

# City of Highland Heights

Spring 2017

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

Volume 1 Issue 1



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## Mayors Message

It has been some time since our last newsletter. It was a busy 2016 for all of our parks in the city, as I'm sure it was for you. Our shelter was reserved almost every weekend, often with multiple parties a day. I really enjoyed seeing so many residents enjoying our city building campus, from the pavilion to the playground to the sand volleyball courts and walking trail. We continue to build on the trail system, which will soon feature a loop, as well as distance markers to help track your steps. If you haven't already, I encourage you to stop by and check it out. Please plan ahead and reserve the pavilion during the 2017 summer. Our city building park and nature trail are scheduled to be opened April 1st for another busy season. With the mild weather we have been experiencing, our Public Works Department has been able to get an early start preparing for the 2017 spring and summer.



As we look to 2017, I'm pleased to announce the Highland Village senior living community at the site of the old elementary school location is well under way and is planned to be open in the fall of 2017. Many seniors say that activity and social interaction is the key to



maintaining mental sharpness and emotional well-being as they age, so I'm delighted our city will soon have a community living atmosphere to facilitate these connections for our senior residents.

Finally, I'd like to thank three very important members of our city staff whose dedication makes Highland Heights such a wonderful place to live, work and play: City Clerk Jean Rauf, Police Chief Bill Birkenhauer and Public Works Supervisor Steve Lehman. Look for updates from each of them in this newsletter. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable spring and summer, 2017.

*Mayor Greg Meyers*

## A Look Back: History of the Veterans Memorial

At the edge of Highland Heights' city limits sits Veterans Park. The park used to sit on a prized location, immediately to a driver's right hand side as a car would enter Highland Heights from Ft. Thomas on US 27. Over the years, the development of I-471 split a portion of the north end off from the rest of town. With traffic flowing on the interstate, not as many Campbell County residents pass the park or for that matter appreciate the Veterans Memorial for which the park is named.

At Veterans Park, three plaques covered the three sides of the base of the memorial, a large one for World War II, with smaller plaques for the Korean and Vietnam Wars. A unique feature of that memorial was that it

lists not just those who died in war, but also everyone with a Highland Heights connection who served in each war. The World War II plaque has 170 names and specifically marks the nine soldiers and sailors who perished with a gold star.



Seventy years later, the memorial still highlights the idea that this was not just a war that can be understood in terms of global history, but one that had a uniquely local impact on the City of Highland Heights and the lives of local families here forever. Another plaque marked the Korean War, where 22 names are present. A Vietnam War plaque listed 51 service personnel that fought in that War.

In recent years, an effort was undertaken to refocus the position of this important monument in a place where many others will have the opportunity to view and reflect upon the history of our city's contribution to our nation's freedom. Since the dedication of the new Highland Heights city building off Johns Hill Rd in 2010, there has been a long-term



plan to transfer the memorial from Veterans Park to the city building. This would allow residents of the city who attend community event in the building or surrounding park-lands the chance to view the memorial.

During the summer months of 2015, a marker stood at the new city building with the flags of the United States, Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Prisoners of War surrounding a black granite rock that is dedicated to all who served in the nation's Armed Forces. This past Veterans Day, the new Highland Heights Veterans Memorial was dedicated with additional black granite rocks listing all the names of those who were honored at the previous Memorial at Veterans Park. A larger crowd showed up to rededicate the memorial at its new location during the annual Veterans Day breakfast.

Mayor Greg Meyers had worked on the project to move the plaques from Veterans Park over to the city building. "So many of our citizens in Highland Heights are part of the Greatest Generation, we keep losing more of them each year," said Meyers. "This seems like a good time to update our memorial and give it a prominent place in our city where the most people will see it."

Campbell County being a tight-knit place, it is easy to see so many familiar names on the plaques. With this planned move, more local residents will be able to learn about our local

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heroes who sacrificed and served for the greater good of their countrymen.

### **Seventh safest college town in the United States**

Highland Heights has recently been ranked the seventh safest college town in the United States according to Safewise, a Home Security and Safety advice company that compares security system providers.

Safewise compiled FBI crime statistics and evaluates those statistics with their own research that focuses on safety-related programs and initiatives. Safewise listed various ways that the City of Highland Heights and NKU reach out to both citizens and students in order to keep the community safe.

The six cities ranked ahead of Highland Heights were led by Brookings, South Dakota; followed by Charleston, Illinois; Rexburg, Idaho; Elon, North Carolina; Canyon, Texas; & Durham, New Hampshire. No other Kentucky college town made the top 50, other nearby cities including Athens, Ohio at #31 and West Lafayette, Indiana at #37.

This latest ranking comes on the heels of Safewise Report released in 2014 that called Highland Heights the 11th safest city in Kentucky and 2nd safest in Northern Kentucky.

### **Public Works**

Many public works updates have taken place around the city since the last newsletter. One of our new additions is a walking trail that has been added to the south end of the park area at the city building. The trail will become part of a continuous loop, with the paved walking trail going from John's Hill Road past the city building to the back of NKU's Callahan Hall. The new trail goes up a tree lined ridge behind the NKU dorms located on Martha Layne Collins Rd. and connects with the service road behind the city's Public Works building. A trail-walker can then take another left and arrive back at the city building to start the loop again. Signs will be posted in the future to measure how long the walking trail is from various points



*Trail-South end of park*



*Walking Trail-S.E. Corner of park*

so that citizens can track their exercise. When you near the end of the paved walkway at the tree line, you can take a right

down the gravel drive to our community gardens and walk across the bridge we built crossing over the creek to the city's ball field. The area around the ball field is being cleared of all of the overgrowth



*Bridge over creek*

so that more mulched walking trails can be added around the field in the future. Earlier last year, a bike rack was added to the trail between the shelter and the playground so that any bike riders may utilize the park if they arrive from other parts of the city or county.

Many city residents saw workers from Precision Concrete Cutting early last year working on sidewalks in the South end. Many panels of sidewalk have become uneven over the years. The technology used by the company to fix them is cheaper, more efficient and more environmentally friendly than previous approaches. If the difference in height between the two adjoining slabs of sidewalk is less than 2 inches, the taller panel can be cut down and smoothed out in order to make the sidewalk even again and meet ADA Guidelines. Any panels that have more than 2 inches difference cannot be cut and will be replaced at a later date. However, for those panels that can be cut instead of completely replaced, a significant savings of taxpayer dollars was realized while still getting the same impact of making the sidewalk safer.

NKU students also contributed to beautification efforts around town during volunteer in-service days last year. Public Works employees along with members of City Council and NKU students landscaped garden areas,

cleaned public signs and displays in right of way areas near US 27, and completed other projects to make the city look its best.

Piping and French drains have been installed at places including Hale St., the volleyball courts at the city building park and the city building parking lot. This has helped alleviate flooding and run-off issues in the affected areas. A number of other projects undertaken by Public Works last year included placing new signs at some of the city entrances, removing large amounts of overgrown trees and bushes from various right of ways, street paint in no parking areas and stop sign bars, pressure wash-



*Carmack Park Pipe Replacement*

ing, tree planting and many other projects to beautify and keep the city running smoothly.

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.

### **Safety**

Highland Heights has recently been ranked the seventh safest college town in the United States according to Safewise, a Home Security and Safety advice company that compares security system providers. Safewise compiled FBI crime statistics and evaluates those statistics with their own

research that focuses on safety-related programs and initiatives. Safewise listed various ways that the City of Highland Heights and NKU reach out to both citizens and students in order to keep the community safe. The six cities ranked ahead of Highland Heights were led by Brookings, South Dakota; followed by Charleston, Illinois; Rexburg, Idaho; Elon, North Carolina; Canyon, Texas; & Durham, New Hampshire. No other Kentucky college town made the top 50, other nearby cities including Athens, Ohio at #31 and West Lafayette, Indiana at #37. This latest ranking comes on the heels of Safewise Report released in 2014 that called Highland Heights the 11th safest city in Kentucky and 2nd safest in Northern Kentucky.

### **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.

Highland Heights has a very minimal amount of drug traffic. We are lucky to have experienced detectives and officers working here. Citizens and police personnel working together can only improve statistics.



### **Special Guest Speaker at March 21st Council Meeting**

The current heroin epidemic has prompted council to invite **Dr. Perilou Goddard** to present during the City Council meeting on **Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.** A **very dynamic speaker**, Perilou will discuss how people become addicted; what addiction does to a person; and what we, as a community, can do about this epidemic.

Perilou is a resident of Highland Heights and a professor at Northern Kentucky University where she teaches courses in Drug Policy and Addiction Science. Her research focuses on attitudes toward drug policy issues. **Please join the council in learning more** about what we can do to help our neighbors, friends and family dealing with addiction.

**The Christmas Lights Display** winner was **Mary Maschmeyer** for her beautiful Christmas Display. She will be presented a plaque and have her name on the wall at the City Building.

### **NKY Community Gardens**

Gardening plots for the NKY Community Gardens (Highland Heights location), are being accepted for the 2017 growing season. All plots at all other locations have already been assigned.

To apply for the Highland Heights garden plots, go to: <http://green.nku.edu/green-programs/NKYCommunityGarden/GardenApplication.html>.

### **Spring into Service**

Student volunteers from NKU's "Spring into Service" will be working throughout the City of Highland Heights on Saturday, April. 8.

In past years the students have worked at the city's campus, the Pantry of Hope, and the community gardens. We appreciate the service the students provide the City.

### **City Council Members for 2017**

The 2017 City Council has been sworn into office with two new members. They are AJ Moermond and John Hoffert. They join returning members –Jeanne Pettit, Gary Chinn, Debbie Ball and Dave Ramler. They can be reached

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through the city office at 859-441-8575 or see their bios on the Highland Heights website for more contact information.

### **Planning & Zoning Committee Members for 2017**

The 2017 Planning and Zoning Committee has a new member-Scott Reinke who has previously been on City Council and Planning and Zoning.

He joins Steve Crawford, Joe Krebs, John McNabb, Gene White, Harold Blocher, Chuck Pettit and Audrey Koester. They can be reached at 859-441-8575 or see their bios on the Highland Heights website for more contact information.

### **Committees for 2017**

#### **Finance**

Jeanne Pettit and John Hoffert

#### **Beautification**

Debbie Ball and Gary Chinn

#### **Safety**

Debbie Ball and Dave Ramler

#### **Infrastructure**

Gary Chinn and Dave Ramler

#### **Communication**

AJ Moermond and John Hoffert

#### **Development**

Jeanne Pettit and AJ Moermond

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance**

We will be working on the new budget for the Fiscal year that starts July 1, 2017. The budget will be presented to the council in June for approval.

#### **Communication**

The committee has agreed to send out quarterly newsletters to the city once again with this edition. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically-please sign up on the web-site. In addition, we are in the processing of updating the Highland Heights Website.

### **The Highland Heights Police Department**

The Highland Heights Police Department is made up of 11 full time police officers, one K-9 and a police department clerk. Along with the Chief of Police we have an Administrative Lieutenant, Investigative Lieutenant, Patrol Sergeant, Narcotics Detective and 7 patrol officers. The department has experienced officers with specialized training in all areas of Law Enforcement, including general investigations, drug investigations, Crime Scene processing, Major Accident Reconstruction (M.A.R.T.), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), arson investigations, along with general patrol.

As vacation season approaches remember that the police department will check your residence for you while you are out of town. Contact the clerk to set up your house check. You can keep always keep track of what is going on in the city either through the Highland Heights Police Facebook page or the City website. 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 8-4.

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](mailto:wbirkenhauer@hhky.com). Please see the Highland Heights Police Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hhkypd/>

### **Confidential Shredding at the Library**

You can now shred your confidential documents at the library for free! Document shredding at each of our branches now has two locked containers for collecting confidential documents. All you have to do is drop the documents you would like to be shredded...

## Highlighted Business

### **Bud's J&M Service, Inc.**

Bud's Pure Oil was opened Friday March 13, 1965. It was with one grease rack and a wash bay that our business got its start. The community began having their cars serviced here, and many of the relationships fostered back in those days carry forward to the present. A few years later the shop was renamed Bud's Union 76. We had a new name, but our mission was still the same, to serve the community as if they were family, just as we always had.

With two new service bays added in 1985, Jeff and his business partner Mike purchased the company from Bud in 1989. The company had a new name and had become a second generation company. Renamed Bud's J&M Service, Inc. the company continued on in the family tradition, providing the quality service that was part of each and every customer experience,

When Mike left the business a few years later to pursue other things, Jeff ran the company and handled day to day operations. His wife Vicki joined the team, as well as his sons who were growing up and ready at the gate to enter the business as service technicians. Bud was there to help Jeff mold his sons into outstanding mechanics in their own right. It is truly a family affair, and a family commitment to our customers that delivered us to the present.

Today, fifty two years later, Jeff, Vicky, AJ and Greg (Bud's grandsons) support the community needs. We've expanded our ability to service the community with four full time employees. Three generations have worked side by side satisfying the needs of the community and servicing their vehicles.

Bud's J&M Service is located at 2029 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY CLERK TREASURER AND STAFF:**

### **CITY CLERK TREASURER JEAN RAUF:**

I have been a resident of the City since 1960. I have been the City Clerk Treasurer for 30 years. I previously served on the Board of Adjustment, served as the Recording Secretary for the Water and Sewer Board, and I served as a Councilmember before becoming City Clerk Treasurer. I am the keeper Of the City's records along with other various duties.

### **ASSISTANT CITY CLERK SUE KRAMER:**

After retiring from the City of Villa Hills where she held the position of City Clerk for 18 years. Sue began working for the City as Clerk on a part time basis on July 17, 2008. On July 1, 2014 she was promoted to the position of Assistant City Clerk. She assists the City Clerk/Treasurer with accounts payable, accounts receivables, data entry, tax collections and other various duties.

### **RECEPTIONIST/DATA ENTRY CLERK KAREN RICHEY:**

After retiring from the City of Newport where she held the position of Administrative Assistant for 23 years, Karen began working for the City as Receptionist/Data Entry Clerk in January 2013. Karen is the first person you see when you come into the City Building and she greets everyone with a smile and is willing to be of assistance. She assists the City Clerk Treasurer in records management and other various duties.

It is our pleasure to be of service to our residents and everybody as it is the first source of information.

### **Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

### **Council Meetings:**

First and Third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm

### **Planning and Zoning Meetings:**

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

### **Park & Recreation Meeting:**

Second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm

## **Highland Village Main Complex**



*Main Complex*



*Main Complex*



*Main Complex Rt. Side*



*Duplex With Brick*



*Duplex Unit*



*Duplex 2*

## Highland Village

Highland Village is a Premier Senior Living Community located in Highland Heights, scheduled to open in the fall of 2017. This community will feature one three story building that consists of one hundred and four individual one bedroom apartments, and an additional seven, two bedrooms, (single story) duplex style units with an attached garage. We stopped at nothing to load this community with "Topnotch" amenities such as: Hardwood flooring; ceiling fans; balconies/patios; communal courtyards; w/d hookups as well as communal laundry facilities; exercise room; computer room; hair and nail salon; off street parking and much more.

One Bedroom One Bathroom Layout:



### HIGHLAND VILLAGE APPLICATIONS TO BE AVAILABLE!

Beginning February 2nd, Highland Village applications can be picked up at the Neighborhood Foundations administration building located on the second floor of 30 East 8th Street, Newport, KY 41071 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays between the hours of 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis.  
No appointment is necessary.

#### Questions?

Please contact our office at (859) 581•2533 (EXT. 201), or email Charles Webb at(cwebb@neighborhoodfoundations.conl)

#### Information required for completed applications:

- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Photo ID



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

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### Upcoming Events

#### MARCH 2017

Council Meeting  
March 7 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
Recreation Meeting  
March 8 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Planning/Zoning Meeting  
March 14 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Council Meeting  
March 21 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

#### APRIL 2017

Council Meeting  
April 4 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Highland Heights City Building**  
April 8 @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Planning/Zoning Meeting  
April 11 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Recreation Meeting  
April 12 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Council Meeting  
April 18 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

### Upcoming Events

#### MAY 2017

Council Meeting  
May 2 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
Planning/Zoning Meeting  
May 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Recreation Meeting  
May 10 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Volleyball League Starts**  
**May 12 to August 11**  
Council Meeting  
May 16 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
**May 29 @ 8:30 am - 9:00 am**

#### 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

### Upcoming Events

*More information on events can be obtained from visiting the City calendar on the web or by scanning the QR code below.*

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

[City Calendar](#)



Get your next newsletter set directly to your email account, its free and easy to sign-up. The digital version of the newsletter is in full color compared to the printed version.

**City Newsletter Signup**

<http://hhky.com/media-room/city-newsletter/>

[City Newsletter](#)

