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September-October 2024

City Matters

Informing and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky



Mayor Brian Traugott

This is a bittersweet column to write, as it is the final one you will see in the newsletter from me in the role of Mayor. In October I will transition to a new role as Chief Member Services Officer with the Kentucky League of Cities.

These past 11 years have seen a lot of change in Versailles, and hopefully it has been positive! Through collaboration with the City Council, other government entities, nonprofits and private businesses we were able to accomplish things that once seemed impossible. I've had the opportunity to work with numerous people and organizations that do so much to improve the quality of life in our community, and much of their work involves little public fanfare.

I sincerely hope that I was able to make a positive impact on this community we love, and I'm eternally grateful for the positive impact the citizens of this great city have left on me. On behalf of my family, thank you!

VERSAILLES BREWING COMPANY PRESENTS

OKTOBERFEST

September 28th
3pm - 10pm
Games - Food Trucks- Vendors - Live Music
105 Rose Hill Ave, Versailles, KY

good things happening in the community >>>

With the heat we've had, it's hard to believe it's almost Fall!



City leaf pickup begins October 14th and runs through the first week of January!

In the meantime, bag your leaves and put them out on trash day. The leaf truck can't vacuum your leaves if there is a vehicle (or a dog!) blocking the way. 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.

Did You Know?

That City Council meeting packets are now available on the City's website?

Since the July 2nd, 2024, meeting, the public can view the city council's meeting packet on the city's website! This way you can see the documents* that will be discussed during the meeting.

To view the packet, head here:

<https://versailles.klc.org/AgendaMinutes>

OR

Click on "Government & Business," then "City Council Meeting Agendas & Minutes" once you are on the website.

*Occasionally, additional items are added to the agenda after the packet is distributed to council members and put on the website. Council members receive a revised agenda in those cases.

Questions regarding something in the packet?

You can call or email the mayor or any city council member. Their names and contact info are on the last page of this newsletter.



Nonprofit Spotlight: Safe Haven Baby Boxes!

You may have read in the *Woodford Sun* that the Versailles Fire Department is raising money to install a Safe Haven Baby Box at Station #1 on Locust Street, which is currently undergoing renovation. When an infant is placed in a baby box, a silent alarm is tripped so the baby can be attended to immediately.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes is a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission is to prevent the illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a free 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis and offering Baby Boxes as a last resort option for women who want to maintain complete anonymity. The Safe Haven Baby Box takes the face-to-face interaction out of the surrender and protects the mother from being seen.

To date, the hotline has received over 9,000 calls from every state in the US. Safe Haven Baby Boxes has referred over 500 women to crisis pregnancy centers, assisted in 9 adoption referrals, and have had over 150 legal Safe Haven surrenders. Fifty babies have been surrendered in Baby Boxes. Three babies were surrendered directly to firefighters at SHBB locations.



You can donate by scanning the QR code to the right. If you'd prefer to write a check, you can make it out to:

Safe Haven Baby Boxes
PO Box 185
Woodburn, IN 46797

Please write "Versailles Fire Department Station 1" in the memo line.

SCAN HERE AND SELECT
VERSAILLES FIRE
DEPARTMENT STATION 1
TO DONATE TO THIS BOX



Versailles Fire Department's Station 1 is getting a Makeover!

The improvements at Station 1 on Locust Street can be summarized as a redesign of the exterior facade, a remodel of the interior living space, and the construction of additional office space. The VFD's goal is to optimize the square footage without changing the footprint so the building has a natural flow for those who work and live there daily. With the improvements, the building is expected to serve in its new capacity for another 60 years. Upon completion, the station will gain the following amenities:

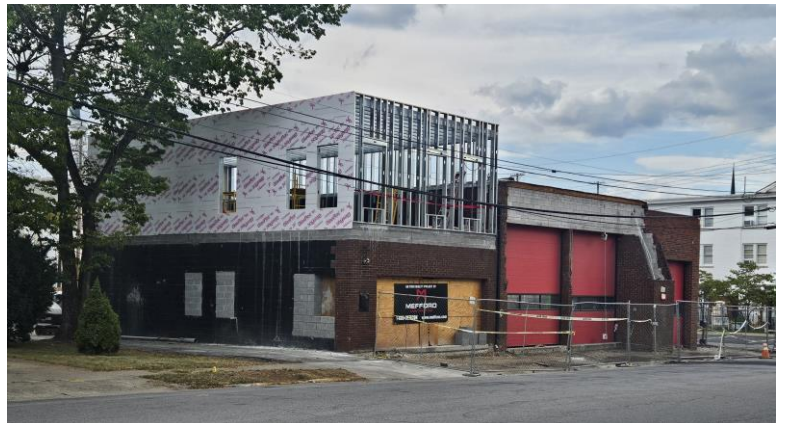
Downstairs:

- New professionally designed kitchen and living area
- Locker room
- New gym space with optimized square footage and ceiling height
- Public entry / reception area

Upstairs:

- Three additional office spaces and a conference room
- Kitchenette
- Improved living/sleeping quarters

With some fundraising success, the Versailles Fire Department will also add a Safe Haven Baby Box! See the Nonprofit Spotlight in this newsletter for more info. A Baby Box costs about \$25,000.



Meet **Jennifer Howard**, the new Administrative Assistant for the Versailles Fire Department. With a Bachelor's degree from Midway University and nearly 20 years of professional and academic service, Jennifer brings a wealth of experience to her role. After taking time off to focus on raising her children, she is eager to re-enter the professional world. Jennifer has been married to her husband, Stephen, for 18 years. They are proud parents of two children, Pyper and Deacon, who attend Woodford County Middle School. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys attending her kids' soccer games, traveling, and spending quality moments with her family.

Talking Trash!

If you're a person who notices these things, you may see new metal **trash cans** popping up downtown! Here are two of them newly placed on South Main between the cemetery and Versailles School Apartments.

There are 19 new cans total; they match the existing cans to keep a standard look.

The cans were added because residents requested more cans downtown. We hope they are used often!



THE WOODFORD CLUB | VERSAILLES, KY

3rd Annual GOLF-4-KIDS



SCRAMBLE

TO RAISE MONEY FOR WOODFORD COUNTY CHILDREN



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024

SHOTGUN START 9AM

COST PER PLAYER INCLUDES LUNCH, ALL BEVERAGES ON COURSE & CART

HOLE-IN-ONE COMPETITION FOR A 2-YR FORD BRONCO SPORT LEASE

SKIRTS & MULLIGANS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT REGISTRATION

SILENT AUCTION

REGISTRATION

go to
www.VersaillesFoF.com
to Register
Players/Team
PLAYER \$100
TEAM \$400

PRIZES

First Place Team
\$400
2nd Place Team
\$200
3rd Place team
\$100

1st-3rd place also receive trophies

www.VersaillesFoF.com

THE WOODFORD CLUB

Call Chase Thomas at 859-229-0492



Thriller Parade, Face Painting
Boo Bash Trick or Treating,
Pumpkin Painting & More

WOODFORD SPOOKTACULAR

October **27** | Downtown Versailles

4-6pm Boo Bash Trick or Treating Downtown

5-7pm VBC Trunk Or Treating

4-7pm Pumpkin Painting, Face Painting, Inflatable,
Petting Zoo and more!



6pm Costume Contest

6:45pm Jane's School of Dance entertainment

7:15pm THRILLER PARADE

www.VisitWoodford.com for all of the details

Presented by: City of Versailles, Woodford
Chamber, Jane's School of Dance, Visit Woodford,
Woodford Co. Library, Versailles Baptist Church,
Journey Church



Manufactured Housing – what it is and isn't – and a Pilot Project Planned for Versailles!

Sometime in October, a new home will appear on an empty lot (owned by the City of Versailles) at 274 High Street. The home, a Qualified Manufactured Home, will look like the picture below and will serve as a model so residents can view this type of housing before it is eventually sold. Read on for more information!



Proposed manufactured home at 274 High Street

- Has a minimum total living area of 1,200 square feet (this home will have 1,941 square feet);
- Has a perimeter skirting of masonry or similar material that harmonizes with the architectural style of the home and other residences in the same area;
- Has conventional residential siding.

Is it the same thing as a mobile home or trailer? No! A mobile home is a structure manufactured prior to June 15, 1976, that was not required to be constructed in accordance with the National Manufactured Housing Construction in Safety Standards Act, that is transportable in one or more sections, that, in the traveling mode is eight body feet or more in width and 40 body feet or more in length, or when erected on site, is 400 or more square feet. It is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling on a temporary or permanent foundation. It does not meet the definition of a Manufactured Home.

What features do most new manufactured homes have? In every way, this home will look and feel like a home built on-site. New manufactured housing is energy efficient, is solid construction and is built to last. This home will include a driveway and landscaping.

When will it be placed on the lot? The home will serve as a model for the Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute at the Kentucky League of Cities' fall conference in Lexington in late September. After the conference, it will be placed in Versailles. Work has already begun on permitting, placement of footers, etc. It will likely take almost a month before it is ready to show.

How can I get to see it? Details are still in the works, but plans are to have knowledgeable volunteers staff weekend Open Houses so residents can view the home – inside and out – and check out its construction and amenities. The Open House period will likely run about six weekends.

What if I am interested in buying it after the Open House period? The city plans to engage a nonprofit consultant to facilitate the sale, taking the city totally out of the process. Again, details are still being finalized, but there will likely be a maximum income level to be eligible to buy this home, as well as other stipulations. These might include the home serving as a primary residence only and not as a rental and requiring that the buyer qualify for a mortgage him/herself. The price of the home hasn't been established yet but will be more affordable than many new homes in Woodford County.

What is a qualified manufactured home? This type of home meets the criteria of an off-site constructed HUD home, so is a new unit that *meets or exceeds* the HUD code for construction and safety and has an A1 certification label. This home will:

- Be affixed to a permanent foundation;
- Have a roof constructed of composite material (such as asphalt shingles) with a minimum roof pitch of a five-foot rise to a twelve-foot run;
- Have a minimum roof overhang of no less than six inches;
- Has a width of at least 20 feet at its smallest width measurement;
- Is oriented on the lot so that the main entrance door faces the street;

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

- September 3rd
- September 17th
- October 1st
- October 15th



Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

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

- September 10th (if scheduled)
- October 8th (if scheduled)

Holidays (City Offices Closed)

- Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd

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

- Twilight Festival (downtown Versailles), Saturday, September 7th, 12-9 pm
- In the Woods, Woodford Theatre, September 20th – October 6th (visit www.woodfordtheatre.com)
- Oktoberfest (pavilion area), Saturday, September 28th, 3-10 pm
- Woodford Spooktacular (downtown Versailles), Sunday, October 27th, 4-7:30 pm (see flyer for specific activities)
- Trick-or-Treating in Woodford County, Thursday, October 31st, 6-8 pm

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 only 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.



Look What's New in Town!

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

Salon Envy Studio

Hair Salon

439A Lexington Road

Food trucks may just have registered for festivals (not sure of continued presence):

The Lemon Ladies

Food Truck

PDR Sweet Treats

Food Truck

From the Mayor

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

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This issue of the city newsletter will be the last one where I'll be featured as Mayor. I've had a lot of questions about the process for choosing a replacement. The decision lies with the city council. I cannot appoint or cast a vote for anyone. If the council doesn't vote someone in within 30 days of my resignation (October 1st), the decision will be made by the governor.

One recent item that deserves more attention than it's gotten is the reduction in city taxes! The city's Real Property Tax Rate went from 5.5 cents on every \$100 of real property assessment subject to being taxed to 5.0 cents. What does this mean? If your house is valued at \$300,000, your city tax bill will go from \$165 to and \$150/year. So, for every \$100,000 of property value, your bill will go down \$5. It's not a lot in a total family budget, but better than the other direction!

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Assistant Police Chief Rob Young and Detective Nathan Craig of the Versailles Police Department. They will be recognized in Washington, DC, in September for exemplary work in the Brian Carroll explosives case back in 2021, which culminated in Carroll's arrest at UK Hospital. The Johnny A. Masengale Memorial Award is sponsored by the ATF and recognizes the contributions and untimely death of Mr. Masengale, an explosives expert, in 1992, by honoring law enforcement officials who go above and beyond working on cases related to explosives. We are proud of these two brave officers and the VPD!

***Enjoy the start of fall and keep your fingers
crossed for more rain!***

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 November 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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