

RECREATIONAL NEEDS ABOUND IN THE BLUEGRASS DESPITE STEEP COMPETITION FOR FUNDS

Many federal programs have decreased funding in recent years, and this holds true in the areas of parks and recreation. This continual decrease makes the funding available to the State of Kentucky minimal, and therefore, hinders recreational development. Even with the reduced funding over the years, needs in Central Kentucky have not diminished. ADD staff has spent the past few months feverishly working to submit applications for a number of programs on behalf of local communities. Two of those programs have now closed their funding cycles and will be reviewing the high volume of applications they received during the open window. The Recreational Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund programs allow monies for recreational development, which is of prime importance to the region. Funding requests during the cycle included such amenities as recreational and interpretive trails, skate parks, playground equipment, and landscaping to name a few. Communities for which applications were submitted are shown below for the respective programs:

Recreational Trails Program

- 1) Nicholasville/Jessamine County Parks and Recreation
- 2) City of Ravenna
- 3) Lincoln County Fiscal Court
- 4) Nicholas County Fiscal Court
- 5) Madison County Fiscal Court
- 6) Garrard County Fiscal Court
- 7) Harrison County Fiscal Court

Land and Water Conservation Fund

- 1) City of Paris
- 2) Jessamine County Fiscal Court
- 3) City of Ravenna
- 4) Lincoln County Fiscal Court
- 5) City of Lawrenceburg
- 6) Madison County Fiscal Court
- 7) City of Versailles
- 8) Garrard County Fiscal Court
- 9) City of Winchester

For more information on the Recreational Trails Program and/or Land and Water Conservation Fund, please contact Lora B. Littleton or Laurel Wood at the ADD.

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JUDGE WILDER APPOINTED COMMISSIONER OF GOLD

Boyle County Judge/Executive Tony Wilder has been appointed by Gov. Beshear as Commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD). On April 16, he will replace Jim Cauley, the Governor's chief of staff, who has been acting commissioner since January. Judge Wilder stated he would resign as Judge/Executive on March 14. The Governor will then name a replacement for that position.

Judge Wilder has served as Judge/Executive since 1993. He previously served as Boyle County Circuit Clerk from 1988-1993. Judge Wilder was also Chairman of the ADD Board of Directors, 2004-2006.

Congratulations go to him on his new position.

BLUEGRASS WATER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RESCHEDULED

The date of the next Bluegrass Water Management Council meeting has been moved from 9:30 am on April 18 to 9:30 am on April 11. The meeting place remains the same, at the Bluegrass ADD conference room. The agenda for the meeting will be e-mailed out to all members and regular attendees around April 1.

KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET ISSUES "RECOMMENDED HIGHWAY PLAN"

The 2008 Recommended Highway Plan, which contains all proposed Kentucky transportation projects through 2014, was presented recently to members of the General Assembly and the public by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The recommended plan anticipates that \$5.3 billion in state and federal funding will be available over the upcoming six-year period – \$1.03 billion less than the basis for the last plan, which was issued in 2006. The new plan anticipates "zero dollars" for new, state-funded projects until late in fiscal 2010.

Moderate growth in the Kentucky Road Fund has not kept pace with a 40 percent increase in the price of road-building materials since 2005, the report noted. In addition, the state portion of the plan contains projects that exceed forecasted revenues by nearly \$3 billion. Priorities for an array of projects, including pavement restoration and bridge repair, are included.

The plan also provides for continued investment in the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges project, in part through "innovative financing" of a type to be determined. The General Assembly is evaluating possible creation of public authorities that would have the task of determining the most

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appropriate means of securing funding beyond the state commitment for projects such as the Louisville Bridges.

Secretary Joe Prather and other officials of the Transportation Cabinet have stated in testimony to legislative committees that the Louisville Bridges will require significant funding from nontraditional sources if the project is to move forward.

The amount of innovative financing needed for the bridges project is \$844.9 million over the latter four years of the recommended plan. Total funding in the recommended plan for the Louisville Bridges, including traditional federal funding, is \$1.44 billion.

The recommended plan contains a few new projects, including improvements needed to keep Kentucky's commitments to the World Equestrian Games, to be held in Lexington in 2010, and to accommodate a major enhancement of Fort Knox, soon to be the home of the Army's worldwide personnel management command.

The recommended plan can be viewed at http://transportation.ky.gov/progmt/08_RHP/.

HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR ADDRESSES COUNCIL

At its meeting in February, the Bluegrass Regional Homeland Security Council hosted two guest speakers from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS) - Mr. Adam H. Edelen, KOHS Director, and Mr. Gene Kiser, Deputy Executive Director of Grants & Finance.

Mr. Edelen addressed local emergency management and elected officials from across the Bluegrass Region, identifying new strategies at KOHS. He assured Council members that the goal for KOHS was for local jurisdictions to have no surprises coming from offices in Frankfort. The agency aims to recognize the needs of each community by facilitating a better mechanism for communication. Mr. Edelen stated that he hoped to have a well-established relationship between emergency responders and KOHS, and referred to this concept as being "partners in business."

Furthermore, Mr. Edelen and Mr. Kiser spoke of a more simplified Homeland Security Grant Program application process in which they also hoped to increase the diversity of grant reviewers. He recognized that Bluegrass ADD had long been taking a regional approach and assured Council members that new strategies for the grant program included a regional approach. The 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program has yet to be announced.



Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Director, Adam H. Edelen, addresses elected officials, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency management personnel at the February meeting of the Bluegrass Regional Homeland Security Council.

Mr. Edelen also touched on his meetings with representatives in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Kentucky Emergency Management and Homeland Security officials. He realized that many Kentucky counties were charged with handling both Emergency Management responsibilities (to respond and recover), as well as Homeland Security duties (to keep the community ready and prepared).

In addition, Mr. Edelen outlined a potential certification program that could possibly be made available to communities across the state. This program would include an initiative to certify communities based on established criteria, the existence of volunteer Citizen Corps programs, community initiative, and having a long-term plan. He said a "Certified Ready & Prepared" community may possibly receive a financial incentive or perhaps road signage indicating a "Ready & Prepared" Community.

Overall, Kentucky Homeland Security officials realized that there were needs from each discipline of emergency response that included police, fire, and EMS. In consideration of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, Bluegrass ADD communities have distinct needs that differentiate them from other regions in Kentucky in order to prepare.

For more information regarding Homeland Security initiatives, contact Laurel Wood at lwood@bgadd.org or call (859) 269-8021.

USDA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT HAS LOAN GUARANTEES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Rural Development, an agency within the US Department of Commerce, has, over the years, been both a lender and a grantor agency to the virtually all of the Bluegrass Area counties with the exception of Lexington-Fayette. Rural Development announces the availability of loan guarantee financing through its Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program.

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Types of projects financed include:

- Health care facilities including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and ambulatory care centers
- Public safety facilities including police and fire stations, jails, fire and rescue vehicles, and communication centers
- Telecommunications including medical and educational telecommunication links
- Public services including adult and child care centers, courthouses, senior centers, airports, schools, fairgrounds, jails, community buildings, etc.

Eligible applicants include cities, counties, and other units of local government, special-purpose districts, and not-for-profit organizations.

To qualify for consideration, a lender must first be unwilling to make the loan without obtaining a loan guarantee. Loans are limited to unincorporated rural areas and to cities of 20,000 population or less.

For more information on RD's Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, contact the Community Programs Division at the Kentucky RD Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington 40503-5477; phone (859) 224-7336 or contact the RD District Office in Shelbyville, c/o Gene Floyd at (502) 633-3294, Ext. 4.

FOUR BLUEGRASS COUNTIES DESIGNATED AS FEDERAL DISASTER AREAS

Storms of February 5 and 6 wrought havoc and widespread destruction in many areas of Kentucky. Four Bluegrass area counties were among 15 Kentucky counties that have received a federal disaster designation due to the strong winds and tornadoes that raked many areas of the state. Disaster recovery offices were set up in Mercer County and in Fayette County some weeks ago, and, more recently, mobile disaster recovery offices were established in Harrison and Nicholas Counties.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners are encouraged to register for assistance before visiting a center by calling FEMA's toll-free help line, 1-800-621-3362. Applicants have been asked to provide their Social Security number, address, and directions to the damaged property, description of the damage, information about insurance coverage, a telephone number and a mailing address.

For more information, contact Lora Littleton at the ADD.

WATER/WASTEWATER MEETINGS CONTINUE ON A MULTICOUNTY LEVEL

Since 2000, it became apparent that the 17-county Bluegrass Water Management Council (409 Council) meetings drew an audience so diverse that discussions concerning the plans, projects, and problems involving single water or wastewater utilities were effectively stymied. On the other hand, it is often helpful to discuss single water/wastewater utilities in the presence of neighboring utilities because such discussions can facilitate cooperation and coordination among utilities. For that reason, the ADD began in 2007 to set up multicounty meetings of utilities, usually encompassing about three counties at a time. That multicounty discussion group effort has continued in to 2008 as ADD staff has set up seven multicounty meetings of public policymakers, utility managers, health department representatives and selected others to explore water and wastewater issues.

Four of those meetings have been held, while three multicounty meetings remain on the horizon.

Meetings that have been held include:

- Estill-Powell Counties on January 17
- Harrison-Bourbon-Nicholas Counties on February 7
- Garrard-Lincoln-Boyle Counties on February 28
- Anderson-Mercer Counties on March 13

Multicounty meetings of water/wastewater utilities still on the calendar involve:

- Woodford-Franklin-Scott Counties on April 10 at the Frankfort Plant Board clubhouse
- Fayette-Jessamine Counties—May 1 at Bluegrass ADD
- Clark-Madison Counties—May 22 at the EEOC building in Richmond

Meetings involve full afternoons' discussions of activities involving:

For water utilities

- water supply plans and problems
- water treatment capacity adequacy, needs, problems
- water distribution and storage adequacy, needs, problems
- rate issues, adequacy

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- permit compliance issues
- unserved and underserved areas
- opportunities for connectivity and regional cooperation
- capital improvement plans
- maintenance and management of aging infrastructure
- mapping updates
- project profile reviews

For wastewater utilities

- wastewater treatment plant adequacy, needs, problems
- wastewater collection issues, problems, plans
- rate issues, adequacy
- permit compliance issues
- unserved and underserved areas
- opportunities for connectivity and regional cooperation
- mapping updates
- project profile reviews

In general, letter invitations are sent by the ADD about a week in advance to those most likely to be involved in dealing with and in planning for these types of water/wastewater issues. However, the meetings are open to all with an interest in such issues. To be added to the mailing list for invitations or for further information, contact David Duttlinger or Don Hassall at the ADD.

HARRODSBURG-MERCER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NAMES NEW OFFICERS

New officers were recently named for the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority. They are:

Chair—Phil Crump

Vice-chair—Pete Chiericozzi

Treasurer—Bob Williams

Mr. Crump is also on the ADD Board of Directors and Executive Board.

For more information on industrial and business development in the Bluegrass, contact Craig McAnelly at the ADD.

JESSAMINE/SOUTH ELKHORN WATER PROJECT NEARS HALF-WAY MARK

The Jessamine/South Elkhorn Water District is pressing forward with its Southeast Rural Jessamine Unserved Areas water project as construction enters its fifth month. February progress was slowed due to weather conditions, but by month's end nearly 44 percent of the construction contract funds were expended. The contract was signed in mid-September for \$972,600.

The project is designed to 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 approximately \$1.6 million, is supported by a 2003 Tobacco Development Fund grant of \$800,000 and a 2005 Tobacco Development Fund grant for an additional \$800,000.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

US 27 TO I-75 CORRIDOR SCOPING STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The advisory committee providing guidance to insure stakeholder participation in the US 27 to I-75 Corridor Scoping Study held its second meeting on February 25 at the ADD office.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is conducting the corridor scoping study to examine the need 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) are working with the KYTC and the project consultant, PB Engineering, in this effort.

The study is examining 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. The advisory committee reviewed comments and initial corridor suggestions provided at the November 20 public meeting held at the West Jessamine Middle School.

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The committee discussed initial traffic model data, prepared by the consultant, on several corridor options based upon the public meeting suggestions. The group also worked on a Purpose and Need statement. Upon discussion of information to date, the group decided to wait until its next meeting to begin narrowing alternatives to allow the project work group sufficient time to generate as much information as possible before making their recommendations.

After the next advisory committee meeting on April 8, another public meeting will be scheduled to solicit input regarding the group of corridors selected for further study. A public meeting date has not been selected, but it will be located somewhere on the eastern end of the project, as the first meeting was held on the western end.

Several options are being explored, including a "No Build" or "Do Nothing" scenario as well as several corridors representing "bands" of feasible future highway routes. The study is also addressing the type of roadway facility, such as high speed limited access (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.

For additional information, contact Bruce Duncan at the ADD.

CONSULTANT RECOMMENDS A WATER RATE INCREASE FOR FRANKFORT

A national consulting firm has suggested to the Frankfort Electric and Water Plant Board that water rates for in-city Frankfort customers be increased by about three percent. If the Board accepts that recommendation, the minimum rate (for 2,000 gallons) for in-city customers would increase to \$8.94 from the present rate of \$8.69. Within the Bluegrass Area, the slightly higher rate would continue to be less than the average rate charged for that consumption level. The out-of-city customer rate of \$12.60 (for 2,000 gallons per month or less) would remain unchanged under the plan.

For more information on water and sewer rates in the Bluegrass Area, contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

BIDS ADVERTISED FOR GRAND THEATER IN GARRARD COUNTY

The Grand Theater has been a historic staple in downtown Lancaster for many years, and the work to restore and revitalize it is now progressing with the recent advertisement for bids.

State and federal funds have been secured from numerous sources in order to get this project off the ground and running. Local partnerships and a high level of community support are also working to make this project feasible. The Garrard County Fiscal Court along with the Lancaster Grand Theater, Inc., the non-profit group involved, are hoping to again make the theater a point of significance like it once was. Bids will be received and opened near the end of March. For more information about this project, please contact Lora B. Littleton at the ADD.

LEXINGTON COUNCIL APPROVES SEWER FEE INCREASES

Following a protracted public debate, intertwined with Lexington's approval of an USEPA consent decree, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council approved in mid-February a substantial increase in sewer user fees. Before that action, the fee structure had not been increased since 2002. The Council approved a two-step increase, to be implemented over two years. At the 6,000 gallons per month water usage level, the sewer rate will increase from \$15.76 (presently) to \$21.98 beginning in May, 2008. In July 2009, the rate will increase further to \$29.75. The two-step increase moves Lexington's sewer rates from about 41 percent below the average rate for the region to slightly above the average rate for the region at the 6,000 gallons per month water consumption level. Like before, the sewer bill in the spring and summer will be based upon water consumption in the previous six months when little if any outdoor water use is likely.

For more information on water and sewer rates or water and sewer ratemaking, contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

MARLBORO/RATCLIFF NEIGHBORHOOD STAYS INFORMED

In January, ADD staff was asked to prepare and present a seminar on disaster preparedness to the Marlboro/Ratcliff Neighborhood Association in North Lexington. Using guidelines from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, Laurel Wood addressed residents of the neighborhood on a series of frequently-asked questions on things they can do to help their family be prepared for an emergency. These included: 1) getting an emergency supply kit, 2) making a family emergency plan, and 3) staying informed.

Mrs. Wood also addressed the items that should be included in an emergency supply kit, considerations for families with special needs, how to develop a family emergency plan to contact each other, where to go, what to do, and how to stay informed of

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the potential emergencies that can happen in your state, region, and community. Mrs. Wood outlined the possible natural disasters specific to Kentucky and gave examples of man-made disasters unique to the Marlboro/Ratcliff Neighborhood and others like it.

In an emergency, it is crucial to think clearly, act quickly, and know what's going on. Don't panic. Get the latest forecasts and instructions from outdoor warning sirens, the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Cable Interrupt System, local T.V. and radio stations, and most importantly, a battery operated NOAA weather radio.

There are ways citizens can get involved. Citizen Corps Councils are designed to bring together government, community leaders, first responders, emergency managers, businesses, non-profit and volunteer organizations, and other groups with a direct interest in strengthening their communities. Mrs. Wood continued to explain the significance of the Bluegrass Regional Citizen Corps Council bringing together local leaders of Citizen Corps Programs such as Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, Fire Corps, Volunteers in Police Service, and Neighborhood Watch in communities across the Bluegrass Region. The Bluegrass Regional Citizen Corps Council's 2007 Strategic Plan disseminated emergency response door hangers to vulnerable populations in an effort to alert neighbors and emergency personnel in the event of a large-scale, far-reaching, or extended emergency situation affecting neighborhoods or communities.

At the conclusion of the interactive seminar, Ms. Wood stressed that after a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene. But in the meantime, people may need to look after themselves for hours or even days. Know what to do when the time comes. Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. And they can happen to you. While you can't always stop them from happening, you can be ready. For more information about disaster preparedness or the Citizen Corps Programs, contact Laurel Wood at the ADD.

KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES THRAC

At the ADD's Tourism, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Advisory Committee (THRAC) meeting on March 11, Ms. Donna Neary, Executive Director of the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), addressed the members. She discussed the mission of KHC, its role in relation to local governments, and how it can assist other entities in protecting and interpreting their historically significant resources.

Ms. Neary explained how the Kentucky Heritage Council's mission is to enhance preservation networks across the state to ensure that our historic places and sites are valued in order to enhance the quality and economy of our local communities. This idea was underscored with the notion that preservation has a local approach, and therefore, has a local impact. After giving a brief overview of how the agency came to be, she explained the purpose and impact of the National Register of Historic Places and noted the number of sites listed in counties throughout the state. Kentucky ranks fourth in the nation for the number of sites listed on the National Register. This feat has been accomplished with the smallest budget for a state agency of its kind when compared to all other states.

In efforts to continue making progress in the realm of historic preservation, the Kentucky Heritage Council is seeking new funding sources for the federal, state, and local levels. In order to meet guidelines set forth by being listed or eligible for listing on the National Register, funds are often required to meet those guidelines, notwithstanding funds needed to acquire and restore sites with historic significance. For that reason, the Council is actively inquiring into other funding sources and looking for new markets and opportunities for preservation efforts.

Two points during the discussion highlighted the economic impact that preservation can and does make in our local communities. Ms. Neary noted the financial impact the Main Street program has had on local communities. Total reinvestment in Kentucky downtowns for 2007 totaled more than \$620 million. In over 29 years, the Kentucky Main Street program's longevity, total reinvestment amounted to over \$2 billion. The impact of historic preservation was further noted by the recent report entitled "Historic Preservation in Kentucky", which was sponsored by Preservation Kentucky. The report details the various economic impacts that have been made in Kentucky as well as the potential impacts through preservation efforts.

In short, historic preservation is very active and an effective tool for economic development in the state and the region. To learn more about the Kentucky Heritage Council and its programs and activities, please visit <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/khchome.htm>. If you would like to view the report "Historic Preservation in Kentucky" or learn more about Preservation Kentucky, you can visit their website at <http://www.preservationkentucky.org>. For more information on THRAC, please contact Lora B. Littleton at the ADD.

NORTH JESSAMINE SEWER PROJECT ADVANCES

The Jessamine/South Elkhorn Water District (JSEWD) and Jessamine County are close to breaking ground on this project, as the JSEWD issued a Notice of Award for the North Jessamine Sewer project in early March.

The project is estimated to carry a total cost of approximately \$6,063,835 and is divided into two project areas: the Tates Creek Estates drainage basin and the Ash Grove drainage area. Improvements in Tates Cree Estates will include service to 388 building sites in northeastern Jessamine County. Of the 388 building lots to be provided service, 348 are occupied by dwellings, two are businesses, and 25 are vacant dwelling units. In addition, there are 13 vacant lots. The building lots are sited in or near Tates Creek Estates Subdivision, located just south of the intersection of Ashgrove Pike and Tates Creek Road. The project will connect to Lexington's West Hickman Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant which is very near the project area. The second portion of the project area, the Ash Grove drainage area, will serve approximately 171 units. Construction costs are expected to top \$4.6 million, with nearly \$3.3 million attributed to the Tates Creek component and another \$1.4 million going for Ash Grove.

Construction will include installing 5.2 miles of gravity sewer, 1.5 miles of service laterals, 2.3 miles of 10-inch force main, 127 manholes, and a 535-gpm sewage station. Funding for the project comes from a US Environmental Protection Agency grant of \$2,850,700, an RD grant of \$ 941,300, an RD loan of \$ 1,272,000, and a HUD Community Development Block Grant for \$1.0 million.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS DECISION FOR GEORGETOWN MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

In February, 2008, the Kentucky Supreme Court denied a motion to review a decision by the Court of Appeals that in part ruled in favor of Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service (GMWSS). The decision by the Court of Appeals, rendered June 15, 2007, overturned a Circuit Court decision in favor of developers, awarding them an amount of \$230,800 for the installation of water and sewer lines in Georgetown.

The claim by the developers against GMWSS was based on their interpretation of Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) 96.539. This statute requires water and sewer utilities to develop rules to govern the extensions of service to unserved customers. Under the guidance of the KRS, the utility's rules should provide a

provision for a developer to pay the utility all or part of the cost of extending utility lines. When such payment is made, the cost of any extension greater than one hundred (100) feet per applicant shall be subject to refund by the utility on a prorated basis for each additional customer whose service line is directly connected to the extension paid by the initial applicant. The statute limits the refund period to ten (10) years.

The Court of Appeals did uphold the Circuit Court's ruling that GMWSS had failed to develop rules governing extensions of service to unserved customers. However, it overturned the decision in favor of the developers requiring GMWSS to reimburse the developers for the installation of the water and sewer lines. The reversal was based on several points, but primarily was overturned because the developer had installed the new water and sewer lines on their own, not through a contract with GMWSS. The developer requested that GMWSS reimburse them with "connection fees" received from homeowners for tap-on. However, connection fees typically only cover the actual costs of providing a water meter or a sewer lateral connection.

For more questions regarding this case, KRS 96.539, or setting and determining utility rates, please contact David Duttlinger at dduttlinger@bgadd.org.

LEXINGTON AUDIT SUGGESTS MANDATORY RECYCLING

Among 424 recommendations that were a part of an "idea and efficiency audit" prepared for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council was one that suggests making recycling mandatory for anyone in Fayette County and switching the garbage collection fee structure from one based on the value of one's home to a "pay-as-you-toss" concept.

Participation in the city's voluntary recycling program reached new heights since the change to the one-sort plus glass system several years ago, but recent year-to-year increases in the participation rate have been more-or-less modest. It is thought that the quantity of materials diverted from the waste stream to be recycled can be increased substantially under a mandatory program. A reduction in the volume of waste materials that must be landfilled would result in a considerable savings to the local government.

The idea of mandatory recycling is one that has been used sparingly in Kentucky, but cities in other states, including cities as large as and larger than Lexington, have already begun to utilize mandatory recycling.

USEPA AND LEXINGTON SETTLE LONG-RUNNING ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE

It has been a long time coming, but Lexington and the USEPA have apparently settled on a path that will significantly improve Lexington from an environmental point of view. The agreement, which must still receive the approval of a federal judge, will result in the following:

- \$250 million to \$300 million in expenditures to fix the sanitary sewers
- \$425,000 to be paid by Lexington to USEPA as a fine
- \$30 million to be spent to remediate flooding problems.

Within the agreement, sanitary sewer projects that Lexington must undertake are spelled out in more detail than are the stormwater initiatives. Sanitary sewer projects mandated by EPA include:

- Eliminating all sanitary sewer overflows in the pipe system involving the Town Branch and the West Hickman treatment plants over the next dozen years.
- Installing a backup power source at both treatment plants by April 1.
- Spending more than \$36 million to repair four sanitary sewage pumping stations. The two worst must be replaced within 30 months after the decree is filed with the federal court.
- Eliminating the Blue Sky wastewater treatment plant with a sewage pumping station, at an estimated cost of \$2 million.
- Conducting a system-wide assessment at an estimated cost of \$9.5 million. The assessment would determine whether additional repairs are needed.
- Completing a system capacity assessment at an estimated cost of \$2 million.
- Completing a self-assessment of every sanitary sewer operation and developing various plans, including an overflow response plan, gravity sewers plan, preventative maintenance program, and pumping station operation plan for outages. The development and implementation of the plans should have an estimated annual budget of \$16 million.

Further, the consent degree specifies that the city must create a new stormwater fee in the next two years. The new fee would be based on the amount of impervious surface on a piece of property.

Other cities where EPA has stepped in have experienced the following outcomes:

Louisville (2005) — \$800 million in improvements; \$1 million fine to the Commonwealth; \$2.25 million in environmental programs.

Nashville (2007) — \$300 million to \$400 million in improvements; \$564,000 in fines.

Ft. Wayne (2007) — \$250 million in improvements. \$538,000 in fines; \$400,000 to fix failing septic systems.

Baton Rouge (2001) — \$330 million to \$461 million in improvements; \$730,000 in fines; \$1.1 in environmental projects.

Cincinnati (2003) — \$1.5 billion in improvements.

Indianapolis (2006) — \$1.86 billion in improvements; \$1.1 million fine; \$2 million to eliminate failing septic systems.

Pittsburgh (2007) — Improvement costs not yet specified; \$1.2 million fine; \$3 million in environmental projects.

Youngstown, OH (2002) — \$112 million in improvements; \$60,000 in fines.

Knoxville (2004) — \$540 million in improvements; \$334,000 in fines.

Northern Kentucky Sanitation District No. 1 (Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties, 2007) — \$880 million in improvements; \$466,000 in fines; \$311,000 to reduce flows from residences and \$325,000 for environmental projects.

STANFORD CONSIDERS WESTWARD EXPANSION

City officials in Stanford are looking at expanding the city's corporate limits. Under consideration is the area at the city's northwest corner including the land west of the Stanford Elementary School and around Food Lion, the PKB Bank and Foster Lane. Some agricultural land, as well as some undeveloped land, is included in those areas as is a planned residential development off Foster Lane.

Stanford officials are looking for advice from planners from the Bluegrass ADD. For more information, contact Beth Jones at the ADD.

SOLID WASTE RECYCLING ON THE RISE IN GARRARD COUNTY

Garrard County's five-year solid waste plan update indicates that interest and participation in recycling is on the rise in that community. Between 2006 and 2007, there were substantial percentage increases in recycled materials, as is demonstrated below:

- Plastics—up by 51 percent
- Steel cans—up by 90 percent
- Aluminum cans—up 277 percent
- Glass—up 144 percent
- Newsprint—up 81 percent
- Cardboard—up 23 percent

Garrard County's Solid Waste Coordinator is Chris Thomason.

For more information on solid waste initiatives and options, contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

WILMORE CLOSES WATER METER READING EQUIPMENT PROJECT

The City of Wilmore recently filed its final draw and certification of completion for its automated water meter reading equipment project. The total project cost was approximately \$220,000, and included laptop software and metering devices to allow Wilmore to "radio-read" approximately 1,300 water customers in the City's residential and commercial areas.

Wilmore selected the Bluegrass Area Development District to administer the project, which was funded through a \$200,000 grant from the Infrastructure for Economic Development Fund for Non-coal Producing Counties Grant Program. Additional funding of nearly \$20,000 came from KIA funds recaptured from savings on another recently-completed Wilmore project.

For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

MILLERSBURG CITY HALL MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

The City of Millersburg has moved in to new "digs." When the former Millersburg Elementary School was declared surplus property by the county school board, the City of Millersburg stepped up to buy it last year for \$38,000. Since then, teams of inmates from the Bourbon County Detention Center have been at work. Inmates have painted, cleaned the building, worked on the roof, and done other sorts of maintenance work to get the

building ready for occupancy by the City. On top of the purchase price, the city spent about \$30,000 on renovation efforts. The refurbished building houses city offices, the city Police Department, and will have excess space available for lease.

One of the final projects will be the renovation of the old gymnasium. Work on the gym has already begun. Upon completion, it will be available for both youth and adult community development activities.

The City of Millersburg occupied its new space in February.

DANVILLE CONSIDERS CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Danville is considering a curbside recycling program, but it may be a year or two in the future. In the meantime, the city's recycling program manager wants to maintain momentum by adding, later this year, three new drop-off centers around the city that should increase participation in voluntary recycling by making it more convenient

LANCASTER AND JUNCTION CITY SEEK LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR CITY CLASS CHANGE

City Councils of both Lancaster and Junction City have voted to request that the Kentucky General Assembly change the class of their cities. Under Kentucky law, each is a Fifth Class city at present, and each seeks reclassification to a Fourth Class city.

"Q&A" IN LEXINGTON

Q. Lexington hosted an electronics recycling week in February. How much did the city collect?

A. Steve Feese, Lexington's recycling program manager, reports that the city collected 70 tons of electronic gear in that one week.

Q. Where are the landfills for Fayette County located?

A. There are two operating landfills in Fayette County and both accept only construction and demolition debris. Those two landfills are at 3849 Hedger Lane, Lexington 40516 and Demolition Disposal Services at 4400 Haley Pike, Lexington 40516.

Solid waste generated in Fayette County is taken to four landfills outside of Fayette County, but all are in Kentucky. The four are:

- Tri-K Landfill in Lincoln County
- Epperson Landfill in Grant County

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- Blue Ridge Landfill in Estill County and
- Morehead's landfill in Rowan County

Q. What ever happened to the widening of Clays Mill Road?

A. Finally, the money is in hand, design is complete, and construction will begin soon. Construction will begin on the portion of Clays Mill Road from New Circle Road to Higbee Mill Road (which is just inside Man o' War Boulevard). Roadway work should begin as soon as the weather warms. Utility lines are already being moved back and away from the upcoming roadway work. A total of almost \$8 million has been allocated to modify the road segment, which includes adding turn lanes, improving the sidewalks, and widening the road to three lanes.

Q. How effective are efforts in Kentucky to seek and promote industrial job creation?

A. Actually, efforts have been pretty successful. Kentucky ranked tenth in the nation for new and expanded industrial activity in 2007, according to a study by Site Selection Magazine's annual Governor's Cup ranking. The ranking is based upon a state's number of qualified projects as tracked by Conway Data Inc.'s new-plant database. Qualified projects include those that meet at least one of three criteria:

- Involvement of a capital investment of at least \$1 million
- Creation of at least 50 jobs, or the
- Addition of at least 20,000 square feet of floor space

During 2007, Kentucky generated 199 projects that met those criteria. In total, 316 location or expansion announcements were reported in Kentucky during 2007 involving the creation of 13,371 new jobs. Investment was estimated to be more than \$2.3 billion.

Source: Lexington Herald-Leader

DANVILLE CLOSING IN ON FINAL DESIGNS FOR NEW CITY HALL

Architectural sketches of what would be Danville's new City Hall were presented and discussed at a recent meeting of the Danville City Commission. Revisions were suggested and final sketches were then presented for public viewing at the March 6 City Commission meeting. A construction manager is to be hired to oversee and direct the work as it unfolds. Plans call for a first floor to be situated atop a basement level. For more information, contact Danville City Manager Paul Stansbury

JESSAMINE COUNTY ACCEPTS E-WASTE

Jessamine County accepted electronic waste for free during February. Waste accepted included computers, monitors, printers, fax machines and cell phones. The USEPA began to regulate how electronic machines could be disposed of several years ago because of concerns with the cathode ray tubes in computer monitors that contain, on average, several pounds of lead, as well as cadmium in the batteries of the machines. Other trace elements are also a concern.

The Jessamine County Recycling Center is located at 123 Hendren Way in Nicholasville.

For more information on solid waste planning or recycling, contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

MERCER AND GARRARD COUNTY TO GET NEW JUDICIAL CENTERS

Harrodsburg and Lancaster are each set to get a downtown spruce-up when new judicial centers for both Mercer County and Garrard County are completed in each city in 2010. Approval came in early March from the Court Facilities and Standards Committee of the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Garrard County's new judicial center would be located one block south of the existing courthouse on the town square. The two-story Garrard building will boast a contemporary look featuring a curved colonnaded entrance with large white pillars fronting a glass mid-section with brick on either side.

Mercer County's new center is to be a more traditional design, in keeping with Harrodsburg's historic downtown. The new building will be built on the site of the existing county courthouse, and will be a near clone of the colonial style building it replaces—only it will be about twice as large. Demolition of Mercer County's existing courthouse will begin this autumn with

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county offices and the court system to set up a temporary home in the former Gateway store just two blocks away and on the edge of the downtown district. When the new Mercer County Judicial Center is completed in two years, state courts and offices will solely occupy it while county offices will continue to be located at the renovated Gateway store site.

For more information, contact Garrard County Judge/Executive John Wilson or Mercer County Judge/Executive John Trisler.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INTRODUCED THAT WOULD PERMIT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAXES

HB 361, a proposed constitutional amendment to permit local option sales taxes, has been introduced in the Kentucky General Assembly. The Kentucky League of Cities led in the preparation of the proposed amendment in response to the difficulties some cities have experienced in developing funding to meet local needs. Far from being an automatic tax increase, the amendment would allow an additional one percent local sales tax added to purchases in approving local jurisdictions. The amendment would require that a local referendum first be held. The local option sales tax would become effective only if voters approved the initiative through a referendum.

For ideas on other local revenue enhancement measures, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

RAIN GARDENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP RAINWATER ON-SITE AND TO FILTER POLLUTANTS

An initiative called *2,010 Rain Gardens by 2010* was launched in late February at a meeting that drew representatives of large corporations, small business owners, landscape architects, educators and homeowners. Many of the storm water and sanitary sewer problems that are presently experienced in Lexington result from the urbanization that has resulted over past decades. So much more of Lexington is now under roof, under concrete, and under blacktop that runoff from rain water is directed to drainage ways and creeks (and sanitary sewers too) more quickly and in greater quantities than it did formerly. These "big flushes" result in environmental problems of all kinds.

A part of the cure is seen in the development by homeowners and businesses of *rain gardens*. A rain garden—a strategically placed shallow depression planted with grasses and flowers—captures runoff from hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, and parking lots. Pollutants such as motor oil, pesticides, granular fertilizer, and canine feces are broken down by microbes

in the soil as the rainwater soaks through the soil as it soaks through the garden, according to David Gabbard, LFUCG senior municipal engineer. Rain gardens conserve water and replenish groundwater supply, he said. A rain garden is not a pond. Rather, it is built on a deep layer of rich topsoil, designed to drain over several days. "Rain gardens are something everybody can do in their backyard, and it will help make a difference," said Gabbard.

Gabbard was a recent speaker at a meeting of the ADD's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Advisory Committee. For more information, contact Bluegrass PRIDE at 859/266-1572 or www.kentuckypride.com.

AN ICON IS GONE IN STANTON

Abner's Motel, a landmark in Stanton for more than 50 years, is no more. It was torn down in mid-February to make room for the eventual widening of Kentucky highway 213. Tradition says that the motel was the first structure in Stanton to have the luxury of running water.



MEETING CALL

Board of Directors	4/25 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	5/28 11:00 a.m.
Aging Council	4/9 & 5/15 10:00 a.m.
Development Advisory Committee	4/8 2:00 p.m.
Homeland Security Council	4/23 1:00 p.m.
Citizen Corps Council	4/23 2:30 p.m.
Human Services Committee	4/10 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	4/16 3:15 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	5/7 4:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Committee	5/12 1:30 p.m.
Regional Transportation Safety Committee	4/14 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation & Recreation Advisory Committee	5/13 10:00 a.m.

ALL meeting dates/times subject to change.

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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