

January
2021



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

Lonnie Dennis

Selena Hudson

Kristofor King

Kathy Sisco

**Donna
Spangenberg**

LATE FEES FOR WATER BILLS TO BE REINSTATED

Due to the COVID crisis, and the guidelines set forth by Kentucky's Governor Beshear, the City of Vine Grove has not charged late fee penalties since March of 2020. However that is about to change.

According to executive order # 2020-881 issued on October 19, 2020: All entities that provide natural gas, water, wastewater or electric service within the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to entities created under KRS Chapters 96 and 279, shall continue to waive assessment of late payment fees for residential customers through **December 31, 2020**.

Therefore, beginning in February, the City of Vine Grove will resume assessing late fees for water bills not paid by the 10th of each month. Disconnections for non payment was reinstated in December.

CITIZENS ASKED TO USE CAUTION WHEN FLUSHING

Citizens are asked to be aware that flushing items such as napkins, paper towels, T-shirt fabric, rubber/plastic gloves, feminine hygiene products, and even baby wipes that say they are flushable, are hazardous to the system.

Often times, when plumbers, or Public Works has to be called for a sewer back-up, the resident will say that the items they flushed said they were flushable on the package. What it *doesn't* say on the package, is that even though the item may go down when flushed, there is no guarantee that it won't clog the sewer pipes.

Please keep a bag-lined waste can next to your toilets, and dispose of these items in that can. Anything other than human waste and toilet paper will most likely clog the sewer lines and pump stations, causing a back-up, which could affect your homes.

It is so much easier to use this preventative approach, than it is to clean up the mess caused by a sewer back-up.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Dear Neighbor,

We just completed the first month of my third year as your Mayor. Last year we faced a lot of obstacles due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we hold out a lot of hope that 2021 will be much better for all of us!

I would like to personally thank each of you for your support and understanding during the past several months. I want you to know that I am wishing each of you good health!

As we move into 2021, there are a number of items we would like to accomplish before the year ends. Those items include, but are not limited to; The reinstatement of events that were suspended due to COVID; Enforce condemnation and destruction of houses that have fallen into complete disrepair; Continue to work on RV Park, and Renovate the Optimist Park bathrooms – to accommodate RV patrons and paving more of our streets. We will also be adding a parking area downtown. I hope you have noticed the many improvements we have accomplished over the last two years.

These are only a few of the things my staff and I want to accomplish for our citizens. I look forward to facing the challenges as we move our GREAT City forward.

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

CITY DISCUSSES SNOW REMOVAL

Winter has officially arrived, meaning colder weather, and the chance of snow and sleet. That means that City workers must be on alert for inclement weather, and they must be prepared to spread salt and plow roads.

Because it is impossible to schedule for bad weather, our crews are on constant stand-by during winter months, to ensure that our roads are cleared and ready for citizens to drive on them.

We are asking for your help:

- ◆ Refrain from parking vehicles on the street. Vehicles parked in the street hinder snow plows from doing their job.
- ◆ Whenever possible, refrain from driving on unplowed roads. Driving on fresh snow packs it down, often causing the plow to skim over the top, rather than clearing the snow, and the packed snow tends to become ice.
- ◆ Be patient, the City has a limited number of snow plows, and our crews will get to every street just as quickly as possible
- ◆ Please understand that our crews are doing their best. However, when they plow roads, they cannot prevent the snow from going into driveways, or from blocking mail boxes.



CITY OFFERS REASONS TO CARE ABOUT STORMWATER

We are all part of a watershed. Watersheds are land areas that drain to the nearest body of water. For example, if you are in western Pennsylvania, you are part of the Ohio River watershed, while eastern Pennsylvania lands may ultimately drain to the Chesapeake Bay. Smaller local creeks and streams also eventually drain to a larger local water body.

Flooding

When excess water has nowhere to go, flooding can impact property and cause damage to land and structures. Flooding can also be a public safety issue that affects entire communities.

Pollution and Health Impacts

Stormwater picks up anything that is on the ground and carries it along with it. Animal waste, chemicals, pesticides, oil, and sediment – all end up in waterways and potentially in our sources of drinking water.

Streambank Erosion

Uncontrolled stormwater can cause streambank erosion, leaving bare soil and exposing tree roots. This can lead to property damage and cause issues with streambank stability.

Sedimentation

Erosion and runoff, can also lead to sedimentation. Sedimentation of waterways from runoff causes changes to aquatic habitats. Undesirable plant growth increases, water becomes more turbid or cloudy, which leads to disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Sedimentation also fills in waterways, which can increase the flooding potential.

Impacts to Groundwater Recharge

If stormwater isn't sinking into the ground it can affect recharge of groundwater resources. This can affect water levels in drinking water wells as well as impacting levels in surface water.

Impacts to Recreational Opportunities

Stormwater runoff can cause polluted waterways which can lead to restrictions on boating, swimming, and fishing in recreational areas.

Making changes to how stormwater is managed can go a long way to reduce negative impacts. Even small actions by individual homeowners like using a rain barrel, choosing permeable landscaping surfaces, or installing a rain garden can make a difference. Stormwater affects everyone!

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 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. All meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

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.

To contact Mr. Lyons, please call (270) 304-6044.

CORRECTION

In the December 2020 edition, the Christmas for the Kids article, it was reported in error, that the Vine Grove Christian Church donated to the program. It was actually the Vine Grove Baptist Church that made the donation. We regret any inconvenience this error may have caused.

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 from noon until 2 p.m. The food pantry is an agent for Feeding America.

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.

COVID TESTING AVAILABLE

The Vine Grove Medical Clinic is offering COVID-19 testing at their facility, which is located at 423 Crume Road.

They will be doing the testing on Wednesday February 3, and again on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

For more information about costs, and to reserve a test, call (270) 312-0152.

(This is not a City sponsored event.)