

BLUEGRASS REGIONAL BOOMER AND SENIOR GAMES HELD

The Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging & Independent Living and Berea College held the first annual Bluegrass Regional Boomer and Senior Games on Sept. 6, 2008. Athletes from around the Bluegrass, outside the region and even several competitors from outside the state gathered in Berea at the College's Seabury Athletic Center to compete. Eight sanctioned athletic competitions and an arts and crafts exhibit took place on the Berea campus and at the Berea Country Club, including: badminton, 3-on-3 basketball, cycling, golf, racquetball, swimming, track and field and tennis. Over 100 volunteers gave their time and energy to assist the athletes with anything from directions, judging, time keeping, serving lunches and drinks to being "great personal cheerleaders" as one 20 K cycling competitor stated.



(Photo Courtesy of Nancy Taggart)

All competitors were required to be at least fifty years old to compete in the eight competitions and medals were given for first through third place finishes in each five-year age bracket. In conjunction with the sanctioned events, an arts and crafts exhibit and fun games were held for those who were less inclined to compete in the more strenuous events. Corn hole tournaments and a one-mile fun walk around the campus were held with competitors receiving official certificates of participation. Over 200 entries were received for the arts and crafts exhibit including quilts, wood crafts, wall hangings, photography, woven baskets, paintings and jewelry.

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The swimming competitions included events in backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle and individual medley. Track and field events included discus, javelin, shot put, high jump, long jump, 100-meter, 200, 400, 800 and 1500-meter races. Times for some of the "senior" competitors include: a 100-meter time of 13.2 seconds for a 61-year old, 200 meter time of 26.3 for a 63 year-old runner, and a 67 year-old finished the 400-meter with a time of 73! The Bluegrass Regional Games concluded two weeks prior to the Kentucky State Senior Games which were held in Ashland, KY. Winners from the Kentucky games are eligible to compete in the National Senior Games in August, 2009 in San Francisco. For more information on this year's games or to register for next year, please contact Randy Lawson at the ADD.

STANTON, CLAY CITY, AND POWELL COUNTY ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT

An attempt to get multiple local governments to agree to work together in any endeavor can sometimes be a tricky task. However, over the course of several weeks in August and September, the City of Stanton, the City of Clay City, and the Powell County Fiscal Court all agreed to work together to own and operate a single (instead of separate) wastewater treatment plant in the future. A regional authority (tentatively named the Red River Wastewater Treatment Authority) will own, manage, and operate the treatment plant that will be an expansion of the existing Stanton wastewater treatment plant. As the plan unfolds, Clay City will pump its collected wastewater to Stanton. The expanded wastewater treatment plant will have only two customers—the City of Stanton and the City of Clay City. Each participating city will continue to own and operate its own sewage collection system but will pay the regional wastewater treatment authority to treat its collected wastewater.

The new regional wastewater treatment authority will have five commissioners. Two will be appointed by Stanton, two by Clay City, and one by the Powell County Fiscal Court. The action to move toward a cooperative system was unanimous by each of the three participating local governments. The ADD played a part in the cooperative action and was pleased to gain the assistance of the Kentucky Municipal League and the Kentucky Division of Water in the technical aspects of developing the interlocal cooperation agreement and the articles of incorporation of the new wastewater treatment authority. Because of the recent actions of the three local governments in Powell County, the multijurisdictional wastewater facilities plan was able to be completed and has since been submitted to the Kentucky Division of Water for review and approval. It is hoped that efforts to

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develop financing for the needed modifications/expansion of the Stanton wastewater treatment plant can move forward by 2010 or 2011. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON KENTUCKY AMERICAN'S WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Contractors are making the best use of the many warm and dry days of late summer and early autumn to continue the construction of Kentucky American Water Company's (KAWC) water supply project involving the Kentucky River's Pool 3. Project components include:

- Construction of a Kentucky River raw water intake and a 20 million gallon per day (MDG) water treatment plant adjacent to Kentucky River's Pool 3 near the Franklin/Owen County line
- Construction of a single booster pumping station
- Installation of 31 miles of 42-inch diameter pipeline that will connect the new water treatment plant with KAWC's water distribution network in north central Fayette County.

The foundation for the new water treatment plant has been completed. Impressive progress has been made on the booster pumping station. On the 31-mile-long water line project, trencher crews are working along both ends of the route with significant progress being made on the northern end in Franklin County as well as the pipeline's southern end along Iron Works Pike.

For more information, contact Brian Wright at KAWC.

DEPOT STREET/FARMERS MARKET GRANT ANNOUNCED FOR WINCHESTER

Governor Beshear has announced the award of a \$909,000 Transportation Enhancement grant to Winchester to restore Depot Street and to create a permanent home for the Clark County Farmers Market. Depot Street, the last brick street in Winchester, will be re-laid with cobblestones. Also included are improved drainage and the installation of lighting and streetscaping.

The restoration of Depot Street will serve as an economic anchor to the north end of Main Street, proving a venue for the farmers market and for other community events such as outdoor concerts. "The creation of a fun, family-oriented environment in downtown Winchester opens the city to numerous tourist and economic development opportunities," Beshear said. "You won't have to drive to Lexington for fun and entertainment anymore because it will soon be here in Winchester's backyard."

Depot Street is a 460-foot drive and sits perpendicular to North Main Street. It formerly served the 1905 C&O Railroad Depot and the street stands as a final reminder after the depot was torn down more than 25 years ago. President Truman's train stopped there in 1948 as a part of his Whistle Stop Tour.

Winchester Mayor Ed Burtner called Depot Street a true community partnership that brought together rural and urban interests. Eventually, work crews will reconstruct the cobblestone street and install a pavilion, he said. Burtner listed Depot Street as one of many economic engines on North Main Street, including the Leeds Center for the Arts.

STANFORD, LANCASTER COMPREHENSIVE PLANS NEARING COMPLETION

With the assistance of the ADD planning staff, the cities of Stanford and Lancaster have been engaged in an update of their Comprehensive Plans since early 2008. Comprehensive Plans are an analysis of current conditions within a jurisdiction and a vision of its future over the following twenty years, and are generally updated every five years. They are required by KRS 100, the Kentucky Planning and Zoning Statutes, to be in place within any jurisdiction, whether an individual city or a county as a whole, that wishes to establish planning and zoning regulations and ordinances.

After several months of work, the Stanford Planning & Zoning Commission developed and approved its Statement of Goals and Objectives, which was adopted by the Stanford City Council on June 5, 2008. In addition to the Base Study and required elements of Land Use, Transportation and Community Resources, it includes goals regarding Economic and Residential Development as well as Natural Resources Conservation and Historic Preservation. A final draft of the Comprehensive Plan and its accompanying Land Use map will be presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission for final review at its October meeting. Upon approval by the Commission, the completed Comprehensive Plan will be in place.

The Lancaster City Council adopted the Statement of Goals and Objectives, as presented by the Lancaster City Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on April 7, 2008. Special elements within the Lancaster Goals and Objectives include Environmental, Historic Preservation and Housing, as well as the elements required by KRS 100. The Lancaster Planning Commission will be reviewing its final Comprehensive Plan document for approval at its October meeting.

New and updated Comprehensive Plans for Lancaster and Stanford will give these cities the opportunity to make the policy and regulatory changes that will help them make their cities

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thriving, attractive places to live, play and do business through the next twenty years. Details on the Comprehensive Plan update process, the documents and maps produced to date, and information on public involvement can be seen at http://www.bgadd.org/garrard/garrard_intro.htm and http://www.bgadd.org/lincoln/lincoln_intro.htm.

WINCHESTER DEDICATES NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

In late August, Winchester Municipal Utilities, the City of Winchester, Clark County, and the Winchester-Clark County Industrial Authority joined forces to dedicate the community's new \$26.2 million wastewater treatment plant. Dignitaries from the local, state, and national level joined in to dedicate one of the most extensive and expensive public projects in the history of Winchester and Clark County.

The new treatment plant has a design capacity of 7.2 million gallons per day (MGD), but can accept up to 24.0 MGD during periods of wet weather. The new treatment plant features oxidation ditch technology with biological phosphorus removal.

To finance the project, Winchester was awarded a \$20.7 million low-interest loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's (KIA) Fund A. At the time that the loan was obligated, it represented the largest single loan of its kind that had been extended to a local government by KIA. A local contribution of more than \$2 million was a part of the project, as was a \$2 million HUD Community Development Block Grant in which the ADD was involved. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

BEREA COMPANY RECEIVES \$750,000 LOAN COMMITMENT FROM USDA

The Appalachian Investment Company (AIC) has received a \$750,000 business development loan from the US Department of Agriculture. AIC was one of only 71 recipients in 37 states to receive part of \$22.1 million in USDA loans and grants.

AIC will receive funding from the Intermediary Relending Program to provide low-interest loans to public and non-profit organizations to relend for business and community development, according to a news release from the USDA. The company's application to USDA proposed the creation of 65 new jobs.

LEADERSHIP POWELL COUNTY CLASS OF 2008 KICKOFF

On August 26, 2008, the first meeting of "Leadership Powell County," an introductory leadership training class for twelve local leaders, took place in Powell County. This class has been funded through an ARC Flex-E grant to implement a leadership enhancement program for local leaders in order to provide them the tools necessary for successful implementation of adventure tourism initiatives. The program includes a series of six classes focusing on three target areas: 1) understanding and identification of heritage and assets, 2) coordination and mobilization of individual groups, and 3) execution of ideas and maintenance of momentum. The classes feature guest speakers from diverse backgrounds including: Karen Butcher (Whitaker Bank), Tad Long (NewCities Foundation), David Duttlinger (Bluegrass ADD) as well as local experts such as Jerlene Rose (*Back Home in Kentucky* magazine), Jennifer Billings (Powell County art teacher and quilting project leader), Ron Vanover (Natural Bridge State Park), Cliff and Sherry Cantrell (bicycle rallies), Kristen Wiley (Kentucky Reptile Zoo) and Daxon Caudill (University of Kentucky Office of International Affairs Education Abroad Program).

In order to ensure that the classes are an interactive and hands-on experience, they have been held at various locations in the county, including Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Whitaker Bank and the Clay City Municipal Building. Through these on-site visits, participants have been able to gain a deeper understanding of the human and natural resources available in their county. Several local officials have been dedicated participants and leaders throughout the program, including County Judge/executive Darren Farmer, Mayor James Caudill (Clay City) and Mayor Dale Allen (Stanton). Judge Farmer confirmed his support for this program by stating "it's been very beneficial to get a diverse group of community leaders together to share ideas and discuss ways to improve their community."

The series of six classes will conclude with a session featuring Tad Long from the NewCities Institute to discuss "Maintaining, Growing and Adapting in a Changing Environment," as well as a graduation ceremony for class members. Many current participants have expressed a desire for future sessions as well as an interest in conducting these classes in other counties. For more information about conducting a leadership series in your county, contact Ashley Moore at the ADD office, amoore@bgadd.org.

KENTUCKY IS SAFER WHEN OUR SCHOOLS ARE SAFER

The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency are partnering to launch a significant expansion of the nationwide project: "America is Safer When Our Schools Are Safer". This initiative began in 2005 and 2006 with distributions of about 97,000 Public Alert radios to all K-12 public schools. The current distribution will conclude the initiative making these potentially life saving devices available to all U.S. schools. In August and September, about 183,000 NOAA Public Alert radios were distributed to schools across the United States and its territories. The distribution started with post-secondary schools and K-12 school district offices, followed by preschools and Head Start programs, and concluded with K-12 non-public schools.

NOAA Public Alert radios play an important role in the safety of our children, schools, and communities. The radios are designed to signal different types of alerts, ranging from weather emergencies to child abductions and from chemical accidents to acts of terrorism. The radio acts as a patrol, standing guard 24/7, to sound an alarm when danger threatens.

The partnering organizations previously listed, along with the Bluegrass Regional Citizen Corps Council, are asking local Citizen Corps Councils and Emergency Managers to support the outreach efforts to schools in throughout the area to ensure that the radios are received, registered or licensed, and are programmed appropriately as part of the alert system in all U.S. schools. Radios should be delivered directly to schools by FedEx. The shipment includes the NOAA radio, a letter to the principal from the Secretaries of the sponsoring agencies, a brochure about the NOAA Public Alert Radio, and manufacturer's instructions.

Additional information can be found at <http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov>. For more information about Citizen Corps initiatives in the Bluegrass Region, contact Laurel Wood at the ADD.

BOYLE COUNTY/DANVILLE/JUNCTION CITY CONSIDER SEWER EXTENSIONS TO THE PHYLBEN VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK

Phylben Village, a large urbanized area comprised mostly of mobile homes, lies east and a bit south of Junction City. The area has municipal water service from Danville, but lacks sanitary sewers. The area rests outside of the corporate limits of both

Danville and Junction City. Development on small lots, together with the age of the housing units, contributes to what is seen as chronic public health problem due to many malfunctioning on-site sewage disposal units. Often sewage is on top of the ground, in the ditches, and even across streets and roads. There are more than 150 dwelling units within the affected area. The proposed project area is very near to the Danville Airport and extends across the Boyle County line and into northwestern Lincoln County.

Early discussions have been held that could lead to the development of a financial package that might see municipal sanitary sewer service extended to at least a large portion of the Phylben Village area. Design of the sewer system project has been authorized by the Danville City Commission. The City of Danville, the City of Junction City, and the Boyle County Fiscal Court are considering joint action to seek financial assistance with which to undertake the project. For more information, contact Boyle County Judge/executive Harold McKinney or Don Hassall at the ADD.

NORTH MERCER WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The North Mercer Water District recently received a letter of conditions pledging a financial commitment from the USDA's Rural Development (RD). The federal agency has conditionally committed a \$3,421,000 long-term loan together with a \$750,000 grant to the water district to replace approximately 22 miles of water lines and two booster pumping stations. A new 125,000 gallon water storage tank will also be erected. Further, this effort will offer an additional connection to the South Anderson Water District system and a first-time connection to the Danville municipal water system. Growth in certain parts of the district's water distribution system, the Mackville Road area in particular, has made obsolete some of the water lines that have been in the ground for 30 to 40 years. North Mercer Water District has 4,337 customers in Mercer, Washington, Anderson, and Boyle Counties. Harrison County Water Association Honored for Outstanding Service

At the recent annual conference of the Kentucky Rural Water Association, the Harrison County Water Association was honored for outstanding service. The nonprofit rural water association, headquartered in Cynthiana, offers community water service in Harrison County and in portions of Bourbon, Nicholas, Scott, and Pendleton Counties. The Harrison County Water Association purchases most of its water from the Cynthiana municipal water system and serves 5,507 customers.

CLAY CITY SET TO SEEK HUD BLOCK GRANT FOR SEWER REHABILITATION

The mayor and city council of Clay City have held a public hearing and are set to seek a HUD Community Development Block Grant by the end of the calendar year. As the city moves toward working with its sister city Stanton in future wastewater treatment plant ownership and operation, the Clay City leadership has decided to rehabilitate and restore its municipal sanitary sewer system. Many of the city's sewage pumping stations are old and lack dependability. Further, inflow and infiltration result in the entry of excessive water into the sewer system. Since Clay City future's includes a single wastewater treatment plant to be shared with Stanton, Clay City's pro-rata cost of wastewater treatment will be tied to the quantity of wastewater delivered to that treatment plant. It becomes important then that Clay City takes cost-effective steps to reduce the amount of illicit flows that enter its sewer system.

Clay City has planned a \$522,000 sewer system rehabilitation/restoration project. Expected to be sought are a \$261,000 HUD Block Grant that would be matched with state appropriations from 2005 and 2008. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

THE "D" WORD IS BACK -- DROUGHT

Precipitation-wise, 2008 started off very wet. As summer approached, the rains became considerably less frequent. At September's end, the precipitation levels for the year would suggest a year of normal rainfall. The only problem with that is that much of that precipitation occurred early in the calendar year.

Even this late in the growing season, area water utilities are seeing an increase in the demand for water by their customers. Much of the increased demand can be placed upon outdoor water use. Even the meager rainfall measured at the official precipitation gauge at Lexington's airport may not be indicative of the rainfall that has occurred over the region as many areas were skipped or almost skipped by the very scattered rainfall events of recent weeks. Even the remnants of Hurricane Ike that brought so much rain to large areas south, west, and north of the Bluegrass Area brought only a smattering of rain to much of Central Kentucky. As September ended, some communities were dusting off their drought response plans as they sought to deal with dwindling water supplies coupled with the increased water demand.

HARRISON COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION RECEIVES FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FROM RD FOR WATER SYSTEM EXTENSIONS/IMPROVEMENTS

Rural Development State Director Ken Sloan was on hand recently in Cynthiana to present a facsimile check for \$1.18 million to the Harrison County Water Association. That conditional loan commitment, together with \$820,000 in state and other funds, will provide the \$2.0 million needed to undertake the water association's Phase 10 project. This new project will provide first-time community water service to 102 families—most of whom live in northern Harrison County. In addition, a new 100,000 gallon water storage tank will be erected that will improve water pressures and water service to an additional 500 families. The Harrison County Water Association is the second largest non-municipal publicly owned water utility in the Bluegrass Area.

MERCER COUNTY TO JOIN OTHERS IN FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY

Coming soon to Harrodsburg/Mercer County -- a study entitled "An Economic Action Agenda to Put Mercer County and Harrodsburg on the Map." The Mercer County Fiscal Court has opted to join the Harrodsburg City Commission, the local tourism commission and the local industrial board in coming up with the financial support for a \$52,000 study by a Connecticut-based company. The City of Harrodsburg and the Mercer County Fiscal Court will each put up 40 percent of the study costs, while the tourism commission and the industrial board will put up 10 percent each.

The study contractor will research the status of the business community in the county and city. Some of the methodology will include interviews, focus groups and business surveys. The contractor will offer recommendations on ways the community can implement actions based upon the findings of the study. The contractor reports that his approach will be to look at what is the most marketable about a place, as well as what might be inhibiting economic expansion.

WINCHESTER-TO-LEXINGTON BUS SERVICE INAUGURATED

Daily bus service from Winchester to Lexington and back began in early September. Provided by the non-profit group, Foothills Community Action Partnership (CAP), the service runs routes from Winchester to downtown Lexington, U of K, and Lexmark at 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. Buses return to Lexington at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to take commuters back home to Winchester. Wal-

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Mart is furnishing 60 parking spaces on the southern end of its parking lot for a pick-up and drop-off point.

Foothills CAP is providing the service without any funding from the local governments in Clark County. Riders can purchase a monthly pass for \$40 or can pay \$2 for each day as they board. Riders must notify Foothills at least 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat on the bus. Reservations can be made by emailing dsowder@foothillscap.org. Thus far, riders claim that their gasoline costs have almost been cut in half by the availability of the commuter bus service.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

When was your county personnel policy most recently revised? Could your county benefit from an update to your personnel policy or employee handbook? Several counties in the District have taken these questions into consideration and upon discovering a need have sought assistance from the Bluegrass Area Development District. ADD staff has been working with Mercer and Garrard Counties in a continuing effort to update personnel policies and employee position descriptions. These efforts include working with county officials to revise outdated policies and re-examine important issues such as drug testing procedures and sick leave banks for employees. Other issues might include updating position assessments, job descriptions, and pay classification plans.

There are many reasons for maintaining current personnel policies and updating them on a consistent basis. Sound employment policies include information about a county's practices, benefits, hours of work, pay policies and regulations, which help to provide the framework within which an organization governs its employee relations. A Policies and Procedures Manual guides both managers and employees in learning what is expected, and can prevent misunderstandings about policy. Having supervisory instructions is essential in today's legal climate where an inconsistent application of policy could result in a claim.

If you have questions or are interested in updating your personnel policies or position descriptions, please contact Dave Ewen at ewen@bgadd.org or Ashley Moore at amoore@bgadd.org, or call (859) 269-8021.

STORM WATER SEMINAR FOCUSES ON THE INEVITABLE—A STORM WATER FEE FOR LEXINGTON RESIDENTS

It is not so much a matter of "if"; it is more a matter of "when." It seems inevitable that a storm water fee will be implemented in Lexington—probably in 2009. The consent decree that Lexington-

Fayette signed with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) seems to have taken care of the “if” question.

Commerce Lexington sponsored a September 30 seminar entitled *Consent Decree for Dummies*. The seminar began to spell out parts of the likely outcome of LFUCG’s entering into the consent decree earlier this year. While some think that the consent decree dealt only with sanitary sewage and sanitary sewers, the reality is that storm water and storm sewers are a significant portion of the issues with which Lexington has agreed to address over the next dozen years. Unfortunately, heavy rain events can and do result in the entry of storm water to the sanitary sewer system in many areas of the city. Overloaded sanitary sewers frequently back up and spill to creeks, yards and basements and cause an unsightly, unsanitary, and smelly mess.

The fix is not going to be inexpensive nor will it be immediate. The storm water fee will be something new to Lexington dwellers. Such a fee has not been charged previously. The fee will likely be linked to the amount of impervious surfaces on properties. The larger the roof area and the larger the surface area of sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, the higher the fee.

STRINGTOWN PROJECT EXTENDED

The City of Lawrenceburg has obtained permission from the Department for Local Government to extend its Stringtown Sewer Project and spend the construction funds remaining in the project. The extension will allow the addition of five more customers and permit the spend-out of remaining grant funds in the amount of approximately \$17,500. The construction of the additional line will be completed by November, and the project’s formal closeout is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The total project comes at a cost of \$1,628,000.

The much-needed project was initially funded through a Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant award in the amount of \$759,000. Funding for the project, beyond the Community Development Block Grant, came from a state appropriation of \$830,000 in the form of a Tobacco Development Fund Grant and local funding of \$39,000 coming from tap-on fees. The project provides sewer service to an urbanized, unincorporated area (Stringtown) south of Lawrenceburg’s corporate limits in Anderson County.

For additional information contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

HARRODSBURG SUBMITS COLLEGE STREET PROJECT PLANS

The engineering design for Harrodsburg's College Street Project has been submitted to the Kentucky Division of Water for review, and approval is expected soon. The City is hoping for a November, 2008 bid opening.

As planned, the project will replace the existing 8-inch gravity sewer in College Street (near Mr. Quick) with a 12-inch gravity sewer, from manhole 03 to 09. Plans also call for the modification of six manholes. Kentucky State Clearinghouse approval for the project is dated and, as a consequence, will need to be submitted for a follow-up review.

The City of Harrodsburg was the recipient of an Economic Development Fund grant in the amount of \$122,200 for this project. The grant, processed through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, is being administered by the Bluegrass ADD.

For further information, please contact Dave Ewen at the ADD office.

INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AMERICA KICKS OFF BLUEGRASS AFFILIATE

Independent Transportation Network America (ITN) officially kicked off its Bluegrass Affiliate on September 20 with a public forum held at the Kentucky Theater. ITN founder Katherine Freund came to the Bluegrass from Portland, Maine for the forum and the official "First Rides" event on September 22.

A near-tragedy over 20 years ago changed the direction of Ms. Freund's life when an 84-year-old driver seriously injured her three-year-old son. She recognized that the transportation system in place for older drivers was not meeting the needs of an aging population. Katherine began working on her Master's Degree in Public Policy at Edmund Muskie School of Public Policy where she analyzed transportation for older people from every conceivable angle.

The result is the Independent Transportation Network, which has affiliates in Portland Maine; Los Angeles, CA; Orlando, Florida; Charleston, South Carolina; and now Lexington, Kentucky. The ITN model is a community-based ride service that brings families, businesses and community organizations together to create a strong network of support for senior mobility without relying on taxpayer dollars for operating expenses.

Rides are available 24 hours per day, seven days a week in private automobiles with door through door service and assistance with packages and steps. People 60 years of age and

visually impaired adults are eligible for the service but must become dues paying members. Each member has a “transportation portfolio” where credits towards future rides accumulate from many different sources including the donation of a vehicle.



ITN Founder Katherine Freund at the Public Kickoff Event (photo courtesy of Gale Reece)

Gale Reece, a well-known retired business leader and local philanthropist, became interested

in bringing ITN to the Bluegrass. She recognized the pressing need for reliable and affordable transportation and began raising funds for a Bluegrass affiliate that would serve Fayette County, initially, and expand to Bourbon, Jessamine, Woodford and Scott Counties. She successfully raised the funds needed then faced another hurdle in the last state legislative session. With the passage of HB 204, ITN Bluegrass was ready to begin providing rides.

Jim Gray, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Vice-Mayor, served as the celebrity driver for the “First Rides” event on September 22, held at Joseph-Beth Bookstore. He shuttled off Mame Hamby, who regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels, along with another senior who does the driving. Ms. Hamby runs the meals to the house. Ms. Hamby plans to use ITN to get her to her “gigs” as she plays the piano at evening engagements.

For more information about volunteering or receiving rides from ITN Bluegrass, call 859-252-8665, or go online to www.itnamerica.org and click on the Bluegrass Affiliate.

DANVILLE TO INITIATE BUS SERVICE

Working with Blue Grass Community Action (BGCA), the City of Danville expects to initiate around-town bus service. Proposed is a bus route with 24 stops on weekdays and 12 stops on Saturdays. The routes will begin and end at the city’s parking garage where the service will be headquartered. The bus will be at each stop every two hours during the morning and every three hours during the afternoon. The bus will begin running at 8 a.m. and go out for its last run at 3 p.m., probably making its

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return to the parking garage by 5 p.m. The blue bus will have a capacity of 12 walk-ons and 2 wheelchairs at a time. The bus was purchased by the Federal Transit Administration through a grant from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The cost will be \$1 per person per trip. The service was expected to commence by early October.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

At its meeting in August, the Bluegrass Regional Citizen Corps Council hosted Mrs. Shelley Bendall, Preparedness Coordinator for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Division of Environmental & Emergency Management (DEEM), in an effort to share Citizen Corps best practices with the region.

Mrs. Bendall reviewed the activities planned for September, National Preparedness Month, sponsored by LFUCG. She encouraged Council members to take some of LFUCG's ideas and put them into action within their own communities. There were multiple events planned all around the Lexington community in the month of September. She highlighted that Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month at the August 26 LFUCG Council Work Session. In addition, DEEM sponsored a billboard campaign reading, "Severe Weather? Don't Be Scared... Be Prepared! Heed all official warnings and information".

Throughout the month of September, disaster preparedness information was available at University of Kentucky as part of Campus Fire Safety Month, Commerce Lexington Business Link, Lexington Public Library Tates Creek Branch, Ceradyne Safety Fair, Next Best Years of Your Life Conference, and various other locations. Several events throughout the month also featured a NOAA Weather Alert Radio giveaway.

Additionally, LFUCG did not exclude our furry friends from National Preparedness Month. "Disaster Preparedness for Pets" brochures and other information were available at the Lexington Humane Society Adoption Center and at the 7th Annual Dog Paddle at Woodland Park Aquatic Center hosted by Friends of the Dog Park and LFUCG Parks & Recreation. Disaster kits for dogs and cats and emergency pet decals for the home were also given away.

For more information about LFUCG's National Preparedness Month activities, contact Mrs. Shelley Bendall at sbendall@lfucg.com, or for information about the Regional Citizen Corps Council, contact Laurel Wood at the ADD.

GOVERNOR REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION BASED UPON CROP LOSSES DUE TO DROUGHT

Too much wind, too little precipitation. To follow up on his request for a federal disaster declaration due to the devastation caused by the September 14 wind storms associated with Hurricane Ike, Governor Beshear has more recently requested a federal disaster declaration for the entire commonwealth due to crop losses resulting from widespread drought conditions that began early this year and continue still. In his letter to the US Secretary of Agriculture, Governor Beshear stated that "Kentucky has experienced limited rainfall this year causing the state to move into drought status which is supported by the Palmer Drought Index and the Crop Moisture Index. Our farmers were dealt a severe setback with the record drought of 2007 and are now seeking to cope with another drought in 2008. The financial burden of two consecutive years of weather-related disasters could be overwhelming for many of our state's farm families if they do not receive disaster relief," Beshear said in his request.

ADD HOSTS ACCOUNTING WORKSHOP

The Bluegrass Area Development District hosted a teleconference training workshop in mid-August to address new accounting standards. The workshop, sponsored by the Kentucky Governmental Finance Officers Association, presented information on: "SAS Nos. 109 and 112: *Evaluating and Reporting on Deficiencies in Internal Control.*" The workshop discussed the internal control characteristics impacting audits which became required following the promulgation of the new Statements on Auditing Standards.

The event, directed to public and private sector finance officers, accountants and treasurers, was well attended, drawing 18 participants from across Central and Eastern Kentucky to the presentation.

If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of the handout materials, please feel free to contact Dave Ewen at the Area Development District, (859) 269-8021.

STANTON WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL WORK COMMENCES

A Water System Improvement Project is underway in Stanton, funded by a Rural Development loan and grant, a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority grant, and a HUD Community Development Block Grant. The project consists of construction of a 600,000 gallon ground storage tank, the restoration of a 28-

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year old 500,000 gallon tank, the decommissioning of three aged inefficient ground storage tanks, a booster pumping station and a telemetry system. Approximately 2,640 linear feet of water line will be installed in and near the downtown area to improve water quality, water service reliability and water pressure. The project will serve approximately 2,317 customers.

The Bluegrass Area Development District will assist the City in the conduct of its Environmental Review, in order to receive HUD environmental clearance. In preparing an Environmental Assessment, it is necessary to ascertain what effects (positive and negative) this project would have on a host of environmental concerns including: land development, environmental design and historic values, community facilities and service, and natural features. For information of this water system improvement project, contact Laurel Wood at the ADD.

WINCHESTER/CLARK COUNTY LEADERSHIP PROMOTES THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE KENTUCKY RIVER'S DAM 10 AT BOONESBORO

With the decision by Winchester to construct a new water treatment plant in southern Clark County rather than to participate in a regional solution to the area wide water supply deficit situation, it became increasingly important that the integrity of the Kentucky River pool from which Winchester Municipal Utilities draws its water supply be enhanced. The Kentucky River Authority is nearing the completion of the reconstruction of Dam 9 (that serves as the primary water source for Kentucky American Water Company). Plans to reconstruct Dam 3 near Monterey are being readied for early construction bidding. Accordingly, both Dam 9 and Dam 3 can soon be checked off the to-do list by the Kentucky River Authority.

Next on the list of aged dams in ill repair is Dam 10 at Boonesboro. Not only is Dam 10 used to create the pool from which Winchester Municipal Utilities draws its water, it is also used as the source of large amounts of cooling water for East Kentucky Power's coal-fired electricity generating stations at Ford, Kentucky and at the newer J. K. Smith generating station in southeastern Clark County. Winchester Mayor Ed Burtner and Clark County Judge/executive Henry Branham are united in their efforts to seek financial support with which to reconstruct Dam 10 soon. Meetings have been held with the Kentucky River Authority and with others to promote an early start on the reconstruction effort. For more information, contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

JESSAMINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE CONTINUES

As of September 19, the Jessamine County Update Development Committee had approved a *Statement of Goals and Objectives* for the County's 2008 Comprehensive Plan. As per KRS 100, the Statement was then presented for consideration by both the Nicholasville Planning Commission and Wilmore-Jessamine County Joint Planning Commission at a meeting held Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at the Jessamine County Courthouse. The *Statement of Goals and Objectives* was amended and approved by the Joint Planning Commission at this meeting. The Statement will now go before both city and county legislative bodies for final adoption and amendment. The date for the Fiscal Court hearing is to be determined. While the *Statement of Goals and Objectives* is awaiting final adoption, the Jessamine County Update Development Committee is beginning to look at the initial phases of the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan. It should be noted that there currently is a request for public input about land use in Jessamine County. To fill out a comment card, go to either the Nicholasville Planning Office or Wilmore-Jessamine County Planning Office, or online to: http://www.bgadd.org/jessamine/jessamine_tellus.htm.

For more information about the 2008 Jessamine County Comprehensive Plan Update, please contact Dal Harper at the ADD.

WINCHESTER AND CLARK COUNTY LOOK TO IMPLEMENT LOCAL BUS SERVICE

In response to rising gasoline prices, the City of Winchester and the Clark County Fiscal Court have resolved to initiate local intra-city bus service on a trial basis. The two local governments have agreed to split the cost of subsidizing a bus service through Foothills Community Action Partnership (CAP) in an effort to provide more local transportation options. The proposal includes running six daily routes between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Included in the tentative list of stops are more than 30 points in city neighborhoods, shopping centers, and at community organizations such as the Generations Center, the Clark County Health Department and the Rapha Ministries health clinic.

"I think especially during this period when we have very high gas prices and other fiscal and financial issues facing families, we as a government need to do what we can to help with this issue," said Winchester Mayor Ed Burtner. A representative of Foothills CAP told the City Commission that he aims to have the service up and running by October 6. For more information, contact Bruce Duncan at the ADD.

SMALL TOWNS BUY TERRORISM INSURANCE

According to a recent article published in USA Today, small rural and suburban communities are protecting their infrastructure with terrorism insurance. Rural communities, with few structures taller than a good-sized maple tree and unlikely targets for terrorists, are protecting their police stations and water towers with terrorism coverage. The extra coverage is relatively inexpensive; for some small towns it can amount to less than \$100 per year, and in many cases it's a standard feature of government insurance pools. But, is terrorism insurance necessary?

In April, leaders of West Baraboo, a Wisconsin town of 1,200, debated whether to purchase terrorism coverage. "If terrorists got this far into the county, there wouldn't be anyone to make the claim anyway," said the West Baraboo City Clerk. But the City Council voted 5-2 to pay \$87 annually for the coverage. The City Clerk went on to say, "We had quite a few outlying areas laugh at us. Maybe we'll have the last laugh."

The town of Plainfield, Indiana, population 24,000, decided that its proximity to a major highway, an airport and a rail system made coverage worth the extra \$1,700 a year. Plainfield's City Clerk said, "For \$150 a month we felt it was appropriate to get that kind of coverage for the amount of assets we have."

A global insurance broker said that 40% of the smaller public entities that they insure purchase terrorism coverage. About 68% of large public entities buy the plans. The cost of terrorism insurance for a municipality varies, based on factors such as the size of the deductible, a policy's limit and how many policies have been sold in an area. A study by this insurance broker last year indicated the median cost of terrorism insurance for a public entity in 2006 was \$37 per \$1 million of insured value, down from \$44 per million in 2004. So a community insuring \$80 million of property might pay about \$3,000 annually on terror insurance.

MCCUDDY PICKED AS DIRECTOR FOR THE NICHOLASVILLE-JESSAMINE COUNTY PARKS BOARD

Duane McCuddy has been named as the new director of the Nicholasville-Jessamine County Parks Board. McCuddy had been a member of the Parks Board for six years before his selection as director. In order to accept the position, McCuddy resigned his position as magistrate on the Jessamine County Fiscal Court.

Parks Board Chair George Dean said, "We felt like we needed somebody with an extensive knowledge of our programs and who would have a good working relationship with our employees and staff and has some experience with other community issues."

STATEWIDE PLANS TO PROMOTE ADVENTURE TOURISM BEING CAREFULLY TOOLED

For large areas of rural Kentucky, the successful promotion of tourism opportunities is a significant path to economic vitality. To some extent, the beauty of rural Kentucky continues to be a well-kept secret. State government, acting in cooperation with many local governments, has taken steps to promote adventure tourism.

Governor Beshear and Lt. Governor Mongiardo have written that visitors to Kentucky “increasingly seek adventure in Kentucky’s beautiful outdoors—adventure that can encompass an adrenaline rush as well as a subtle feeling of peace in the wilderness.”

“In Kentucky, you can explore deep dark caverns; hike along limestone cliffs; roam through forests; paddle scenic and white-foamed rivers; hunt deer, turkey and elk, photograph black bears and birds; fish and play on expansive lakes, and ride horses, ATV and bicycles on trails.”

According to the planners of this type of tourism, this can all be done with great respect for the environment. ATVs will not be allowed to endanger fragile aspects of the environment. The leaders of the adventure tourism concept are being careful to preserve those things that make Kentucky unique and that draw visitors in the first place.

According to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, “adventure tourism will improve our health, expand tourist opportunities, and make Kentucky more attractive to new companies and workers.”

NICHOLASVILLE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN APPROVED

Nicholasville’s City Commission and the Jessamine County Fiscal Court have passed a resolution approving the Nicholasville Downtown Master Plan. The plan covers a nine-block area, stretching from the new City Hall location on North Main Street to the post office on South Main Street, with the primary focus on the area in the center of town near Oak Street.

The intent of the plan is to capture and build upon Nicholasville’s unique cultural, historical and physical heritage. It should be noted, that in the two public meetings held earlier this year, community members were interested in more parks, open space, and in the improvement of existing parking and sidewalks and perhaps the building of a community center in downtown Nicholasville. In addition to these changes, there are plans in the works to improve the aesthetics of the area by cleaning up

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utility lines and encourage outdoor cafés. Nicholasville Mayor Russ Meyer believes that the plan is much needed and is vital for making downtown Nicholasville more beautiful and appealing to not only local residents but also visiting tourists.

For more information about the Nicholasville Downtown Master Plan, please contact Dal Harper at the ADD.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES MAY GET RECYCLING SERVICE IN FRANKFORT

Downtown Frankfort businesses may soon receive solid waste recycling services from the city. The target area would be an area bounded by Second Street, High and Mero Streets, and the Kentucky River. Under the proposal, the city would keep the net proceeds from the sale of materials recycled to offset collection costs. Upon approval, services could commence almost immediately.

PATTIE A. CLAY HOSPITAL TO BUILD PRIMARY CARE CENTER ON LANCASTER'S EAST SIDE

The Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center in Richmond announced in early September that it intends to establish a primary care center in Lancaster. The center will be the first major medical facility in Lancaster since the closing of the Garrard County Memorial Hospital in the summer of 2003.

Pattie A. Clay has purchased a seven-acre site at the east entrance to the city. The site was formerly the location of Southern States Coop. Initial plans for the site include the removal of the existing buildings, with three modular buildings being placed on the property and in operation by January 2009. In the initial phase, one modular building will house an internal medical specialist. Another will be used for an outpatient laboratory where blood work can be done within the county. The third will be used as a multi-specialty clinic where specialists from Pattie A. Clay will rotate being on-call one day a week.

The ultimate goal, however, is the construction of a brick and mortar health care facility. That \$5 million effort would include medical offices and an acute care center. The expansion could occur within 16 to 18 months of the initial establishment of service in Garrard County.

LANCASTER CONTINUES WWTP IMPROVEMENTS

By the end of August, the City of Lancaster had concluded the sixth month of construction on its Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement project and just edged past the 50-percent spending mark. 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. Other lab equipment may be purchased if funds become available.

Funding for the \$844,200 project comes, in part, from an Economic Development Fund (EDF) grant designated by the 2006 Kentucky General Assembly and processed through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. This \$200,000 grant, as well as a second \$100,000 EDF grant provided by the 2006 General Assembly, has been directed to this project. Additional funding comes from a low-interest KIA Fund B loan in the amount of \$490,000 as well as a contribution from the City of \$54,200.

The Bluegrass ADD administers the grant funds and the KIA loan on behalf of the City. For more information, contact Dave Ewen at the ADD.

GARBAGE COSTS TO BE LINKED TO THE COST OF DIESEL FUEL FOR RICHMOND CUSTOMERS

The Richmond City Commission has enacted an ordinance that links the cost of garbage service to the fluctuating cost of diesel fuel for the trucks used to provide the service. The ordinance states that Veolia Environmental Services may add a fuel recovery fee on a quarterly basis for both household and commercial solid waste customers. The recovery fee will be based on the average cost of diesel fuel for the prior month as published by the USDOE. The fee will be adjusted (up or down) based upon the price of fuel.

KENTUCKY STATE PARK SYSTEM OFFERING DISCOUNT COUPONS

In an effort to increase resort park lodge occupancy rates, the Kentucky State Parks are making travel a little more affordable this autumn. From early September through December 30, 2008, coupons are available for lodge rooms for \$50 per night for most of the 17 state resort parks for Sunday through Thursday night each week. Discounts are also subject to availability. There are some exceptions to the discount offer.

The coupon is good for one room and must be presented upon check-in. Coupons are available on line at www.parks.ky.gov or by calling 1-800-255-PARK. Lodge room reservations may be made by calling a specific state park or by using the 800 number cited above.

BLUE GRASS ENERGY RATES ON THE INCREASE

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has granted Blue Grass Energy permission to increase its rate structure for electricity. For the average customer, the increase is expected to be in the range of \$10 to \$14 per month. The new rates became effective on September 1 and will affect customers in the Bluegrass Area counties of: Scott, Anderson, Bourbon, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, and Woodford. Bluegrass Energy serves customers in ten other counties as well. Altogether, Bluegrass Energy serves some 54,000 customers in 23 counties.

GEORGETOWN OFFERS SOLID WASTE SERVICE DISCOUNT TO SENIORS

As a part of its budget-making process, monthly garbage rates in Georgetown were raised to \$15 for most residential customers. But, as a break to older residents, a special \$8 monthly rate was established for seniors 65 years old or older. One provision of the lower rate for seniors was that a smaller garbage roll-cart (65 gallon as opposed to the standard 96 gallon cart) was to be provided. Additional discussion concerning the smaller garbage cart has resulted from those who speculate that smaller cart might contribute to the singling out of such persons for home invaders and con operators.

APPALACHIA DEALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH, DRUG PROBLEMS

Anne Pope, the Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, was in Kentucky in August and released the results of research that dealt with major problems in the 13-state Appalachian region. According to Pope, researchers found:

- Mental health disorders are significantly higher in Appalachia than in the rest of the nation.
- Residents of central Appalachia (an area that includes Appalachian Kentucky) have higher rates of serious psychological stress and major depression than their neighbors in northern and southern Appalachia.
- Admission rates for prescription drug abuse are rising across the nation, but at a faster pace in Appalachia, especially in coal mining communities. The rate in Appalachia is more than twice that of the US, and it doubled from 2000 to 2004.

Pope said that prescription drug abuse has been a major impediment to economic growth in the Appalachian region. In his reply to Ms. Pope's comments, Governor Beshear said that

the discovery that stress, depression and drug abuse is high in a region noted for poverty and joblessness is no great surprise.

GEORGETOWN LOOKING AT DEMOLITION OF DILAPIDATED HOMES

An initiative to clean up and renovate Georgetown's cityscape has been a concern for some time, said Georgetown Mayor Karen Tingle-Sames. The drive to remove eyesores and hazards from the community has been an ongoing effort. "We've got quite a few dilapidated buildings around town that something needs to be done with," said Tingle-Sames. The process of having a structure or property declared as condemned is a long one. The legal process typically takes over a year because property owners need time to respond to complaints and citations. The recent demolition of two specific properties is seen as a good start to the improvement of the cityscape according to city leaders.

MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE AREA TO GET A FACELIFT

Private developers have announced plans to rebuild five historic buildings on North First Street facing the Madison County Courthouse in downtown Richmond. The project will seek to reproduce the buildings' historic facades. When completed, all five buildings will have modern, steel-frame construction and exteriors based upon their original Victorian appearance. A mix of office space with retail is expected.

LOCAL FLOODING CONTINUES TO BE A CONCERN IN VERSAILLES

Karst topography can be both a blessing and a curse. There is much karst topography in Versailles which, in some areas, lacks a defined surface drainage pattern. Many streams begin or end as water either emerges from a sinkhole or disappears into a sinkhole. That situation can create local flooding problems such as on Versailles' Dan Drive and Dan Court where surface drainage ends up in a sinkhole. The underground interconnections between drainage areas are complex. Engineers continue to study the problem and look for a solution.

GEORGETOWN'S LANES RUN BUSINESS PARK CONTINUES TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Despite the slowdown in the national economy, business seems to be going well for Georgetown's Lanes Run Business Park along the Cynthiana Road. According to Jack Conner, executive director of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, sales of land

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are still ahead of past projections. Conner reported about \$750,000 in land sales in the early summer alone. One of the main concepts behind the business park's operation has been to keep local manufacturers in both Georgetown and Scott County while, at the same time, attracting new businesses.

LEXINGTON RECEIVES \$1.0 MILLION FEMA GRANT COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE HOMES IN THE FLOOD PLAIN

With regard to flood abatement, the old rules seemed to suggest that the answer to flooding problems was to build a structure to keep the water away from the people. New era rules would suggest that the best approach is simply to keep the people away from the water. And so it is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has given Lexington-Fayette County a \$1.0 million grant to purchase specific homes in flood-prone areas of Lexington to move the people out of the way of the water. Many of the affected residents have endured periodic flooding for a long time according to Charles Martin, Lexington's Director of the Division of Air and Water Quality.

Lexington will be required to provide about \$300,000 in matching monies with which to undertake the \$1.3 million buy-out project. Nine houses in the Eastland Parkway area of Lexington will be purchased. The houses would then be demolished and the land may then be used as green space. However, future construction in the specific areas will be prohibited.

LANCASTER RECEIVES RD COMMITMENT FOR WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS

In mid-September, Lancaster received a facsimile check indicating a financial commitment from USDA's Rural Development for the city's Phase II Water System Upgrade. The city received a conditional commitment for \$1,522,000 in a 60/40 percent loan/grant split. With this financial support, the city expects to initiate the upgrade and replacement of 17,500 linear feet of existing water lines, 32 fire hydrants, 18 gate valves, and 200 individual customer water meters.

For more information, contact Lancaster Mayor Don Rinthen.

SUSAN BUSH JOINS LFUCG STAFF

Susan Bush, with her vast experience in the environmental arena, has joined the Urban County Government staff as a senior program manager in the recently-created Department of Environmental Quality. Most recently, she served as Commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources.

It is expected that Ms. Bush's duties will involve issues related to solid waste recycling, the master plan for the recycling center, composting, storm water, and water quality.

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MEETING CALL

Board of Directors	10/29 6:30 p.m.
Executive Board	11/19 7:00 p.m.
Aging Council	10/8 & 11/12 10:00 a.m.
Homeland Security Council	10/22 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Committee	10/9 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	10/15 3:15 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	11/5 4:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Committee	11/10 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation & Recreation Advisory Committee	11/11 10:00 a.m.



ALL meeting dates/times are subject to change.

Chairman

Mr. Dodd Dixon

Vice-Chairman

Judge Larry Tinch

Secretary

Mayor Connie Lawson

Treasurer

Judge Donnie Foley

Executive Director

Lenny P. Stoltz II

BLUEGRASS AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

699 PERIMETER DRIVE

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40517

PHONE (859) 269-8021

FAX (859) 269-7917

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