

Sidewalks information

from Villa Hills Public Works Committee

It has been great seeing all the people walking outside with their families or taking the time to get some exercise! In order to continue everyone's enjoyment of the outdoors, we want to remind homeowners of the responsibility and importance of keeping sidewalks on their property in good condition. Sidewalks are to be maintained so that they are level, even, and free from large cracks or other defects.

Not only do good sidewalks improve the appearance and quality of your home, they make it safer for everyone, and can even help protect you from potential liability. A sidewalk in poor condition which results in a trip, fall, or other accident could expose a homeowner to a legal claim.

Based on requirements established under Kentucky case law, Villa Hills manages a sidewalk condition assessment program to help identify sidewalks in need of repair. Each year a quarter of the City is inspected by Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS), and a report is generated on sidewalk conditions. Using this information, the City then notifies homeowners with sidewalks in poor condition, so that the necessary steps can be taken to fix them. To help with this process, the Public Works Committee is currently looking at updates to the current regulations so that the repairs can be made efficiently and in a manner acceptable to homeowners.

We appreciate everyone's efforts in keeping their sidewalks in good condition for the safety of all of our neighbors!

Public Works - Your Snow and Ice Removal Team

As winter approaches, the Public Works Department would like to do the best job clearing the snow and ice as possible. Every year before winter, our Public Works Plow team goes over all safety topics, and are vigilant to their surroundings, especially when your children are out sled riding, building a snowman, or playing with the family pets in the snow.

It takes about 4 hours to plow city streets once. Public Works plows several times during an average snowfall. Snow cleared from the streets has to be placed onto the easement and sometimes in the center of cul-de-sacs. While staff does their best not to block driveways, mailboxes or fire hydrants, there is no way to prevent a snow mound from being left behind, no matter which way the plow is turned.

The City staff are NOT able come back and clear off the snow left behind on driveway aprons. PLEASE, do not shovel or blow the snow back into the street. Place the snow from your driveway and apron in the grass areas on either side and along the grass strip by your mailbox. Also, if you have contractors clearing your driveway, please let them know where to put the snow piles. Our Team works long, hard hours during the winter for the public's safety. Please help by keeping the streets clear after they are plowed.

Sometimes the weight of the snow coming off the plows knock mailboxes down. Sometimes our plows cross over the curbs. Poor visibility during storms plays a factor in these incidents. Our policy is to report all damage that workers are aware of, then make repairs ASAP. If you notice damage from our trucks, please call our office, 859-341-1515.

Please remove all cars off the road during a City-wide Snow Emergency. Snow Emergencies may be declared in advance or AUTOMATICALLY take effect once two inches of snow has fallen. This will help you from getting a citation or finding your vehicle has been towed.

Thank you for working with us. We take pride in our job.

Buck - Villa Hills Public Works Department



Newsletter FALL 2021

CITY WEBSITE PROVIDES TRANSPARENCY

Visit www.villahillsky.org to find the latest information about the city, including:

Finance statements & Audits

Crime alerts

Meeting minutes

Updated city code & ordinances

Sign up for email alerts

Upcoming meetings & events

An Update from Mayor Heather Jansen

Dear Residents of Villa Hills,

I can't believe a year has already passed since my last newsletter! Things have started to get a little back to normal in the City.

The fields at Villa and Franzen were ready to go in the middle of spring and again at the end of summer for soccer, baseball, softball and football. The Villa Hills Police Department hosted another successful Safety Night with highlights that included food trucks, a demonstration of the skills of canine Officer Onexx, and touchdowns of both a Black Hawk helicopter and UC medical transport.

We saw the completion of Phases I and II of the Lakeshore/Lake/Villa Marie reconstruction as well as, various sidewalk and street repair projects. We had more snow this past winter, but as always the Public Works crew kept the streets open and safe for travel. The City Council approved Z21, making it the first city to adopt the new unified zoning code throughout Kenton County. Additionally, we partnered with the City of Crescent Springs and held another successful and well-attended Music Fest.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year which hopefully will bring us further back to normal. Haunted Trails and Christmas in the Park are scheduled for later this year. Our Public Works crew continue to maintain the City's streets and keep them travelable. More roadwork is proposed so please check the 10-year road plan on the City's website. Our officers continue to patrol both cities to provide the best service to the communities. Also, the Administration staff keeps the city moving forward by answering calls and concerns, managing the budget, processing passports, assisting all committees and council.

I want to thank the City Council Members for their support and guidance. I would also like to thank the Public Works Department, the Police Department and City Administration for their dedication and commitment to the City's residents. Lastly, I am grateful to you, the residents, for your feedback, for your assistance with and support of City-sponsored programs and events. You are what make Villa Hills a special place to live.

If you have any concerns or issues, please feel free to call me or anyone at the City Building.

Mayor Heather Jansen

Villa Hills City Officials

719 Rogers Rd., Villa Hills, KY 41017

Mayor Heather Jansen

Councilmembers

Rod Baehner Jim Cahill Scott Ringo Cathy Stover Seth Thompson Sue Wadsworth

City Administrator

Craig T. Bohman

City Clerk

Jennifer Lipson

Chief of Police

Bryan Allen

Public Works Director

Derick "Buck" Yelton

E-mail links are on the city website. Click on the elected official or staff name to send them an e-mail.

Council Takes Compensating Rate, New Firehouse Next Year

City Council adopted the compensating rate for property taxes this year. The compensating rate is the rate that brings in the same amount of revenue as the year before. The rate itself fluctuates as a result of all the assessment changes during the year such as when a home sells for more than its previous assessment or when a homeowner takes the homestead exemption.

Last year there was an error in the tax roll and a non-profit, tax exempt parcel was charged tax. This acted like a "sponge" and that property absorbed some of the tax that residents should have paid. The PVA office worked with the City and was able to help cover half of the loss by not charging the city for use of the tax roll. CARES Act funds covered the rest.

Most people saw a slight reduction in their city tax last year as a result of the mistake. The correction this year will "wring out the sponge" and most people will see a slight increase in their tax bill as a result, even though the city will collect the same amount of revenue as it should have been the year before.

Council decided to take the compensating rate following the imposition of a 3% franchise fee at the beginning of the year on gas and electric bills to fund a replacement for our 50-year-old firehouse. The firehouse was found to be obsolete and unable to be remodeled in order to meet safety standards for firefighters that were implemented over the past half century. Design of the new firehouse is currently under way.

If you have any questions about your tax bill or the tax calculation process, contact the City Administrator.

CITY TAX BILLS

Tax Bills are out. If you have an escrow account with your mortgage company, it is your responsibility to forward the bill to them. Tax bills can be paid at the City Building during office hours, at Heritage Bank in Crescent Springs, sent in the mail to the lockbox (P.O. Box), paid online on the City's website, or it may be dropped off in the drop box at the City Building.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED ON-LINE ONLY!

Tax payments received on or after December 1, 2021 will have 15% penalty added.

Postmark will be accepted.

Passport Information!

The City of Villa Hills is a Passport Acceptance Facility. We have forms at our office for both new passports and renewals. Forms can also be found online at www.travel.state.gov. Application Fees and Processing fees are paid at the time you submit your application, no payments are accepted online for these fees.

If you are on a site that asks for any payments or credit card information, it is NOT a legitimate site.

New Passports and renewals for children will require an appointment at an acceptance facility. Please be sure to call our office before coming in, at 341-1515, we do require that you have an appointment.

Passport Fees: Adult Passport Book \$110, Adult Passport Card \$30, Child (under 16 years of age) Passport Book \$80, Child Passport Card \$15. Books are required when flying in/out of the United States. Passport Acceptance Facility processing fee is \$35, this fee applies at any passport acceptance facility.

Current processing time is 18 weeks for standard processing - 12 weeks for Expedited processing (expedite fee is an extra \$60 per application).

When you have any questions - Please call us and DO NOT rely on internet searches, we are more than happy to help.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Police Department will continue to work on areas of concern. We are preparing for the fall season as the shopping season begins. When shopping, secure purses and wallets. Do not leave anything in the vehicle in plain sight. Put items in the trunk before arriving at your destination and always secure the vehicle.

We encourage everyone to be on the lookout for scams and to make sure they secure their packages. We also want to remind everyone to not give out personal information or credit information to anyone. If you are not sure, do not do it. Scammers will be working overtime to get information from you. No law enforcement agency will ever contact you and ask for your information or to settle a warrant over the phone.

When expecting package deliveries, have someone you know keep a look out and secure your packages, if you are not home.

Do not hesitate to contact the police if you see something suspicious, for an emergency call 911, for non-emergency call (859) 356-3191 and request for a Villa Hills officer to call you back.



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www.facebook.com/Villa-Hills-Police-Department-216018612080566

Frequently Requested Numbers & Contacts

Emergency Dispatch:	911
Dispatch non-emergency:	356-3191
Police Department:	341-3535
City Administration:	341-1515
Mayor Heather Jansen:	341-1515
Fire Department:	341-3840
Code Enforcement:	331-8980
Building/Zoning/Permits:	331-8980
Animal Control:	356-3191
Sewer/Sanitation:	578-7450
Water Department:	578-9898
Rumpke (garbage/recycle pick-up):	1-877-786-7537

REMINDERS:

School buses: When you come up on a bus and the red lights are flashing and stop sign is out, it is a mandatory stop on all roads in Villa Hills. Drive carefully and watch for officers directing traffic in school zones, and drive the speed limit. Watch for children during the mornings and afternoons at bus pick up locations and throughout the neighborhoods. Speed Limits will be strictly enforced.

Halloween: It will be here soon - Please use caution when driving during trick or treat hours, as children sometimes forget to look before running in the roads. Trick or Treat will be on October 31, 2021 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

New Hires:

Officer Matthew Bullard joined the Police Department in June 2021

Best Wishes to Sergeant JJ Bird on his new endeavors. The City of Villa Hills thanks him for his 7 years of service to the citizens of Villa Hills!

Recreation and Events Updates

Haunted Trail will be on the Saturday, October 30th, starting at Dusk.

Christmas in the Park will be on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Crescent Springs Community Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by for a visit.