

City of Highland Heights

Spring 2020

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

Volume 4 Issue 1



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Mayors Message

The Winter Season has finally arrived. One would never have believed it. We went from summer like weather right into winter, with a very short fall season. I hope you were able to enjoy the fall colors in the trees and flowers.



In closing, I would like to wish a Happy and Healthy 2020. I'm looking forward to the many Recreation Department planned events this year and I hope to see you at some of them.

Sincerely,
Greg Meyers - Mayor

City Clerk

Happy New Year!! As the new year begins, I realize I have just completed my first year as your City Clerk. I want to thank everyone for their help, support, congratulations, and good wishes. This has been an exciting and rewarding first year for me. I have met and worked with many wonderful residents; and all the amazing people who work for the city have made my transition into this position a smooth and positive experience. I am so thankful for this opportunity and look forward to many more years as your City Clerk!

I also want to thank everyone who has paid their tax bill! Your timeliness has helped us collect over 90% of our property taxes and waste bills. One reminder notice was sent in November and final notices will be mailed in February. If you still owe your waste and/or tax bill, you can mail it to us at the address on the of this page, or stop by the Administration Offices.

If you decide to stop by the office to pay your tax/waste bill, please note that our office hours have changed. We are now open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This aligns the Administration office hours with Public Works and the Police Clerk hours. Additionally, we found we had very few phone calls and walk-ins between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., therefore, we would not be inconveniencing our residents by revising our hours.

Finally, we are working to update some of the forms provided by the Clerk's office. They will be online under "Forms" in the "Forms and Links" section at the top of our website. Speaking of the Highland Heights website, I hope you have had a chance to look through our newly formatted site. We have worked to make it more intuitive and easier to navigate. At the bottom of the main page are upcoming city events and current events that might be of interest to our citizens.

Public Works Department

The Highland Heights Public Works Team hopes everyone had a good holiday season and wishes the best to all of our citizens in the New Year.

The winter season, with the freeze and thaw cycles are the hardest time of the year on our roadways. If any of you notice potholes appearing on city streets, please contact our city offices so that we can review any reports and patch if deep enough.

Sanitary and Storm Sewers are Seriously Separate Systems

Where does the water go when it flows? There are actually two answers to the question: there are two systems and knowing the difference is very important.

1) The sanitary sewer—starting with waste water from toilets, sinks, and other drains in house—is sent via pipes and pumps to the Clean Water Plant for treatment and eventual discharge to the river.

2) The storm sewer—starting with rain water into curb inlets in the street—flows directly into the river without treatment.

Our Public Works Department has our trucks ready for the winter season. Let's all hope we have a mild one. They have had several call outs for ice and snow events. Steve Lehman has his department working on making ready the summer equipment, from our mowers to weed eaters. The winter months are a good time to get caught up on the maintenance required to keep our equipment running smoothly.

Please remember, the children are in school and with the time change it's now dark in the mornings when they are out waiting on their bus. I and our entire Police Department 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 crossing the street.

What does this mean? All litter, oil and gasoline leaked from vehicles and any other material in the street or directly put down the storm sewer affects the water quality of our river. Furthermore, even organic matter such as leaves in the street sends high levels of phosphorus directly into the river (reminder: please don't put leaves and grass in the street!).

Of course, just because waste water gets treated at the Water Plant, not all liquids and materials can be flushed, either. It's important only the "natural stuff" still goes that way, getting treated in that system.

All About Snow Plowing in the City of Highland Heights

Among the most important tasks Public Works is responsible for is to keep clear city streets before, during and after snow events all winter. The City of Highland Heights crew answers the call with our fleet of trucks and equipment, along with skilled and experienced operators. The city garage fleet includes 4 salt trucks, 1 Bobcat, 1 backhoe/loader and 1 compact tractor.

The city also annually purchases about 300 tons of salt for use on slick roadways. There are 4 planned plow routes,

The city strives to plow all city roads within hours of snowfall, depending on the amount of snow falling per hour. After the event is over, crews often spend days cleaning up details on the roadways including re-salting any slick areas on streets and removing large piles of snow in cul-de-sacs and ends of streets

So the next time the snow falls, rest assured the city crews are ready to go and will work hard to keep the roads clear.

Recyclables—Do NOT Bag Them Up!

When it comes to recyclables in the bin—loose is best. One of the most common recycling mistakes is bagging up recyclables in plastic bags. This is a big problem at the facility and leads to a higher cost of operations. While basic plastic bags are technically recyclable (they may have a 'recycle triangle' on them or say 'recyclable' on the bag), they cannot be recycled through the household pickup service. The reason is that the recycling facility where the normal recyclables go—bottles, cans, papers, cardboard, etc.—is operated

with many conveyor belts and other machinery which depend on loose items. Plastic bags (and other problem items like cords, ropes, general trash, etc.) get caught up in the machinery. This causes costly breakdowns and delays. Instead, plastic bags CAN be turned in for recycling at participating local retail stores which have a plastic bag deposit bin. Usually, those plastic bag deposit bins are located near the front doors of the stores. It's a good program! Those bags do get recycled at a facility which can handle the material. Otherwise, at home, plastic bags should ONLY go into the trash bin, not recycled. **The only exception to this rule at home is using 100% transparent plastic bags for recycling shredded paper. In this case, tie the bag tight and throw the whole bag into the recycle bin. It will be pulled out of the pile before it gets to the machinery.**

Recreation Committee

The Veterans Day ceremony and Senior Breakfast were held on November 9, 2019. The event was a big success with about 75 seniors in attendance. A big thank you to the Highland Heights Police Department, Central Campbell Fire Department, and NKU Honors Program for their help on the day of the event. Thank you to Highland Heights Baptist Church for providing transportation to and from the event for all seniors that signed up for the service.

Recreation Committee organized a toy and food drive in conjunction with the Holiday Tree Lighting on November 30, 2019. An abundance of toy and food donations were collected. Donations went to Pantry of Hope which serves local families in need. Thank you to everyone who participated.

The annual holiday lighting contest took place on December 10, 2019. T.J. Nash's home, 526 Main Avenue, was the winning home. The runner-up was 5 Fifth Avenue; and Honorable Mentions went to 330 Knollwood, 409 Knollwood, and 113 Ridge Hill. There were a lot of festive homes throughout the city!

Recreation Committee has its own Facebook page. We encourage city residents to find us on Facebook and press the "like" button. Updated information about upcoming events will be posted to the page regularly.

Save The Date: Arbor Day 2020

Come celebrate Arbor Day at the City Building Park on Saturday, April 25 from 11:00-1:00. The Highland Heights Tree Commission will be handing out ornamental trees to residents. They will also be serving up BBQ sandwiches, handing out tree planting information, and planting an honor tree.

If you would like to be part of the Tree Commission in 2020 contact Jeanne Pettit at jp Pettit@hhky.com or 859-441-8575.

Good Neighbor Award

The Good Neighbor Award is given to residents who make Highland Heights a friendly place to live through their kind and helpful works and deeds. You can nominate your neighbor by contacting Jeanne Pettit at jp Pettit@hhky.com or calling the City at 441-8575.



July Good Neighbor Award

Mike and Carrie Walter for the many good deeds they do for their neighbors.

October Good Neighbor Award

Diane Brossart and Tom Schulte for their volunteer work with the Pantry of Hope and the Tree Commission.



November Good Neighbor Award

Chuck and Jeanne Pettit for helping take care of their neighbor's yard.



Calvary Christian Students' Solution to "Malfunction Junction"

Students from the Calvary Christian School's CIA (Calvary Intelligence Association) created a solution for safely crossing US 27 at Sunset, affectionately known as Malfunction Junction. They presented their recommendation to the City Council on November 5, 2019. The CIA worked with Dave Geohegan, Highland Heights City Planner, to understand the issues that cause this intersection to be unsafe for pedestrian crossing and, after much study, recommended ramps and stairs up to a covered walkway over US 27. The students will be entering their project in competitions with the goal of making it to the state finals, which they won last year.



Calvary Christian School's CIA
[Calvary Intelligence Association]



[Veterans/Senior Breakfast]

January Good Neighbor Awards

The Calvary Christian' Calvary Intelligence Association received the award for creating a solution for safe pedestrian crossing at US 27/471 and Sunset Avenue. Pictured below, receiving the plaque from Mayor Meyers, are Coaches Allison Sammet and Heather Verst; and Students Reily Bailey, Erikah Brown, Colten Faine, Thomas Getsy, Audrey McGlasson, Aly Sammet, and Michael Verst.
[Calvary Christian CIA]



The NKU Honors Program received the award for volunteering at Highland Heights recreation events. When presenting the Award, Mayor Meyers made special note of how much those attending the Senior Breakfast enjoyed meeting and talking with the students. Pictured below, receiving the plaque from Mayor Meyers, are Advisor David Kime and Honors Students Jennifer Ashleman and Kendyll Smith.
[NKU Honors Program]



The Asbury Methodist Church Choir received the award for their performance at the Highland Heights Tree Lighting on November 30, 2019. Mayor Meyers commented that the choir's performance significantly enhanced the program that evening. Pictured below is Doug Colyer, Choir Director, receiving the Good Neighbor Award plaque from Mayor Meyers.
[Asbury Methodist Church Choir]



Power of Attorney

Frequently, our office is asked about a Power of Attorney and its applicability as a commonly used legal document. A Power of Attorney is legal document that assigns another person as agent to take care of your affairs as the principal. The person assigned, your agent, is typically responsible for affairs, usually financial or healthcare matters, on your behalf as enumerated in the Power of Attorney document. Like all other legal documents, a person must be competent to enter into and grant a Power of Attorney. The authority granted under any Power of Attorney will vary depending upon the exact language used. However, a General Power of Attorney



[Veterans/Senior Breakfast]

usually grants someone else authority to handle all matters as if the person granting the Power of Attorney were conducting the business himself. A Power of Attorney is required to deal with the property of the other person using the utmost good faith to handle matters for the best interests of the person granting the Power of Attorney.

If someone with a Power of Attorney does not act in good faith or outside the scope of the Power of Attorney, that person may be accountable for a violation of fiduciary duty. Any civil action brought for a violation must be made within five years of the breach.

In 2018, Kentucky enacted the Uniform Power of Attorney Act to further enumerate the law involving Power of Attorney documents. Of the most important provisions, Power of Attorneys are durable and continue through incapacity of the principal until death unless the Power of Attorney specifically provides to the contrary. In addition, a Power of Attorney now must be signed by two (2) disinterested witnesses and notarized by a Notary Public. However, Power of Attorneys executed before July 13, 2018 are still valid even if they do not comply with the requirements under the new law. However, it is generally recommended to have a Power of Attorney updated every few years or when there are significant changes in your life.

A common question our office receives is when does a Power of Attorney end. A Power of Attorney ends or is terminated in a variety of instances. Some of those instances include: (1) upon death; (2) upon granting by the Courts of a guardianship and conservatorship; and (3) upon termination of the Power of Attorney by the person who granted the authority.

I hope this information is interesting and helpful. If you have any topics you would like to have covered in this column, please contact my office by e-mail at stevefranken@fuse.net, by phone at 491-7700 or by regular mail addressed to 319 York Street, Newport, Kentucky 41071.

Respectfully Submitted,
City Attorney Steven J. Franzen

City of Highland Heights

BLACK SPOTS ON HOUSE SIDING AND CARS

Dave Whitacre, City Engineer/
Zoning Administrator



Over the last 20 years a plague of black spots has begun to appear on house siding, windows and cars in our area. This first time I became aware of it was about 16 years ago and it was restricted to the cars parked in one corner of our parking lot. The spots would appear on the cars in that corner of the parking lot a day or so after a summer rain, and would they would be a little black ball that resembled a Poppy Seed in appearance. The little round ball is easily removed with your fingertip- but after a day or so the little ball flattens out and is difficult to remove. After a little internet searching, I discovered that the spots were the spores of Artillery Fungus that were coming from a mulch bed near the parking lot.



In the years prior to the current landscape fad of using the hardwood mulch everywhere - Artillery Fungus was not prevalent. Mulch made from bark, Pine straw, Cypress or stones does not support the spread or growth of the fungus. The hardwood mulch that is commonly available today is made from the entire tree and the fungus grows readily in this mulch. The abundance of this mulch and the shipment of it around the country has caused an epidemic. There are no known fungicides or mulch treatment that can prevent the growth of Artillery Fungus. The only way to avoid the fungus and the spores is to remove all existing mulch and use non-wood mulch like stones, gravel, shredded rubber - or the

previously mentioned Pine Straw, Pine Bark, Cypress or Cedar mulch (not Cypress colored hardwood).

Artillery Fungus gets its name from the method it uses to spread the spores. When the temperature is between 50 and 68 degrees the fruiting body points itself toward a light source and ejects the spore mass up to 20 feet - and the spores can travel even farther with the help of wind. This helps explain why the spots show up on lighter surfaces more than dark - lighter colors are brighter and the Artillery Fungus is more apt to aim the spores at the surface. The spores can remain viable for at least 10 years, although they will only grow if they are on a surface that will support the growth of the Artillery Fungus. Once the spores have attached, they are impossible to remove from siding unless it is new and still has some of the surface oil from manufacturing - then pressure washing can provide some positive results. The spots can be removed from automobiles in most cases if the car was recently waxed and the spores are removed by using a wax with a cleaning abrasive additive or by having the car buffed by an auto detailer. Reports on the internet indicate some insurance companies will cover the damage if you are have insurance that covers mold.

If you still want to use the readily available hardwood mulch near your home and driveway where the mold spores could be a nuisance - it is best to remove the old mulch yearly and replace with fresh mulch before the wood has decayed sufficiently to support the growth of Artillery Fungus.

From The Highland Heights Police Department

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 remember to drive safely, wear your seat belt and obey all traffic laws, especially on the City streets.

If you have a vacation planned the police department will keep a close eye on your residence while you are out of town. You can now fill out a Vacation Check Form online located on our new 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 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Need a copy of a police or collision report? Need information concerning City Ordinances? Need any current tips regarding crime prevention? You can now locate all of this information (and much more) on our new website! Please visit www.hhkypolice.info for more information.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to receive daily news updates and police alerts.

Please consider signing up for Smart 911 and receive emergency notifications from Campbell County, KY Alerts. You can download the app or sign up at Smart911.com. There are pamphlets available at the Police Department with more info on the service.

Community Garden Sign-Up

Anyone who would like a community garden plot can learn more about the community gardens from the Northern Kentucky University website: <https://inside.nku.edu/hr/wellness/services/gardens.html> or contact Gary Chinn at either garychinn2@gmail.com or phone him at 859-628-5040 to reserve a garden plot.



Beautiful Front Yard - October

Bonnie and Daniel Davies

Please Pick Up After Your Pet

Several calls are received throughout the year about pet owners allowing their pet to defecate in their neighbor's yard, but not cleaning up after it. Pet owners need to be aware that Highland Heights has an ordinance (20-90) that requires pet owners to clean up after their pets citing that "animal excrement is an inconvenience and health hazard and detracts from the beauty of public and private property within the City of Highland Heights."

Additionally, it is important to note that when pets are beyond the premises upon which they are usually kept, they are required to be collared and on a leash held by the owner or a keeper. It is essential we all do our part to make Highland Heights a healthy and safe city in which to live.



Be a Census Taker

The Census Bureau is very focused on recruiting efforts for the 2020 Census. Hundreds of positions are needed for Campbell County that start at \$17.00 an hour. These jobs are flexible, part-time opportunities, in which employees can set their own hours. Mileage is compensated. Positions will be filled in February 2020 and run through about July 2020--but applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their job materials now.

Please visit <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> to apply.

You may want to watch this 30 second youtube video: <https://youtu.be/AFL3992GvSw>



NKU Master Plan Open House for Highland Heights Residents

NKU has retained the architectural firm Ayers Saint Gross to complete an update to the NKU Master Plan. Prior to deciding on goals for the plan, the master planners would like to hear from citizens. An open house with the master planners is scheduled for Wednesday February 5th, for 7:00 to 8:15 PM at the Highland Heights City Building, 176 Johns Hill Road, Highland Heights, 41076. The Open House will begin with a short presentation and then use a small group break out format. More information will be provided that evening. For anyone unable to attend the meeting, comments and questions can be sent via email to masterplan@nku.edu. Check out the master plan website for updated information: <https://www.nku.edu/MasterPlan.html>

www.hhky.com



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

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Upcoming Events

February 2020
City Council Meeting
 February 4 @ 7:00 pm
NKU Master Plan Open House
 February 5 @ 7:00 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
 February 11 @ 7:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
 February 12 @ 7:00 pm
Council Meeting
 February 18 @ 7:00 pm
Tree Board Meeting
 February 25 @ 7:00 pm

March 2020
Council Meeting
 March 3 @ 7:00 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
 March 10 @ 7:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
 March 11 @ 7:00 pm
Council Meeting
 March 17 @ 7:00 pm
Tree Board Meeting
 March 24 @ 7:00 pm

Upcoming Events

April 2020
Easter Egg Hunt
 April 4 @ 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Council Meeting
 April 7 @ 7:00 pm
Recreation Meeting
 April 8 @ 7:00 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
 April 14 @ 7:00 pm
Council Meeting
 April 21 @ 7:00 pm
Arbor Day Event
 April 25 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tree Board Meeting
 April 28 @ 7:00 pm

May 2020
Council Meeting
 May 5 @ 7:00 pm
Code Enforcement
 May 6 @ 7:00 pm
Planning/Zoning Meeting
 May 12 @ 7:00 pm
Recreation
 May 13 @ 7:00 pm
Bike Safety Class
 May 16 @ 10:00 am

Upcoming Events

May 2020 (cont)
Council Meeting
 May 19 @ 7:00 pm
Memorial Day Ceremony
 May 25 @ 8:30 am
 Offices Closed
Tree Board
 May 26 @ 7:00 pm
City Wide Yard Sale
 May 30 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

