



The Official Newsletter of the City of Park Hills

From the Mayor

Hello Springtime! It is good to see our flowers in Trolley Park coming up. This is a good time to share with you what the city is proposing for the coming year.

Infrastructure

The long-awaited and much needed St. Joseph Lane sidewalk project has progressed to the point of the City accepting a bid.



*St. Joseph Lane
Sidewalk Project*

The accepted bid has been promptly sent to the State for approval. As soon as the State says proceed, it will be done asap. I know the residents of St. Joseph Lane have been patiently waiting a long time for this sidewalk. We are anxious, after many years of navigating the complex and time-consuming TAP grant process, to see the sidewalk completed. Both I and City Council have been committed to seeing this accomplished. A letter will go out to the residents once the start date is set.

The next item on the agenda is the Amsterdam Road Fix from Sleepy Hollow to Hillcrest. This stretch of road has been repaired numerous times but requires a "deep fix" in order to be restorative. We are working hard on an OKI grant for this. The estimated cost is almost \$3,000,000 and we have set aside \$900,000 as a 30% match for the grant. Hopefully the grant will be approved in the coming grant cycle. We will keep all posted.

Communications:

The City website contains a lot of information that is of interest to our residents. We have the City's financials, Tax Rates, news items, events, ordinances and council minutes posted there. We also issue our quarterly newsletter to get information to all our residents. We are working to better our website and make it easier to navigate. We are also looking at ways to improve our communication such as a monthly e-newsletter.

Future Needs

We are also evaluating the needs of the city for our future growth and strength. This includes the needs of our Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department and a permanent meeting place for council and committees and our residents. We are analyzing the best way to solve our needs and prioritize those needs. We will be getting estimates and are looking into the most prudent ways to deploy our monies in the budget to meet immediate needs and improve quality of city life for our residents.

We have completed the repair of many streets in our city and used the Road Tax Fund wisely to accomplish this. We have an ongoing project list prepared by the Infrastructure Committee of future road work such as milling and overlaying, curbing, pothole repair and striping. The decisions of which roads to repair are based on condition of pavement and safety. Obviously, we have more roads to do and will continue to work hard to use the Road Tax Fund to keep our roads in good shape.

Financial Health

Our Audit by Chamberlain Owen was in great shape. The entire audit and graphs are available on our website. There is also a more detailed article in this newsletter on the topic. You will note that without raising taxes we have benefited from an increase in revenue from new properties as well as an uptick in property values. Being careful in keeping expenses lower than income, has allowed us to save money as well. We have also invested savings, as permitted by law, to achieve an additional \$40,000 per year of interest income.

We love our little city and the sense of community in Park Hills. We are looking at ways to help our businesses grow and how to best use what is available to us as your elected officials to accomplish some improvements such as sidewalks, streetlights, and park space.

Kathy

If interested in receiving an E-Newsletter in the future,
please send a request with your e-mail address to:
Jalig@parkhillsky.net

As Warmer Weather Approaches, Park Hills Fire Department Offers These Tips To Safely Tackle Spring Cleaning



By Fire Chief John Rigney

Melted snow, budding trees, and longer days: they're all signs that the warmer months are fast-approaching - and for many of us, these seasonal hallmarks are reminders to start spring cleaning in and around our homes.

As people power up their lawnmowers, rake up debris, touch up chipped paint, and take on myriad projects to get their homes and yards ready for the months ahead, following are a few practices and supporting recommendations to help minimize the risk of fires and associated hazards:

Properly use and store gasoline

- Use gasoline only as motor fuel, never as a cleaner or to break down grease.
- Only store gasoline in a container that is sold for that purpose and never bring it indoors, even in small amounts.
- Never store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in a detached garage or an outdoor shed.
- Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use.

Inspect grills to ensure they're in good working order

- Inspect your grill carefully and make sure it's free of grease or fat buildup. Clean out any nests, spider webs, or other debris you may find.
- For propane grills, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.

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@parkhillssky.net



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Use care when smoking outside of your home

Each year, an ever increasing amount of structure fires are originating on the outside of homes caused by discarded smoking materials (several have occurred in Park Hills).

- Dispose of cigarettes, cigars, and matches in metal containers filled with sand or water to prevent fires.
- Never carelessly discard smoking materials from a porch or balcony.
- Remove leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting.
- Move construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- Avoid using planters, shrubs, or flower boxes to discard butts, as dried plant material can burn and the container will ignite, spreading fire into your home.

Clean out your clothes dryer

- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe for your dryer is not restricted and that the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. This includes making sure the outdoor vent flap is not covered by snow.
- Always clean out your lint filter after every use.
- Move things that can burn, such as boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, away from the dryer.
- Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

If you have any questions or would like to become a volunteer firefighter, please visit our Facebook page @ [Facebook.com/parkhillssky](https://www.facebook.com/parkhillssky) / or call (859) 431-4333.



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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.

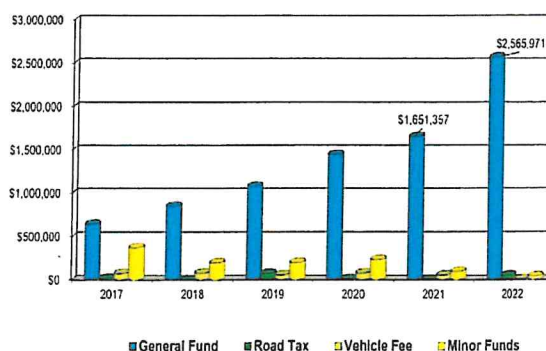
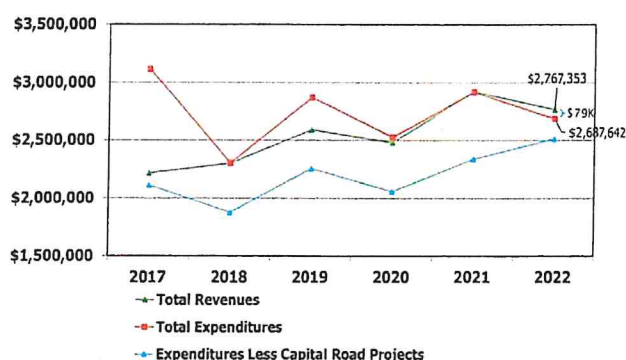
Park Hills Financial Report

The Park Hills Audit for fiscal year 21/22 was presented at the February 13, 2023, Council Meeting by the city's auditors Chamberlin Owen. This City's financial position is strong and healthy. The graphs below summarize our cash position from 2017 to present. As you will note it is steadily improving. The second graph illustrates our revenues vs. expenditures in all funds from 2017 through 2022. The Total Revenues and Expenditures Less Capital Road Projects are the important trend lines. Additionally, the Road Bonds which were funds borrowed tax free to complete a series of large road projects including

Altavia, South Arlington, Jackson Road, Coram and Aberdeen will be fully repaid one year early. In 2021/2022 Fiscal Year, the city made some large capital expenditures that were very much needed and will serve the city long into the future: a second fire truck and a new public works truck. We were fortunate in timing as these were purchased prior to the inflation spike. The mayor and council are currently working on the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year budget which will be finalized by June 2023. The entire audit and graphs are available on the City Website at Parkhillsky.net.

City of Park Hills, Kentucky

Revenues vs. Expenditures -- All Funds For The Years Ended June 30, 2022



Park Hills Infrastructure Report

The Park Hills Infrastructure and Public Works Committee is responsible for providing advice to the Mayor and City Council about issues relating to roads and sidewalks. Our goal is to not only identify the needs in these areas but also to develop a strategic approach to addressing these needs in a fiscally logical and responsible way. Three projects are at the top of our agenda.

After literally years of work, the sidewalk on St. Joseph Lane is nearly ready to move forward. This is a critical safety issue for residents, as anyone who has ever walked on that road could readily attest. Five years ago, we applied for and received a TAP grant from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in order to offset the cost of the sidewalk. State requirements associated with the grant, unfortunately, resulted in many delays, but the result is a savings to the City of \$240,000. The City's portion of the cost will be approximately \$100,000. Still, we're very happy to report that construction of the sidewalk should begin in early spring. Both the Mayor and City Council have been committed to seeing this accomplished. A letter will go out to the residents once the start date is set.

Fixing Amsterdam Road – which was “gifted” to Park Hills by Kenton County in 2005 – is easily the top road project in the City and is also far and away the most expensive. It's

best to think of the Amsterdam Road fix as two separate projects. A deep fix is needed from Sleepy Hollow Road to Hillcrest, which entails removing and replacing the entire road bed at a cost estimated at \$2.79 million. The payment strategy is to seek a grant from the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments. This grant requires a 30% match by Park Hills, which is approximately \$837,000; the City has already set aside this funding. Our submission to OKI is due in June and we should know the answer by fall 2023. The section of Amsterdam from Hillcrest to Trolley Park needs a mill-and-overlay, which the City can afford in its regular road budget. Unfortunately, it can't be done until the deep fix is completed.

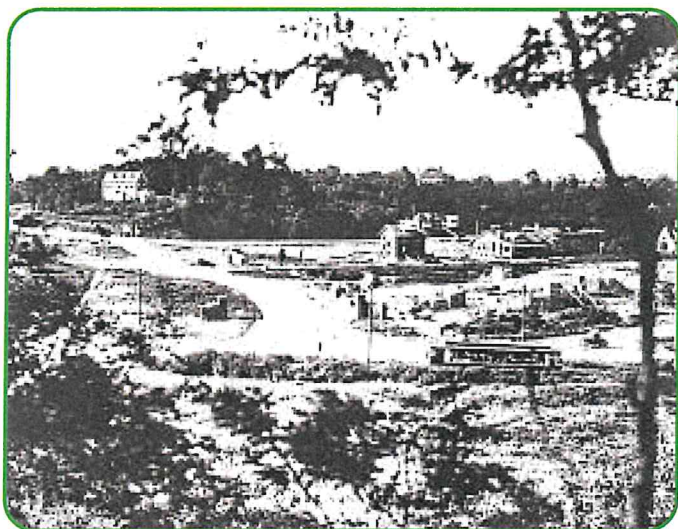
The Committee is also closely monitoring the Brent Spence Bridge project, which we believe holds the potential of negatively impacting the City. The assumption is that the City will see an increase – perhaps a dramatic increase – in traffic during construction, resulting in damage to roadways and infrastructure as well as heightened safety concerns. Even though the Bridge contractor will likely be chosen this summer, decisions about traffic maintenance are still several years away. But we're already in constant contact with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and our neighboring cities to mitigate the impact on our City.

Park Hills - The Beginning

In 1924, the Lee and Simmons Development Company recorded plats for the creation of Park Hills. The project was spearheaded by D. Collins Lee, a Covington lawyer and naturalist. Lee had finally succeeded in acquiring all the necessary property rights to proceed with his elegant plans. The land acquisition had been a complicated and tedious process involving various obstacles including an interesting figure who refused to vacate the area named Rufus Light (his story is reserved for another edition). Lee had for years desired to build a home on the promontory overlooking Covington and the Ohio valley at the end of what is now Emerson. His wife Mary, herself a talented musician, refused to consider the move unless the municipal amenities of gas, city water, electric and paved roads were part of the equation. Lee had his architectural plans drawn for an elegant English Tudor style home and was eager to begin construction. Mary's requirements could only be met by greatly expanding the enterprise to include an entire development. Lee's

commitment to aesthetics and nature dictated the winding street designs, the retention of trees and the access to Devou Park and the Trolley. By 1927, Park Hills was a thriving construction zone. The city was formally incorporated as the Village of Park Hills on June 28, 1927. On that day Park Hills had 500 residents. The picture below left, while of poor quality, depicts a view of Park Hills as it was built. The picture on the right shows the same view today taken approximately from the same point as the 1927 photo. We see Park Road with its stone entry gates, Cleveland Avenue wending up the hill and to the right Rose Circle. We also see the Trolley passing through what is now Trolley Park.

As we approach our Park Hills Centennial, we will be sharing much of the history of Park Hills. We plan to install two historic markers commemorating special aspects of our city. Plans for the Centennial celebrations are beginning to form. All good ideas are welcome.



Park Hills Under Construction (circa 1927)



Park Hills (2023)

Shop Local



REACH Alert

Visit 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.

Spring ins Coming!



Tree Board Updates

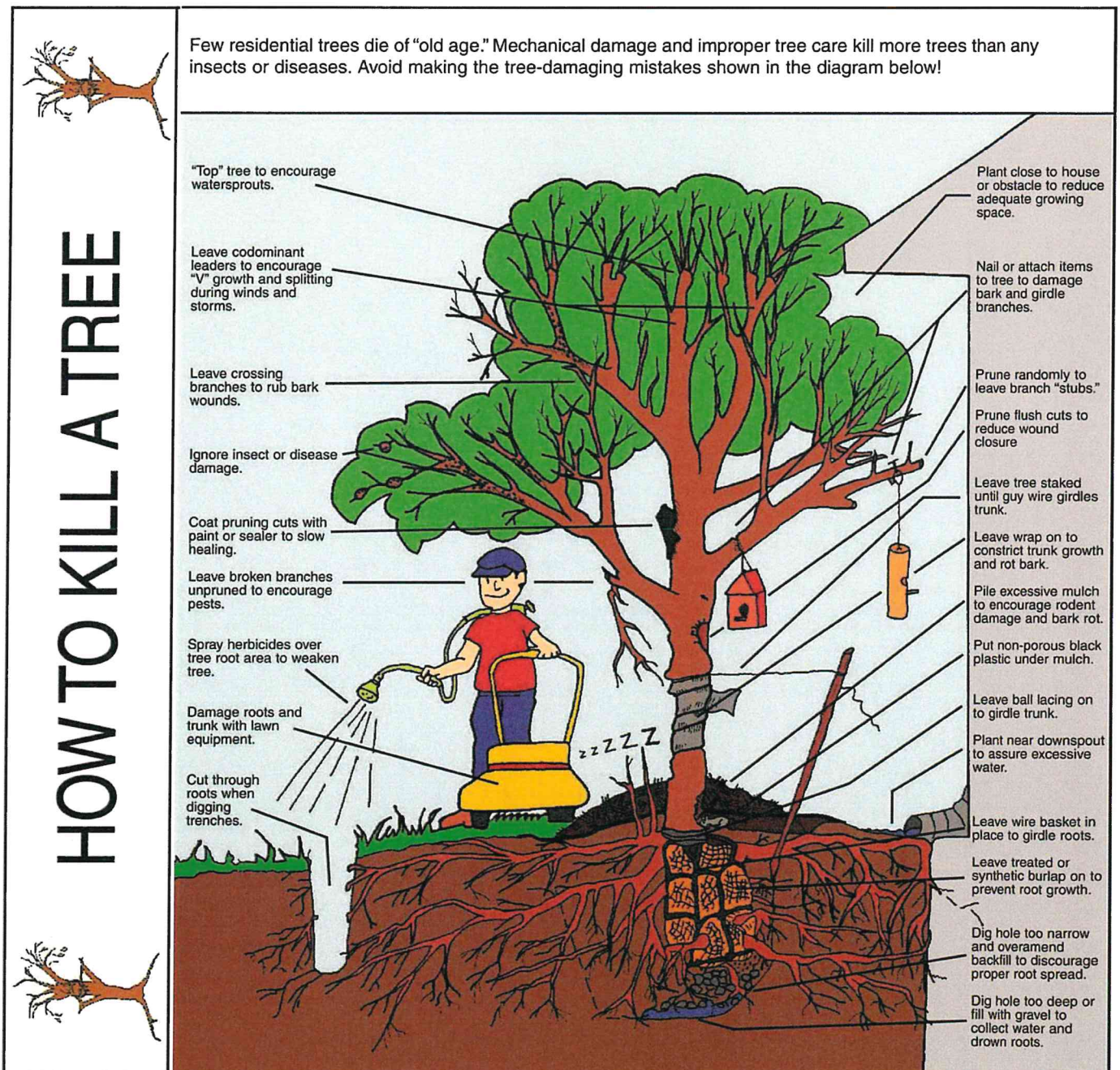
On Arbor Day last year Park Hills provided over 65 Trees for Park Hills homeowners at no cost. Most all trees were 8 to 10 feet in height and all insidious to Kentucky. The event was so popular we are offering the program again in 2023 scheduled for Saturday, October 7 from 10 am to 2 pm. Please arrive early for the trees go fast.

Tree City USA

One again Park Hills has been awarded a Tree City USA certification. This is the 14 consecutive year of being recognized as a Tree City. Much work and effort goes into the designation and I wish to thank our Tree Board for all their contributions: Pat Flannery, Kathleen Laurin, Joe Daugherty, Jeff Gigiovinni, Sally Soderlund, Natalie Schulte and Mike Conway.

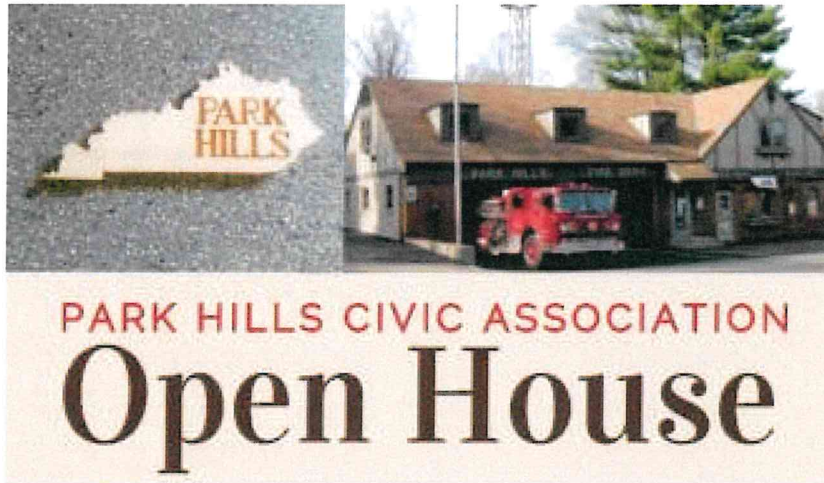


Photo of the Arbor Day Event October 2022



Park Hills Civic Association

Note: It is rare, but the event calendar is subject to change due to weather, budget, or manpower reasons. We will update this page accordingly, but for immediate updates you can rely on our Facebook and Instagram pages!



PHCA Open House Event:

- Date to be determined
- Meet the people behind Park Hills community events
- Get to know your neighbors!
- Find out more about events and Learn how you can get involved in your community

Our annual meeting will return in 2023, along with many more events! We appreciate our volunteers, and are looking for help as we start the events this year. Please email leadership@phca.org



Traditional Egg Hunt:

The Park Hills Easter Egg Hunt is an annual affair!

When: Saturday, April 1

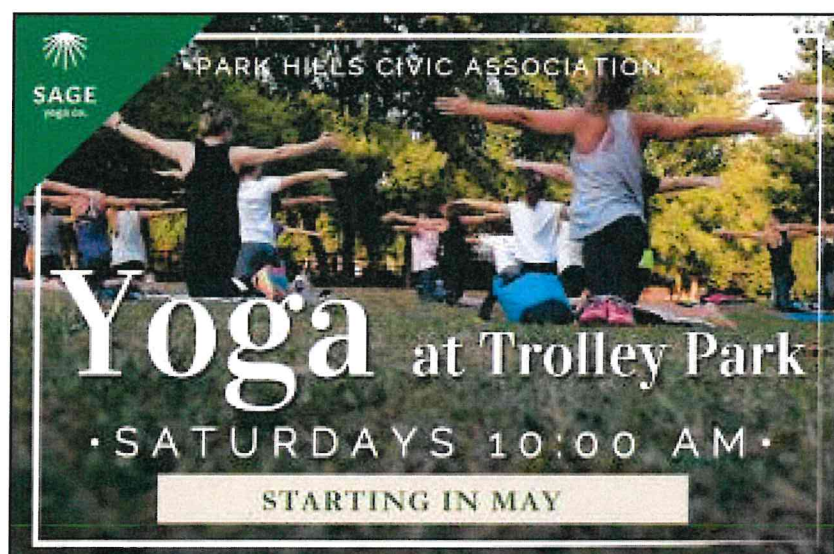
- Time: 11am
- Where: Trolley Park
- Bring your basket!

The Easter Bunny greets you at Trolley Park each year. Hop over for an egg hunt, snacks and the Easter Bunny. All you need to bring is a basket. (Rain date Sat. April 7)



2023 Memorial Day Parade and Flag Raising Ceremonies:

- Save the date for Monday, May 29th
- 11:30am rain or shine
- [Click HERE to learn more!](#)



Free Yoga in the Park:

Saturdays in May and June
from 10-11am

Grab your mat (or towel) and a water bottle and head to Trolley Park for some yoga. All levels welcome!



Park Hills Neighborhood Citywide Yard Sale:

Saturday, July 8, 2023 | 8am - 2pm

Rain date: Due to rain on the 8th, Sellers may set up again on July 15, 2023.



1106 Amsterdam Road
Park Hills, KY 41011

PRESORTED STANDARD

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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

Joe Daugherty

Sarah Froelich

Steve Elkins

Mayor
Kathy Zembrodt

City Council

Monty O'Hara

Joe Shields

Pamela Spoor

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: jalog@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://parkhillssky.net>

Park Hills Fire Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/parkhillsskyfire>

Park Hills Police Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/parkhillsskyfire>

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