



The Official Newsletter of the City of Park Hills

Message From the Mayor

Hopefully this newsletter find all in Park Hills doing well and getting through the strange times in which we find ourselves. As we navigate the challenges of the pandemic and comply with the Governor's orders addressing safety needs, I pray we get back to normal sooner than later.

Despite the limitations of the pandemic, we have a lot going on in Park Hills. The Wald Court area has one more house remaining to be built. Park Pointe is progressing. The SD1 detention basin has been completed and grass has been planted to reduce erosion pending the actual landscaping of the area. Amsterdam Road is being reconstructed and should be completed this Autumn. A foundation is underway in the Park Hills section of the Park Pointe development. Jackson Road reconstruction is complete and awaits only the installation of several street lights and the planting of trees. Upper Jackson Rd and a small portion of lower Cleveland will be milled and overlaid and damaged curbing will be replaced on Cleveland. This will repair issues caused by the contractors and large trucks associated with the Jackson reconstruction. We also look forward to and have budgeted to mill and overlay portions of Park, Audubon and Montague Roads. I and council thank you for your patience and endurance as these large road projects near completion. It has been challenging, but the results will be enduring.

Our tax rate will stay the same. Our city has benefited from the added value of over 12,000,000 in property value largely occasioned by the addition of the Wald Court homes. Council and I have done a great job of keeping the budget numbers in line. As a result, our reserves are growing. This is an important measure of the financial health of our city. We post our audit (which was very good) on our website for your inspection. Our budget can also be found there. An examination of the budget shows that we are keeping our expenses in check and allowing our income to grow organically through rising property values. In light of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, council has voted to extend the penalty date on taxes which are due September 30th to October 31st. The penalty phase will not be imposed until after October 31st. It is our hope that this will be of help to our residents as we cope with the economic challenges of the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our traditional Memorial Day parade, but a video of the virtual parade which was skillfully done by Elliot Feltner can be found on our website. Unfortunately, it is also necessary to cancel our Fall picnic. We want to be smart and careful and protect each other. Next year, I am optimistic that our events will resume. It's always good to get together in person - to see each other and chat at the events. I look forward to that.

Thank you to all our Fire, Police, Public Works and to Julie Alig, our City Clerk that have worked through the pandemic and kept our city fully functioning. A group of grateful neighbors created and erected a

large banner adjacent to the city building in recognition. (See the story on page seven). Due to the Governor's pandemic safety restrictions, we have been conducting our council meetings online. You can visit our website to get the link to view. Thank you to our council for stepping up and doing the city's business throughout all of the challenges.

Let's keep in touch with our neighbors and look after each other as that is what gets our community through these difficult times.

Kathy

Wald Court
Development



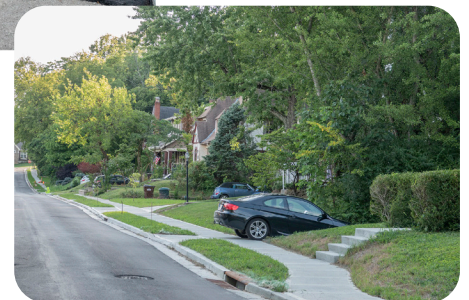
The SD1
Detention Basin



Amsterdam Road
Reconstruction



Lower Jackson
Reconstruction



WE LOVE OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM AS THEY
CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER
THE COVID MEASURES THAT SERVE
AND PROTECT OUR CITIZENS.

Fire Hydrants: Their vital function in the safety of our community

Park Hills Fire Chief John Rigney

While many of us drive or walk past fire hydrants without much thought, Park Hills Fire Department takes great pride in the testing and maintenance of the nearly 150 hydrants within the city. Fire hydrants provide an essential function in the maintenance of our water system and even more importantly, adequate fire protection for our city. But what exactly are fire hydrants and how do they work? Why do they have different colored bands on their tops?

Fire hydrants are connected to large water supply mains through underground pipes. When firefighters arrive at the scene of a fire, they connect a hose to one of the hydrant openings. Once the hose is connected, a special wrench is used to turn the nut on the top of the hydrant. Once the nut is turned, it opens a valve deep underground that allows water to start to flow into the hydrant. Most fire hydrants have these valves underground for several reasons. If water were kept in the hydrant at all times, it could easily freeze in cold weather, possibly damaging the hydrant and making it impossible to access water when needed. Also, if water was stored in the hydrant, it could start flowing uncontrollably if it were, for example, hit by a car.

Once the hose is connected to the hydrant, it is then connected to the intake of a fire truck. The water coming from the hydrant is then run through a pump, which helps to increase the water pressure, and can also divide the supply to multiple hoses.

The two most common colors for fire hydrants are bright shades of red and yellow. These colors are used because they stand out, which makes hydrants easier to find in emergencies. In the city of Park Hills, the tops of fire hydrants are marked with different color reflective bands to let firefighters know how many gallons per minute, or GPM, a hydrant is able to deliver. The higher the GPM, the better the hydrant will be at fighting bigger fires. Blue usually marks the highest GPM, and red the lowest. Hydrants in the city are typically spaced within approximately 300 feet of each other, with some slightly further away. This gives the fire department the option of hooking up to 1 or more hydrants depending on the need for additional water supply.

Color	Class	AVAILABLE FLOW @ 20 psi residual
Blue	AA	500 GPM or more
Green	A	1000-1499 GPM
Orange	B	500-999 GPM
Red	C	Below 500 GPM

All hydrants in the city are typically flow tested twice per year by the fire department and the NKY Water District. These flushing occur once during spring and again in the fall. These flow tests serve to check the operation of the hydrant, flush out rust and debris in lines, and also to measure the available flow in gallons per minute. In addition to flushing of the hydrants, the fire department staff performs several different types of hydrant maintenance throughout the year. These typically include; lubrication, freeze protection, painting, and striping.

Clear Access Keeps our Communities Safe

When responding to a fire it is important that fire department personnel gain access to a water supply via a fire hydrant as quickly as possible. That way, the fire can be extinguished and prevent loss of property and/or life. In the event of a fire in your neighborhood, firefighters do not need to spend valuable time searching for and accessing a hydrant when they could be doing other important tasks. When fire department personnel respond to put out a house fire, the fire engines carry enough water to make an initial fire attack, but they soon need a continuous water supply from a fire hydrant to extinguish some fires.



Could you spot this hydrant at 3AM in the rain?

Finding and connecting to a fire hydrant is one of the firefighters' first priorities. New mapping technology on fire vehicles has improved firefighters' ability to find hydrant locations more quickly but getting to them when they are shrouded in shrubs and other vegetation can be a challenge.

You can help the Park Hills Fire Department by following these simple tips to keep fire hydrants working properly and accessible when needed:

- Keep cars, bikes, toys, and other objects away from fire hydrants.
- During winter months, shovel snow away from fire hydrants.
- Mow and trim grass or weeds around fire hydrants near your property.
- Do not plant flowers or shrubs around fire hydrants to conceal them.
- Do not paint or decorate fire hydrants- the color of the hydrant is for visibility and indication of available water flow.

Always remember, fire hydrants are vital tools in community fire protection. They provide a reliable water source in times of emergency, but they also help to keep our insurance rates lower. If you notice that a fire hydrant has been damaged, missing caps, leaking water, or if it is blocked, please notify PHFD by calling 859-431-4333 or email jsrigney@parkhillsky.net. Please also contact us if you suspect possible water theft or unauthorized use of fire hydrants. Visit our FB page; www.facebook.com/parkhillfire.

City of Park Hills Reminders

Animal Tags

All dogs and cats must be registered at the city building. The cost is \$5.00 per pet. There is a limit of five pets per household. As the weather warms, 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.

Vehicle Decals

The city will once again be selling vehicle decals at the city building located at 1106 Amsterdam Road. A removable window decal, which will be visible on the driver side windshield, is \$15.00 per vehicle and will be due during the month of September.

Money generated from the sale of the tags will go to the upkeep of the city streets. All residents of the city must have a decal for their vehicles even if the vehicle is leased through your company and/or if you have out of state plates. If paying by mail, please include your vehicle's year, make, model and license plate number along with a self addressed stamped envelope so that the clerks can return your decal by mail. As of October 1st, a \$20 late fee will be added to the cost of the decal. Citations will also be issued to those who do not have their cars registered. The citation fine for not displaying your vehicle decal is \$25.00.

Due to COVID-19, we encourage residents to mail in their checks for animal and vehicle tags. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope so that we can mail your tag(s) back to you. We have also installed a drop box on the front of the city building so you can leave your payment anytime.

Please use the attached forms to send in your information. For additional vehicles and pets, just list them separately.

Garbage/Recycling in Park Hills

Your waste removal service, Rumpke, is offering one free garbage tote and one free recycling tote for the city's residents. You may order your totes by calling Rumpke at 859-472-7339.

Forms

CITY OF PARK HILLS
VEHICLE TAGS 9/1/19 to 9/30/21
A \$20 late fee will be added on October 1st
Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Year: _____ Make: _____ Model _____
License Plate No: _____ \$15.00
Clerk: _____
Decal must be displayed on the inside bottom corner of driver's side windshield

Important Tax Information

The tax bills for the City of Park Hills for 2020 were sent out at the end of August. Tax bills are typically due during the month of September. However, due to COVID-19, the city is extending the due date by one month. Tax bills will be sent to the homeowners only and not to the mortgage companies unless requested. If you do not receive a tax bill by September 1, please call the clerk's office at 431-6252 as a penalty and interest fee will be immediately added to all delinquent tax bills on November 1st.

Property owners are able to view and pay their tax bills online. Payments will be processed through Municipay with the payee paying a convenience fee which will be disclosed to you before you make your payment. Payments may also be made by electronic check with a flat rate of \$1.50 (last published rate). All major credit cards will be accepted online and in the clerk's office.

Property owners 65 years of age, or older, are entitled to a Homestead Exemption on their property taxes. The current exemption is \$39,300 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 clerk is 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.

ANIMAL LICENSE	\$ 5.00	Tag No. _____
City of Park Hills, Ky.		Exp. 9/30/21
A License is hereby issued to:		
Owner _____		
Address _____		
Telephone _____		
Name _____ Color _____ Breed _____		
Clerk: _____		
Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Dog <input type="checkbox"/>	
Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Cat <input type="checkbox"/>	

Let's Vote, Park Hills

As you're surely aware, 2020 is an election year—and your vote matters, especially on the local level. In the City of Park Hills, all six seats on the City Council (two-year terms), are up for election.

Here are some important facts about this year's general election:

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.
- The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, October 5 at 4 PM.
- Kentuckians concerned with contracting COVID-19 can request a ballot by mail via an online portal through October 9.
- Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, November 3, and received by November 6. Drop boxes will be available for Kentuckians who are concerned about postal delays.
- At least four hours of early voting time will be available every workday and Saturday between October 13 and Election Day, at a location to be determined by the county clerk.
- All voters must produce valid identification or be known by a precinct officer to receive a ballot when voting in person. Kentuckians who were unable to get driver's licenses or photo IDs due to the pandemic can sign a document explaining this concern and cast their ballot.
- Park Hills has a non-partisan government. That is to say, no political parties are involved with the elections of our local government officials.
- When voting, it's not required to select candidates for all six council seats. It's acceptable to only vote for the candidates you support and leave the remaining openings blank.

Registering to Vote

If you need to register to vote for the first time or have recently moved and need to update your registration, you can do so online or in person by October 5 at 4 PM. To register online, go to [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.govoteky.com). To register in person, visit the Kenton County Clerk's office at 1840 Simon Kenton Way in Covington.

You're eligible to vote in Kentucky if:

- You're a U.S. citizen.
- You've been a resident of Kentucky for at least 28 days.
- You're at least 18 years old or will be by November 3.

See more details, check your registration, and learn more about voting by mail at [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.govoteky.com). Also stay tuned to the Kenton County Clerk's website, [KentonCountyKYClerk.com](https://www.kentoncountycyklerk.com), for more details about early voting and polling locations when they become available.

2020 Park Hills City Council candidates, in ballot position order—vote for up to six:

Kevin P. Downes

Anthony Darin

Sarah Froelich*

G. Daryl Hallman

Steve Elkins*

Joseph Thomas Shields*

Pamela Spoor*

* Indicates incumbent

Safety on Our Streets

The mayor and council consider the safety of the residents of Park Hills to be of highest importance. At every council meeting we discuss the need to improve the safety of our streets for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The challenges of large construction projects, attendant road closures, heavy traffic on narrow streets, decaying street surfaces and on street parking are under discussion. One of the most frequent complaints presented to council is speeding. The Infrastructure Committee is reviewing many options to control speeding and enhance safety. Traffic calming measures must be effective, realistic in terms of cost and capable of implementation in an established neighborhood. Some of the simplest partial solutions include: speed limit reduction, signage and striping. We are also looking at more complicated options such as speed humps, solar powered radar signs which inform the driver of their rate of speed, rumble strips to alert drivers of a congested area, crosswalk striping, pedestrian crossing signs and many other traffic calming devices. Some of these measures require legislative action and all have a price tag.

With many more of our residents working from home during the pandemic and an increase in delivery vehicles and construction traffic, the safety situation has become more critical.



As we work through solutions for traffic calming, please be considerate of your neighbors. Drive carefully and within the speed limit. Our streets are largely old and narrow. The original design did not contemplate the number of vehicles per home or the quantity of traffic that currently exists. If possible, park in your driveway or parking pad so as to prevent the creation of a one lane road with two-way traffic. Always be on the look out for children, pedestrians and cyclists.

Please know that council cares and is working hard on the issue of safety on our streets. Contact us via the city website or sign up to present at a meeting to share your concerns and your solutions. We are committed to making Park Hills safe, walkable and beautiful.

News From Your Park Hills Tree Board

The Tree Board met with [Urban Canopy Works, LLC](#) in early August to talk about the possibility of establishing a strategic plan for our city's tree canopy. Urban Canopy is a women-owned, small business dedicated to the advancement of trees and the tree canopy in our urban and developed areas. Their team works primarily on local projects in Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Atlanta, Georgia. They also manage an exciting project for the Architect of the Capitol in Washington, DC.

The conversation covered topics like:

- Creating an awareness campaign about tree maintenance and protection.
- Having access to arborist consultation (for a fee) so we can make clearer decisions about maintenance and replanting throughout our city.
- Establishing a list of approved tree removal services.
- Joining in on the One Trillion Trees initiative—doing our part in conservation and restoration of one trillion trees around the world within this decade.

There were also some brief discussions about the possibilities of tying into the tree management project for the historic Dixie Highway Trolley Line along the main thoroughfare in our neighboring City of Fort Mitchell and working with the Park Pointe developer to reforest Amsterdam valley.

Urban Canopy is putting together a suggested plan that the Tree Board will review with City Council in the coming months. Next steps for the Tree Board also include reviewing our tree ordinances and working with Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) and City Council to update them as necessary.

Advantages and Challenges of Tree Stewardship

Overall, the Tree Board recognizes the importance and challenges of maintaining a healthy tree canopy in Park Hills. Having healthy trees increases property values in our community and reduces household energy costs. Nevertheless, maintaining trees comes with challenges like removing dead trees and planting new trees, especially when much of the tree canopy grows on private property. Caring for trees properly can also be costly, especially if not maintained regularly.

Park Hills Tree Programs

The Tree Board continues to offer the Plant-A-Tree and seedling programs for Park Hills residents. Here's a quick description of each program.

- Plant-A-Tree is an initiative where residents apply for a tree, make a \$100 donation, and then the Tree Board organizes for the planting of a tree in the applicant's yard. Plant-A-Tree is available year-round, and planting usually happens in the fall.
- For the seedling program, the Tree Board purchases and distributes tree seedlings for residents to plant on their own. The seedling program happens every spring.

This spring the Tree Board distributed 331 seedlings! Many thanks to Tree Board member "Doctor Joe" Daugherty for all of his tree procurement and distribution skills. Now we're on our way toward achieving Tree Board chair Mike Conway's goal of planting 500 trees by 2022 and 1,000 trees by 2025. The Tree Board hopes you'll want to join in the fun.

Visit parkhillsky.net/tree-board for a Plant-A-Tree application and more details.

This Year's Civic Association Fundraiser: Christmas Ornaments!

It's a difficult time for our traditional fall fundraiser. We haven't been able to provide as many of the community events you love as well as in years past and Covid-19 has caused financial uncertainty for many. That's why, this year, we'd like to offer a free gift for your financial support of the Park Hills Civic Association: a Christmas ornament handcrafted by Grainwell, a local Covington artisan boutique.

Free Park Hills Ornament with Donation!

Receive a free Park Hills Christmas Ornament when you donate \$35 or more to the Park Hills Civic Association. Donations are accepted at the City Building (convenient to do a two-in-one stop when you make your city tax payment!) or online at phcahub.org. Additional ornaments are just \$12 each. Available starting 8/24 at the City Building and online 9/1.

What Does Your Donation Go To?

Your donation is what helps our all-volunteer community efforts happen, including events like The Memorial Day Parade, Yoga in the Park, Park Hills Garden Tour & Market, Christmas in the Park and more. With your donation, we will work to make our post-pandemic events next year better than ever—and bring our community closer after so many months of social distancing.



Is This The Oldest Tree in Park Hills?

Might there be an older one? Send a photo to our City Clerk - e-mail, jalig@parkhillssky.net.



Support Our Local Businesses



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, jalig@parkhillssky.net

	NATALIE M. LAWSON, DMD
	KARL I. LUTES, DMD, PLLC COSMETIC, IMPLANT AND FAMILY DENTISTRY
(859) 426-9700 DRKARLLUTES@GMAIL.COM	225 THOMAS MORE PKWY. CREESTVIEW HILLS, KY 41017

REACH Alert

Visit parkhillssky.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@parkhillssky.net or call (859) 431-6252 for more details.

Community Involvement

The City of Park Hills thanks Ellison Painting of Park Hills (126 Cecelia Ave, Park Hills, KY 41011, (859) 431-5268) for their skill and effort in restoring our city signs. The handmade Trolley Park sign, designed by the late John Tippey, required extensive repair and restoration and now looks better than ever. We appreciate this generous donation of time and talent on behalf of our city.



John, Jake and Sherry Tippey just after the original sign was installed.



Recent restorations by Ellison Painting

Residents Join Forces to Show Their Appreciation



Greg Claypole, Mark Cooper, Bob Amott, Tony Darin and Greg Johnson combined their resources and talents to create the banner displayed alongside of the City Building.



**PLEASE HELP TO KEEP PARK HILLS SEWERS FLOWING AND OUR STREETS CLEAN BY KEEPING YOUR GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF THE STREET.
PLEASE INFORM LANDSCAPING SERVICES TO DO SO AS WELL.**



1106 Amsterdam Road
Park Hills, KY 41011

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

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

Resident,
Park Hills, KY
41011

Your City Info:

www.parkhillssky.net

Police Chief

Cody Stanley

Fire Chief

J. Scott Rigney

Public Works Director

Dan VonHandorf

Mayor (2019-2022)

Kathy Zembrodt

City Council (2019-2020)

Wesley Deters

Steve Elkins

Sarah Froelich

Joe Shields

Pamela Spoor

Kevin Theissen

City Clerk/Treasurer

Julie Alig

City Attorney

Dan Braun

City Engineer

Jay Bayer

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

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: j.alig@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

Get Connected: Park Hills Web Resources

City of Park Hills website: 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

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>