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Issue
NINE

May – June 2024

City Matters

Informing and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky

VERSAILLES

est. 1792

May - June



VERSAILLES
DOWNTOWN MARKET & ENTERTAINMENT
DISTRICT
WOODFORD COUNTY, KY

**OPENING
SOON**



SOFT OPENING
JUNE 13TH @ 7:30PM
COME CHECK IT OUT
AND ENJOY
LIVE MUSIC



Friday June 14TH
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
FOOD TRUCKS AND MUSIC

*Come Celebrate the Soft
Opening of the Versailles
Downtown Market &
Entertainment District!*

*Thursday, June 13th, at the corner of
Rose Hill Avenue & South Main Street*

*7:30–10 pm Enjoy the music of the Will
Padgett Trio and the offerings of
Versailles Brewing Company
and Caroline's Creamery!*

Everyone is welcome!

*For more on the Juneteenth
Celebration, see the flyer on
page 6!*

good things happening in the community >>>

Low Pressure System Improvements! What?!



Sometimes it's the not-so-flashy things that make a city a great place to live. The "Low Pressure System Improvements Project" is a much-needed water main project that recently began in Versailles along the south side of the US 60 Bypass to Douglas Avenue and from Murray Street (which is between the current high school and Versailles Church of Christ) to Frankfort Street.

The project involves constructing approximately 7,100 feet of 8-inch water main and 185 feet of 4-inch water main to loop dead end lines, thereby improving water quality and increasing residual water pressure to existing customers, both residential and commercial. Funding for this project came from a federal "Cleaner Water Program Grant," though the grant is administered by the state. Construction is expected to be completed by August 2024.

Did You Know?

The Kentucky Utilities Versailles office on Crossfield Drive closed for good on April 26th.

KU says that its decision to close the Versailles office "was made....as a result of a decline in walk-in transactions, increased customer self-serve use, and best practices among similar utilities." However, KU is "dedicated to providing....continued high-quality service."

KU offers numerous ways to make electric bill payments, including:

- ***Mobile app:** Download the LG&E and KU mobile app
- ***Online:** Visit my.lge-ku.com (My Account)
- ***Mail:** Mail a check or money order in the envelope provided with your statement
- ***In-person cash payments:** Visit lge-ku.com/inperson for retail locations
- ***Phone** (502-589-1444; automated line but available 24/7)

To learn more about all payment options, visit lge-ku.com/selfserve.



Nonprofit Spotlight: The Woodford County Fair!



For some interesting reading on the fair's history, check out the "Our History" page on the Woodford County Fair's website at www.woodfordcountyfairky.com. We'll touch on some of that history here, but there is too much to include all of it!

In March 1892, the "Versailles Fair Association" formed but there was a question whether the association could use the charter of the old "Woodford Fair Association," indicating a fair association existed earlier. Twenty thousand dollars was set aside to purchase land and build a mile-long track, stables, and a grandstand. The cost estimates for the last three items totaled \$7,000! The first fairground was on Big Sink Pike where two railroads had stations. The fair opened in August of that year; 6,000 people attended in the first two days.

By 1895, the midway had everything from snake charmers to games like "rings and canes," but was mostly devoted to cattle and horses. In the early 1900s, 4-H was introduced to meet the needs of rural children and became a mainstay of the fair.

The fair was canceled during WWII (1941-45) then again in 2020 because of Covid.

From 1956 until 1987 when the fair moved to its present location at the county park, the fair and its events were held various places: the old Versailles High School; the present Woodford County High School; the old Woodford County Middle School; the old Memorial football field; and Simmons Elementary. The Woodford County Fair Association was incorporated in July 1960.

In recent times, motor sports, tractor pulls, pageants, and wild carnival rides have become mainstays of the fair, as well as livestock shows, disc golf tournaments and floral and craft exhibits. Enjoy the 2024 Woodford County Fair!



WOODFORD COUNTY FAIR

293 BEASLEY DRIVE
VERSAILLES KY



MAY 31 – JUNE 8, 2024

9 DAYS OF FAIR FUN AS WE CELEBRATE 68 YEARS OF TRADITION & FUN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.WOODFORDCOUNTYFAIRKY.COM

FRIDAY MAY 31:

10 AM – 1 PM: SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY (FREE)
6 PM: YOUTH & OPEN SHEEP SHOW
7 PM: TNT TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

SATURDAY JUNE 1:

8 AM: DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT
9 AM: RABBIT SHOW
10 AM: YOUTH & OPEN SWINE SHOW
3 PM: YOUTH & OPEN GOAT SHOW
4 PM: CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT
7 PM: MRS., MS., MODERN PAGEANTS
7 PM: TNT TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

SUNDAY JUNE 2:

1 PM: SHINING STARS PAGEANT
3 PM: BARREL RACING
4 PM: ADORABLE BABY SHOW
7:30 PM: TINY MISS & MISTER PAGEANT

MONDAY JUNE 3:

2 PM: SENIOR BINGO
6 PM: ALPACA & LLAMA FUN SHOW
7:30 PM: LITTLE MISS & MISTER PAGEANT
8 PM: MINI NINJA WARRIOR CONTEST
8:30 PM: FAIR DAD CONTEST

TUESDAY JUNE 4:

5:30 PM: KIWANIS YOUTH NIGHT
6 PM: SOUTHLAND DAIRY FARMERS
7 PM: CGTPA GARDEN TRACTOR PULL
8 PM: PRINCESS PAGEANT
8 PM: GREASED PIG CONTEST

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5:

7 PM: KOI ATV & TRUCK DRAGS
7:30 PM: MULLET CONTEST
8:30 PM: DANCE PARTY

THURSDAY JUNE 6:

7 PM: SKILLET THROW CONTEST
7:30 PM: KITPA TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
8 PM: MISS PRETEEN & JR PRETEEN
8:30 PM: FAIR MOM CONTEST

FRIDAY JUNE 7:

7 PM: BLUEGRASS PONY & MULE PULL
8 PM: TOP DOG DEMO DERBY
8 PM: MISS TEEN PAGEANT
8:30 PM: PARENT/CHILD LOOK ALIKE

SATURDAY JUNE 8:

10 AM: YOUTH & OPEN BEEF SHOW
8 PM: HALLS MOTORSPORTS MUD RACE
8 PM: MISS WOODFORD COUNTY
8:30 PM: MEN'S PRETTY LEGS CONTEST

EXHIBITS & OTHER:

EXHIBIT BARN OPEN DAILY FROM 6–9 PM
FLOWER, PLANT, & HERB SHOW DATES:
JUNE 26 – JUNE 28
SADDLEBRED SHOW: JUNE 29 5 PM
HARNESS RACING: JULY 6 1 PM

ADMISSION:

\$15 DAILY WITH FREE RIDES!

FAMILY DAYS: JUNE 2–3–4 \$10

MILITARY APPRECIATION JUNE 5 – \$5 OFF

SENIOR CITIZENS DAY JUNE 6 – \$5 OFF

JAMES GANG AMUSEMENTS OPEN DAILY AT 6PM (4PM ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY)

**The Woodford
County Fair is
May 31st – June 8th!**

**Come join the fun –
lots of activities and
something for
everyone!**

***Read more about
the history of the
Fair in the Nonprofit
Spotlight on page 2.***

Main Street Clean Sweep 2024 is in the can – the trash can, that is!

On April 20th, 18 volunteers collected 24 bags of trash, totaling approximately 360 pounds, from downtown Versailles, Big Spring Park, and other areas that needed attention. Midway had a team of volunteers as well, making this a county success. Our efforts were even featured on WEKU-FM public radio in a four-minute spot!



This is an annual event until there is no more litter! Join us next April – bags, gloves, and t-shirts provided! Date in 2025 is still TBD, but will probably be April 19th.



l-r: Paulette Akers; Laura Dake; Rod Chervus; and William Downey

What a difference Neighborhood Grants have made!

If you get around Versailles with some regularity, you have likely noticed several neighborhood entrances looking a little spiffier than you remember. Thanks to the City of Versailles' Neighborhood Grant program, you're not imagining it! Read on to learn more about the program and how your neighborhood (or area) can access funds to make improvements or enhancements.



Landscaping in Sugartree

How many neighborhood grants have been awarded? Twenty grants have been awarded to a total of twelve neighborhoods, including Adena Trace, Broadway, Camden-Elm Street, Cedar Ridge, Edmonds Cross, Huntertown Glen, Merewood, Park Place, Rose Ridge, Stourbridge, Sugartree, and The Shire.

What kind of projects have been funded? Most of the projects involve landscaping, usually at the neighborhood entrance. Grant money has also paid for new entrance signs. In Cedar Ridge, the area park was enhanced to include four-board fencing, a dog waste station, and shade trees. Finally, funds have been allotted for fence repairs, for benches, and for sidewalk improvements.

Is there still grant money available for my neighborhood? Not this fiscal year, no. However, the current draft budget for FY2025 (which begins July 1, 2024, and ends June 30, 2025) includes **\$22,500** for neighborhood grants. This gives you a little time to think about a great project and get others on board!

How can my neighborhood get a grant? To be eligible, requests must fall in one of these categories – public safety; promotion of health and wellness; improved recreation; beautification; and promotion of inclusiveness – and positively affect the quality of life for the neighborhood (or area). Applications must include names from three separate households as project coordinators. Grants are limited to \$7,500 per project. If the project is expected to exceed that amount, applicants must explain how they will come up with the remaining funds.



Upcoming City of Versailles Meetings and Events >>>

Regular City Council Meetings (Everyone welcome)

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in council chambers at the Versailles Municipal Building (city hall), 196 S Main Street

- May 7th (this meeting will begin at 5 pm due to a long agenda, including the FY2025 budget presentation)
- May 21st
- June 4th
- June 18th



Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

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

- May 14th (topics will include short-term rentals and vape shops)
- June 11th

Holidays (City Offices Closed)

- Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th

Community Events (that are supported at least in part by the city)

- Woodford County Fair, May 31st – June 8th, Fairgrounds
- Soft opening of the Downtown Market & Entertainment District (pavilion and stage area at Rose Hill Avenue and South Main Street), Thursday, June 13th, 7:30-10:00 pm
- Juneteenth Celebration, Friday, June 14th, 5:30-10:00 pm, Downtown Pavilion, and Saturday, June 15th, 3:00-8:30 pm, Huntertown Community Interpretive Park

City meetings, work sessions and committee meetings are open to the public. We welcome and encourage you to attend! You do not have to have a specific reason to be there, and 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.) You may also submit comments in writing to the city clerk.

You probably won't find everything discussed at council meetings equally fascinating, but you can see how the local legislative process works.



Look What's New in Town!

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

There were no new businesses registered in March or April! These two are the only “brick and mortars” registered so far in 2024:

**La Bodeguita Colombiana
PL High Street, LLC**

**Grocery
Property Mgmt**

**197 Frankfort Street Ste A
128 S Locust Street**

“Your Business Here”

TBD

?

5th Annual
VERSAILLES
JUNETEENTH FREEDOM
CELEBRATION



Friday June 14, 2024

From 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

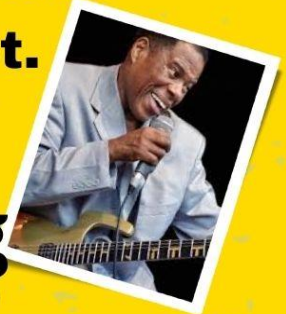
Downtown Versailles behind Court St.

Grand Opening of New Pavilion

Legendary Blues musician

Tee Dee Young

8:00-10:00



Mechanical Bull, Face Painting, Food, Vendors and Prizes!!!

SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2024

Huntertown Community Interpretive Park

1546 Huntertown Rd.

Versailles, KY 40383

From 3:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Karaoke Contest @ 5:30 p.m.

Corn hole. Face Painting, Bounce House,

Food, Fun, Vendors and Prizes!!!



From the Mayor

Brian Traugott
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**2023-2024 Versailles
City Council >>>**

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The spring is a busy time for the city. As the weather warms, outdoor projects put off during the winter start up again. The city mows a lot of grass! Residents want to get out, too, so events begin in earnest, many of which require city workers' support. We are happy to do it because events build a stronger and more cohesive community and hope that you can participate in at least some of what Versailles will offer this spring and summer. City-hosted events are always free and open to the public.

We are especially excited about the soft opening on June 13th of the Downtown Market & Entertainment District, which is what we've named the new pavilion / stage area at Rose Hill and South Main. This venue should bring even more "life" to our already-vibrant downtown.

Less exciting (except to me) but equally important is the annual preparation of next fiscal year's budget, which is currently being finalized. Our fiscal year begins July 1, so the department heads and I are busy in the spring anticipating our revenue and expenses for the coming year. The budget presentation to city council (the council votes on the budget) will take place May 7th, if you're interested in attending this council meeting.

I enjoy discussing the budget because the budget reflects what is important to us as a community, including those events I just wrote about. Some of our expenses – like filters for the wastewater treatment plant – aren't much fun, but are critically important for quality of life of residents. Just like at home, we make choices about what we spend money on and do our best to live within our means!

Enjoy the rest of your Spring!

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 July 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
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