

City of Indian Hills Newsletter

Indian Hills is a Home Rule City in Jefferson County, KY
Established 1999

Volume 19, Issue 3

Fall 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We have just entered the Fall season and soon the leaves will be changing. In October we usually welcome our annual Octoberfest in Sagamore park. Once again, the City Council made the tough decision to cancel the Octoberfest for the second year. Octoberfest is a great event for our young children to gather for food, face painting and hayrides, but with the escalating COVID cases in younger unvaccinated children, we made the decision to cancel it because the risk was too high. We promise to bring this event back, and even better next year assuming no further COVID problems.

As you have seen recently in the news there's been an increase in stolen cars and car-jackings in Louisville. The City of Indian Hills is not insulated from this. We have had several cars stolen in our City because they are simply unlocked at night. Some of these cars that were reported stolen also had guns in the vehicle; please keep your cars locked and lock your guns in your home. These stolen cars are being used in very serious crimes, and so are the guns, so please don't make it easy for these violent criminals. If you happen to see anything suspicious, please report it to the police.

This October the City tax bills will be going out in the mail to **your homes**. We are pleased to say the tax rate was lowered slightly this year, and we will still offer a 20% discount if your bill is post marked before 12/31/2021. If your taxes are paid by your mortgage company, please make sure you get the bill to the escrow department, it is your responsibility to make sure they receive the bill.

We wish you and your families all the best, and a COVID free Fall!



Mayor Chip Hancock

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Louisville Boat Club located at 4200 River Road. The dates of upcoming meetings are:

Oct 21

Nov 18

Dec 16

All meetings are open to the public. The monthly Agenda will be placed on the City's website (www.indianhillsky.org) a day or two prior to the scheduled meeting.

FYI— Residents interested in receiving city-related information such as upcoming events, please go to the City's website www.indianhillsky.org then click on "Subscribe to E-mail List, fill out and submit the form.



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CITY TAX RATE



At the August meeting, your Council approved the tax rate for fiscal year 7/1/2021- 6/30/2022. This year was a little different due to the PVA's reassessments on a majority of properties in Indian Hills so we received help calculating the rate by a Kentucky League of Cities representative, The new tax rate is 19.1¢ per \$100 of assessed value. For the past several years, it was 20¢ per \$100 of assessed value. Although your taxes may reflect a slight increase due to the PVA reassessments, the tax rate has been slightly lowered. The better news is that your Council approved the 20% discount. It will be allowed if your tax payment is received no later than December 31, 2021.

CITY PROPERTY TAX BILLS

It's that time of year again!! The City of Indian Hills 2021 Property Tax Bills will be mailed to taxpayers to the addresses provided by the Jefferson County PVA tax roll records no later than October 31st. **If you do not receive your tax bill by November 15th**, please contact our City Clerk, Donna, via email at clerk@indianhillsky.org or call 502.893.1375. We ask you please to:

1. Provide your phone number on your check in case there is any issue with it. In the past, there have been checks being in two different amounts or not being signed.
2. If your tax payment is made by your mortgage company or made by someone other than you, it is your responsibility to provide a copy of your tax bill to whomever pays your taxes.
3. Allow ample time for your payment to arrive by mailing it early. It seems the mail system has been slower these past several months.

We would like all our residents to take advantage of the 20% discount amount, so please be sure your payment may be **received no later than December 31, 2021**. The gross tax amount is due during the month of January 2022. Any taxes not paid by January 31, 2022, penalty and interest will be added. We thank you for getting your payment in early.

NEED YOUR COMMENTS (STILL)!

The proposed Public Areas Landscape Design Manual is available on the Indian Hills website at www.indianhillsky.org. We still need your feedback!

We've received numerous comments regarding the proposal – some general, some specific. Mostly the responses have been very favorable, and with good suggestions. Many thanks to those of you who have responded.

With resident feedback in mind, we will fine-tune the sections on Natural Areas and Greenspaces for final approval by Indian Hills Council. This document will be our guide for ongoing maintenance of public areas.

Keep in mind that the ongoing maintenance guide is only the first step. The final parts of the plan – Signature Entrances and Gateway Design – will not be finalized until we hear what the residents want or don't want. With your feedback we will settle on design, develop cost estimates for each entry, and move forward from there. As with all long-term plans, implementation will happen over time and only when budgets permit.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. The public comment period is extended for you to provide input. If you have an opinion about any or all of the Signature Entrances, PLEASE DO LET US KNOW. Send your comments to clerk@indianhillsky.org by October 31.



COP'S CORNER

By Chief Kelly W. Spratt



EASY CRIME PREVENTION...

So far this year, the Indian Hills Police Department has investigated four stolen autos and firearms stolen from autos.

ALL OF THESE AUTOS WERE LEFT UNLOCKED.

ALL OF THE AUTOS STOLEN HAD KEYS LEFT INSIDE.

We have alerted residents several times over the last few years about removing keys and locking car doors, but our residents still fall victim to this easily prevented crime. These crimes occurring in Indian Hills are gang-related, which is a concern throughout Jefferson County. This is not a scare tactic to prove a point – all the stolen autos from earlier this year were involved in violent shootouts throughout Louisville. Since the cars were used, it's safe to assume the stolen firearms were used as well. These gangs look for easy targets (unlocked doors) and they will continue to strike if we give them the opportunity. Our officers, especially overnight, patrol diligently looking for suspicious activity, but we cannot be everywhere. This is why we need your help, just by taking your keys inside your home and locking your doors.

REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY BY CALLING 911 OR 893-2677

*Follow the Indian Hills Police Department
On Facebook and Twitter
@ihpdky*

REMINDERS FROM THE DESK OF JIM GRAVEN:

- **No** rubbish, trash or yard trimmings allowed to be stored on property
- **No** boats, ski jets, campers or utility trailers in view from street
- **P**lace your garbage cans and recycling out Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning of the pickup, and make sure you remove the cans from the street the day of the pickup.
- These days, we are seeing more bicyclists in the City, so please for your own safety wear a bike helmet and parents, be sure your children are wearing bike helmets & knee pads.

PERMITS PERMITS PERMITS PERMITS PERMITS PERMITS

Before you build or remodel (includes driveways, swimming pools and any interior or exterior renovations), a City permit is required. A permit is also needed for a dumpster or an outdoor storage container, such as a POD (Portable On Demand Storage). They are not allowed to be dropped and parked on City streets. Please contact Jim Graven at 552-4250.



REMINDERS



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ends at 2:00 a.m., November 7, 2021 so before you go to bed Saturday night, don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.



Also it would be a great time to **change batteries in your smoke alarms** and carbon monoxide detectors; check them monthly. According to the National Safety Council, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years and carbon monoxide detectors replaced every five years. For more safety tips, visit National Safety Council's website at nsc.org.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY MONTH – Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October.

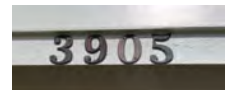
According to the NFPA website, Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Fire Safety Tips

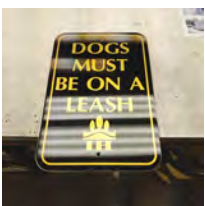
- Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from things that can burn. Heaters can cause fires if they are too close to beds, curtains, or other materials that can burn. Turn space heaters off before you leave the home.
- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. You should have a smoke alarm inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test to make sure the sound of the alarm is loud enough to wake you.
- Check your electrical cords. If they are cracked or damaged, replace them. Don't try to repair them.
- Don't overload extension cords; use for temporary purposes only. Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away; don't overload wall outlets; and don't overload power strips; use power strips that have internal overload protection.

Have a Plan

- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find. Close doors behind you as you leave—this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



For more information, visit the National Fire Prevention's website at: nfpa.org



Keep up the good work! -Thank you to all our dog walkers—thank you for walking your dogs on leashes and abiding by our city ordinance. Take care of your canine friends! Walk your pet on your left with a short leash! With it getting dark earlier and whether you walk your pet or not in the evening, you should wear light clothing!!



OUR ENVIRONMENT



HOW TO TRASH TREES *

Let me count the ways to trash trees.

I'll start with careless butchery done every day by lawn mowers and string trimmers. I'll add volcano mulch piled up around trees by jackleg landscapers. Then there are trees pruned like coat racks— unmercifully and unnecessarily.

These treacherous practices can be avoided!

- Stay three feet away from a tree's trunk with mechanical equipment;
- Don't mulch trees to look like Vesuvian mole hills
- Allow a shade tree to grow naturally when there is ample space. Or plant smaller trees when there is not.



Post mortem on dead, thornless honey locust in Louisville: volcano mulch, planted too deeply, mechanical damage, poor soil and inadequate watering.



DO: Always, ALWAYS make sure the arborist you hire is certified! Fly-by-night operations – like some of those brochures in your mailbox – rarely follow accepted and essential tree management practices. You can depend on CERTIFIED arborists to guarantee they are doing the right thing for your trees.

**This article is excerpted from an article in GardenRant.com, written by Louisville resident Allen Bush, tree expert and gardener extraordinaire.*



EVENTS—Revisited



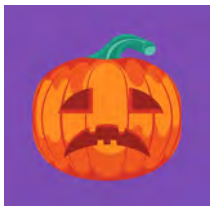
4th of July Parade—The 4th of July Parade was a huge success, thanks to Kelly Seilers and other residents for spearheading this event! Approximately 400 residents enjoyed the parade. Thanks to the IHPD and Jim Graven for providing his utility fire truck, golf cart and all his hard work!! (Photos provided by Jim Graven)



Shredding Event—on August 28, 2021—from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. was very successful. By 11:00, the RML Shredding truck was full. Thanks to Mayor Hancock, Jim Graven, Chief Spratt and all those who helped with this popular event.

Police Chief Kelly Spratt and Mayor Chip Hancock—working hard on a Saturday—photo provided by Councillor Mimi Zinniel

There has been some discussion on having possibly two shredding events a year—more to come at a later date!



Oktoberfest—Sadly, due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, this event has been cancelled once again. We promise our funding will not be cut. We are looking very forward to Oktoberfest 2022. and promise it will be the biggest yet!!

2021 CDC GUIDELINES FOR HALLOWEEN

If you plan to take your children Trick-or-Treating or plan to give out candy this Halloween, you may find the following CDC guidelines helpful:

Make Trick-or-Treating Safer

- * Avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters.
- * Give out treats outdoors, if possible.
- * Set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take.
- * Wash hands before handling treats.
- * Wear a mask.

Traditional Halloween activities are fun, but some can increase the risk of getting or spreading COVID-19 or influenza. Plan alternate ways to participate in Halloween.



Wear A Mask

- * Make your cloth mask part of your costume.
- * A costume mask is **NOT** a substitute for a cloth mask.
- * Do NOT wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can make breathing more difficult.
- * Masks should not be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.

Wash Your Hands

- * Bring hand sanitizer with you and use it after touching objects or other people.
- * Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- * Parents: Supervise young children using hand sanitizer.
- * Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home and before you eat any treats.



Keep Your Distance

- * Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you.
- * Indoors and outdoors, you are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in close contact with others for a long time. For more information, please go to [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Items to take with you.....

If you do take your children Trick-Or-Treating, here are some items you may want to take with you:

1. Glow necklaces/bracelets—you may want to have everyone in your group wear the same color, parents too-it will help your kids find you in the dark.

ALL OF YOU, PLEASE WALK FACING TRAFFIC ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD & WATCH OUT FOR TRAFFIC!!!

2. Small Flashlights—parents-find one with a strap to wear around your wrist; kids-in belt hoop or wrist-if they get separated from you, they can turn it on to help find you-and you can see them.
3. Hand wipes-for any sticky mess.
4. Wagon-in case your little one gets tired/feet hurts and extra stuff you may be taking.

Once Home....

1. Remind your kids to wash their hands as soon as they walk through the door.
2. Check the candy.

HAVE A NICE FALL-MAY YOU & YOUR FAMILY STAY SAFE & HEALTHY!!!

CITY OF INDIAN HILLS
3905 BROWNSBORO RD
LOUISVILLE KY 40207



CITY OF INDIAN HILLS

MAYOR

Chip Hancock
893-1375 Opt 4

CITY COUNCIL

Ann Dreisbach
295-2742

Laura Dunbar
896-0403

Lee Garlove
895-0312

LuAnn George
893-4292

James Giesel
777-1781

John Harralson III
836-2929

Kay Matton
895-8809

Gary Ulmer
893-6538

Mary (Mimi) Zinniel
541-3202

CITY STAFF

Jim Graven 552-4250 or
Public Works/Code Enf. 537-0689

Donna M. Sinkhorn 537-0830
City Clerk

Patty Deye 893-1375 Option 5
City Controller

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dispatch 893-2677

Police Chief Spratt 537-0718

Police House Watch 893-1375 Option 9

City's Website

www.indianhillssky.org

OTHER PHONE NUMBERS

Metro 7th District
Councilwoman Paula McCraney 574-1107

Metro 16th District
Councilman Scott Reed 574-1116

Animal Control Services 361-1318

Dog or Cat Complaints 363-6609

Eco-Tech LLC 935-1130

Health Dept 574-6520

Jeff. Co. Clerk 574-5700

(all branches may be reached at this number)

LG&E 589-1444

(to report down powerline or streetlight outage)

MSD Customer Service 587-0603

or Email MSD:
CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org

Planning & Design Services 574-6230

Correspondence relating to
City of Indian Hills
should be addressed to:

Mayor Chip Hancock
and mailed to the address on top left of
this page