

in this issue >>>

- *Downtown Revitalization Project*
- *Update on Smart Water Meters*
- *Check out Woodford Wheels*
- *City Committees*
- *From the Mayor*



Issue
TWO

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY

February – March 2023

Community **Newsletter**

Do You Know...

The Difference Between a City Standing Committee and a City Ad-Hoc Committee?

This may not seem like the most exciting topic to open the newsletter, but it's important for civic engagement! We welcome your participation – ask questions; make suggestions or sit in on meetings. ALL city meetings are open to the public and must comply with the Open Meetings Act by posting meeting notices.

STANDING COMMITTEES are created by ordinance (city law); its members are part of the legislative body (the Council) and are appointed by the Mayor. The City of Versailles' six Standing Committees are made up of three council members each. This means that every council member is assigned to three Standing Committees and is chair of one of them! Topics for consideration can be brought by anyone: a committee member; the Mayor; a department head; or a member of the public. A Standing Committee may decide to move a topic out of committee for consideration by the full council. Here is a list of the Standing Committees and their chairs.

Administrative/Legal: Laura Dake, Chair

Budget and Finance: Gary Jones, Chair

Downtown/Tourism/Communications: Chantel Bingham, Chair

Public Safety: Mary Bradley, Chair

Streets/Stormwater/Cemetery: Ann Miller, Chair

Water and Sewer: Lisa Johnson, Chair

AD HOC COMMITTEES can be created and disbanded by either Municipal Order or Executive Order. A Municipal Order is presented to the Council for approval. An Executive Order is an order issued by the Mayor and does not require council approval. Ad hoc literally means "for this" in Latin, so ad hoc committees are formed for a limited time to address a specific issue. An ad hoc committee can be chaired by anybody – the chair doesn't have to be a Council member, can include members of the public, and can be disbanded by a simple majority council vote. Ad hocs are advisory in nature, which means that legislative authority cannot be passed to persons on the committee who are not also Council members.

The City of Versailles currently has two Ad Hoc Committees:

1. Downtown Revitalization
2. Building Standards and Downtown Development

both of which you'll read more about in this issue. In a future newsletter, we'll address Boards and Commissions!



good things happening in the community >>>

Smart Water Meters Update!

In the previous newsletter, we told you about a big city project to change customers' existing water meters to "smart meters," which, among many other benefits, will help city personnel identify possible leaks in real time. This important feature should prevent unpleasant surprises in the form of large water bills. Installation of the meters has begun! Homeowners and renters will be kept informed via doorhangers because during installation, water will be turned off for 15-20 minutes.



Useful Information About Woodford Wheels:

--Rides are delivered M-F from 6 am – 6 pm.

--Trips are offered for any reason within Woodford County. Trips can be scheduled to the counties surrounding Woodford for medical purposes and to Bluegrass Airport.

--Anyone 18+ can ride with Woodford Wheels. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.


--Fares are affordable for most: \$2.50 pick-up fee and \$.75 per mile with a \$4.00 minimum. There is no surge pricing and no tipping.

--If a rider needs a little extra assistance, drivers offer "arm-thru-arm, door-thru-door" service and can help with steps, packages, and mobility aids.

--You do not have to have given up driving to use Woodford Wheels. It is for anyone who needs a ride.

--Riders never pay the drivers. Rides are debited from the rider's account. (An initial \$25 minimum is required.)

--Interested in becoming a volunteer driver? Call us to learn more!



Need a Ride? Check out Woodford Wheels!

Since Woodford Wheels started service back in the summer, drivers have delivered nearly 700 rides in and around Woodford County! If you're not familiar, Woodford Wheels is a program of the Woodford County Health Department and part of a Federal Transit Administration "Demonstration Project" to bring door-through-door transportation to small and rural communities. Woodford Wheels uses regular vehicles and volunteer drivers to deliver people where they need to go.

To set up an account or to apply to become a volunteer driver, please visit <https://itncountry.org/site-landing/woodford-wheels-ky/> or call Ride Coordinator Ashley McHugh at 859-753-8091. This is a great service and makes Woodford County, Versailles and Midway even more livable.



powered by
ITNCountry™

What's BSDD Ad Hoc Committee?

BSDD is short for Building Standards and Downtown Development. In October 2021, the BSDD ad hoc committee was created to:

- ✓ Review existing standards relating to development and building projects in non-residential areas and the downtown district;
- ✓ Make recommendations on potential changes to the zoning ordinance;
- ✓ Review regulations relating to the design and construction standards for nonresidential buildings in the downtown district;
- ✓ Review buffer requirements between differing property uses;
- ✓ Advise on signage and landscape standards;
- ✓ Recommend emission and other environmental standards for the city;
- ✓ Suggest ways to prevent vacant downtown storefronts and incentivize new small businesses downtown with an emphasis on the shared space concept.

The committee consists of six members: Councilwomen Laura Dake and Lisa Johnson, Vernon Azevedo, Kim Estes, Mike Hall, and Alex Mason. Planning and Zoning Director Steven Hunter serves in an advisory capacity.

In August 2022, the committee hosted a Downtown Stakeholder Summit at KCTCS and collected suggestions and ideas from business owners, building owners, and citizens regarding filling underutilized spaces in the downtown area; properly incentivizing improvements to buildings in need of repair; attracting more restaurants/eateries; and improving parking.

Not surprisingly, the BSDD Ad Hoc Committee still has work to do! The committee is continuing discussions on the above and starting conversations on expanding the downtown business district; improving pedestrian safety and walkability by exploring “traffic calming” solutions on Main Street; and possibly codifying periodic fire inspections for downtown buildings.

The BSDD Committee meets every other month on the first Thursday from 5-6 pm, usually at City Hall or in the Versailles Police Department’s Community Room. Please join us – we’d appreciate your input!



<<< The Downtown Stakeholder Summit held in August, 2022 at KCTCS.

Look What's New in Town!

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

Hair Craft Studio LLC
Industrial Tans, LLC
Kb's Southern Design
Mi Pueblito Bar & Grill

Salon
Tanning
Retail
Restaurant

161 Yellow Jacket Drive
439A Lexington Street
230 Frankfort Street, #7
524 Marsailles Road

Help us name our newsletter!

We could use your help in naming the City newsletter! Please **email** your suggestion to City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds at ereynolds@versaillesky.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 down entries and the finalists will be named on our Facebook page and website for the community to vote for their favorite!

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

Enter to Win



**Woodford
Wallet**

Put Your Butts Here!

Did you know that cigarette butts are the most frequently littered item in America? Thanks to Bluegrass Greensource and Keep the Bluegrass Beautiful, the city is offering free portable plastic car ashtrays at Versailles City Hall. (They're right inside the front doors.) We've already gone through two batches of about 60 each – there are 55 in this new batch, so come get yours quick if you need one! They fit in car cupholders and have a small metal tray in the bottom to catch ash. Next to the ashtrays, there is a framed infographic that offers interesting statistics on the challenge of cigarette litter.



<<< Cupholder Ashtrays in City Hall lobby.

Upcoming City of Versailles meetings >>>

Regular City Council Meetings

5:30pm at Versailles Municipal Building

- February 21st
- March 7th
- March 21st
- April 4th
- April 18th

Regular City Council Work Sessions

5:30pm at Versailles Municipal Building

- March 14th
- April 11th



Downtown Revitalization Project Update!

The City of Versailles is excited to share that it is entering a new phase in the Downtown Revitalization Project with a groundbreaking scheduled this spring.

The proposed design has several components – a pavilion, an entertainment stage, and a water feature to name a few – but together these components will create a very special PLACE in the heart of Downtown. ALL features will be designed to provide locals and visitors alike with memorable experiences.

Think of this project as a first class, inclusive, accessible, public gathering place with something for everyone. A place to celebrate, socialize, share our history and the arts, and enjoy local food and entertainment and regular programming. What might regular programming include? Live music, movies, theater production, agriculture workshops, history tours? We'd love to hear your ideas of what you'd like to see, hear and experience. Please contact **Downtown Revitalization Ad Hoc Committee** Chair Ken Kerkhoff at k.kerkhoff@live.com or any city council member.



From the Mayor

Brian Traugott
btraugott@versaillesky.com
859-806-7743 cell



2023-2024 Versailles City Council >>>

Chantel Bingham
(859) 788-8830
cbingham@versaillesky.com

Mary Bradley
(859) 873-5843
chinadollmert@live.com

Laura Dake
(859) 351-0460
ldake@versaillesky.com

Lisa Johnson
(859) 552-6873
ljohnson@versaillesky.com

Gary Jones
(859) 321-0582
garyjones1028@gmail.com

Ann Miller
(859) 619-6402
amiller@versaillesky.com

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and 2023 is starting off on the right foot! The city begins this year with a new council and lots of exciting projects and initiatives ahead. This newsletter might be called the “Downtown Issue” because we have a couple of articles on Ad Hoc Committees dealing with downtown matters.

Of course, there is much more we’re working on. In fact, at a recent all-day Council workshop, I presented 75 projects and initiatives we have either started or have plans to! I hope you will tune in for the Council meeting on Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30pm, when I present my State of the City address and outline many of these projects. They all fit under the following headings: Downtown; Economy; General Government; Kids; Mobility; Neighborhoods; Public Safety; Quality of Life; and Tourism.

This is the **City of Versailles’ second e-newsletter!** The first one was published just after the election; if you want to read it, it is archived on the city’s website. We are planning to release a newsletter every 2-3 months and will feature topics we hope the public will be interested in. As I wrote previously, the newsletter is intended to inform, educate, and engage the residents of Versailles and Woodford County. We don’t want to simply list accomplishments; we want you to understand what our decisions mean for you and why they matter.

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

If you’d also like to get the newsletter sent directly to your inbox, please email City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds at ereynolds@versaillesky.com with “Newsletter” in the subject line. We promise we won’t clog your inbox – we will limit our correspondence to the newsletter and important messages that just can’t wait. 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.



^^^ Members of the 2023-2024 Versailles City Council get sworn in on December 22, 2022, by Judge Sarah Robb Hays Spedding. From l-r: Lisa Johnson; Laura Dake; Chantel Brown-Bingham; Mary Bradley; Ann Miller; and Gary Jones.



City of Versailles
196 South Main Street Versailles, Kentucky 40383
(859) 873-5436