

### **ADD BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, MEMBERS**

At its meeting on January 31, the ADD Board of Directors elected new officers, some citizen Board members, and the full 17-member Executive Board. Re-elected to a second term were Lincoln County Judge/Executive R. W. Gilbert (Chairman) and Dodd Dixon of Winchester (Vice Chairman). Nicholas County Judge/Executive Larry Tincher was chosen to be Secretary, and Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson was elected Treasurer. The terms of the new officers will begin at the April Annual Board of Directors meeting.

The following were elected to serve on the 17-member Executive Board (comprised of one Board member from each county):

Anderson County	Mayor Edwinna Baker
Bourbon County	Judge Donnie Foley
Boyle County	Judge Tony Wilder
Clark County	Mr. Dodd Dixon
Estill County	Mr. John Shepherd
Fayette County	Mayor Jim Newberry
Franklin County	Mrs. Linda Magee
Garrard County	Mr. Glen Ross
Harrison County	Mayor Jim Brown
Jessamine County	Judge Neal Cassity
Lincoln County	Judge R. W. "Buckwheat" Gilbert
Madison County	Mayor Connie Lawson
Mercer County	Mr. Phil Crump
Nicholas County	Judge Larry Tincher
Powell County	Mr. Darrell Billings
Scott County	Ms. Betty Jo Sharp
Woodford County	Mr. Floyd Greene

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## **ADD COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS NAMED**

Also at the January 31 Board meeting, the Chairman appointed the following Board members to serve as Chairs and Vice Chairs of various ADD committees:

### **Area Agency on Aging Council**

Chair: Mayor Don Kiser (Paris)

Vice-Chair: Mayor Hugh Coomer (Danville)

### **Development**

Chair: Judge Donnie Foley

Vice-Chair: Mayor Jim Brown

### **Homeland Security**

Chair: Judge Larry Tincher (Nicholas County)

Vice-Chair: Judge John Wilson (Garrard County)

### **Human Services**

Chair: Judge Wallace Taylor (Estill County)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Dodd Dixon (Clark County)

### **Natural Resources & Environmental Protection**

Chair: Judge John Trisler (Mercer County)

Vice-Chair: Mayor Edwinna Baker (Lawrenceburg)

### **Tourism, Historic Preservation and Recreation**

Chair: Judge Steve Cornish (Anderson County)

Vice-Chair: Mayor Bill Miracle (Stanford)

### **Transportation**

Chair: Mayor Jim Newberry (Lexington-Fayette)

Vice-Chair: Mayor Russ Meyer (Nicholasville)

## **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT REQUESTS**

### **SUBMITTED**

The Cities of Carlisle, Cynthiana, Lancaster and Winchester have recently submitted grant requests for the KY DOT Safe Routes to School Program. The SRTS Program is designed to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative; and to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. Most of the grant requests focus on sidewalk improvements aimed at promoting an increase in the number of students walking or biking to school.

For more information on this program, contact Lora Littleton or Paul Stansbury at the ADD.

## **BLUEGRASS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA RESPONDS TO LOCAL LAY-OFFS**

The recent announcements by two Franklin County manufacturers, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems and Topy Corporation, to lay off large portions of their workforce have stunned the local community. The Bendix facility announced it will be closing its Frankfort location in May, 2007 and moving its operations to several different facilities, including Mexico. This could qualify the workers for special services under the Trade/NAFTA program. The total number of workers affected by this closure is currently 124. The Topy facility is expecting lay-offs in September of this year, as it eliminates production of aluminum alloy wheels. This layoff could affect as many as 250 people, though specifics are not yet known at this time. Both companies seem eager to retain their employees until the expected impact date.

While the multiple lay-offs are an unexpected blow, the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Area is already springing into action. Rapid Response services have been offered to both companies, and plans are underway to ensure that all affected workers are informed of the services available to them through the Central Kentucky Job Centers and other dislocated worker programs. The BGADD/WIA staff is also working together with local government to provide targeted services to affected workers utilizing the Mobile Job Center (MJC). On Saturday, March 24, the MJC is scheduled to be at Lakeview Park in Frankfort to assist workers and residents of Franklin County in job searching, resume writing, and work registration, in order to better equip them for the upcoming lay-offs.

The WIA staff has also provided Rapid Response services to the following companies since the beginning of 2007:

- Bendix (Frankfort) – 125 workers,  
date of dislocation: 1/2/07
- General Cable (Lawrenceburg) – 18 workers,  
date of dislocation: 2/11/07.
- Churchill Weavers (Berea) – 53 workers,  
date of dislocation: 4/3 – 5/31.

For more information, contact Justin McCarty at the ADD.

## **WASTE TIRE INITIATIVE COMMENCES FOR 2007**

It is only a small program operated by Kentucky's Division of Waste Management, and it has only a small budget, but it accomplishes a great deal of good year after year. The program involves waste tire collection from illegal dumps alongside Kentucky's roadways for lawful disposal. Few things are more

unsightly than waste tires littering the roadsides of Bluegrass Area counties. With only limited dollars, the Division of Waste Management is working through the Bluegrass ADD to offer reimbursement to counties for the collection and lawful disposal of such tires during Commonwealth Cleanup Week and/or during Bluegrass PRIDE Spring Clean-up. The two periods run almost back to back in late March and early April.

Within the limits of the funds available, participating counties can gain reimbursement from the Division of Waste Management for the expense of having a certified tire transporter to come and take waste tires (collected by the county) away for lawful disposal. The program guidelines are already in the hands of County Judges/Executive and county solid waste coordinators. All paperwork is due to be submitted to the ADD by the last week in May, and the State is expected to generate the reimbursement checks before the close of the State fiscal year on June 30.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

### **KENTUCKY FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM LAUNCHED**

Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging staff have been hard at work implementing the new Kentucky Family Caregiver Program (910 KAR 1:260) that went into effect January 1, 2007. This program was introduced into the Kentucky General Assembly by Representative Jimmie Lee of the 25<sup>th</sup> District (Hardin Co.) and is aimed at supporting the needs of grandparents who are the primary caregivers to their grandchildren. Applications for funds, up to \$750 per child, are to be distributed, collected, and processed by each Area Development District. These funds are based on criteria developed by the Department for Aging and Independent Living, in consultation with the Department of Community Based Services, the Department of Protection and Permanency, the Area Agencies on Aging, and grandparents themselves. To be eligible for this program, the grandparent must be: a Kentucky resident; the primary caregiver for the grandchild; and related to the grandchild by birth, marriage or adoption. The grandchild and grandparent must also reside together without the child's parent. Also, the grandparent cannot receive Kinship Care, and household gross income cannot exceed 150% of the Federal poverty level.

If you have questions or referrals for this program, please contact ADD Program Coordinator Emily Christian at (859) 269-8021 ext. 224.

## TWO OUTSTANDING LEADERS FROM JESSAMINE COUNTY SUCCUMB

Former Nicholasville Mayor Sam Corman and former Jessamine County Judge/Executive Sherman Dean died in mid-February. Each was active in the work of the Bluegrass Area Development District and each was outstanding in his own way. Their deaths came only about one week apart.

Mayor Corman guided the City of Nicholasville through 13 years of rapid growth and development. The City of Nicholasville grew by 45 percent during the decade of the 90's. While Mr. Corman was mayor, the city moved to staff a full-time fire department. A city-county swimming pool was opened as was the Jessamine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Corman was also a strong proponent for youth sports opportunities.

Mayor Corman's term of service concluded in January 2003. He attempted a comeback in the 2006 cycle of elections but was defeated. Mayor Corman was 68.

Sherman Dean, who was Jessamine County's first Judge/Executive after that office was created by the same constitutional amendment that set up the present court system in the late 1970's, also died during February. Judge Dean held that office for three consecutive terms—from 1978 to 1990. His term of service saw the beginnings of a significant era of growth for Nicholasville and the suburban county. Once recognized as a "poor relation" to its northern neighbor, Lexington-Fayette, Jessamine County seriously began its urbanization during Judge Dean's tenure. Presently, motorists hardly notice an interruption in urbanization as they drive south from Lexington into Jessamine County.

Judge Dean had a real interest in the well being of Jessamine County. One friend described him as very cordial and open to the public and with a good rapport with people. As serious and business-like as he was, on several occasions, he donned a white suit and played the part of *The Dukes of Hazard's Boss Hogg* for local festivals. Judge Dean was 83.

Both Mayor Sam Corman and Judge Sherman Dean will be long remembered. Their leadership style and their special touch will be much missed.

## **GIS GOING LIVE ON THE WEB**

The ADD's Geographic Information System (GIS) has taken the plunge into the World Wide Web. In the past few months, the Department for Information Systems and Technology has obtained ESRI's newest product, ArcServer. Coupled with Microsoft SQL Server (a database) and ESRI's SDE software, the Department can now place geographic data on the desktops of almost anyone in the ADD with Internet access. One can now see local land use, zoning, voting precincts, and magisterial districts. A County Judge can now look at road mileage without leaving his desk. This ability could greatly assist local decision makers, as well as allow people to see first hand the data that the ADD can provide.

Please contact Shane New or James Whisenhunt at the ADD office for further information.

## **ESTILL COUNTY SET TO EXPAND/IMPROVE ITS HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING**

Through a \$500,000 grant from the Local Health Department Infrastructure Development Pool, a significant expansion/improvement project is being planned for the Estill County Health Department building on River Drive in Irvine. Planned is a 1,100 square foot addition to the Powell Avenue side of the building. Upon that section's completion, health department staff will move into the new section while the old building is renovated.

Plans call for two new clinic rooms, a demonstration kitchen, and a media-meeting room, as well as changes to make the building more secure. A new metal roof is to be installed on the entire building, and HVAC improvements are also planned. The total project cost is expected to be about \$700,000.

## **TRANSPORTATION CABINET INSTALLS NEW LED-ENHANCED CURVE WARNING SIGN ON KY 82 IN ESTILL COUNTY**

In order to enhance safety along an accident-prone stretch of KY 82 in Estill County, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has installed a new LED (light emitting diode) curve warning sign. This solar-powered LED-enhanced sign was placed near milepoint 4.5, just south of the Powell County line, for the benefit of northbound traffic in the vicinity of Salem Baptist Church. In addition, the advisory speed for this curve has been lowered from 35 mph to 25 mph.

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“We are currently in the process of buying right of way for the relocation of KY 82 to bypass this curve which has been the site of several fatal crashes in the past few years,” said Linda Wagner-Justice, chief engineer for the Department of Highways District 10. “We hope to let this project for bids later this year if the property acquisition process continues without delays. In the interim, however, we believe this sign will be a significant safety improvement to warn motorists that this curve can be more treacherous than it appears.”

Signs of this type were recently approved in the Manual on Uniform Control Devices, the federal standard for traffic signs and signals. Similar signs have been installed in various locations across the state to improve visibility and call attention to potential highway hazards. Since these new LED-enhanced signs are solar powered, they save on electricity costs. They also automatically adjust the brightness of the flashing LEDs for better day or nighttime visibility.

The new LED curve warning sign will supplement existing signage, including warnings that the highway is slippery when wet, to advise motorists to slow down and take care while traveling through this area. The new signage also warns drivers that the recommended safe speed for this curve is 25 mph. Until the new alignment of KY 82 bypasses this curve, drivers are urged to slow down and pay attention to weather conditions and oncoming traffic whenever they use this road.

KY 82 carries more than 3,500 vehicles per day in this area. This road connects Estill and Powell counties and provides access from Irvine and Ravenna to the Mountain Parkway to Clay City.

## REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY EFFORTS CONTINUE

Efforts of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission (BWSC) continued throughout the winter. With the late 2006 change of emphasis to a joint equity ownership arrangement with Kentucky American Water on a new regional water treatment plant and large diameter water transmission line from the Kentucky River’s Pool 3 near the Franklin-Owen County line, work continues to seek the assurance from municipal utility participants in the water commission that they expect to purchase a supplemental source of potable water from the BWSC.

Further, work is nearing completion on the development of a business plan for the BWSC that would show different scenarios for funding the initial set of projects and a range of the probable costs of water that participants could expect to pay for potable water purchased from the Commission.

Meetings were held in February with members of both the executive branch and the legislative branch of State Government in an attempt to demonstrate both the wisdom and the viability of a multi-jurisdictional approach to solving the water supply needs for a large percentage of central Kentucky.

More than 600,000 Kentuckians (fully 15 percent of the population of the Commonwealth) would be benefited by the coordinated efforts of the BWSC and Kentucky American Water. The old axiom was never truer than today that "You never appreciate the value of water until the well goes dry." Even municipal utilities that have an adequate supply of raw and/or potable water today are encouraged to closely examine the merits of the BWSC plan. BWSC leaders are convinced that by working together, a meritorious start can be made to solving the problem of a lack of potable water during dry times and other times of emergency.

For more information, contact Don Hassall, General Manager, Bluegrass Water Supply Commission at 859/269-8021.

## STATE PARK COMING TO GARRARD COUNTY

For many years, the only state resort park in the Bluegrass Area was located on the eastern edge of Powell County at Natural Bridge. While Natural Bridge State Resort Park is a wonderful asset to the region, it is really not that close to Lexington (or points of origin north, west, or south of Lexington). A few years ago, Representative Napier, Senator Worley, and Representative Bowling were instrumental in providing state support for the development of a feasibility study aimed at the establishment of a new state park somewhere near or adjacent to Lake Herrington. Properties in three different counties were examined within that feasibility study, and a site in Garrard County was recommended.

In mid-January, the Department of Parks announced the purchase of lands for a new state park in northern Garrard County, adjacent to the Tom Dorman State Nature Preserve. The new state park is to be known as the Palisades State Park. While the lands purchased do not abut Lake Herrington, there has been consideration of adding more lands to the new state park. In fact, it would not



*Kentucky Department of Parks Commissioner, J. T. Miller, makes announcement along with John Wilson, Garrard County Judge-Executive.*

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even necessarily be required that the two tracts of land be contiguous. With private sector involvement in the future, it is possible that this new park could become a state resort park. The difference, of course, is that state resort parks have lodges and (often) conference centers in addition to campgrounds.

Garrard County Judge/Executive John Wilson and Lancaster Mayor Don Rinthen are fully supportive of the new state park and are hopeful that, as plans for the park mature, this new park can become a real asset to the attractiveness of Lancaster/Garrard County.

For more information, contact Lora Littleton at the ADD.

#### **TERRILL SEWER PROJECT CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION**

Since the August, 2006 groundbreaking, construction has been moving ahead on the Terrill Sanitary Sewer Project. Work on the main collection system is progressing, and the project is nearing 75% completion. The Closeout Report has been filed for the portion of the project constructed with CEGG (Community Economic Growth Grant) funds.

The Terrill Sewer Project, a joint effort of the Madison County Fiscal Court and Northern Madison County Sanitation District, will serve approximately 176 households in the community of Terrill, and will eliminate problems with failing septic systems.

For additional information, contact Paul Stansbury at the ADD.

#### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES FOR THE NORTHERN MADISON COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT**

In part to service the long term debt on the construction of a \$13 million wastewater treatment plant behind the White Hall Manor Subdivision near Exit 95 on I-75, the rates for sewer service in certain areas of northern Madison County are on the rise. The new wastewater treatment plant will serve, in addition to White Hall Manor, Adams Pointe, Battlefield, Boones Trace, Madison Village, and Shiloh Point Subdivisions in northern Madison County. An average water user within the sanitation district's service area may expect to pay about \$42 per month at the newly approved rates.

The Northern Madison County's new wastewater treatment plant is scheduled for completion early next year.

## **COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOP DRAWS LARGE CROWD**

In late February, the Bluegrass ADD hosted the annual County Budget Workshop, "2007 Budget Basics," presented by training staff from the Governor's Office for Local Development. The event drew more than 70 county officials to the morning session, which was designed and directed to County Judges/Executive, Treasurers, Magistrates, Controllers and other financial personnel. The morning presentation covered a host of topics including: "Legislative Update & Budget Process," "County Debt & Training Program," and a section concerning audit requirements and practices.

An afternoon seminar was then presented to County Clerks, Sheriffs, and others associated with county fee officials. More than 35 persons attended the afternoon event which provided an overview of the budget process and a segment on "Auditors, Handling Public Funds, Quarterly Reports, and Common Mistakes."

## **POWELL COUNTY LEADERS SEEK FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CLEAR LOGJAM IN THE RED RIVER**

According to Powell County Judge/Executive Darren Farmer, the problem of a brush-filled logjam in the Red River is bad and is getting worse. The problem would certainly be aggravated in the event of a rainfall event that could cause flooding. Judge Farmer is working with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which has promised some financial support. The USACE offer requires local matching money, however; and the requirement of a local match comes at a bad time for Powell County since the county already has other money woes.

## **STANTON NEARING THE CONCLUSION OF INCOME LEVEL SURVEY AIMED AT DEALING WITH WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

It has taken a while, but at last the end is in sight in terms of the completion of an income level survey involving randomly selected households who are benefited by the Stanton municipal water system. A \$1.8 million water system improvement project was identified about two years ago. Significant state funding has since become available through the Kentucky General Assembly and the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. Still, additional outside funding is needed to allow the city to move toward construction. Some time ago the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program was identified as a possible source of additional funds. However, before applying for funds, an income level survey must be completed that would clearly demonstrate that Stanton has met the Low/Moderate Income

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national objective of the HUD Block Grant program. With fewer than 30 completed surveys yet to be obtained, there finally appears to be light at the end of that tunnel.

Thanks go to the city leadership, the city staff and the Frankfort-based Rural Community Assistance Program for their efforts to deal with the survey that involved several hundred householders both within and outside the Stanton corporate limits.

For more information, contact Don Hassall of the ADD.

#### **LAWRENCEBURG'S STRINGTOWN SEWER PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Construction began February 19 on this project which will extend sewer service to an urbanized, unincorporated area (Stringtown) south of Lawrenceburg. This project is expected to serve 146 residential and three non-residential customers. Funding sources for this \$1,628,000 project include: a HUD Community Development Block Grant of \$759,000, a state grant of \$830,000 from the Tobacco Development Fund, and \$39,000 in customer tap-on fees.

For additional information contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

#### **BLUEGRASS REGIONAL SENIOR GAMES ARE SANCTIONED**

The seventeen counties of the Bluegrass ADD held their first annual Regional Senior Games last summer during five regional events sponsored by the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging (BGAAA). At that time, none of those events were officially recognized competitions by the Kentucky Senior Games Board. However, ADD Aging staff met with the Games Board in March to begin the process of becoming sanctioned, which involves adherence to official rules and regulations along with organizational responsibilities by a recognized Bluegrass regional games committee.

Kentucky's Senior Games were officially established in 1987 for the primary purpose of implementing a year-round program of fitness and health promotion for Kentuckians ages 50 years and older. The goal of the program has been to maintain or improve the physical, mental and emotional health of all senior Kentuckians. Through the efforts of volunteers, staff, various organizations, communities and Kentucky's senior citizens, the program has been a success. Currently, Senior Games are operational in 97 of 120 counties in the state with each area's games being different to address each region's needs, facilities, and size but all still being officially sanctioned by the Games

Board. Official games can include: archery, badminton, basketball, billiards, bowling, cycling, croquet, football, goal, horseshoes, lawn bowling, race walking, racquetball, shuffleboard, softball, spincasting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

For further information, contact Randy Lawson at the ADD.

### **LANCASTER NEARING END OF CONSTRUCTION ON WWTP**

The City of Lancaster is nearing completion of a project at its wastewater treatment plant that began construction in late 2006. The project largely consists of the installation of made-to-order Urban Disc Aeration equipment, which is designed to address problems with the aeration system at the plant. At one time, the City completely lost the use of one of the brush aerators. This project was made possible through a State Tobacco Development Grant of \$281,730, received in mid-July of 2006. The total project cost is estimated at \$335,600.

For additional information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

### **HIGHWAY/RAILWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS COMING**

Governor Fletcher recently announced that transportation funds will be used to add crossing gates to certain railroad crossings across Kentucky. Gates are to be added at the following railroad crossings in the Bluegrass Area:

**Mercer County —**

Norfolk Southern crossing on Cornishville Road

**Jessamine County —**

Norfolk Southern crossing on KY 1989.

For more information on highway safety programs, contact Eric Walsh at the ADD.

### **STANTON/CLAY CITY/POWELL COUNTY OFFICIALS LOOK TO MULTIJURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION OPTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN POWELL COUNTY**

A called meeting of the Stanton City Council on February 15 brought out a crowd of about 85 interested citizens. The topic of the meeting was the discussion of the pro's and con's of Stanton's cooperation with its sister city, Clay City, in a joint venture to provide wastewater treatment for the residents of those cities along with urbanized areas that are adjacent or close to one or the other of those two cities.

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Several situations converged to enable this inter-governmental conversation. Both cities are operating their existing wastewater treatments plants at near or beyond their rated capacities on an average annual basis. Both cities are undertaking separate evaluations of their sanitary sewer systems to pinpoint for possible rehabilitation a list of cost effective measures to reduce the deleterious effect of inflow and infiltration. The distance between the two cities is approximately three miles. The cities cooperated in the preparation of a regional wastewater facilities plan that began in 2002 but was never fully completed because there was no local agreement on the direction of wastewater treatment facilities in the future. The Kentucky Division of Water has encouraged a serious evaluation of how the wastewater treatment problems that each city experiences might be solved jointly.

At its March 8 meeting, the Stanton City Council acted unanimously to offer to work with Clay City and with the Powell County Fiscal Court to conclude the multi-jurisdictional wastewater facilities plan with the statement that, with certain safeguards in place, Stanton and Clay City would cooperate in the future with the Stanton wastewater treatment plant being expanded to meet the treatment needs of both communities as well as adjacent urbanizing areas where there is a desire for municipal wastewater collection and treatment service.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

#### **CARLISLE/NICHOLAS COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 2 OFFERED ADD ASSISTANCE IN WASTEWATER ISSUES**

The City of Carlisle and the Nicholas County Sanitation District No. 2 have a common concern. Both want and need wastewater issues to be addressed soon. Carlisle needs to complete its wastewater facilities plan. Furthermore, the city needs to undertake a Sewer System Evaluation Survey in order to identify and begin to deal with sources of extraneous water within its sanitary sewer system during wet times.

The sanitation district has been trying for years to construct a system of sanitary sewers to serve principally the urbanized area on the shores of Lake Carnico immediately north and west of the city. The sanitation district's recent wastewater planning effort identified Carlisle's municipal wastewater treatment plant as the best and most cost-effective means to treat wastewater that would be collected by a new system of sanitary sewers in the Lake Carnico area.

To facilitate efforts on both fronts discussed above, the ADD has been asked to assist in the development of a win-win situation whereby both the city and the sanitation district can find common ground so that the needs of each might be met. Various grant/loan opportunities are being explored.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT PREPARES FOR A BOOM IN THE POPULATION OF SENIORS**

The trend that has been evident on the horizon for many years is now well upon us. The post-World War II generation has begun to turn 60 years old. Governor Fletcher has created the Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living to help make certain that hundreds of thousands of baby boomers in the state have the services and the resources they will need in the years to come.

Kentucky now has nearly 675,000 residents older than 60. By 2030, nearly a fourth of Kentucky's population will be over age 65. And by 2050, it is projected that there will be more Kentuckians over age 65 than will be age 18 and younger.

The Fletcher Administration has also begun what is known as the *Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative*, a collaborate effort that involves government workers and university researchers in identifying potential problems and recommending solutions as the largest segment of Kentucky's population grows old.

A study is underway that will examine strengths and weaknesses at the local level to effectively deal with this aging population. The study will look at such areas as medical services for the elderly, geriatric care, and even the availability of recreational activities for seniors.

A recent report suggested that Kentucky now ranks 28<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in the number of people 65 and older. By 2025, Kentucky is expected to rank 14<sup>th</sup>. One reason that this demographic estimate is important is that retirees tend to pay fewer taxes. Some regions, especially the western and the south-central portions of Kentucky, will have an even higher percentage of elderly persons.

Mark Birdwhistell, secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet of Health and Family Services, reports that the state has increased funding for programs to help the elderly. That includes more funding for programs that help senior citizens, including an additional \$7.5 million over the next two years for home health care and adult day care.

For more information on programs for seniors, contact Rhonda Davis at the ADD.

## **CONSERVATION DISTRICTS RECEIVE FUNDS FOR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

A recent announcement has been made that Boyle, Garrard, Lincoln and Mercer Counties are among 34 Kentucky counties set to receive funds for projects aimed at the mitigation of the environmental impact of certain agricultural practices. The money will be distributed to local farmers who have completed cost-share programs in 2005 and 2006.

The amount of funds that these counties are to receive is as follows:

Boyle County—\$4,095	Lincoln County—\$12,786
Garrard County—\$2,957	Mercer County—\$46,548

## **GIS ADDVANTAGE SOFTWARE RELEASED**

The Bluegrass ADD is pleased to announce the software release of GIS ADDvantage. GIS ADDvantage is a new piece of software developed by the Bluegrass Area Development District. It will allow users to view, print, and analyze GIS data quickly and efficiently from a vehicle. With this GIS ADDvantage, E911 personnel will have an increased response time by being able to connect to most GPS devices. This tool will not require an Internet connection either, making it very mobile. E911 personnel will be able to locate address points from the ADD's GIS data quickly and efficiently.

## **"STEPS TO SUCCESS" YOUTH COMPETITION TO BE HELD**

The Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board is proud to announce the 2007 Workforce Investment Act **"Steps To Success" Youth Competition** to be held on **March 30, 2007** at Eastern Kentucky University.

A main focus of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is to assist at-risk low-income youth, who face barriers, to continue into post secondary education and to guide them into suitable career paths so that they will be able to compete in today's job market.

The WIA "Steps To Success" Youth Competition is a one day event at which the participating youth use the skills they have learned in the past year to compete both individually and in teamwork situations. The competition includes the following categories:

- public speaking
- decision making

- employment techniques
- scrapbooking
- service learning
- logo design
- essay
- teamwork building (carpet maze)

“What makes this program unique is that the Steps To Success Competition is designed to reward and encourage these fine young adults for the past year’s hard work. Many local employers and businesses are generously sponsoring this event, and have donated a wide variety of items to be presented as prizes, incentives, and awards for the youth participating in the competition,” said Jennifer Compton, WIA Program Analyst at the ADD.

“It is very encouraging when the youths realize and appreciate that their own local communities and businesses are interested in their abilities and what they have to offer. This quite possibly could be the beginning of many beautiful employer/employee relationships!” she says with an enthusiastic smile.

Youth who will be participating are from: Anderson, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Jessamine, Madison, and Powell Counties.

Paula England, WIA Career Track Coordinator adds, “The most fulfilling aspect of putting together the Steps To Success Competition each year is the wonderful opportunities that we use to partner with non-profit agencies, businesses, and educational institutions in our local communities throughout our region. This program creates a valuable network of resources, information, and potential employers available to the youth.”

The Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board’s major work lies in creating a vision for the local Workforce Area, identifying its strengths and weaknesses, capitalizing on and creating opportunities for development, and connecting various parties with resources and solutions so that the Bluegrass workforce thrives in the competitive economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

“By far, young adults are a critical component in creating a pipeline of skilled and ready workers. Any workforce or education related investment that can be made in young adults is vital to the economy of the Bluegrass Region,” said Lori H. Collins, Director of the Workforce Investment Act. “The future earning potential of any youth can be unlimited when the right opportunities and resources are available. We are there to provide these tools for success. The return on this present day investment is incalculable.”

#### BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

Sponsorship packages are still available, and local businesses and individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in this highly rewarding program if they have not already done so.

For further information, please contact any of the following persons at the ADD office:

Jennifer Compton ([jcompton@bgadd.org](mailto:jcompton@bgadd.org)), Paula England ([pengland@bgadd.org](mailto:pengland@bgadd.org)), or Anthony Mattingly ([Anthony.Mattingly@ky.gov](mailto:Anthony.Mattingly@ky.gov)).

#### **TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT FLOOD OF '97 COMMEMORATED IN CYNTHIANA**

Early March 2007 was nothing like early March 1997 in Cynthiana. It was ten years ago that the South Fork Licking River left its banks and ravaged much of Cynthiana. Other parts of the Bluegrass Area, including Paris/Bourbon County saw serious flooding as well.

Flooding in Cynthiana was so serious that flood hazard professionals designated the 1997 flood as a *500 year flood*. That means that the probability of the recurrence of such a flood is only 0.2 percent in any given year. Affected local governments in Harrison/Bourbon Counties cooperated with the Army Corps of Engineers in a study of flood remediation possibilities. Some progress has been made in the direction of project implementation, but the local cost share requirement has proven to be an issue.

For more information on flooding issues and flood remediation efforts, contact Don Hassall or Travis Weber at the ADD.

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE



**MEETING CALL**

Executive Board	3/28 7:00 p.m.
Human Services Committee	4/12 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	4/11 4:15 p.m.
Aging Council	4/11 & 5/9 10:00 a.m.
Homeland Security Council	4/18 2:00 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	5/2 4:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Advisory Committee	5/14 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation, Recreation Advisory Committee	5/8 10:00 a.m.
Development Advisory Committee	5/15 2:00 p.m.

ALL meeting dates/times subject to change.

Chairman	Judge R.W. Gilbert
Vice-Chairman	Mr. Dodd Dixon
Secretary	Mrs. Linda Magee
Treasurer	Judge Larry Tincher
Executive Director	Lenny P. Stoltz II

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**BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE**