

# City of Highland Heights

Fall 2019

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

Volume 3 Issue 3



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## Mayors Message

The Fall Season has finally arrived. One would never have believed it considering the summer-like weather we have been experiencing. With the hot and dry weather we have had the past month, our Public Works department has been able to continue the painting of stop bars and curbs on the streets. The extended summer weather conditions have also allowed the department to sweep US27 from the north end to the south end of town and plant the fall flowers at the fountain along US27. During the next few weeks, please take some time and stop by to enjoy the fall colors. Soon the department will prepare our trucks for the winter season. Let's all hope we have a mild one. Another late fall task for our public works department is getting our parks ready for the winter season. Remember on November 1st the outside restrooms here at the city building, and the Nature Trail, will be closed for the winter. I also want to congratulate our citizens for doing their part in keeping our parks clean this past summer.



Please remember, the children are back in school and will be out very early in the morning waiting on their bus. I, and our entire Police Department, can't stress enough that everyone needs to be alert and watch your

speed on our streets. Additionally, we need to obey the school bus signals. We all know kids don't always remember to look both ways before crossing the street.

If your family has a vacation planned this fall or winter, our Police Department offers a vacation check. To request this valuable service just give our police Department a call at 859-441-8956 or go on their website (<https://hh-kypolice.info/>) and let them know the dates you will be away. The police will schedule several walk around stops to check your doors and windows.

Our City Administration Department has printed, mailed, and are now in the process of collecting our city taxes, along with their daily duties. This is a very busy time of the year for our professional team in Administration. Jeanne has her team, Sue and Karen, are ready for the task ahead of them. As always, call them with any questions or concerns at 859-441-8575.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy fall and winter season and I hope to see you at one of our many events planned by our Recreation Department.

Sincerely,  
*Greg Meyers* - Mayor

## Jeanne Pettit - City Clerk/Treasurer Tax Update

Tax season is upon us. You should be receiving your tax bill in the mail during the first week of October. Here's what you need to know:

- Tax bills will be mailed to the property owner of record at the time of printing. If you receive a tax bill for a property you have sold, please forward the bill to the new owner. If your taxes are paid through an escrow account, you will need to forward the bill to the escrow company.

- Taxes are due on or before October 31, 2019. Payments will be considered delinquent on November 1, 2019. All delinquent taxes will be subject to interest at a rate of 12% per annum and penalties at a rate of 10% on the taxable amount calculated from November 1, 2019 until paid in full.

- You may pay your taxes by:
  - Check using the return envelope included in your tax bill. This sends your payment directly to 5/3 Bank for processing.
  - Coming to the City Building, 176 Johns Hill Road, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to pay by cash or check – we do not accept credit cards.
  - Using the Drop Box located just outside the main doors of the City Building. Please put your tax bill and check (no cash, please) in an envelope to ensure your payment is credited properly.
- Your waste bill is included on your tax bill.
- The full amount of your bill, taxes and waste, are due at the time of payment.

**Homestead Exemption:** If you are age 65 or older; own, maintain, and reside at the property as of January 1, 2019, you may apply for the Homestead exemption at the Campbell County PVA office, 1098 Monmouth Street, Room 329. Once you apply, you need not apply again.

**Disability Exemption:** If you are 100% disabled; own, maintain, and reside at the property; and provide proof of disability benefits; you may apply for a disability exemption. You must apply for this exemption every year at the Campbell County PVA office.

The current amount for the homestead and disability exemptions is \$39,300. This amount is subtracted from the assessed value of your property. Only one exemption is permitted per residential unit.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact City Clerk/Treasurer's office at 859-441-8575.

## From The Highland Heights Police Department

Please remember to drive safely, wear your seatbelt and obey all traffic laws, especially on the City streets during Halloween when the children will be "trick or treating". As the

Holiday Season approaches remember to lock your vehicles as well as your residence and use extra caution while shopping.

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 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).

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.

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

### **Public Works Department**

It has been a busy and productive spring and summer for Public Works although at times the weather was not very cooperative. Besides the normal day to day duties of mowing city parks and right-of-ways, maintaining streets and addressing any repairs needed on city buildings and properties, we have completed several other projects throughout the city. A few of these are:

- We excavated and installed storm water piping and an inlet box on Wilson Road to eliminate large amounts of ice that built up during the winter.
- Culvert pipe was installed in one of the creeks at the Nature Trail for easier access for people that walk the trails. An area on the east side of the parking lot was cleared

of trees and leveled this summer to allow more picnic tables on even ground. We hauled approximately 45 loads of soil to the area.

- Many areas in the city had overgrowth in the right of ways. We have cleared many of these areas so walkers do not have to go into a street to avoid brush.
- In September Public Works began repainting stop bars and no parking areas in the city. We will be continuing this when the weather is warm and dry.

It won't be long before snow starts falling and we will be clearing streets. Please remember on streets that are snow emergency routes that there is no parking in these posted areas. You can help your neighborhoods and the Public Works team by getting as many vehicles off the streets as possible so that we can do a better job of clearing the streets from curb to curb. If there is a fire hydrant in or near your yard it is helpful for you to remove snow from around them in case there is an emergency and the fire department needs to utilize it.

If you see areas around your neighborhood that need repair or attention of some type, please contact the City Building so that we can see what needs to be done to correct the issue.

Thank you to the Public Works team (Justin Berkemeyer, Brad Derrick, Pat Graven and Tom Stubbeman) for the work they did this summer. There were a lot of hot, humid days that they had to work in.

### **From the Recreation Committee**

We hope everyone had a great summer and that you were able to join us for the Cruise-In and Concert that was held in July. It was a hot day but all attendees had a good time.

The fall months are busy for the Recreation Committee. We have several events for the upcoming months:

**Children's Halloween Party** – This event will be held Saturday, October 26th at the Public Works Building. There will be activities for your children to participate in. We will have a hayride for everyone again, which has a big hit the last few years. A Martial Arts demonstration will be held during the event. Star Wars Storm Troopers will make a visit for the chil-

dren. There is a costume judging contest for age groups 0-3, 4-8 and 9-12. Refreshments, snacks and hotdogs will be served.

**Citywide Trick or Treat** – Thursday October 31st, 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm.

**Veterans Day Ceremony and Senior Breakfast** – November 9th at 8:30am we have a short ceremony honoring our past and present veterans at the Veteran's Memorial. After the completion of the ceremony we serve breakfast for our city's seniors followed by a couple of hours of BINGO, with winners receiving prizes. Call the City Building to reserve your breakfast (441-8575). Let us know if you need a ride - the city is considering reserving a van if enough people would need transportation to and from the event. **RSVP** by November 1.

**Outdoor Lighting Contest** – All residents that have decorated their residence and have them lit on Dec 10th will be reviewed and a household that has not won the award in the past 10 years will be selected as the winner for 2019 and recognized at an upcoming Council Meeting.

**Lunch with Santa** – On Saturday, Dec 14th, we will have a children's lunch with Santa, preceded by activities for the children, snacks, refreshments and the hit of the event, pictures with Santa. Hotdogs will be served to the children in attendance.

The Recreation Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month and it is an open meeting for all residents that would like to attend. We are always looking for citizens of Highland Heights that would like to be appointed to the Recreation Committee and help us plan and work at the events. The remaining meeting dates for 2019 are October 9th, November 13th and December 11th. Meetings begin at 7:00pm in the City Building Community Room.

### **Website Redesign**

Check out the Highland Heights website! It has a new look and a new design. Our goal is to help you find what you're looking for faster and easier. If you have suggestions, please let us know by clicking on "Contact Us" in the blue ribbon at the top of the webpage [www.hhky.com](http://www.hhky.com).





**Happy Birthday, Mr. Hill**

Golman Hill celebrated his 100th birthday in October and was presented with a proclamation from Mayor Greg Meyers at the October 1st City Council meeting. Many of Mr. Hill's family and neighbors were present to give him a standing ovation and congratulate him on receiving a day dedicated to him in Highland Heights.

Mr. Hill is the middle child of 7 children. He has been married to his wife Celia Jane for 73 years. They have 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. Mr. Hill enlisted in the Army on December 16, 1942 and was discharged after becoming deaf in his left ear while serving his country. He is a member of the Apostolic Church of God in Alexandria and is a licensed, ordained minister. He has many hobbies including building 3 family homes, gardening, and working on the over 50 cars he has owned during his lifetime.

Mr. Hill is a lifelong resident of Kentucky and is a model Highland Heights resident. He continues to walk throughout his neighborhood, greeting and visiting with his neighbors. As he received his proclamation, he told Mayor Meyers that Highland Heights is the "a great city to live in." Thank you, Mr. Hill, for being a wonderful citizen, for your service to our country, and for making Highland Heights a special place to live.

**Arbor Day Event**

We had our 1st Arbor Day Event September 14th and it was a huge success! Over 80 oak trees were given away to Highland Heights residents at the event. We are one step closer to our goal of earning a Tree City USA designation. Campbell County Media filmed the event and interviewed some of the Tree Commission Members.

Highland Heights residents who attended the event left with an oak tree and instructions



on planting the trees. Green Arbor Day Bracelets were handed out along with other educational material. Mayor Meyers read a Special Proclamation declaring September 14th as Arbor Day for Highland Heights for this year. An Honor Tree was planted as a special congratulations to Jean Rauf's 32 years of public service. Jean currently serves on the Tree Commission and is still very actively involved in the City.



**Imagination Library:**

**FREE BOOK EVERY MONTH TO EVERY CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 5**

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has come to Campbell County! Every child under the age of 5 who lives in Campbell County is eligible to receive a FREE book by mail every month. The Campbell County Public Library, Campbell County Schools and the independent school districts in Bellevue, Dayton, Fort Thomas and Newport have joined together to launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: Campbell County, Kentucky. (Southgate currently has its own funding for Imagination Library.) This partnership is a huge investment and commitment to our children and our future.

Campbell County parents can register all of their children who are under the age of 5 to receive a FREE BOOK in the mail each month. Register online at [www.cc-pl.org/imagination-library](http://www.cc-pl.org/imagination-library) or pick up a paper registration form at any library branch, fill it out and mail it back. Eight to 10 weeks after you register, books will begin arriving. Each child in the family from newborns to age 5 will receive a book appropriate to their age. Each book is mailed separately, so siblings' books might arrive at different times in the month.

Take advantage of this free program and read to your child. Children associate sounds with emotions, and sitting comfortably with a loved one reading a story helps children develop a powerful association between the sounds of words and love. Register your child now to receive a free book each month. Give them a boost to achieve success in school and invest in their future and the future of our community.

About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood



Foundation has mailed well over 100 million free books in Australia, Canada, The Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and the United States. The Imagination Library mails more than 1.4 million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to registered children from birth to age five. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading, inspiring them to dream. The impact of the program has been widely researched and results suggest positive increases in key early childhood literacy metrics. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, please visit [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com).

***Yard of the Month - June***



Ashley and Logan Mullins  
***Yard of the Month - July***



Lisa Houck and Tim Berling  
2943 Winkler Drive



Rick and Debbie Schmidt  
24 Renshaw

***Yard of the Month - August***



Larry and Julie Baumann  
76 Towanda

***Yard of the Month - September***



Erinn Smith and Wilfredo Marquez  
119 Renshaw



Teresa and Michael Gillum  
54 Crest Wood

***Texting and Driving***

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), driver distraction is the leading factor in most crashes and is often under reported. In Kentucky, there were more than 59,400 crashes in 2016, resulting in more than 15,300 injuries and 192 fatalities due to distracted driving such as texting. According to the National Insurance Institute, drivers who are texting are 23 percent more likely to be in a crash and often display the driving characteristics of a person who is driving under the influence of alcohol.

There are many types of distractions, but texting while driving is the most alarming because it involves taking your eyes off the road to read, your hands off the wheel to type and your mind off driving to formulate what to say. This sentiment has been echoed across Kentucky by the Directors of the Office for Highway Safety's comment that texting while driving "puts everyone else's lives in danger, and no one has the right to do that on our roadways."

Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 189.292 prohibits drivers from texting while their vehicle is in motion. For drivers who are under eighteen, KRS 189.294 goes a step further by prohibiting both texting and cell phone use all together. The texting prohibition does not apply to persons using a GPS feature of a device; reading, selecting, or entering of a name into the device; a person operating a public safety vehicle when using the device as an essential function of their official duties; or when a motor vehicle operator is summoning law enforcement, medical help, reporting a crime, or attempting to prevent injury by using the device. The section prohibiting a minor from using any personal communications device is only subject to an exception for summoning medical help or law enforcement or public safety personnel.

These laws were put in place to keep the drivers' focus on the road. Drivers who are texting are 23 percent more likely to be in a crash and often display the driving characteristics of a person who is driving under the influence of alcohol.

Drivers who violate the new law will be fined \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense, plus court costs. In addition, a driver will incur three points for



each no-texting violation. The cabinet can suspend the licenses of drivers who incur a specified number of points within a two-year period – 12 points for drivers 18 and older, seven points for drivers under 18.

For parents of teens, there is also another tool available to combat texting and driving. There are several apps such as CellControl, DriveSafeMode and SaveDrive available to assist with eliminating the temptation to text and drive by limiting or disabling the ability to receive a text once your vehicle reaches a set speed. Once the vehicle slows or stops, the phone features become active again.

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 SteveFranzen@Fuse.net by phone at 491-7700 or by regular mail addressed to 319 York Street, Newport, Kentucky 41071.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Franzen  
319 York Street  
Newport, Kentucky 41071  
Phone: 859-491-7700  
Attorney for the City of Highland Heights

### Get Your GED

Interested in earning your GED? FREE instruction is being offered that can help you prepare for the GED exam as well as meet your other educational and employment goals! Instruction is taught by caring, knowledgeable staff; is available face-to-face and online; designed to help make tough subjects (like math) more understandable; and is absolutely FREE! Contact Kathy for an appointment at 859-653-8029 (cell) or 859-292-3056 (work) or go to [www.MyGED.org](http://www.MyGED.org).

### National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, October 26, 2019. Residents are encouraged to bring the unused or expired prescription medication for safe disposal to the Highland Heights Police Department. Liquids, vitamins, needles and syringes WILL NOT be accepted. If you can't make it on October 26, there is a prescription drug drop box in the lobby of the Highland Heights Police Depart-

ment where you can safely dispose of prescription medication between 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (liquids, vitamins, needles and syringes should NOT be dropped in the box).

### Household Waste Collection Event

The Northern Kentucky Solid Waste Management Area and the Northern Kentucky Household Hazardous Waste Action Coalition are joining forces to help you properly dispose of unwanted items. Residents of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties can drop off select items on Saturday, November 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at UC Health Stadium, 7950 Freedom Way in Florence.

Only the following items will be accepted:

- Aerosol Cans
- Antifreeze
- Batteries (all types)
- Corrosives/Flammables (fuel, kerosene, etc.)
- E-Scraps (computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, cell phones, etc.)
- Ink Cartridges/Toner
- Light Bulbs
- Oil
- Paint (10 can limit)
- Paper (documents to be shredded)
- Pesticides (2 gallon/2 lbs. only)
- Propane Tanks (20 lbs. only)
- Televisions (limit 2 per vehicle)

Items that WILL NOT be accepted:

- Appliances
- Fertilizer
- Mercury Containing Devices
- Medications
- Tires

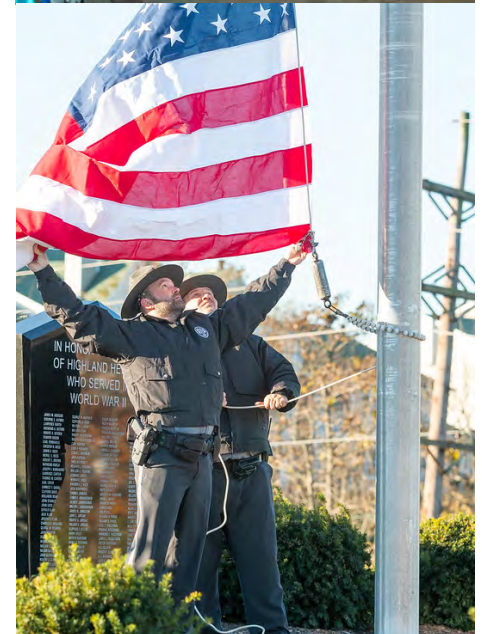
Visit [www.nkyhww.org](http://www.nkyhww.org) for proper disposal methods. They reserve the right to reject any item you bring.

Have questions: call your County Waste Coordinator before November 2. In Campbell County call 859-547-1866. If you have questions on November 2, call 859-334-3629.

### Parks

Highland Heights has several parks throughout the city for our citizens to enjoy. We have two pocket parks located in our neighborhoods. One is the Tot-Lot on Bon Jan and the other is Carmack Park on Ridgehill Drive. We also have two larger parks – Veterans Park located on Veterans Drive just past the 275 overpass and our Pavilion Park located at the

City Building. Highland Heights resident property owners may reserve the Pavilion Park from April 1 through October 31 for private events. We also maintain a 4-mile nature trail that starts on Pooles Creek Road (close to the AA Highway) and winds up through Highland Heights. We hope you take some time and enjoy the many recreational opportunities we have here in our beautiful city.





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

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**Upcoming Events**

**October 2019**

**Council Meeting**

October 15 @ 7:00 pm

**Tree Board Meeting**

October 22 @ 7:00 pm

**Halloween Party**

October 26 @ 2:00pm - 3:30 pm

**Neighborhood Trick or Treat**

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

**November 2019**

**Council Meeting**

November 5 @ 7:00 pm

**Code Enforcement Board Meeting**

November 6 @ 7:00 pm

**Veterans Day Ceremony and Senior Breakfast**

November 9 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Planning/Zoning Meeting**

November 12 @ 7:00 pm

**Recreation Meeting**

November 13 @ 7:00 pm

**Tree Board Meeting**

November 26 @ 7:00 p

**Offices Closed Thanksgiving**

November 28 - 29

The offices will reopen on Monday, December 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

**Upcoming Events**

**December 2019**

**Council Meeting**

December 3 @ 7:00 pm

**Planning/Zoning Meeting**

December 10 @ 7:00 pm

**Outdoor Lighting Contest**

December 10 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Recreation Meeting**

December 11 @ 7:00 pm

**Lunch with Santa**

December 14 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Offices Closed Veterans Day**

Monday, November 11 the City of Highland Heights Administration and Public works will be closed for Veterans Day. Offices will reopen Tuesday, November 12 at 9:00 am.

**Offices Closed Christmas**

December 24 @ 8:00 am - December 25 @ 5:00 pm

The City of Highland Heights Administration and Public Works Offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and Wednesday, December 25, 2019 for the Christmas Holiday. The offices will reopen on Thursday, December 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

**Upcoming Events**

**Offices Closed New Year**

The City of Highland Heights Administration and Public Works Offices will be closed Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020 for the New Year Holiday. The offices will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

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



City Calendar

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

