



Newsletter FALL 2023

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 & zoning ordinances

Sign up for email alerts

Upcoming meetings & events

An Update from Mayor Heather Jansen

Hello Everyone! Another year has gone by and we are heading toward 2024. Villa Hills is in great shape from a financial, safety and aesthetic standpoint as usual. We continue to rank in the top 10 of most livable communities in the Greater Cincinnati area according to Cincy Magazine's annual "Rating the Burbs" survey.

One of the biggest questions that I receive is about the City's budget. Property taxes comprise roughly 30% of the total revenue the City receives each year. As Sanctuary continues to develop, more tax revenue will be generated. Currently, only 1% of total property taxes comes from this neighborhood and this will continue to increase as more and more houses are built. Not all of the Sanctuary property taxes are available to spend on general city expenses though. As a result of the development agreement approved by a previous council, 70% of Sanctuary property taxes are restricted to the tax increment financing (TIF) fund and will be used on road projects which includes improving the intersection of Collins and

Amsterdam and installing a sidewalk connecting Sanctuary to Madonna Manor.

Where does the rest of the non-restricted revenue go? More than half the City's revenue each year is spent on keeping the residents safe by providing excellent police, fire, EMT and paramedic services. Another significant percentage goes toward road projects and improvements. Additionally, a smaller portion of the City's revenues pay for hosting special events for residents, maintaining the sports fields at Franzen and Villa Madonna, and keeping Rigney Park open for play.

Villa Hills has been thriving for over 60 years! Some of the neighborhoods are starting to show their age though. For the last several years, The City has contracted with Northern Kentucky Planning and Development Services (PDS) to provide code enforcement to help keep our neighborhoods looking beautiful. If there is an issue in your neighborhood with a resident who is not keeping up with maintenance of his/her home, please call PDS directly to report the issue (859.331.8980). This includes keeping lawns mowed, garbage cans to the side of the house or out of sight, yards free of trash, etc. If we all do our part to maintain our property for the benefit of ourselves and our neighbors, we can all help Villa Hills continue to be a special place to live.

Take care,

Heather Jansen, Mayor

Villa Hills City Officials

719 Rogers Rd., Villa Hills, KY 41017

Mayor Heather Jansen

Councilmembers

Jim Cahill

Scott Ringo

Cathy Stover

Seth Thompson

Sue Wadsworth

Kyle Walsh

City Administrator

Craig T. Bohman

City Clerk

Jennifer Lipson

Chief of Police

Matthew Hall

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 sets Tax rate and Solid waste fee

City Council set the tax rate for 2023/2024 at 0.23 cents per one hundred dollars. This represents the compensating rate plus 4%. This is based on the overall expected revenue to the city and individual property tax bills will vary based on each property's assessment.

The Rumpke solid waste and recycling fee increased due to a new contract with Rumpke. The fee increased \$49. The cost to remove trash and collect recycling is \$5.42 per week per household. If you have any questions about your tax bill or the tax calculation process, contact the

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 AND ACH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED ON-LINE (Fee for credit card payments is 3.5%)

Tax payments received on or after December 1, 2023 will have 15% penalty added.

Postmark will be accepted.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

New Hires:

Jake Dujon joined the Public Works Department in January

Officer Thomas Bradford joined the Police Department in March

Officer Timothy Lawson joined the Police Department in April

Officer David Boggs joined the Police Department in August

The following Police Officers received promotions in 2023:

Matthew Hall was appointed Chief of Police

James Black was promoted to Sergeant

Congratulations to all of our Officers!

Keep up the great work and thank you for serving the Citizens of Villa Hills!

Frequently Requested Numbers & Contacts

Emergency Dispatch:	911	Dispatch non-emergency:	356-3191
Police Department:	341-3535	Fire Department:	341-3840
City Administration:	341-1515	Mayor Heather Jansen:	341-1515
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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

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

Passport Information!

The City of Villa Hills is a Passport Acceptance Facility. Application forms can be found online at www.travel.state.gov, or at our office for both new and renewals. 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.

Passport Fees: Adult Passport Book \$130, Adult Passport Card \$30, Child (under 16 years of age) Passport Book \$100, 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 acceptance facility.

Current processing time is 10-13 weeks for standard processing - 7-9 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.



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. When a City-wide Snow Emergency is declared, or when it is automatically effective (once 2 inches of snow has fallen) all cars are required to be removed from the roadway. Keep in mind that even if a small amount of snow is forecasted, it is a good habit to remove your car to allow the crew to clear your streets.

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. 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.

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

Buck - Villa Hills Public Works Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

From the desk of the Chief of Police:

It is with the kindest regard that I have the opportunity to communicate with all the citizens of Villa Hills in this newsletter. As of January 3rd, of this year I was appointed to the position of Chief of Police by the Honorable Mayor Heather Jansen. My career in law enforcement started almost twenty years ago with the Lakeside Park Crestview Hills Police in 2004. I transitioned to the Boone County Sheriff's Department until 2015 when I then became an officer with the Villa Hills Police Department. Working through the ranks, I have been given the greatest opportunity of my life to be able to organize, facilitate and lead one of the finest police organizations in the state. I look forward to speaking and meeting with each and every one of the residents, community members, and business associates to help garner and foster relationships and to continue to enhance the public trust in law enforcement.— Col. Matthew Hall

The Villa Hills Police Department is responsible for enforcing local and state traffic laws throughout the city and all of Kenton County. Amongst one of the top complaints that we receive during any given year is the applicable laws regarding school buses and when it is legal to pass them. Kentucky Revised Statue 189.370 is defined as follows:

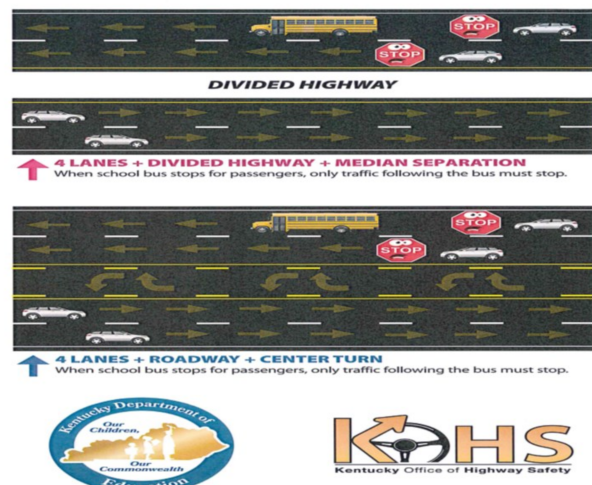
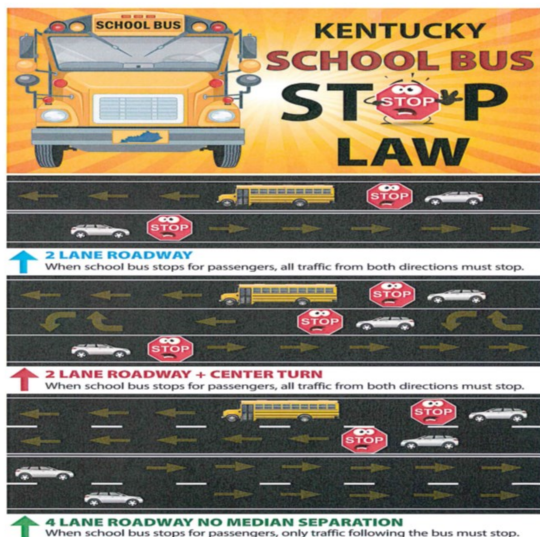
189.370 Passing stopped school or church bus prohibited -- Application to properly marked vehicles -- Rebuttable presumption as to identity of violator.

(1) If any school or church bus used in the transportation of children is stopped upon a highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers, with the stop arm and signal lights activated, the operator of a vehicle approaching from any direction shall bring his vehicle to a stop and shall not proceed until the bus has completed receiving or discharging passengers and has been put into motion. The stop requirement provided for in this section shall not apply to vehicles approaching a stopped bus from the opposite direction upon a highway of four (4) or more lanes.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall be applicable only when the bus displays the markings and equipment required by Kentucky minimum specifications for school buses.

(3) If any vehicle is witnessed to be in violation of subsection (1) of this section and the identity of the operator is not otherwise apparent, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person in whose name the vehicle is registered or leased was the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation and is subject to the penalties as provided for in KRS 189.990(5).

Keeping our children safe is one of the highest priorities we have at the Villa Hills Police Department. Knowing the stopped school bus and church laws is paramount when providing the utmost level of safety for the children. For the sake of our children and for all the motoring public, the Villa Hills Police Department urges your compliance and adherence to the laws.



SIDEWALK PROGRAM INFORMATION

Over the past few months, a survey crew has been inspecting all the city sidewalks and marked in blue any cracks, broken panels, trip hazards, and other issues. This is part of the city's sidewalk maintenance program to maintain safe walkways. We have also received a number of resident complaints of significant tripping hazards along the routes people are using to walk through neighborhoods. Not all marked areas will require attention on the part of the homeowner. This initial survey was only intended to help the city to identify possible problem areas and determine whether they require attention at this time.

As outlined in city statutes, sections 150.50-150.54, sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of respective homeowners. This requirement is similar in most communities, not only in Kentucky, but across the nation. Broken or cracked panels, trip hazards greater than or equal to $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and other dangerous conditions must be remediated to ensure safe foot travel.

The city has received a portion of the report and is awaiting a final report from the inspection company. Although we have asked our inspection company for a thorough review of all sidewalk issues more stringent than outlined in code enforcement, only those that do not comply to code must be repaired. For example, trip hazards of less than $\frac{3}{4}$ " high have been marked but do not pose a significant risk to require immediate attention.

Additionally, problems directly caused by known utility-related repairs or incursions generally are not the responsibility of homeowners. Those will be sent to the respective utility company for repair or restoration.

The city sent official letters in the mail notifying homeowners if there were required repairs to their respective section of sidewalk, including a map of the problem(s) found. Homeowners had three options to correct the cited issues. The first option was to correct the problem(s) themselves. Second, a third-party contractor of their choice could be hired. All repairs must conform to the required code specifications and guidelines, a copy of which was included with the official letter. In choosing either of these options, repairs must either be complete or be under third-party contract within 60 days.

A third option was to allow a city-contracted company to perform the repair work needed. The cost for this option was listed in the letter, and if chosen payment would be collected as part of the individual's annual property tax bill. Additionally, any repair that is not complete or under contract after 60 days will be repaired via this third option.

If you did not receive a letter there is nothing for you to do at this time. Additional letters will be sent in the future. If you know that your sidewalk needs repaired and decide to go ahead with repairing them please contact the City office to get details of the requirements and let us know of any repairs you have made.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS TO RESIDENTS

- Trash can be placed out starting at 4PM the day before pick-up. Cans, carts, and totes need to be brought back from the curb the same day as pick-up. Cans should not be left up against the front of the house per the city's zoning code. Please place them in the side or rear yard.
- If your trash is missed, please call the City building as soon as possible at 859-341-1515 or email us at info@villahillsky.org. Staff will work with Rumpke to reschedule the pick-up.
- Golf carts are not permitted to be driven on public rights-of-way such as streets, alleys, and sidewalks.

Recreation and Events

Christmas in the Park will be Saturday, December 9th from 5:30 to 8:30.



FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ADD FULL TIME

For over 95 years, the Crescent Springs Volunteer Fire Department (CSVFD) has been serving the citizens of Crescent Springs and Villa Hills with fire and ambulance services. In the beginning, both functions were provided by volunteers who left their farms or jobs or homes to fight a fire or to provide transportation to the hospital.

As the farms morphed into houses and the jobs moved out of the area, the CSVFD was forced to add part-time employees to the volunteer roster. As the training and legal requirements to volunteer became stricter and the number of volunteers dwindled, more part-time employees were added to the roster.



Northern Kentucky is currently suffering a critical shortage of Paramedics and EMT/Firefighters. After we train our new part-timers, they are poached by other departments offering full-time employment and benefits. Most of our part-timers are full-time with another agency. Due to the shortage of qualified employees, they are unavailable for our part-time work because they are working overtime with their full-time employer. In order to maintain the level of service that you are currently enjoying and entitled to, the CSVFD is forced to convert some of the part-time employees to full-time. We will still offer part-time employment and we never want to lose the volunteer legacy of the department.

This necessary change will not come without a cost. We will need to be competitive with our employment offering and our benefit package. While we are still working out the details of this change, we wanted to let you know that this change is looming. As always, we are dedicated to providing the highest level of EMS and fire protection to our residents.

We will be discussing these changes in Council meetings in both Crescent Springs and Villa Hills and are committed to having the plan in place by the end of the calendar year and to having it fully implemented by July 1, 2024. We encourage you to attend these Council meetings if you have concerns and/or questions.

ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS

PLEASE CHECK WWW.GOVOTEKY.COM BEFORE GOING TO VOTE



CODE	PRECINCT	ON ELECTION DAY (NOVEMBER 7, 2023)
C133	VILLA HILLS #1	YOU VOTE HERE RIVER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2772 AMSTERDAM ROAD
C134	VILLA HILLS #2	
C135	VILLA HILLS #3	

ELECTION DAY

You can go to any polling location to vote if you use the Express Vote touch screen. If you require a pre-printed ballot you must go to your assigned location.