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## **BUDGET CUTS WILL DELAY DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT**

If the President's federal budget is passed as currently proposed, the Pentagon will cut funding for the disposal of 525 tons of chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County, delaying the design and construction of a \$2 billion disposal plant, and ignoring an international treaty to dispose of all such weapons in this country and the world by 2012.

Defense officials may slash funding at Blue Grass and Pueblo, Colorado, to a combined \$31 million for fiscal year 2006, well below the \$105 million allocated in '05, which is needed to continue design and construction in '06.

"Anyone familiar with executing this sort of project could tell you that barely keeps the doors open," said Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, and co-chair of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board, along with County Judge Executive Kent Clark. "We didn't know where the WMD's were in Iraq, but we know exactly where they are in Kentucky."

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, the contractor selected to design, build, systemize, test, and operate the plant which would destroy these Weapons of Mass Destruction through SCWO (Super Critical Water Oxidation) will conceivably pull out of Madison County by October of 2005 if funding is not restored before the budget is passed. The project is currently at 50 percent completion of the design phase.

Madison County, Blue Grass region officials and business leaders are taking action, as will the Kentucky Congressional Delegation, led by Senator Mitch McConnell, Senator Jim Bunning and Congressman Ben Chandler. Richmond, Berea and Madison County have passed ordinances making it illegal to transport these WMD's within their boundaries; as the Pentagon as been studying the option of shipping the weapons to other incineration sites in Alabama or Utah.

McConnell, Bunning and Chandler have co-sponsored legislation in their respective houses to prevent this chemical weapons transportation study from being funded and completed.

The Richmond/Madison County Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Commerce Lexington and other regional partners plans to organize a grass roots lobbying effort and operation involving correspondence with

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Pentagon officials and Congressional Leadership in the Armed Services and Defense Appropriations Committee.

One of the strategies is to seek resolutions from the Bluegrass ADD and all of its governments, and position statements from regional Chambers of Commerce, to be disseminated to the Pentagon and Congressional leadership. The Bluegrass ADD will vote on its resolution on February 23. For more information on these efforts contact: Rob Rumpke, Richmond/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, 859-623-1720, rrrumpke@aol.com.

### **BLUEGRASS PRIDE AWARDS ALMOST \$169,000 IN GRANTS**

People packed into the Nature Center at McConnell Springs in Lexington on January 20th for Bluegrass PRIDE's grant announcement. PRIDE (Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment) is a non-partisan, environmental non-profit that serves eighteen counties in Central Kentucky. At the event, fourteen recipients were awarded Community Grants totaling \$161,009, and four Educator Workshop Grant recipients received a total of \$7,746.20. This announcement marked PRIDE's fourth time awarding Community Grants and second time awarding Educator Workshop Grants.

Educator Workshop Grant recipients included:

- Waco Elementary in Madison County received \$1,999.50 to conduct an environmental education curricula evaluation workshop.
- KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, located in Franklin County, received \$2,000 to conduct a Flying WILD workshop.
- The Woodford County Conservation District received \$1,850 to conduct a Project Food, Land and People workshop.
- Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, located in Fayette County, received \$1,896.70 to conduct the second phase of a educator workshop to help middle school teachers make the connection between the land, people, plants and animals that live in the Bluegrass Region.

Community Grant recipients included:

- Estill County Fiscal Court received \$20,000 to continue their "Adopt-A-County Road" program.
- Friends of the Parks in Fayette County, Inc. received a \$20,000 grant that will be used to build a multi-use trail and a biofiltration basin.
- Friends of McConnell Springs received \$14,254 to eradicate invasive plant species and restore another portion of the preserve.
- Garrard County Fiscal Court will use its \$10,000 grant to support the semi-annual bulky items drop-off.

## BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

- Cynthia received \$20,000 to clean up the Hwy. 1284 dump and to plant a streamside buffer and build a nature trail along Flat Run Creek.
- The City of Nicholasville will use its \$5,000 to create a litter abatement campaign with downtown trash bins.
- Lincoln County Fiscal Court will use its \$10,000 grant to clean up two illegal dumps located at South Fork Lake and South Fishing Creek.
- The City of Stanford will spend its \$2,000 grant to hold its semi-annual free dump disposal of large items.
- Powell County Fiscal Court received \$20,000 to conduct a roadside clean-up program.
- Midway Renaissance was granted \$6,595 to restore an additional section of Lee's Branch Creek.
- Herrington Lake Conservation League will use its \$2,660 grant to remove a sunken houseboat and to create a dock maintenance brochure.
- The Kentucky River Watershed Watch received \$15,000 to recruit and train volunteers to assist in water testing and field data gathering in the Kentucky River Basin.
- The Licking River Watershed Watch was granted \$10,000 to recruit and train volunteers to assist in water testing and field data gathering in the Licking River Basin.

Since 2002, PRIDE has granted nearly \$1,185,000 for environmental education and improvement projects in Central Kentucky, including a \$485,000 grant to support a wastewater project in the northern part of Madison County. Bluegrass PRIDE is also very involved in environmental outreach. Examples of PRIDE's outreach activities include establishing a household hazardous waste campaign that resulted in the proper disposal of over 15,000 gallons of paint at no cost to citizens or local governments, partnering with local communities to conduct dump and litter cleanups, developing a water quality campaign that aids local governments in meeting federal requirements, and creating a Resource Library of materials available to educators at no charge.

Though PRIDE plans to continue its outreach efforts as long as it is able, the organization will be halting its grant programs since it did not receive funds during the most recent federal appropriations process. "PRIDE's hope is that Congressman Chandler will be able to secure funding for us during the 2006 appropriation process. That would allow the grant programs to begin again. In the meantime, PRIDE will be working hard to raise funds so that we can continue to assist Central Kentuckians in improving their quality of life through improving the environment," said Angela Poe Dossett, PRIDE's Executive Director.

For more information on Bluegrass PRIDE programs call 866/222-1648 or visit [www.kentuckypride.com](http://www.kentuckypride.com).

## **WILMORE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ZONE CHANGE FOR “EMPTY-NESTER” COMMUNITY**

Wilmore City Council held a Public Hearing for a Zone Change Request January 24 for a 98-unit development on 24 acres aimed at “empty-nesters”, which passed with a 5-1 vote. The Jessamine County-City of Wilmore Joint Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the proposed development in November 2004, and made a recommendation not to approve the development. The Joint Planning Commission turned down the proposal when the applicats were unsure if the entire 24-acre tract was within the Wilmore Corporate Limits. Upon research by attorneys for the applicant, it was later determined that the entire tract was within the corporate limits. Kentucky Planning and Zoning Statutes, KRS 100, allow a legislative body to hold its own Public Hearing on matters involving zone changes. The approved zone change and proposed development will have 98 housing units in quad-plex layouts, and ownership will be condominium style.

The proposed development is aimed at “empty-nesters”, or the “baby boom generation” which is rapidly entering or approaching retirement age. The *2004 Jessamine County-City of Wilmore Comprehensive Plan* recognizes that in Jessamine County, the 45 - 65 age cohort rose over 26 percent, and the 65+ age cohort rose over 28 percent from 1990 – 2000, representing 15.6 percent of the county population, or 6,098 persons according to the 2000 Census. The development, called Premier Village, will be similar to “The Crossing” in Nicholasville, which offers single floor units, gardens and recreation facilities. The development in Wilmore, expected to begin construction this spring, is located on the southeast edge of the city and within one block walking distance of the Wilmore central business district. The development plan layout depicts open space, a clubhouse and a pool.

The project is expected to generate approximately \$90,000/year in taxes for the school district, and \$7,000/year for the Wilmore Fire District. The Crossing in Nicholasville consists of 94 units, with a total assed value of \$13.6 million, and the Wilmore development is expected to have a total tax assessment of approximately \$15 million, with an average assessed value expected to be \$146,000 per housing unit. Wilmore is a Kentucky Silver Renaissance Community, and the development is expected to greatly enhance the revitalization efforts in the Wilmore central business district.

## **BLUEGRASS WIB: NEW MOBILE JOB CENTER**

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board and the Bluegrass ADD WIA Department, will become the owner/operators of Kentucky’s first mobile career center. The eagerly anticipated Mobile Job Center is the embodiment of the Bluegrass WIB’s vision of “taking the Central Kentucky Job Center to those who cannot come to the Job Center.” The Mobile Job Center (MJC) is a customized recreational vehicle, equipped with state-of-the-art mobile technology, including 10 student computer stations, teaching computer station, plasma TV teaching board, a large side-mounted exterior plasma screen for outdoor events, wireless internet capable of serving several computers to the exterior of the vehicle, wheel

## **BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE**

chair lift, private interviewing space, and the capacity to help serve the workforce development needs of residents of the Bluegrass in ways previously undreamt.

The vehicle was designed with the needs of WIA service delivery in mind, primarily Rapid Response services for worker lay-offs and plant closures across the Bluegrass. However, the vehicle can be used by private industry for use in applicant assessment, hiring, incumbent worker training, and a variety of other innovative uses. The unit is ideally equipped for a classroom or workshop environment, and available to the businesses and agencies of the Bluegrass region for workforce development purposes. Businesses and organizations are invited to schedule the use of the Mobile Job Center by contacting WIA Staff.

It is hoped that the MJC will be making an extensive tour of the 17 counties of the Bluegrass ADD, once staff members are fully trained. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are anticipated at several locations across the ADD in March.

## **HARRISON COUNTY RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR JAIL RENOVATION**

In January, the Harrison County Fiscal Court was approved for additional funding from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The \$24,400 amount will benefit the restoration effort for the historic downtown jail, which was built in 1884. Once the renovations are complete, the jail will serve as a visitor's center.

## **BLUEGRASS ADD BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN FLORIDA**

Three representatives from the Bluegrass Region attended the annual conference for America's Electric Cooperatives and their business customers, sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Blue Grass Energy President, Dan Brewer and Economic Development Director, Larry Willis, along with Craig McAnelly of the Bluegrass ADD, were speakers at the conference. Their lecture outlined the partnership between the Bluegrass ADD and Blue Grass Energy and how it has been effective for generating successful economic development. The lecture also covered the importance of Blue Grass Energy's "Site Selection Boot Camp" Seminar, where consultants from Lockwood Greene presented information on how to respond to companies or businesses interested in locating in a county or city.

## **ALUMINUM PRODUCTION COMPANY WILL LOCATE IN PARIS**

Kentucky Smelting Technology, Inc., a joint venture between Toyota Tsusho America, Inc. and its parent company, Toyota Tsusho Corporation, will be locating in Paris. The plant plans to build a 50,000 square foot aluminum smelting facility, which will employ approximately 35 new employees. The location will allow the company to work in partnership with Central Light Alloy Company (CLA), a manufacturer of aluminum wheels. Kentucky Smelting Technology, Inc. will build its new plant directly behind CLA. For more information on this project, contact Craig McAnelly at the ADD.

## **LAWRENCEBURG SEEKS HUD BLOCK GRANT FOR STRINGTOWN AREA SEWER EXTENSIONS**

The City of Lawrenceburg has filed with the Governor's Office for Local Development a HUD Block Grant application seeking funding to enable the extension of sanitary sewers to 116 residents along either side of US 127 Business Route immediately south of Lawrenceburg. This area, which has been urbanized for about 50 years, is experiencing onsite sewage woes associated with malfunctioning septic tanks. The area, known as Stringtown, begins immediately south of the Norfolk and Southern railway overpass and extends south to and including the Sand Springs Church.

Lawrenceburg seeks a HUD grant of \$759,000 which would be applied to a sought after Tobacco Development Fund state appropriation of \$720,000 as well as \$39,000 in tap-on fees. An income level survey revealed that more than 66 percent of project area residents are of low-to-moderate income. The Anderson County Fiscal Court has likewise supported the extension of sanitary sewers to the Stringtown community.

For more information, contact Lawrenceburg Mayor Bobby Sparrow or Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **WINCHESTER/CLARK COUNTY JOINTLY SEEK HUD GRANT FOR WINCHESTER'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

Because more than 20 percent of Winchester's sewer system customers reside outside of the corporate limits of Winchester, the Governor's Office for Local Government approved a local request that Winchester and Clark County be permitted to develop and submit a joint application seeking HUD grant assistance on the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant at Winchester. That application was submitted to GOLD in late January.

Winchester and Clark County seek a \$2.0 million HUD grant to be applied to the construction of a new 6.0 million gallons per day wastewater treatment facility that is to be constructed adjacent to the existing treatment facilities north of the city. The total estimated cost of the project is a mind-boggling \$22.5 million. To round out the project financing, Winchester proposes to borrow \$17.3 million from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's Fund A (the state wastewater revolving fund).

Further, Winchester has pledged \$2.0 million in system development charges, \$1.2 million in proceeds from a 2002 bond issue, and \$12,000 from the Capital Accumulation Fund of the Winchester Municipal Utilities Commission. Winchester is operating under the terms of a June 2004 Agreed Order with the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet that specifies that the new wastewater treatment plant shall be complete and fully operational by January 1, 2008. While that seems like a long way down the timeline, construction is expected to take about 24 months. Winchester seeks to have a construction contract in place by July 1, 2005.

For further information, contact Winchester Mayor Dodd Dixon, Winchester Municipal Utilities General Manager Vernon Azevedo, or Don Hassall at Bluegrass ADD.

### **BILL FOX RESIGNS AS CHAIRMAN IN LINCOLN COUNTY**

Bill Fox resigned as Chairman of the Stanford-Lincoln County Industrial Development Authority in December. Mr. Fox served as chairman for 20 years and has been instrumental in the construction of the new industrial park in Lincoln County. At the February board meeting, Mr. Fox was recognized by Fran Carney and Steve Dale of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development for his outstanding efforts in economic development. Bill Miracle replaced Mr. Fox as chairman of the Authority.

### **DANVILLE/JUNCTION CITY JOINTLY SEEK HUD BLOCK GRANT FOR SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

For several years, Junction City has been operating under the terms of a sewer tap-on ban imposed by the Kentucky Division of Water. The tap-on ban was precipitated because of persistent sewage bypasses and overflows—mostly at Junction City’s aged and undersized Toombs Curve Sewage Pumping Station. All sanitary sewage generated by residents of Junction City eventually ends up at the Toombs Curve pumping station for pumping northward toward the Danville wastewater treatment plant.

Becoming overwhelmed with sewer and water utility problems, the City of Junction City in mid-2004 divested itself of its water and sewer utilities. Danville now owns and operates the utility systems. Because both Junction City and Danville are involved in a major project to end the persistent sewage overflows and bypassing, the Governor’s Office for Local Development approved a local request that Danville and Junction City be permitted to jointly prepare and submit a HUD Block Grant application seeking funds for a permanent remedy to the problem.

Proposed is the installation of almost three miles of 21-inch diameter gravity interceptor sewer line that would allow for the abandonment of the existing Toombs Curve Pumping Station and the attendant 6-inch diameter pressure sewer into which the Toombs Curve Station pumps. The new 21-inch diameter gravity interceptor sewer would follow Balls Branch north and would terminate at a new 1,142 gallons per minute major sewage pumping station near the Danville Bypass. That new pumping station would pump the sewage from Junction City the remaining one mile to the Danville wastewater treatment plant. Also proposed are less costly changes and modifications at the York Lane sewage pumping station in Junction City. All components of the project are geared to eliminate sewage bypasses and overflows at Junction City.

To undertake the proposed project, Danville/Junction City jointly seek a \$1,502,000 HUD Block Grant. The HUD grant would be matched with a \$482,100 USEPA earmarked grant and \$1,020,325 in unrestricted reserves from Danville. If the HUD grant is approved, Danville would expect *not* to

have to increase further the sewer service charges payable by Junction City sewer customers.

For further information, contact Danville Mayor John W. D. Bowling, Danville City Engineer Earl Coffey, or Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC WATER UTILITIES IN ANDERSON COUNTY UNDER DISCUSSION**

Lawrenceburg Mayor Bobby Sparrow and Anderson County Judge-executive Anthony Stratton are working cooperatively on a proposal that would result in the consolidation of the public water utilities in Anderson County. In recent years, Lawrenceburg has assumed ownership and operation of the Stringtown Water District and the Alton Water and Sewer District. Discussions are now underway for the city to assume the ownership and operation of the one remaining homegrown water district in Anderson County—the South Anderson Water District. The water district has only a single remaining construction project before the entire county will be water-served, and the City of Lawrenceburg has pledged to undertake that construction project in the near term. Some rate relief is also being offered to the water district customers by the city.

For more information, contact Anderson County Judge-executive Anthony Stratton or Lawrenceburg Mayor Bobby Sparrow.

## **BLUEGRASS WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION HAS LARGE PLANS**

Three consecutive years of above normal rainfall have embraced the Bluegrass Area. Through it all, however, the planning for an additional drinking water supply for the region builds and builds. Drought times have come before; drought times will surely come again.

Nine area communities are presently members of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission (BWSC), and more may join once the path to success seems clear. Currently, the members are Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government together with the cities and public water utilities of Frankfort, Georgetown, Nicholasville, Winchester, Mt. Sterling, Paris, Cynthiana, and Lancaster. The Kentucky-American Water Company is a partner of the BWSC.

The plan to supplement the region's drinking water supply has as its foundation a three-legged stool that consists of :

1. The development of a water system grid to connect the water systems of the participating members;
2. The construction of a new regional water treatment plant using as its source of supply Pool 3 of the Kentucky River north of Frankfort;
3. The installation of a large diameter raw water line from the Ohio River probably near Warsaw southward to the new regional water treatment plant.

Leaders of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission see as their strengths the following:

- The new commission is a public agency and has the ability to accept governmental grants and low interest loans.
- The Commission is not a merger or an acquisition of local water utilities.
- Individual water utilities would remain autonomous and would maintain local decision-making.
- The Commission's efforts would benefit a large area of Kentucky containing some 600,000 people—almost 15 percent of the states population.
- Along the way, partnerships have been developed with local, state, and federal agencies that have an interest or a regulatory responsibility in the area of water supply or water delivery.
- There have been no fatal flaws identified with the Commission's plan. There seems to be widespread public support for the plan.

Since its formal organization as a public agency in August, the Commission has elected officers and has adopted By-laws that guide its operation. The Commission has adopted a committee structure to spread the work among the nine voting members, has selected an attorney as well as a program management and master planning consultant, has procured the services of a financial advisor, and has identified an interim general manager. Sources of short term and long term credit have been explored.

The specific definition of a Phase One construction project is being identified in words and on maps while estimates of cost are being developed. The initial construction project will involve the installation of a large diameter water line connector between the Frankfort municipal water system and the Kentucky-American Water system. Until the new regional water treatment plant is built along with the Ohio River raw water pipeline, this portion of the regional pipeline grid should make available to Lexington area residents up to 5 million gallons per day of additional drinking water supply from Frankfort. This initial construction project is expected to cost \$10 million.

Efforts are underway to seek 40 percent of \$10 million through a state budget appropriation. Similar efforts are underway to seek federal financial support.

For additional information, contact Commission Chairman Tom Calkins or Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **CITY OF BEREA ASSUMES OWNERSHIP OF BEREA COLLEGE'S WATER AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

It has been a long time coming, but now it is a reality. In late January, the City of Berea officially assumed ownership and operation of the water and electric systems previously owned and operated by Berea College. The

leadership of Berea College had earlier concluded that operating these community-wide utility systems was not in keeping with the education mission of the college.

Under Kentucky law, the Berea College water and electric systems were considered to be non-municipal utilities. Such utilities come under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Accordingly, the Public Service Commission approval of the transfer of utility ownership was required before the change could occur.

The city will now be responsible for approximately 4,695 electric service customers and approximately 3,868 water customers. All utility employees of the Berea College Utilities have been given an opportunity to accept employment with the City of Berea. The two new municipal utilities have been merged with the Berea municipal sewer utility under the leadership of Donald Blackburn.

### **BLACKBURN ELECTED TO FILL VACANCY ON THE BLUEGRASS WATER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Donald Blackburn, Utilities Director for the City for Berea, was named in late January to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee of the Bluegrass Water Management Council. On the Executive Committee, Mr. Blackburn replaces Bart Miller, formerly the Public Works Director of Versailles. Other members of the Executive Committee are Anderson County Judge-executive Anthony Stratton, Woodford County Judge-executive Joe Gormley, Vernon Azevedo, Tom Calkins, Kenny Cole, Mike Royalty, and J. H. Sullivan.

### **KENTUCKIAN HILDA LEGG STEPS DOWN AS DIRECTOR OF USDA'S RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE**

It was good while it lasted, but it is over now. Adair County native Hilda Legg has stepped down as the head of the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the US Department of Agriculture. The \$6 billion-a-year agency, created in 1994, offers loans and grants to provide safe water for rural residents and strives to improve the availability of other rural utilities such as electricity, telephone, sewer and internet service. Ms. Legg led the RUS for a little more than three years.

Ms. Legg ran the Center for Rural Development in Somerset for seven years before she was selected by President George W. Bush to lead the Rural Utilities Service in late 2001. Many Kentuckians will recognize the agency by the shortened version of its name—USDA's Rural Development.

### **STANTON AND CLAY CITY ACT TO EXTEND THE USEFUL LIFE OF THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS BY SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION EFFORTS**

For several consecutive years, the municipal wastewater treatment plants of Stanton and of Clay City (both Powell county municipalities) have been operating at rates that exceed the rated hydraulic capacity of those treatment facilities. Such violations normally draw the attention of the

Kentucky Division of Water. The Division of Water encouraged both communities to collaborate on the development of a new Regional Wastewater Facilities Plan that would include both communities together with their potential growth areas. That planning document was completed a year ago, but has not yet received a review by the state regulatory agency.

Trying to head off enforcement action by state regulators, both cities have acted independently to procure engineering services that would study the two sewer systems and identify on a *worst-first* basis sewer rehabilitation efforts that would help the communities to reduce the measured flow to the two treatment plants. The concept seems to be that if the flows to the two treatment plants could be reduced, time could be bought before the two cities were required to add expensive treatment additions and/or to construct new wastewater treatment facilities. The ADD is seeking to assist each city in its efforts. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

### **HARRODSBURG ENTERS FOURTH MONTH OF CONSTRUCTION**

The City of Harrodsburg executed contracts in late September for its Water System Improvements Program and construction is now well under way. The City's Water System Improvement Program is composed of three primary components:

- The erection of a 1.0 million-gallon elevated water storage tank on the city's southeast side, and
- The construction of over nine miles of water lines ranging in size from 6 inches to 20 inches in diameter and
- Replacements and additions at the municipal water treatment plant

The project is, in part, funded by a \$1.0 million HUD Community Development Block Grant. Other funding sources for this \$5.5 million project include a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority grant of \$1.0 million, a \$2.5 million loan from Rural Development and a \$1.0 million RD grant.

The project addresses significant problems that have developed over time. The problems are associated with the water treatment plant, deficient elevated water storage, and water transmission/water distribution. Benefits of the project will accrue to retail customer of the Harrodsburg municipal water system as well as to the customers of the three water utilities to which Harrodsburg supplies potable water. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

### **LANCASTER REQUESTS RELEASE OF FUNDS / RECEIVES RD CONDITIONS LETTER**

Lancaster officials continue to press forward with the City's Water System Improvement Project as it received the Rural Development Letter of Conditions in mid-February. The Letter indicates loan/grant approval if the City meets the requirements stipulated in the Letter. Additionally, the Environmental Assessment was completed and the City formally requested

funds from the Governor's Office for Local Development. The release of funds, approved February 9, enables the city to advertise for bids.

The water system improvement project will seek to deal with age related deficiencies within the municipal water distribution system. Proposed is the installation of almost seven miles of 6- and 8-inch diameter water lines, 53 water line valves, and 34 fire hydrant assemblies. The project involves system improvements that were commended as a part of a 2002 engineering study.

Funding for the project comes from a HUD Community Development Block Grant for \$595,000. Other funds include a \$100,000 grant commitment from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and a pending grant/loan from USDA's Rural Development. Lancaster is asking for a \$222,000 RD grant and a \$273,000 RD long-term loan to round out the \$1.19 million project. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## **JESSAMINE COUNTY – CITY OF WILMORE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AMENDING ROAD STANDARDS**

The *Jessamine County – City of Wilmore Joint Planning Commission Ordinance Committee* is back in full swing after spending the past three years working extensively on the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Ordinance Committee is overseen by the Planning Commission, and recommends zoning ordinance and subdivision regulation amendments and updates to the Planning Commission, Fiscal Court and Wilmore City Council. While working to update the comprehensive plan from 2001 - 2004, the Committee worked on numerous planning and zoning ordinance amendments and drafted a new innovative residential zone to comply with the comprehensive plan. At its last meeting, the Committee approved five amendments pertaining to street design standards in the Jessamine County-Wilmore Subdivision Regulations, which will be considered by the Planning Commission for action in the coming months.

Other amendments the Ordinance Committee is presently working on include agritourism in the County's General Agricultural Zone. The Committee is looking at how to allow farmers to sell products grown or produced on farms without a conditional use permit, tourism-oriented concepts and other avenues to allow farmers to generate income from their farms without cumbersome zoning restrictions. The Committee is also looking at developing cross-sections for the proposed east-west connector road in northern Jessamine County as proposed in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, formation of a Greenways/Trails Advisory Committee, drafting a Conservation Zone for the County, a Landscaping section for the zoning ordinance, and a Historical Overlay Zone.

The Ordinance Committee consists of members of the planning commission, fiscal court, Wilmore officials, at-large members, and a consulting regional planner from the Bluegrass ADD who provides professional planning and technical assistance. The Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. The meetings are advertised and open to the public.

## **STAMPING GROUND STARTS WATER LINE**

The City of Stamping Ground broke ground in January on a contract awarded for the construction and installation of water lines, valves, meter reconnections, and other associated appurtenances. The second component of this water system improvements project is the erection of a 200,000-gallon storage tank which is well underway.

The total project constitutes an upgrade of the City's potable water storage and distribution system expected to cost \$819,300. Specifically, Stamping Ground is:

- Replacing an aged 100,000-gallon elevation water storage tank. With a new 200,000-gallon elevated water storage tank.
- Demolishing and removing the existing aged water storage tank.
- Providing an inter-connection (as a standby source of potable water) with the Georgetown municipal water system.
- Improving system-wide hydraulics by installing looping water lines where none exist on Burch Street, Riley and Woodlake, Springview to Sebree Road, and East Main Street.

The HUD Community Development Block Grant of \$312,000 matches a \$250,000 grant from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and a \$193,000 US EPA grant to enable construction of the project. Additionally, Tobacco Development grant funds will provide gap financing for the project. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT BERA**

The City of Berea continued construction on its Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project which began in June 2004. The project is being funded in part by a \$1.0 million HUD Community Development Block Grant, which is being applied to this \$10.145 million project to expand the municipal wastewater treatment plant. The J. C. Chambers Wastewater Treatment Plant will be expanded from its present capacity of 2.34 million gallons per day (MGD) to a new and larger capacity of 4.3 MGD. A Kentucky Infrastructure Authority low interest loan of \$5.0 million and \$4.145 million in local cash reserves complete the financial package. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## **WINCHESTER BEGINS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The City of Winchester and Winchester Municipal Utilities undertook to begin the Environment Assessment for the proposed construction of its new wastewater treatment plant. At a meeting in early February, the City and WMU decided to have the Bluegrass Area Development District assist in preparing an Environmental Assessment required for a project seeking Community Development Block Grant funds.

CDBG funding in the amount of \$2 million has been requested in a grant application submitted in January. For more information, contact Don Hassall or Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## **STAMPING GROUND NEGOTIATING WITH GEORGETOWN REGARDING A TRANSFER OF STAMPING GROUND WATER/SEWER UTILITIES**

It is tough these days for a small city to operate a water and sewer utility when the customer base is only in the hundreds. Just the regulatory climate of having to comply with the growing number of laws and regulations puts a great deal of pressure on small utilities that own and operate their own utility systems. For this reason, Stamping Ground city officials are presently in discussions with Georgetown and the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service to look at ways to address the current situation. The topic of discussion specifically relates to Georgetown's possible future ownership and operation of the Stamping Ground water and sewer utility.

In the recent past, the City of Danville has assumed the ownership of the municipal water and wastewater utilities in Perryville and in Junction City. For more information on water and/or wastewater utility consolidation pros and cons, contact Don Hassall at the ADD or Stamping Ground Mayor Jared Hollon.

## **GARRARD COUNTY FISCAL COURT APPROVES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Garrard County Fiscal Court has approved the Goals and Objectives submitted by the Garrard County Planning Commission as part of the County's new comprehensive plan. This approval clears the way for the preparation of the remainder of the plan.

In coming months, the Planning Commission will finish its research into current economic and population trends and make recommendations for the future of Garrard County. Topics to be addressed include land use issues, availability of community facilities, housing needs, and economic development. After adoption of the plan, the Commission will assume responsibility for regulation of subdivisions outside of Lancaster.

## **TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IDENTIFICATION PROCESS RETOOLED**

As part of the Statewide Transportation Planning Process, the ADD and District Highway Offices in the region have been working on a revised project identification process for new unfunded highway, pedestrian and bicycle projects. The project planning tool to a living document that can follow the project electronically from conception to construction. The form is now a scoping document that can provide pertinent information and background to a project before it goes into the six-year plan. The PIF includes such information as the route number, a cost estimate, adequacy ratings, environmental/social/economic impacts, maps, and photographs, as well as the name of the person or organization requesting the project. This information will be used by local leaders and the Regional Transportation Committee when they respectively prioritize Unscheduled Projects beginning around May 1 and concluding by July 15.

It's expected that the revised Unscheduled State Highway Projects List will be completed and forwarded to the ADD's, MPO's and District Highway Offices on April 15. All projects will be prioritized at the local level, regional level and Highway District Office level.

The Regional Transportation Committee will be prioritizing projects in the counties of Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, and Woodford. The Lexington Area MPO is responsible for Fayette and Jessamine counties.

For additional information, contact Bruce Duncan at the ADD.

## **REPORT A POT HOLE**

Motorists now have a toll free direct line to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to report pot holes or other problems on all state maintained highways. The number is

1-800-PATCH IT, or 1-800-728-2448.

“With our 1-800-PATCH IT line, drivers now have a direct way to report problems with pot holes on our highways,” said Maxwell Clay Bailey, Secretary, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. “When a motorist calls, we ask them to let us know the location of the pot hole or other problem, including the name or number of the road and either a mile point or land mark where the pot hole is located. That way our crews can act quickly to “patch” the pot hole.”

In the past, the 1-800-PATCH IT line has only been operational during what is considered the “pot hole” season between February 12 and May 1. But Secretary Bailey says the Transportation Cabinet will keep the toll-free number in operation year round for motorist to report problems with any Kentucky highway.

“We are committed to providing a safe and reliable transportation system for all Kentuckians,” Secretary Bailey said. “That includes making sure that our roads are maintained and repaired when needed as quickly as possible.”

## **LOST MEMORIES: A DISCUSSION OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE**

### **PART I**

In November 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation designating National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month. This historic event marked the beginning of a revolution for Alzheimer’s disease. Today, there is greater public awareness about the disease, new treatments, and we now know there are things we can do to help keep our brains healthy as we age.

This past November, people across the Bluegrass area took time to celebrate the changes set in motion by the proclamation, to remember and support the individuals and families touched by Alzheimer’s, and to recommit our resources to conquering the disease for generations to come.

This article begins a series of articles which will address a variety of topics surrounding this heartbreaking and devastating disease.

#### *Alzheimer’s Disease Statistics*

- An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer’s disease.
- The number of Americans with Alzheimer’s has more than doubled since 1980.
- The number of Americans with Alzheimer’s disease will continue to grow – by 2050 the number of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease could range from 11.3 to 16 million.

- A Gallup poll commissioned by the Alzheimer Association found that 1 in 10 Americans said that they had a family member with Alzheimer's and 1 in 3 knew someone with the disease.
- Increasing age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's. One in 10 individuals over 65 and nearly half over 85 are affected.
- A person with Alzheimer's disease will live an average of eight years and up to as many as 20 years from the onset of symptoms as estimated by relatives.

Some change in memory is normal as we grow older, but the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are more than simple lapses in memory. People with Alzheimer's experience difficulties communicating, learning, thinking and reasoning — problems severe enough to have an impact on an individual's work, social activities and family life.

The Alzheimer's Association believes that it is critical for people with dementia and their families to receive information, care and support as early as possible. To help family members and health care professionals recognize the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, the Association has developed a checklist of common symptoms.

1. **Memory loss.** One of the most common early signs of dementia is forgetting recently learned information. While it's normal to forget appointments, names or telephone numbers, those with dementia will forget such things more often and not remember them later.
2. **Difficulty performing familiar tasks.** People with dementia often find it hard to complete everyday tasks that are so familiar we usually do not think about how to do them. A person with Alzheimer's may not know the steps for preparing a meal, using a household appliance or participating in a lifelong hobby.
3. **Problems with language.** Everyone has trouble finding the right word sometimes, but a person with Alzheimer's often forgets simple words or substitutes unusual words, making his or her speech or writing hard to understand. If a person with Alzheimer's is unable to find his or her toothbrush, for example, the individual may ask for "that thing for my mouth."
4. **Disorientation to time and place.** It's normal to forget the day of the week or where you're going. But people with Alzheimer's disease can become lost on their own street. They may forget where they are and how they got there, and may not know how to get back home.
5. **Poor or decreased judgment.** No one has perfect judgment all of the time. Those with Alzheimer's may dress without regard to the weather, wearing several shirts on a warm day or very little clothing in cold weather. Those with dementia often show poor judgment about money, giving away large sums to telemarketers or paying for home repairs or products they don't need.

6. **Problems with abstract thinking.** Balancing a checkbook is a task that can be challenging for some. But a person with Alzheimer's may forget what the numbers represent and what needs to be done with them.
7. **Misplacing things.** Anyone can temporarily misplace a wallet or key. A person with Alzheimer's disease may put things in unusual places, like an iron in the freezer or a wristwatch in the sugar bowl.
8. **Changes in mood or behavior.** Everyone can become sad or moody from time to time. Someone with Alzheimer's disease can show rapid mood swings — from calm to tears to anger — for no apparent reason.
9. **Changes in personality.** Personalities ordinarily change somewhat with age. But a person with Alzheimer's can change dramatically, becoming extremely confused, suspicious, fearful or dependent on a family member.
10. **Loss of initiative.** It's normal to tire of housework, business activities or social obligations at times. The person with Alzheimer's disease may become very passive, sitting in front of the television for hours, sleeping more than usual or not wanting to do usual activities.

If you recognize any warning signs in yourself or a loved one, the Alzheimer's Association recommends consulting a physician. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other disorders causing dementia is an important step to getting appropriate treatment, care and support services.

In future articles of this series we will discuss causes, diagnoses, caregiver issues, behavior changes, making brain-healthy lifestyle changes and resources. For more information contact the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association at (859) 266-5383, the National Alzheimer's Association Office at 1-800-272-3900, or the Area Agency on Aging at the ADD.

(Information from Alzheimer's Association web-site [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org))

## CONGRESS FUNDS MAP MODERNIZATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization program, has received funding for the next five years. Seventy-six percent of Kentucky's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which detail floodplains, are more than 10 years old. Because of changes in development since preparation of the initial maps, the current FIRMs no longer represent the risk of flooding in all areas. Beginning this year, Kentucky will be receiving \$2.8 million per annum to complete the program.

The process the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) is currently using to update floodplains is to address counties with large populations early on, while updating the remaining counties according to their location within the major watershed areas. Local officials will be able to use the new maps to more accurately determine if new development is likely to be impacted by floodwaters.

In addition to providing updated floodplain maps, KDOW hopes to incrementally construct a program for floodplain management that will administer statewide data collection services, map digitization, and floodplain regulation. This gives Kentucky an edge by supplying it with the expertise and resources necessary for future maintenance and administration of the floodplain management program. Ultimately, KDOW plans to extend its current in-house capabilities and expertise in order to become a strong support system for all of Kentucky's floodplain management needs.

## **ADD PLAYS HOST TO CORRIDOR SAFETY TEAM**

Deputy Secretary Murgatroyd addresses the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Driver Safety and Traffic Operation, and the ADD unveiled a new program, February 1, aimed at curtailing crashes along the state's busiest stretches of highways. One such strip is Highway District 7/U.S. 27 "Drive Smart" Safety Corridor program. This team, lead by ADD staff, will look for innovative ways to provide safe and reliable transportation options to lower fatality and injury rates along U.S. 27 though Bourbon, Fayette, Jessamine and Garrard counties.

"The key to the program is that it does involve the local level. It gets the local people involved," Kentucky Transportation Secretary Richard Murgatroyd said. "This isn't something that Frankfort believes, 'Okay, we can fix the problem' ... We need that kind of [local] support and involvement to be successful."

The initiative came to fruition through a successful pilot program instituted in Harrison County last year in which the number of fatalities and injuries was reduced by 50 percent.

To reach its goal, the program will take into account various aspects of prevention. One of the steps is to have engineers review each stretch of road and recommend low-cost, high-impact safety improvements. Heightened traffic enforcement will also play a key role, with Kentucky's police cracking down on some of the state's often-neglected laws through safety checkpoints.

One of the central designations of the program will be accident prevention through education, aimed primarily at school-aged children. Kids between the ages of 16 and 20 only constitute about 10 percent of the driving population statewide, and about 25 percent of the injuries and fatalities. Focusing on the group that is the most over-represented will have the greatest impact.

The program will also seek to increase involvement among emergency response personnel to clear the roadway as quickly as possible. This will help reduce the number of secondary collisions, which Sigler said are often as severe as the initial wreck.

"Everyone is involved in highway safety in some shape or form," Boyd Sigler, State Highway Safety Manager said. "Each of you should take a personal responsibility for that."

## MEETING CALL

ADD Executive Board Meeting	2/23 3/30 6:00 p.m.
Homeland Security Council	2/22 4/20 2:00 p.m.
Development Advisory Commission	2/22 2:00 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	3/2 4:00 p.m.
Transportation Advisory Committee	3/14 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation, Recreation Advisory Committee	3/8 10:00 a.m.
Aging Council	3/9 4/13 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	4/13 4:15 p.m.
Human Services Advisory Committee	2/21 1:30 p.m.
ADD Quarterly Board Meeting	4/27 6:00 p.m.

ALL meeting dates/times subject to change.

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Chairman	Judge Tony Wilder
Vice-Chairman	Judge R.W. Gilbert
Secretary	Mayor Dodd Dixon
Treasurer	Mrs. Linda Magee
Executive Director	Jas S. Sekhon
Assistant Executive Director	Lenny P. Stoltz II

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