

## **DEALING WITH THE ONGOING WATER SUPPLY DEFICIT—NOBODY SAID IT WOULD BE EASY**

To many, it is amazing that seven years have passed since the memorable Drought of '99 and there is scarcely more water available now to meet the growing water needs of this thriving part of the Bluegrass State than there was during the dark days of 1999. The dry year of 1999 well demonstrated to all interested observers that much of Central Kentucky is truly and seriously drought-vulnerable. Add to that the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the prospect of water supply sabotage and/or intentional or inadvertent damage or contamination involving water supply infrastructure. The cumulative conclusion is that Central Kentucky's water supply problem would have already gotten a push that would have resulted in prompt project implementation.

The Bluegrass Water Supply Consortium (an ad hoc group) was created early in this decade. With both federal and state help, a comprehensive regional water supply study was undertaken, and, with considerable public involvement, was completed in early 2004. In the summer of 2004, the water consortium evolved into the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission (BWSC), with an initial membership of nine Central Kentucky communities (later to become 10 members). Since 1999, there have been wetter than normal years as well as drier than normal years. This late spring and the all of the summertime have been both hot and dry. An odd/even outdoor watering restriction (a term that no longer requires an explanation) has returned to more than a few Central Kentucky communities.

The 2004 regional water supply planning effort came with a conclusion that was unanimously adopted by the study participants. After an unsettling period in the relationship between the BWSC and KAWC (the region's largest water utility and an investor-owned company), both BWSC and KAWC concluded that far more was to be gained by working together than either could achieve by working independently. The Pool 3 Plan, at one time highly touted by the *Lexington Herald-Leader* on its editorial pages, was selected as the best and the least costly plan. Engineering designs are complete and have Kentucky Division of Water approvals; acquisition of the required permits

<b><u>HIGHLIGHTS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
ADD Data Book Headed for Publication in October .....	13
Berea, Georgetown Step up Water Shortage Response Efforts .....	17
Bluegrass PRIDE Offers Waste Paint Hardener™ Crystals Again! .....	11
Caldwell to Address Water Management Council .....	4
Cell Phone Recycling .....	16
Dealing with the Ongoing Water Supply Deficit—Nobody Said It Would Be Easy .....	1
Eastern Kentucky Comprehensive Adventure Tourism Plan Unveiled .....	9
Elder Abuse Prevention Efforts Continue .....	14
Estill County Senior Center Hosts Outreach Event Targeting Baby Boomers .....	7
Frankfort to Undertake a Major Upgrade to its Sewer System .....	19
Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service Examines the Need for Rate Increases ....	19
Harrodsburg Awards South Interceptor Sewer Contract .....	8
Harrodsburg Northwest Bypass Study Underway .....	10
Jack Kelly Updates THRAC on Plans for the 2010 Alltech FEI Games .....	5
Jessamine Sewer Project Moving Toward Bid Advertisement .....	15
Jessamine/South Elkhorn Water Project Awards Construction Contract .....	10
Kentucky American Water Customers Likely to Experience about a 17 Percent Increase ....	13
Kentucky River Dam 8 No Longer Spilling Water over its Crest to the Downstream Pools ...	5
LAMPO Adopts Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan .....	16
Lancaster Nears Design Completion on Wastewater Treatment Plant Project .....	17
Race and Origin Estimates Issued for Bluegrass Counties .....	8
Scott County Senior Center Wins Award .....	4
Scott County Tourism Officials Pleased with the Beneficial Impact of the New Room Tax ..	13
Seniors from Bluegrass Area Participate in Folklife Festival .....	12
Southeastern Area Agency on Aging Conference Held in Savannah, Georgia .....	18
US 27 to I-75 Corridor Scoping Study Begins .....	14
Wedco District Health Department Names a New Director .....	16
Wilmore Awards Contract for Automated Meter Reading Equipment .....	15

is nearly completed, land and rights-of-way acquisition is well underway, and the construction bids process has been initiated. In fact, the Bluegrass Area Development District Board of Directors, earlier this year, elected to resolve that this water supply effort and this particular project constitute the most important, the most urgent undertaking—bar none—in the Bluegrass region at this point in time.

With urgency in meeting the water demands of the coming few years so important, with the economic vitality of the Central Kentucky region being uncertain, some are now suggesting we wait and consider other alternatives that have already been considered time and time again with the same end conclusion. The conclusion is the Kentucky River Pool 3 plan constitutes the best and the least cost alternative available when the alternatives are compared on the same basis. The utilization of reasonable assumptions, interest rates, and amortization periods continues to result in the conclusion that the Pool 3 alternative is the least expensive when doing a present worth analysis.

It is anticipated that the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission and Kentucky American Water Company will build and will co-own a 25 million-gallons-per day (MGD) water treatment plant near the Franklin/Owen County line. Further, those same two would co-own a 42-inch diameter potable water transmission line from the proposed new regional water treatment plant and extending about 30 miles south and east to north-central Fayette County. The initial plan also calls for the BWSC to install large diameter grid connections from the proposed 42-inch diameter jointly owned water transmission line (or from the Kentucky American water distribution network) to provide a supplemental potable water supply connection to Winchester, Nicholasville, Georgetown, Paris, and Frankfort. Grid connections to serve Mt. Sterling, Lancaster, Berea, and Cynthiana would follow on as funds become available and on an as needed basis.

The BWSC has sought and continues to seek federal and state financial participation on the initial public sector portion of the construction phase so that the price of water to the municipal members of BWSC might be contained to a reasonable and affordable level.

While the merits of the Pool 3 and other alternatives are argued in the press, at a series of three recent public meetings before the Kentucky Public Service Commission, and are to be aired further at a formal hearing before the Public Service Commission on November 26, Central Kentucky continues to thirst for a supplemental potable water source. The BWSC/KAWC assertion is that, with the appropriate approvals, construction could be underway by January or February 2008 with a construction completion date of spring, 2010. The sponsor

#### BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

of no other alternative can make a similar assertion of project readiness or of such a timely project completion.

For more information on water supply issues or the status of the Bluegrass Area water supply initiative, contact Don Hassall at (859) 269-8021 or (859) 230-5005.

#### **SCOTT COUNTY SENIOR CENTER WINS AWARD**

For the second time in six years, the Scott County Senior Center was named "Senior Center of the Year" by the Kentucky Department of Aging and Independent Living. Center Director, Marilyn Grove, accepted the award at the Fall Aging Conference in Louisville on September 7, 2007. The senior centers were divided into two categories, those with daily attendance of 50 or more and those with fewer attending daily.

Marilyn Grove submitted a written narrative describing the senior center's activities and efforts to increase participation. Community involvement was also stressed. An independent panel of judges reviewed the submissions and chose the district and statewide winners.

In the narrative, Ms. Grove focused on the wellness activities available at the center. For example, chair yoga and line dancing, along with a large variety of other activities, are offered. The Scott County center was also slated to be the host site again for a three-county regional senior games competition held on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

In commenting on the award, Groves credited her staff and volunteers with a team approach to providing high quality services that are beneficial and fun for the seniors. The Scott County Senior Center received that same award in 2001.

#### **CALDWELL TO ADDRESS WATER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

With the Drought of '07 still ongoing at press time, Bill Caldwell, manager of the Kentucky Division of Water's Watershed Management Branch, has agreed to speak to the Bluegrass Water Management Council at the Council's Friday, October 19 meeting. He will be discussing the statewide response to the current drought with an accent upon the Bluegrass Area's water shortage response efforts.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is set for 9:30 a.m. in the ADD's Conference Room. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **JACK KELLY UPDATES THRAC ON PLANS FOR THE 2010 ALLTECH FEI GAMES**

At the September meeting of the ADD's Tourism, Historic Preservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (THRAC), guest speaker Jack Kelly (CEO of the World Games 2010 Foundation, Inc.) noted that 13,000 individuals have already signed up to be volunteers at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. This outpouring of support is a good indication that Central Kentucky is well on its way to being prepared for the Games, which will be held September 25-October 10, 2010.

Although it seems like it is still a long time away, preparatory work still looms over the World Games 2010 Foundation staff, which has recently added some new faces. Mr. Kelly specifically announced the hiring of Cathy Rutter, who will serve as the Director of Community and Volunteer Affairs. Ms. Rutter will act as a liaison between the Foundation and communities.

In other updates about the Games, Mr. Kelly suggested that the 550,000-600,000 tickets they are currently expecting to sell may not actually be enough to meet demand for the event. In terms of television coverage, he and staff are currently working with NBC, KET, and local cable companies about broadcasting the events and marketing the area to visitors. The Kentucky Experience, which will convey to visitors at the Horse Park the unique offerings and heritage across the State of Kentucky, will be another way to attract tourists to destinations outside the Horse Park. Creatively marketing the state to visitors and maintaining the impact left by the Games will be the true test of the event's legacy. To get involved and/or share ideas, visit the Foundation's website at <http://www.feigames2010.org>.

## **KENTUCKY RIVER DAM 8 NO LONGER SPILLING WATER OVER ITS CREST TO THE DOWNSTREAM POOLS**

The Kentucky River's dams and pools have numbers rather than names. Dam 1 is the dam nearest the river's mouth at Carrollton, while the most upstream structure (Dam 14) is at Beattyville. Each numbered dam impounds behind it a narrow impoundment which carries the same number as the impounding dam. Thus, Pool 8 is impounded behind Dam 8.

Area water utilities draw their sole (or primary) water supplies from the following Kentucky River pools:

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<b>Pool 11</b> Irvine Richmond	<b>Pool 7</b> Harrodsburg
<b>Pool 10</b> Winchester	<b>Pool 6</b> Wilmore
<b>Pool 9</b> Kentucky American Water	<b>Pool 5</b> Versailles Lawrenceburg
<b>Pool 8</b> Nicholasville Lancaster	<b>Pool 4</b> Frankfort

Most of the Bluegrass Area has been affected by drought for much of the late spring season and for the summer period. The Palmer Drought Index has shown area drought conditions that have varied from Moderate to Severe to Extreme in this region of Kentucky for much of this period. Periodic rainfall events have caused a backing off of the drought severity index for a time or two, but, for the most part, drought conditions have worsened again after the passage of a few days or weeks. At press time, the precipitation deficit for Central Kentucky was pegged at about 7 ½ inches below normal for the first nine months of the year. Most of Central Kentucky continues to be categorized within the Extreme Drought zone.

For a time, flows in the Kentucky River have been such that water passing over the Dam 9 crest measured only a trickle while Dam 8 ceased to spill water over its crest and into Pool 7 altogether. Acting in response to declining river flows, the Kentucky Division of Water activated its valve operating plan, cracking the release valves on Dams 12 and 13. This measure increased flows in Pools 11, 10, 9, and 8 somewhat. More than half of the Kentucky River water-withdrawing communities have implemented at least the initial step of their water shortage response plans, asking, at a minimum, for voluntary water conservation.

River flows rebounded nicely after a hard rainfall in the upper reaches of the Kentucky River watershed about the middle of September, but river flows began to decline again almost as quickly as they went up. It is doubtful that the region has seen the last of the Drought of '07.

For more information on water supply issues, contact Don Hassall or David Duttlinger at the ADD.

## ESTILL COUNTY SENIOR CENTER HOSTS OUTREACH EVENT TARGETING BABY BOOMERS

On Saturday, September 15, 2007 the Estill County Senior Citizens held their first annual Cruise In With the Oldies Car Show. Awards were given to the top 20 cars with Best Ford, Best GM, Best Mopar, Best Street Rod and Best of Show trophies also presented. Vendor booths were set up during the event distributing information on services available through the Estill County Senior Center and the Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living.

Darlene McKinney, Director of the Estill Senior Center, stated "We were delighted to have such a great turnout for our first year. Though only 22 cars entered the show over 450 people came to the event that day. Many were surprised to learn that the senior citizens center hosted the event, thus affording us the opportunity to let them know that senior centers are changing to meet the needs of their generation. Just as senior centers have been there for our WWII folks we plan on being here for the 'boomers' as well."

The Senior Center thanks the many corporate sponsors that made the event a reality. Maguires, Valvoline, Gateway Classic Cars, Ale-8 and Uncle Charlie's Meats were just a few sponsors that gave generously to ensure the event was successful. The Senior Center is planning another car show next year and expects the results to be even better. "We live by our slogan at the Estill County Senior Citizens Center regarding the "boomer" generation, "Get ready, cause here they come" stated Ms. McKinney.



## HARRODSBURG AWARDS SOUTH INTERCEPTOR SEWER CONTRACT

The City of Harrodsburg advertised for bids in late July and awarded the contract in early September for the construction of its new sewer project. The South Interceptor Project is a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority-funded venture which includes the construction of an interceptor sewer to collect and transport existing and future wastewater flows from the south and east sections of the Harrodsburg service area. The project includes approximately 4,500 liner feet of 24-inch diameter sewer lines, 15 manholes and two highway bores.

The total cost of this project is estimated at \$750,000. It is the second sewer project made possible by an Economic Development Fund grant of \$1 million received from the state legislature during the 2006 meeting of the General Assembly. The ADD is administering the grant on the City's behalf.

For more information on these projects, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## RACE AND ORIGIN ESTIMATES ISSUED FOR BLUEGRASS COUNTIES

The Bureau of the Census has released estimates of population by race and origin. The figures below show 2006 population together with 2000-2006 growth rates. Estimates suggest that the Hispanic population, while still very low overall, is growing at a rapid rate in the Bluegrass Area.

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent change total population</u>	<u>Percent change White alone</u>	<u>Percent change Black alone</u>	<u>Percent change two or more races</u>
Anderson	20,885	8.8	8.7	9.8	8.3
Bourbon	19,839	2.4	2.6	-7.8	28.7
Boyle	28,444	2.7	2.6	-3.0	21.3
Clark	35,275	6.1	6.1	0.5	13.7
Estill	15,163	-1.0	-1.0	4.2	0.0
Fayette	270,789	3.8	2.2	5.5	30.8
Franklin	48,183	0.7	-0.3	2.6	24.5
Garrard	16,933	13.7	13.9	9.4	14.1
Harrison	18,592	3.1	3.1	-3.1	23.7
Jessamine	44,790	14.2	13.5	18.2	33.8
Lincoln	25,361	8.0	8.0	6.0	35.3
Madison	79,015	10.9	11.0	-0.2	33.6

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent change total population</u>	<u>Percent change White alone</u>	<u>Percent change Black alone</u>	<u>Percent change two or more races</u>
Mercer	21,818	4.7	3.9	6.0	29.2
Nicholas	6,958	2.4	2.5	0.0	-6.3
Powell	13,825	4.1	4.0	11.5	15.1
Scott	41,605	24.4	24.0	22.8	24.8
Woodford	24,386	4.8	4.6	0.7	22.3

### **EASTERN KENTUCKY COMPREHENSIVE ADVENTURE TOURISM PLAN UNVEILED**

Governor Fletcher recently unveiled a plan that could lead to greater economic prosperity in Eastern Kentucky. On August 28<sup>th</sup>, the official Eastern Kentucky Comprehensive Adventure Tourism Plan was presented at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park to a crowd of elected officials and interested citizens. The goal of the plan is to develop local civic capacity among distressed counties in Eastern Kentucky in order to effectively plan for and capitalize on the adventure tourism industry.

The plan, completed by PROS Consulting, LLC, was done under the direction of the Kentucky Department of Tourism through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The plan focused on an 18-county region (including Estill and Powell from the Bluegrass Area), and assessed the environment, socio-economic and political landscape, community infrastructure, and market appeal. A comparative analysis was conducted with similar regions, which included communities in Maryland, Arkansas, and Massachusetts.

The plan recommended some specific assets for primary focus. These areas were: paddle sports, rock climbing and rappelling, trails, lake sports, and wildlife viewing. Also noted in the plan were a number of opportunities and constraints within the study area. Following are some highlights from the Eastern Kentucky Comprehensive Adventure Tourism Plan:

#### **Opportunities**

- Develop venues for trail sports such as hiking, mountain biking, ATV, and equestrian trails
- Capitalize more on existing adventure sports with highly-acclaimed natural settings like rock climbing, mountain biking, and whitewater kayaking and rafting
- Improve tourism support services such as accommodations, restaurants, and service providers
- Better coordinate marketing efforts

## BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

### Constraints

- Reliable and prepared workforce
- Lack of funding for development of facilities
- Need for additional accommodations and dining facilities

In addition to assessing the potential of the area for certain adventure tourism venues and the challenges associated with them, the plan also looked at the overall possible economic impact. It assessed the dollar value of economic activity the industry could potentially create as well as the impact it could have on job growth and related industries. For questions about the study, contact Lora B. Littleton at the ADD. To view the study, go to [www.kentuckytourism.com/krtta](http://www.kentuckytourism.com/krtta).

### JESSAMINE/SOUTH ELKHORN WATER PROJECT AWARDS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

The Jessamine/South Elkhorn Water District is pressing forward with its Southeast Rural Jessamine Unserved Areas water project; the construction contract in the amount of \$ 972,600 was signed in mid-September.

The project will serve approximately 80 households scattered throughout the more rural areas of Jessamine County that do not have potable water available. These areas are thinly-populated, widely-scattered and, consequently, difficult to provide service. In addition, because of the availability and hydraulics of the existing system, this project will also provide fire hydrants.

Funding for this project, expected to cost more than \$1.7 million, includes a 2003 Tobacco Development Fund grant of \$800,000 and a 2005 Tobacco Development Fund grant for an additional \$800,000. The remaining financing, \$121,500, will be contributed by the Jessamine/South Elkhorn Water District.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

### HARRODSBURG NORTHWEST BYPASS STUDY UNDERWAY

A study is currently underway to examine possible corridors for a new northwest Harrodsburg bypass. The study area includes the northern half of the western side of Harrodsburg. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is coordinating the effort along with a study team from the ADD, local government and the project consultant, QK4 Engineers.

The project will access the feasibility and identify possible corridors should the effort move beyond the study phase. Funding is currently available for the study only.

A new road in this area would benefit travel from the western portion of Mercer County to US 127 north, toward Lawrenceburg and the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway, without having to travel through the congested streets of Harrodsburg, namely US 127. That highway has an at-grade railroad crossing causing further congestion and delay. Currently, at least 26 trains per day cross US 127. The bypass would also benefit travel to and from the industrial areas and schools in the northern portion of the study area. The local planning commission has designated that portion of the county as the growth area. As a result, a 600-plus unit residential subdivision has been recently approved. The proximity to the railroad could encourage future industrial growth in this designated area.

In 1991 the KYTC completed a Harrodsburg Bypass Advanced Planning Study that recommended constructing a bypass on the east of the city. In 2001 a bypass was constructed on the east side of Harrodsburg (from US 127 south of Harrodsburg to US 127 north of Harrodsburg). Now, the KYTC is considering the west side, and focusing on the northwest quadrant because of the lack of roadway connectivity in this area of Harrodsburg. A project Advisory Committee is being formed to insure stakeholder participation.

For additional information, contact Bruce Duncan at the ADD.

## **BLUEGRASS PRIDE OFFERS WASTE PAINT HARDENER™ CRYSTALS AGAIN!**

Latex paint is the most common household hazardous waste, but once solidified, can be safely disposed of in local landfills. Waste Paint Hardener™ crystals allow for the easy hardening of all water-based paints.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Bluegrass PRIDE is once again able to offer **FREE** Waste Paint Hardener™ crystals to counties in its service area. After a loss in funding, PRIDE had not been able to purchase the crystals for distribution. Now, the crystals will be made available to counties and cities in Central Kentucky as well as certain distribution points such as local Extension offices.

For more information about receiving Waste Paint Hardener™, or about household hazardous waste in general, call toll free 866/222-1648, or visit [www.KentuckyPRIDE.com](http://www.KentuckyPRIDE.com).

## SENIORS FROM BLUEGRASS AREA PARTICIPATE IN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Bluegrass Area seniors shared their time and talents with people from across the state during the 2007 Kentucky Folklife Festival, held in historic downtown Frankfort September 20-22. Representatives of senior citizens centers in Anderson, Franklin, Scott and Woodford Counties attended the event, which drew an estimated 30,000 attendees throughout the weekend. The senior citizens centers receive funding from the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging.

Visitors to the booth browsed educational materials about the role senior centers play in their communities, as well as various health issues. They tested exercise equipment and joined seniors in popular "chair yoga" demonstrations. The Scott County Senior Center sold hand-made crafts such as jewelry, knitted items and stuffed reindeer. And, of course, there was Bingo! Elementary students from across the state called numbers and handed out prizes to elders and other players.

The annual event, modeled on the Smithsonian Institution's American Folklife Festival, is "a celebration of Kentucky's living cultural heritage." The Bluegrass seniors were among more than 150 artists, demonstrators and performers who displayed the state's diverse cultural heritage through music, dance, crafts, food, games and educational programming. The festival is sponsored by the Kentucky Historical Society, an agency of the state Department of Commerce.



*The Bluegrass Seniors Booth at the Folklife Festival*

## **KENTUCKY AMERICAN WATER CUSTOMERS LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE ABOUT A 17 PERCENT INCREASE**

A settlement reached between the Kentucky American Water Company (KAWC) and the Kentucky Attorney General's office may, with approval of the Public Service Commission, result in a rate increase of about 17 percent to KAW's residential customers within the Central Kentucky region of which Lexington is the center. The rate increase will permit the water company to receive a reimbursement for capital expenses made by the company in the recent past.

None of the anticipated increase relates to the company's plans to construct water supply facilities on Pool 3 of the Kentucky River nor the large-diameter pipeline required to convey the water from Pool 3 north of Frankfort south and east to Fayette County. The cost of those sought-after improvements is expected to cost residential customers an additional \$8 to \$10 per month.

For more information on issues relating to water cost or water supply, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

## **SCOTT COUNTY TOURISM OFFICIALS PLEASED WITH THE BENEFICIAL IMPACT OF THE NEW ROOM TAX**

A one-percent local tax on hotel/motel rooms has Scott County tourism officials smiling. It has been pointed out that most larger cities and counties in Kentucky already have the tax. The proceeds of the tax are required to be plowed back in to the tourism industry to help draw still more visitors to Georgetown and Scott County. The local tourism commission expects to net \$42,000 from the tax in the coming year. As a result of this new money, ads touting Georgetown and Scott County as a destination are headed for the regional editions of national publications such as: *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Reader's Digest*, *Family Circle*, *Discover Horses*, *Midwest Living*, *Southern Living*, and *O* (Oprah's magazine).

With the recent announcement that a regional mall containing more than 200 acres and two new hotels is coming to Georgetown, revenues from the tax are expected to increase even more over time.

For more information on tourism issues, contact Lora Littleton at the ADD.

## **ADD DATA BOOK HEADED FOR PUBLICATION IN OCTOBER**

For a number of years, the ADD has sought to tabulate certain types of rapidly changing information in a data book that is useful to local public policymakers and others. Included in this book are: water rates for larger cities, water rates for smaller cities, water rates

## BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

for non-municipal water utilities, sewer rates for larger cities, sewer rates for smaller cities, sale-for-resale rates for water, numbers of water customers by utility and by county, numbers of sewer customers by utility and by county, tap-on fees, a tabulation of community water service availability by county, a tabulation of community sewer service availability by county, fire protection ratings, population estimates, and tax rates by taxing district.

The data compilation effort is now concluding and the data book is likely to be available soon in a soft cover format as well as on-line. A publication date of October seems likely.

For more information, contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

## ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS CONTINUE

The newly-reorganized Scott County Elder Abuse Team (SCEAT) is focusing its efforts on creating promotional materials, raising public awareness of the new council and the opportunity to become involved. SCEAT held a community forum in May which featured guest speakers and elected officials who emphasized the importance of reporting suspected abuse and highlighted efforts to get these crimes prosecuted. SCEAT has its next meeting scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Scott County Senior Center located in Cardome Village.

The Council on Maltreatment Prevention for Madison County (CEMP) met on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged members to get the word out about the Elder Abuse Prevention license plates. Each council would benefit financially from fees charged for this specialty plate. CEMP is planning a golf tournament fundraiser at Gibson Bay in Richmond at a date yet to be selected. Another fundraising effort is the availability of CEMP t-shirts for purchase. The council also has a case review subcommittee, which has been involved in prosecuting perpetrators of elder abuse. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the White House clinic at Gibson Bay.

The Fayette County Council on Elder Abuse Prevention (FCEA) is undertaking the collection of items that Adult Protective Service workers may need to assist them on week-end and off hours such as fans, space heaters, roach traps and other supplies. The council is planning a training session on guardianship and the potential abuse surrounding Powers of Attorney.

For further information, please contact Mary Crowley-Schmidt at the ADD office.

## US 27 TO I-75 CORRIDOR SCOPING STUDY BEGINS

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is conducting a corridor scoping study to examine the need for and feasibility of a new connector road from US 27 in the Nicholasville vicinity to I-75. The study area includes Fayette, Jessamine and Madison Counties. The ADD, the Lexington Area MPO, local governments and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be working with the KYTC and the project consultant, PB Engineering, in this effort.

The study will examine transportation issues such as safety, access, mobility, and travel time, as well as long-range growth management, environmentally sensitive areas, and other local and regional issues. A project Advisory Committee is being formed to insure stakeholder participation.

Several options will be explored including a No Build or Do Nothing scenario, as well as several corridors representing "bands" of feasible future highway routes. The study will also address the type of roadway facility (high speed limited access such as an interstate), high speed controlled access (parkway), etc. The study won't define a specific alignment, but rather a 2,000- or 1,000-foot corridor band that makes sense for future project development purposes.

Federal money was secured to fund the study in the last national transportation bill and the KYTC was mandated by Congress to execute this study.

For additional information, contact Bruce Duncan at the ADD.

### **WILMORE AWARDS CONTRACT FOR AUTOMATED METER READING EQUIPMENT**

The City of Wilmore opened bids in late August and awarded a contract in mid-September for the purchase of automated meter reading equipment for its water distribution system. The Wilmore-Automated Meter Reading Project, expected to cost approximately \$220,000, will include laptop software and metering devices to allow Wilmore to "radio-read" approximately 1,300 water customers in the City's residential and commercial areas.

This project is funded through an award of \$200,000 from the Infrastructure for Economic Development Fund for Non-coal Producing Counties Grant Program. Additional funding of nearly \$20,000 will come from KIA funds recaptured from savings on the recently-completed Wilmore Interconnection Project. The ADD is administering the grant on behalf of the city.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

### **JESSAMINE SEWER PROJECT MOVING TOWARD BID ADVERTISEMENT**

The Jessamine/South Elkhorn Water District and Jessamine County have concluded their efforts to acquire all of the easements necessary for construction of the North Jessamine Sewer project as they prepare to advertise for construction bids.

This project is estimated to carry a construction cost of approximately \$5.2 million and will provide service to 388 building sites in northeastern Jessamine County. Of these, 348 are occupied by dwellings, two are businesses, and 25 are vacant dwelling units. In addition, there are thirteen vacant lots. The building lots are located in or near Tates Creek Estates Subdivision located just south of the intersection of Ashgrove Pike and Tates Creek Road. The project will

## BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

connect to Lexington's West Hickman Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant which is very near the project area. Additionally, 171 units in the drainage basins for Ash Grove East and West, Cool Breeze, Leedean, and Jewell will be served by the North Jessamine Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.

Funding for the project comes from a US Environmental Protection Agency grant of nearly \$2.85 million, a Rural Development grant and loan of \$1.3 million, and a HUD Community Development Block Grant for \$1.0 million.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## WEDCO DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAMES A NEW DIRECTOR

Crystal Caudill assumed the office of Public Health Director for the Wedco District Health Department in late August. One of her first official acts will be to develop a strategic plan for the direction the district should take in the next five years. Wedco District serves the three-county area of Harrison, Scott and Nicholas.

## LAMPO ADOPTS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

In an effort to make the two-county area more bike and pedestrian friendly, the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LAMPO) adopted the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan for Fayette and Jessamine Counties on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The plan represents another step forward in moving the region toward becoming more accommodating to cyclists and pedestrians, including both residents and visitors.

The plan will act as a guide for developing safe and convenient facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in the communities within the designated area. The process for development of the master plan included multiple opportunities for citizen input. This, combined with insight from key stakeholders, provided for a well-rounded discussion of the existing conditions for bikers and walkers in the two counties. With the present situation and desired goals in mind, LAMPO detailed a number of recommendations that would better accommodate bicycling and walking in the Fayette-Jessamine area. These suggestions included policies and programs as well as physical improvements. Finally, the master plan established implementation strategies and evaluation tools. To view the master plan, go to [http://www.lfucg.com/bikewalklex/bike\\_plans.asp](http://www.lfucg.com/bikewalklex/bike_plans.asp).

## CELL PHONE RECYCLING

What do you do with an old cell phone after getting a new one? Leave in a drawer? Give it to a child as a toy? Throw it away?

The EPA estimates that 130 million cellular phones are retired every year. Many of them are stored in homes, and about 20% get discarded in landfills. Throwing them away can cause pollutants

such as arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, copper and lead to enter groundwater and can linger in the environment for a long time, having adverse effects on human health.

Bluegrass PRIDE is offering a way to recycle these phones, and also help PRIDE raise funds. That organization has partnered with ECO-CELL to place boxes throughout Central Kentucky for phone collection. Cell phones, batteries, chargers and other phone accessories can be placed in these boxes. Reusable phones are sold to companies who will refurbish them and redistribute them to developing markets. A portion of the workable phones is also donated to local hospitals for use by patients needing cell phones for emergency 911 calls.

ECO-CELL runs a strict NO LANDFILL program. All items received by ECO-CELL, including batteries, accessories and phones with no resale value, will be recycled using the best demonstrated technologies for recycling e-waste.

Putting an old cell phone in one of these collection boxes will not only limit the amount of household hazardous waste in our landfills, ECO-CELL will donate up to \$15 per phone to PRIDE. So far, over \$700 has been generated through this program.

## **LANCASTER NEARS DESIGN COMPLETION ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT**

The City of Lancaster has prepared design specifications for additional planned improvements to its wastewater treatment plant and has submitted the plans to the Kentucky Division of Water. The project includes replacing the existing manually- cleaned bar screen with a mechanical bar screen and completely replacing the existing pump station. A new wet well will also be constructed. Lab equipment will be purchased if funds are available.

Funding for the project will come, in part, from an Economic Development Fund (EDF) grant earmarked by the 2006 Kentucky General Assembly and processed through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. This \$200,000 grant, together with a second EDF grant for \$100,000 (also provided by the 2006 General Assembly), are being used toward the total estimated project cost of approximately \$450,000. The City will provide local funding of at least \$150,000 to complete the project.

The Bluegrass ADD will be administering grant funds on behalf of the City. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

## **BEREA, GEORGETOWN STEP UP WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE EFFORTS**

In late September, both Berea and Georgetown took steps to further reduce the demand for water in order to prolong their available water supplies. Berea's action was taken in response to continuing hot, dry weather and continuously dropping levels in that community's water supply reservoirs. Georgetown's action was

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taken in response to declining water levels in that community's primary water source, Royal Spring. The city buys a supplemental supply of water daily from the Frankfort Water Plant Board and can also purchase a supplemental supply of potable water from Kentucky-American Water Company (KAWC). Frankfort, however, has already called for voluntary water conservation while KAWC, working through the units of local government within its service area, has taken its water shortage response efforts to a higher level—limiting water use with an odd-even plan for outdoor water uses.

From a climatological point of view, circumstances may not be expected to improve significantly over the near term. While most would suspect that Kentucky precipitation is at its ebb in mid summer, the truth is that September and October are historically the months of the year with the least precipitation. Fortunately, many householders have already suspended the watering of lawns, flower and vegetable gardens as the growing season is approaching its seasonal close.

Both Berea and Georgetown are members of the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission (BWSC). As such, both communities have ample reason to promote an early success of the BWSC effort to bring to the region a supplemental source of potable water

#### **SOUTHEASTERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING CONFERENCE HELD IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

Savannah, Georgia was the host site for the 2007 SE4A Training Conference, presented by the Georgia Gerontology Society on Sept. 16-19. In Kentucky, as well as nationally, aging programs are going through major changes concerning programs for Senior Citizens and are now including persons with physical or mental disabilities. There are so many changes that, in fact, the names for all the Kentucky AAA's have changed to the Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living.

This conference highlighted the changes taking place nationally by offering eight different session tracks for attendees including: Wellness and Senior Centers, Caregiving, Elder Rights and Justice, Advocacy, Health and Long Term Care, Communities Preparing for the Future, Information/Referral/Assistance, and Professional Development & Education. Keynote speakers were Dr. Jeff Treadwell, who spoke on disease management, and *New York Times* best selling author, Joan Anderson, whose talk was entitled "Playing Your Part as a Mentor in the Journey."

One of the major new programs in the aging network that was highlighted more often than any other was the Aging and Disability Resource Center, which in Kentucky is called the Aging and Disability Resource Market. The ADRM will be a one-stop information and referral system which will provide information and assistance to individuals needing either public or private resources, and to professionals seeking assistance on behalf of clients and individuals planning for their long-term care needs. The goals of the

ADRM are to simplify access to various programs and assistance, reduce the need for consumers to make multiple inquiries for services, offer assistance in making crucial decisions and to encourage consumers to be more involved in their care.

### **GEORGETOWN MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE EXAMINES THE NEED FOR RATE INCREASES**

With a water/sewer rate consultant's report in hand, the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service appears ready to ask the Georgetown City Council for an increase in both water and sewer rates. The report predicted net revenues increasing at a diminished rate and the prospect that the utility will no longer be able to meet the obligatory coverage pledged as security to the holders of the utility's long-term debt instruments.

The rate consultant painted several different scenarios, but each calls for at least one bump up in water rates and sewer rates in the near-term future. Rate increases of near ten percent are suggested by the rate consultant's plan. It appears the Georgetown City Council will review the municipal utility's rate increase request at an early date.

### **FRANKFORT ENTERS INTO A CONSENT JUDGMENT TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR UPGRADE TO ITS SEWER SYSTEM**

In early September, Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate signed an order that approved an agreement between the City of Frankfort and the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. The 15-year agreement requires the city, among other things, to eliminate stormwater sewer overflows, submit a long-term control plan for its combined sewer overflows, and eliminate unpermitted discharges from the wastewater collection system.

The city implemented a cost-of-living rate increase in 2007. In January of next year, sewer rates will increase by 12 percent. Two years later, rates will increase 15 percent; and after two years, the rates will increase another 15 percent. Over a 15-year period, the sewer rate increases will generate funds sufficient for the city to undertake \$70 million in sewer system efforts, the amount the city sewer department staff says it will take to comply with the mandates of the consent judgment. The judgment stipulates that all of the required work for be completed by September, 2022.

For more information, contact Bill Scalf, Frankfort's Director of Sewers.



<u>MEETING CALL</u>	
Board or Directors	10/24 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	11/28 7:00 p.m.
Aging Council	10/10 & 11/14 10:00 a.m.
Development Advisory Committee	10/16 2:00 p.m.
Homeland Security Council	10/17 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Committee	10/11 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	10/17 4:15 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	11/17 4:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Committee	11/5 1:30 p.m.
Regional Transportation Safety Committee	10/8 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation, Recreation Advisory Committee	11/13 10:00 a.m.
ALL meeting dates/times subject to change.	
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Chairman	Judge R.W. Gilbert
Vice-Chairman	Mr. Dodd Dixon
Secretary	Judge Larry Tincher
Treasurer	Mayor Connie Lawson
Executive Director	Lenny P. Stoltz II

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