

July
2020



CITY OF

VINE GROVE

FOUNDED 1850

KENTUCKY

Important Phone
Numbers

**Police and Fire
Emergency**
9-1-1

**Water/Sewer
After Hours
Emergency**
(270) 351-4477

**Police
Non-Emergency**
(270) 877-2252

Fire Department
(270) 877-5202

**Code
Enforcement**
(270) 877-2422

City Hall
(270) 877-2422

Planning/Zoning
(270) 877-2422

**Building
Inspections**
(270) 272-2800

**Water & Sewer
Billing/Public
Works**
(270) 877-2713

**Mayor
Pam Ogden**
(270) 877-2422

City Council
Members

Donna Betson

Kristofor King

Garry McCoy

Kathy Sisco

**Donna
Spangenberg**

Robert Woosley

CITY REMINDS CITIZENS TO PAY WATER BILLS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Andy Beshear has issued a number of Executive Orders aimed at dealing with the virus. On May 8, 2020 he issued Executive Order # 2020-323.

This executive order, in part, directs all utilities to cease cutoffs for nonpayment and mandates waiver of all late fees for the duration of the state of emergency.

Most citizens have dutifully paid their water bills despite the order, and we thank you. But there are some who have not. The City understands that many people have been left without work, and we would not want to place undue hardship on anyone. However, citizens need to be aware that even though the City is not able to attach late fees or interrupt service for non payment during the pandemic, once the Executive Order is lifted, those missed payments will become due.

For those citizens, it is important for you understand that you must contact the City and make payment arrangements **BEFORE** we are allowed to return to business as usual. Once that happens, we will begin cutting off service for delinquent accounts. **Anyone who has not made payment arrangements before we begin cut-offs, will be required to pay the balance in full before service will be restored.**

The money generated by water bills pays for the water the City of Vine Grove purchases from Hardin County Water District # 1. Without that revenue, we cannot pay our bills. It also pays for many of the services provided by Public Works.

VINE GROVE CONSIDERS STORMWATER UTILITY

On Tuesday, July 22, 2020, the Vine Grove City Council held a public hearing to discuss the possibility of a proposed stormwater utility. A representative from Heritage Engineering was present to share information gathered during a study his firm did on behalf of the City.

During the presentation, it was reported that there are at least twenty-five (25) projects that need to be completed, if funding were available.

There are miles of storm pipe and dozens of inlets in the city that are beyond their design life. Pipes transporting stormwater runoff along with debris like tire particles, sand and gravel, road salt, and other chemicals will not last forever. For decades, we have enjoyed the low annual maintenance costs of the aging system. Because it has lasted so well, proactive inspection and maintenance have been an afterthought. We only notice the system when a pipe fails and our road or sidewalk is closed. Then we want it fixed tomorrow.

For residential properties, an average impervious surface area for the city is calculated to establish an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). The base residential stormwater utility fee is established by elected officials and may be assessed annually on a property tax statement or monthly on a utility bill. Heritage Engineering is recommending a \$5.00 per month fee.

It was noted during the meeting that as the City continues to grow, so will the problems with stormwater. It has become essential that we address these issues before they become any worse.

Vine Grove City Hall
300 West Main Street
Vine Grove, KY 40175
www.vinegrove.org
Facebook page:
@VineGrovceityhall
Instagram:

ANNUAL CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN CHANGES COLLECTION STRATEGY

Due to Covid 19, the Vine Grove Fire Department will not be collecting donations at the usual downtown location. However, they *will* still “show up” for the kids.

Donations may be mailed to City of Vine Grove, at the address in the box above this article, or you may drop off donations at the same address, or at the Fire Department located at 513 Highland Ave., through August 9th. Please make checks payable to WHAS Crusade for Children.

There are also many options for donating virtually. Together we can make life better for children with special needs in Kentucky and southern Indiana!

To donate virtually:
* Text CRUSADE to 50155

Or visit the Vine Grove Fire Department on Facebook for more ways to give. As Abraham Lincoln said: “No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child.”

SAFE ROOM AVAILABLE TO ALL CITIZENS

Citizens who do not have access to a basement or any other protection during severe weather are encouraged to take advantage of the safe room, which is located at the Vine Grove Fire Department, at 513 Highland Avenue.

The Safe Room was constructed to accommodate approximately 500 people, on a short-term basis. It is not intended to be a long-term shelter, but it will give refuge during extreme weather events.

FREE YOGA CLASSES TO TAKE PLACE IN OPTIMIST PARK

Free outdoor yoga classes with Maria are available in Optimist Park Soccer Fields on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.. All are welcome from first timers to seasoned practitioners!

Bring your mat (or a beach towel), some water and take an hour to do something for your mind and body in our beautiful park. Yoga is a great way to relieve stress and anxiety, increase muscle strength and tone, flexibility and overall health.

More information and announcements may be found on the Fort Knox Yoga Community Page on Facebook.

Participants are encouraged to wear a mask until you get in your spot and they practice spacing 8 to 10 feet apart.

Maria is a certified Yoga Instructor with teaching positions with both Fort Knox MWR and the Department of Veterans Affairs teaching yoga on Fort Knox to Soldiers, Spouses and the Veteran community.



ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO MILITARY VETERANS

Assistance is being offered to military veterans, preferably first responders, and administrative personnel living in the City of Vine Grove. Irvin Lyons Jr. has announced that he is willing to assist you in preparing your claims for the military benefits you may have earned. He will work with only those veterans who have never filed a claim for benefits.

Mr. Lyons will come to you if you can't meet him at Vine Grove City Hall. Once the pandemic is over, he will be at City Hall on the Second Monday of the month. Please bring a copy of your DD Form 214.



YESTERDAY'S YOUTH SENIOR GROUP TO RESUME MEETINGS

The Vine Grove Senior group, commonly referred to as Yesterday's Youth will meet from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Vine Grove City Hall Community Center. Those who attend will be asked to wear masks and practice social distancing.

The group will socialize and share lunch. In August, pizza and dessert will be provided by Bridge of Love. Those who plan to attend are asked to provide your own individual salad. A speaker will be on hand to provide a blood pressure and temperature clinic.

For more information, or if you would be willing to assist, please contact Miss Yvonne High at (270) 352-3186.

FOOD PANTRY SERVES COMMUNITY

The Heartland Christian Center, located 124 Ditto Lane in Vine Grove will be open on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The food pantry is an agent for Feeding America.

CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING AND ZONING MEET MONTHLY

City Council meets on the first Monday, of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center or the new Council Chambers, located in the former meeting room #1.

The Vine Grove Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m., also in the Council Chambers.

Exceptions for both bodies occur whenever a federal holiday falls on the regular meeting date. In that event, the meeting is held on the following Monday.

CITY OFFERS SAFETY TIPS FOR HOT WEATHER

Summer months are usually quite busy for families, with work and activities for the children, even with the slow down due to the Covid Pandemic.

The City reminds everyone to be safe during these hot days, especially as we go about our business wearing masks. The best way to cool off is air condition, if it's available.

Be sure to stay hydrated, drink before you feel thirsty, and avoid alcohol. Replace salt lost from sweating by drinking fruit juice or sports drinks.

Wear sunscreen; sunburn affects the body's ability to cool itself. Avoid spending time outdoors during the hottest part of the day, usually between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Don't push your body too hard, pace yourself.

For those working outside, try to stay in the shade if possible. Watch out for your co-workers for symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Be sure to take breaks and cool down.

Please remember that children and pets should never be left alone inside a car. The temperature inside a parked car can climb very quickly, and become deadly within minutes.

For more information on ways to protect yourselves and your loved ones, go to the National Safety Council website at: <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/heat>

OPEN DOOR SERVES MEALS

The Open Door Community Kitchen is a help agency providing free hot meals to anyone who might need them, sponsored by volunteers and area churches. The meals are served every Saturday from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at 306 High Street in Vine Grove just 2 blocks from City Hall.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, meals will be prepared as "to go" and delivered curb side. Workers will appreciate your patience as they work to deliver meals to you.

For more information, please contact Dan Paddack at (270) 945-4997.

