



The Official Newsletter of The City of Park Hills

Winter 2018

## From the Mayor

Dear friends and neighbors,

First, I want to offer my sincerest congratulations to Mayor-Elect Kathy Zembrodt and all the newly elected council members. I wish you all continued success. Paraphrasing the words of the late President George H.W. Bush, your success is now our city's success and I am rooting for you.



Mayor Matt Mattone

I also want to thank our current council members, departments, staff, and professional advisors for your support, dedication, and professionalism over the past four years. We've done much with the limited resources we have, and I am proud to have worked and served alongside all of you.

### Looking Back

Our city's most significant asset is our dedicated residents and business owners. I set a goal of connecting with residents from across our community, and I publicly asked, "If you had an extra hour or two a month to volunteer, would you be interested in serving on a board or committee?" Lucky for all of us, many of you answered the call.

For the fifty-plus residents who regularly made time to serve on our committees and boards alongside our council members over the past four years, I thank you. You've made a significant, positive contribution. Your efforts are still needed and I hope you'll continue to work alongside our new mayor and council.

### Financial Oversight

The seven resident volunteers and three council members of the Financial Oversight Committee have helped put Park Hills in better financial shape. They maximized our spending efficiencies and delivered broader financial transparency, thanks to the addition of the OpenGov financial portal, the establishment of a Capital Improvement Plan, and the hiring of a professional municipal advisor. Now we can more accurately assess our financial health and long-term municipal expenditures.

It is important to recognize that while our tax revenues continue to grow modestly, our well-managed expenses continue to steadily rise. Funding our employee pensions, road infrastructure debt, and the replacement of department equipment and vehicles requires strict attention and discipline. With new policies in place, we can now better plan for these ever-increasing expenditures.

### Infrastructure and Public Works

Council and I have focused on improving our sidewalks, roadways, and utility infrastructure to make Park Hills a safer and more walkable community. Council committed to the North Arlington Road and lower Jackson Road "deep fixes" with the 2018-2019 Budget. These projects will mark the conclusion of our \$2.5 million road improvement initiative that began in the fall of 2015.

Upon completion, we will have "deep fixed" seven city roads using the street loan, including Aberdeen, Alhambra, Altavia, North Arlington, Coram, Harriet, and lower Jackson. Over the next few years, we anticipate fewer "deep fixes" and more surface and intermediate-scale infrastructure projects.

### New Developments

We are currently negotiating a major road realignment and green space project along Amsterdam Road with the developer of the Park Pointe project. This project is a major opportunity to redefine the northern gateway into Park Hills. Council has approved a development agreement that will create a linear park and a lighted pathway from Trolley Park to Montague Road. This Amsterdam Valley improvement project was directly inspired by our Plan Park Hills Forum that nearly one hundred residents, officials, and professionals attended.

Together, the Park Pointe and ongoing Audubon Forest projects are expected to develop nearly fifty new homes within Park Hills. We're also seeing a trend of new homes being built on vacant or tear-down lots across the city. Going forward, it will be important for our mayor and council to work closely with our planning and zoning officials at Planning Development Services (PDS) to manage and oversee any future developments across the city.

### New Beginnings

Four years ago I saw an opportunity to serve our community and find new ways to invite all of you to help shape the future of Park Hills. With scores of residents attending public meetings, forums, and discussions—and many more of you all volunteering to serve on committees, boards, and our civic association—I believe I've accomplished that goal. I can proudly say that we have a much more engaged community than we did four years ago.

I also want to thank my wife and kids for the love and patience they've extended over the past four years. Winning as a write-in candidate at first seemed only remotely plausible, but through it all, they graciously allowed me to fulfill my obligations and duties as your mayor. I look forward to a few extra evenings home with them for the next couple of years.

Before I fully sign off, I must say that while we've made much progress, there is still more to accomplish. I'm confident that the policies, programs, and processes we've introduced and established over the past four years will endure and continue to ensure that Park Hills becomes a more inclusive, diverse, and desirable a place everyone loves to call home.

Thank you all so much for being part of this journey.

Have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season—I look forward to continuing to cross paths with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matt Mattone

# Welcome to Our Incoming Mayor and City Council

Karl Oberjohn, Council Member

Congratulations to our newly-elected Mayor and City Council Members who will take their oaths of office at the December 10 city council meeting and begin their terms on January 1:

- Mayor (2019-2022): Kathy Zembrodt
- City Council Members (2019-2020): Pam Spoor, Joe Shields, Kevin Theissen, Wesley Deters, Steve Elkins, Sarah Froelich

Thanks to all residents who participated in the November 6 election!

The City of Park Hills has a non-partisan, “mayor-council” form of government. The powers and duties of the Mayor and City Council are defined by state law, specifically Chapter 83A.130 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. The statute is listed below in its entirety, with **boldface** added to highlight key points. Please also consider that the pronoun *she* is a possibility wherever *he* is included.

## KRS 83A.130 Mayor-council plan—Powers and duties of mayor and council.

(1) The form of government provided in this section shall be known as the **mayor-council plan** and this section shall together with KRS 83A.010 to 83A.120 govern any city declared to be under the mayor-council plan by KRS 83A.020 or which has adopted the mayor-council plan pursuant to KRS 83A.160.

(2) Each city under this section shall be governed by an elected **executive** who shall be called **mayor** and by an elected **legislative body** which shall be called the **city council**, and by such other officers and employees as may be provided for by statute or city ordinance.

(3) **The executive authority of the city shall be vested in and exercised by the mayor.** The mayor shall **enforce** the mayor-council plan, city ordinances and orders and all applicable statutes. He shall **supervise all departments** of city government and the conduct of all city officers and employees under his jurisdiction and shall **require each department to make reports** to him required by ordinance or as he deems desirable. The mayor shall **maintain liaison** with related units of local government respecting interlocal contracting and joint activities. The mayor shall **report to the council and to the public** on the condition and needs of city government as he finds appropriate or as required by ordinance, but not less than annually. He shall **make any recommendations for actions** by the council he finds in the public interest.

(4) Subject to disapproval of the council, the mayor shall promulgate procedures to insure **orderly administration of the functions of city government** and compliance with statute or ordinance. Upon promulgation or upon revision or rescission of the procedures, copies shall be filed with the person responsible for maintaining city records as provided under KRS 83A.060.

(5) The mayor shall **preside at meetings of the council**. The council may set by ordinance the manner in which one of its number may be selected to preside at meetings of the council in place of the mayor. The mayor may participate in council proceedings, but shall not have a vote, except that he **may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie**.

(6) **All ordinances adopted by the council shall be submitted to the mayor** who shall within ten (10) days after submission either approve the ordinance by affixing his signature or disapprove it by returning it to the council together with a statement of his objections. No ordinance shall take effect without the mayor's approval unless he fails to return it to the legislative body within ten (10) days after receiving it or unless the council votes to override the mayor's veto, upon reconsideration of the ordinance not later than the second regular meeting following its return, by the affirmative vote of one (1) more than a majority of the membership.

(7) Any **delegation of the mayor's power, duties or responsibilities** to subordinate officers and employees and any expression of his official authority to fulfill executive functions shall be made by executive order. Executive orders shall be sequentially numbered by years and shall be kept in a permanent file.

(8) **All bonds, notes, contracts and written obligations of the city** shall be made and executed by the mayor or his agent designated by executive order.

(9) The mayor shall be the appointing authority with power to **appoint and remove all city employees**, including police officers, except as tenure and terms of employment are protected by statute, ordinance or contract and except for employees of the council.

(10) The mayor shall provide for the **orderly continuation of the functions of city government** at any time he is unable to attend to the duties of his office by delegating responsibility for any function to be performed in accordance with subsection (7) of this section, provided that the mayor shall not delegate the responsibility of presiding at meetings of the council and that approving ordinances or promulgating administrative procedures may only be delegated to an elected officer. With approval of the council, the mayor may rescind any action taken in his absence under this subsection within thirty (30) days of such action. If for any reason the disability of the mayor to attend to his duties persists for sixty (60) consecutive days, the office of mayor may be declared vacant by a majority vote of the council and the provisions of KRS 83A.040 shall apply.

(11) **The legislative authority of the city shall be vested in and exercised by the elected council of the city.** The council shall **not perform any executive functions** except those functions assigned to it by statute. **Regular meetings** of the council shall be held at least once each month at such times and places as are fixed by ordinance. **Special meetings** of the council may be called by the mayor or upon written request of a majority of the council. In the call, the mayor or council shall designate the purpose, time and place of the special meeting with sufficient notice for the attendance of council members and for compliance with KRS Chapter 61. At a special meeting no business may be considered other than that set forth in the designation of purpose. The minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the person responsible for maintaining city records provided under KRS 83A.060 and by the officer presiding at the meeting.

(12) The council shall by ordinance **establish all appointive offices** and the duties and responsibilities of those offices and **codes, rules and regulations** for the public health, safety and welfare. The council shall by ordinance provide for sufficient **revenue to operate city government** and shall appropriate the funds of the city in a **budget** which shall provide for the orderly management of city resources.

(13) The council shall have the right to **investigate all activities of city government**. The council may require any city officer or employee to prepare and submit to it sworn statements regarding his performance of his official duties. Any statement required by the council to be submitted or any investigation undertaken by the council, if any office, department or agency under the jurisdiction of the mayor is involved, shall not be submitted or undertaken unless and until written notice of the council's action is given to the mayor. The mayor shall have the right to **review any statement** before submission to the council and to appear personally or through his designee on behalf of any department, office or agency in the course of any investigation.





## The Word on the Streets

*Karl Oberjohn, Council Member, Infrastructure Committee Chair*

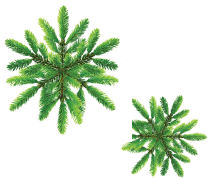
This fall, construction crews have been battling the elements on North Arlington Road, aiming to complete as much of the “deep fix” street reconstruction project as possible before pausing for the winter season. The goal is to have at least the asphalt base in place before the end of the year so that the entire length of the street is available for driving, parking, and snow plowing and the surface is free from dust and ruts from the previous work by the utility companies. Work will resume in the spring, at which time the remaining course(s) of asphalt will be installed, and grass seed and straw will be applied.

Residents of lower Jackson Road have provided their feedback to the Infrastructure Committee on two design proposals for the reconstruction of their street, and the final design will feature a box curb and a four-foot grass strip between the curb and the sidewalk. The Tree Board is researching the appropriate species of street trees which can be planted to replace the ones that will be lost due to the construction. Geotechnical test borings have been performed on the hillside to the south of lower Jackson Road, and the findings from this study will inform the design of the new storm sewer lines which will carry stormwater away from Jackson Road and down through Amsterdam Valley. The street construction work will be put out to bid at the beginning of the new year, and construction is anticipated to begin in the spring.

Over the past year, the Infrastructure Committee made a concerted effort to gather as much data as possible about the city’s infrastructure assets. Last December, Duke Energy provided us with a database of all the street lighting fixtures in the city, including attributes such as fixture style, the power consumed, and lighting technology. In the spring of this year, Kenton County Planning and Development Services (PDS) took inventory of the city’s sidewalks and street signs and assessed their condition. This summer, students from the University of Kentucky walked the streets of Park Hills and cataloged all of our street trees as part of the university’s Urban Forest Initiative. Finally, this fall, Bayer Becker evaluated the condition of every city street and assigned each one pavement ratings at various points.

The goal of these studies is to enable the Infrastructure Committee and the Tree Board to make informed, data-driven decisions when establishing maintenance schedules and formulating a long-term capital improvement plan. Once the lower Jackson Road “deep fix” project is completed, the full amount of the \$2.5 million street loan taken out in 2015 will have been fully utilized, and the city will pause its “deep fix” program of upgrading our old water, gas, and sewer lines buried beneath the streets. This will be a good opportunity for the Infrastructure Committee to focus on developing a long-term pavement maintenance plan to achieve the maximum lifespan of our streets and sidewalks. Also, the street lighting and street tree databases will highlight opportunities to improve the city’s street lighting and restore its urban forest.

## Upcoming Events



**Park Hills Day @ Behringer Crawford Museum**  
*Holiday Toy Trains, Wiley Wahoo's Winter Wonderland,*  
*Dickens Village, Polar Express reading, and Santa!*  
 Sunday, December 16, 1-5 PM | Free for Park Hills residents



**Luminary Night & Christmas in the Park**  
*Go for a carriage ride, meet Santa, sip cider.*  
 Sunday, December 16, 6-9 PM | Trolley Park

**Park Hills Civic Association Open House**  
 Thursday, March 7, 7 PM | City Building

**City Council Meetings** are held the 2nd Monday (**Business Meeting**) and 4th Monday (**Caucus Meeting**) of every month at 7 PM at the Sisters of Notre Dame building (rear entrance), 1601 Dixie Highway



1106 Amsterdam Road  
Park Hills, KY 41011

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
COVINGTON, KY  
PERMIT NO.181

Resident  
Park Hills, KY 41011

## City of Park Hills Information & Resources

### Police Chief

Cody Stanley

### Fire Chief

J. Scott Rigney

### Public Works Director

Dan VonHandorf

### Mayor (2015-2018)

Matt Mattone

### City Council (2017-2018)

Greg Claypole

Karl Oberjohn

Pamela Spoor

Steve Elkins

Jason Reser

Kathy Zembrodt

### City Clerk/Treasurer

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: [jalig@parkhillssky.net](mailto:jalig@parkhillssky.net)

Office Hours: Mon. 10-6, Tues.-Fri. 9-5

**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](mailto:dvonhandorf@parkhillssky.net)

### Web Resources

#### City of Park Hills website: [www.parkhillssky.net](http://www.parkhillssky.net)

This site is managed and maintained by the City, its staff, and the Communications Committee. Here you'll find details about our government, services, the City calendar of events, and all kinds of resident resources.

#### Reach Alert: Sign up on [www.parkhillssky.net](http://www.parkhillssky.net)

The City's official mass communication system. When you sign up, you receive emergency and weather messages specific to Park Hills. You select whether you receive these messages via text, voice, or email.

#### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Park-Hills-KY-668432413277046>

This is the official Facebook page for the City of Park Hills. Content here includes official City and social announcements.

#### Park Hills Fire & Police Departments

Park Hills Fire Department website: <http://parkhillssfire.com>

Park Hills Fire Department Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/parkhillssfire>

Park Hills Police Department Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/parkhillsspolice>

