

# City of Highland Heights

Spring 2024

176 Johns Hill Road • Highland Heights • 859-441-8575

Volume 6 Issue 1



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## Mayors Message

It's the start of a new year and we are in the middle of the winter season. One day it is snowing outside and the next day it is 60 degrees. Such is the weather this time of year in Kentucky. Regardless of the weather, we are not slowing down our work here at the City and are poised for a great year of continued advancement and improvement.



One of our biggest tasks this year is completing a full update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Led by our City Planner, Dave Geohegan, and chaired by Councilman John Braun, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is comprised of Highland Heights residents, businesses, and staff members. Their task is to review the current document, and make recommended changes and additions based on new trends and data. The Committee will then lay out a pathway they would like the city to take over the next 5+ years. There will be opportunities for the public to participate in the process as well via public hearings and

open sessions hosted by the committee. You can find out more about this process in other sections of this newsletter.

The City will also allocate much of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act money that was given out during the pandemic. During the budget season (March-May) this topic will be discussed by staff and city council.

Finally, I'd like to thank our public safety personnel who work continuously through the holidays and bad weather to keep our city and our streets safe. The public works department has had a busy start to the snowy season with several snow events in January. We received many compliments on the condition of our roads during these winter weather advisories. Please stay safe out there during this season and I look forward to touching base with everyone in the Spring!

Sincerely,

*Greg Meyers* - Mayor

## City Administrator

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and for those that love cold weather, I hope you are enjoying the winter season. Because a lot of outdoor work is on hold until the spring, we have been working inside on some projects. One such project is building a new city website that will also help us communicate more effectively with our citizens. Currently, we are reviewing template options with the web designer and we hope to unveil the new site sometime this spring.

We also just had a kick-off meeting with KYTC to begin the design phase of the Sunset Road Realignment Project. While this is an exciting start, we don't anticipate any construction on the project to begin until late 2025 at the earliest.

Perhaps the most exciting project we are wrapping up this winter is the city building greenspace study we have been working on for the last few years. This study has taken an in-depth look at the open/green space the city has on the city building campus. Through a series of brainstorming sessions, public in-

put gatherings, and research, we are putting together a master plan for the site that will detail recommended changes, additions, and upgrades we could make to the site to make it more appealing to our citizens. We anticipate wrapping up the report and presenting it to the City Council this spring and hopefully allocating some money in our upcoming budget to begin implementing some of the ideas. We hope to add some exciting amenities for our citizens of all ages to enjoy to enhance their living experience here in Highland Heights.

## City Planner

### PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Highland Heights Planning Commission has begun the public review and amendment of the 2019 Highland Heights Comprehensive Plan. This Plan forms the backbone of the city's growth and development and coordinates land uses with infrastructure. The Plan allows the city to maintain land use regulations such as zoning and subdivision regulations, and it guides the city in implementing infrastructure, such as future road and recreation improvements. The Plan also gives the city a framework to address issues with housing and quality of life. Kentucky Revised Statutes is proactive in that it requires planning units to review their plan every five years.

The overall process will take about a year to complete and involve several public comment periods, public hearings, and oversight by a Steering Committee. As the first step in this process, Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 100 states specifically that during the preparation of the Goals and Objectives and other Comprehensive Plan elements it shall be the duty of the planning commission to consult with public officials and agencies, boards of health, school boards, public and private utility companies, civic, educational, professional, and other organizations, and with citizens. Since November 2023 there have been several public meetings of citizens and the steering committee. These and upcoming meetings are advertised on the city's website, Facebook, and LINK NKY.



Discussions are anticipated to lead to changes on some of the maps in the Comprehensive Plan at later stages in the planning process.

The Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations can be found at [www.hhky.com](http://www.hhky.com) under the Business and Development tab. There is also a blue button for the 2024 Update of the Comprehensive Plan that appears on the first page of the city's website that links to the page where the city planner is posting materials for review. An official comment form is available on the website to fill out and submit. The public can either print it out, fill it out, and then submit in person to the city offices or scan it and email it to [davegeohegan@hhky.com](mailto:davegeohegan@hhky.com). General comments and questions can also be submitted to this same email address.

A draft of the 2024 Statement of Goals and Objectives is anticipated to be reviewed in a formal public hearing in spring of 2024. All public meetings and hearings will be advertised as well as included on the city's event calendar. They are open to the general public, and the City Building is accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Upcoming Schedule**

Steering Committee Meeting	
February 27, 2024	5PM-6:30PM
Public Open House (Morning)	
March 4, 2024	10AM-Noon
Public Open House (Afternoon)	
March 4, 2024	5PM-7PM
Public Hearing	
Spring 2024	TBD

\*All meetings will take place at the City Building, 176 Johns Hill Road, Highland Heights, KY.

**Police Department**

The Highland Heights Police Department will be hosting an eight-week citizen's police academy from March 6<sup>th</sup> through April 24<sup>th</sup> every Wednesday from 6PM-9PM. We find that this opportunity is a great way to interact with our citizens and create good working relationships with those who call Highland Heights home. The curriculum will include various demonstrations and exercises, overviews of the criminal justice system, crime scene investigation, accident reconstruction, K9 deployment, and SWAT. If you or someone you know may be interested there are several ways to sign up to save your spot in the class. Visit the Highland Heights Police Facebook page and scan the QR code, visit the link <https://forms.gle/LsFcZ0D2SzdhoMUe6>, or stop in and fill out an application.

Please remember to drive safely and obey all traffic laws, especially on the city streets as the school buses will be making frequent stops picking up the children. Also remember to wear your seat belts as the Highland Heights Police Department participates in the "Click it or Ticket" program.

Always roll your windows up and lock your cars especially at night. Also remove any valuables from inside your vehicle. If something is stolen from your car, be sure and notify the police.

There is a prescription drug drop box for unused or outdated medicine located at the police department. The drop box allows for safe disposal of prescription drugs and can be accessed Monday through Friday during regular business hours of 8AM-4PM.

Please follow the Highland Heights Police Department Facebook page for information on the latest activity happening in the city and surrounding areas. We also try to keep up to date information on the latest scams that the public should be aware of. If you are ever feeling like you are getting scammed don't hesitate to call the Police.

Please call the police if you need help or see something suspicious immediately. If it is an emergency call 911, and for non-emergency assistance please call (859) 292-3622 for the Campbell County Dispatch center. The dispatcher will put you in contact with an officer 24 hours a day. The Highland Heights Police

Clerk hours are Monday through Friday 8AM-4PM. for administrative needs call (859) 441-8956. If you prefer to communicate with the police department via email don't hesitate to email the Chief at [wbirkenhauer@hhky.com](mailto:wbirkenhauer@hhky.com).

**Central Campbell County Fire District**

**CENTRAL CAMPBELL COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT**

4113 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076  
859-441-7631  
Dan Schultz, Fire Chief

**Safety on the Roadways**

The freedom you have to get into your car and drive is something we, as licensed drivers, can enjoy daily. Driving to work, school, or just taking a leisurely jaunt to grab a bite to eat can easily be taken for granted. However, driving doesn't mean getting into your car and forgetting about the world around you. You are accepting the responsibility of caring for you and your family's lives and the lives of all engaging in the same activities.

According to the NHTSA ("Pedestrian Safety"), in 2021, there were 7,388 pedestrians struck and killed in the US. In the same year there were 42,939 (NHTSA Crash Stats) people killed in traffic accidents with over 2 million injured. When there is an accident, first responders come to the aid of those involved a majority of the time and face perilous conditions. Police Officers, Firefighters, Medical Responders, Tow Services, and Highway Safety Response Units are all involved in these statistics as well. Sometimes there is nothing more unnerving than working an accident scene when the vehicles are traveling past you at 65mph+ and knowing one mistake or fault could result in devastation for those involved and their families.

Kentucky, along with every state in the nation, have enacted "Move Over" laws in an effort to protect first responders, accident victims, and the public in general. Kentucky passed its Move Over law in 2003 (KRS 189.930) which requires motorists to move over to the adjacent lane when approaching an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle with flashing lights. If changing lanes is impossible or unsafe, motorists must slow down and use caution. Failure to do so could result in fines, jail time, or both.

Safe driving is a responsibility that falls upon all of us. Please be vigilant with your attention and use caution during weather, bright or dark travel conditions, or when approaching slow traffic. If you are approaching an emergency scene, travel with extreme caution and pay attention around you. While you are driving, if an emergency vehicle approaches you, move to the right lane or right-hand emergency lane while the emergency vehicle passes. If you cannot move, gently come to a crawl or stop until the emergency vehicle passes. Stay safe and attentive so you can stay alive!

### Addresses

If you have ever been involved in an emergency when you need the police, fire department, or an ambulance then you know a few minutes can feel like an eternity. You never know when or where an emergency will occur but attention to one key detail can literally save minutes and lives. That detail is LOCATION! Being aware of your surroundings and landmarks, knowing what roadway you are on, what the closest mile marker or highway exit you are near, or having clearly marked addresses at your home allow emergency responders the shortest and quickest travel time to that incident. Be sure your address is clearly marked and visible from your house, mailbox, and/or from a roadway marker, reflective address numbers are preferred.

### City Clerk/Treasurer

Spring will be here soon, I hope! City parks open April 1. If you have an event and would like to reserve the shelter by the city building, please give us a call at 859-441-8575 and we'll check availability. Reserved notices are posted on the bulletin board by the playground to make others aware the space is being used. The shelter is reserved for Highland Heights residents only and there is no charge to use the space.

We made it through our first tax season using credit/debit cards to pay tax bills online. We had a few glitches in the beginning, but once they were resolved and many property owners used the online option to pay their taxes. A special thank you to those who let us know about the issues and your patience as they were fixed. We also take credit/debit cards at the Administration offices to pay your tax/waste bill, or any other city bill. As a reminder,

there is a service fee when using a credit or debit card.

The City's website (hhky.com) and Facebook page (City of Highland Heights-City Alerts) are great places to find out what is happening in the city and county. The website calendar lists events that are occurring every month and the Facebook page is updated regularly with events, city council information, city board and commission meetings, and much more. Check them out and stay informed!

### Code Enforcement

#### 2023 Yearly Report

My Name is Dave Fornash, I have been a member of the Highland Heights Police Department for the last twenty-eight (28) years. I have been a resident of the City of Highland Heights on and off for the last thirty (30) years. I have recently stepped down from patrol work and into the position of Code Enforcement Officer. I am excited to be able to continue my career with the City of Highland Heights in this capacity. My job will entail helping citizens work on ordinance violations and property issues. I look forward to working with the community and making the city look nice for residents and visitors coming into the community.

September 25 to December 31

- Fourteen (14) Letters were sent for property clean up and or grass and weeds issues.
- Twenty (20) Civil Citations were mailed out.
- One (1) door hanger left to request property clean up.
- Twelve (12) In Person contacts were made with property owners about property issues.
- Ten (10) Phone contacts were made with property owners about property issues.
- Three (3) Property abatements were conducted.
- Signage issues throughout the city, I have removed approximate 75 signs.
- I have met with several business managers about the condition of their properties and the suggested remedy for the business.

### Public Works

Over this past year the dedicated Highland Heights Public Works Team (Mitchell Dawn, Pat Graven, and Brett Dawn) has been hard

at work improving the city's infrastructure. This includes roadway, sidewalk, and parks maintenance; and maintenance of our fleet, facilities, and grounds.

As winter continues and with the possibility of snow and ice accumulating on our streets, following are helpful reminders to drivers:

- **Give Crews Space to Work.** Please provide ample space between vehicles and crews, allowing them to do its job.
- **Utilize Off-Street Parking.** Parked vehicles along roadways are a major deterrent for crews when clearing snow and ice.
- **Keep an Emergency Kit Ready.** Pack an emergency vehicle kit, including a blanket, socks, cell phone, batteries, flashlights, and snacks while driving in winter conditions.
- **Extend Caution While Traveling.** Even at temperatures above freezing, if weather conditions are wet, you might encounter ice on exposed roadways like bridges, underpasses, or hills. Allow more room to brake when traveling during the winter season.
- **Slow Down!**

With the freeze and thawing during winter and applying salt to clear the streets, potholes will show up on streets. If you notice potholes in your streets, please let us know by either filling out the "Report Road Problems" on our website, "hhky.com" under Public Works or call the city offices at (859) 441-8575.

### Recreation

On March 16, we will be escorting the Easter Bunny through the city for our annual Easter Bunny Tour (Rain date is March 23). Highland Heights residents can sign up their children 12 and under on the hhky.com website and the "City of Highland Heights, Kentucky" Facebook page.

Please see the calendar on the hhky.com website for the recreation events that will be held during 2024.



### Halloween Decorating Contest

This year was the First Annual Halloween Decorating Contest for Highland Heights residents. The winner this past Halloween was Opal Kidd; her daughter, Vicky Rice; and Vicky's son Wyatt, on 35 Robinson Road. This will be an annual event for the city.



### Christmas Lighting Contest Winners



Shawna and John Herman

Mayor, Greg Meyers, and Public Works Director, Steve Lehman, toured the City to look at all the amazing Christmas displays to decide which one would be recognized as the Christmas lighting contest winner this year. It was

City of Highland Heights

such a difficult decision that two winners were chosen this year. Kati and John Manning on Sunset Avenue and John and Shawna Herman on Jillian Court. Hopefully you were able to see these in person but, if not, below are pictures. Thank you to the Mannings and the Hermans for all the time and effort they put in to making Christmas special for everyone!



Katie and John Manning on Sunset Avenue



John and Shawna Herman on Jillian Court

### Upcoming Events

#### EASTER BUNNY CITY TOUR – HIGHLAND HEIGHTS RESIDENTS ONLY

March 16, 11AM-2PM. Rain Date: March 23, same time

Sign your children up to have the Easter Bunny stop by your house and hand out Easter treats! Sign-ups are available on the Highland Heights website, hhky.com, and on the city's Facebook page, City of Highland Heights, Kentucky.

#### ARBOR DAY – HIGHLAND HEIGHT RESIDENTS ONLY

April 27, 11AM-2PM, Highland Heights City Building

The Highland Heights Tree Commission will hold its annual Arbor Day event and free tree distribution again this year. Please see the Arbor Day article for more details.

#### MEMORIAL DAY – HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE ALL Ceremony: Monday, May 27, 8:30AM, Highland Heights City Building

Memorial Day is an opportunity to honor the memory of those who gave their all fighting for our freedoms. We encourage everyone to take a few minutes out of their day to honor the memory of those who died in battle and veterans who have passed. Coffee, tea, and donuts will be served after the ceremony.

Check out the website calendar, at hhky.com, for City Council meetings, City Commission meetings, Office Closures, and events occurring after Memorial Day!

### Arbor Day Celebration

**ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION  
SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024  
1PM-2PM**

For the past 5 years the City of Highland Heights has been recognized as an Arbor Day Foundation official Tree City as a part of the Tree City USA program. This year will mark our 6<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day Celebration and the Tree Committee is planning a fun-packed and educational public event.

In addition to giving out free trees to the first 120 Highland Heights residents, we have several other fun activities for the entire family. Our celebration will include activities such as:

- Face painting
- Martial arts demonstrations
- Tree care education
- Other events

We will also have sandwiches provided by City BBQ and more throughout the day!



In addition to an exciting day and free trees for residents, we also want to offer free rain barrels courtesy of the Cooperative Extension Service. This is open to any city resident who is interested in a rain barrel; pre-registration is required, limited availability. If you are interested in a free rain barrel, scan the QR code to register.



[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6INLK3mXVBtNcMu?Q\\_CHL=qr](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6INLK3mXVBtNcMu?Q_CHL=qr)

The 2024 Tree Committee members are Janet Jackson, Mitch Miller, Ray Wash, Maureen Wash, Meredith Leary, Kathleen Tuemler and David Dalton. Tree Board Meetings are on the even months (February, April, June, August, October, December) at the City Building on

the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 7PM-8PM. The public is always invited to attend.

### Pantry of Hope

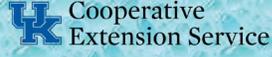
The Pantry of Hope is in dire need of food donations. They serve over 100 people each week and their shelves are running low. The Pantry is open Saturdays from 9:30AM-Noon and donations can be dropped off during these hours.

The Pantry of Hope is a ministry of the First Baptist Church of Highland Heights (2315 Alexandria Pike). Their mission is to serve those in need within Northern Kentucky with food, personal care items, and other needs. If you are able to donate, please do so.

### Healthier Environment Award

Ryan Salzman, One NKY Alliance; Michael Gieske, MD, St. Elizabeth Healthcare; Stephanie Vogel, Northern Kentucky Health Department; Courtney New, Northern Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy expressed their appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for passing the Smoke Free Ordinance last year. In recognition, Ms. Vogel and Ms. New presented Mayor Meyers with their Healthier Environment Award at the February 6 City Council Meeting (pictured).





# Rain Barrel Giveaway

Volume..... 55.0 gal  
 Outside Dimension Length..... 26.0"  
 Outside Dimension Width..... 26.0"  
 Outside Dimension Height..... 34.0"  
 Weight..... 16 lbs.



## Saturday April 27

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Pre-Registration is Required!**  
 Visit this website  
[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_61NLK3mXVBtNcMu](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_61NLK3mXVBtNcMu)

Or scan the QR Code to register



**Pickup Location: Highland Heights City Building – 12:00–2:00 p.m.**  
 176 Johns Hill Road | Highland Heights, KY 41071



The Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service in conjunction with the City of Highland Heights are conducting this event to promote water conservation within our county.

At this event, participants will receive educational information and a System Rain Barrel. Participants must own the residence and agree to provide information about the amount of water capture and how it was utilized through a survey to be conducted later this year.

**1 Rain Barrel per residence. - I.D. Required and must match the address that barrel is registered to.**

Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service  
 3500 Alexandria Pike | Highland Heights, KY 41076  
 859-572-2600



**Martin-Gatton**  
 College of Agriculture,  
 Food and Environment  
 University of Kentucky.

**Cooperative Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Family and Consumer Sciences  
 4-H Youth Development  
 Community and Economic Development

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT**

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.  
 University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties Cooperating.  
 Lexington, KY 40506





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City of Highland Heights  
176 Johns Hill Road  
Highland Heights, KY 41076

### Upcoming Events

#### March 2024

##### 2024 Comprehensive Plan Open House

March 4 @ 10AM-12PM

March 4 @ 5PM-7PM

##### City Council Meeting

March 5 @ 7PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

March 6 @ 6PM-9PM

##### Planning/Zoning Meeting

March 12 @ 7PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

March 13 @ 6PM-9PM

##### Easter Bunny Tour Thru The City

March 16 @ 11AM-2PM

##### City Council Meeting

March 19 @ 7PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

March 20 @ 6PM-9PM

##### RAIN DATE for Easter Bunny Tour Thru The City

March 23 @ 11AM-1PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

March 27 @ 6PM-9PM

#### April 2024

##### City Parks Open

April 1

### Upcoming Events

##### City Council Meeting

April 2 @ 7PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

April 3 @ 6PM-9PM

##### Planning/Zoning Meeting

April 9 @ 7PM

##### 2024 Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing

April 9 @ 7PM-9PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

April 10 @ 6PM-9PM

##### City Council Meeting

April 16 @ 7PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

April 17 @ 6PM-9PM

##### Tree Commission Meeting

April 23 @ 7PM-9PM

##### Citizens Police Academy

April 24 @ 6PM-9PM

##### Arbor Day Celebration - Residents Only

April 27 @ 11AM-2PM

#### May 2024

##### Code Enforcement Board Meeting

May 1 @ 7PM-9PM

##### City Council Meeting

May 7 @ 7PM

##### Planning/Zoning Meeting

May 14 @ 7PM

### Upcoming Events

#### 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

May 21

##### City Council Meeting

May 21 @ 7PM

##### OFFICES CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY

May 27

##### Memorial Day Ceremony

May 27 @ 8:30AM-9AM

#### June 2024

##### City Council Meeting

June 4 @ 7PM

##### Planning/Zoning Meeting

June 11 @ 7PM

##### City Council Meeting

June 18 @ 7PM

##### Tree Commission Meeting

June 25 @ 7PM-9PM

#### July 2025

##### City Council Meeting

July 2 @ 7PM

##### OFFICES CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4

##### Planning/Zoning Meeting

July 9 @ 7PM

##### City Council Meeting

July 16 @ 7PM