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May-June 2025

# City Matters

Informing and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky

# Kroger Way, it is a-changin': What to expect in the next few months

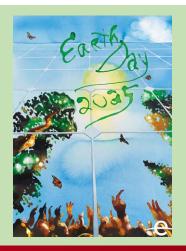


Last year, the City of Versailles was awarded state grant money through a state program called the Kentucky Product Development Initiative, or KPDI. KPDI is a statewide effort to support upgrades at industrial sites, supplement site or building improvement projects, and position the state for continued economic growth.

The photo above was taken from the stoplight at Marsailles Road looking over at Kroger Way. Near the cars and close to the left curve heading towards Kroger, a roundabout will be constructed to facilitate smooth, efficient movement of vehicles and prevent "stacking" on US 60. The road will continue north and lead to the entrance to TKC Distilling Co., which is building a distillery and visitor center on more than 100 acres behind Kroger. Three stub streets will be placed on the road's east side for future commercial development next to the TKC property.

The city awarded the construction contract to DelMae LLC, a woman-owned company out of London, KY. Plans are for DelMae to have the road built by the end of September.

You should start to see construction vehicles and other signs of early construction soon!



## **Another Successful Main Street Clean Sweep!**

In honor of Earth Day 2025, twenty-five volunteers braved the windy, somewhat chilly weather and picked up more than 140 pounds of trash in and around downtown Versailles! The hot spot of the day was the area around the former high school.

Thanks to all who participated for doing your part in keeping Versailles looking good. Midway also had a cleanup, so thank you to those volunteers as well. If you couldn't make it this year, we'll be back next year. In the meantime, don't litter, and if you see trash on the ground, please dispose of it!

## Did You Know...

...that the Versailles **Municipal Building** (City Hall) is expanding?



We're not building on to city hall, just making better use of the space we have!

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor next to the public works offices, there is a large unfinished room we call the "attic," which is mainly used for document storage. By moving some of the documents to a room in the basement, we opened up an area large enough for four cubicle bays and are in the process of constructing those.

Why? Because the city is growing, and we need to be prepared for that growth!

Most of the new office space will be used by staff that support infrastructure, so water/wastewater and streets and stormwater engineering.



## Nonprofit Spotlight:



The Woodford County Extension Master **Woodford Co** Gardeners support the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and strive to improve the quality of life in our community by delivering research-based horticultural information, educational programs, and projects.

We are a group of dedicated volunteers who have completed a 15-week MG training program through the Woodford Co Extension office and UK, then fulfill volunteer and education hours yearly in Woodford County to maintain an active status. Interested in becoming a MG? Classes will begin in Fall 2025. Follow the Woodford Co Ext Master Gardeners and Woodford Co Extension Facebook pages for more information on our activities. Our website address is https://woodford.ca.uky.edu/master-gardeners.

We have lots of upcoming programs and projects:

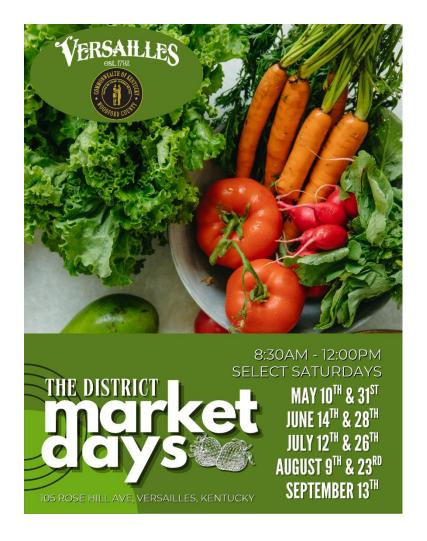
May 10th: MG Plant Sale from 1-3 pm at the Red Barn at Woodford County Park. We'll offer vegetables, herbs, flowers and native plants at low prices. So low that folks line up an hour before! There'll be a few vendors at the sale – one will be sharpening tools! – and also seeds and gently used book and garden items.

Throughout the summer: MGs host a booth once a month at the Woodford Co Farmers Market to answer gardening questions, give away garden recipes using fresh produce that can be purchased at the FM, offer giveaways, and host a Tomato Contest in August. **Huntertown Community Interpretative Park**: We've created a beautiful pollinator garden to educate the public about pollinators and their contribution to our environment and ecosystem. We'll be adding permanent signage very soon!

Trees Woodford: Master Gardeners sell potted trees – about 2'-3' tall – for fall planting, usually in October.

Fall Gardening Workshop: This workshop is open to the public. We share information on fall gardening, such as pruning, planting, garden cleanup, debunking gardening myths and preparing your garden for winter. Watch our FB page for the date!

**2025 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program:** August 21st – December 11th. See the flyer on page six of this newsletter for more information.



Market Days at The District will feature local farmers and other food producers, as well as crafters!

Music, grab-and-go breakfast food, and crafts for kids, too!

Select Saturdays 8:30 am -12 pm

Block Parties are back but at The District rather than Green Street!

Select Fridays 6:30-9:30 PM



# Woodford County just experienced record flooding – learn more about City efforts at the water plant!





Accessing the raw water intake station by boat

Raw water station completely surrounded by water

**How was the recent flooding historic?** The rainfall that began in early April turned out to be a historical event for Woodford County. Kentucky River levels were the highest they have been since the flooding of 1977. The floodwaters damaged over 200 structures, some beyond repair.

What did the employees at the water treatment plant do? Versailles Municipal Utilities staff reported to work on the morning of April 6<sup>th</sup> to assess the levels of the Kentucky River at the raw water intake. At that time, the river was rising but was not near the intake station. The staff worked diligently to "fill" the tanks at the plant and the water towers around town with treated water in anticipation of the worst-case scenario. With help from the Versailles Police Department's drone, we were able to visually inspect the intake station and knew when to ask Kentucky Utilities to cut the power to it. Around the same time, the Mayor asked customers to be conservative with their water usage because without power, staff could no longer draw water to treat.

Did the raw water intake station flood? Thankfully, no! However, river levels reached to within just a few inches of flooding the part of the intake station that houses its electrical system. On Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, with the help of the Versailles Fire Department, we sent city and Kentucky Utilities' personnel to the intake by boat (photo attached) to inspect the building and to restore power. Power was restored that evening. Versailles Municipal Utilities' plant personnel worked through the night pumping and treating water to restore our water reserves.

Why were we asked to conserve water? While the city has an agreement to purchase water from Kentucky American Water (which we did for a very short period of time), that connection would not have sustained our system for a long period. We asked people to conserve because we didn't know how long the power would be off. We are so appreciative of everyone's efforts to conserve, just in case the situation had been worse than it turned out to be.

*Is everything back to normal?* In the city, yes. We avoided calamity at the water treatment plant, and in town, our retention basins (think "Lake Taco Bell" on Lexington Road) worked as they were designed. However, many folks who live on the river are dealing with damaged or destroyed homes and property. Please consider supporting flood relief efforts as they work on repairing, rebuilding or relocating.



Listen to some of your favorite local bands one Thursday a month from 7-9 pm!

Food and drinks available for purchase!

Bring friends or make new ones! Food trucks, ice cream and drinks available for purchase!

Select Sundays from 2-5 pm





FRANKLIN & WOODFORD

# 2025 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

AUGUST 21 - DECEMBER 11 9 AM - 12 PM

EVERY THURSDAY

#### TOPICS INCLUDE:

Botany, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Proper Care and Maintenance, and Disease Diagnosis

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE JUNE 2 APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 25

Franklin County 502-695-9035 Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

Woodford County 859-873-4601 woodford.ext@uky.edu

franklin.ext@uky.edu

## Upcoming City of Versailles Meetings and Events >>>

#### **Regular City Council Meetings** (Everyone welcome)

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in council chambers at the Versailles Municipal Building (City Hall), 196 S Main Street

- May 6<sup>th</sup>
- May 20<sup>th</sup>
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- June 17<sup>th</sup>



2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 5:30 pm at the Versailles Municipal Building

- May 13<sup>th</sup> (scheduled to discuss short-term rentals)
- June 10<sup>th</sup> (if scheduled)

#### **Holidays (City Offices Closed)**

- Memorial Day, Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Juneteenth, Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **Community Events** (supported or sponsored by the city)

- The Wizard of Oz, Woodford Theatre, May 16<sup>th</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup> (<u>www.woodfordtheatre.com</u>)
- Market Days! Twice a month starting May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am − 12 pm at The District in downtown Versailles. See the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter and flyers for other city events, too!

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...

The Old Fish House LLC Retail
"7Seventeen" AND "N Style for Retail
the Season"
Save-A-Lot Grocery (new owner) Retail
Kramer Says Cheese Food

224 Yellow Jacket Drive
Booths at Green Street
Gifts, 113 W Green Street
480 Lexington Road
Food Truck





2025-2026 Versailles City Council >>>

Chantel Bingham (859) 312-1244 cbingham@versaillesky.com

Mary Bradley (859) 873-5843 chinadollmert@live.com

Lisa Johnson (859) 552-6873 Ijohnson@versaillesky.com

Gary Jones (859) 321-0582 garyjones1028@gmail.com

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

Fred Siegelman (859) 338-0141 fsiegelman@versaillesky.com

# From the Mayor...



I will present my FY26 city budget at the May 20<sup>th</sup> city council meeting along with a required (by statute) budget narrative. If you're not familiar with budget terminology, FY stands for fiscal year, which begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is different from a calendar year budget (Jan-Dec) and even from the federal government's fiscal year, which runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>!

The budget reflects what is important and necessary for the smooth running of the city. As you might expect, salaries make up a large proportion of the budget because without staff, we couldn't offer the services we do. Expenditures are grouped by city departments: cemeteries; city clerk; council; events; fire; mayor; police; Road Fund; sewer; streets; and water.

In addition to daily operations, there are also capital line items, which are expenditures over \$5,000 to "acquire, upgrade, and maintain physical assets." These include things like vehicles, technology, large infrastructure needs, and equipment.

I will dig more deeply into the FY26 budget in the next newsletter, but am considering expenditures that will put us in a good position as we grow by focusing on the health and safety of residents and energy cost savings for the city. More to come!

## Enjoy all the fun, free events the City of Versailles has to offer this summer!

#### 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, 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.



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