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Issue
14

March-April 2025

City Matters

Informing and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky

Meet the City's new Communications and Events Coordinator, Amanda Wainscott!



My name is Amanda Wainscott, and I am thrilled to step into the role of Communication and Events Coordinator for the City of Versailles! With over 15 years of experience in sales, strategic communication, marketing, and event planning, and as the owner of several small businesses, I bring valuable knowledge and practical expertise to this position.

Throughout my career, I've had the opportunity to collaborate with businesses and nonprofit organizations of all sizes and build strong connections within our vibrant community.

On a personal note, I'm a proud parent of two young boys (9- and 3-years-old) and engaged to my amazing fiancée. I am deeply passionate about cultivating meaningful relationships and excited to give back to a community I hold dear. You can reach me with questions or ideas at awainscott@versaillesky.com or 859-537-7361.



Introducing the City's Minority Empowerment Liaison!

Meet Annete Muniz! Annete, who is known to many as Jelly, has been in the Minority Empowerment position for over four years, and we want to make sure everyone knows about the good work she does.

Annete was born and raised in Versailles. She is a Nationally Certified Interpreter and works as a medical interpreter in Medicine Specialties at UK HealthCare. A "soccer mom" for many years, Annete's two children, Jasmine and Brandon, are now grown. She has two grand dogs, Bruno and Nala!

Annete works with people of color, individuals with physical challenges, and others who are experiencing barriers to employment to improve their access to economic opportunity. Reach her at minorityempowerment@versaillesky.com or 859-753-5580.

Did You Know...

...that the City has started a new video series called "Two Minutes with the Mayor?"



Every Thursday about 5 pm, you can hear the mayor share helpful info and updates that fit into two-minute segments! The videos are on the city's FB page and will be archived on the city's website. Interested in a particular topic? Let her know!



Nonprofit Spotlight: Mentors & Meals



Mentors & Meals (M&Ms) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in Woodford County in 2011. M&M's mission is to "enhance academic achievement in middle schoolers through mentoring". At M&Ms, students receive mentoring, which

includes **homework help** from intergenerational role models, along with **guest speakers, engaging activities,** and free, volunteer-prepared **meals**.

During the school year, M&Ms operates out of the First Christian Family Life Center (160 Lexington Road) Monday through Thursdays from 3:00-5:30 and during the summer months, Tuesday-Thursday, from noon-5:00 pm.

Volunteer Needs: M&Ms is looking for motivated high school, college, and adult mentors to focus on the 4 core subjects of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Our optimal ratio is 2:1, two students working with one mentor on homework, project completion, study skills and overall school organization and preparation. We are looking for mentors who are patient, kind and motivated to help **Coach, Consult,** and **Collaborate** to help students achieve success in middle school, high school and beyond. (M&Ms provides training and guidance!)

Student Enrollment: Interested in finding out how to ENROLL a middle school student (rising 6th grade through 8th grade)? Visit <https://www.mentors-meals.org/get-involved>. You can also contact Program Director McKenna Halderman at mckenna@mentors-meals.org or 951-970-8751).

M&Ms' stats since 2011:

- 1,182 middle school students served
- 1,536 dedicated volunteers
- 61,122 hours of mentoring

1 out of 4 teens are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3-6 pm, the time when risky behaviors are most likely to occur.

M&Ms was created to meet an unmet need in Woodford County by addressing concerns of academic achievement, food insecurity and afterschool safety in a unique and uplifting way!

LET'S GLOW!
CITY OF VERSAILLES
PRESENTS

GLOW



APRIL 11TH

MOVIE & BITES START AT 6PM

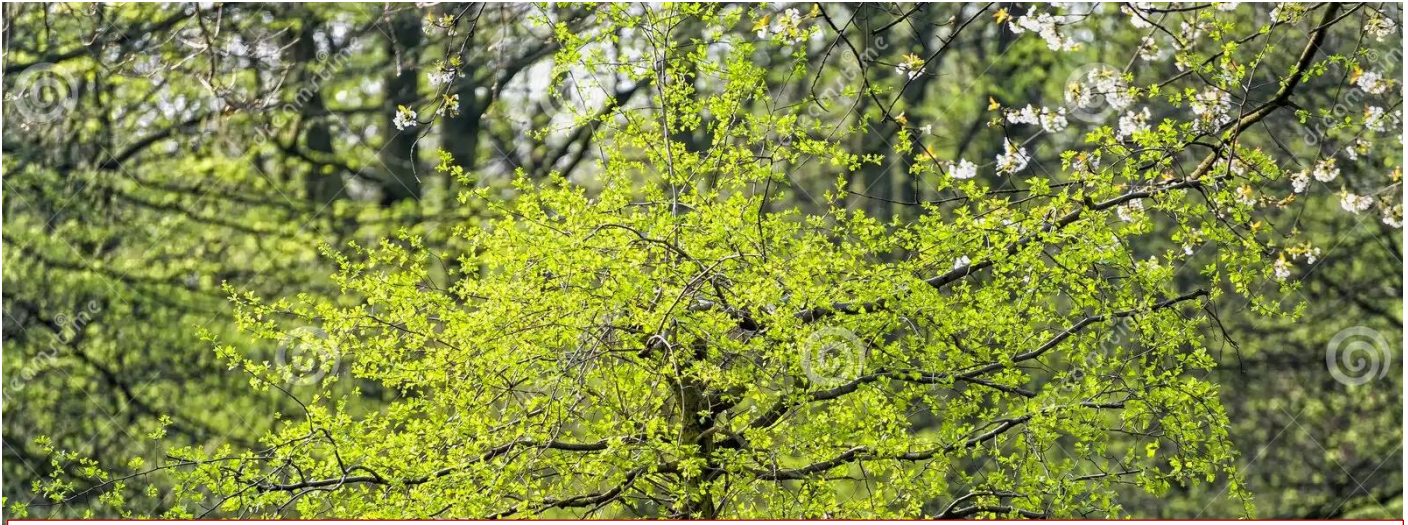
GLOW HUNT AT 8:30PM

AGE GROUPS: 3-5YRS, 6-8YRS, 9-11YRS, 12-14YRS

 THE DISTRICT, 105 ROSE HILL AVE, VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY



The City receives Grant Funding – learn more about its recent matching grant award for TREES!



Planting Now for a Healthier Future!

The city got grant money for trees? Yes! Called “Plant for the Planet,” this grant opportunity came to us from Kentucky Utilities. The maximum award was \$10,000 with half of the total award being matched by the recipient. We asked for \$10,000 but received \$5,000, so the city will match \$2,500. City workers and volunteers (if we can find them!) will plant the trees.

Why are we planting trees? Trees contribute to the overall well-being of ecosystems and communities by absorbing carbon dioxide, purifying the air by filtering pollutants, and cooling the surrounding environment. In addition to the benefits of trees to the environment, as well as their aesthetic beauty, the City of Versailles is serious about planting trees for social, economic and health-related reasons, specifically targeting two areas of town.

What are those two areas? The first area is the public space in and around the properties operated by the Versailles Housing Authority, which are in the lowest-income census tract in town. There is research that indicates that the presence of trees not only increases physical activity, but attention, memory and focus, as well as life satisfaction and positive emotions, all the while reducing stress, utility bills, and even blood pressure!

The second area is along portions of the two-mile-long connector road, or Falling Springs Boulevard. This roadway has a separate bike/walk path that runs its entire length. While there are some trees along the path, more are needed to provide shade and a more pleasant walking/biking experience. This path runs by the middle school and new high school, so is expected to see increasing usage. It also runs past several housing developments, including a large rental community.

When will this project begin? Planting will begin as soon as this spring.

Why are this grant important? Last year, city staff members were recently made aware that Woodford County is part of a Priority Climate Action Plan, a grant-funded initiative led by the LFUCG, which includes five counties in addition to Fayette. One of five “priority measures” identified by the initiative is increasing the urban tree canopy. In the initial February 2024 report, Versailles was identified as having six (6) block groups (out of 13) with Tree Equity Scores of less than 60, affecting a total of 6,019 people. (Ideal scores are more than 60.) **Total trees needed to bring all our scores to 60 is 5,729!**

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

- March 4th
- March 18th
- April 1st (really!)
- April 15th



Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

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

- March 11th (if scheduled)
- April 8th (if scheduled)

Holidays (City Offices Closed)

- Good Friday, Friday, April 18th

Community Events (supported or sponsored by the city)

- *The Odd Couple* and *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, Woodford Theatre, March 20th-23rd and 27th-30th (www.woodfordtheatre.com)
- GLOW Egg-xtravaganza! April 11th at the District in downtown Versailles. Movie & Bites start at 6 pm; Glow Hunt begins at 8:30 pm. See the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter.

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.

If you prefer to watch the meetings from the comfort of home, Council meetings and Work Sessions are shown live on the City's Facebook page (@City of Versailles, Kentucky).



Look Who's New in Town!

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

Sun Moon & Skin Esthetics LLC Service 411 Lexington Road Ste B

Artful Accents by Michele Retail Green Street Gifts, 113 W
Green Street



**2025-2026 Versailles
City Council >>>**

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From the Mayor...



It's been three months, and I'm loving my new job! I'm learning a lot but am glad that I'd been on city council for eight years; otherwise, I'd be really lost!

I presented my State of the City address at the February 4th council meeting. It's on the city's website if you want to read it. Here is the link:

<https://versailles.klc.org/Blog/94/mayor-dake-presents-2025-state-of-the-city> (or you can just visit the home page and you'll see it there)

As the year goes on, one of my goals is to keep city residents as informed as possible. Versailles will be going through some visible changes in 2025, and we at the city want to make sure you know what's coming and what to expect.

We'll address both the positives and the challenges in this newsletter, as well as on social media, the newspaper, and other avenues. I've just started a new weekly video series that I call "Two Minutes with the Mayor," so short snippets of information that I hope will be helpful to at least some of you. There is more on this on page 2 of this newsletter.

As always, the invitation stands. I hope you will stop by and meet me. If you see me in my office, feel free to drop in! If you'd prefer to call/text or email me, I'm at 859-351-0460 and ldake@versaillesky.com.

Enjoy the start of 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 May 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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