

City of Highland Heights

Summer 2017

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

Volume 1 Issue 2



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Mayors Message

Spring has finally arrived and soon summer will be here and in full swing. Our Public Works department is fully staffed and has been busy getting our city spruced up. The mild winter and the nice spring has allowed them to get all of the parks ready for another busy season. Please call our friendly administration staff if you wish to reserve one of our parks for your family outing. I think our parks offer some of the best places to visit with your family and friends.



Please remember, the children are out of school and will be enjoying their summer vacation, which means they will be riding bikes and playing outside. I can't stress enough, for everyone to be alert and watch your speed on our streets. We all know kids don't always remember to look both ways before running after a ball or chasing their friends.

If your family has a vacation planned this summer, our police department offers a vacation check. To request this valuable service just give our administration a call at 859-441-8575 and let them know the dates you will be away. The police will schedule several walk around stops to check your doors and windows.

Highland Village Senior Home construction is well under way and scheduled to open in late October. The village will offer independent senior living. We look forward to welcoming our new residents as well as some returning residents. Look for further details about the construction and ribbon cutting to officially open the facility.

Highland Heights is a great place to live, work and raise your family. We all need to work together to keep our city looking its best. We have created a brochure with some of our ordinances regarding upkeep and maintenance of property. Please feel free to call the city with any questions or concerns.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer and I hope to see you all on July 15th at the annual car show and concert. Sincerely,

Greg Meyers
Mayor

Road Construction in Highland Heights

As of May 8th, 2017 John's Hill Road is closed to through traffic from the bridge over I-275 to the intersection of Kenton Drive and Meadow Trail Drive to construct portions of a roundabout. Motorists traveling from KY 9 (AA Highway) - KY 2345 (Johns Hill Road) will be directed to KY 2238(Three Mile Road) to University Drive to KY 2345(Johns Hill Road). The closure will remain in place for 6-8 weeks. Work is weather dependent.

The Good Neighbor Award for the Month of May

Stella Worley is a life-long resident of Highland Heights. Nine years ago when Brandy Medaugh started the Pantry of Hope food pantry in the basement of the First Baptist Church, Stella and her then 11 year old granddaughter signed up as a volunteer for a day. She had never volunteered for anything like that before and told her granddaughter we will try it out once.



Well, Stella loved it and has been working the Food Pantry ever since. Not only is she there every Saturday from 9-12, but she is also one of the Super Shoppers for the Pantry of Hope. With the private donations the pantry receives, Stella shops for food at places like Kroger, Meijer, County Market, Wal-Mart and the Dollar Store-anywhere that she can get the best bang for her dollar. She shops about 2 hours a day spending about \$100 dollars a week. She uses coupons (which are also sometimes donated) and follows specials whenever and wherever they occur. Her goal is to maximize that donated dollar to get the most food that she can knowing that someone worked hard for that dollar. When Stella started they were feeding up to 10 families a week----now it has grown to up to 40 a week. Stella thinks of others before herself and loves this mission she is living to feed the hungry of the community.

Pantry of Hope - 2315 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076 (behind the First Baptist Church of Highland Heights- next to Lowes)

This month marks the 9th anniversary of a program started by a local NKU graduate who was frustrated by the "red tape" associated with the government funded programs she was familiar with after

getting into Social Work upon graduation. Brandy Medaugh had a vision to feed the hungry families and residents of Campbell County using a "no questions asked" approach. She has partnered with the church which gives her the space and pays her utilities and the giving community who provide food donations. She does have volunteers who have helped her through the years like Stella Worley and Mark Lundquist and a network of donors like Kroger, Panera and Proctor and Gamble. But she relies heavily on the once a year US Postal Service drive which was on May 13th and on the local community.



Brandy estimates that the Pantry has provided over 7000 meals over the last 9 years to the area residents in need of food. They serve around 150 people a week on Saturdays during their hours of 9-12.

The Pantry operates with no federal funds and relies solely on food and cash donations. Anyone can donate canned goods, perishables and toiletries and you can also send a cash donation in care of First Baptist Church noting on the check it is for the Pantry of Hope and you will be sent a receipt for tax purposes. In addition to the food pantry they also have backpack program for kids at a local middle school. Brandy and her volunteers give at least 15 hours of their time weekly. Brandy works full time for Catholic Charities so she is very active in helping others.

Most of the people she serves are those not eligible for food stamps for whatever reason. City of Highland Heights

son. They could be unemployed, disabled, underemployed, or elderly. With her background in social work, Brandy occasionally quietly provides referral information in their food packs to try to help even more.

The Pantry of Hope is a huge benefactor of the annual US Postal Service Food Drive that was held on May 13th. Usually they receive 4-7000 pounds of food on average. This year for whatever reason, they only received around 1400 pounds. This will definitely impact their ability to serve the community unless we all step up and donate to the Pantry.

Please consider giving each week to the pantry. Donations can be dropped off on Saturdays between 9-12pm.

Recycling in Highland Heights

An average American generates nearly a ton of trash per year, but all of that waste does not have to end up in a landfill. As a responsible citizen of Highland Heights, you have the opportunity to recycle as part of your garbage pick-up service each week. Please stop by the city building to pick up your free recycling bin. You can call first to make sure they are in stock at 859-441-8575.

Rumpke has made significant investments in their recycling technology to make recycling easier and more convenient for the residents. Rumpke's program, called single stream recycling, allows all recyclables to be mixed together, and it is sorted at one of Rumpke's advanced recycling facilities. Single stream programs focus on all recyclable material generated by residents-not just individual items. This comprehensive approach helps divert the greatest volume of recyclable materials from landfills.

Residents can typically recycle the following items:

Plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, steel cans and lids, paperboard (like cereal boxes), cardboard, office paper, envelopes and junk mail, newspapers, magazines and inserts, telephone books and catalogs and cartons.

Please be environmentally friendly and recycle.

Getting to know the Highland Heights Chief of Police –Bill Birkenhauer

Highland Heights is fortunate to have a Chief of Police that is as highly trained and experienced as Bill.

Bill became interested in police work after a close friend who was a part-time police officer introduced him to Law Enforcement. Bill became a part time officer with the city of Alexandria in 1987.

After spending 4 years with Alexandria and Cold Spring Police force he joined the Campbell County Police Department in 1991 and graduated from the Police Academy as a Patrol Officer.

In 1995 he was assigned to the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force serving as an undercover Narcotics officer where he began his experience in drug enforcement. After serving in that capacity for 2 ½ years, Bill went back as a Patrol Officer for 1 ½ years and then was back with the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force joining officers from other counties in Northern Kentucky. Their job was to stop the mid to upper level drug operations while working closely with the FBI and other agencies in the war against illegal drugs.

In 1999, Bill was promoted to Sergeant with Campbell County and then in 2000 joined the SWAT Team for Campbell County Cities where he eventually served as an Assistant Swat Commander. In 2001 Bill went back to the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force as the field supervisor where he spent the majority of the next 10 years. In 2007 he was assigned to the FBI as a Safe Street Task Force Officer along with his duties as Field Supervisor with the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. In 2009 Bill retired from the SWAT Team to focus on his assignments with the FBI and Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force.

Bill retired from Campbell County Department in 2011 and was quickly called by Highland Heights to head up the Drug investigation unit as the heroin epidemic was starting to grow large in the area. He worked closely with the County Attorney and Commonwealth attorney to fight the drug crimes at the local level to keep it off the streets of Highland Heights as well as Campbell County.

In 2014 Bill was named Chief of Police for Highland Heights where he has now served for three years. Along the way Bill married in 1992 and has a wonderful supportive police wife (Angie) and two children that have all sacrificed along the way allowing Bill to be a servant to the community.

Bill's greatest satisfaction comes from the work he has done in the drug enforcement arena by seeing some of the dealers he has arrested be taken off the streets and sent to jail. The work is not over as I-471 and I-275 are gateways in and out of our city that keep Bill and the police department busy. The drug problems in our area affect everyone in our country so it is comforting to know that all of the police officers on Highland Heights Police Force have extensive experience in drug enforcement.

Highland Heights was recently named the 4th safest city in the commonwealth of Kentucky and it is due in no small part to the great work of Bill and his staff of 10 officers.

Bill has two reminders for everyone:

It is summer time-kids are out, drive slow through the city and stop at all stop signs

And please call the police if you think you see a problem!!! Even if it turns out not to be one-they would rather you be safe than sorry. Please call!



Cruise in Concert- July 15 - Highland Heights City Building

John's Hill Road, One Block off US 27

Car Show from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

This is an open event to all years of vehicles. Rain or Shine

Food and Drinks available for purchase

Dance from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm with music by classic rock band- The IconX

The IconX has been performing since 2012. They are based in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. Their diverse playlist features different flavors of Rock, Pop, Disco and Soul. They play your favorite songs from the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's and beyond.

Visit their website to hear a preview of their music.

Contact **Gary Chinn** with any questions at 859-628-5040

Join us at the **City Building** for some Summer Fun!!!!

HEROIN EPIDEMIC PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL



Dr. Perilou Goddard, Professor in Psychological Sciences at Northern Kentucky University and Highland Heights resident, presented "What Highland Heights Needs to Know about Heroin: Science-Based Responses to the Epidemic" to the city council on March 21, 2017. Below are a few key points taken directly from Dr. Goddard's presentation about heroin use disorder.

People with heroin use disorder are PEOPLE FIRST

- They are our brothers, sisters; our sons and daughters; our neighbors and co-workers
- They have a chronic disease and deserve our help, not our contempt

Heroin is **NOT** universally addicting – some people are at higher risk for heroin use disorder than others.

Many risk factors for heroin use are NOT within the individual's control and include

- Genetics: 50% of the risk for addiction
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) before the age of 18
 - Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
 - Physical or emotional neglect
 - Loss of a parent through death, divorce or incarceration
 - Mental illness or substance use disorder in a parent
 - Witnessing domestic violence
- Adolescent brain development: the brain is not fully developed to "put the brakes on" when it comes to substance abuse until a person's mid-20's.
- Lack of competing sources of pleasure or satisfaction
 - Poor educational opportunities
 - Unemployment or under-employment
 - Unstable or inadequate housing

Best responses to the Heroin Epidemic Giving People a Chance to Recover:

- Overdose prevention with the use of Naloxone (or Narcan)
- Prevention of blood borne infections through syringe access/exchange programs. Sites provide safe disposal of syringes, overdose prevention training and are a crucial bridge to drug treatment. Research shows these programs do not lead to increased use of heroin or crime. They do save lives and money!
- Medication-Assisted treatment – a combination of medication and behavioral therapy tailored to each individual's needs is the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder.

For help, call the **Northern Kentucky Addiction Helpline 24/7/365 at 859-415-9280**



Midwest Bottle Gas Distributors, located at 2557 Alexandria Pike in Highland Heights, has been owned and operated by the same family since it was founded by Ruth and Robert Greene in 1945. According to Ruth, "Working together, we started up this business in 1945, right after World War II, working out of our home located next door to where our offices are now in Highland Heights, starting out with one customer. Like a lot of husband-wife teams back in those days, I did the office work and he handled everything else." Midwest Gas grew as Northern Kentuckians, tired of using wood to heat and cook, were anxious to have a new gas system installed in their homes in that post-war era.

In 1955, Robert unexpectedly passed away and Ruth took charge of the company at a time when it was rare for a woman to run a business, especially in the propane industry. A comment from a visiting salesman motivated Ruth to continue. "He said that he didn't know of any woman who had ever succeeded in the gas business. Well, that lit a fire, a huge torch in my belly that, to this day, is still burning inside me. I made up my mind then and there that I wasn't going to sell the company, but keep it and grow it, and become a success in this business." Ruth Greene Rilling remained involved in the business until her death in 2009. She credited the longevity of Midwest Gas to the value of strong family support, the good work ethic of company employees and a conservative business philosophy. Her children and grandchildren continue to handle daily operations.

Over the years, Midwest Gas has expanded to include 15 employees in two offices, the original location in Highland Heights and another in Falmouth, KY. We deliver to approximately 4,000 customers across Northern Kentucky and Clermont County, Ohio. Midwest provides residential and commercial customers with

City of Highland Heights

delivery of bulk propane, 100-pound cylinders and forklift cylinders, as well as tank installations and service. At our offices, we offer small cylinder refills and sell propane fireplace logs, space heaters, cylinders, parts and fittings.

Midwest Gas is a member of the National Propane Gas Association, the Kentucky Propane Gas Association, the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky. Midwest Gas was awarded a Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Small Business Success Award in 2009 and a United States Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Small Business Award in 2010. Midwest Gas is proud to continue serving the community in which we live and work!

Finance Committee Update

The Budget Committee met on May 15 to discuss the fiscal year 2017-18 budget with the Mayor, Greg Meyers and the Budget Director, Harry Barlage. We had a thorough review of the current budget and proposed budget. Mr. Barlage presented the 2017-18 budget to the Council at the May 16 council meeting. The budget was read at the June 6 meeting. The second reading and vote will occur at the June 20 meeting. Council meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Council members serving on the Finance Committee are John Hoffert and Jeanne Pettit.

The **Finance Committee** is also reviewing our policies and ordinances relating to single-family homes used as rental properties. We are looking into what other cities are doing, and determining what, if any changes need to be made to our city's current policies and/or ordinances.

Beautification Committee Update

The **Beautification Committee** was established to enhance the visual image of our city, which is important to all of the residents and businesses in town.

We challenge our residents to help "one yard at a time"—"one street at a time".

If we get everyone involved—the image and

beauty of the city will dramatically improve.

The Beautification Committee would appreciate any ideas the residents wish to share.

You can contact either Debbie Ball or Gary Chinn through the City of Highland Heights' Web site.

Drug Task Force Tip Line

The Highland Heights Police Department is always on patrol for drug activity in the city. We have been vigilant in eradicating dealers to keep our city safe. You, as residents, can be a big help in identifying trouble areas. You know your neighborhoods better than anyone. If you notice anything suspicious or an unusual amount of traffic in your area, please call when you see it happening, so that an officer can respond and witness possible problems.

Details are always helpful, such as license plate numbers, house numbers and a description of potential suspects involved. The 24 hour police dispatch number is 292-3622.

The Drug Task Force also has a message center to report possible drug activity. That number is 442-6911. You can always remain anonymous with no worry of potential retaliation. If an officer does not answer, please leave your message with information they can follow up on.

Carmack Park is now open

The largest project completed by Public Works was to replace all the 18" drain pipe (880 feet) and install new inlet boxes in Carmack Park. For citizens that have used this park the last several years, you are probably aware that it held a lot of water most of the year. After Public Works levels out a couple of low spots in the field this spring, this park will be usable throughout the year, free of puddles and mud holes.

City Calendar





Cruise-In/Concert



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

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
FLORENCE, KY
PERMIT # 147

Upcoming Events

June 2017

Council Meeting
June 6 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
June 13 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
June 14 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Council Meeting
June 20 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

July 2017

Offices Closed
July 4
Planning/Zoning Meeting
July 11 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
July 12 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Cruise-In/Concert
July 15 @ 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Council Meeting
July 18 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Upcoming Events

August 2017

Council Meeting
August 1 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
August 8 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
August 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Council Meeting
August 15 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

September 2017

Labor Day - Offices Closed
September 4
Council Meeting
September 5 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
September 12 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
September 13 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Council Meeting
September 19 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Upcoming Events

More information on events can be obtained by visiting the calendar on the City website.

City Calendar - <http://hhky.com/events/>

Police Department Information

Please don't hesitate to call the police if you need help or see something suspicious. 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 8:00 am to 4:00 pm 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**. Please see the Highland Heights Police Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hhkypd/>