



THE CITY OF PARK HILLS NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 2012

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MAYOR'S UPDATE



By Mayor Don Catchen

Welcome Park Hills Residents!

We now have one of the best police department's with 4 full time officers and 5 part time officers. Four of our officers have over 20 years' experience and the officer with the least number of years has 8 years' of experience. Due to some of our officers being retired from other departments with benefits of their own we are saving in the costs of insurance and retirement

When the city of Bromley came to me with a proposal to provide police coverage for their city, I took the proposal to our police chief and the department for their input and without hesitation they said they could do the job and provide the extra coverage. As a result of what Bromley is paying us for this service, we can afford to have an extra Officer covering Park Hills and it allowed us to purchase 2 new Police Cruisers. Park Hills will also be able to put some money in reserve for future use.

We have changed the zoning on Dixie Hwy for Covington Catholic and Notre Dame. They now have an Institutional Zone which is designed for schools and addresses what they actually do on their property. As a result of the new Institutional Zone, which incorporates all of the suggestions made at the public hearing on the matter held by the NKAPC, Covington Catholic will be able to have lights on their football field. They will be permitted to have up to 12 night games per year.

There are several Road projects which have been completed and we have a plan to get more in progress as

the money permits. We have done and will continue to get the best costs and savings without taking short cuts. There is a 5 year plan that the infrastructure committee has looked at also. The plan's goal is to get attention to the streets in most need.

I would like to encourage you to come to the Council Meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month to see how things work to make the city productive for all citizens. We encourage you to call before noon on Friday and have your name put on the agenda as a petitioner, if you have an issue to discuss or if you wish to speak at the meeting.

Also, thanks to everyone who took the time to complete and return the Park Hills survey. We are currently in the process of reviewing and pertinent results will be posted at a later date.

I thank you the citizens for the opportunity to serve you as your Mayor and will work to serve in the most proper and beneficial way for the city.

Special Notice

We have placed on the November Ballot an important issue for consideration of all Park Hills residents.

It is the permanent repeal of the Community Development Property Acquisition/ Fire Truck portion of the Road Tax which will result in a permanent reduction of the Road Tax from its current rate of 2.35/1000 to 1.55/1000 of assessed valuation. With the sale of the 1530 Dixie Property and the early pay off of the Fire truck debt, we are able to put this choice before the voters and property owners of Park Hills.



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CITY UPDATES

CITY CLERK'S UPDATE



By Julie Alig

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The tax bills for the City of Park Hills for 2012 were sent out at the end of August. Tax bills were due during the month of September and became delinquent on October 1, 2012. This year, tax bills were sent to the homeowners only and not to the mortgage companies. If you have not received a tax bill, please call the clerk's office at 431-6252 as a penalty and interest fee was added to all delinquent tax bills on October 1st with no exceptions. Tax bill payments are the responsibility of the property/homeowner.

Property owners 65 years of age, or older, are entitled to a Homestead Exemption on their property taxes. The current exemption is \$34,000 which is subtracted from the assessed valuation before taxes are calculated. It reduces the amount you pay for city and county taxes. You must live at the address in order to qualify for the exemption. In addition, the law grants this exemption to disabled persons, regardless of age, if the disability meets certain state requirements. For more information, please call the Kenton County Property Valuation (PVA) office at (859) 392-1750, or to apply.

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

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

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

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

NO PARKING DURING DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCY

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

POLICE CLERK'S UPDATE



By Christine Huebener

SMILES & MILES 5K RUN/WALK

It's almost here! We are one week away from the 3rd Annual Smiles & Miles in Honor of Maria Schaffstein. The two previous years raised over \$26,000 and provided over \$10,000 which was given anonymously to St. Agnes families in need, 8 scholarships awarded to graduating 8th graders, in addition to playground equipment and a digital piano.

You can register online at www.sprunning.com or race day registration is available beginning at 2:45 p.m. on Sunday, October 14th. Packet pick-up begins at 2:30 p.m. with the race beginning promptly at 4:00 p.m. Food, refreshments and awards will follow the run

Traffic Control will be provided by the Park Hills Police Department





Many thanks to Chief Stanley who was instrumental in the implementation of the new turn signal at the entrance to Notre Dame Academy that was installed on August 17th.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet workers install a new turn signal at the entrance to Notre Dame Academy on Dixie Highway on Aug. 17

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Park Hills Police Department would like to welcome Jena Price to the force.



Jena Price began her 20 year career with the Covington Police Department in 1980. During her tenure with Covington, Jena served as K-9 Handler, Bike Patrol Officer and Housing Authority Specialist. After her retirement in 2000 Jena traveled extensively, golfed & enjoyed life.

Jena became a Patrol Officer for the Park Hills Police Department in July of 2012.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIREMEN: October is "Fire Prevention Month". Please check the batteries in your smoke alarms. We thank all of our fine Park Hills Volunteer Firemen for their dedication, perseverance and the excellent job they do.

The Park Hills Fire Department would like to remind everyone that October is Fire Prevention Month. This year's theme is: "Always have 2 ways out." Many people underestimate how fast fire spreads, so they don't take escape planning seriously. The results can be tragic. In 2010, home fires were reported every 85 seconds, killing 2,640 people and injuring 13,350. The reality is that when fire strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and exit quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. What if your first escape route is blocked by smoke and flames?

That's why having (2) ways out should be a key part of your plan. A properly operating smoke detector is also essential for early warning during these fast spreading fires, and should be installed by all residents near the sleeping areas. Smoke detectors need to operate properly and must be tested and maintained to assure readiness. Fall is always a good time to test your detectors and change the batteries as we enter the heating season. Here are a few other tips from the PHFD as winter approaches:

- ❖ Take care when using portable space heaters. Keep at least 3ft. from all combustibles, and avoid using extension cords. Look for the UL label when purchasing.



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- ❖ Have all heating equipment inspected before using.
- ❖ Install and test Carbon Monoxide detectors.
- ❖ Never leave candles or other open flames unattended.

These tips and many others are available at: fpw.org or sparky.org/tv. You may also contact the Park Hills Fire Department (859) 431-4333 for any questions or information regarding Home Fire Prevention or any Safety concerns. Please remember to join us at the Fire House - 1106 Amsterdam Rd. on Halloween night for HALLOWEENIES 2012.

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

COUNCIL UPDATES

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS



By Skip Fangman

As we close out our 2012 year, here are the various projects that have been completed since our last newsletter.

- ❖ Exter Drive: completed.
- ❖ Paving of Amsterdam Road from

Trolley Park to Montague –both sides. Completed.

- ❖ Completed curbs, milled and paved upper Cleveland Avenue from upper Jackson to Emerson.
- ❖ Storm sewer work near entrance to Patton Drive. Project totally funded by SD1. Value of project is \$10,000.00. Completed.
- ❖ Installation of 2 new bus shelters at bus stops. Completed.

Tentative projects for the following years:

- ❖ 2013: Old State Road rebuild from North Arlington to Terrace
- ❖ 2014: South Arlington: Dixie Hwy to Cecelia– Sidewalks will be configured–grants will be investigated

- ❖ 2015: Altavia
- ❖ 2016: Lower Jackson
- ❖ 2017: Audubon: From dip past Lawton to Audubon Lane

It is our desire that we can accomplish the above projects and still maintain needed repairs. Thank you for all your help and patience.

PARKS, BEAUTIFICATION AND RECREATION



By Pam Spoor

The Park will be enriched by four new trees which were purchased and donated to the Park at the Tree Day event in September. The trees will be planted along the Hamilton Road side and will balance the loss of our center white ash trees to disease. The new trees include a Japanese Maple Bloodgood, an American Beech, a Tupelo and a Patriot Elm. This should enrich the display of Autumn color in the Park and provide needed shade for the playground area and eating areas. The trees were donated by Mike and Ginger Conway, Bill and Donna Korte, Millie and Skip Fangman and Pam and Dick Spoor. Trees make an excellent give to our community and its future.

These trees will be supported by an underground irrigation system which will be installed in segments beginning in late November. This system will replace the badly damaged drip system and relieve volunteers from the burden of hand watering. It will be a long term investment in our public space which will enhance the beauty of the area.

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



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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



By Skip Fangman

We have met and discussed the procedures for making totally new personnel policies. We have reviewed a lot of the personnel policies from various local cities and those in our own city.

We intend to meet with the employees of the city to get their input before making any presentation to the full council.

This is a long and tedious procedure. We will keep meeting until we have something positive to present.

Thank you.

TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION



By Diane Geiger

The Results Are In!

In June, the Transparency and Communications (T&C) committee, chaired by Diane Geiger, mailed the City of Park Hills Resident Survey 2012. Thank you to the 300 (out of a 1000) residents that submitted completed surveys! A great response compared to 100 responses out of 1000 back in the year 2000! The more responses we receive the better the city understands how satisfied residents with city servants and services. As your elected representatives, the results of the survey help guide the city's future decisions and direction.

The T&C Committee has requested the full results be published on the City website in the near future. The results include a summary of the most frequent written suggestions/ideas and a listing of all of the suggestions residents generously took the time to provide.

For now, a few highlights from the results:

- ❖ 86% have internet access at home; 64% at place of employment

- ❖ 28% visit the City of Park Hills website at least once a week
- ❖ Neighbors are the most frequent source (40% of respondents) for news about Park Hills activities, issues, etc.
- ❖ 70% of respondents rated upkeep of city roadways as top priority for use of tax dollars; lowest priority was Trolley Park restroom.

ORGANIZATION UPDATES

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

By Carey Kruer – President

(Established 1936)

The Civic Association is an independent organization that, since 1936, has played an active role in planning and coordinating events, fundraising, and other efforts to preserve and improve the quality of life in Park Hills.

Some of the special community fun packed family events organized by the Association are the:

- ❖ Easter Egg Hunt in Trolley Park
- ❖ Memorial Day Parade
- ❖ Annual Picnic in Trolley Park
- ❖ Halloween Parade
- ❖ Children's Christmas Party
- ❖ Christmas Tree Lighting

As an independent organization, the Civic Association relies on the support of residents to fund these activities and events, primarily through membership dues. The Association will be holding its 2013 membership drive in February and dues will again be \$10 for individuals, \$20 for a family, and \$5 for senior citizens. Look for more information about the 2013 membership drive from the Association early next year!

More information about the Civic Association can be found at their website at www.phcahub.org or by contacting Carey Kruer via e-mail at leadership@phcahub.org.



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EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Picnic Thank You!!

Please join us in saying a big THANK YOU to our 2012 picnic party planners: **Maggie Smeltzer, Diana Lambert, and Megan Foltz!** They put together a fun and interactive picnic enjoyed by all who attended. I know lots of kiddos slept very well Saturday night!! Thank you also to those who sponsored prizes or donated services to make the picnic great - especially **Circus Mojo, Fantasy in Frosting & Julie Lee of Tastefully Simple.**

Pumpkin Parade

Fall is here which means it's once again time to mark your calendar for our annual Pumpkin Parade - Sunday, October 28 at 4pm! The parade begins in the Devou Golf Course Parking lot and ends at Trolley Park where a storyteller and special treats await! Get your ghosts and goblins ready!

TREE BOARD

By Mike Consay – Chairman

Park Hills Tree Board-Mike Conway shared the success of the Tree Sale. In all about fifty trees were purchased. The green shrubs and trees that Mr. Baeten brought along were given away to those interested.

Mr. Jason Roberts of the City of Covington plans to treat the Ash trees on Park Avenue. They will be aerated and fertilized.

Mike asked Sue Bennings to send a report of the day to the Recorder.

VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

By: Millie Fangman (President)

(Established 2003)

The Park Hills Village Green Committee was organized to provide a forum for planning, coordination and implementation of City projects. The committee members stress communication amongst the various City organizations, appointed committees and City officials.

The Park Hills Village Green Committee also contributes to the beautification of the city by maintaining the planting areas of Trolley Park and the coordination of volunteers to maintain the city wide planters.

Members consist of delegates from the following:

- ❖ Avant Gardeners – Sally Soderlund
- ❖ Civic Association – Carey Kruer
- ❖ Tree Board – Mike Conway
- ❖ City Council – Pam Spoor and Skip Fangman
- ❖ The Businessmen's Association – Leo Stamm
- ❖ City Maintenance – Dennis Finke
- ❖ Parks, Beautification and Recreation – Pam Spoor
- ❖ Representatives from North areas of the Dixie Highway – Lynn Keltz
- ❖ Representatives from South areas of the Dixie Highway – Sue Bennings
- ❖ Mayor – Don Catchen

Special project representatives should be selected by the committee for the following:

Fundraising	Volunteers
Grants	Special Projects
Publicity	Historian

There is no cost to joining the Park Hills Village Green Committee and is open to all residents of Park Hills. The committee meets on the third Monday of every month except December.

We hope you will join us! Please contact Millie Fangman at (859) 581-0022/smilfang@insightbb.com for further information. We will add your name and email



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to our list and inform you of the next Village Green Committee event.

GOALS FOR 2013:

- ❖ More family/community entertainment in the Park
- ❖ Beautification of Dixie Highway
- ❖ Volunteer chairpersons for various activities

Members of the Village Green Committee and volunteers worked very hard to make the berms at Trolley Park easier to maintain by placing rocks and ground cover on them. We still need volunteers to help us keep the area looking good. Would you like to join the “weed patrol”? Please help keep our city beautiful. Call Millie Fangman 581-0022 if you wish to help.



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

MUSIC IN THE PARK

On July 28th the residents of Park Hills were treated to beautiful music performed by our own Park Hills resident Tisa McGraw (Celtic harpist) and Kyle Meadows (hammered dulcimer) at Trolley Park. As a duo, Kyle and Tisa have been performing together for three years and have played for a huge variety of events, from



weddings and receptions to festivals, bookstores, coffeehouses and concert halls. Thanks to both for sharing their love of music with us.

MOVIE IN THE PARK



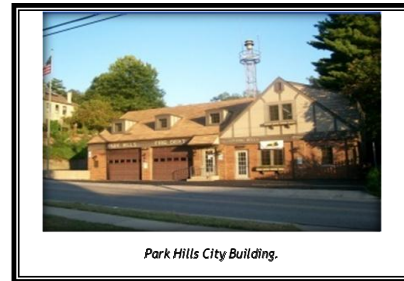
On August 18th we had our first “Movie in the Park” that featured the movie *Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*. Free popcorn was available for everyone! It was a

great success and hope to have more in the future.

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

“WANTED” – The name of the oldest resident in the city of Park Hills. We have one resident that we know of, who is 95 years old. Who do you know? Please let us know their name. Call Millie Fangman @ 581-0022.

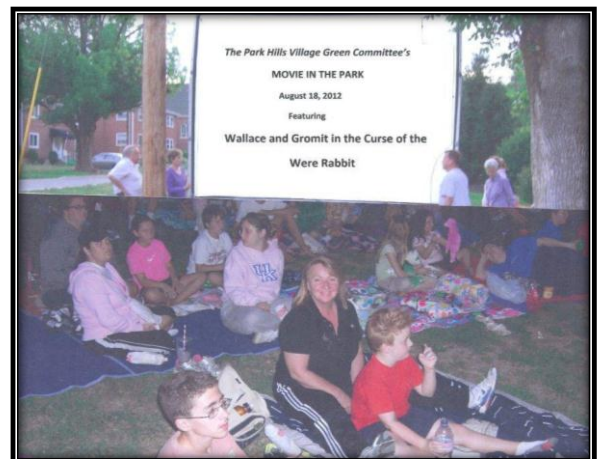
CONTACT INFORMATION



Park Hills City Building.

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



Movie in the Park Night

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