

Town of North Hills Town Crier - Spring 2024

Dearest Residents of North Hills,

As the newest edition of the North Hills Town Crier lands in your mailbox, we extend a hearty welcome to all the new families who have chosen to make our charming town their home. North Hills, with its landscapes and warm-hearted residents, offers a unique blend of tradition and camaraderie that stands as a testament to the vibrant community spirit we all cherish.

The Town Crier serves not just as a source of local news and happenings but as a bridge connecting every member of our community. Inside these pages, you'll find a treasure trove of information on upcoming community events, gatherings, and important dates that knit us closer as a community. From seasonal festivals to town hall meetings, and volunteer opportunities, we ensure you're well-informed and ready to partake in the rich tapestry of our town's life.

We believe in the timeless adage, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and we strive to embody this principle in our daily interactions. North Hills thrives on mutual respect, understanding, and a shared commitment to fostering a nurturing environment.

Safety and consideration are paramount in our community. We remind all residents to "drive like your children are at play in the streets." Our roads are the arteries of North Hills, connecting us not just by geography, but by the care and mindfulness with which we navigate them. Let's ensure they remain safe for every pedestrian, cyclist, and child at play.

Keeping our town in "tippy-top shape" is a collective endeavor. A well-maintained property not only enhances the beauty of our town but also reflects the pride we take in our community. Let's continue to invest effort in our surroundings, making North Hills a beacon of community pride.

In addition to these pillars of our community ethos, we encourage all residents to engage in open dialogue, share your talents, and participate in community projects, talk to a Council Member today. Your unique contributions help make North Hills a vibrant and dynamic place to live.

As we cast our gazes towards the unfolding seasons, let us continue to interlace the fabric of our community ever tighter, exulting in our collective accomplishments, bolstering one another amidst trials, and greeting each newcomer with the warmth and benevolence that are the hallmarks of North Hills

With warmest regards,



Patrick McDonnell, Mayor

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2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter Urban Deer Hunt	January 13 th to 28 th
Street User Fees Due (First Half)	February 15th
Highway Clean-up	March 13 th
North Hills Pool Cleaning	May 11 th
Spring Yard Sale	May 18 th
Memorial Day – Pool Opening	May 25 th
Large Trash Collection	June 1 st
4 th of July	July 4 th
Highway Clean-up	July 27 th
Fall Yard Sale	September 7 th
Street User Fees Due (Second Half)	August 15th
Fall Urban Deer Hunt – Meeting / Signup	September 8 th
Stocking of Fish at Pond	September 30 th
Fishing in the Hills	October 5 th
Fall Urban Deer Hunt – week 1	October 14 th to 18 th
Fall Urban Deer Hunt – week 2	October 21 st to 25 th
Halloween	October 31 st (5:30pm to 8:00pm)
Highway Clean-up	November 2 nd
Leaf Collection	November 7 th to 28 th
Salvation Army Bell Ringing	To be determined

For more information on the events above or if you're interested in joining the North Hills Town Council Team and or looking to volunteer, we encourage you to take the next step. Your involvement can make a significant difference in our community. Good communities just don't happen, it takes the work, pride and good people.

Empower your Community, Enrich your life, Volunteer today!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patrick McDonnell, Mayor mayor@northhillswv.com 304.299.9722	Fred Newberry, Recorder recorder@northhillswv.com 304.615.1089
Cheney English, Town Council cheneydenglish@gmail.com 304-893-2807	Regina Smith, Town Council reg24@yahoo.com 304-210-8109
Don Stemple, Town Council dtstemple35@gmail.com 740-525-4251	Rachel Hensley, Town Council rachel@rachelhensley.com 304-699-8287
Kathrine Pittman, Town Council microkat1@gmail.com 304.615.9637	This space could be for you. So, reach out to a council member today. Let's make North Hills a better place.

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Street User Fees (1st half) – Due February 15th ----- \$250.00

Highway Clean-up: March 13th at 8:30 am

Please join your fellow residents in helping to keep the main entrances to our Town looking the best it can be. The Town of North Hills has adopted this section of highway and conducts clean-up days 3-4 times a year. If you want to help keep our surroundings looking Tippy-Top please come to the pond parking lot on one of clean-up days on Saturday mornings.

SPRING YARD SALE: Saturday, May 18th, 2024, 9 AM - 2 PM

Join us for our annual Spring Yard Sale on May 18th, 2024! It's the perfect opportunity to declutter by selling items from your attic, garage, and basement that you no longer use. To ensure a smooth experience for everyone, we'll be managing traffic with clear signage and guidance at key intersections. Volunteers willing to help with traffic direction are encouraged to contact Cheney English for more details.

Please follow the designated traffic directions on North Hills Drive for an easier and safer access to the sale locations.

Additionally, for any items that don't find a new home but are too good to discard, a Goodwill donation truck will be available in the pond parking lot from noon until 3 PM. It's a great way to give your unsold items a second chance at usefulness.

Should there be any changes to the event details, updates will be promptly shared on the Town website under "Upcoming Events." We look forward to seeing you there for a day of community, bargain hunting, and sustainable rehoming of goods!

North Hills Pool Opening Day, Saturday, May 25th, 2024.

The opening of our town pool isn't just the start of summer fun; it's a vibrant opportunity to support a cherished community resource. The pool is a gathering place where new friendships are formed, and existing relationships are strengthened. It's where memories are made, laughter is shared, and our community becomes more tightly knit. Over the last couple of years, we have made some significant improvements. So, signup, sit down, and let's have some fun.

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LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP: Saturday, June 6th, 2020, 9am - 2pm

Join us at the Pond Parking Lot on June 6th for a special large item disposal event, hosted by Quality Sanitation. This is the perfect opportunity to get rid of bulky items, including appliances and furniture, that are too large for regular trash services. Please note, however, that hazardous materials such as pesticides, car batteries, and tires will not be accepted. For the disposal of these toxic items, please wait for the Wood County Toxic Collection Day happening in South Parkersburg.

This event is a convenient way to ensure your large waste items are handled properly and responsibly.

Highway Clean-up: July 27th at 8:30 am

If you could not make our Highway Clean up earlier in the year, now is the perfect time to come on out join the fun making our streets shine. Contact Don for more info.

Street User Fees (2nd half) – Due August 15th ----- \$250.00

Fall YARD SALE: Saturday, September 7th, 2024, 9 AM - 2 PM

Just like our Spring Yard Sale, but it is in the Fall. What a great time clean out that attic, closet, and garage. Don't let that clutter hold you back, get a second shot this year to sell those unused items. To ensure a smooth experience for everyone, we'll be managing traffic with clear signage and guidance at key intersections. Volunteers willing to help with traffic direction are encouraged to contact Cheney English for more details.

Fall Urban Deer Hunt Meeting and Sign-up. September 8th, 2024

We will meet at the park pavilion to discuss safety, rules, and regulations, assigned hunting areas. Don't miss this opportunity.

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FISHING IN THE HILLS @ NORTH HILLS POND: October 8th.

STARTING AT 12 NOON

FREE HOT DOGS, BRATS, CHIPS, COOKIES, AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED AROUND 1 PM

PRIZES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN - PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILDEN FOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

This event is a great way to enjoy a fall day outdoors with your family and neighbors. It's not about competition for who catches the biggest or most fish, but about fishing for the fun of it and teaching our children about the pleasures of fishing.

TROUT STOCKING

Kids and parents will be allowed to help stock the pond with trout on Monday, September 30th, the time will be posted on Facebook. This is really fun to watch!! Event organizers will be available to answer any questions regarding preparations for the October 8th event.

Following the stocking, the lake will be closed to fishing until the time of the event (at 12 noon October 8th or rescheduled date). This will be enforced by council and local law enforcement.

WEATHER AND CONTINGENCY

Weather is the unknown factor. A nice sunny day and we will have a great time. If the forecast is for light rain and/or chilly weather, the event will proceed (we now have the pond shelter to provide some refuge). If the forecast is for moderate rain and high winds, we will delay the event one day until Sunday the 9th at 2:00pm. Worse case weather, we would delay one week. Any schedule changes will be posted at the lake and announced via social media.

Call Don Stemple at 740-525-425 with fishing or other questions about the event, or with offers for volunteer work and/or donations for the event.

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Fishing in the Hills - Rules and Guidelines

1. This event is for North Hills Residents only and their non-resident immediate family (their children of any age, grandchildren, grandparents, and significant others). Any other related or non-related adult that is needed to assist a resident or family member in any capacity is certainly welcome as well.
2. No fishing license is required.
3. From 12 noon to 2 pm Saturday October 8th, fishing will be permitted for only those children who are 14 years old or younger or children of any age that have a handicap or special need. After 2 pm on October 8th, the lake will be open to all others who have been invited to this event.
4. Children 7 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult who can assist them. Parents are responsible for the conduct and safety of their non-adult children of any age.
5. From noon until 4 pm, each participant is permitted to catch up to 4 trout, regardless of whether the trout are kept or returned to the lake. You are encouraged to keep the trout that you catch to take home for dinner or give them to someone else that like to do so.
6. If you are fortunate enough to have picked a “hot fishing spot”, after your children have caught their limit please relinquish “your spot” to others and consider showing others how to catch fish. We would like all children to catch at least one trout.
7. Participants are expected to supply their own rod and reel, stringer, and bait. Instruction and assistance will be available from “Fish Coaches” for those who request or need assistance. A few extra rods will be available for those who are new to fishing and don’t have equipment or have equipment failure.
8. From noon until 2 pm, adults are permitted to bait and cast for the younger children, but we want to see the children reel in and fight the fish. The kids enjoy netting the fish, so please consider asking a nearby child to help do this that hasn’t had the opportunity to do so.
9. Only one fishing pole is allowed per person for the entire day of October 8th.
10. Following the Fishing in The Hills event, we encourage residents to enjoy catching more trout for the following weeks. Please limit the amount taken from the lake to 4 trout per day per person or 6 per family. The trout fishing in the North Hills Lake is for North Hills residents and their accompanying guests.
11. This is an alcohol-free and smoke-free event. Alcoholic beverages at the lake or parking lot will not be tolerated.

HAVE FUN WHILE BEING CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS!

where friends are like family....

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Halloween: Thursday, October 31st, 2024, 5:30pm to 8:00pm

As we celebrate a day that dates back over 2000 years to the ancient Celts as the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter with the carving of jack-o-lanterns, donning of costumes and the eating of treats. Let us remember to be orderly and seize the opportunity to connect with our neighbors and enjoy the celebrations together.

Highway Clean-up: November 2nd at 8:30 am

Last chance of the year to volunteer time. Contact Don for details.

Leaf Collection: November 7th to the 28th

As the leaves begin to blanket our town, we're here to assist those without the convenience of neighboring wooded lots by resuming our leaf and brush collection service. In partnership with Quality Sanitation, this program aligns with our ongoing commitment to keeping our community clean and preventing the challenges that fallen leaves can pose.

Collection Schedule: Starting November 7, 2024, and continuing until November 28, 2024, collections will occur on Thursdays, coinciding with your regular trash pickup by Quality Sanitation.

Collection Guidelines:

- Please have sacks and bundles ready at the curb by 7 AM on collection days.
- Limit of 20 sacks and bundles per household during the program.
- Each sack and bundle must not exceed 35 pounds.
- Bags should contain only leaves and brush—no grass clippings or general trash.
- Branches must be bundled, with a maximum diameter of 12 inches and a length of 4 feet.
- Torn bags will not be collected.
- The Quality Sanitation team will exercise discretion in enforcing these guidelines.

Objective: This initiative is designed to prevent the accumulation of leaves on our streets, which can lead to flooding and increased maintenance and repair costs for our stormwater drainage systems.

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Street User Fees

Preserving Our Roads, Elevating Our Values: The Critical Link Between Street User Fees, Property Value, and Community Pride

In the fabric of our community, the state of our roads and infrastructure serves as a reflection of our collective commitment to excellence, safety, and mutual respect. Well-maintained roads are not merely conduits for travel; they are a testament to our community's pride and a crucial factor in preserving and enhancing the value of our homes. It is with this understanding that we address the pressing issue of delinquent street user fees, totaling \$51,226.12, which poses a significant challenge to our community's well-being and progress.

The Direct Impact on Property Value

It is widely recognized that the condition of community infrastructure, especially roads, plays a pivotal role in determining property values. Prospective homebuyers are drawn to neighborhoods that showcase well-maintained streets, clear of hazards and aesthetically pleasing. This not only speaks to the immediate appeal of the area but also to the community's proactive stance on safety and comfort. Conversely, neglected roads marred by potholes and inadequate maintenance can significantly deter potential buyers, leading to a decrease in home values and a dampened interest in our community.

A Reflection of Community Pride

The state of our roads is a direct reflection of our community pride. Well-maintained roads signal a strong, united community that values its appearance, safety, and overall quality of life. They contribute to a positive image that residents can take pride in, fostering a sense of belonging and community spirit. In contrast, the neglect of our roadways sends a message of indifference and disunity, undermining our community's character and the pride we share in our collective home.

A Call to Action

Given the undeniable link between the timely payment of street user fees, the condition of our roads, property values, and our community pride, we find ourselves at a critical juncture. The accumulated delinquency of \$51,226.12 in street user fees directly undermines our efforts to maintain and improve our infrastructure, ultimately affecting each resident's quality of life and financial well-being.

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We understand that for some, this may be a time of financial challenge, and we are committed to finding solutions that acknowledge these difficulties. However, we must also recognize the broader impact of unpaid fees on our community's economic health and collective pride. As such, we have begun taking necessary actions, including placing liens on properties with outstanding fees, to address this issue. This measure is not taken lightly but out of a duty to uphold the interests and well-being of our entire community.

We urge all residents with outstanding street user fees to address their balances promptly. By doing so, you contribute not only to the immediate improvement of our roads but also to the long-term vibrancy, safety, and attractiveness of our community. Your action is an investment in our shared future, bolstering both our property values and our community pride.

For those seeking to discuss their situation or explore possible solutions, please contact a council member, mayor, or recorder. Let us work together towards maintaining the integrity of our community, ensuring it remains a place we are all proud to call home. In unity, we can overcome this challenge, reaffirming our commitment to a community that values safety, beauty, and shared prosperity. Let's take this step forward together, for the benefit of all.

The following liens have been placed and recorded by the Town of North Hills.

- Vincent and Krystal Correale, 4 North Hills Drive owe \$415.00.
- Michael Foster, 48 Lake Drive, \$23,715.01.
- Murray and Kelly Mace, 222 North Hills Drive, \$5,856.69.
- Paul and Kelli Marteny, 107 Brentwood Drive, \$3,594.94
- Cathy Nguyen, 162 North Hills Drive, \$10,582.09.
- Lawrence and Lauren Queen, 100 Oakwood Drive, \$415.00.
- Raplh and Karen Richards, 133 North Hills Drive, \$3,873.09.
- Joe Stevens, 153 North Hills Drive, \$2,827.70.

No Parking on North Hills Drive

To address the ongoing issue of overnight parking on North Hills Drive, we want to remind all residents and visitors of the importance of adhering to our community's parking regulations. Recently, there have been numerous complaints regarding vehicles parked overnight in this area, which not only violates local ordinances but also poses safety concerns and inconveniences for our residents. As a response to these concerns, we are reinforcing the policy that no overnight parking is allowed on North Hills Drive. Vehicles found violating this rule will be subject to towing at the owner's expense. **North Hills Drive is not an extension of your driveway!** Please make alternative parking arrangements if necessary and help us maintain a safe and orderly community for all.

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Yes, You Can Help Keep Our Street Lights On

In our continued efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of our beloved North Hills community, **we call upon each of you**, our vigilant residents, to partake in maintaining the luminance of our streets. Should you encounter a streetlight that has succumbed to darkness, we urge you to promptly report this to Mon-Power a First Energy Company.

To initiate a street light repair, please follow these steps:

- 1) Visit the website **www.firstenergycorp.com**.
- 2) Move your cursor over the **"Customer Service"** tab, then navigate down and click on **"Mon Power"** under the Select Your Utility section.
- 3) Place your cursor over **"Outages"** and select **"Outdoor Lighting Problem"** from the dropdown menu.
- 4) When asked, **"Is power on in the immediate area of the affected light?"** click **"YES."**
- 5) For the query, **"Does the light present a hazardous situation such as: broken glass or lens; unstable fixture; exposed wires; damage, leaning, or fallen pole?"** select **"NO."**
- 6) Choose **"Streetlight"** under the **"Select the type of Lighting Problem"** section.
- 7) Click on **"NEXT"** under **"No Account."**
- 8) Provide your name, email address, and phone number in the designated fields.**
- 9) For **"Lighting Location,"** input the necessary details.
- 10) Under **"Outage Location,"** choose **"Public Road."**
- 11) In the **"Problem Area"** section, select **"Front."**
- 12) Respond to any remaining questions to complete the process.

In Case of Emergency! – Dial 911

Natural Gas Leak, call 911 and Hope Gas at (800) 934-3187.

- **Signs of a gas leak include**, rotten egg odor, discolored or dead vegetation over or near a pipeline, a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas appliance or pipeline, dirt or debris blowing into the air, persistent bubbles in a water-covered area.
- **If a Leak Occurs**, leave the area immediately, warn others to stay away, call 911.

Downed Power Lines call 911

- **Stay at least 30 feet away**, do not go near the pole or touch the line, Call 911 immediately.
- Warn Others to stay away.

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Thank a Council Member

As Mayor, it is both a privilege and an honor to extend my deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of our Town Council. Their tireless efforts and countless hours of planning have been instrumental in shaping the vibrant community we cherish today. Their work, often behind the scenes, is the backbone of our town's continued prosperity and well-being.

I would like to extend a special acknowledgment to our Recorder, Fred Newberry. Fred's commitment to our town goes beyond the call of duty. Whether it's managing our finances, meticulously recording, and posting minutes of each meeting, or liaising with accountants for our annual audits, his diligence ensures the smooth operation of our civic responsibilities. Fred, your unwavering dedication does not go unnoticed.

Equally commendable is the effort of Don Stemple, who has embraced the responsibility of overseeing the town pool, playground, pond area, and the much-anticipated fishing derby. Don's initiatives and dedication enrich our community's recreational life, creating spaces where memories are made and cherished.

A heartfelt thank you to Cheney English for leading the biannual Deer hunt and yard sale. These events not only bring our community together but also foster a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation among us.

To all other council members, your caring, thoughtfulness, dedication, and hard work behind the scenes do not go unnoticed. Your contributions are what make North Hills a wonderful place to live, work, and play. Your efforts embody the true spirit of public service, and for that, we are immensely grateful.

To my fellow residents, I encourage you to get involved. If there is something happening in our town that you disagree with, I encourage you to step forward. There are those who act and those who do not. Our volunteers, despite their own busy lives, find the time to contribute to making our town a better place. They are not individuals without family, friends, work responsibilities; they are committed members of our community who choose to make a difference. So, I urge you to set aside the potato chips, turn off the television, and engage in positive actions for our town. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of North Hills, embodying the spirit of active participation and change.

In closing, I invite each of you to consider how you might contribute to making North Hills an even better place to call home. Whether through volunteering for council activities or participating in community events, your involvement is invaluable. Together, we can continue to build a community that reflects our shared values and aspirations.

Thank you, once again, to our Town Council members for your dedication and service. To the residents of North Hills, let's move forward together, with a spirit of cooperation and community pride.