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Issue
FOUR

July – August 2023

City Newsletter

Informing, educating, and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky

6PM AT FALLING SPRINGS PARK



DANCE CONTESTS
BOUNCE HOUSES
CARNIVAL GAMES
PRIZES
CORNHOLE

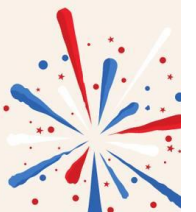
PHOTO BOOTH
LIVE MUSIC
TRIVIA
FOOD VENDORS
FACE PAINTING

ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY *Celebration*

EXCLUSIVE VETERANS TENT WITH COMPLIMENTARY FOOD & DRINKS

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

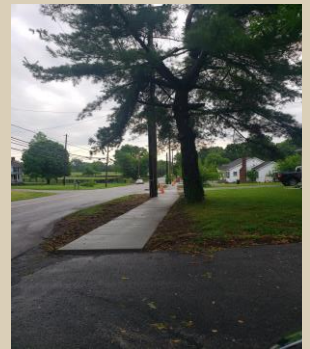
Brought to you by the City of
Versailles & Woodford County



good things happening in the community >>>

New High Street Sidewalk!

You may have seen the new sidewalk being installed on High Street. The City of Versailles and the Woodford County Fiscal Court are collaborating on a 4,680-foot-long sidewalk project on the east side of High Street between Minary Avenue and Falling Springs Blvd. Work should be completed around the time school starts, but many people are already taking advantage of it. This project took several years of planning and cooperation, and we are very excited to see walkers and runners utilizing this safer option to get places on this busy road.



Sign up for an Online Utilities Account!

Versailles Municipal Utilities customers can save paper and time by utilizing our online portal. Customers can view their monthly bill online and pay using a credit or debit card. (There is a card processing fee of 2.9%, which is passed to us through the processing company.) Customers can also sign up for monthly bank draft using a checking or saving account with no fee! To sign up or for more information, visit versailles.klc.org or contact our Utilities Office at 859-873-5436, Option #2.



Smart Water Meter Update

The City's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI, or "smart water meter") project is 80% complete! We are waiting on the final shipment of radios that will go with the new meters; we anticipate these being installed in September. With the previous meter reading system, it took two city employees 7-8 days to read the 7,000 meters we have in our system. Readings were typically done between the 10th and 20th of each month. Using the new AMI system, all meters are read on the same day, typically the 20th of the month, or, if that falls on a weekend, the weekday closest to the 20th.

Customers whose meters were typically read earlier in the month will likely see a slightly higher first bill after their new meter is installed because they had a longer reading period. (Check your statement for reading dates.) Additionally, water meters typically slow down slightly as they get older – some more than others. Newly installed meters are guaranteed to be accurate, which means that customers will be charged for the exact amount of water that they use.

Versailles Municipal Utilities is not charging higher water and sewer rates to pay for the meters or their installation; this is a \$1.3 million infrastructure investment the city paid for outright. It's a project that benefits everyone – it prevents surprise high water bills because leaks are discovered right away; it frees up two employees to perform other work for the city (rather than read meters); and it helps the city budget more effectively because customers are paying for the actual water they use, rather than some lesser amount. It also benefits the environment because far less water, a precious resource we are lucky to have in abundance, is being wasted.



A smart water meter cap



WOODFORD COUNTY PARK AT 6PM

PROUD PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN LEGION WOODFORD POST 67

— 4TH JULY —

EXCLUSIVE VETERANS TENT

Attention all active-duty members and Veterans!
We have a special treat for you at our upcoming 4th
of July event. We would like to offer you
complimentary access to our exclusive Veterans
tent. This is the perfect spot to stay cool in the
shade, kick back, and enjoy some complimentary
snacks and beverages. Join us for a day of
celebration while we honor and thank you for your
service!

FOR ALL VETERANS

The Caribbean Corner

Chick-Fil-A

Holly Hill & Company

Homemade Fab

Phantom Fireworks (temporary)

Que Daddy's Smoke Shack

Woodford Brewing Company

Food Truck

Food Truck

Retail

Retail

Retail

Food Truck

Brewery

167 South Main Street

Inside Green Street Antiques

Kroger parking lot

110 North Main Street



Look What's New in Town!

The following "brick and mortar" businesses recently registered with the City of Versailles...

Help us name our newsletter!

This is your last chance to suggest a name for the city newsletter! We have fourteen suggestions so far, and you have till **Monday, August 14**, to get yours in! **Email** your suggestion to City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds at ereynolds@versailles.ky.com with "Naming Contest" in the subject line. (One suggestion per person, please.) You will remain anonymous, except to Elizabeth, until a name is chosen. City Council members will narrow the list down to a manageable number, then we'll put the finalists on the city's FB page and website for a community vote.

The winner will receive a \$25 #WoodfordWallet gift card and bragging rights!

Enter
to Win



Edgewood Farm Update

In 2016, the owners of Edgewood Farm, which is adjacent to the Kroger property on U.S. 60 and extends to Payne's Mill Road, rezoned their property for multiple uses. While the decision wound up in court, negotiations have since occurred between the owners of the property and city officials and the plaintiffs and neighbors in the lawsuit. The talks have been productive, and an overhaul of the plan for the entire property is moving forward through the Planning and Zoning process.

One part of the property is a 118-acre tract of industrial land that the City of Versailles purchased and is currently marketing for economic development. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to attract an employer or employers who will have a lasting positive impact on this area. Stay tuned...



Upcoming City of Versailles Meetings and Events >>>

Regular City Council Meetings (Everyone welcome)

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 pm at the Versailles Municipal Building

- July 5th (a Wednesday because July 4th is a holiday)
- July 18th
- August 1st
- August 15th

Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

2nd Tuesday at 5:30 pm at the Versailles Municipal Building

- July 11th
- August 8th

Already-scheduled Committee Meetings (Everyone welcome)

- July 31st, 8:30 am, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations Ad Hoc Committee

Community Events (that are sponsored in part by the city)

- July 4th Celebration: Tuesday, July 4, 6 pm till dark, Falling Springs Park
- VMA Block Party, Friday, July 21, 6:30-9:30 pm, Green St (Band: Trippin Roots)
- VMA Block Party, Friday, August 18, 6:30-9:30 pm, Court Street (Band: 64 West)

City meetings, work sessions and committee meetings are open to the public. We welcome and encourage you to attend them. You do not have to sign in, say your name or speak, though if you wish to speak, you may do so during public comment (an agenda item at council meetings only).



Litter, Litter Everywhere?

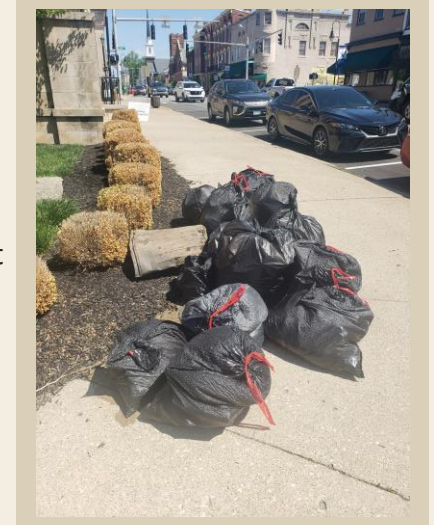
Well, it's not everywhere, but it's sure been noticeable lately in plenty of places in our lovely town. During Earth Week in late April, volunteers gathered on a Saturday to clean up areas of Woodford County. They picked up bags and bags of trash, but just two months later, there seems to be more litter than ever! We know that it has been windy this spring, and trash blows around when it is not properly secured, but we also know – based on the type of trash and its placement – that some of it is being thrown.

The city's public works employees keep city-owned properties tidy, but do not have the capacity to clean up all areas of town. We could use everyone's help in keeping our town – our home – clean for residents and visitors alike.

We know most people don't litter, but if you sometimes do, please make every effort to hold on to your trash until you can dispose of it properly. This includes cigarette butts, the #1 form of litter in the U.S. In addition, make sure your household trash is secured to lessen the likelihood it will be blown by the wind.

If you own a business, pick up the trash around your property. If you like to walk, take a small bag with you, and pick up trash while you're getting some exercise. Both will make you feel better!

We're not all part of the problem, but we can all be part of the solution!



Main Street Clean Sweep 2023

Parking space in downtown Versailles



Steps down to Big Spring Park from the Rose Hill parking lot

Work on the Downtown Revitalization Project has begun!

Work in the Rose Hill parking lot at the corner of Rose Hill Avenue and South Main Street began in earnest in June. Once this "Downtown Revitalization Project" is completed in 2024, the approximately four acres will be transformed into a beautiful community gathering place with a farmers market pavilion, entertainment stage and water feature that highlights the spring that runs from under the Courthouse and was the source of water for the fledgling bourbon industry more than 200 years ago.

The tasks the contractor is completing currently relate to the underground utility infrastructure. Next, they will take down the old pool / old police evidence room on Park Street. This area will become a small parking lot but with permeable pavers, so it can also serve as a picnic area or small event space. If you have specific questions about the project, please contact Downtown Revitalization Committee Chair Ken Kerkhoff at k.kerkhoff@live.com.



From the Mayor

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City Council >>>**

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Wildfire smoke from Canada has contributed to some haziness and poorer air quality around here, so please take care, especially if you are medically at-risk. We're expecting some rain so maybe that will help clear the smoke away. Let's hope, though, that it's dry on the 4th – there's lot of fun planned as we celebrate our nation's birthday! Join us at Falling Springs Park for a great evening.

Second only in excitement to the July 4th festivities is the adoption of the city budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1. It is a budget that continues the forward progress of the City of Versailles. Budgets are not only used as guides to show where taxpayer monies will be spent, they are the primary way local governments can demonstrate the values that govern all decisions. In this budget, we continue investing in our economic development efforts, downtown improvements, first responders and neighborhoods. Additionally, we are funding programs designed to help residents in need.

Cooperation between city officials as well as our counterparts in county government, nonprofits and the business community has allowed us to stretch our resources and provide city taxpayers more bang for their buck. Our goal is to "invest" as much as we can and "spend" as little as we can manage.

The budget isn't on the city's website quite yet, but will be soon. To view, visit versailles.ky.gov, click on the Gov't & Business tab, then on Financial Information.

Happy Fourth of July!

Want to get the city e-newsletter directly in your inbox?

If you'd also like to get the newsletter sent directly to your inbox, please click the "Subscribe" button below or email City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds at ereynolds@versaillesky.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line. The newsletter is completed around the first of every other month, so the next one will arrive on or about September 1. If you'd rather not get an email, the newsletter will be available on the city's Facebook page and on the city's website. Past issues are archived on the website also.



City of Versailles
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