

A Publication of the Bluegrass Area Development District

# BLUEGRASS

## ADVANTAGE

### KENTUCKY'S FASTEST GROWING COUNTIES

The Bureau of the Census has recently issued its estimates of population for Kentucky counties as of July 1, 2004. Four Bluegrass Area counties are among the twelve fastest growing counties. Kentucky's top twelve counties are:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>%Increase 2000 - 2004</u>
1	Spencer	26.0
2	Boone	17.9
3	<b>Scott</b>	<b>15.0</b>
4	Oldham	11.8
5	Shelby	11.6
6	Trimble	11.0
7	<b>Garrard</b>	<b>9.3</b>
8	Bullitt	8.8
9	Grant	8.6
10	<b>Jessamine</b>	<b>8.4</b>
11	Nelson	7.8
12	<b>Madison</b>	<b>7.5</b>

Thirty of Kentucky's 120 counties are estimated to have lost population since the 2000 census.

### CENSUS BUREAU SAYS BLUEGRASS AREA GROWTH RATE OUTPACES KENTUCKY RATE

According to Census Bureau estimates of population growth since the 2000 Census, the Bluegrass Area has grown at a rate 58 percent greater than Kentucky as a whole. Sixteen Bluegrass counties are estimated to have gained in population since the last census. Population estimates of Bluegrass Area counties and their estimated growth rates are as follows:

#### Population Changes in the Bluegrass Area

	<u>April 1, 2000 Census</u>	<u>July 1, 2004 Estimate</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Anderson County	19,111	20,099	+5.2
Bourbon County	19,360	19,623	+1.4
Boyle County	27,697	28,241	+2.0
Clark County	33,144	34,377	+3.7

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	<u>April 1, 2000</u> <u>Census</u>	<u>July 1, 2004</u> <u>Estimate</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Estill County	15,307	15,164	-0.9
Fayette County	260,512	266,358	+2.2
Franklin County	47,687	48,142	+1.0
Garrard County	14,792	16,163	+9.3
Harrison County	17,983	18,256	+1.5
Jessamine County	39,041	42,313	+8.4
Lincoln County	23,361	24,821	+6.2
Madison County	70,872	76,208	+7.5
Mercer County	20,817	21,493	+3.2
Nicholas County	6,813	7,076	+3.9
Powell County	13,237	13,615	+2.9
Scott County	33,061	38,029	+15.0
Woodford County	23,208	23,961	+3.2
<b>Bluegrass ADD</b>	<b>686,003</b>	<b>713,939</b>	<b>+4.1</b>
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>4,041,769</b>	<b>4,145,922</b>	<b>+2.6</b>

### **WINCHESTER-CLARK COUNTY RECEIVES GRANT**

Joint Community Development Block Grant applicants Winchester and Clark County won a \$2.0 million CDBG award for construction of the new Winchester Municipal Utilities Wastewater Treatment Plant. The \$22.5 million project held a pre-bid conference in April and accepted bids in early May. A contract is expected in early June. Additionally, the environmental assessment has been prepared and environmental certification is expected in June.

The project involves construction of a new 6.0 MGD wastewater treatment plant to be located immediately adjacent to the existing Strodes Creek plant approximately one mile north of I-64 and 2.5 miles north of downtown Winchester. The new facilities will include the construction of a 24.0 MGD Influent Pump Station designed to allow for complete redundancy and flow measurement.

Preliminary treatment will include two mechanical fine screens and a manual bypass coarse screen. Following influent pumping, the wastewater flow will go through a flow control structure followed by two parallel anaerobic selector basins. Secondary treatment will take place in four oxidation ditches each equipped with two 200-horsepower vertical aerators. Four 105-foot clarifiers will provide clarification of the wastewater prior to ultraviolet disinfection, post aeration, and discharge to Strodes Creek.

Beyond the \$2 million CDBG funding, the project will be funded by a \$17,288,000 KIA Fund A loan, \$2 million from WMU System Development Charges, \$1.2 million from Winchester 2002 Bond Proceeds, and \$12,000

from the Winchester Municipal Utilities Capital Accumulation Fund. For additional information, contact Dave Ewen or Josh Ayoroa at the ADD.

### **LAWRENCEBURG CAPTURES CDBG FUNDING**

The Governor's Office for Local Development in early May announced the award of a \$759,000 grant to the City of Lawrenceburg for construction of the Stringtown Sewer Project. The project will provide sewer service to an urbanized unincorporated area (Stringtown) immediately south of Lawrenceburg's southern corporate limits (along US 127 Business Route between the Norfolk Southern Railway on the north and Sand Springs Baptist Church on the south).

The more than \$1.5 million project will see the construction of:

- 2.5 miles of 8-inch gravity sewer line
- 1.14 miles of 4-inch house service line
- 2.73 miles of 2- and 4-inch force main
- 80 manholes
- 1 Simplex grinder pumping station
- 5 Duplex grinder pumping stations
- 1 150 GPM sewage pumping station
- and, other related appurtenances

The high number of sewage pumping stations to serve such a limited area is required due to the disorganized nature of the drainage pattern and the installation of sanitary sewers within the area is needed to help alleviate a public health problem and a nuisance problem caused by malfunctioning septic tank systems. The project will serve 113 residential customers and three non-residential sewer customers.

Funding for the project, beyond the Community Development Block Grant funding will come from a state appropriation of \$720,000 and \$39,000 tap on fees. For additional information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

### **BURGIN NEARS COMPLETION OF MAIN STREET PROJECT**

The City of Burgin is very near completion of the Main Street phase of its Drinking Water Enhancement Projects. The construction entailed installation of a 6-inch water main to replace a 4-inch line along Main Street. Additionally, installation of the new gate valves was finished in late April as were fire hydrant connections. Further, the sidewalk has been repaired and the disturbed area has been seeded and mulched.

The construction, carrying a contract cost of \$97,879, is being paid for by a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Tobacco Development Grant. For additional information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## **FIREWISE GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE**

The Kentucky Division of Forestry recently announced the availability of the 2005 Firewise Community Grant Program. The program is designed to aid communities in their efforts to reduce or mitigate wildland/urban interface wildfire risk. The objectives of the program are to: 1) provide funds for wildfire mitigation and other Firewise activities, 2) promote closer working relationships with fire departments, communities, counties, and other interested organization, 3) educate the public about the benefits of the Firewise program, and 4) reduce the risk and effects of wildfires in the wildland/urban interface areas.

Grant priority is based on community-at-risk level, formation of Firewise Council, educational efforts, and type of project submitted. The program considers both high and low priority projects. High priority projects include development of a community wildfire hazard assessment, GIS mapping, and educational activities as well as other projects. Low priority requests include signage to identify roads and residences, removal of hazardous fuels, and other mitigation activities.

Projects are funded on an 80/20 cost-share basis. The applicant's 20% match can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. The funding range for projects is to \$1,000-\$50,000. Information along with the grant application can be found at <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/firewise/>. The deadline for submission is July 1, 2005. For questions about the grant program, contact Lora B. Littleton at Bluegrass ADD.

## **COMMERCE CABINET CHIEF OF STAFF TO SPEAK AT JULY THRAC MEETING**

Andrew McNeill, Commerce Cabinet Chief of Staff, is scheduled to speak at the July meeting of the Tourism, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Advisory Committee (THRAC). Mr. McNeill will speak about the Commerce Cabinet's goals for tourism in the state of Kentucky and how it is proceeding with the attainment of those goals. He will also discuss how local chambers of commerce, tourism commissions, and other agencies can help the state reach its goals while assisting in developing their respective communities in the area of tourism. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2005 at 10 a.m. at the Bluegrass ADD office. For more information about THRAC or the July meeting, please contact Lora B. Littleton at the ADD.

## **HARRODSBURG NEARS 75 PERCENT COMPLETION**

The City of Harrodsburg began construction in late September of 2004 for its Water System Improvements Program and is now approximately 75 percent through the construction phase. 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 customers 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.

### **STAMPING GROUND SUSTAINS CONSTRUCTION PACE**

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 line portion of the project is approximately 60 percent complete. The second component of this water system improvements project is the erection of a 200,000- gallon storage tank which is 80 percent complete.

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.

### **BEREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT MOVES FORWARD**

The City of Berea continued making progress with the construction of its Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project which began in June 2004. At mid-May, the project was approximately 68 percent complete as it moves toward a September 23, 2005 completion date. 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.

### **LANCASTER COMPLETES RD REQUIREMENTS**

Lancaster officials continue to move forward with the City's Water System Improvement Project as it finished the documentation necessary to complete the Rural Development Letter Of Conditions. It is anticipated that advertising for bids will take place within the next six weeks. The Environmental Assessment was completed and the City formally requested and received release of funds in mid-February.

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 new water line valves, and 34 fire hydrant assemblies. The project involves system improvements that were recommended 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 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.

### **HARRISON COUNTY CREATES TAX-SUPPORTED FIRE DISTRICT**

The Harrison County Fiscal Court took action in April and in May that will result in the creation of a tax-supported fire district. In an initial reading of ordinances, the Fiscal Court approved the creation of both a fire-taxing district and defined the boundaries of the district. The two volunteer fire districts will merge into one operating unit and the new tax will guarantee continuing financial support for the merged department. The enabling ordinances received their second reading in May.

### **LAWRENCEBURG MOVES INTO NEW CITY HALL BUILDING**

The City of Lawrenceburg has purchased what was formerly the Lawrenceburg Post Office building for its use as a new City Hall. The city paid \$520,000 for the building that was constructed in 1913. City offices began to occupy the building in early May. Upper floor space in the building has been rented to others. The former City Hall building, located on East Woodford Street, will be retained as the City Council Chambers and as the location of the Lawrenceburg Police Department. Lawrenceburg's new City Hall is located at the corner of North Main Street and East Woodford Street—in the heart of the downtown business district.

## **POWELL COUNTY RECEIVES HUD COMMITMENT FOR PHASE II OF THE POWELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SEWER PROJECT**

April not only brought showers, it also brought a HUD CDB grant commitment of \$284,000 to the Powell County Fiscal Court. The HUD grant, extended by the Governor's Office for Local Government, will facilitate the Nada Tunnel Road sewer project that will bring sanitary sewer service to additional rural households in eastern Powell County and will bring added feasibility to the public sewer system in the Slade area of Powell County. That sewer system has been operational for less than two years. For more information, contact Powell County Judge-executive Bobby Drake.

## **STANTON AND CLAY CITY SEEK TO REHABILITATE MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEMS**

The Powell County cities of Stanton and Clay City have a lot in common. For one thing, they are the only cities in Powell County. Each has its own sanitary sewer system and its own wastewater treatment plant. They share the fact that both wastewater treatment plants are operating in excess of the rated capacity of the two treatment plants. To forestall the day when two (or perhaps just one) new or expanded wastewater treatment plant will be needed, each has decided to examine their sewage collections system to determine if there might be cost effective sewer system rehabilitation measures that could be implemented that would reduce the amount of ground and surface waters that enter the sanitary sewer systems. During and following precipitation events, the incoming flows to the two wastewater treatment plants increase dramatically. "If we could just reduce the quantity of inflow and infiltration to the sewer system, we think that our existing wastewater treatment plants might be able to serve us well for years to come," said Stanton Mayor Virginia Wills. "We have the same problem," said Clay City Mayor Jim Caudill. "We get rainwater in the sanitary sewer system after most rains. It is the rainwater that is causing the recorded flows at our wastewater treatment plant to exceed our treatment plant's capacity."

Both cities have procured engineering services to undertake sanitary sewer system evaluation surveys. Each city recently received a \$212,500 appropriation from the General Assembly and each city expects to use a part of those sums to locate and to quantify the source of the inflow/infiltration problems. The balance of those state appropriations would presumably be used to apply to sewer system rehabilitation efforts.

ADD staff have assisted the two cities and continue to offer assistance concerning the sewage woes. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **HARRISON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PLANS EXPANSION**

A \$15 million expansion project is being planned for the Harrison County Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana. The hospital's south wing that has been home to extended care patients will be demolished. In its place will be a three-story addition to house a new emergency room, specialty clinics, expanded outpatient care facilities, radiology, rehabilitation and surgery

areas, and a relocation of women's health services, including obstetrics. The new facilities will also provide space for heart catheterization facilities.

Financial support for the project is expected to come through public and private bond issues as well as a capital fund drive together with cash reserves.

### **MERCER COUNTY AND FAYETTE COUNTY'S NAMES REMOVED FROM THE AIR QUALITY WATCH LIST**

Nobody wants to be identified as the home of dirty air. And so it was that there were smiles and handshakes all around when the Kentucky Division of Air Quality announced in early April that Mercer County and Fayette County were being removed from the list of Kentucky areas suspected of exceeding air quality standards for particulate matter. Determinations of who has dirty air and who does not are based upon a rolling three-year average of air quality monitoring data. Therefore, it was significant that when the 2004 information was added and the 2001 information was dropped from the computation, the air quality in Mercer County and in Fayette County was once again within the allowable limits with respect to particulate matter. Since cleaner and cleaner air seem to be the trend—at least in Central Kentucky—it is hoped that the removal from this list will be a long-term event.

### **GEORGETOWN AND SADIEVILLE CONTINUE SEWER DISCUSSIONS**

In order to handle leachate problems at two closed landfills several miles north of the City of Georgetown, that city may seek to extend sanitary sewer service to northward to convey that leachate back to Georgetown so that it might be treated in one of the city's two wastewater treatment plants. Only a couple of miles further north of the northernmost closed landfill is the City of Sadieville that has been grappling with the problem of what to do with its collected sanitary sewage now that the city's small wastewater treatment plant is approaching the end of its useful life.

Under consideration by some is the extension of Georgetown's planned sanitary sewer (to serve the landfills) and a connection to the planned Georgetown sewers by the Sadieville sewer system. In that way, Sadieville would *not* need to construct, own, or operate a new wastewater treatment plant. It can simply pay Georgetown to take and to treat the wastewaters generated within the City of Sadieville. No final decision has been made, but discussions between the two cities continue.

### **GOING UP—IRVINE'S NEW CITY HALL**

For years, the City of Irvine has been coping—coping with an *old and getting older* City Hall building whose problems are legion. Plans for a new City Hall for Irvine have been discussed for several years as the city has sought to develop financial support for a new building. The financial package finally came together and the new City Hall is rising quickly. The new City Hall is located on Collins Street. Occupancy is planned for around Thanksgiving 2005.

## **RICHMOND LOOKS TO INCREASE CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE**

Water sewer and sewer service are costly commodities. The City of Richmond has taken the initial steps to raise the charges for each of these two municipal services. Gradual increases seem to be in store for both water service and for sewer service. The city expects to begin increasing user charges this year and increase them gradually over a five-year period. At the end of the five-year period, the charge for water service is expected to be about 24 percent greater while the cost of sanitary sewer service is expected to be about 76 percent greater than the present charge.

The increases in user charges are necessary to support a capital projects program of almost \$39 million over the next five years.

## **EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE FITCHBURG FURNACE COMMENCE**

Armed with a \$670,000 grant from the US Forest Service, efforts have begun to preserve and restore the Fitchburg Furnace in Estill County. The charcoal-burning iron-smelting furnace was in operation for only about five years not long after the close of the War Between the States, but it is a landmark and an important part of the Estill County heritage.

## **DANVILLE ADDRESSES FINANCIAL SHORTFALLS**

After months of study aimed at dealing with an anticipated financial shortfall in city revenues, the Danville City Commission has decided on a course of action. Heretofore, the city's solid waste program was operated out of the City's General Fund. The new plan is for a \$10 monthly fee for garbage service that includes solid waste recycling service. The new solid waste fee will be added to city customers' water/sewer bill. Since water service is only billed every other month, Danville residents will see a \$20 fee added to their bi-monthly water bills.

In addition, the city's occupational tax has been increased as well. The old tax of 1.0 percent will be replaced with a 1.25 percent tax.

## **DANVILLE RECEIVES HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TO CORRECT JUNCTION CITY SEWER PROBLEMS**

Neighbors are tired of sewage overflows and bypasses at the Toombs Curve Sewage Pumping Station on old US 127 between Junction City and Danville. Water quality studies of Ball's Branch and of Clark's Run Creek demonstrate impaired water quality because of the frequent sewage overflows and bypasses. Thanks to a recently approved HUD Community Development Block Grant together with a State appropriation from the General Assembly, a solution to these sewage woes is *on the way*. The cities of Danville and Junction City received word from the Governor's Office of Local Government in early May that the joint application filed by the two cities had been approved. The HUD grant is in the amount of \$1,502,000. An earmarked USEPA grant in the net amount of \$482,100 and a State appropriation of \$400,000 will further reduce the out-of-pocket cost to Danville which acquired the Junction City water and sewer utilities in 2004.

The sewer project is expected to have a total estimated cost of about \$3.3 million. Most of the project will involve the replacement of the Toombs Curve sewage pumping station with a 21-inch gravity interceptor that will convey the wastewaters north in the direction of the Danville wastewater treatment plant. A new large pumping station will be constructed south of the US 150 Bypass to pump the wastewaters on to the Danville wastewater treatment plant.

Modifications to other existing Junction City sewage pumping stations and force mains will constitute the remainder of the project. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **PLANS FOR THE CREATION OF A MERCER COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT GETS NOD FROM AREA RESIDENTS**

Mercer County Judge executive John Trisler has been looking for some months at the need for sanitary sewer service beyond the limits of Harrodsburg's sewer system. That planning effort may soon call for the consideration by the Mercer County Fiscal Court of the creation of a sanitation district whose territory would be the entire county exclusive of the area that is sewer served or may someday be sewer served by Harrodsburg.

Areas with sewer needs presently are the Bright Leaf area south of Harrodsburg, the city of Burgin (which is unsewered), some of the Herrington Lakefront areas, and parts of the north central areas in and near Salvisa. "The development of a sanitation district would be dependent, at least in part, upon the availability of grant funds, but the need is certainly there," said Judge Trisler.

The discussion of sewer needs and the possible creation of a Mercer County Sanitation District was taken to a meeting of Bright Leaf area residents in mid-May. The 30 residents who attended the meeting seemed to respond by saying, "The sooner, the better. Let's get on with it."

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **BEN BROWN NAMED WINNER OF THE SHELBY COMBS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Ben Brown a Nicholasville banker and long time member of the Bluegrass ADD Board of Directors was named as the recipient of the Shelby Combs award at the ADD's Annual Meeting in late April. The award can be given to only one individual in a year and is intended to recognize distinguished community service.

## **WILMORE AND NICHOLASVILLE PLAN WATER SYSTEM CONNECTION**

Utilizing a \$100,000 appropriation from the General Assembly, the City of Wilmore plans to connect to the Nicholasville municipal water system. The connection will be made on Drake Lane where the two water systems are only a few hundred feet apart. In addition to a connecting water line, the "hook-up" will require valves and a pump. During normal times, the connection would remain closed, but in the event of an emergency, the valves could be opened and water could move from one community to the other.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT MAKES CONDITIONAL GRANT AND LOAN OFFER TO JESSAMINE-SOUTH ELKHORN WATER DISTRICT FOR SEWER EXTENSIONS**

The second piece of the financial puzzle has fallen into place. Ongoing plans to construct sanitary sewer lines to serve some 600 homes (most of them mobile homes) in northeastern Jessamine County took another step forward in early April. USDA's Rural Development issued Water District a conditional grant offer of \$555,300 and a conditional low interest, long term loan offer of \$750,000 to be applied to a \$5.15 million project to bring first-time sanitary sewer service to more than 1,000 Jessamine Countians.

A Congressionally earmarked US EPA grant offer of \$2,850,700 was formally approved some months ago. The remaining piece of the financial puzzle is a HUD Community Development Block Grant of \$1.0 million for which the Jessamine County Fiscal Court will likely apply in June or July. The project has been in the planning stage since 2000, and some area residents are skeptical that the project will ever see construction. Most building lots in the impacted areas are very small, and on-site sewage problems abound. The conceptual plan is that collected sanitary sewage would go to Lexington-Fayette's West Hickman Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant that is sight of many of the project area residents.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **WILLIAMS NAMED AS COMMISSIONER OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ellen Williams, an Anderson County native, has been named by Governor Ernie Fletcher as the new Commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD). She replaces Darrell Brock who has moved to a different position of leadership.

"Ellen has extensive experience with public officials at every level of government," said Governor Fletcher. "She is a dedicated public servant who shares our vision of extending opportunities to all Kentuckians and making our state a better place to live, work, and raise families. I am confident in her ability to coordinate our efforts with federal and local governments to implement initiatives to move Kentucky forward." Just a year ago, Ms. Williams was appointed as the Vice-chair of the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

The Governor's Office for Local Development (known formerly as the Department for Local Government) works with Kentucky's area development districts and with units of local governments on a myriad of project and programs. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority was recently moved within State Government to be a part of GOLD.

## **BLUEGRASS WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION CONTINUES FORWARD STRIDES**

It was only slightly more than two months ago when the General Assembly put its stamp of approval on the efforts of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission by way of a \$900,000 appropriation to the BWS Commission via the Kentucky River Authority. Armed with the knowledge of that state financial support for its Phase 1 Construction Project, the BWSC has acted to accept twin

loan offers from agencies of the Kentucky League of Cities and the Kentucky Association of Counties. Those short term low interest loans are intended to allow the water commission to continue to operate and to plan for the implementation of its initial construction project, which, when completed, will give the Commission a stream of revenue from the sale of potable water to water utilities who are a part of the regional water supply effort.

The Bluegrass Water Supply Commission was legally constituted last August. Already, it has bylaws, officers, a budget for the year beginning July 1, a structure of active committees, an interim staff, legal advisor, a financial advisor, regular monthly meetings, a master planning engineering consultant, and recently selected a technical team to undertake a routing study aimed at identifying the best of alternative routes for the Phase 1 Construction Project. The Phase 1 Project will be a large diameter pipeline to connect the water system of the Frankfort Electric and Water Plant Board in southeastern Franklin County to the system of the Kentucky American Water Company in northern Fayette County. Ideally, the routing study can be completed in a few months, and the acquisition of rights-of-way together with the final engineering design for the Phase 1 Project can commence. The expectation is that the Phase 1 Construction Project can be completed and available for use in about 24 months.

One of the early tasks of the master planning engineering consultant is to help to identify a site for the regional drinking water plant that is expected to be constructed near the Kentucky River's Pool 3 in northern Franklin County. Discussions with the Department for Environmental Protection's Division of Water are ongoing so that the regulators can advise the effort as it progresses.

The BWS Commission sees itself as a supporter of the Kentucky River Authority, which seeks to insure structural integrity of the crucial Kentucky River dams. The river authority is presently dealing with Dams 10 and 9, and may address long-term concerns relative to Dam 3 once the BWS Commission has a water treatment plant site under option within Pool 3. A member of the Kentucky River Authority acts as an ex-officio member of the BWS Commission. An offer has been extended to the Kentucky Governor's Office for Local Development to name its own representative who would also serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Commissioners of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission.

Member communities of the regional water commission are Cynthiana, Paris, Mt. Sterling, Winchester, Lexington-Fayette, Nicholasville, Georgetown, Frankfort, and Lancaster. The Kentucky American Water Company has no voting representation on the commission, but is considered a full partner in the regional water supply effort.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at (859) 269-8021 or (859) 230-5005.

## **CABLE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE SET**

The Second Annual Kentucky Cable and Telecommunications Conference is scheduled for September 15, 2005 at the Sheraton Suites Hotel in Lexington. This one-day seminar will focus on important issues that local governments across Kentucky face with regard to the challenges of cable franchise renewal, customer service issues, transfers of control, cable rate regulation and administration of public, educational and governmental access.

Specific topics for presentation and discussion will include:

- Cable Franchise Renewal and Transfer of Control
- Kentucky Tax Modernization: Understanding the new telecommunications excise fees
- Cable Technology, FCC Standards and Electrical Safety
- Municipally Owned Wireless Internet Service
- Public, Educational and Governmental Assess
- The Industry Perspective
- The Future for Local Governments

The conference has been approved for six hours of County Elected Officials Training Incentive Credit as well as six hours of CLE credit by the Kentucky Bar Association. For general information contact Dave Ewen at the ADD. For other seminar specifics and registration information, please contact Linda Ain by phone (859) 224-3035 or by email: [lindaain@insightbb.com](mailto:lindaain@insightbb.com).

## **BLUEGRASS ADD ASSISTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES PREPARE FOR NIMSCAST**

The United States Department of Homeland Security established the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the national standard for incident management. NIMS protocols will be used in any emergency requiring response from a federal, state, or local agency. Kentucky's first responder community has been at the forefront of adopting these systems and as such most of the compliance requirements have already been implemented by public safety agencies.

As the official State Agency for the US Department of Homeland Security, the KY Office of Homeland Security has been tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that Kentucky is NIMS compliant by FY 2006 (**August 1, 2005**) and that certain benchmarks are met...

In this regard, the Bluegrass ADD will be assisting the KOHS in the establishment and implementation of NIMSCAST, which is a web-based, self-assessment system that Kentucky and local governments can use to evaluate their incident response and management capabilities. This tool is currently available at [www.NIMSONline.com](http://www.NIMSONline.com) and should be used to measure your agency's compliance. There will be a regional workshop pertaining to NIMSCAST in the Bluegrass ADD on **June 14, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Kentucky Transportation Building auditorium in Frankfort, Kentucky. County Judge Executives, Mayors, Local Emergency Management Directors, and Regional Emergency Management Directors are encouraged to attend this meeting in order to gain better insight on their community's NIMS compliance. Local NIMSCAST workshops are to follow throughout the months of June and July. A Bluegrass ADD staff member will soon be in contact with all County (and City) Emergency Management Personnel or Government Official to set up the local NIMSCAST meeting. For more information concerning Bluegrass ADD's NIMSCAST effort(s), please contact Matt Belcher at the ADD.

## **2004-05 WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

Efforts continue this fiscal year on a vital project that began in late 2003—the wastewater management plan. As proposed and furthered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority in mid-2003, the wastewater management plan has continued with little departure from its original goal—to assess the nature and delivery of wastewater service throughout the Bluegrass Region and explore the possibility of comprehensive wastewater service delivery, utilizing the best available technology. Data collection and background research was completed in order to explore what is currently in place with respect to the various municipalities and independent utility districts that offer wastewater service. Local planning meetings were held with various elected county and city officials, wastewater utility and health department environmentalists, as well as consulting engineers and the general public. These meetings outlined what wastewater service was currently available and attempted to address future service, or at least lay a groundwork, for future wastewater service. It should be noted that this is a planning exercise not a mandate. By developing a coverage strategy and long-term plans with respect to wastewater in our cities and counties, communities will be better prepared to accommodate development. Residents will have a better service due to this effort on the part of utilities and elected officials to plan for and take responsibility for a vital part of our infrastructure. Two examples of where this cooperative effort is already taking place are Mercer County and Lincoln County. In both cases, elected officials, utility managers, state agencies, and the public have made a commitment to work together and plan for the future delivery of wastewater service in their area. The value of adequate wastewater service cannot be overstated.

## **NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RELIES ON LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

As the Local and Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan enters its final stages, it is important to make clear the main focus of the entire planning effort—your hazard mitigation projects. As the local hazard mitigation planning meetings over the past several months have tried to emphasize, this planning effort is mainly about enabling you to indicate what natural hazard mitigation projects are important in your community and then assisting you in turning those goals into realistic, workable projects. This is great opportunity for you, whether you are local elected official, a law enforcement or fire official, emergency management operator, a member of the business or educational community, or an average citizen, to bring your knowledge to the table concerning natural hazards and what can be done about their dangers in your community. A variety of natural hazards are discussed at the local hazard mitigation planning meetings, everything from flooding to winter storms. As history has taught us, especially recent history, our region is replete with natural hazard related fatalities and property damage. Join in the effort to put forth projects that will lessen the impact natural hazards have on your city or county. This is a planning effort we can all benefit from.

For more information about the Regional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and local planning in your area, please contact Matt Belcher, Lora Littleton, or Josh Ayoroa at the Bluegrass ADD.

**MEETING CALL**

ADD Quarterly Board Meeting	6/29 7/27 6:00 p.m.
Homeland Security Council	6/15 2:00 p.m.
Development Advisory Commission	7/5 2:00 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	7/6 4:00 p.m.
Transportation Advisory Committee	6/13 7/13 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation, Recreation Advisory Committee	7/12 10:00 a.m.
Aging Council	6/8 7/13 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	6/5 4:15 p.m.
Human Services Advisory Committee	6/20 1:30 p.m.

ALL meeting dates/times subject to change.

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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FAX (859) 269-7917

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