off to your home. If you want both, the cost is \$1.00 per month.

POLICE CLERK'S UPDATE

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to our former office administrator Charlene Fangman, who has recently retired after more than 20 years of service. Thank you for your dedication and hard work Charlene. You will be missed!



Christine!

Stepping into her shoes is our new office administrator Christine Huebener who retired from the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport Police Department after serving as its office administrator for 22 years. Welcome

COUNCIL UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By Monty O'Hara – Committee Chair

The Economic development Committee has been working in conjunction with the Business Association to reevaluate the zoning along the Dixie Highway corridor.

The plan is to come up with a zoning plan that encourages new businesses to locate in Park Hills. We also wish to create an institutional zone for our neighbors Notre Dame Academy and Covington Catholic High School. They are currently operated in a residential zone as a non conforming use. This makes it costly and cumbersome for them to make even minor changes to the schools or grounds.

We would like consider the recommendations made by our recent Small Area Study that was done in 2009. Part of the Small Area Study includes a market study that will help developers determine what types of business will have a high success rate.



COUNCIL UPDATES -- CONTINUED

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Kentucky Historic Preservation State Tax Credit

The preservation tax credit is a wonderful resource and is available for all Park Hills homes located within the historic district and certified by the Kentucky Heritage Council as contributing to the historic significance of the district. To determine if your home is within the district you can consult the City Clerk who has a map listing the approved properties

The credit is 30% of qualified rehabilitation expenses and requires a minimum investment of \$20,000, with the total credit not to exceed \$60,000. In order to obtain the credit, a home must be rehabilitated according to standards set by the US Dept. of Interior and must be certified by the Kentucky Heritage Council. The standards are intended to provide guidance to historic restoration and include such requirements as :

- The historic character of a home shall be retained
- Distinctive features of craftsmanship shall be preserved
- Deteriorated features shall be repaired rather than replaced

The Kentucky Heritage Council reviews all tax credit projects for eligibility and standards. Applying for the credit is a three part process:

Part 1 is the preliminary application, evaluation of status

Part 2 is the description of proposed rehabilitation, which outlines in detail the work to be done

Part 3 is the actual request for Certification of completed work

Parts 1 and 2 may be done simultaneously. Photographic documentation of the project prior to the rehabilitation and at each phase of the certification process is required.

While the procedure might be a bit tedious, the Kentucky Heritage Council is very polite and cooperative. The available credit for significant repairs or a new kitchen/bathroom is a financial benefit that should be considered. A Federal tax credit (using the same criteria) might also be available to income producing properties, but not to owner occupied homes.

Additional information on the credit and the process can be obtained at heritage.ky.gov/incentives/.

All application materials are available at that site. You can also contact Mike Radeke, Restoration Project Manager at mike.radeke@ky.gov.



PARKS, BEAUTIFICATION AND RECREATION

Thanks to a generous donation from Gayle Sherman, a small, stone shelter has been constructed in Trolley Park. This structure is

dedicated to the memory of Gayle's parents and long time residents of Park Hills, Thomas and Alice Miller. Many thanks to all of those who have volunteered their time and expertise contributing to its construction:

- Eric Steva - Architectural Design and Plans
- Anonymous - Carpentry Work
- Tom Minning - Electrical Work

The structure was modeled after an original trolley gate in Park Hills which opened onto the Trolley Track and will accommodate many uses:

- Notify citizens of upcoming events
- Provide shelter for future entertainment.
- Decoration for various city functions, events and holidays.

Also, thanks to all those whose generous donations went toward the purchase of the nativity scene.



COUNCIL UPDATES – CONTINUED**INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Below are the projects that have been completed since January 1, 2011 and a listing of proposed projects for 2012.

- Alhambra - Installed new drain from low point of cul-de-sac to manhole
- Hamilton Rd - Paved and fix drain near Arlington
- N. Arlington - Old State to Hamilton. Paved
- Old State near N. Arlington - Paved swale on S side of Old State
- Jackson Rd. - Paved portions
- Cleveland Ave - Paved and installed curbs from upper Jackson to lower Jackson
- Terrace - Paved and installed curbs
- Hamilton Road Shoulder- E of N. Arlington - Paved swale
- Emerson Rd - Repair/pave bad spot on side of road near 1072
- 1530 Dixie Hwy. All work completed.
- Signed Storm Water Agreement with Sanitation District #1 (SDI)

2012 Proposed projects.

- Exter Drive
- Amsterdam Rd. -- Pave from Trolley Park to Montague
- Cleveland -- Install curbs, mill & pave from upper Jackson to Emerson.
- Audubon Rd. -- install street calming device.
- Preliminary design of a storm sewer connection to Amsterdam Rd on N. Arlington from Old State and up Old State from N. Arlington to Terrace.

PARK HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

By Carey Kruer – President

Hop on over and join us for the

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The event hosted by the Park Hills Civic Association will be held in Trolley Park on Saturday, March 31st at 10:30 a.m. If it is raining at 9:30 on the day of the event, the hunt will be rescheduled for April 7th at 10:30 a.m. Rain on April 7th will cancel the event.

No RSVP's are necessary – just bring a basket (and some mud boots depending upon ground conditions) and come join the Easter Bunny for some family fun in the park!

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

Please contact the City Building @ (859) 431 6252 or via



Park Hills City Building.

email cityofparkhills@insightbb.com with your mailing preference or with any comments or suggestions.

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DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our force is highly skilled and has in excess of 80 combined years of experience.



Chief Cody Stanley is our Police Chief. He retired from the Covington Police Department after 20 years of service. While working for Covington, Chief Stanley worked as a Detective on Major Crimes, as a Field Training Officer and worked traffic enforcement. Chief Stanley grew up in Covington, graduated from Holmes High School (1983), earned a BA from Thomas More College, graduated from the Southern Police Institute, Homicide Investigation, and graduated from the International Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland for Arson Investigator.



Sgt. Dewayne Cox worked for the City of Covington as a Police Officer and he retired as a Sergeant. During the time he worked for Covington, he graduated from the Academy of Police Supervision, Kentucky Law Enforcement Academy. While on the department he worked in Patrol and as a Community Relations Officer. Sgt. Cox graduated from Holmes High School and he served in the US Air Force and the US Navy Reserves. He was deployed while with the military for Operation Enduring Freedom and worked for the Department of Defense in Afghanistan as an Investigator/Interviewer. He was also an International Police Advisor, training police in Afghanistan.



Specialist Ricky Grigson graduated from Holmes High School and obtained an Associated Degree in Law Enforcement from Northern Kentucky University. He graduated from the Police Academy DOCJT in July 1999. He has worked for Boone County Police, Kenton County Police and has worked for the Falmouth Police Department for the past 8 ½ years with



the last three as an Administrative Sergeant prior to joining our department. Officer Grigson graduated from the Academy of Police Supervision in August 2010 while working with the Falmouth Police Department.

Officer Cyrus Harris began his career as a Federal Reserve Law enforcement Officer in 2004. There he was promoted to Corporal and became the department's Physical Fitness Coordinator and Sub-Machine Gun Instructor. In 2007, he joined the ranks at the Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement which later merged with the State Police. There he received Criminal Interdiction Training from some of the State's top drug interdiction officers and training programs.



Detective Richard Webster also came to us from the Covington Police Department where he worked for 20 years. He was a Detective on their department and started the Bike Patrol Program for the Covington Police Department. He served four years in the US Army and one of his duties was as a Special Guard at the Arlington Cemetery. He is married and lives in Covington.



Officer Jeff Hagedorn worked as a Covington Police Officer for five years then switched to the Covington Fire Department full time for the last 15 years. He holds the rank of Lieutenant on the Fire Department. He lives in Ft. Wright.



Officer Jack Prater has 15 years Law Enforcement service. He worked for the Ludlow Police Department as a Patrol Sergeant and as a patrolman for the Taylor Mill Police Department before coming to work for Park Hills.



DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES -- CONTINUED

PARK HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT



By Regis Huth – Fire Chief

I hope this article finds you in good spirits and thinking of Spring weather. I know the Fire Department members are anxiously awaiting warmer weather to continue hands-on training outdoors. Sometimes, the thought of training inside the same four walls during cold Tuesday nights can foster complacency. Therefore, anticipation of change is a refreshing boost for morale.

While complacency during the long winter months may surprise the best of us, the Fire Department asks that you keep a few safety tips in mind:

- Make sure your smoke detectors were checked and batteries were replaced during the time change in the Fall. Remember to test them periodically.
- Consider replacing your Carbon Monoxide detector if it's older than ten years. Detectors with digital readouts are most helpful and reliable. Most local retailers carry quality detectors at comparable pricing.
- Please do not burn your leaves. Burning leaves this Spring can cause one of two things; brush fires (which can grow quickly out of your control) or poor relationships with your neighbors (due to all of the smoke annoying them).
- Be cautious while driving during the winter months. Road conditions and frost or ice on the windshield should be an indicator to allow extra commuting time.
- If you have a fireplace, consider having it cleaned and checked before you burn to prevent chimney fires. Also, make sure to monitor the fireplace while in use and keep all guards in place. Never leave a fire unattended.

Finally, the Fire Department will be sending a letter soon seeking feedback. Please remember that the Park Hills Fire Department is a volunteer organization. Any assistance that you can provide in response to the letter will be greatly

appreciated. On behalf of myself and the Fire Department, we hope that you stay safe and healthy in 2012.

PARK HILLS PUBLIC WORKS



By Dennis Finke

Just a reminder to please get your cars off the streets when it is snowing or if icy weather is predicted. The crews can do a much better job if cars and trucks are off the streets and in the driveways. If there is a prediction of 3 inches or more of snow, a snow emergency will be declared. Anytime a snow emergency is declared you need to put your car(s) in the driveway. If you have questions about Public Works or if I can assist you in any matter please call my line at 859-431-3396 and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you!

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

Special thanks to the students of Notre Dame Academy for helping to wrap 1,177 boxes to support the St. Elizabeth Hospice Dove project. The project touches those families that have lost a loved one in the 2011 Hospice Program. Thank you girls for giving of your time and sharing in the success of this wonderful program!!



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An Important Message From Your Chief Of Police



**PARK HILLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
1106 AMSTERDAM ROAD
PARK HILLS, KY 41011

CHIEF CODY STANLEY

PHPD OFFICE PHONE (859) 431-6172
PHPD FAX (859) 431-5433
EMERGENCY 911
ERLANGER DISPATCH (859) 727-2424

Dear Residents of Park Hills,

Lately, there has been an increase of car break-ins in our city. Be assured, we are working hard to catch these criminals. In the meantime,

there are a few things you can do that will help deter these thefts.

- Protect your property by making sure you lock your car doors at all times.
- If you choose to leave your car unlocked, which I don't advise, make sure you don't leave any valuables (example: money, identification, credit cards, checks, etc.) in your car.
- Be alert! If you see or hear anything suspicious don't hesitate to call our Police Department.
- Pass this information on to everyone who might be parking on your street (residents, guests etc.).

In addition, I'd like to implement an email notification procedure which would expedite the distribution of, and inform you of important city information, alerts and updates. In addition to the police alert regarding car break-ins other examples of information to be distributed via this process would include Snow Emergencies, Street Closings and Traffic Conditions within our city.

Please provide your contact information and return to me either by the U.S. postal service, email (cstanley@parkhillspolice.com) or you can contact us at (859) 431-6172 if you are interested in being included in this distribution list. The Park Hills Police Department will be personally responsible for maintaining your contact information. It will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone.

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____

Work Phone # _____

I thank you for your combined support in this endeavor.

Chief Cody Stanley

Park Hills Police Department

cstanley@parkhillspolice.com

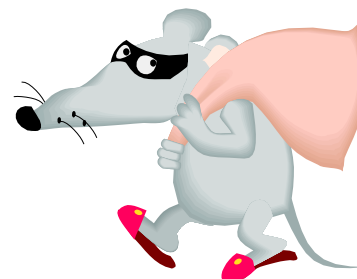
1106 Amsterdam Road

Park Hills, KY 41011

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'Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.'

~Helen Keller



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PARK HILLS TREE BOARD

By Mike Conway - Chairman

The Bad News!

We are losing our trees in Park Hills at a rapid rate! Our tree canopy is aging and we are losing many of our large stately trees each year to storms, disease and insects. We need to collectively act now to protect our community's historical investment and our own property values!

The Good News!

Did you know?



1. Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings. Our neighborhood is home to many old trees that serve as historic landmarks

and a great source of pride and enjoyment. Trees contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife.

Trees are essential to the eco-systems in which they reside, both above and below ground... Far reaching roots hold soil in place and fight erosion. Trees absorb and store rainwater which reduce runoff and sediment deposit after storms. This helps the ground water supply recharge, prevents the transport of chemicals into streams and prevents flooding.

PROPERTY VALUE AND ECONOMIC VALUE

2. Individual trees and shrubs provide value and contribute to savings, but it is the collective influence of well-maintained landscapes that makes real economic impact and has the greatest effect on property values. Direct economic benefits come from a savings in energy costs. Cooling costs are reduced in a tree-shaded home, and heating costs lowered when a tree serves as a windbreak. According to the USDA Forest Service, "Trees

properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating."

3. Property values of homes with well-maintained landscapes are up to 20% higher than others.

What can be done!

I am asking each resident of Park Hills to plant at least one tree a year in your yard. If every resident planted a tree we would have over 3,000 trees planted each year. Plant an annual tree for each family member. Your investment will pay off by increased property values, energy reduction and enjoyment. We can catch up. The fall and spring are the best times to plant trees. Search the University of Kentucky Native Trees or the following link for the best trees to plant in our area. <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/kytreewebsite/treeprofiles/treelist.htm>

Thank you!

COMING SOON!!!

WHAT: PARK HILLS TREE DAY!!

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 8th

- A selection of trees for planting.
- At special discounted prices.
- Organized by your neighbors.

More Details to Follow



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