



The Official Newsletter of the City of Park Hills

From the Mayor

Dear Neighbors,

As we pass the halfway point of the year and prepare for the dog days of summer, I want to share some of the remarkable undertakings of the city so far this year.

The Memorial Day parade and flag raising ceremony was a phenomenal success. More than 100 entries participated in this year's parade. It was my great honor to join you, as we recognized two very special Park Hills residents as this year's parade grand marshals: Dr. James Claypool—a distinguished veteran and renowned scholar of northern Kentucky history—and Elliot Feltner, who we welcomed home after a long and continuing recovery from his tragic car crash last year. Thank you to the Park Hills Civic Association, city staff, and numerous resident volunteers for your service and commitment to our Park Hills community.

Typically, summer kicks off the construction season, but we've experienced much growth already, both within the city and just across our borders. Work on the new Clubhouse at Devou Park is nearly complete, and we anticipate it opening in early July. Construction at the new Audubon Forest development should begin in earnest this summer, and will continue over the next two years.

Additionally, the hilltop property including the former Park Hills Elementary School and Gateway Technical College has recently been sold to the developer of The Views condos on Dixie Highway. We anticipate significant redevelopment in this area as well. City Council and I will work together with the developer and the City of Covington as plans are proposed, and we'll provide timely design information as it is made available.

We also have several road and sidewalk projects in the design phase. Bidding and construction phases are scheduled throughout the summer and we expect most of these projects to be completed by year's end. The Infrastructure Committee and I will announce the next round of public presentations shortly.

We ask for your patience during all this construction. I'm confident that we can resolve any issues that arise, if we work together.

The Financial Oversight Committee and I have just presented a very fiscally sound 2017–2018 annual budget for Council to consider. The budget is organized to support the needs of our city departments and ensure that your tax dollars are managed well. This budget is one of the most thoroughly reviewed and scrutinized budgets council has received, and I sincerely thank the members of the committee who volunteered numerous hours and evenings to work with me to develop this budget proposal.

Where do your tax dollars go? As a resident, you deserve to understand what city services and capital assets cost, and how we intend to pay for those expenses. To efficiently accomplish this, the Financial Oversight Committee and I recognized that we must develop a cash flow analysis to predict our long-term expected revenues as well as consider our future capital expenditures. To that end, I will work with the committee to establish a capital improvement plan and a road and infrastructure replacement plan.



Mayor Matt Mattone

This will be a new tool for Council and residents to understand exactly where our tax dollars are going and what we should expect in the future.

With the committee's recommendation, I have retained the services of a professional financial consultant who performs these services for several municipalities in the region. This data will complement our online financial transparency portal, OpenGov.com. We will continue to provide online financial transparency and analysis tools that present the city's revenues and expenses from historical trends to line item details. Please look for more updates and information in the coming months.

I continue to be inspired by the unprecedented level of involvement of our city residents.

- The Park Hills Civic Association has been very active and has planned a full slate of fun activities for the upcoming months.
- The Avant Gardeners and Parks, Beautification, and Recreation Committee continue to labor both behind the scenes and in the hot sun to make our city look beautiful.
- In addition to publishing this newsletter, the Communications Committee has launched a beautiful new website for the city—check it out at parkhillsky.net!
- The Historic Preservation Committee is working with local history experts to celebrate and preserve our city's history and architecture.
- The Infrastructure Committee continues the important work of improving our streets and sidewalks.
- You're invited to participate in the upcoming public forums sponsored by the Economic Development Committee to shape the future of our city.
- The Financial Oversight Committee has been hard at work developing the city budget for the new fiscal year and is blessed to have some distinguished finance professionals and three city administrators volunteering their time.

All of these committee meetings are open to the public, so if you're interested in any of these topics, feel free to come to any meeting you like. Meeting dates, times, and locations are all available on the city's new online calendar.

As Dr. Claypool noted at the Memorial Day celebration, Park Hills is "classic American town." Council and I welcome you to get involved in any way you can.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer. As always, please feel free to contact me or your city councilmembers if you have any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matt Mattone

Park Hills Website: Reflecting Our Community

My name is Marty Boyer, and on behalf of the team who launched the new Park Hills website, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your kind words about the updates we made.

Since the launch in May, we've had over 4,200 page views. This means our site is getting more views than ever! Also important to note, over 50% of our visitors visited via their mobile devices. Previously, our site wasn't as mobile friendly, so this is a welcome change. Equally important, committee members Sarah Froelich and Bob Amott made the content more complete and easier to find. We know this because visitors' time on the site has increased over 100%.

This is all great news! And we're not done.

Now we need your help. Please send us your Park Hills pictures (m.boyerparkhillsky@gmail.com) and feel free to share other feedback or ideas. We're proud of the foundation we have, but know that with your suggestions and feedback, we can continue to make our city site a resource that reflects the best of our community—and that's you!

Thanks again for all of your kind words,

Marty, Sarah, and Bob



Preserving Park Hills History: Call for Photos

The Historic Preservation Committee is pleased to announce we are creating an Arcadia Publishing history book about Park Hills. With a library of more than 12,000 titles, Arcadia Publishing and The History Press are the largest and most comprehensive publisher of local and regional books in the United States. You may have seen their sepia-toned covers at a local bookstore.

Dr. James Claypool and Dr. Paul Tenkotte are organizing the project and editing the text. Meanwhile, the whole Historic Preservation Committee is gathering old photos of Park Hills homes, people, businesses, fire and police departments, landscapes, and events. We know we need to include a minimum of 500 high-quality photos, and we want to include you in the project.



Here's how you can help:

- Check your photo albums, ask your neighbors, and ask your friends for old Park Hills photos.
- Bring them to the city building so they can be scanned.
- Sign a release so they can be used in the book.

Making a book like this is both wonderful for promoting all the great qualities of Park Hills, and it also builds greater awareness of our community, neighbors, and past. What a great way to celebrate our 90 years as a city!

Plan Park Hills: Your City, Your Voice

We want to hear from you. The city's special committees are working together to host quarterly public forums, called Plan Park Hills, where we'll focus on key locations around Park Hills.

The first forum is scheduled for:

Wednesday, July 19th, 7–9 PM at the Sisters of Notre Dame building (rear entrance), 1699 Dixie Highway.

This forum will focus on Amsterdam valley—the space between Trolley Park and the VFW at the bottom of the hill. Discussion topics will include:

- Beautification of the entrance to Park Hills at the border with Covington.
- The layout and use of the city green spaces.
- Alternative configurations and alignments of Amsterdam Road.

Look for a REACH Alert or check the city website for dates, times, and locations of future meetings.

We hope to see you there!

The Latest from the Fire Department

Park Hills Fire Department Celebrates 75 Years

In celebration of its 75th Anniversary, the Park Hills Fire Department held a members-only gathering on April 30th, at the fire department. All former members of the department—and their families—were invited to view historic memorabilia, see the changes made to the PHFD building and equipment, and reconnect with old comrades. The weather cooperated and the turnout was excellent.

Here's to 75 more years of serving our community!

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Park Hills Fire Department announces the passing of Assistant Chief Emeritus Ray Knochelman. Ray served our community for over 75 years, and was the last surviving founding member of the PHFD. His knowledge and devotion to serving others were surpassed only by his love and dedication to his friends and family. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. He will be greatly missed.

Our Newest Recruits

The Park Hills Fire Department congratulates Zach Elkins and Elijah Mays for successfully completing the Kenton County Fire Recruit School. The recruit class included 13 recruits from eight different fire departments, and lasted over three months. In addition to attending this class several times a week, Zach and Elijah have also been regularly attending PHFD training and responding to emergency runs in the city. Join us in thanking them for all of their hard work!

Assistant Chief Emeritus Dennis Finke

The status of Emeritus is given by an organization when a person who has retired from an office is honored by being allowed to retain their title. Assistant Chief Emeritus is a position of extraordinary distinction. It is a rare honor, granted in exceptional circumstances after many years of outstanding service. It is reserved for a person who has made significant and sustained contributions to the fire service, and additionally has led in extraordinary service to the community. After 50 years of service to the City of Park Hills, the PHFD voted unanimously on June 13 to grant the title of Assistant Chief Emeritus to Dennis Finke. Congratulations, Dennis, and thank you!

If you're interested in volunteering with the fire department or if you want to learn more, visit us at parkhillsfire.com or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/parkhillsfire.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief John Rigney



“Clean Up Park Hills” Reveals a Greener City

Park Hills' first annual city cleanup was a huge success. Organized by Sophie Bayer and Krista Morrison, the day went off without a hitch. Councilmembers, Mayor Mattone, and Don VonHandorf worked side-by-side with residents to find trash, bag it up, and ship it off. All told, more than 1,600 pounds of trash was pulled from Amsterdam, Montague, and Dixie Highway by thirty volunteers.

The cleanup event, which took place on April 8, all started with a challenge from Margie Witt and our Fort Wright neighbors. The city of Fort Wright has been hosting cleanup days for several years, each time making the city more immaculate, as long-time piles and trash-stashes disappear.



Bags, gloves and shirts were donated by Clean Up Fort Wright, to give Park Hills a running start.

Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers! We look forward to finding less trash as this annual tradition continues.

A Summertime Tradition, 95 Years in the Making

For the 95th year, The Sisters of Notre Dame are hosting their annual Fourth of July Festival on their beautiful Park Hills campus. The Sisters invite everyone in the community to come and join the festivities as they celebrate this truly historic anniversary with their friends, neighbors, and family members.

This year's festival includes a Proclamation from the Governor's Office and a special tribute to the men and women who bravely serve our country. The family-friendly festival features games for children, a \$4,475 Grand Raffle, live music, a silent auction, and a Sister's market filled with handmade items and a variety of homemade baked goods. The Sisters plan to serve a variety of food, including chicken dinners.



The Festival is scheduled for **July 4, 1–6 PM at St. Joseph Heights on Dixie Highway.**

Entry to the festival is free and all proceeds benefit Notre Dame's missions in Uganda, their Urban Education Center in Northern Kentucky, and the retirement needs of the Sisters.

The Coyote Howl: America's Original National Anthem

If you've engaged in any small talk with your Park Hills neighbors lately, you've probably heard about the recent coyote sightings around the city. Pictures have been posted to social media. Tales have been spun. There's a decent chance you've even seen a coyote or two in person. So, where did they come from, and what do you do if you spot one?

"The coyote howl is...the original national anthem of North America," says historian and preservationist Dan Flores. The coyote was victim of widespread extermination in the American west. As these eradications continued, it activated a reflex that caused the coyote to spread. That, combined with efforts to introduce the coyote to cull the deer population, brought the prairie-wolf east to Park Hills.

Since pets in the area have gone missing, it's a good idea to keep your small animals inside in the early spring, when pups are young and the new coyote families roam near homes in search of food. By mid-summer, coyotes instinctively disperse and leave urban areas, each looking for their own territory and to avoid human contact.



Though there have been efforts to hunt coyotes in the past, litter sizes change based on the abundance of food and coyote population. In smaller coyote communities, litter sizes are around 8–10, compared to larger coyotes where litter sizes tend to be closer to 5–6. This is evidence that eradication attempts can backfire and cause coyotes to go deeper into urban areas, and populations to expand more rapidly.

Under statute KRS 150.170, residents can remedy nuisance wildlife through scare tactics, repellents, fencing, exclusion, or removal by trapping. Licensed trappers or nuisance animal removal specialists can be contacted through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Department at (800) 858-1549.

Overall, it's better for everyone if we enjoy our wooded community, be aware of and respect our natural neighbors. One way to share awareness is to post pictures on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor with hashtags #coyotesofparkhills #wildparkhills.

To hear more about Dan Flores' coyote stories, check out his book *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History*, or have a listen to his interview that aired on Morning Edition in 2016: 'Coyote America' Honors An Animal Making North America Home For Centuries.

Coyote Safety Tips from Chief Cody Stanley

Coyotes are wary of humans, and your presence is usually enough to drive them away. Should you come face-to-face with a coyote, maintain eye contact. Do not turn your back, and do not run. Running away can trigger a coyote's instinct to chase you. For more details, visit coyotesmarts.org.

Should you see anything suspicious—coyote or otherwise—feel free to call Kenton County Dispatch (859) 356-3191 anytime. You can also reach Chief Stanley on his cell phone at (859) 491-1331.

Park Hills Civic Association: Celebrating 90 Years & More

Beautifully planned, its spacious building lots, tree-lined paved streets, and concrete public walkways and steps placed everyone within a short walking distance of an architecturally-pleasing stone streetcar stop.

– Excerpt of Paul A. Tenkotte's "Our Rich History" from Northern Kentucky Tribune, Aug 31, 2015

It's been 90 years since the official founding of Park Hills. We've come a long way since 1927, and our city's rich history lives on for all of us, evident by the fact that we still enjoy strolling down city pathways among the tall trees to those beloved stone trolley stops. As far as nonagenarians go, Park Hills is aging well, thanks to decades of caring and engaged residents.

Like our city's natural beauty and historic character, civic involvement is a mainstay in the lives of Park Hills residents. Many families move here and stay because of our friendly, active community. The Park Hills Civic Association (PHCA) plays an important role in making civic activities available to all of us.

Liz St. Onge, Rachel Dammel, and Katie Rademacher have brought a burst of energy—and an interest in the city's rich history—to the community since assuming leadership roles with the PHCA. Their involvement has both increased awareness and attendance of our many community events.

Even when weather threatened to cancel this year's Easter egg hunt in Trolley Park, clearer skies prevailed. As soon as the rain tapered off—only minutes before the 10 AM start of the hunt—dozens of strollers descended on the park. Shoulder-to-shoulder, kids scrambled for colorful eggs filled with candy. The Easter bunny made her annual appearance, greeting fans before returning to hibernation for another year.

The last days of May brought us our traditional Memorial Day parade, valiantly co-marshalled by local historian Dr. James Claypool and inspiring spinal-cord-injury survivor Elliott Feltner. Residents and neighbors cheered on fire trucks, police cruisers, local business owners, politicians, and community groups. After the parade, everyone honored lost service members as the flag was raised to the tunes of the best stationary marching band in the land. A historical military reenactment group capped off the ceremonies with a gun salute.

These events have been great highlights for 2017, and there's only more to come. Expect the fun to continue throughout the summer months, with the outdoor family movie night on Saturday, July 22nd and the annual community yard sale on August 5th.

What's more PHCA is reviving the Park Hills Dinner Dance to celebrate the city's 90th year, in the style of the Roaring Twenties. This event promises to be the event of the last 90 years—if not the century—of course. Come for dinner and drinks, and stay for plenty of dancing!

The Dinner Dance is scheduled for September 30th at the new Clubhouse at Devou Park. Buy your tickets now—and join the PHCA today—at phcahub.org. Stay tuned for more details coming soon. We can't wait to see you there!

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

Save the Date
Park Hills Civic Association presents
the Park Hills 2017

Dinner Dance

Saturday, September 30th at 7pm

Devou Golf Course and Event Center

Dinner, Drinks and Dancing!
Ticket information and more details to come!



www.parkhillsky.org • [facebook/parkhillscivicassociation.com](https://facebook.com/parkhillscivicassociation.com) • leadership@phcahub.org

Public Service Announcement from the Tree Board: We Live in a Forest

Here in Park Hills, we love our trees. The towering, mature foliage we enjoy today is a source of beauty in our city and proof that part of Park Hills was once a forest. What remains of this forest today requires extra care from all of us, as dead and dying trees can pose potential risk to you and your neighbors.

Here are some handy and important tips from the Park Hills Tree Board, to help you be a good steward of healthy trees in Park Hills:

1. Walk your property line and take inventory of your trees.
2. Remove any ivy growing on your trees. It may start small, but ivy will kill your trees over time.
3. Check and make sure that no diseased or dead trees are endangering your property or neighboring properties.
4. If you do notice any dead or dying trees, contact a licensed arborist or tree removal company to come to your property to assess your trees. Most reputable companies will give you a free estimate, but remember to ask for references and proof of insurance coverage.
5. Have any dead trees removed by a licensed tree company before it becomes a bigger issue for you and your neighbors.
6. When you remove a tree, plant another. The Park Hills tree program makes it easy to select a new tree and have it planted for a small contribution. Check out all the details on the Tree Board's committee page on parkhillsky.net



Did you Know...

Vehicle Decals

All residents of the city must have a decal for their vehicles even if the vehicle is leased through your company or if you have out of state plates.

Purchase your removable window decal for \$15.00 per vehicle at the city building located at 1106 Amsterdam Road during the month of September. Money collected from the sale of the tags goes toward the upkeep of city streets. To pay by mail, please include your vehicle's year, make, model, and license plate number along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, so the clerk can return your decal by mail. As of October 1st, a \$20 late fee will be added to the cost of the decal.

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

Pet Tags

All dogs and cats must be registered with the city. The cost is \$5.00 per pet, and there is a limit of five pets per household. In warmer weather, 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.

Park Hills Joins Kenton County in the Fight Against Heroin

Volunteers needed for resident education door-to-door drive on Saturday, July 8

With the massive increase in heroin use and the rise in overdoses hitting Northern Kentucky, the City of Park Hills is teaming up with Kenton County, The Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, PDS and the Northern Kentucky Health Department to educate citizens on how to protect themselves, their friends and family, and their community.

Working together with county organizations, the City of Park Hills will join the campaign with a door-to-door drive on Saturday, July 8 to distribute nearly 3,000 informational door hangers to residents throughout the city. Kenton County Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann and Mayor Matt Mattone will be joined by volunteers to canvass neighborhoods. Volunteers are encouraged to meet at Covington Catholic High School (1600 Dixie Highway, Park Hills, KY 41011) at 9:00 A.M.

For more information, or to volunteer to distribute door hangers on Saturday, July 8, RSVP to Kenton County Fiscal Court's Digital Communications Coordinator Sara Sgantas at Sara.Sgantas@KentonCounty.org or by calling (859) 392-1400.

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

Avant Gardeners Gardening Club

Have you enjoyed a walk through the gardens of Trolley Park? Admired the blooming entrance at Park Drive? Smiled as you drove by the corner garden at Dixie Highway and North Arlington Road? If your answer is yes, then you've enjoyed the work of the Park Hills Avant Gardeners.

The Avant Gardeners are Park Hills residents and volunteers who are actively engaged in the community, from the soil on up. Today's Avant Gardeners help with designing and maintaining some of the city's green spaces. Together with the Parks, Beautification, and Recreation Committee and our fearless Director of Public Works, Dan VonHandorf, Avant Gardeners support the vision of a Park Hills that's:

...enriched by and invested in our green spaces, and values them as places to enjoy outdoor activities and cultivate community interaction.

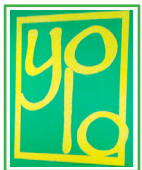


This spring, Avant Gardeners added more plants and flowers, and continue to fight off the weeds on a regular basis. You may have seen some Avant Gardeners and Rose Circle residents busily planting the flower beds and containers in preparation for the Memorial Day festivities. Their great work and contributions to beautify our community don't stop there!

When you see someone out gardening in our shared green spaces, feel free to give a wave of thanks. If you want to learn more or become an Avant Gardener, contact Krista Morrison at kmorrisonparkhillsky@gmail.com.

2017 Avant Gardeners: Barb Huff, Carol Bethel, Diane Nemeroff, Gretchen Stephenson, Helen Heil, Jim Pfaller, Krista Morrison, Laura Cardosi, Luann Holmes, Maryann Maffia, Paige Clemmens, Rachel Biesik, Sarah Froelich, Sophie Bayer, Stacey Pfaller, Stella Snowden, Steph Belt

Business Spotlight: YOLO Fitness



Owner Annie Quinn Beck-Kaliin, MS, CSCS knows this: We only have these bodies for one lifetime. Why not feel better, look better, DO BETTER?

This is the mantra Annie shares from YOLO's studio on Dixie Highway, where the atmosphere is relaxed, accepting of all kinds of people, and full of laughter and supportive energy. Her clients range from 11 to 93 years old, from athletes to desk-bound writers.

Annie's been going the distance for more than 10 years. She ran college track and cross country, qualified for and completed the Boston Marathon. She has a BS in exercise science from Morehead State, an MS in exercise physiology from the University of Kentucky, and she's a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

What's more? Annie's a Park Hills resident! She and her husband Matt moved to Park Hills less than six months ago. She says,

"I love having my studio in park hills! I feel like this community has truly accepted me, and I love the welcoming atmosphere."

Thanks to her great training knowledge and the warm environment in her studio, clients are sure to get in a great workout. YOLO provides personal training, partner training, bootcamps, and yoga.

Annie also says,

"I truly believe I'm doing what I was always meant to do. I love helping people and guiding them to their goals, whatever their goals may be. I'm blessed to be able to help so many awesome people."

Find Annie and YOLO Fitness at 1516 Dixie Highway. To learn more, check out yolofitnessnky.com.





Your City Info:

Police Chief

Cody Stanley

Fire Chief

J. Scott Rigney

Greg Claypole
Steve Elkins

Mayor

Matt Mattone

City Council

Karl Oberjohn
Jason Reser

Pamela Spoor
Kathy Zembrodt

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: jalog@parkhillsky.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@parkhillsky.net

Upcoming Events

Sisters of Notre Dame 4th of July Festival

Tue., 7/4, 1-6 PM, 1601 Dixie Highway

Fight Against Heroin Door-to-Door Drive

Sat., 7/8, 9-10 AM, Covington Catholic High School

Plan Park Hills Public Forum

Wed., 7/19, 7-9 PM, Sisters of Notre Dame

Outdoor Family Movie Night

Sat., 7/22, 8-10 PM, location TBD

Park Hills Yard Sale

Sat., 8/5, 7 AM-2 PM

Park Hills Dinner Dance

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