



WILDER EXCHANGE

July/August
2026

From the Desk of Mayor Valerie Jones

Dear Wilder Residents,

I am pleased to share that the budget ordinance for the upcoming fiscal year has been officially approved allowing us to continue investing in the growth, safety, and vibrancy of our community. This milestone sets the stage for meaningful progress in the months ahead. I wish to thank council for their diligence in the review and adoption process for the 2026-2027 operating and capital budgets.

Since my last update, several key projects have been successfully completed each contributing to the quality of life we all enjoy. Infrastructure improvements such as resurfacing the city building parking lot is complete and the repair and resurfacing of Vine Street and Interstate Access Road have been put out to bid. Work has commenced on the coffee shop property. We achieved optimum staffing across all departments with the new hires in the police, fire and public works departments and we hosted several community events like the Hoxworth Blood Drive, Active Aging fitness classes, a Terrarium Workshop and Movie Night, all accomplishments which reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering community engagement and having the resources needed to fulfill our promises to you and the businesses.

Regarding the sudden and unexpected failure of a major city culvert near Bentwood Hills Drive, we understand the concern and frustration this has caused particularly for Bentwood Hills' residents and those on Three Mile affected by re-routed traffic. Please know that our team is working tirelessly alongside state, local and engineering partners to maintain the stabilization of the area, to safely relocate cables without service interruption and await the construction of the ordered culvert. Once delivered, the contractors will work as quickly as possible on its installation and the reopening of the road. For those seeking clear, accurate information about what happened, we strongly encourage you to watch the May 4 council meeting where expert city engineers provided a detailed report on the cause of the incident and what's to come. Then we suggest monitoring the city Facebook site for on-going updates. Always call the city with questions. Unfortunately, there has been misinformation circulating publicly and privately which serves no constructive purpose. Staying informed through verified sources will help us all move through this challenge together.

In business news, the city recently celebrated the 130th anniversary of Castellini and participated in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for two new Wilder businesses: Hometown Concrete and Riegler Blacktop.

Looking ahead, we are excited for a fun-filled summer. A full calendar of events, activities, and opportunities to come together as neighbors is already in motion. Whether you enjoy outdoor gatherings, family-friendly programs, or simply spending time around the community, there will be something for everyone. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to sharing a wonderful summer season with all of you.
Warm regards,

Your friend and Mayor, Valerie

E-Mail Addresses

Mayor
Valorie Jones
vjones@wilderky.gov

City Administrator
Terry Vance
tvance@wilderky.gov

City Clerk
Juanita Schultz
jschultz@wilderky.gov

City Web Page
www.wilderky.gov

CITY SERVICE REFERENCE

NUMBERS

CITY BUILDING
859-581-8884

FIRE DEPT
859-431-1440

POLICE DEPT
859-581-8863

MAINTENANCE
859-581-8884

BESTWAY DISPOSAL
CALL CITY BUILDING

NORTHERN KY WATER
DISTRICT
859-578-9898

SANITATION DISTRICT
859-578-7450

A promotional poster for a USA 250 Years celebration. The background features a city building at night with fireworks exploding in the sky. In the foreground, a band is performing on a stage. The text is overlaid on the image.

USA 250 YEARS

CELEBRATE THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

with The *Not Johnny Band*

July 2, 2026

Live at the City Center Park

7:00-9:30 PM

Join us for a night of music, history, and celebration.

520 Licking Pike
Behind the City Building at the Park

A Special Visitor



In August of 2024, Jude Rinehart stopped with his father to help a stranded motorist. While on the side of the road, a local police officer stopped to assist. This turned into a friendship and Jude later received his first police department challenge coin. On his tenth birthday, Jude received a blue line flag challenge coin holder, and the journey to fill it began. Jude began writing letters to local police departments in Kansas, asking for a coin and a patch. As he was filling his challenge coin display, a Sheriff from Kansas asked permission to share Jude's story with others. His collection grew from three coins to one hundred. Eventually, the story made it to Kentucky.

In April of 2026, we received an email with Jude's request and a link to a YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIXG1QZ7SOs> We knew Jude was special, but not the full extent until we watched the video. Jude was diagnosed with Pearson's Syndrome, which is a life-threatening health condition. It forced a little boy to always watch from the sidelines, because sometimes typical boy activities were too risky for him to participate. The challenge coin journey, became Jude's mission. We responded with a letter and some police gifts and also forwarded his information to the FBI National Academy Class 297. Jude began to receive coins from all over the United States.

In June we received an email from Jude's mother Kendra, thanking us for the gifts and forwarding his letter. Jude was planning a visit to Kentucky and wanted to stop by and visit on his way to Ohio. Since we wanted to give him the greeting he deserved, officers from Highland Heights, Southgate, Fort Thomas, and Cold Spring were able to break away from patrol and meet in our parking lot. As Jude approached, we had a line of cars lit up with flashing lights to welcome him to the city. We also had more challenge coins and patches for him. After his Kentucky visit, his collection had grown well over one hundred coins. Jude highlighted his trip to Kentucky in his most recent YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1fbHUiqiH4>



Julian McCarthy, our very own resident of Wilder, will be hosting a lemonade stand in conjunction with Payton's 7th Annual Lemonade Stand this Saturday, the 27th, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Wilder City Center Park.

Come out and support this wonderful cause! The mission of Payton's Lemonade Stand is to sweeten the lives of children facing medical, personal, or economic hardships. While raising funds for these children, they strive to empower kids to participate in philanthropy. They aim to teach them the value of putting forth effort through the hosting of their lemonade stands to make the lives of children going through hardships a little bit sweeter.

Join Julian in making a difference and spreading some sweetness!

7/25/2026
10 AM - 1 PM

PAYTON'S
Lemonade
STAND

— KIDS SERVING KIDS —



Summer Safety Tips



Activity safety

 Never swim near a boat, marina or boat launching ramp.	 Always use U.S. Coast Guard-approved life safety jackets.	 Adults need to stay with children when they are around water.
 Keep the pool and deck clear of floats, balls and toys after you get out of the pool.	 Always swim with a buddy.	 Always wear a bike helmet and bright clothes when cycling so people can see you. Put reflectors on your bike.
 Ride with both hands on the handlebars. Ride in single file with traffic. Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic lights.		

For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

Summer Safety Tips

Keep these tips in mind as you and your family enjoy summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics and the Fourth of July.

Fire safety

 Build campfires at least 25 feet away from tents, shrubs and anything that can burn.	 If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts. Sparklers can reach 1,200 F and cause third-degree burns.	 Use propane, charcoal and wood pellet barbecue grills outdoors only. Indoor use can cause a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.
 Place your grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony.		

10 feet

Hoxworth BLOOD CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

H

City of Wilder

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
11:00am-1:15pm & 2:30pm-4:45pm
Donor Bus in parking lot at 520 Licking Pike in Wilder

Schedule online: <https://hoxworth.org/groups/wilder>, scan QR code or contact Hoxworth at (513) 451-0910

All donors receive a Hoxworth Backpack Cooler!
Appointments Encouraged! | Double Your Impact - **Donate Red Cells!**
Saving Lives Close to Home.



**MOST REQUESTED
SUPPLIES:**

*BINDERS & BINDER SECTION
DIVIDERS

*NOTEBOOKS

*FOLDERS

*RED PENS

*PENCILS

*BLACK EXPO MARKERS

*GLUE STICKS

*ELMERS GLUE

*PLAYDOH

*CRAYONS

DO GOOD, FEEL GOOD!

**OUR DONATION DRIVE IS
BACK IN FULL SWING WITH A
SPECIAL FOCUS ON BACK-
TO-SCHOOL NEEDS.**

**WE'RE CONTINUING TO
COLLECT FOR THE ST.
VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD
PANTRY AND LOCAL ANIMAL
SHELTERS.**

**YOU CAN DROP OFF YOUR
DONATIONS IN THE
COLLECTION BARRELS
LOCATED IN THE LOBBY OF
THE CITY BUILDING AT 520
LICKING PIKE.**

Do Good , Feel Good Food Drive Update

We're excited to share that since the start of the donation drive; we've collected 539 pounds of food/hygiene products. This is a wonderful reminder of the amazing things we can accomplish when we join forces to help others. Let's keep the momentum going and make next year just as successful.

From the Office of the
City Administrator

BENTWOOD HILLS CULVERT COLLAPSE

I am writing to provide an update regarding the culvert replacement project on Bentwood Hills Drive.

The original 10-foot metal culvert, installed in the late 1980s, recently failed due to corrosion, leading to a ground collapse. Following an emergency declaration by the mayor, the city contracted Eaton Asphalt to clear the blockage and ensure proper water flow.

While the initial plan was for a partial repair, further inspection revealed that the entire 165-foot culvert must be replaced. To improve infrastructure and prevent future issues, we are upgrading to a larger 14x12 foot concrete culvert. We have already secured the necessary permits from the Kentucky Division of Water.

The new culvert pipe has been ordered, but because it is a custom-manufactured item, delivery is expected in mid-July. Excavation and utility relocation (water, electric, and telecommunications) will begin prior to delivery to prepare the site. Once the culvert is installed, we will complete the restoration of the pavement and the surrounding area.

Regarding the detour along Bentwood Hills Drive to Three Mile, we are monitoring the route closely. Contractors have been instructed not to block the road. If you encounter a blockage, please call non-emergency dispatch at (859) 292-3622 so the police can clear the route and issue citations as necessary.

Additionally, we are aware of other areas on Bentwood Hills Drive that require repair. The city and Fischer plan to address these sections as soon as the culvert project is finished and the detour is no longer required.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly at tvance@wilderky.gov or 859-581-8884.

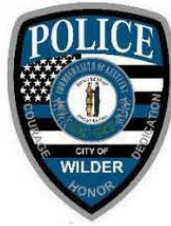
The Importance of Ordinances to City Residents

- 1. Maintain Order and Safety**
- 2. Address Local Needs**
- 3. Promote Quality of Life**
- 4. Protect Public Welfare**
- 5. Provide Predictability and Fairness**
- 6. Enable Community Participation**

Ordinances Past by the City of Wilder This Year

- 1. 26-0201 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 93 Municipal Parks of the Wilder Municipal Code Regarding Adding City Center Park, Amending Park Regulations and Fees**
- 2. 26-0202 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 72 Section 72.02 of the Wilder Municipal Code Amending Stop Sign Locations for Bentwood Hills Drive a City Maintained Street Located in the City of Wilder and Adding Sunrock Boulevard Stop Sign Location and Speed Limit for the Newley Dedicated Street.**
- 3. 26-0601 An Ordinance Adopting the City of Wilder, Kentucky's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 07/01/26 through 06/30/27 by Estimation Revenues and Appropriating Funds for the Operation of City Government**

You will find the signed Ordinances on the city website at www.wilderky.gov



Patrol Updates

I want to thank everyone for the continued support of our department and address a few concerns we have been hearing across the city. We have seen recent thefts from vehicles where suspects broke out windows to get to valuables left in plain view. Please remember that computers, guns, money, phones, and other high-value items should never be left visible inside a parked vehicle, even if it is locked. A locked car is not enough to stop someone who is determined to get inside, and removing those items is the best way to reduce the chance of becoming a target.

We are also hearing complaints of speeding and stop sign violations on nearly every street in Wilder. We understand your concern and we have increased our traffic enforcement. We also ask for your understanding that with a department our size it's impossible to position an officer on every street in the city for traffic enforcement. Every resident feels the same way about their own street, and we do take those concerns seriously. Our officers must prioritize calls and patrol functions based on severity and immediate need, while still doing our best to address traffic issues wherever we can. Our most dangerous areas with frequent injury collisions are on KY-9 and I-275. For this reason, you will usually see patrol focusing their enforcement in these areas. Normally, two or three officers will be available for calls and some calls for service can tie up multiple officers in excess of three hours.

In addition, we have stepped up enforcement in the construction zones, including vehicles blocking roadways and delivery drivers exceeding posted speeds. These areas require extra caution for the safety of workers, drivers, and pedestrians. We appreciate your patience as we work to balance these demands and continue serving the entire community as fairly and effectively as possible.

Sincerely,

Chad Martin

Chief of Police



WILDER FIRE/RESCUE

522 LICKING PIKE • WILDER, KENTUCKY 41071

PHONE 859-431-5884 • FAX 859-581-0823



FIRE CHIEF DOUG NEYMAN

: Follow the below safety tips while you are enjoying your 4th of July celebration:

- NEVER make your own fireworks. Only purchase fireworks from reliable, licensed dealers.
- Use consumer fireworks responsibly. Follow instructions and only use fireworks as intended. Never point them at others or use them as a weapon.
- Do not use fireworks under the influence of alcohol.
- Obey all local and State laws.
- Only use fireworks outdoors. Use them in a clear area, away from buildings and vehicles.
- Only set fireworks off from the ground. Never set them off from your hand or from glass bottles or metal containers.
- Light one firework at a time and move away after it has been lit. Never stand over a firework when lighting it.
- Never try to relight a “dud” firework. Leave it for 15 minutes and then soak it in water before disposing of it.
- Keep a source of extinguishment nearby.

Ideally small children should not handle fireworks, and NEVER without adult supervision. Even sparklers can be dangerous as they burn at over 1000 degrees

Douglas Neyman

Fire Chief

Wilder Fire Department

STRONG COMMUNITY. BRIGHTER TOGETHER.

FIRST FRIDAY

SHOP LOCAL

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE. SUPPORT LOCAL!

- KEEP DOLLARS LOCAL
- SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS
- BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY

LOCAL BUSINESSES
MAKE OUR COMMUNITY GREAT!

BAMBOOZ	SUBWAY	BARLEYCORN'S BREWHOUSE GOOD FOOD, COLD BREWS. GREAT COMPANY.	LONGNECKS SPORTS GRILL
RANDY'S RUGGED WEAR	KEY STORAGE	WILDER STORAGE	StateFarm Insurance

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES!
Together, we make a difference.

First Friday
SHOP LOCAL
PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Bambooz
501C Licking Pike, Wilder, KY 41071 (859) 261-7555
Offering 10% off entire bill with proof of Wilder Residency.

Subway
1412 Gloria Terrell Drive, Suite 1, Wilder, KY 41076 (859) 380-2181
• Offering 10% off entire bill.
• Must let the Sandwich artist know you are there for First Friday Shop Local.
• This deal can NOT be used with other offers, coupons or discounts.

Barleycorn's Brewhouse
402 Licking Pike, Wilder, KY 41071 (859) 291-2739
Offering 15% off of items at their retail shop with proof of Wilder Residency.

Longnecks Sports Grill
1009 Town Drive, Wilder, KY 41076 (859) 291-5664
• Offering 15% off entire meal
• Alcoholic Beverages Excluded
• Proof of Wilder Residency is required.

Key Storage
206 Vine Street, Wilder, KY 41071 (859) 757-0211
New customers will be offered a \$39.00 move in special. In order to qualify for the discounts, the customer must bring in a copy of this page at the time of rental OR show on phone. The coupon can't be used with any other offers or discounts. Proof of Wilder Residency is required.

Wilder Storage
911 Banklick Road, Wilder, KY 41076 (859) 444-6688
• New customers will be offered a \$39.00 move in special.
• In order to qualify for the discounts, the customer must bring in a copy of this page at the time of rental OR show on phone.
• The coupon can't be used with any other offers or discounts.
• Proof of Wilder Residency is required.

Performance Chiropractic
419 Licking Pike, Suite B, Wilder, KY 41071 (859) 360-0664
• Free Recovery Room use. This includes use of Normatec compression systems
• <https://frkchiropractor.com/recovery-room/>
• 25% off Products (excludes Hypervolt)

State Farm
1400 Gloria Terrell Dr Ste D, Wilder, KY 41076
• Stop by the State Farm Office -Wilder Pointe Shopping Center-9.00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
• GET A NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE
• Pick up your \$10.00 Gift Card

Randy's Rugged Wear
1400 Gloria Terrell Dr Ste N, Wilder, KY 41076 (859) 781-8271
• Offering 10% off purchase with proof of Wilder Residency

Thank you for supporting local and keeping our community strong!



Coffee & Talk

with Mayor Jones

Join us for a special event where you can enjoy casual, meaningful conversation with Mayor Jones. It's a great chance to ask questions or explore topics that matter to our community. Whether you're curious about city projects, policies, or just in the mood for a warm cup of coffee, this is the perfect occasion. Bring your questions on Tuesday July 21st, at 10:00 AM at the City Building.

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

2 nd	NOT JOHNNY BAND Celebrate 250yrs	City Center Park	7:00- 9:30
3 rd	First Friday	Shop Local	
21 st	Coffee and Talk	City Building	10:00a.m.
25 th	Payton's Lemonade Stand	City Center Park	

August

4 th	First Friday	Shop Local	
TBD	Party in the Park	Landing	
25 th	Blood Drive	City Building Parking Lot	

September

4 th	First Friday	Shop Local	
7 th	Last Day for Splash Pad		
12 th	Flag Raising	City Center Park	12:00p.m.
18 th , 19 th , 20 th	Annual Yard Sale		
21 st	Coffee and Talk	City Building	
23 rd	Senior Picnic	City Center Park	12:00p.m.
26 th	Touch a Truck/City Gov For Kids	City Building	4:00-7:00
30 th	Medicare Seminar	Hall	7:00p.m.

October

	Halloween House Decorating Contest		
2 nd	First Friday	Shop Local	
24 th	Trunk or Treat	City Building	12:00-2:00

November

6 th	First Friday	Shop Local	
7 th	Card Making Craft/Class	Hall	
16 th	Coffee and Talk	City Building	10:00a.m.
20 th	Turkey Raffle	Fire House	

December

	Christmas House Decorating Contest		
4 th	First Friday	Shop Local	
7 th	Christmas Tree Lighting and Historical Society Tree Lighting	City Building	7:00p.m.
TBD	Breakfast with Santa	Fire House	10:00-12:00
16 th	Blood Drive	City Building Parking Lot	