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Issue  
**ONE**

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY

November - December 2022

# Community Newsletter

*current topics >>>*

## *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](mailto: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!



## *Did You Know...*

### *Your Neighborhood Can Apply for a Grant from the City?*

The City of Versailles has allocated \$50,000 in its FY23 budget for neighborhoods within the city limits to apply for up to \$7,500 in grant funding.

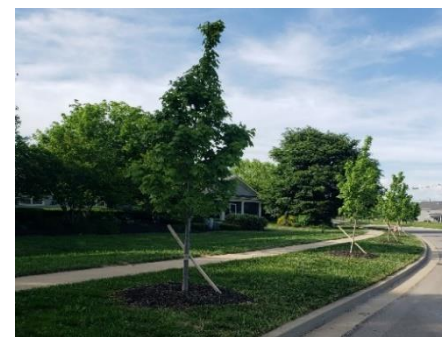
The Neighborhood Grant Program began last year and has funded several projects in the following priority areas: public safety; promotion of health and wellness; improved recreation; beautification; and promotion of inclusiveness.

Projects must generally benefit the entire neighborhood (e.g., landscaping at the entrance) and have at least three households interested in pursuing the project. If the cost is expected to be above \$7,500, the neighborhood must explain how the rest will be paid. Please contact Assistant City Clerk Ariel O'Reel at City Hall with questions. You can find the application on the City's website.

Thanks to a FY22 City of Versailles' Neighborhood grant, residents of Edmonds Cross neighborhood purchased and planted

**What an easy way to make a noticeable difference in your area!**

eleven trees in the strip between the sidewalk and Edmonds Crossing, which beautifies the entry into the subdivision.



*Edmonds Cross entry*

coming soon >>>

# Upgrade! Smart Water Meters



Occasionally, City residents open their water bills and find an unpleasant surprise – a large bill that usually indicates a leak. Because the City doesn't credit water charges, homeowners and renters are left paying for water that never went through their pipes but instead seeped into the ground or behind their walls. We are happy to report that these surprise bills will soon be a thing of the past.

Last fall, the City awarded a contract to the CITCO Company for the implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) water meter reading system. While installation of some new water meters and transmitters has begun, most of the residential work should

begin later this year.

This is Versailles Municipal Utilities' first major water meter replacement program since 2000. AMI meters, or "smart" meters, as they are commonly referred to, are read remotely from our office, eliminating the need for water department personnel physically going to each meter. The way that meters are currently read takes two people 7-8 workdays.

Since most of the meters being replaced have been in use between 15 and 20 years, billing will be more accurate since water meters may slow down over time.

Although the City will use one reading per month for billing

purposes, each meter is actually read multiple times each day, which will enable the City to identify and contact customers about significant leaks soon after they occur instead of discovering them when monthly readings are made.

Supply chain issues have delayed the full implementation of the new system, but it should be fully operational in early 2023. And more good news: residents' water bills will not increase to pay for this project. The meters are being purchased with money the City has been saving for this purpose; the installation will be paid for from its ARPA funds.

## Breakdown of how City funds were used:

**Total Applications Received 560**  
**Total Households Assisted 503**  
**Total Individual Residents Assisted 1,296**

### Total Amount Spent:

Rent	\$122,531
Mortgage	1,771
Internet	234
Electric	55,022
Gas	9,178
Water	21,288
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$210,024</b>

## Pandemic Relief

The pandemic was a tough time for many in our community, and particularly for those who worked in the service sectors. We recognized early on that if the City didn't respond that our friends and neighbors might face eviction, disconnected utilities, etc. The U.S. Treasury guidelines for pandemic relief allowed local governments to support their residents, so over the past two years, the Versailles City Council has approved a total of \$220,000 to help qualified individuals living within the city limits with rent and utilities.

The money came from the City's federal CARES\* funds for the first round then its ARPA\*\* funds for the second. Funding ended June 30, 2022, but the City is proud to announce that from July 2020 through June 2022, **it awarded \$210,024 assisting 1,296 residents from 503 households.** (Ten thousand dollars went to Bluegrass Community Action to administer the program on the City's behalf.) The number of residents equates to approximately 13% of the City's population.

\*Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

\*\*American Rescue Plan Act



# Sidewalk Talk

Many of you have heard about the new sidewalk that will be constructed along the east side of High Street from the end of the current sidewalk at Minary Avenue to the Falling Springs bypass, a project funded equally by the County and the City. You may also have noticed sections of new sidewalk in the Southland subdivision, on Rose Hill Avenue, and on Clifton Road to replace broken or buckled sidewalks that posed trip hazards.

What you may not know is that sidewalk upkeep is typically the responsibility of the owners of the property adjacent to the sidewalk. As sidewalks deteriorate, however, property owners often call the City to fix or replace them. Given the cost of sidewalk repair or replacement, many decide to put it off. If a goal is to be a walkable city, it's important that walkers feel safe, especially older people and those with balance issues or other mobility limitations.

With that goal in mind, the City approved a sidewalk replacement program to which the city budgets a set amount per year to pay for new sidewalks where the need is greatest. The three streets mentioned above were in that category and were included in this year's budget, which is now depleted.

By June 30, 2023, the City will complete an inventory of sidewalks within the city limits and assign them a grade from A to D, with a "D" sidewalk described as one with "major deterioration or contains cracks / changes in elevation that exceed 1". Sidewalks in the poorest condition will be prioritized to be replaced in next year's budget.

In addition, property owners with sidewalks graded B-D (but who are not on the priority list) can **cost share** the repair or replacement of their sidewalks with the City. This is a win for everyone: the property owner, the City and the people who walk to get places or for exercise. Contact Assistant Public Works Director Dan Knight for more information.



*The photo above shows a sidewalk replacement recently completed on Southland Drive. "I am proud of the sidewalks now; they were in such bad shape before," noted one Southland Drive resident.*

## Look What's New in Town!

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

Art Space Versailles

Best Donut (new owner)

Bluegrass Stitches & Crafts

Carter House

Enchanted Esthetics

My Darling & Co. (new location)

Subway (new owner)

Vintage Bandits (new location)

Retail

Restaurant

Retail

Airbnb

Salon

Retail

Restaurant

Retail

116 North Main Street

221 A North Main Street

140 Locust Street

110 Morgan Street

441 B Lexington Road

104 South Main Street

458 Lexington Street

447 A Lexington Road



# From the Mayor

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2021-2022 Versailles  
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Both adults and children seemed to have had a wonderful time at the Boo Bash and Spooktacular events just before Halloween! Special thanks go to the City of Versailles' Events Coordinator Katie Cooley and to all the businesses that participated by giving out candy. Stay tuned for more fun ahead as the holiday season gets into full swing! This weekend, in fact, is the Versailles Merchants Alliance's Downtown Christmas Open House. Shop local and check some gifts off your list! My very best to you and yours this holiday season!

**What you are reading is the City of Versailles' inaugural e-newsletter!** We hope you enjoy it and find it informative. We haven't decided quite yet how often we'll be putting it out – every month or every other month – but if you have feedback, that might help us with our decision. 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.

We have lots of ideas for topics – updates on City projects; summaries of interesting ordinances; new business openings to name just a few – but we'd welcome your ideas. Whether it's something you've always wanted to know or something that has just come up, please let me or a city council member know. Our contact information can be found above and in the sidebar. If we believe a larger audience might be interested, you just might see it in the newsletter! (We won't tell anyone who asked though.)

## Want to get the newsletter directly in your inbox?

We know many people follow the City's Facebook page, but social media posts disappear as new posts are added. We think this format will help prevent losing track of important information. The link to the current e-newsletter will be available on the city's website (and past issues archived there) as well as on the City's Facebook page. We might even print a few copies to distribute to congregate living facilities, as an example.

If you'd also like to get the newsletter sent directly to your inbox (that way you won't miss it!), please email [ereynolds@versaillesky.com](mailto: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.



City of Versailles

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