



The Official Newsletter of the City of Park Hills

From the Mayor



Mayor Matt Mattone

Dear Neighbors,

As summer 2017 comes to a close, I'd like to reflect on some of our accomplishments over the last few months, and take a look ahead at some of the fantastic things coming up.

In July, we hosted our first Plan Park Hills Forum with great success. More than 75 residents participated! It was wonderful to see both familiar and new faces focused and engaged on an underappreciated community green space that's been aptly named the Amsterdam Valley.

Read more about this event in the coming pages—and look for future announcements about the next forum, Preserve, Promote, and Protect Our City, with an historic preservation theme.

As the construction season progresses, City Council and I have focused on making our city more walkable and accessible to all residents; this objective is already in progress. In late July, we connected our Park Drive sidewalk with the new walkway in Devou Park, creating a safe and seamless connection into the Devou Park pathway system. In just the last couple of weeks, sidewalk construction on Old State Road began and is moving right along. We're planning to add sidewalks to North Arlington Road and the State has budgeted to install sidewalks along Dixie Highway from North Arlington into Covington at some point next year. Learn more about future infrastructure projects in the following pages, too.

Another principal objective is the continued collaboration with the Financial Oversight Committee and Council, to focus and improve our city's long-range budget forecasting and reporting processes. Residents should be apprised of the anticipated capital improvement costs, as we plan for our city's future growth

and infrastructure maintenance. With the assistance of a professional financial consultant, we will develop and publish our long-range capital improvement plan as well as a cash flow analysis based on several years of historic data. While this seems to be a simple and necessary undertaking, we currently lack this comprehensive data. As a resident, you deserve to understand what your city services and our capital assets cost, and how we intend to pay for those expenses. These are both necessary and significant undertakings, and I look forward to presenting this information in the coming months.

There is still much progress to be made, and many opportunities and challenges ahead, but our recent progress is impressive, and I'm looking forward to our future successes. With two new developments underway and new economic growth opportunities ahead, your involvement really does make a difference. Council and I greatly appreciate hearing from you, and we intend to foster more opportunities to engage with our neighbors.

I sincerely thank council, our city's departments and professional staff, committee members, and all the residents who have come forward and contributed to the process of local governance in Park Hills. I also extend an invitation to all residents—come out and participate in the many civic events and activities that are planned this fall.

As icing on the cake—so to speak—this year marks the city's 90th birthday! To celebrate this milestone moment, our very own Civic Association is putting on the ritz with a 1920s-themed revival of the Park Hills Dinner Dance. I hear there will be a snazzy swing band, Model As, and decadent desserts. Read ahead for more details, and I hope to see you there!

Cheers to 90 years, and happy almost-autumn.

Sincerely,
Mayor Matt Mattone

Smiles & Miles 5K and the Second Annual FROG Hop

Jacquie Bauereis

On Sunday, September 17, St. Agnes is hosting the 7th Annual Smiles & Miles 5K Run/Walk in Honor of Maria Schaffstein, and the 2nd Annual Katie Stewart Memorial FROG Hop.

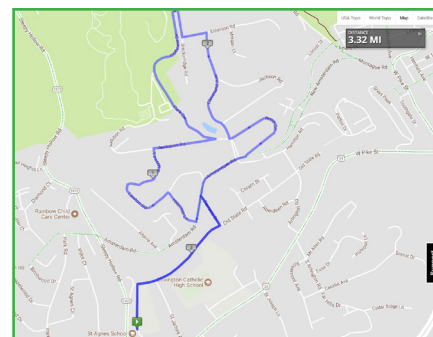
Smiles & Miles is open to individuals of all ages and fitness levels and the FROG Hop is for children 6 and under. Both races celebrate two young women whose lives were lost tragically. Maria Schaffstein was involved in an automobile accident in April of 2010, and Katie Stewart fell while hiking in March of 2016. Both women attended St. Agnes School and Notre Dame Academy, and their families live in Park Hills.

To register, please visit our registration page on sprunning.com.

Please note there will be road closures during the race. Roads will re-open once walkers and runners have come through. If you find that a road isn't shut down during the run/walk, please make room for the walkers and runners as you share the road.

Date: Sunday, September 17, 2017

Location: St. Agnes, 1680 Dixie Highway, Ft. Wright, KY 41011



Schedule:

2:30–3:45 PM Packet pickup

4 PM Race begins (promptly)

5 PM After-race party and awards ceremony with food provided by Skyline, SubStation II, and Oriental Wok

5:30 PM Katie Stewart Memorial FROG Hop

(children 6 and under- no additional fee)

Thank you—we appreciate your support!

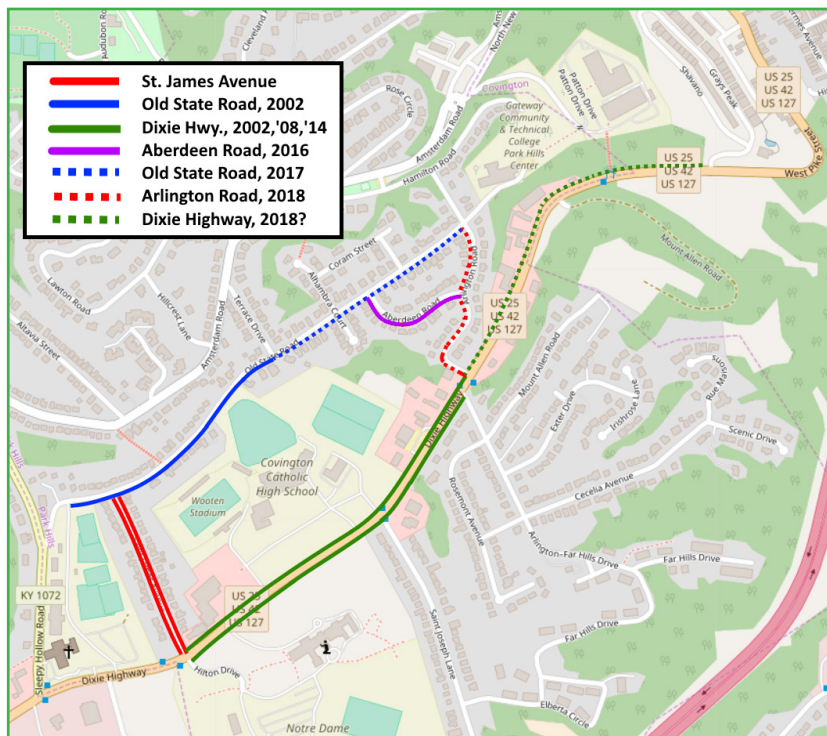
Walk This Way: Sidewalk Projects

*Council Member Karl Oberjohn
Infrastructure Committee*

The Infrastructure Committee is working to make our city more pedestrian friendly. Right now, the committee is focused on the area between Old State Road and Dixie Highway. This high-traffic zone includes:

- St. Agnes Church and Elementary School
- Notre Dame Academy
- Covington Catholic High School
- Many small businesses
- Several TANK bus stops along Dixie Highway that service a large number of riders

As far back as 1990, City Council has had serious discussions about adding a sidewalk along Old State Road, with a primary concern being the safety of children walking to and from St. Agnes Elementary School. In 2002, the first segment of sidewalk was installed, running from St. Agnes to Terrace Avenue. Last year, the Infrastructure Committee started making plans to extend the sidewalk from Terrace Avenue down to North Arlington Road. This August, construction began on this final stretch of sidewalk along Old State Road.

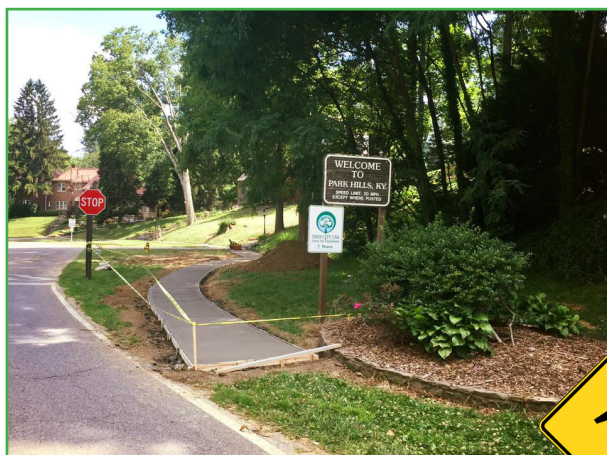


The completed Old State Road sidewalk will connect with the new Aberdeen Road sidewalk which was built in 2016, and with a new sidewalk on North Arlington Road when that street is reconstructed next year. The end product will be a 1.44-mile loop of sidewalks encompassing St. James Avenue, Old State Road, Aberdeen Road, North Arlington Road, and Dixie Highway. This will be a tremendous benefit for residents walking to one of the schools, TANK bus stops, or Dixie Highway businesses.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is working on plans to install a sidewalk on the north side of Dixie Highway between North Arlington Road and Gray's Peak—the main road of The Views community in Covington. This will be an extension of the sidewalk between Covington Catholic High School and North Arlington Road that was constructed in 2014, and it will complete the last stretch of Dixie Highway in northern Kentucky that does not yet have a sidewalk. The project is funded and managed entirely by the state of Kentucky, and we hope that work will begin sometime in the next year.

Meanwhile, just this past June, the sidewalk on Park Avenue was extended to the border of Devou Park, to connect with Covington's sidewalk servicing the golf course and new clubhouse.

The Infrastructure Committee is currently studying options for installing a sidewalk on St. Joseph Lane.



Residents Share Ideas for Amsterdam Valley at Plan Park Hills Forum

Lisa Stamm and Council Member Karl Oberjohn
Economic Development Committee

More than 75 Park Hills residents recently attended a public forum to discuss future plans for the area between Trolley Park and the VFW building, also known as Amsterdam Valley. The forum was put together by the Economic Development Committee and the Parks, Beautification and Recreation committee. Representatives from Joshua One—the owner of the former Gateway Community & Technical College property, Planning and Development Services, and the City of Covington attended as well.

Attendees gathered in small groups to discuss several topics, including beautification, placemaking, and infrastructure. They then shared their ideas with the larger audience.

While each group had unique ideas, the predominant sentiment from residents was to preserve the natural aesthetics of Amsterdam Valley, avoiding significant development while adding a mix of passive and active green spaces. The most popular suggestions included:

- Pathways.
- Plantings.
- Eliminating or concealing the public works material storage area.
- Active play spaces, such as agility courses or yoga in the park.



- A grand entrance to the city, such as a Welcome to Park Hills sign.
- Event and gathering spaces, such as an indoor community center.

Two commonly-held values are that Amsterdam Valley should:

- Be harmonious with the rest of Park Hills—incorporating stone column and trolley shelter designs in new structures or hardscape.
- Create a smart and visually attractive connection with Covington.

Residents were mindful of how new developments like the former Gateway College property are likely to affect Amsterdam valley. Many residents identified the challenges ahead, calling for:

- Traffic-calming measures, such as roundabouts at major intersections and new traffic patterns.
- Examination of the environmental impacts, such as hillside slippage and stormwater runoff.

- Assessment of the material and labor costs associated with building and maintaining any potential developments.
- Consideration of zoning regulations and existing utility Infrastructure such as power lines.

Feedback from the residents has been compiled into a report which is available on the Boards & Committees page of the city website.

City Council's committees plan to continue evaluating and developing the ideas established at this forum. As always, residents are invited and encouraged to attend committee meetings to participate in this process. The city also welcomes any comments or feedback on the Contact Us page of the city website.

Visit parkhillsky.net and sign up for safety and weather alerts through REACH alerts.



Avoid Faux Paws with our New Laws

Council Member Jason Reser

Everyone loves a well-trained dog. Even cat people! Due to a recent string of vicious dog attacks, Park Hills City Council reviewed the code to make sure our residents, children, and pets are protected.

Under §90.01 of our city code, vicious animals are defined in part to include “any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or domestic animals due to a known propensity to endanger life by an unprovoked assault or bite which result in serious bodily harm.” Additionally, “any animal which bites multiple times or to the extent of causing severe injury, and assaults or otherwise attacks human beings or domestic animals” constitutes a vicious animal. An animal is not considered vicious, however, if it acts in defense of itself, its owner, or another person.



Any dog found to be a vicious animal must be removed from the city. Otherwise, it will be taken into custody by the Park Hills Police Department. Any owner who keeps a vicious animal will be fined at least \$500. Additionally, the person may be imprisoned for up to six months.

No one wants to see a pet removed from its family, but the safety of all is paramount. Training can typically save a pet before their behavior becomes a serious threat. Aggressive punishment of pets only emphasizes aggressive behavior, rendering mistreatment of animals an unacceptable form of training.

We ask that you be courteous of your neighbors by being mindful of your pets' behavior and keeping them in their own yard, as well as keeping any dog barking to a minimum. Please obey

the leash law and clean up after your pets during walks.

Under §90.02 of the code, all dogs and cats must be registered with the city. The cost is \$5 per pet, and there is a limit of five pets per household.

Rake It or Leaf It

Council Member Jason Reser

It's that time of year again! The leaves are starting to fall and we want you to be prepared with an easy and environmentally-friendly way to dispose of your yard waste.

The city's Public Works department has a leaf vacuum that attaches to the city's truck so you can schedule your leaf pickups when you rake. The cost is \$35 for one collection, \$70 for the season, per address. To take advantage of this service:

- Bring a check, cash, or money order to the City Clerk's office during regular office hours.
- Mail your payment to: City of Park Hills, 1106 Amsterdam Road, Park Hills, KY 41011.
- List the date you want us to pick up your leaves with your payment—give us at least three days advance notice.



Call City Clerk, Julie Alig, at (859) 431-6252 or email her at jalig@parkhillsky.net if you have questions.

Prepare for your leaf pick-up by raking your leaves into a pile at the curb, not into the street. (Leaves in the gutter can clog our sewer systems and flood our basements!) Also, the drier the leaves, the better—try to schedule your pick up when it's not raining.

Grass in the Water = Algae in the Stream

Council Member Jason Reser

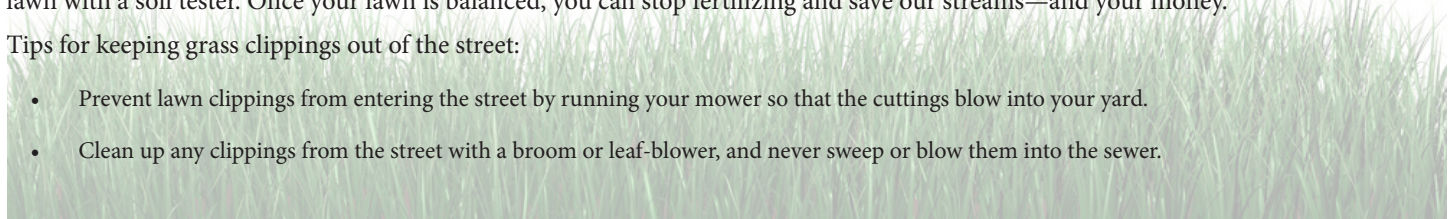
Tree cities require leaf care. Lawns require proper grass clipping disposal. Please keep your leaves and lawn clippings out of the streets and sewers.

Grass clippings that are left in the street can clog stormwater sewers and cause basements to flood. But it goes even deeper than that. Besides the danger of clogs, lawn clippings in the sewer are one of the largest sources of water pollution. The nutrients in clippings contain nitrogen and phosphorus. Just five pounds of grass clippings contains enough phosphorus to grow 75 pounds of poisonous algae blooms.

Phosphorus is also in fertilizer, and when there's too much in your yard, it runs off into our waterways. So it's a good idea to check your lawn with a soil tester. Once your lawn is balanced, you can stop fertilizing and save our streams—and your money.

Tips for keeping grass clippings out of the street:

- Prevent lawn clippings from entering the street by running your mower so that the cuttings blow into your yard.
- Clean up any clippings from the street with a broom or leaf-blower, and never sweep or blow them into the sewer.



The Park Hills Dinner Dance Returns, with a Jazz Age Twist

Park Hills is 90! Let's Celebrate like it's 1927!



Sarah Froelich

The Park Hills Dinner Dance is making a comeback! It's been more than a decade since the last Dinner Dance took place at Memorial Hall in Devou Park. It was long enough ago that it doesn't even come up in a Google search!

This year, the Park Hills Civic Association (PHCA) is reviving the dinner dance tradition. And to celebrate the 90th Anniversary, they will be celebrating like it's 1927! Partygoers are encouraged dress in your best flapper fringe and flashy pin stripes—if you like—then make your way to the newly-built Devou Clubhouse and get ready to kick up your heels while you enjoy:

- Dining on a delicious three-course buffet-style dinner.
- Sipping on wine and beer.
- Indulging in desserts by our very own Midwest Culinary School graduate, Helen Heil.
- Dancing to a LIVE swing band—Mickey James and the Queen City Crew.
- Learning to swing dance with George Hildebrand of the Cincinnati Lindy Society
- Posing for photos with a 1928 Model A Ford and 1929 Ford Roadster.
- Taking a chance at raffle prizes that are the bee's knees.
- More!

You don't want to miss this prohibition-era party. Call your fun-loving friends and invite them to join you at this not-to-be-missed event. Then make your way to the Civic Association's website, and get your tickets before they're all sold out!

What: The Park Hills Dinner Dance

Where: The Clubhouse at Devou Golf and Event Center, 1201 Park Drive

When: Saturday, September 30—doors open at 7 PM

Tickets: \$60 per person—visit www.parkhillssky.org to buy yours today!

Last day to buy tickets is September 23rd

Gangster Level Sponsors: Bayer Becker | DASH Property Management, Inc. | Granite World | Hemmer DeFrank Wessels, PLLC

J. Edgar Hoover Level Sponsors: Mark J. Schmerge, ChCF | Moss Dance and Performing Arts Academy

Elliott Ness Level Sponsors: Coslett's Carpet Cleaning | Patty Coslett - Huff Realty | DogWatch | Ft. Mitchell Garage | Ft. Mitchell Veterinary Center | Johnson ReSource Group | Joshua One, LLC | Reser Bicycle Outfitters | Cindy Shetterly Team - Keller Williams Realty | Sibcy Cline Realtors - Verandas at the Views | YOLO Fitness

Special thanks to the Park Hills Dinner Dance Committee, for all of their stellar coordination and creativity for this event: Rachel Dammel, Sarah Froelich, Helen Heil, Karen Oberjohn, Katie Rademacher, Liz St. Onge

Fixing up your old house? You may qualify for a Kentucky Historic Tax Credit

*Council Member Karl Oberjohn
Historic Preservation Committee*

We all love the charm of the well-preserved houses in Park Hills. Whether it's that quaint Dutch Colonial on the corner, the perfectly maintained Tudor in the cul-de-sac or the original Craftsman next door—these styles are part of what make Park Hills so unique.

Did you know that all the hard work and money poured into these homes could actually qualify homeowners for a Kentucky Historic Tax Credit?

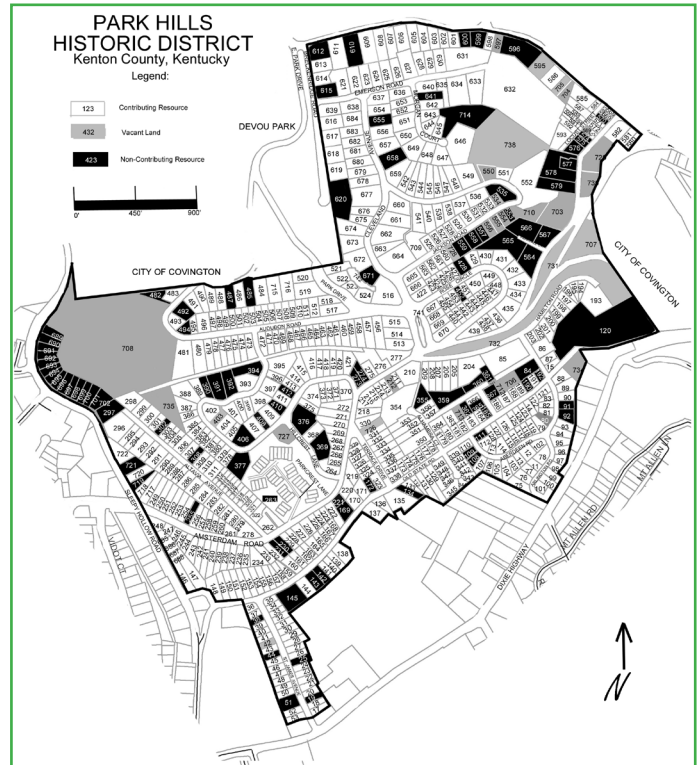
Ten years ago, the city's Community Environmental Committee recognized the value of preserving the city's historic architecture. Mayor Mike Hellmann and Council Member Ted Worland spearheaded a year-long project to create a Historic District within the city. This involved surveying hundreds of historic properties and submitting applications to state and federal preservation agencies. The result? In 2008, a large portion of the city west of Dixie Highway was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

What does this mean for you, and do you qualify?

First, a couple of definitions. Buildings that are at least fifty years old and have retained much of their original character are considered **contributing resources** to the Park Hills Historic District. Newer buildings, or buildings that have been significantly altered, are considered **non-contributing resources**. This map of the Park Hills Historic District shows all the contributing and non-contributing resources as of 2008. A larger version of the map is available on the city website.

If you are the owner of a property that is a contributing resource, your building is potentially eligible to receive a Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit for work performed to repair and preserve the structure. The amount of the credit depends on the total number of applications received by the state each year:

- Up to 30% of qualified expenses for owner-occupied residential properties
- Up to 20% for all other properties



A minimum investment of \$20,000 is required, and the project may span up to 24 months. The Kentucky Heritage Council reviews applications for the tax credit annually, and the rehabilitation work must comply with standards set by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Also, **participation is optional** in the historic tax credit program. The intent of the Park Hills Historic District is to encourage, but not require, homeowners to preserve the historic character of their houses. This arrangement is less strict than Covington's Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, for example, which requires that all exterior work conform to historic design guidelines and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from an Urban Design Review Board. Homeowners in Park Hills are free to make whatever style choices they wish when performing rehabilitation work. However, if the original character of the house is substantially altered, it may be disqualified from consideration for future historic tax credits.

Even if your project has already begun, it may still qualify for the tax credit. It is crucial to have photographs of every square foot of your house, inside and out, even areas that are not affected by the project, to document its pre-rehabilitation condition. A detailed description and cost estimate of the work to be performed, followed by the actual receipts and follow-up photographs, are also required.

The application process is fairly rigorous and requires multiple approvals, but it can be well worth the effort, particularly on large projects.

Interested in learning more? The Historic Preservation Committee plans to present a seminar on the Kentucky Historic Tax Credit application process as well as a Park Hills case study in the near future. The committee is also looking into expanding the Historic District to include the east side of Dixie Highway.

In the meantime, you can learn more at the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs page of the Kentucky Heritage Council website: <http://heritage.ky.gov/incentives>.

Trash, Recycling, and Donation Options for Park Hills Residents

Council Member Karl Oberjohn

Trash and Recycling

Trash and recycling collection service is provided to Park Hills homeowners every Wednesday morning by **Rumpke**. It is highly recommended that you use the trash and recycling containers provided by Rumpke. Here are some handy trash tips:

Don't place trash in containers without lids—this can attract animals and create a mess for you and your neighbors.

For large pickups or unusually large amounts of a trash, contact Rumpke by Friday to request pickup for the following Wednesday.

Mattresses and upholstered furniture must be completely sealed in plastic or they will not be collected.

For any other trash-related questions contact Rumpke at (859) 472-7339 for www.rumpke.com more information.

Monthly Clean-Ups for Bulky Items

Free monthly clean-ups are hosted by **Kenton County Public Works** at their Lincoln Ridge Park facility the first Saturday of every month from 9 AM–2 PM. This is a good option for disposing larger items, such as unwanted appliances, furniture, tires, and construction debris.

The facility is located at Lincoln Ridge Park, 420 Independence Station Rd., Independence, KY 41051. For more information, call (859) 392-1920

Annual Hazardous Waste Clean-Up

Neither of the above services accepts hazardous waste materials such as paint, cleaning solutions, batteries, or motor oil. The proper way to dispose of hazardous waste is to bring it to the **Household Waste Collection Event** on Saturday, November 4 at the UC Health Stadium in Florence (home of the Florence

Freedom baseball team).

For more information, visit the Northern Kentucky Hazardous Waste Action Coalition website at <http://www.nkyhww.org/recycling.aspx>.

Household Donations

Gently-used household items, clothing, and toys can be donated to:

Goodwill in Florence at 7855 Tanners Lane (phone # 859-371-1238).

St. Vincent de Paul in Crescent Springs at 2655 Crescent Springs Pike (phone # 859-341-3212).

Be Concerned in Covington at 1100 Pike Street (phone # 859-291-6789).

Donating Construction Materials

If you have removed doors, windows, plumbing fixtures, hardwood flooring, or other construction materials from your home during a renovation project, and they are still in good condition; or you have leftover materials such as lumber or sheetrock, please consider donating them to one of the local re-use centers:

Building Value (<http://buildingvalue.org/>).

Cincinnati ReUse Center (<http://www.reusecenters.org/>).

Habitat for Humanity ReStore (<http://habitatcincinnati.org/florence-ky-restore/>).

These organizations offer pickup service. Building Value also offers a deconstruction service.

Donating Computers and Electronics

Computers and electronic items can be brought to:

Cincinnati Computer Cooperative (<http://www.cincinnaticomputercooperative.org/>) on Saturday mornings from 9-12 or Wednesday evenings from 6-9. Computers that are in good condition will be refurbished and offered to low-income families, schools, and nonprofit organizations. All other items will be properly recycled.

Track It with eTRAKiT

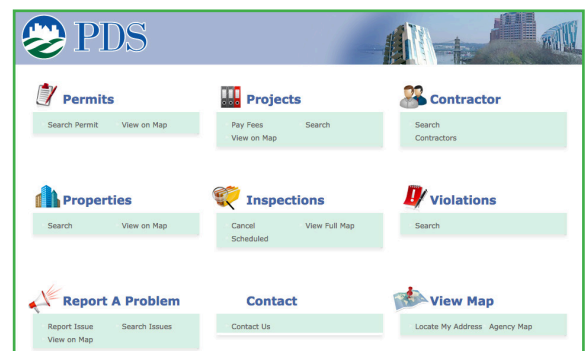
Council Member Jason Reser

eTrackit may sound like an online auction site where you can pick up returned electronics, but it's actually an online portal for many of our city's services.

Want to check to see if your neighbor has a permit for that new deck? Wish to report a zoning or nuisance violation? Look no further than etrakit.pdskc.org.

Planning and Development Services' (PDS) eTRAKiT system tracks permits, projects, contractors, inspections violations, issues and more, so you can look up what's going on near you. Plus, you can report issues such as nuisances, boat and trailer parking, junk cars, mud on the street, uncut grass or weeds, unsightly property, working without a permit, or zoning certification.

Share your address or remain anonymous. A PDS official typically inspects reports and, when required, sends a notification of violation. Most notifications allow two weeks for the issue to be rectified before issuing a citation or fee.





1106 Amsterdam Road
Park Hills, KY 41011

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 181

Resident,
Park Hills, KY
41011

Your City Info:

www.parkhillssky.net

Police Chief

Cody Stanley

Fire Chief

J. Scott Rigney

Director of Public Works

Dan VonHandorf

Mayor (2015-2018)

Matt Mattone

City Council (2017-2018)

Pamela Spoor

Kathy Zembrodt

Jason Reser

Greg Claypole

Steve Elkins

Karl Oberjohn

City Clerk

Julie Alig

City Attorney

Todd McMurtry

City Engineer

Jay Bayer

Contact Information

City of Park Hills, Kentucky

1106 Amsterdam Road | Park Hills, KY 41011

Phone: (859) 431-6252 | Fax: (859) 431-6410

City Clerk: j.alig@parkhillssky.net

Office Hours: Mo 10-6, Tu-Fr 9-5, Sa-Su closed

For all emergencies, call 911

Park Hills Police Department

Dispatch (for non-emergencies): (859) 356-3191

Office: (859) 431-6172 | Fax: (859) 431-5433

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8-3

Park Hills Fire Department

Office: (859) 431-4333 | Fax: (859) 261-3344

Park Hills Public Works Department

Phone: (859) 486-9541

Email: dvonhandorf@parkhillssky.net

Upcoming Events

Smiles & Miles 5K / FROG Hop

Sat, 9/17, 2:30-5:30 PM, St. Agnes

Park Hills Dinner Dance

Sat., 9/30, 7-11 PM, The Clubhouse @ Devou Park

Elliot Feltner - No Limits Golf Outing

Sun., 10/1, 1-9 PM, Devou Park Golf Course

Property Taxes, Vehicle Decals, and Pet Tags Due

By 9/30, City Administration Building, 1106 Amsterdam Rd.

Park Hills Pumpkin Parade & Hayride

Sun., 10/29, 2-5 PM, Trolley Park

Halloweenie Roast

Tue., 10/31, 6:30-8:30 PM, Park Hills Fire Station

Christmas in the Park & Luminary Night

Sun., 12/10, 5-9 PM, Trolley Park

The Park Hills, KY Newsletter is a publication of the City of Park Hills Communications Committee. Karl Oberjohn, Marty Boyer - Committee Co-Chairs.

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