

City of Indian Hills Newsletter

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

Volume 21, Issue 2

Summer/Fall 2023

A Message from the Mayor

These past few months the city has experienced some crazy weather-related events, that knocked down trees and power on several occasions. Jim Graven has been busy with tree removal and debris pickup, so if you see him in the city, please thank him. I witnessed this firsthand on the early morning of August 7th when a tree fell on my roof giving me a fun fall project putting our house back together.

Our Police want to remind you to please remember to lock your cars at night, and don't leave valuables in your car. Our city has experienced our fair share of stolen and ransacked cars. This is a trend that's hitting all cities in Louisville, Prospect, and Oldham Co. So please remember to lock your cars and doors at night.

On Sunday October 1st, from 12:00-3:00 the city will host our annual Octoberfest in Sagamore Park. Food and drinks will be provided, along with music and fun events for the kids, so mark your calendars and email our office with the number of adults and children who plan to attend.

The city tax bills will be mailed out by October 31st to your homes. If your tax bill is paid by your mortgage company, please make sure you pass the bill to your escrow company to make sure you get the discount if it's paid prior to 12/31/23. You'll be pleased to know that we still offer the 20% discount if it's paid before 12/31/23.

See you October 1st, at the Indian Hills Octoberfest!

MAYOR CHIP HANCOCK



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Sep 20 Oct 18 Nov 15 Dec 20 Jan 17 Feb 21

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.



Inside this issue:

City Tax Rate & Budget	2
2023 Property Tax Bills	2
Mun. Ins. Premiums Tax	2
Cop's Corner	3
Permits Required	3
Brownsboro Rd Update	4
Octoberfest	4
Tree Preservation	4
Our Environment	5
Tree Program Application	6
Octoberfest Flyer	7
Contact Information	8



CITY TAX RATE & BUDGET

At our June Council Meeting, the Council voted for **NO** increase in the tax rate on property taxes and to continue the 20% discount for FYE 06/2024. The tax rate will remain at 19.1¢ per \$100 of assessed value; and the 20% discount is offered if paid by December 31st as provided in Ordinance No. 1, Series 2023.

The Council also passed an annual budget for FYE 06/2024 as provided in Ordinance No. 2, Series 2023. Both Ordinances may be viewed on the City's website. (www.indianhillssky.org)

2023 PROPERTY TAX BILLS

It's hard to believe that tax season is just around the corner. Here are some important reminders:

As in the past, the 2023 tax bills will be mailed no later than October 31st, If you do not receive it by November 14th, please contact Donna at clerk@indianhillssky.org or 502.893.1375.

The tax bills are mailed **only** to the property owner at the address provided by the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator. 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.

The city is not set up to receive credit card payments so we will **never** send an email asking for your tax payment and to pay it by providing your credit card number.

Allow ample time for your payment to arrive by mailing it early. It seems the mail system continues to be slower than in the past years. We would like for our residents to take advantage of the 20% discount, so please be sure your payment may be received no later than December 31, 2023.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS TAX

The following has been published in a couple of previous issues of our newsletters; but we feel it is important to keep doing so as a reminder to our residents.

According to a Kentucky League of Cities article dated February 20, 2019, "The collection and administration of the local insurance premium tax was significantly amended in the 2008 General Assembly. The law requires insurance companies subject to the tax to accurately locate risks to the appropriate taxing jurisdiction....". If your policy does not have Indian Hills as the taxing jurisdiction (see below Policy Declaration), please contact your insurance agent to let him/her know your premiums tax should be going to your City.





COP'S CORNER

By Chief Kelly W. Spratt



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Now that schools are back in session, we wanted to remind everyone to be patient and safe when school buses are present on the roadways. It is a violation, not to mention dangerous, to pass a school bus when its stop arm is extended. Please be observant for students walking to and from their bus stops, especially those that may be out before sunrise. For a helpful visual flyer on school bus safety, please check out the flyer distributed by Kentucky's Department of Education at https://education.ky.gov/districts/trans/Documents/Stop%20Laws_ADA_EH.pdf.

PACKAGE THEFTS

During 2022, the Indian Hills Police Department investigated 10 reports of theft of mail matter, which includes packages delivered by Amazon, the USPS, and others. We have investigated 3 reports so far in 2023. Through the efforts of our patrol officers and detective, we have been able to charge suspects in 5 of the 2022 cases and 1 of the 2023 cases.

One measure we can all take part in the reduction of these crimes is to utilize the department's house watch program. This program is not only geared to protect homes from burglaries, but also package thefts. We routinely find packages delivered to homes enrolled in our program and are able to secure and/or notify the resident, so that a local contact can move the package to a secure location.

You can enroll in our house watch program by visiting www.indianhillsky.org/police.

CRIME ALERT E-MAIL SERVICE

Be sure to subscribe to the Indian Hills Police Department's Crime Alert E-Mail service by visiting our website www.indianhillsky.org/police to receive crucial and time-sensitive emails regarding recent criminal activity or traffic information.

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

PERMITS REQUIRED

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 text or call Jim Graven at 552-4250.





BROWNSBORO ROAD DOWNSIZING—UPDATE

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC) and Louisville Metro planned to downsize Brownsboro Road from Mellwood Avenue east at Chenoweth Lane by reducing the now four lanes to only two lanes with a center turning lane.

Back in June, as soon as Mayor Hancock learned about this project through our State Representative Ken Fleming, he sent a message via email to you informing you of it, the date/time of a scheduled public meeting, shared why he was opposed to this change and included a link to see the proposed report/project.

Later in June, he sent a reminder about the July 6th public meeting via email and encouraged you to attend. Mayor Hancock also prepared and mailed a letter to Governor Beshear stating that the City of Indian Hills adamantly opposes the downsizing of Brownsboro Road for multiple reasons and encouraged Governor Beshear to reevaluate because continuing to “right size” our streets is a project we oppose.

Since there was a great showing, over 100 people including six of our council people, at the July 6th public meeting with a majority of those in attendance being opposed to this project, the KTC & Metro decided the project would stop at Hillcrest Avenue... it was later learned that the project would end at Mockingbird Valley Road.

However, Mayor Hancock recently received news that the project has now been delayed. According to KTC, “In order to give ample time for Public Review and comment on the latest revisions to the striping plan, our Central Office has requested this resurfacing be delayed until Spring 2024.”

Mayor Hancock will inform our residents of any planned public meetings in the future. Together, we can make a difference!



OCTOBERFEST

The Octoberfest will be October 1st, the first Sunday in October, Noon to 3:00 pm. If you and your family plan to attend, please email your name, address, number of adults and number of children to clerk@indianhillssky.org. For more details, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter. Hope to see you there!



TREE PRESERVATION

By contributing to the Indian Hills Tree Program, the City of Indian Hills have been encouraging our residents to plant canopy trees and to date the tree program has been very successful.

There are times when trees may need to be removed due to being dead or diseased, but before removal of any tree of more than eight inches (measured three feet from the ground) in diameter within the city you must obtain a permit from the city. When a permit is issued for tree removal, the city shall require the planting of a suitable replacement tree or trees.

Just a reminder to water your trees during long periods of dry weather; protect our creeks—please DO NOT dump any yard waste, limbs, hanging baskets in our creeks!!!

TOGETHER WE MAKE OUR ENVIRONMENT A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE!!



OUR ENVIRONMENT



POLLINATOR GARDEN IS AN ONGOING SUCCESS!

Once spoken of as the Indian Hills “Butterfly Garden”, our new and more appropriately named “Pollinator Garden” has a strong base of plants and is encouraging bees butterflies and other pollinators to visit and spread their magical powers. Mid-September thru the first weeks of October is prime time to keep watch for the iconic and endangered Monarch Butterflies as they migrate South for the Winter.

Located at the bottom of Westwind Road, in an area reclaimed from power line tree removal, the Pollinator Garden is a peaceful addition to our community allowing everyone an opportunity to appreciate the beautiful pollinators and be awestruck by their large role in our ecosystem. Although firmly established, The Garden could use extra hands willing to help. Some regular volunteers are scheduled Friday mornings after 10. However, feel free to schedule our own visit, either way you won't be disappointed. If you have questions don't hesitate to email Lee Maddox at Also Stay tuned for more updates at Octoberfest, and future Indian Hills Newsletters

TREE CANOPY

2023 has been a tough year for our tree canopy. This spring & summer we lost a considerable number of our majestic and mostly mature trees. Many were uprooted from their very foundations. These large healthy trees were thrown around like twigs. This is a reminder of the power & fury of our natural world. Certainly one “Oh My!!” moment was watching large cranes utilized to move the massive, downed trees. Amidst the destruction, we can't help but look for a silver lining or two.

A special thanks to all those who worked to get our power and sense of normalcy returned as soon as possible. Another thanks to our leaders who had the foresight and courage to remove countless dead and/or weakened trees before these storms.

On August 18, 2023, the Courier Journal had a front-page article addressing neighborhoods that are missing healthy tree canopies and the “social, environmental and health benefits they provide.” Included in this newsletter is an invitation to participate in our tree planting program. Please remember the young trees planted this fall, will be enjoyed, and appreciated for generations to come.

MULCHING VS BAGGING....

As summer comes to an end and the leaves begin to fall, instead of raking and bagging those leaves, why not mulch them? It is great nutrition for your lawn.

The key to mulching is a good lawn mower. Ensuring that your blades are sharp will help your mower cut each blade of grass into finer, lightweight mulch. Allowing each blade to blend in and mix with your lawn is an important part of what makes mulching work.

So don't get a pain in your back from raking and bagging leaves, mulch them—Not only will you be pleased how much better your lawn will look in the spring, you will be helping our environment!





INDIAN HILLS TREE CANOPY PLANTING PROGRAM 2023



We are excited to have you participate. Please read the following instructions and feel free to ask any questions prior to completing and submitting the attached application below.

Costs are shared between the City and private property owners:

- This program is a shared expense between the resident and the City of Indian Hills. The total cost is to be about \$575. **You agree to pay half the total cost of the tree & services provided (\$287.50) and the City pays the other half (\$287.50).**
- The trees we have to offer are available to any resident of the City of Indian Hills who owns a detached home and is a taxpayer.
- This program is limited to one tree per household. *Elected officials & Committee members are not eligible.*
- The tree must be planted in the front or side yard to optimize canopy shade tree benefits.
- Species for this program are limited to those designated by the arborist and include:
Tulip Poplar, Red Maple, Scarlet Oak, White Oak and Bald Cypress

Submit the completed form online (<https://indianhillssky.org/treepro/>) OR email to Vance vonBorries at vonborriesw@bellsouth.net OR mail to Vance at 64 Indian Hills Trail, 40207, by September 28, 2023 to be entered in the drawing. If your name is drawn, you will be contacted with further instructions about the arborist site visit and payment will be required at that time.

2023 Application

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone (home) : _____ (work): _____ (cell) _____

Tree preference by name: 1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Your signature acknowledges that canopy trees are valuable assets that require your stewardship.
DEADLINE: No later than close of business September 28, 2023. Don't miss out!

Signature _____ Date _____

Date received: _____ (to be completed by IHTC)

The Indian Hills Tree Committee thanks you for participating. All applications received will be entered in the draw selection at the annual Oktoberfest and you don't have to be present to win. Good luck!

Vance vonBorries
IHTC Chairperson



CITY of INDIAN HILLS RESIDENTS

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS
FOR FOOD FUN & FELLOWSHIP AT OUR
ANNUAL OCTOBERFEST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

12:00 – 3:00 PM

AT SAGAMORE PARK

FEATURING:

LARGE AREA FOR KIDS' GAMES

BALLOON ARTIST; PHOTO BOOTH & BUBBLE TRUCK
CARICATURES (by DENNY Whalen)

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS
INDIAN HILLS HAY WAGON &
ANTIQUE FIRE ENGINES

AND THERE WILL BE
BOB'S BARBECUE & HOT DOGS & HAYWOOD DAIRY ICE CREAM

Bring Lawn Chairs if Desired

NO PETS PLEASE

If you plan on attending, please RSVP by sending your

Name

Address

Number of Adults and

Number of Children

to email: clerk@indianhillsky.org



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

CITY OF INDIAN HILLS
3905 BROWNSBORO RD
LOUISVILLE KY 40207



CITY OF INDIAN HILLS

MAYOR

Chip Hancock
mayor@indianhillssky.org

CITY COUNCIL

Robert Astorino Sr.
rastorino@indianhillssky.org
Ann Dreisbach
adreisbach@indianhillssky.org
Laura Dunbar
ldunbar@indianhillssky.org
David Ferguson
dferguson@indianhillssky.org
Lee Garlove
lgarlove@indianhillssky.org
John Harralson III
jharralson@indianhillssky.org
Samuel "Chip" Hayward Jr
chayward@indianhillssky.org
Lee Maddox
lmaddox@indianhillssky.org
Kay Matton
kmatton@indianhillssky.org

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
Metro Animal Control Services 473-7387
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