



The Official Newsletter of the City of Park Hills

## News From the Mayor

Our financial situation is looking good. Our revenues are up in many areas. Our payroll tax receipts are increased, our total valuation upon which the real estate taxes are based is up, our municipal insurance receipts are up and we look forward to the positive impact on our tax base of the new properties which are coming on line. Our costs have remained steady without significant increases. The net effect is that our savings are now in excess of \$500,000. We are debt free except for our Road Bonds which are wholly paid through our Road Tax. The numbers are important for all residents of Park Hills and it should be noted that this healthy improvement in our financial posture has been achieved without raising taxes for 9 consecutive years. In fact, we actually lowered the Road Tax by 33.34%. Our financial trend lines are very positive. All residents can find more detail on this matter on our website where we post all our financial information and our audit.

As we all too well know there is tremendous construction activity in Park Hills. The Wald Court Project is nearing completion. There remain only a few homes to be built. Many homes are already occupied. The Berling Company has put in the required landscaping per our agreement, a stone bench and a water system for our future use. The 6 acre donation, required by our agreement, will occur within 2019 and will be placed in a Conservation Zone where it will be maintained as a wooded area for the benefit of the residents of Park Hills.



Wald Court Project

The Parke Pointe Project is coming along slowly. There have been many delays associated with permitting issues, Duke Energy and SD1. Duke is in the process of moving the poles in the Montague and Lewis area with other projects causing closures off and on. SD1 is making repairs to the main storm pipes that underly the valley.



Work on the main storm drainage

Earth moving, clearing and regrading on the primary site continues. Also, Hamilton Road is being shored with compacted soil and will be replanted in the Spring. Paul Zeltwanger presented the landscape plans for the valley at our October 28th caucus meeting. The plans show a naturalistic landscape with many trees, native shrubs and grasses. Additionally it shows a sidewalk and streetlights. The plan is available at the City Building and on our website.



Parke Point Primary site regrading

Jackson Road is undergoing substantial construction work as a storm water system is being installed. Next it will receive new water lines. In the spring, the road itself will be repaved and a new sidewalk installed. Trees will be replanted at the end of construction. There will be two gaslight style streetlights installed also. The plans for this project can be viewed at the City Building.

Another major issue being considered by me and Council is determining the best methods to ensure the safe use of our roads by vehicles within our city and especially for the well being of pedestrians. Our highest priority is to keep our residents safe.



We are experimenting with traffic calming measures, increased police patrols and pedestrian safety devices. We hear from so many residents who have speeding problems on their streets and we are looking for the right way to help and keep all safe. We ask you all to mind the speed limits out of respect and consideration for your neighbors and to be patient with us as we try to find the right solutions to this concern.

We have excellent police and fire professionals who serve us. We now have a School Resource Officer, paid for by the school, protecting Covington Catholic High School.

Council and I congratulate Notre Dame Academy on being awarded for the third time Blue Ribbon School status and being recognized as an exemplary high-performance school. They will be celebrated in mid-November in Washington DC. Great job!



I encourage all to come to council meetings to express your concerns or ideas. Thank you for your patience with the inconveniences of construction. I look forward to the completion of these projects and the improved traffic flow and increased prosperity for our city that should result.

Sincerely,

Kathy Zembrodt

## PHPD Restarts Efforts to Reduce Thefts of Holiday Packages

This Holiday Season the Park Hills Police will once again start collecting packages left on doorsteps. This successful initiative started last year, is designed to provide a disincentive to any package thief in the city. This year the Park Hills Police have gone a step further and developed a door hanger (opposite) to inform residents that packages left on doorsteps have been collected and will return them when you are home.

### Other Safety Tips

- Record your serial numbers
- Do not allow people that you don't know inside your residence.
- Do not leave your home unlocked.
- Make sure you close and lock your garage door.
- Do not give personal information over the phone.
- Do not advertise on social media that you will be away from home. Wait until you return to post photos of the great time you had.
- Do not leave items in your vehicle.
- Do not give to charities that you do not know.
- When shopping do not leave your purse or wallet in your cart; always keep them on your person.
- Do not obtain gift cards or make payments for alleged fines when contacted by phone from people claiming to work for the IRS, Post Office, Jail, Sheriff etc.



## The Role and Value of the School Resource Officer

*The following article was compiled from information provided by Chris Barrier, member of The Kentucky Center for School Safety and contains material relevant to the unique needs of Covington Catholic High School.*

In order to meet the changing demands of the school environment and escalating external threats, much has changed over the years as to the role and responsibilities of a School Resource Officer (SRO). What was once a police assignment designed to keep kids safe in schools, has morphed into a much more impactful role. Today's SRO are experts in physical security, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED principles), de-escalation techniques, juvenile criminal law, active shooter response, and many other subjects. The method by which the SRO is selected is particularly important. The following lays out the criteria which Park Hills Police Chief Cody Stanley applied in selecting the new SRO officer, Ted Edgington, now serving at Covington Catholic High School.

The SRO officer:

- Is a fully certified/sworn law enforcement officer.
- Is the best fit and well suited for the community.
- Is highly trained and educated using both state and national resources. (SROs in Kentucky receive 120 hours of mandatory accredited training over 3 years.)
- Must be totally committed to the mission as the job of the SRO can be demanding. Being able to positively interact with young adult boys and be always conscious of the possible known and unknown dangers emanating from social activities outside of the school environment that may be a danger to students and staff.

The Park Hills SRO assigned to Covington Catholic may experience a myriad of roles including:

- Being a Community Resource
- Liaison with school administration to develop policies, strategies and procedures to keep schools safe.
- Work with student support staff to provide services to students as needed.
- Serve as a Positive Role Model to students through close contact and positive relationships.
- Provide law enforcement and police services to the school community.

The value of a SRO is not measurable with data points, but clearly can impact the school culture in meaningful and positive ways. The greatest impact a SRO can have on schools is their ability to create long term, meaningful relationships with young people while protecting students and staff from negative forces that may encroach on the school. Just their presence provides a level of security, safety and comfort for the students, school staff and parents.

Note: Notre Dame Academy was also offered the services of a School Resource Officer but currently does not feel the need for the program.

## The Story behind THE HOUSE ON MAIN STREET

Curious who is behind the incredible Halloween display on Main street in Covington every Year? Turns out that Park Hills Lieutenant Richard Webster serves not only our community but has a calling to support **Be Concerned**, one of the largest free food pantries serving 800 needy families in the Northern Kentucky area. Each year Lieutenant Webster collects canned goods using The Helpful Hearse, at his huge scary display. Over the years he has annually collected up to 1,200 pounds of food. When you see this scary display in October 2020 be sure to drop off a few canned goods for those families in need. Thanks to Lieutenant Richard Webster for taking on such a big endeavor each year to support **Be Concerned**.



## The Most Important Winter Fire Safety Tips

*Fire Chief John Rigney*

It's that time of year when the snowflakes start to fall and temperatures drop to a bitter low. During the winter months, we tend to spend more time at home with our family and loved ones, so what better way to protect them than by making sure your home is protected from any fire hazards.



### Have Your Furnace Checked



Although this is something that many people believe they can do themselves, it is often safer to invest in hiring a professional to come and inspect your furnace annually. It's always better to know when something is not working properly than to have it abruptly break down in those cold winter months when you need heat the most.

### Check Your Chimneys And Vents



Fireplaces can produce creosote which has the capability of igniting. If your family lights the fireplace often, you most likely need an annual chimney inspection to make sure that there are no hazards capable of starting a fire. It's important to always remember that when burning wood, use dry, seasoned wood which produces more flame with less smoke.

### Always Cover Your Fireplace With A Screen



Either a metal screen or tempered glass will suffice to protect any sparks from leaving the fireplace. Still, you always want to make sure to keep kids and pets at least three feet away from a burning fireplace.

### Beware Of Lit Candles



Although candles can set the mood for a relaxing holiday evening, they can be easily knocked over by kids or pets. Only light candles when you are alert and able to watch them, blowing them out whenever you intend to leave the room.

### Beware Of Space Heaters



These devices require a good amount of space around them. Just like fireplaces, children and pets should not sit closer than three feet in front of a space heater. Avoid placing near curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Make sure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch, which forces the heater to shut-off as soon as it reaches a dangerously high heat level. Avoid using extension cords with heaters of any kind, they are much safer when plugged directly into an outlet.

### Most Importantly, Test Your Smoke and CO Alarms



Always double check that batteries are fresh and will last you through the winter. Place smoke alarms in the kitchen, bedrooms, and the laundry room. CO Detectors should be placed near the sleeping areas. Both types of detectors should be replaced every 5 to 10 yrs. depending on the manufacturer's recommendation. Many new types of maintenance free smoke detectors are now available. These are typically good for 10 yrs. and only need to be tested occasionally. The most reliable CO detectors are the plug in type with battery back-up.

Please review these tips and make sure your home is SAFE for the winter and the upcoming holidays. As always, should you have any questions or need further assistance, please call us here at the Park Hills Fire Department 431-4333.

## Infrastructure Update

Work is proceeding at a swift pace on the reconstruction of Lower Jackson Road. The new storm sewer is being installed. The storm sewer connects to the existing storm sewer at the Cleveland/ Park intersection. The sewer is very deep – 35 feet which necessitated the temporary closure of Cleveland. The crew is now halfway up Jackson with the storm sewer. When complete this will separate the storm and sanitary lines. Next the new water main will be installed which will be followed by installation of a new gas main.

The actual road reconstruction will occur in the early Spring. A new sidewalk will also be installed, two gaslight style street lights will be added and finally trees will be planted.



Road work is difficult and inconvenient for residents. Many feel the impact of tree removal, noise, dust and detours. We are sincerely sorry for these disruptions and inconveniences and are trying our best to expedite the work while maintaining the highest construction standards. We regret any failures to communicate actions in advance of their being taken and are working hard to do a better job for our residents. It is our goal that upon completion Lower Jackson will be not only an excellent road and infrastructure system, but a beautiful tree lined softly lit street that residents will enjoy.

Also, as you may have noticed, we are exploring multiple options to improve pedestrian safety. We are testing items to enhance crosswalk visibility and thus safety. At the same time we are looking at the proper placement/type of vehicle slowing options as well. More on this as we continue to review.



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## Upcoming Events

### City Business Meetings

2nd Monday of every month. 7 PM | 1601 Dixie Highway

Next Business Meeting December 9th

### City Caucus Meetings as announced -

See parkhillsky.net for schedule

### Park Hills Day at Behringer Crawford Museum - Holiday Toy Trains

December 1st - 1:00 PM 5:00 PM

Behringer Crawford Museum 1600 Montague Road Covington, KY 41011

### Christmas in the Park/Luminary Night

Sunday, December 22, 2019

5:00 PM 10:00 PM

## Halloweenies

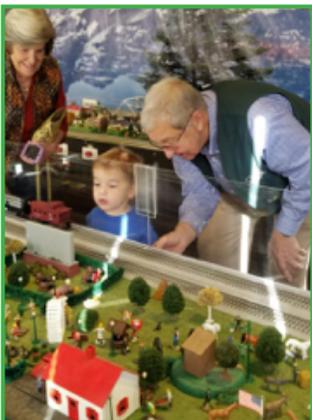


It was indeed cold this Halloween, but the little ones found warmth, Hot Dogs and beverages at the Fire Station. Chief John Rigney estimated that ghosts and goblins consumed some 600 wieners between 6:30 and 8:30 pm.



The Park Hills Civic Association's Pumpkin Parade enjoyed much nicer weather. Parents and kids marched down Park Drive and Rose Circle into Trolley Park for Spooky Story Time! and enjoyed Apple Cider and Donut Holes.

## Behringer Crawford Museum - Park Hills Day is December 1



### Holiday Toy Trains at Behringer Crawford Museum

Park Hills Day at the Behringer Crawford Museum is December 1, 1:00pm to 5:00pm. It is open to all residents and resident's grandchildren. The holiday toy trains feature over 250 feet of track, many trains, and 30 interactive displays. In addition, Wahoo Winter Wonderland exhibit is designed for children to enter into the delightful world of Wiley Wahoo, a children's book by Kenton Hills author Diane Grady. The exhibit is animated and engaging. There is also an amazing Victorian Dickens Village display, Polar Express readings and visits by Santa. It is a delightful way to begin the holiday season.

## Pet Waste Stations For Park Hills



Two pet waste stations have recently been installed for the convenience of pet owners. The stations are located in the Trolley Line at the intersection of Lawton Road and Audubon Road and in Trolley Park near the parking area and River Birch plantings. Dog walkers are strongly encouraged to clean up after their pets for several reasons including:

- Courtesy to neighbors; and
- Health of all residents and pets – dog waste carries various communicable illnesses including diseases and parasites that are transmissible to humans

A single gram of dog waste is estimated to contain up to 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. Dog waste is one of the most common carriers of roundworm, whipworm and hookworm. In addition, dog waste carries campylobacter, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, Cyclospora and tapeworms. Disease can be spread to other pets who sniff this waste.

Please clean up after your pet and encourage your neighbors to do so. It is a courtesy and part of being a good, responsible pet owner. We hope the pet waste stations are a help in keeping our city healthy.



## Patronize Our Local Sponsors

To offset some of the costs of printing and mailing our Newsletter, the Mayor has authorized bringing back the opportunity to advertise in this publication. For more information please contact Julie Alig at the city building. Phone: (859) 431-6252, or e-mail, [jalog@parkhillsky.net](mailto:jalog@parkhillsky.net)



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Cordially Invites You to Our

# CHRISTKINDMARKT

December 7, 2019  
Saturday 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes  
1101 Amsterdam Road, Park Hills, KY 41011  
*Free Admission & Free Parking*

Handmade and Vintage Items, Ornaments, Greeting Cards, Jewelry,  
Accessories, Dolls, Crocheted Items, Etched Glass, Soap, and More...



## DMR Remodeling, Inc. Kitchen & Bath Specialists

Dave Russo  
President

1326 Amsterdam Rd  
Park Hills, KY 41011  
[dmrkitchens@gmail.com](mailto:dmrkitchens@gmail.com)

Voice/Text:  
**859-250-0070**  
Over 40 Years Experience



## Sweet Fliss Baking

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[SWEETFLISSBAKING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SWEETFLISSBAKING@GMAIL.COM)  
(859)414-6862



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[elle@themaiddidit.com](mailto:elle@themaiddidit.com)

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## REACH Alert

Visit [parkhillsky.net](http://parkhillsky.net) to sign up for safety and weather alerts through REACH Alert—just scroll down on the home page and look for the button in the right navigation bar.

## Share Your News

We want to hear from you! Got a story to tell, announcement to share? Please forward your submission to the city clerk. Email [communications@parkhillsky.net](mailto:communications@parkhillsky.net) or call (859) 431-6252 for more details.

# News from the Tree Board

## Keep nature in Park Hills

Over the past few years, Park Hills has lost many large trees to disease and development. These trees need to be replaced and added to so our tree canopy can continue to thrive. Trees offer many benefits such as removing air pollution, supporting other natural species like the exciting owl family pictured above, and enhancing property values.

## Maintain existing trees

Don't let ivy grow on trees. It may look pretty, but ivy can choke and kill trees, so remove it as soon as you can. Visit [www.treestewards.org/take-ivy-off-trees](http://www.treestewards.org/take-ivy-off-trees) for more details.

Don't top trees. An arborist can provide advice for proper cutting to maintain tree health.

## Plant new trees

We have seen how the Emerald Ash Borer has depleted a large part of our tree canopy. As a result, your yard may have some areas that would benefit from adding a new tree. When you plant new trees, plant diverse species, and consider native varieties.

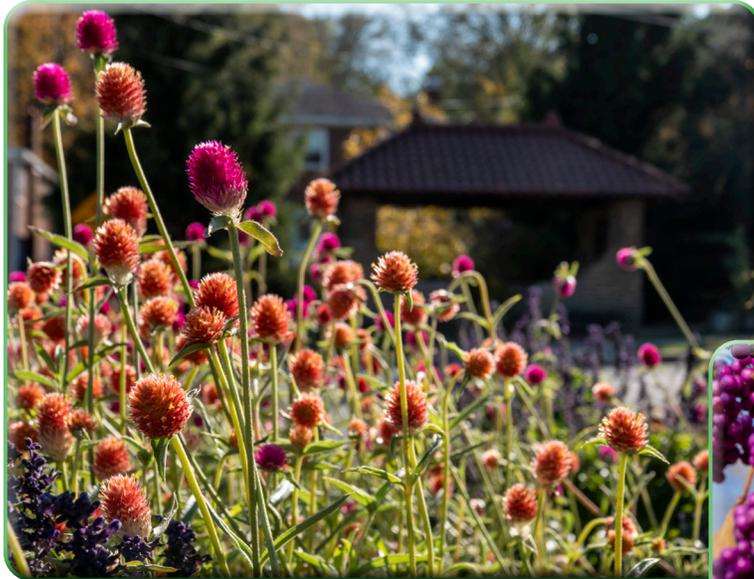
Don't plant Callery or Bradford pear trees as they are now considered an invasive tree species.

Do Take advantage of the Park Hills Tree Program! Visit [parkhillsky.net/tree-board](http://parkhillsky.net/tree-board) for more information.



*An owl family lives high in the tall trees between Morgan Court and Cleveland Avenue in Park Hills*

## Autumn in Trolley Park





1106 Amsterdam Road  
Park Hills, KY 41011

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

Resident,  
Park Hills, KY  
41011

## Your City Info:

[www.parkhillssky.net](http://www.parkhillssky.net)

### Police Chief

Cody Stanley

### Mayor (2019-2022)

Kathy Zembrodt

### City Clerk/Treasurer

Julie Alig

### Fire Chief

J. Scott Rigney

### City Council (2019-2020)

Wesley Deters

Joe Shields

### City Attorney

Kyle Winslow

### Public Works Director

Dan VonHandorf

Steve Elkins

Pamela Spoor

### City Engineer

Jay Bayer

Sarah Froelich

Kevin Theissen

City Business Meetings, 2nd Monday of every month - City Caucus Meetings, 4th Monday when announced.

7 PM - 1601 Dixie Highway. All meetings subject to change. Check the City & Events Calendar on the city website for details and updates.

### 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: Mo 10-6, Tu-Fr 9-5, Sat-Sun 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](mailto:dvonhandorf@parkhillssky.net)

### Get Connected: Park Hills 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/parkhillscitygovernment>

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>