

- **Water & Sewer Rates' Comparison**
- **Good Things:** More Trees for Versailles! Wilson Avenue Improvements Coming Soon
- **Traffic Unit Progress Report Q&A**
- **New Businesses in Town!**
- **From the Mayor**



Happy New Year!

January - February 2026

City Matters

Informing and engaging residents of Versailles and Woodford County, Kentucky

City's Water & Sewer Rates compare favorably with surrounding counties

We get it – no one likes paying utility bills! They never seem to go down, and with the price of seemingly everything else going up, it gets harder and harder to make ends meet. The chart below isn't intended to make you happy about your water and sewer bills from Versailles Municipal Utilities (VMU), but it might make you feel a little better. VMU's rates certainly compare favorably with other Central Kentucky water/sewer systems, with rates 11% below average in the city and 4% below average outside city limits.

		16 Cities in Bluegrass ADD	Versailles vs BGADD Average
In City WATER Bill: 4,000* Gallons	\$25.53	\$32.41	-21%
In City SEWER Bill: 4,000 Gallons	\$39.02	\$39.93	-2%
Combined 4000 gallons W&S In City	\$64.55	\$72.34	-11%
Out-of-City WATER Bill: 4,000 Gallons	\$30.28	\$37.96	-20%
Out-of-City SEWER Bill: 4,000 Gallons	\$52.40	\$47.75	10%
Combined 4,000 gallons W&S Out-of-City	\$82.68	\$85.71	-4%

Data is as of July 2025.

The Bluegrass Area Development District (Bluegrass ADD or BGADD) is made up of 17 Central Kentucky counties, including Woodford.

Every Kentucky county is part of an Area Development District. There are 15 ADDs across the state.

To learn more about the BGADD or to see the Rate Book, visit www.bgadd.org.

The City is awarded another grant for trees!



This fall, the City planted **FORTY** trees along the two-mile stretch of the Falling Springs Bypass, thanks to a \$2,500 Kentucky Utilities “Plant for the Planet” grant; an equal match from the city; and a \$5,000 gift from Estepp’s fueling center on Tyrone.

At about the same time, we applied for another Plant for the Planet grant from KU and were just informed that we were awarded **\$2,250** (with an equal match from the city)! These funds will be used to replace the trees downtown along Main Street. We’ll be working with someone who is knowledgeable about native ornamental trees appropriate for downtowns.

New Sidewalks and Stormwater Improvements coming to Wilson Avenue!

In late 2024, the City of Versailles was awarded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding to rebuild the sidewalk along the south side of Wilson Avenue. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the estimated total cost of the project, which is about \$401,000, will be covered by state and federal funds, thanks to a new program the state implemented (GRANT is the acronym) to help cities with matching funds on federal projects, which are usually 20% of the project. Before the GRANT award, the city’s local match would have been \$80,392; now it’s just \$3,828!

The city engineer is working with Strand Associates, a Lexington-based engineering firm, to prepare construction plans for rebuilding the existing sidewalk. The new sidewalk will be compliant with Americans with Disabilities guidelines, so accessible for all users. The project will also address the persistent standing water issues on the street, on the sidewalk, and in some yards.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies, like the Federal Highway Administration that provides funding for TAP projects, to evaluate the impacts of every project, ensuring they balance transportation needs with social, economic, and natural environmental factors. This evaluation also ensures compliance with other laws around the endangered species act and historic preservation. While this may not seem to make sense in an urban environment like the Wilson Avenue corridor, this review also ensures that the project does not disproportionately impact vulnerable residents. In November 2025, project plans were submitted to reviewing agencies, and our project received environmental clearance.

Our next steps are to prepare a bid package and solicit bids for construction. There are a few more state approvals needed before we advertise, though, so look for our request for bids in January!

The green line on the map denotes the new sidewalk.



Versailles New Traffic Unit: The First Six Months!



l-r: Officer Ben Hartley; Officer Ben Dawson; Lt. Brent McGee

In June 2025, the Versailles Police Department created a Traffic Unit with two officers – Ben Dawson and Ben Hartley – dedicated to strengthening traffic enforcement throughout Woodford County.

Why was the Traffic Unit formed in the first place?

The Traffic Unit was formed in direct response to community concerns about roadway safety and the dangers posed by speeding, aggressive driving, and impaired driving. Another supporting reason: the VPD responded to 775 non-injury collisions and 245 injury collisions between 7/01/24 and 6/30/25.

What impact has the Traffic Unit had so far?

Below is a comparison of Versailles Police Department statistics from the 4th quarter of 2024 and the 4th quarter of 2025 (September 1 through December 27):

	9/1/2024 – 12/27/2024	9/1/2025 – 12/27/2025	CHANGE
Reports of Reckless Drivers	298	437	47% Increase
Traffic Stops	862	1,480	72% Increase
DUI Arrests	27	51	89% Increase
Total Citations	399	911	128% Increase
Citations – Speeding	154	355	131% Increase
Total Collisions	317	329	4% Increase
Collisions w/ Injuries	72	56	22% Decrease
Collisions w/ Fatality	3	1	67% Decrease

The data clearly show a significant increase in traffic enforcement, and more importantly, a positive impact on public safety. While there was a slight increase in the total number of collisions, the severity of those crashes was reduced, with fewer injury- and fatality-related incidents.

How can I help?

Glad you asked! Although these enforcement efforts are producing meaningful results, traffic safety cannot rely on enforcement alone. Safe roadways are a shared responsibility. The Versailles Police Department remains committed to doing its part and asks the public to do theirs by driving responsibly and looking out for one another.

Stay safe, Woodford County!

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

- January 6th
- January 20th
- February 3rd
- February 17th



Regular City Council Work Sessions (Everyone welcome)

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

- January 13th (if scheduled)
- February 10th (if scheduled)

Holidays (City Offices Closed)

- New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st
- Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19th

Community Events (supported or sponsored by the city)

- *The Mountaintop*, Woodford Theatre, February 6-8 | 13-15 | 20-22. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 pm; Sunday performances are at 2 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.

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).

In case you missed it: the new road with the roundabout (near Kroger) will be called Governors Lane!



Look Who's New in Town!

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

Freddy's Frozen Custard

& Steakburgers (Big Eats LLC)

1031 Tyrone Pike

Restaurant

The Owl Nest

251 Church St

**Short Term
Rental**



2025-2026 Versailles City Council >>>

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From the Mayor...



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that you were able to enjoy at least some of what Versailles had to offer in December! Besides the tree lighting, the Christmas parade, Pet Pics with Santa, and A *Wonderful Woodford Christmas*, the Versailles downtown merchants hosted two weekends of Living Windows, Midway held several European Christmas Markets, and many others throughout the county offered festive food and drink, fun and shopping!



It won't come as a surprise that, behind the scenes, all this fun involves a lot of hard work! A huge thank-you to the city's Communications and Events Coordinator Amanda Wainscott (pictured) for her creativity, social media chops, event coordination skills, the list goes on. If you see her around, let her know what you enjoyed about this season. Big kudos go out, too, to the city's public works and the county's maintenance teams, and the Versailles Police and Fire Departments!

Wishing all of you a very happy new year!

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 published around the first of every other month, so the next one will arrive on or about March 1st, 2026. 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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