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Issue
12

November-December 2024

City Matters

Informing and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky



It's the Festive Time of Year!

Please enjoy everything the community has to offer this holiday season. A parade, tree lighting, ice skating rink, bounce houses, food trucks, shop and restaurant specials, music, and all the great feels! All events sponsored by the City of Versailles are free and open to everyone.





Did You Know?

That the City writes grant proposals for funding?

Most people know that nonprofits write grants to fund their operations and special programs.

Did you know that cities do the same?

Many municipal projects are paid for with state or federal monies, especially ones that aren't feasible with local tax dollars alone or ones that aim to encourage cities to try something new and different.

Some recent examples include:

\$500,000 = New sidewalk, etc. on Wilson Avenue

\$108,400 = Safe Streets & Roads for All grant for "quick build" demonstration projects to improve traffic safety on Lexington and Midway Roads

\$286,000 = Paratech Structural Collapse Trailer (Versailles Fire Department)

In future newsletters, we'll tell you more about these grants (and others) that the city is trying for or has received.

The money from these grants is critical to improving public safety, building resilient infrastructure, and strengthening equity for all residents.

Nonprofit Spotlight: CASA of Lexington!



Woodford County's CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program is a nonprofit that matches abused and neglected children with trained and supported community volunteers,

who visit the children regularly and advocate for any needs they might have. Children in the family court system who receive a CASA volunteer are more likely to do well in school, receive the services they need to thrive, and return to safe, permanent homes that never disrupt again.

It takes 5-10 hours a month to serve as a CASA volunteer, and no special education or background is required. CASA volunteers provide regular, common-sense perspectives on children's needs, helping to keep everyone on the case focused on what matters most. They also develop relationships with the children they serve, giving them hope for the future and showing them that someone cares about what happens to them.

In Woodford County, there are about 90 abused or neglected children with open family court cases. In 2023, eighteen (18) Woodford CASA volunteers served 26 of these children. If you would like to become a CASA volunteer and change the trajectory of a child's life, you can learn more by emailing info@casaoflexington.org or visiting www.casaoflexington.org. The next in-person training class for new CASA volunteers begins on January 9, 2025, in Lexington, with classes on evenings and weekends. Online training classes are also regularly available.

Woodford County numbers from CASA of Lexington: In 2023, there were 44 new cases of children being abused or neglected in Woodford County. Through the first nine months of 2024, there were another 41 new cases of child abuse or neglect, which means Woodford is on-track to see an increase in total cases compared to 2023.



Last issue, we told you about the Safe Haven Baby Box the Versailles Fire Department was raising money for to put at Station 1, which is under renovation. **They raised the \$20,000+ needed for the box, so it's a go!** Thank you to all who donated.



Some fun pictures from the Boo Bash (Spooktacular) on October 27th!

What a great event capped off by the Thriller Parade with a visit from the Headless Horseman!



PUMPKIN SMASH 5K

&
KIDS
FUN
RUN

SUN., 11.10.2024

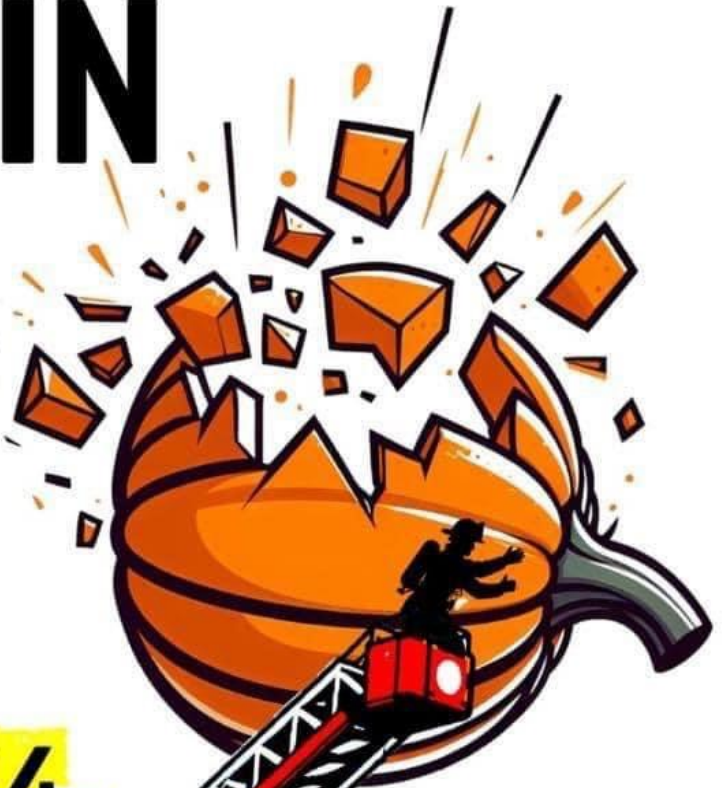
FALLING SPRINGS RECREATION CENTER PAVILION

1:45P - KIDS FUN RUN START

1:50P - **PUMPKIN SMASH!**

2:00P - 5K RACE START

REGISTER HERE!



Come hang out as the **Versailles Fire Department** will hoist their fire ladder way up and we invite people from the community to bring their left-over pumpkins from Halloween to have them hoisted, dropped, and smashed!



CASA

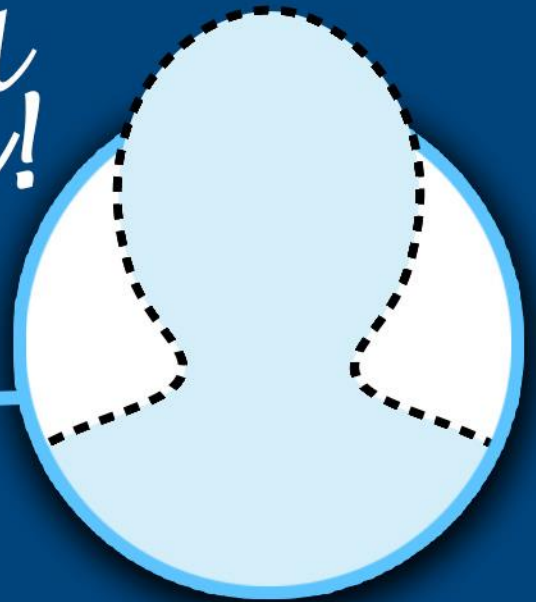
VOLUNTEER TRAINING

CLASSES START JAN. 9

Regular people like you are getting real
results for abused and neglected kids!



*We need
you!*



Email info@casaoflexington.org or visit www.casaoflexington.org to learn more!



A Wonderful Woodford Christmas

Brought to you by:
The City of Versailles
Woodford County
Woodford Chamber of Commerce
Community Trust Bank



November 16th

Versailles Merchant's Alliance
& The Art Village
Christmas Open House
10am-4pm Downtown
Versailles & The District

November 29 & 30

Black Friday Shopping
Small Business Saturday

December 6th

Christmas Tree Lighting
Court Street by
Courthouse 5:30pm

December 7th

Kiwanis Pancake
Breakfast 8am-11am
with Santa @
First Christian Church
Santa Shuffle 5k & Kids Dash
2pm Downtown Versailles
Christmas Parade 5:00pm

December 14th

A Wonderful Woodford
Christmas Celebration in
The District Noon to 5pm
Ice skating rink, bounce houses
Dj, Foodtrucks, and more
Christmas Caroling Downtown
Versailles 5-6pm

Follow us! @visitwoodford.com



What is the Process for Choosing a New Mayor?

Former Versailles mayor Brian Traugott resigned effective October 1st to take a job at the Kentucky League of Cities. Because he wasn't up for reelection until 2026, his resignation means that there are still more than two years in his term to fill. This Q&A below explains what happened in October and why the appointment of a new mayor now resides with Governor Andy Beshear.



Versailles Municipal Building (City Hall)

What happens when a mayor announces a resignation before the end of his/her term? In Kentucky, the City Council has 30 days to appoint a new mayor. In this case, the Council had from October 1-30. The Council could have made its decision at a regularly scheduled meeting or called a special meeting. A special meeting requires at least four of the six council members vote to schedule one.

What happened in October then? No consensus was reached on a new mayor. Names of interested city council members were put forward, but no one got the number of votes required to be appointed. Therefore, as of October 31st, the decision went to the governor.

How many votes would have been required to appoint someone? A simple majority would have been required. The persons interested in the position cannot vote for themselves, although they can nominate themselves. So, if a council member is nominated, that leaves five people available to vote. The interested person must then receive at least three "yes" votes (or two "yes" votes and two abstentions) to be appointed.

Now that the decision has gone to the Governor, does this mean he has to choose someone on city council? No, he does not. The only requirements are that the person be at least 21 years old and live in the city limits of Versailles. Presumably, the person would have to want to be mayor, too!

Because the city council couldn't come to a consensus, does this mean that the members don't work well together? Not at all. It just means that more than one person is interested in the position. This Council has worked very well together for the past two years, and we anticipate more of the same once a new mayor is appointed. Smooth functioning of the city is very important to us.

How long does the Governor have to decide on a replacement for former Mayor Traugott? That's a good question! We don't know – this apparently doesn't happen very often – but we assume it'll be within the month.

Will the person appointed have to run in 2026 if he/she wants to continue to serve as mayor? That's an easy one – yes!

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

- November 5th
- November 19th
- December 3rd
- December 17th



Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

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

- November 12th (if scheduled)
- December 10th (if scheduled)

Holidays (City Offices Closed)

- Veterans Day, Monday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28th
- Christmas Eve / Day, December 24th and 25th
- New Year's Eve / Day, December 31st and January 1st, 2025

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

- Pumpkin Smash 5K & Kids Fun Run, Sunday, November 10th, 1:45 pm, Huffman Pavilion, Woodford Co. Park
- **A Wonderful Woodford Christmas** (downtown Versailles), most Saturdays in November and December (see flyer on previous page or check out the insert in your November water bill)
- **Christmas Tree Lighting**, Friday, December 6th, 5:30 pm, Court Street
- **Christmas Parade**, Saturday, December 7th, 5 pm, downtown Versailles
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Woodford Theatre, December 6th-20th (www.woodfordtheatre.com)

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 Who's New in Town!

The following businesses recently registered with the City of Versailles...

Apple Nails (under new management)

East of Eden Mowing

The Grill & Chill LLC

Shaw's Heating and Cooling

TCC Gift Shoppe LLC

Visumatic Industrial Prods

Nail Salon

Lawn Care

Food Truck

Heating & Air

Gift Shop

Manufacturing

547 Marsailles Road

360 Amsden Avenue

106 Fieldview



From the Mayor...

Your Picture
Here?

**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
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Gary Jones
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garyjones1028@gmail.com

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

As most of you are aware, Versailles currently does not have a mayor. You can read more about the process of appointing a new mayor on the Q and A page in the middle of this newsletter, but for this section of the newsletter reserved for the mayor's comments, we'll just add some reassuring words.

The city remains in good hands under the direction of our capable department heads, including the City Clerk, the Public Works Director, the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. The day-to-day work of the city continues as well, thanks to the efforts of dozens of dedicated employees. Residents of this great community should be pleased that things are running so smoothly.

Versailles still needs a mayor though! Governor Andy Beshear will make that appointment, and with any luck, the transition will be a smooth one, too. In the meantime, please enjoy what Versailles has to offer – shops, restaurants, public events, tourist attractions, etc. Especially as the holiday season kicks off, make a point to get out into the community and have fun!

***May you and your family have a healthy,
happy holiday season!***

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, 2025. 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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