

A Publication of the Bluegrass Area Development District

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

ADD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAS SEKHON STEPS DOWN

Jas Sekhon, Bluegrass ADD's first and only executive director, stepped down from that post in November. Mr. Sekhon's tenure began when he was hired in November, 1971 to head an organization that existed only on paper. For a time, he was Bluegrass ADD's only employee. Originally, he operated the ADD out of his briefcase and out of his car as he traveled to city halls and courthouses in each of the ADD's 17 counties to enlist support for the then fledgling ADD organization. Some ADDs have had more than one executive director in that span of time, but Bluegrass ADD had known only one.

Mr. Sekhon, a native of India, made friends and earned respect wherever he went. Although he picked up experience in each of the ADD's ever-growing number of program areas as he went along, he never lost the abiding interest in his *first love* of economic development and community/regional planning.

He often pointed pride to the fact that, on more than one occasion in the early years, he introduced—for the first time—mayors of cities from adjoining counties. He promoted intergovernmental cooperation when that term was little understood and even less often practiced. This resulted in numerous partnerships. For years, he kept on the wall of his office the framed slogan *Working Together Works*. Those who followed in his footsteps came to understand that, now in the 21st century, working together does indeed work.

Mr. Sekhon will continue his efforts to foster economic development and job creation within the Bluegrass Region that he loves so well. Those he trained at the ADD and the thousands of elected, appointed, and lay leaders with whom he came in contact during his 34 years at the ADD will enjoy and seek to imitate the professional legacy that he leaves behind.

To Jas Sekhon goes the salute of many!

<u>HIGHLIGHTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
ADD Executive Director Jas Sekhon Steps Down	1
ADD Seeks to Assist Clay City with Sewer Rehabilitation Efforts	6
Child Passenger Safety Takes Center Stage	5
Firewise Planning Efforts Begin	13
Grandparent and Older Relative Caregiver Conference	4
Handy House and Farm Named to the National Register of Historic Places	10
Harrodsburg Looks To Bid Tobacco Projects	11
Harrodsburg Water Project's Completion In Sight	11
Heart of Danville Merges with Other Danville/Boyle County Agencies	10
Katrina National Emergency Grant (NEG) and Hurricane Evacuee Job Fest	14
Lancaster Signs Contract For Water Project	12
Lawrenceburg Has Grant Agreement Meeting	12
Lincoln County Property Insurance Rates May be Reduced	9
Medicare Prescription Drug Program Outreach Efforts	3
Mercer County's New Adult Day Care Opens	14
Natural Bridge State Resort Park Gains a New Manager	9
Planning for Caregivers of Disabled Children	4
Powell County Officials Deal with Wastewater Issues and Intergovernmental Cooperation	8
Regional Efforts Continue to Address Water Supply Needs	7
Robertson Named as the New Commissioner at the Governor's Office for Local Development	4
Seniors' Legislative Issues for the 2006 Session	13
Stamping Ground's Water and Sewer Utilities Acquisition by Georgetown a Done Deal	10
Stanford Addresses Water Supply Issues; Prepares to Examine Wastewater Concerns	8
Stanton Seeks to Address Water Distribution Deficiencies	7
Stoltz Named BGADD Executive Director	2
Upcoming Special Events and Festivals	15
Winchester Chosen as Site for Japanese Auto Parts Industry	5

LENNY STOLTZ II: NEW BGADD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lenny Stoltz II, became the new Executive Director of Bluegrass Area Development District on December 1, 2005. Mr. Stoltz began working at the ADD in 1984 as the Assistant Financial Officer and served as Financial Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Assistant Executive Director over the past 21 years at Bluegrass ADD. During that time, he has guided the BGADD and its counties through numerous computer system updates, moving the BGADD from an expensive mainframe system to the present day networked environment. Additionally, he assisted the counties of Jessamine and Scott with their computer migrations. The result has been a very affordable accounting system for the counties. With the rise of the internet, he piloted the BGADD and several member counties in their need for firewall and networked environments.

Mr. Stoltz served in the U.S. Air Force military police. He was a co-founder of the widely used "GOLD Book" which gave him valuable skills in publishing. A Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky gave him a solid understanding of finance principles that enabled him to successfully handle the finances of the ADD.

Now at the helm, Mr. Stoltz looks forward to guiding the group of professionals at Bluegrass ADD in assisting the judge-executives and Mayors in the district. By building on the leadership of his mentor and predecessor, Jas Sekhon, Mr. Stoltz looks forward to exploring new opportunities to serve the 17 counties and 34 cities with services that an ADD can provide with an economy of scale. The development of these services will be vital in assisting the ADD's elected officials with meeting the demands they are now facing in the 21st century.

BLUEGRASS AREA AGENCY ON AGING PARTNERS WITH CENTRAL KENTUCKY COMPUTER SOCIETY (CKCS) FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM OUTREACH EFFORTS

The Area Agency on Aging organized a Medicare Part "D" volunteer training event with CKCS members on Jan. 19th in Lexington. Eighteen volunteers completed training to assist Bluegrass Area Medicare participants with plan selection and registration. Some CKCS members have been assisting the staff of the Fayette County Senior Citizen Center in weekly registrations on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for walk in clients who need assistance in accessing the Medicare Website. CKCS members also assisted the AAA staff with past sign up events that were held in Estill, Woodford, Garrard and Bourbon Counties. Since many Medicare participants are still in need of assistance, the AAA is currently planning repeat sign up events in all the Bluegrass Counties and at the CKCS office in Lexington before open enrollment ends on May 15th. A Scott County sign up event took place on February 10th at the

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

Georgetown Public Library with Mayor Varney and Regional Coordinator for Medicare Today, Susan Everett as special event speakers. On March 13 & 14, the AAA will host a Medicare sign up at the Downtown Lexington Public Library in conjunction with the Nathaniel Mission here in Lexington. For more information on the Central Kentucky Computer Society visit their website at WWW.CKCS.ORG . If you know of any persons or groups who would like to volunteer for training in assisting with Medicare plan selection, or would like more information on Bluegrass Regional Medicare events, contact Randy Lawson at Bluegrass ADD.

GRANDPARENT AND OLDER RELATIVE CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

Area Agency on Aging staff continues planning efforts for the Bluegrass Regional Grandparents and Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Conference scheduled to be held in Lexington on March 23, 2006 at the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Services Office on Red Mile Road. The planning group has finished scheduling the bulk of the program and continues to work to secure speakers, as well as, procuring the contents of the resources manuals that will be given to all conference participants to take home.

PLANNING FOR CAREGIVERS OF DISABLED CHILDREN

Area Agency on Aging staff attended the quarterly meeting of the State Caregiver Coordinators in Louisville on December 14, 2006. The informational speaker for the day was Carolyn Wheeler of the University of Kentucky's Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute. Ms. Wheeler spoke about the services and resources available to help older caregivers of adults with disabilities plan for the care of their dependent loved ones upon their, the caregiver's, death. The barriers to such planning are both societal and institutional in nature, and Ms. Wheeler emphasized the need to engage the services of a skilled trusts attorney in developing a plan to provide for needed services upon the caregiver's death or incapacitation. Ms. Wheeler's presentation was excellent and she was well received by those present - - many of whom have struggled with providing information and support to families in these situations.

Ms. Wheeler and her colleagues at IHDI will be hosting two overview planning workshops on February 28 and March 13, 2006 at the Beaumont Public Library Branch, on Fieldstone Way, off of Harrodsburg Road. For more information, contact Carolyn at (859) 257-2080 Ext. 223 or cwheeler@uky.edu.

ROBERTSON NAMED AS THE NEW COMMISSIONER AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Governor Fletcher has named Steve Robertson, a Lexington native, as the new commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Government (GOLD). Mr. Roberson assumed his new post on January 20. Previously,

he was the Deputy Commissioner at GOLD, serving with Commissioner Ellen Williams who recently resigned.

Mr. Robertson has a long work history in public service both in Kentucky and elsewhere. He also has worked for Senate President David Williams as a legislative analyst for the Local and State Government Committee.

The Governor's Office for Local Development assists local governments and non-profit organizations in securing funding for community and infrastructure projects and also provides technical support to local governments regarding fiscal management practices.

Mr. Robertson resides on his Mercer County farm with his wife and daughter. The Bluegrass ADD welcomes Mr. Robertson to this important post and pledges to cooperate with him and with GOLD.

WINCHESTER CHOSEN AS SITE FOR JAPANESE AUTO PARTS INDUSTRY

A new industrial plant is headed for Winchester. Sekisui S-LEC America LLC has selected a 23 acre site within a new section of the northside industrial park. The company will construct a \$43 million plant that will employ 80 in its initial phase of development. Eventually, the company expects that employment will exceed several hundred. The plant will primarily supply auto plants in I-75 corridor. According to Winchester Mayor Dodd Dixon, this industrial plant will be Sekisui's first in the U.S. Other manufacturing plants are in Japan, The Netherlands, China, Thailand, and Mexico.

In its Winchester facility, Sekisui will manufacture a film used on automotive glass. More specifically, the product is a solar control interlayer capable of filtering out ultraviolet rays together with much of the heat rays. According to the company's Web site, the Sekisui film can reduce the temperature of a steering wheel of a vehicle left in a parking lot on a hot day by about 10 degrees. Sekisui said that the Winchester plant's production is expected to be about 6 million units a year, beginning in the autumn of 2007. In its initial phase, the industrial plant's annual payroll is expected to be in excess of \$4 million.

For more information, contact Winchester-Clark County Industrial Development Authority Executive Todd Denham or Winchester Mayor Dodd Dixon or Clark County Judge-executive John Myers.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TAKES CENTER STAGE

National Child Passenger Safety Week, which is scheduled each year during the week of Valentine's Day, is February 12 - 18, 2006. In honor of this week, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Division of Driver Safety and its Drive Smart program, in conjunction with the ADD, is extending awareness throughout the entire month of February, celebrating Kentucky's first ever Child Passenger Safety Month. As part

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

of state level awareness activities, certified technicians from the Kentucky Child Passenger Safety Team and ADD staff will be conducting free child passenger safety seat inspections throughout the ADD and the state. There will be events in twenty-four Kentucky cities beginning, four of which will be within the ADD. Nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will check for recalls and inspect seats for proper installation and usage. On average, 98% of the seats inspected are installed or being used improperly. Locations for the checks in the ADD are the following:



February 16, 2005

Danville, KY: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Danville Fire Department, Central Station on 420 West Main Street

Lexington, KY: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Paul Miller Ford on 975 New Circle Road

February 24, 2006

Irvine, KY: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Estill County Fire Department on 202 Whispering Woods Road

Parents will be educated on installation techniques and receive child occupant protection information. All participants should allow approximately 20 minutes per seat. Please remember, an average of seven children (ages 0-14) are killed and another 866 are injured in motor vehicle crashes each day nationwide. In over half of these collisions, the children were riding unrestrained, either improperly secured in a child safety seat or not wearing a safety belt.

ADD SEEKS TO ASSIST CLAY CITY WITH SEWER REHABILITATION EFFORTS

For several years, Clay City has been operating its municipal wastewater treatment plant at or near its rated capacity. This issue has been brought to the attention of the regulators at the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Enforcement who seek some sort of remedial action. Since many of the high flows recorded at the wastewater treatment plant can be traced to rainfall events that contribute infiltration within the sewer system, city leaders have concluded that the initial step should be to quantify the problem in the system of sanitary sewers, to identify the sources of the problem, and to seek to rehabilitate the sewers for the purpose of reducing the hydraulic loading upon the city's wastewater treatment plant.

The ADD sought to assist Clay City in 2004 in the procurement of professional engineering services aimed at dealing with the problems associated with the system of sewers. That effort has now fully played out as the city and the selected engineering firm could not reach agreement on the terms of a contract between the two parties.

Accordingly, the city now intends to begin the process of engineering procurement anew, and once again, the ADD seeks to offer advice and assistance. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

STANTON SEEKS TO ADDRESS WATER DISTRIBUTION DEFICIENCIES

The City of Stanton has come under scrutiny from the Division of Enforcement at the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection concerning certain deficiencies within the municipal water distribution system. In fact, the Division has entered into an Agreed Order with the City of Stanton whereby the city has agreed to address water system deficiencies according to a specific timetable.

More specifically, many of the city's potable water storage facilities are in poor repair. In addition, the system hydraulics appear to be poorly configured. Accordingly, Stanton city officials undertook a year ago to commission an engineering study of the municipal water distribution system. The results of that study are now in hand and water distribution system improvements costing approximately \$1.8 million have been identified.

The ADD has sought to assist Stanton city officials and the city's engineering consultant by developing a financial game plan which could be used to bring together a funding package to address these pressing water system needs. Water rates in Stanton are already among the highest in the Bluegrass Area, and it becomes important that state and federal grants opportunities be maximized so as to minimize the impact upon local water rates of this expensive capital project. The Tobacco Development Fund at the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, the HUD Community Development Block Grant program, and the Rural Development Water and Waste grant and loan program have all been identified as possible funding sources. ADD efforts to assist the City of Stanton are ongoing. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

REGIONAL EFFORTS CONTINUE TO ADDRESS WATER SUPPLY NEEDS

The nine community Bluegrass Water Supply Commission continues to deal with problems associated with the deficiencies in local and regional water supplies. Participating communities and partners are Cynthiana, Frankfort, Georgetown, Kentucky-American Water Company, Lancaster, Lexington-Fayette, Mt. Sterling, Nicholasville, Paris, and Winchester. The City of Berea, which continues to experience increased water supply problems with its four small reservoirs, has shown a recent interest in participation within the regional effort.

The immediate efforts of the commission involve the development of a near-term answer to the water needs of the regional which are most acute within the Kentucky-American Water Company system.

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

Kentucky-American Water has been under the scrutiny of the Kentucky Public Service Commission for several years. The PSC has and continues to urge prompt action to deal with a deficiency in water supply and treatment which are most evident during hot and dry times such as the summer-autumn season just ended. After two consecutive years of above average precipitation, the Central Kentucky area concluded calendar year 2005 with precipitation totals about 12 ½ inches *below* normal.

While the long-term plan of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission remains unchanged, the issue of addressing short-term needs has proved to be a thorny situation. Various options are being studied, and it is hoped by the arrival of spring, some consensus will develop concerning how and by what means at least some measure of water supply relief can be brought to the utility most in need of additional water supply soon—that being the Kentucky-American Water Company. Other member communities would be served as the water supply pipeline system *builds out* over time.

For more information, contact Tom Calkins, the Commission Chair at 859-885-1121, or Don Hassall, General Manager of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission at 859-269-8021 or dhassall@bgadd.org.

POWELL COUNTY OFFICIALS DEAL WITH WASTEWATER ISSUES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The cities of Stanton and Clay City together operate sanitary sewer systems that serve about 98 percent of Powell County residents who presently are served by a public sewer system. And so, it becomes of critical importance when both of those municipalities experience regulatory problems that have drawn the attention of the Division of Enforcement within the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection. More particularly, increased urbanization and the growth of business and industry become considerably hampered when wastewater treatment capacity is unavailable.

And so it is that an intergovernmental group has formed to seek to address these issues from the point of cooperative and collaborative action. The Bluegrass ADD is pleased to have been asked to join with that group in its attempts to identify affordable and approvable near-term answers to this issue that threatens Powell County's growth and economic development. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

STANFORD ADDRESSES WATER SUPPLY ISSUES; PREPARES TO EXAMINE WASTEWATER CONCERNS

The City of Stanford is nearing closure on the development of a financial package that will allow it at last to access the waters of a reservoir that the city purchased several years ago—the Buck Creek Reservoir that is located east of US 27 some few miles south of Stanford.

The completion of this financial package should allow Stanford officials to install the raw water transmission line from the reservoir to the municipal water treatment plant so that this new water source can at last be tapped.

Even as issues relating to the municipal water system appears to be approaching at least a near-term resolution, community needs relating to the municipal wastewater treatment plant have been identified. ADD staff expect to be working with Stanford Mayor Eddie Carter and with representatives of the Stanford Water Commission in attempt to develop a financial package that will allow the city to address issues relating to needed improvements at the municipal wastewater treatment plant.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE REVIEW OF BUILDING CODE IN LINCOLN COUNTY MAY LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES

The Insurance Services Office, a private agency affiliated with the insurance industry, plans an evaluation of Lincoln County's building code in the near future. Local leaders are excited about the prospects for the review since it is thought that improvements in the county's building inspection program as well as the county's new planning and zoning regulations (which include setback requirements for housing) will give ISO an opportunity to upgrade the local fire protection grading and, hence, could serve to reduce property insurance costs. It has been eight years since ISO last conducted such an evaluation in Lincoln County. For more information, contact Lincoln County Judge-executive R.W. Gilbert.

NATURAL BRIDGE STATE RESORT PARK GAINS A NEW MANAGER

Ron Vanover has been named as the new manager of Natural Bridge State Resort Park, which is the only state resort park within the Bluegrass Area Development District. He replaces Wilson Francis who recently retired. Mr. Vanover comes to Natural Bridge Park from Jenny Wiley State Resort Park where he was park naturalist and recreation supervisor. A man of many talents, Mr. Vanover has performed from time to time at the Kentucky Opry in Prestonsburg. He sings ballads, opera, and classical music. He has acted in more than ten plays. He is also an avid outdoorsman. With such a colorful and lengthy resume, he is in a position to build upon the outstanding opportunities for rest and recreation that are available at Natural Bridge State Park. For more information, contact Lora Littleton at the ADD.

HEART OF DANVILLE MERGES WITH OTHER DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY AGENCIES

Danville is a special place. Visitors to this community recognize this from the onset. The wide, colorful, and active *Main Street* is just a hint of the special-ness of this place. *Heart of Danville* has, for several years, been struggling with budgetary issues and, beginning January 1, its merger with the Danville-Boyle County Economic Development Partnership became official. *Heart of Danville* will continue to sponsor the Christmas Parade, Whimsy in Weisiger, Trick-or-Treat on Main Street, and the Farmers Market. "We're going to do our thing and do it well, even better," said *Heart of Danville* Executive Director Julie Wagner. "We're doing everything we can do to make this a smooth transition."

The Danville-Boyle County Economic Development Partnership is a merger of the *Heart of Danville* Main Street Program, the Boyle County Community Development Council, and the Boyle County Industrial Foundation. The partnership will work closely with the Danville-Boyle County Chamber of Commerce and the Danville-Boyle County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

HANDY HOUSE AND FARM NAMED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Cynthiana's Handy house and farm are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The farm was registered on November 25. The listing does *not* mean that the property—which includes the much debated house—will be saved. Neither does it mean that the house can be demolished. A representative of the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) said that if local or state monies are used on the property, the listing on the National Register does nothing. If federal funds are used, however, the Kentucky Heritage Council will have a voice in the process. The spokesperson for KHC said that "a lot of buildings are impacted by federal projects and it has actually resulted in the buildings' demolition."

ACQUISITION OF STAMPING GROUND'S WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES BY GEORGETOWN A *DONE DEAL*

A willing buyer and a willing seller; that's what it took. Stamping Ground officials in mid-January signed the papers turning over to the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Services (GMWSS) the ownership and the operation of the water and wastewater utilities at Stamping Ground. The nearly \$600,000 purchase includes \$160,000 to be used for *radio-read* water meters and other improvements. Stamping Ground will contribute \$20,000 and the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service will pay \$90,000 with the Scott County Fiscal Court agreeing to pay at least \$480,000. The City of Stamping Ground will also cover operating losses that GMWSS incurs—up to \$35,000 annually for five years. Water and sewer customers in Stamping Ground are expected

to receive their last utility bill from the City of Stamping Ground in February. Thereafter, bills for water and wastewater service will be coming from the GMWSS.

HARRODSBURG LOOKS TO BID TOBACCO PROJECTS

The City of Harrodsburg received approval the Grant Agreements it submitted for two Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Tobacco Development Grants totaling \$1.0 million. The Agreements will provide funding for two much needed projects.

The first project, the Anderson-Dean Park Pump Station Replacement, came with a \$250,000 Tobacco Grant, and will provide improvements to the collection system and increase capacity. The project includes replacing an existing grinder station with a duplex non-clog pump station, installing approximately 3,200 linear feet of 6-inch force main, and upgrading the downstream station.

The second successful application is for the Harrodsburg's South Interceptor Extension project for which Tobacco Development grant funds in the amount of \$750,000 have been made available. The project includes the construction of an interceptor sewer to collect and transport existing and future flows from the south and east sections of the Harrodsburg planning area. Further, the project included approximately 4,500 liner feet of 24-inch diameter sewer lines, 15 manholes and two highway bores.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

HARRODSBURG WATER PROJECT'S COMPLETION IN SIGHT

The City of Harrodsburg began construction in late September of 2004 for its Water System Improvements Program and is now approximately 99 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.

LANCASTER SIGNS CONTRACT FOR WATER PROJECT

Lancaster officials moved forward with the City's Water System Improvement Project as it went to contract in mid-November and construction is underway. Multiple bids were received in August but all carried costs above the funds available for the project. Local officials will draw Tobacco Development grant funds and additional support from Rural Development to cover the shortfall.

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. The Rural Development funding comes from a \$250,000 low interest loan and a grant of \$245,000. Total project costs are expected to be \$1.19 million. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

LAWRENCEBURG HAS GRANT AGREEMENT MEETING

The Governor's Office for Local Development met with Lawrenceburg local officials in mid-November to review the Community Development Block Grant agreement between the two entities. The award of a \$759,000 grant will be for construction of the Stringtown Sewer Project. The Environmental Assessment has been completed and evidentiary documentation is being gathered. The project will provide sewer service to an urbanized unincorporated area (Stringtown) south of Lawrenceburg's corporate limits in Anderson County. The project is expected to serve 146 residential customers and three non-residential users.

The more than \$1.62 million project will see the construction of:

- 2.2 miles of 8-inch sanitary sewer line
- 1.9 miles of 4-inch sanitary service line
- 3.0 miles of 2- and 4-inch force main
- 60 manholes
- 150 service connections
- 16 Simplex grinder pumping station

- 4 Duplex grinder pumping stations
- 1 150 GPM sewage pumping station
- and, other related appurtenances.

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

TWO BGADD COMMUNITIES BEGIN FIREWISE PLANNING EFFORTS

Estill and Lincoln Counties recently began planning for wildfire mitigation activities in accordance with their awarded FY 2006 Firewise grants. The Firewise grant program is intended to assist communities in their mitigation efforts for wildfires in the wildland/urban interface area.

Last year, Estill County completed a community wildfire hazard assessment under their FY 2005 Firewise award. The county is now in the process of planning community workshops and events to educate citizens about wildfire mitigation practices and how they can lessen potential damage to their homes from wildfires. This is one of the many recommendations that came out of the county's wildfire hazard assessment, which focused on at-risk areas of the county and what measures could be taken to lower their risk of wildfire damage.

Lincoln County is using their Firewise grant to complete a community wildfire hazard assessment for the county. A workgroup is currently identifying high-risk areas and collecting GIS data. The county will develop recommended actions to mitigate the at-risk areas of the county.

For more information on the Firewise grant program and how your community can benefit, contact Lora B. Littleton at the ADD.

SENIORS' LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR THE 2006 SESSION

The senior citizens of Kentucky will be watching the 2006 Legislative session closely as there are several issues of interest to those over the age of sixty.

The first item of interest is increased funding for senior services. Kentucky's Aging and disability programs currently have a list of approximately 3800 individuals waiting for services for Homecare, Adult Daycare, and the Personal Care Attendant Program. The Aging network has requested that the General Assembly increase State funding by 20% for each year of the 2006-2008 biennium and by joint resolution endorse as a goal equal or greater increase for each year of the 2008-2010 biennium.

The second item of interest is an issue confronting grandparents currently raising 5.7% of Kentucky's children. They do not currently have the authority to make educational decisions for those minor children left to their care including enrolling them in school, participating in athletic and other extracurricular activities and involvement in any discipline regarding the student. Also, they currently cannot consent to medical treatment for those children. Changes to the Kentucky Revised Statutes could address these concerns.

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

House Bill 362 would establish staffing ratios in nursing homes. This bill would establish staff to patient ratios that exceed federal staffing standards. It proposes no fewer than One nurse aide to eight residents during the day shift, one aide to 12 residents during the evening shift and one to 18 residents during the night shift. Licensed staff ratios would be one nurse to 30 resident during day and evening shift and one nurse to 50 residents during night shift.

House Bill 300 is an act relating to Powers of Attorney. This bill would require an accounting of all property received or disposed of by the attorney in fact in a durable power of attorney situation if the court determines, during a hearing, that the attorney in fact breached fiduciary duties or acted against the best interest of the person for whom they were acting as power of attorney.

KATRINA NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT (NEG) AND HURRICANE EVACUEE JOB FEST

The Bluegrass Area Development District has received a National Emergency Grant of \$350,000 to assist hurricane evacuees throughout the central Kentucky area in securing jobs by providing them with support services in the form of bus passes, gas cards, minor auto repairs, interview and work clothing, childcare, tools, training, and other necessary expenses related to employment. Some of the companies that have agreed to provide these services are Goody's Family Clothing, S & S Tire and Auto, Ken Towery Auto Care Centers, Speedway/Superamerica, and LEX-Tran. In addition, the Bluegrass Area Development District and the Central Kentucky Job Centers will host a job fest on Friday, February 24, 2006 at Centenary United Methodist Church located at 2800 Tates Creek Road in Lexington for the hurricane evacuees throughout the region. This event will provide an opportunity for employers and evacuees to connect with each other and to fulfill their employment needs immediately. Other partners that will be providing information and services include Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Internal Revenue Service, and the Childcare Council of Kentucky. For more information, contact Paula England, Hurricane Reintegration Counselor at the ADD.

MERCER COUNTY'S NEW ADULT DAY CARE OPENS

A dedication ceremony was held at the NEW Mercer County Adult Day Care Center on January 24th at 11:00 am. Ruby Dunn, Director of the Mercer County Senior Citizen Center had a dream of one day opening an adult day care center. With the hard work and planning from so many individuals, her dream is now a reality!

The Mercer County Adult Day Care is located at the Senior Citizen Center. A new wing was built especially for the Adult Day Care program. The new center should open some time in the next month or two. There are still some finalizations that must be done before the center can open.

Once open, this center will provide care to senior citizens that would otherwise be homebound or in a nursing home. In some cases this program will allow a caregiver to continue working instead of staying home to care for

their loved one. There will be many activities for the participants including exercise, music, games, trivia, crafts, current events, and much much more. Adult Day Care is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to get out and socialize and learn and have fun. Staff will be trained to care for seniors that are physically disabled, frail, mentally confused in need of supervision, have emotional or social needs, or may be of ANY age with a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer's Disease or related disorder.



Ruby Dunn cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony for the NEW Mercer County Adult Day Care.

This center will be a brilliant addition to the already excellent care and service that seniors receive in Mercer County. Please stop by and visit the new Mercer County Adult Day Care!!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Many communities in the Bluegrass area held successful holiday events during the past several weeks. Although the post-holiday season is typically slower for some areas, several events are still planned through the end of winter and into early spring. Below is a list of some of those events along with persons to contact for additional information.

Fayette County—

Bluegrass Trust Antiques & Garden Show (March 10-12)
Keeneland
Contact: Tracee de Hahn, 859-253-0362

Mercer County—

The Sunshine Boys (Feb. 10-12 & 17-19)
Ragged Edge Community Theatre Fashion Show & Tea (Feb. 20)
Aspen Hall Manor (By reservation only)
Mother Ann's Birthday (March 1)
Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
An Emerald Evening: Irish Music and Dance (March 17-18)
Ragged Edge Community Theatre
Antique and Collectible Show & Sale (March 25-26)
Cricketeer Building
Easter Egg Hunt (April 15)
Old Fort Harrod State Park

Contact: Karen Hackett, 859-734-2364

For information about other events in the Bluegrass ADD throughout the year or if you would like to make sure that your local events are included, please contact Lora B. Littleton at the ADD.

MEETING CALL

Executive Board	2/22 3/29 7:00 p.m.
Homeland Security Council	2/15 2:00 p.m.
Development Advisory Commission	Feb. 2:00 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	3/1 4:00 p.m.
Transportation Advisory Committee	3/13 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation, Recreation Advisory Committee	3/14 10:00 a.m.
Aging Council	2/8 3/8 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	2/8 4:15 p.m.
Human Services Advisory Committee	2/20 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	Lenny P. Stoltz II

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