

# City of Highland Heights

Fall 2023

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

Volume 5 Issue 3



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## Mayors Message

I cannot believe that Summer has passed and we find ourselves in the midst of the fall season with the holidays just around the corner. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and you were able to get out and enjoy our community and the surrounding area. We are truly lucky to have so many great amenities around for everyone to enjoy.



The summer was extremely busy for the city and our staff. We recently passed a smoking ban in the community after weighing legislation for the last several months. The ordinance went into effect in September and prohibits smoking indoors and in certain public areas. For more information on this legislation, you can visit the city website or the Northern Kentucky Health Department website.

I would like to welcome the new NKU President, Cady Short-Thompson, to the community and congratulate the NKU Board of Regents on an outstanding hire to lead the universi-

ty. I had the pleasure of meeting President Short-Thompson at her introduction ceremony and I am very impressed and confident she will be a great partner for the city going forward. We look forward to getting to know her better and working together very soon.

I am looking forward to seeing many of our citizens in the community this fall at the numerous events we have planned, including our community fall event, Halloween and trick-or-treating, and our Veterans Day ceremony and senior breakfast. As always, if there is anything that my staff and I can do please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
*Greg Meyers* - Mayor

## City Administrator

Happy fall to all the citizens of Highland Heights! We have a lot of exciting stuff going on in the community I'd like to update on where some of our bigger projects stand.

### Sunset Road Improvement

The Sunset Road Improvement project will kick-off over the next few months as the State is set to begin releasing our funding for the project. We recently spoke with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet about the project and are looking forward to getting started. In 2021, the City was awarded grant funding to improve the traffic movement on Sunset Road just off the US-27 intersection. The first phase of the project will be the design phase, which should begin in the next quarter. Construction for the project is roughly scheduled for 2025-2026.

### Website

The City will begin the revamp of its website in the next quarter as well. As part of this process, we are aiming to improve our communication process with our citizens with new features and easier mechanisms for getting information out.

### Greenspace Project

The Greenspace feasibility study is nearing the 4th quarter as we hope to complete the report by the start of 2024. This summer we

solicited feedback from the public via an online survey which ran for several months, an open house hosted at the City Building, and social media posts requesting feedback. TSW Design group received some excellent feedback from the public and met recently with the steering committee to go over the results and proposed possible options to improve this space for the enjoyment of the public. In its completed form, the study will propose realistic and financially feasible upgrades the city could possibly pursue to add amenities, features and attractions to the open greenspace area located at the City Building campus at 176 Johns Hill Road.

## Police Department

Please remember to drive safely, wear your seatbelt and obey all traffic laws. As the Holiday Season approaches remember to lock your vehicles as well as your residence and use extra caution while shopping. The Police Department has purchased Speed Detection Devices that are set up throughout the City streets. If you have a complaint of speeders in your neighborhood, please contact us and we will set up the sign on your street.

There is always an increase in phone scams around the holidays, remember to never give out personnel information over the telephone unless you have verified who you are speaking with. The Highland Heights Police Facebook page has the latest information on current phone scams to look out for.

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.

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 - 4:00 pm for administrative needs call

[www.hhky.com](http://www.hhky.com)

(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).

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](http://www.hhkypolice.info) for more information. You can also follow us on Facebook to receive daily news updates and police alerts.

### Officer Gil Marksberry



The Highland Heights Police Department would like to introduce our newest Officer, Gil Marksberry and his K9 partner Kai. Officer Marksberry comes to the Highland Heights Police Department with 27 years of experience in Law Enforcement. He started his career in 1996 with the Campbell County Police Department, was assigned to the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force from 2000 – 2003, and was ultimately promoted to Sergeant in 2006. Officer Marksberry worked for the Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control from 2010 – 2014. Most recently, he worked for the Dayton Police Department from 2014 – 2021, where he was promoted to Sergeant in 2015 and became a K9 handler with his first K9 partner, Tesa. Officer Marksberry briefly retired in 2021, but returned to Law Enforcement with Dayton Police Department and received his second K9 partner, Kai. K9 Kai is a dual purpose K9 which deals with narcotic detection and apprehension. Officer Marksberry has graduated from

[City of Highland Heights](#)

several leadership courses such as the Academy of Police Supervision and Criminal Justice Executive Development. He was awarded the 2016 Rotary Officer of the Year and the 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award for his heroic act of pulling a subject out of a fully engulfed vehicle. Officer Marksberry brings a wealth of experience and knowledge and is a great asset to the City of Highland Heights. Welcome Officer Marksberry and K9 Kai!

### City Clerk/Treasurer

The holidays are upon us. The ghouls and goblins will soon be trick-or-treating then on to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year! Please be sure to check the calendar at the end of this newsletter for upcoming events – you don't want to miss them! Office closures are also listed. Additionally, this information will be posted on the City's Facebook page – *City of Highland Heights, Kentucky*, and the website – [hhky.com](http://hhky.com).

Tax bills should have arrived at everyone's residence by now; thank you to everyone who has paid their taxes! If you have not received yours, please call the office and ask to have one sent to you. For your convenience, **we now accept credit and debit cards** for payment. You can pay online by clicking the View/Pay Taxes button on the front page of the website, looking up your tax bill, and paying with your credit/debit card. We also take credit/debit cards, cash, and checks in the office. **If you escrow your taxes**, please check with your escrow company to make sure they have paid your bill. **Taxes are due on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>**. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, a penalty is applied and interest begins accruing. If you have any questions, please call the office at 859-441-8575.

### Public Works

We accomplished several goals during summer 2023 thanks to our Public Works full time staff and our summer help. Our full-time team members are Supervisor Mitchell Dawn, Pat Graven and Brett Dawn. Our summer help included Larry Dawn, Luke Fillhardt and Mario League. A couple of the larger projects they completed was pouring a concrete pad and building a pavilion in Carmack Park, replacing shingles on the shelter at our volleyball courts and moving our community gardens to

Hilltop Drive. A big thank you to the team for the work they did.

With fall upon us, all of our parks will be shut down on November 1st. The playground equipment will still be accessible for children on nice days. There won't be restrooms or water available at the parks. When leaves start falling, please remove leaves from storm drains to prevent destructive algae from getting into our streams.

Winter is just around the corner, and with that comes the possibility of snow. While shoveling your driveway, take an extra minute to clear a three-foot radius around a fire hydrant in your yard to help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood.

With the freeze and thawing during winter, 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](http://hhky.com)" under Public Works or call the city offices at (859) 441-8575.

### Recreation

There are several events coming up the next few weeks. On October 21<sup>st</sup> we are having our annual Kids Harvest Fest in cooperation with Asbury Methodist Church in the Public Works Shop. We will have Hay Rides, Trunk or Treat, Pumpkin Painting, Balloon Animals, Hot Dogs and refreshments

Trick or Treat is on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

Veterans Day Ceremony at 8:30 am and Senior Breakfast follows on November 11<sup>th</sup> for seniors 55 years of age and over. Please contact the city offices at (859) 441-8575 for reservations.

The Outdoor Lighting Contest will be judged on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual Santa Tour Through the city will be December 9<sup>th</sup> [rain out date December 16]. Reservations will be accepted online closer to December 9.



Transportation is a main component of the Comprehensive Plan



The northern entry points of Highland Heights are named Gateway East and Gateway West in the Comprehensive Plan

**Why Mixed Use?**

Mixed Use, as its name implies, clusters multiple uses in the same building, development or neighborhood. Mixed use is desired to: (1) maximize benefit of the few remaining development opportunities; (2) break the monotony of single use districts; and (3) create developments that appeal to residents and NKU students and faculty.

Mixed use development often *integrates residential, office, retail, restaurants, parks and public uses* in the same project. Each use is synergistic with the other. For example, residential and office uses support retail. Retail, as it grows, can be used to attract more residents.

Mixed use development *strives to meet the everyday needs of residents within walking distance.* People living in mixed use developments tend to walk and socialize more which in turn reduces auto trips, pollution and household fuel costs.

Mixed use relies on *interesting architecture and thoughtful urban design* creating community enhancing corridors. A mixed use strategy can add vitality along busy corridors and at key intersections improving overall community image.



**2024 Comprehensive Plan**

The Highland Heights Planning Commission is announcing the beginning of public review and amendment of the 2019 Highland Heights Comp 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. This plan will be an update for the year 2024.

The overall process will take about a year to complete and involve several public comment periods, a couple of public hearings, and meetings 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.

To start the review of Goals and Objectives, the City Planner, David Geohagan has scheduled several office times where the general public can stop in and review materials, ask questions, make comments, and become involved. He will be at the Community Room of the Highland Heights City Building on **Thursday November 2nd 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm and Monday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.** The City Building is located at 176 Johns Hill Road, Highland Heights, Ky. 41076.

The general public is encouraged to review the 2019 Comprehensive Plan on-line or a copy at the city offices located at 176 John’s Hill Rd., Highland Heights Kentucky 41076. The entire Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations can be found at <https://hhky.com> under the Business and Development tab. The City

[www.hhky.com](http://www.hhky.com)

New urban development is a major theme of the Comprehensive Plan

Planner, David Geohegan can be reached at [davegeohegan@hhky.com](mailto:davegeohegan@hhky.com) where comments and questions on the Goals and Objectives will be accepted and response given. There is a new tab for the 2024 Update of the Comprehensive Plan that will appear on the city's website where the city planner will post materials to review. An official comment form will be made available on-line to fill out and submit.

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

### Wild Grape Vine

Submitted by Barbara Ahlbrand



There's a monster in the neighborhood! It's smothering shrubs and choking trees and it's known as Wild Grape Vine. Because it's nearly impossible to get rid of once it has a foothold, it needs to be identified early.

Wild Grape Vine has dark-green, glossy leaves with an irregular, coarse, zig-zagging shape. It also bears grapes! Watch for it sneaking along property fences or snaking up nearby trees. D.J. Scully, Agent for Natural Resources and Environmental Management of the UK College of Agriculture Extension Center (right here in Highland Heights!) suggests attacking it in the winter when it's easier to spot the main stems.

Cut a chunk out of the stem of each vine one or two feet above the ground. Cut the vines from the trees and shrubs, but don't pull them off because you could break the tree branches.

City of Highland Heights

It will take awareness of your property and time to attack it as needed, but your neighborhood and the trees of Highland Heights will be the better for your efforts.

### Smoking Ban In Highland Heights

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Highland Heights City Council voted to pass a smoke-free ordinance, which went into effect on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The ordinance prohibits smoking in indoor public spaces and city property. It also states that smoking outdoors must take place a "reasonable distance" away from the entrance of a public place and other outdoor spaces where people congregate, such as playgrounds, shelters and transportation stations.

Businesses that fail to comply with the ordinance will be issued a warning for their first violation, followed by a \$100 fine for the second offense and a \$250 for a third offence within a year. Individuals who violate the ordinance are punishable with a fine up to \$50.

The City was approached by the Smoking Alliance in April of this year to consider legislation and listened to a presentation by the group with impactful data showing the impact of smoking in the state of Kentucky. Highland Heights became the 3<sup>rd</sup> community in Campbell County to enact such legislation, behind Bellevue and Dayton.



### Highland Heights Community Fall Celebration

The City of Highland Heights hosted a community fall celebration on October 7<sup>th</sup> for all of the citizens and employees of the community. The weather was chilly, by early fall standards, but that didn't stop the friends and family from coming out to enjoy the celebration, activities and great food.

DeDe's Comfort Food To-Go provided the majority of the food with great fall dishes including chicken noodle soup, chili, and mac n cheese. To satisfy any sweet cravings, Cups N Cones served up plenty of ice cream options and even in the chilly weather, just about everyone had ice cream in hand at some point in the day.

Those with young kids were able to keep them busy with an array of activities including face painting, pumpkin decorating, cornhole and two bouncy houses. If that wasn't enough, there was plenty of space for some pick-up football and running around. The city went through all of the pumpkins in just a few hours and the face painting was a huge hit as well!

Finally, to end the evening, the crowd was treated to some live music from 'Hey, Bartender,' a classic rock, country and blues band out of Northern Kentucky. We want to thank everyone that volunteered to help make the event a success, including our public works department, city council, Mayor and staff. We look forward to continuing this event and others like this at our city building campus in the future!



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT



Residents of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties are welcome to dispose of their household hazardous waste for FREE at this event.

**Thomas More Stadium**  
7950 Freedom Way, Florence, KY  
**Saturday, November 4th, 2023**  
9:00am - 2:00pm

**PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NKYHHW.ORG](http://WWW.NKYHHW.ORG) TO PRINT & COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE EVENT**

## WE WILL ONLY ACCEPT:

- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- Batteries (all types)
- Corrosives/Flammables (fuel, kerosene, etc.)
- Electronics (computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, cell phones, etc.)
- Ink/Toner cartridges
- Light bulbs
- Oil/Fluids
- Paint (10 can limit)
- Pesticides
- Tanks/Cylinders
- Televisions (limit of two per vehicle)

Brought to you by the Northern Kentucky Solid Waste Management Area and Northern Kentucky Household Hazardous Waste Action Coalition.



Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.

## HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- »» When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- »» Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- »» Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »» Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »» Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- »» Tell children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

### Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly 800 reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.



**SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS VETERANS CEREMONY,  
SENIOR BREAKFAST AND BINGO**



# VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CITY BUILDING**

**176 JOHNS HILLS ROAD**

**VETERANS CEREMONY: 8:30AM**

**SENIOR BREAKFAST AND BINGO: 9AM TO 12 NOON  
(55 YEARS AND OVER)**

**RSVP TO: 859-441-8575**

## KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

**FOOD, DRINKS AND FUN!!**

**WHEN: OCTOBER 21, 2023**

**WHERE: CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE**

**TIME: 1PM - 2:30PM**

**WEAR YOUR BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME!!**





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

### Upcoming Events

#### October 2023

##### Kids Halloween Party

October 21 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

##### Tree Board Meeting

October 24 @ 7:00 pm

##### City Taxes Due

October 31 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

##### Neighborhood Trick or Treat

October 31 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

#### November 2023

##### Code Enforcement Board Meeting

November 1 @ 7:00 pm

##### 2024 Comprehensive Plan Community Input Session

November 2 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

November 2 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

##### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

November 4 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

##### Election Day

November 4 @ 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

##### Council Meeting

November 4 @ 7:00 pm

##### 2024 Comprehensive Plan Community Input Session

November 6 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

November 6 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

### Upcoming Events

#### Offices Closed - Veterans Day

November 10

#### Veterans Day Ceremony & Senior Breakfast

November 11 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

#### Planning/Zoning Meeting

November 14 @ 7:00 pm

#### Council Meeting

November 21 @ 7:00 pm

#### Offices Closed - Thanksgiving

November 23 - 24

#### December 2023

##### Council Meeting

June 5 @ 7:00 pm

##### Santa Tour Thru The City

December 9 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

##### Planning/Zoning Meeting

December 12 @ 7:00 pm

##### Outdoor Lighting Contest Judging

December 12 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

##### Santa Tour Thru The City Rain Date

December 16 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

##### Council Meeting

December 19 @ 7:00 pm

##### Tree Board Meeting

December 26 @ 7:00 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.

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City Newsletter

