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Issue
SIX

November – December 2023

City Newsletter

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



CITY OF VERSAILLES
CHRISTMAS EVENTS
2023

DEC. 1: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT 5:30
FOLLOWED BY SANTA MEET & GREET AT THE GALERIE

DEC. 2: THE MOST WONDERFUL WOODFORD CHRISTMAS. THE
WOODFORD ELVES HUNT, HORSE & CARRIAGE DOWNTOWN,
HOLIDAY ROCKIN' & SHOPPIN' WITH DJ TIM GOINS, SANTA
SHUFFLE & CHRISTMAS PARADE AT 5PM

DEC. 9TH: COURTYARD CHRISTMAS AT CITY HALL
HANG OUT WITH SANTA & FRIENDS IN THE COURTYARD, JUMP
IN THE BOUNCE HOUSES OR GO INSIDE CITY HALL FOR THE
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP. 1-4 PM

DEC. 15TH: PET PICS WITH SANTA AT COMMUNITY TRUST BANK
FROM 1-3PM

DEC. 16TH: A TRUE KENTUCKY CHRISTMAS WITH AN ICE
SKATING RINK ON COURT ST. & HANG WITH SANTA CLAUS

AWONDERFULWOODFORDCHRISTMAS.COM



*See page 5 of
the newsletter
for a detailed
breakdown of
each day's
events!*

good things happening in the community >>>

Woodford County is Recovery Ready!



Photo Credit: Woodford Sun

Thanks to a suggestion by Mayor Traugott and many hours of work by community members, Woodford County was recently certified as the third Recovery Ready community in Kentucky. Recovery Ready focuses on three areas: **Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Support**. Certified communities confirm they have adequate available resources in the areas of community support, education, peer support, healthcare accessibility, harm reduction and legal guidance to increase success rates among people with substance use disorders. We'll take a deeper dive in the next newsletter.

New City Website is Live!

The City of Versailles has launched a new website! You can find it at:

<https://versailles.klc.org>

If, however, you type in the current address (<https://versailles.ky.com>), you will be redirected to the new site.

The new website is attractive and easy to navigate and – most importantly – should efficiently connect residents to programs, services, and other information they need. Some new features:

- Home page with easy links to bid announcements, forms, events, grant opportunities, public service announcements; past and present issues of the city newsletter, etc.;
- City's Facebook page embedded on the site;
- Fillable forms (like the Business Registration form) that can be submitted electronically;
- Online bill pay (water/sewer and property taxes)

Did you know that the City of Versailles has more than 600 fire hydrants?



Seeing Red? It might be the Fire Hydrants!



Over the years, most of Versailles' fire hydrants had faded to a dull pink color and really weren't very eye-catching.

Now, thanks to a partnership with the Woodford County High School Athletic Boosters Club, student athletes are painting the hydrants all over the city, earning \$20 for the Club for every hydrant prepped, cleaned,

and painted! Around 250 have already been painted, and completion of the rest is expected in the spring. In addition to the per-hydrant donation to the Boosters, the city is providing the paint and other materials, which is still a big cost savings over using city employees or hiring an outside company to do the work. And the WCHS Athletic Boosters Club will earn about \$12,000 to help support local student athletes!



FALL: Cooler Weather, Pumpkin Spice and LEAVES!

Likely one of the City's most popular services is leaf pickup. From mid-October to early January, you will see the leaf truck(s) traverse the city vacuuming up leaf piles in front of people's homes. The trucks – there is a second truck during peak times, which is about mid-November – start at one end of the city and work their way to the other end, then start all over again! The leaf truck runs five days a week.

The city has about **50** miles of streets, so depending on how much has been raked and is at the curbs, this process might take 2-3 days or longer, up to 10 days.

Some common questions:

Can I make an appointment to get my leaves picked up on a certain day? No. The truck works its way through town and will get to you, but it is not an on-demand service.

The leaf truck drove by my house and didn't pick up my leaves. Why? The leaf truck doesn't skip houses. You may be confusing the leaf truck with the limb truck, or "chipper truck," because they look very similar. The chipper truck picks up fallen limbs that are placed at the curb if the limbs are no more than 6" in diameter and 7' long. More on this equally popular service in another newsletter!

I'm pretty sure it was the leaf truck! Why didn't it pick up my leaves?

The leaf truck can't vacuum your leaves if there is a vehicle or vehicles blocking the way. Please make sure there are no vehicles parked at the curb if you have leaves you want picked up. Also, residents shouldn't mix anything in with their leaves, like limbs/branches, grass clippings or brush. The vacuum cannot handle these types of vegetation. Leaf truck operators try to put a note on doors to let people know this was an issue.

What happens to the leaves after they are picked up? The leaves are ground up in the leaf truck and delivered to the recycling center where they are mixed in with the brush there and turned into mulch. This process keeps the leaves out of the landfill AND out of the city's storm system so is better for the environment and the city's underground infrastructure.



Look What's New in Town!

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



7 Brew

Restaurant

101 Crossfield Drive

Giovanni's Pizza

Restaurant

508 Lexington Road (expected to open in November)

Tammy Lynn Fine Art Art

Art

113 W Green Street (inside Green Street Gifts)

Versailles Liquor

Liquor Store

104 Rose Hill Avenue

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

- November 7th
- November 21st
- December 5th
- December 19th

Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

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

- November 14th
- December 12th

Holidays (City Offices Closed)

- Veterans Day, Friday, November 10
- Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24
- Christmas, Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26
- New Year's, Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 2

Community Events (that are supported by the city)

- "A Wonderful Woodford Christmas" City Events (see pages 1 and 5)

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. Public comment is an agenda item at council meetings only.



Downtown Revitalization Project Update!

After several months of basically watching the Rose Hill parking lot being TORN UP, residents can now see something being BUILT UP! The Farmers Market Pavilion's foundation has been poured, making it easier to imagine a building on that spot. Work also continues in the alleyway behind the Main Street businesses, where the jumble of unsightly power and telecommunication lines will be buried underground. This is a slow process because of the number of lines and needing to work with business owners to limit disruptions.

At this time, it looks like the large American Elm in the middle of the project area will be saved. The construction crew will do their best to route the ADA-compliant walkway (that will lead down to the "water feature") around the tree without damaging its root system. The city is thrilled that the walkway will connect people to Big Spring Park, which will be undergoing its own revitalization soon. More on that in the next newsletter.

Finally, we are working with plant experts to figure out what native Kentucky trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers will work best on the hillside that leads down to the water. Once planting begins in the spring, it might be a while before it looks lush and beautiful. Plants don't grow overnight, but we're pleased with the interest in that area because we anticipate it will be an excellent place to take photos! If you have specific questions about the project, please contact Downtown Revitalization Committee Chair Ken Kerkhoff at k.kerkhoff@live.com.



More Details about the City of Versailles' Christmas Events (so you don't miss the fun)!

December 1: Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony @5:30pm

- DJ Tim Goins with Mayor Traugott & Judge Kay
- Christmas Carols with Southside, Northside, and Simmons Elementary Schools
- Rockettes Dance Team performing. before the Tree Lighting
- Meet N Greet with Santa at The Galerie immediately following the ceremony
- Gift bags with a complimentary book, cookie, and stuffed animal for kids
- Mini horses dressed as reindeer will be there from The Secretariat Center
- Photo booth

December 2: The Most Wonderful Woodford Christmas

- Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast 7am-11am
- Holiday Rockin' & Shoppin' from 12-4pm with DJ Tim Goins playing popular holiday tunes
- The Woodford Elves Hunt with cash prize
- Horse & Carriage throughout downtown from 12-2pm
- Holiday Photo Cutouts
- Santa Shuffle at 3pm with Woodford County Chamber
- Christmas Parade at 5:00pm
- DJ Tim Goins with Mayor Traugott & Judge Kay

December 9: Christmas in the Courtyard from 1-4pm

- Courtyard Santa and Mrs. Claus with Olaf and The Grinch
- Ornament Workshop at City Hall (all materials provided)
- Hot Cocoa Truck
- Hot Dog Cart
- Christmas Inflatables

December 15: Pet Pics with Santa at Community Trust Bank in Versailles from 1-3pm (inside)

- Proceeds benefit The Woodford Humane Society

December 16: A True Kentucky Christmas from 12-5pm

- Outdoor Ice-Skating Rink on Court Street
- Santa and Mrs. Claus onsite
- Holiday Music
- Holiday Photo Cutouts

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

Kids and adults alike had a wonderful time at last week's "Woodford "Spooktacular," kicked off by the "Boo Bash" where hundreds of costumed kids roamed downtown and received candy and other goodies from merchants and city hall! There were sprinkles at the beginning of the Bash, so the sky was cloudy, which made for a good Halloween feel and even a little scary.

We at the city love celebrating the holidays, seeing kids smile and giving families plenty of options to be together and enjoy themselves....

That's really what a city's mission is: to strengthen its residents' well-being and quality of life. We do this by investing in our infrastructure and making sure people have safe water, a great sewer system and safe streets. And we try to have a little fun along the way, too! Of course, all this costs money, so on a more serious note, we hope you find value in what you pay if you own property.

The city's annual property tax rate is 5.5 cents per \$100. So, a family with a house valued at \$300,000 pays \$165/year (\$55 per \$100,000 in value). While property taxes don't cover everything the city does – not even close – we offer many benefits to residents that might make paying taxes more palatable. Several are mentioned in this newsletter – leaf and limb pickup; holiday events; a more responsive website – and there are many, many more, including critically important services like police and fire protection. No one loves paying taxes, but we try to spend every dollar wisely to impact as many residents as possible in positive ways. Please reach out if you have any questions.



A Very Happy, Healthy Holiday Season to you all!

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

Simply 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 January 1, 2024. 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
196 South Main Street Versailles, Kentucky 40383
(859) 873-5436