

2009 CYCLES NOW OPEN FOR LOCAL PROJECT FUNDING

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has recently announced the opening of application cycles for a number of Federal grants that Kentucky state government administers each year. The Department for Local Government (DLG) is now accepting applications for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is accepting pre-applications for the Transportation Enhancement (TE) and full applications for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs. For the TE program, applicants must first be invited to submit a full application upon approval of the pre-application, or Intent to Apply. The application cycles for each program are:

- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**
12-01-08 through 02-01-09
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**
12-15-08 through 03-01-09
- **Transportation Enhancement (TE) *Intent to Apply***
12-01-08 through 01-31-09
- **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**
01-01-08 through 03-15-09

For more information on the RTP and LWCF programs, visit DLG's website at www.dlg.ky.gov. For more information on the TE and SRTS programs, visit KYTC's website at www.tea21.ky.gov. Bluegrass ADD has submitted many successful project applications in recent years and continues to administer significant and innovative projects funded under these programs throughout the Bluegrass Region. For more information contact Laurel Wood at the ADD.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL WORKSHOP PLANS FINALIZED

The Bluegrass Regional Planning Council will host a workshop for elected officials, Planning Commissioners, and Board of Adjustment members Saturday, February 7, 2009 at Keeneland

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Race Track. The schedule is as follows:

Registration:	7:30am
Morning Session:	8:00am - 11:45am
Lunch:	11:45am - 12:15pm
Afternoon Session:	12:15pm - 5:00pm

The program has been specifically designed to reinforce relationships among and between elected officials, Planning Commissioners, and Board of Adjustment members. The workshop will cover a variety of planning-related topics ranging from applied ethics to cell phone tower regulation. Participants will receive eight hours of continuing education credits pursuant to KRS 147. There will be a small fee which will cover lunch and all training materials. Reservations are required and must be received by noon Wednesday, February 4, 2009. For further information on the workshop please contact Dal Harper at dharper@bgadd.org.

**ADD BEGINS TO LOOK FOR VIABLE HUD
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
APPLICANTS FOR THE 2009 PROGRAM YEAR.**

With the passing of the deadline for application submittals for the 2008 round of HUD Community Development Block Grants, the ADD staff is turning its attention to a determination of which community or communities it might assist in the competition for a share of the 2009 round of grant funding. The window for the new annual cycle of funding is expected to open in early April. Only city governments and county governments are eligible applicants for HUD Block Grant funds, but sometimes a city or a county may choose to be an applicant on behalf of some special district, water association, or other not-for-profit group. In most cases, the key to grant application eligibility is the clear demonstration that at least 51 percent of the persons proposed to receive benefit are of low or moderate income as measured by HUD standards. Sometimes this can be accomplished simply by using favorable Census data concerning household incomes within the area of benefit. More often, however, that determination hinges upon the successful outcome of a door-to-door survey taken from a representative (and statistically sound) number of households that would receive benefit from the project. Regardless of the size of the group of benefited persons, the income level survey size does not exceed 400 households.

When the results of the 2010 Census become available, it is expected that the rules surrounding the conduct of income level surveys may change since officially sanctioned and recent household income level information will again be available from the Census Bureau.

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Over the years, the ADD has achieved an enviable record of success in the development of successful HUD Community Development Block grant applications in the categories of:

- Public facilities (principally water and sewer projects)
- Community projects (local health departments, seniors centers, as well as other types of projects)
- Economic development (typically job creation projects in which a majority of the new hires meet HUD's Low/Mod income test in their pre-hire state)
- Community emergency relief projects (must address a true emergency situation of recent origin).

For more information or for assistance, contact Don Hassall, Craig McAnelly, David Duttlinger, or Laurel Wood at the ADD.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE INTRODUCED IN US HOUSE

President Obama plans to attack the increasingly sour national economic scene with the mid-January introduction in the US House of Representatives of his economic stimulus package—geared at jump-starting the economy and job creation. The package almost certainly will be amended as it works its way forward. The new president has indicated that he wants a bill ready for his signature on his desk by mid-February. As introduced, the bill includes about \$275 billion in tax cuts and another \$550 billion in spending authority aimed at job creation. Even the summary of the bill (which carries the name *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*) is far too lengthy for this brief newsletter article. However, some of the items of particular interest include:

- Training and employment services: \$4 billion
- HUD Community Development Block Grants: \$1 billion for projects including housing and services for those hard hit by tough economic times
- Payments to disabled and elderly persons: \$4.2 billion to help 7.2 million low-income and disabled elderly individuals with rising costs by providing an additional SSI payment.
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund: \$6 billion to states for their use in making loans to eligible borrowers for wastewater projects. (Kentucky would be expected to receive about one percent of that sum--\$60 million.)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$2 billion to states for their use in making loans to eligible borrowers for drinking water projects. (Kentucky would be expected to receive about one percent of that sum--\$20 million.)

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- Rural Water and Waste Disposal: \$1.5 billion to support \$3.8 billion in grants and loans to help communities fund drinking water and wastewater treatment systems. These funds would seemingly be expended by USDA's Rural Utility Service.
- Army Corps of Engineers: \$4.5 billion for environmental restoration, flood protection, hydropower, and navigation infrastructure critical to the economy.
- Watershed infrastructure: \$400 million for the USDA's Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed improvement programs to design and build flood protection and water quality projects, repair aging dams, and purchase and restore conservation easements in river flood zones.
- Superfund hazardous waste cleanup: \$800 million to clean up hazardous and toxic waste sites that threaten health and the environment.
- Brownfields: \$100 million for competitive grants for the evaluation and clean-up of former industrial and commercial sites, turning them from problem properties to productive community use.
- Local government energy efficiency block grants: \$6.9 billion to help state and local governments make investments that make them more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions.
- Energy efficiency grants and loans for institutions: \$1.5 billion for energy sustainability and efficiency grants and loans to help school districts, institutes of higher education, local governments, and municipal utilities implement projects that will make them more energy efficient.
- Home weatherization: \$6.2 billion to help low-income families reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes.
- Smart appliances: \$300 million to provide consumers with rebates for buying energy efficient *Energy Star* products to replace old appliances that will lower energy bills.
- Alternative buses and trucks: \$400 million to help state and local governments purchase efficient alternative fuel vehicles to reduce fuel costs and carbon emissions.
- Wireless and broadband grants: \$6 billion for broadband and wireless services in underserved areas.

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- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellites and sensors: \$600 million for satellite development and acquisitions, including climate sensors and climate modeling.
- US Geologic Survey: \$200 million to repair and modernize USGS science facilities and equipment.
- School construction: \$14 billion for K-12 and \$6 billion for higher education.
- Economic development assistance: \$250 million to address long-term economic distress in urban industrial cores and rural areas. These funds would be made available through USDOC's Economic Development Administration.
- Highway Infrastructure: \$30 billion for highway and bridge construction projects.
- Transit—new construction: \$1 billion for capital investment grants for new commuter rail or other light rail systems to increase public use of mass transit and to speed projects already in construction.
- Airport improvement grants: \$3 billion for airport improvement projects that will improve safety and reduce congestion.
- Construction on Federal lands and parks: \$3.1 billion for infrastructure projects on federal lands.
- Prevention and wellness funds: \$3 billion to fight preventable chronic diseases
- Vocational rehabilitation state grants: \$500 million for state formula grants for construction and rehabilitation of facilities to help persons with disabilities prepare for gainful employment.
- COBRA healthcare for the unemployed: \$30.3 million to extend health insurance coverage for the unemployed.
- HOME investment partnerships: \$1.5 billion to help local communities build and rehabilitate low-income housing using green technologies.
- Self-help and assisted homeownership program: \$10 billion for rural, high-need areas to undertake projects using sustainable and energy-efficient building and rehabilitation practices.
- Rural community facilities: \$200 million to support \$1.2 billion in grants and loans to rural areas for critical community facilities.

- Senior nutrition programs: \$200 million for formula grants to states for elderly nutrition services including *Meals on Wheels* and *Congregate Meals*.
- State and local law enforcement: \$4 billion to support state and local law enforcement.
- Education—Pell Grants: \$15.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$500.

BOYLE/LINCOLN COUNTIES COOPERATE IN GRANT APPLICATION FOR SEWER FUNDING FOR PHYLBEN VILLAGE/AIRPORT ROAD AREA

It is not often that the county line cuts a subdivision almost exactly in half. However, the Boyle/Lincoln boundary does exactly that with the Phylben Village/Airport Road area of southern Boyle County and northwestern Lincoln County. Ninety of the 174 households are in Boyle County; the remaining dwellings are in Lincoln County. Many of the dwellings are mobile homes situated on small lots. Sewage woes have long plagued the area, and the two affected county health departments are kept busy trying to resolve sewage “break-out” situations when wastewater from the many septic tank systems surfaces to cause health, odor, and nuisance concerns.

The Boyle County Fiscal Court, acting in cooperation with the Lincoln County Fiscal Court and the City of Danville, is seeking federal grant and loan support that would allow the construction of a sanitary sewer system that would collect the wastewaters from the project area for conveyance north to the Danville wastewater treatment plant. The City of Junction City has also been a participant in the effort to extend sanitary sewer service to these 174 households east and south of that city. A well-attended public hearing in mid-November demonstrated strong local support for the effort to bring sanitary sewer service to the Phylben Village/Airport Road area.

In mid-January, the two fiscal courts, acting as joint applicants, filed the completed 107-page HUD Community Development Block Grant application for the consideration by the Kentucky Department for Local Government which has the authority to approve grant funding on behalf of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The sought-after financial package for the project consists of the following:

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HUD Community Development Block Grant	\$1,597,000
Appalachian Regional Commission Grant (to Danville)	500,000
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Grant (to Danville)	300,000
USDA Rural Development Grant	233,000
USDA Rural Development Loan	544,000
Boyle County Fiscal Court Cash	10,000
<u>Lincoln County Fiscal Court Cash</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$3,194,000

Boyle County Judge/Executive Harold McKinney and Lincoln County Judge/Executive R.W. Gilbert have led the project development team as the effort to define the project and to seek funding has gathered steam over the last four months. "This project is an initial step to bring sanitary sewer service to a large portion of urbanized and urbanizing southern Boyle County and northwestern Lincoln County," said Judge McKinney.

Engineering design has been authorized by the Danville City Commission and should be complete before the end of March. Decisions from the affected funding agencies should be made known by mid-2009. If the project funding is approved, construction could begin as early as 2010. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

KENTUCKY TOURISM EVENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

According to a January 12, 2009 press release from the Kentucky Department of Tourism, eight Kentucky events were recently listed among the top tourist attractions in the southeastern U.S. by the Southeast Tourism Society. Three of the eight events will be held in the Bluegrass. With the upcoming 2010 Equestrian Games and the tourism initiative generated by First Lady Beshear, this recognition comes at a very important time for Kentucky. The following 2009 events were listed:

Kentucky Crafted: The Market 2009, February 19-22, Louisville

Keeneland Spring Meet, April 3-24, Lexington

Kentucky Derby Festival, April 11-May1, Louisville

Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, April 23-26, Lexington

International Bar-B-Q Festival, May 8-9, Owensboro

MainStrasse Village Maifest, May 15-17, Covington

Great American Brass Band Festival, June 12-15, Danville

W.C. Handy Blues & Barbecue Festival, June 13-20,
Henderson

STATE FUNDING CUTS RESULT IN AN END TO THE KENTUCKY FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM

The Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living recently received notice of funding cuts from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Department of Aging and Independent Living that will effectively end the program services and supports available through the Kentucky Family Caregiver Program. The Kentucky Family Caregiver Program, designed and implemented to benefit and support the efforts of grandparent caregivers of grandchildren across the Commonwealth, will no longer be accepting applications, and letters are being mailed out to applicants explaining the loss of funding and offering assistance in locating alternative support where applicable.

CLAY CITY SEEKS FUNDING TO REHAB ITS SEWER SYSTEM

On January 16, the City of Clay City filed with the Kentucky Department for Local Government a completed HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application seeking funding to undertake a mayor rehabilitation effort for that city's sanitary sewer system. "Much of the sewer system is almost 40 years old, and we just need major work on it to deal with some outstanding deficiencies," said Mayor Jim Caudill.

The city is seeking a CDB grant in the amount of \$261,000 that would be used to match a like sum with which to undertake the \$522,000 sewer system rehabilitation project.

Project components are as follows:

- Rehabilitation/restoration/reconstruction of 168 sanitary sewer manholes
- Mayor restoration/reconstruction of two of the city's sewage pumping stations
- Minor rehabilitation/restoration of five sewage pumping stations
- Main sewer line restoration at two locations

The city chose in late 2008 to cooperate with Stanton on a single, expanded wastewater treatment plant that would be located in Stanton. As the expanded regional wastewater treatment plant in Stanton comes on line in a few years, Clay City plans to decommission its own wastewater treatment plant in

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favor of pumping its collected wastewaters to Stanton and paying a wastewater treatment charge based upon the number of gallons delivered to that treatment plant. "Clay City really can ill afford to pay the regional treatment authority to treat excess water such as storm water and ground water," according to Mayor Caudill, "and this project should serve not only to reduce the city's sewer system operating costs but also to reduce the volume of inflow and infiltration that gets in to our city's sewer system."

Clay City should know by mid-year whether its grant application is successful. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

BLUEGRASS PRIDE AVAILABLE TO HELP COMMUNITIES

Bluegrass PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) is offering its assistance to Central Kentucky communities looking to tackle litter. The organization will provide needed materials, such as gloves and bags, and is available to help with all aspects of community litter cleanups, including event planning, pre- and post-cleanup publicity, and volunteer recruitment. For more information or to schedule your community's event, contact Lauren Bennett, program manager, at 866-222-1648 or Lauren@KentuckyPRIDE.com.

2009 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The 30-day session of the 2009 General Assembly convened in Frankfort on January 6. In the first four legislative days, organizational sessions were conducted to elect legislative leaders and make committee assignments. That segment of the 30-day session concluded on January 9. The rest of the session schedule is as follows:

- February 3 to March 9: The lawmaking session begins. The February 16 Presidents Day holiday is also a General Assembly holiday.
- March 10 to 20: The lawmakers are in adjournment to give Governor Beshear time to consider vetoes.
- March 23-24: The General Assembly reconvenes to consider last minute business as well as possible overrides of any gubernatorial vetoes.

NEW DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC DISEASES

Disaster preparedness materials -- consisting of a patient resource manual, a participant training manual, and a kit that includes an instructor's guide and resource manuals for conducting classes in local communities -- are all now available on a new web site, www.chronicdiseasepreparedness.org

The informative materials highlight the needs of individuals with chronic diseases in disaster situations; educate individuals with chronic disease on planning for disasters; and provide instruction on developing emergency contact information to include personal medical information, action checklists and helpful links.

The publications and web site were developed by the University of Louisville through a Kentucky Department of Public Health (DPH) grant, supported by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The free materials can be ordered directly from the web site. Community organizations such as churches, cooperative extension offices or Kentucky Outreach and Information Network (KOIN) members are encouraged to use the preparedness kits to conduct classes in their local communities.

For more information on Chronic Disease disaster preparedness materials, please contact DPH's Chronic Disease Prevention Branch at (502) 564-7996 or call Randy Lawson at the ADD office.

NURSING HOME OMBUDSMAN DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

On February 27, 2009 Kathy Gannoe will retire from her post as Executive Director of the Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency (NHOA). Kathy has been an integral part of the organization since 1984. During her time at NHOA she has fiercely fought for thousands of residents in nursing homes. She has built a nationally-recognized model ombudsman program; hired older workers to advocate in facilities; developed and distributed consumer information on quality of life indicators, loss and theft, involuntary discharge, and Medicaid Rights. She monitored the Department of Community Based Services for four years to uncover failure to investigate and report elder abuse. Her efforts have resulted in higher substantiated cases of abuse. Other successes have included a program to train volunteers to help feed nursing home residents and to provide educational and outreach services to Kentucky's family care homes.

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Prior to becoming a District Ombudsman, Kathy worked with mentally retarded adults and children. In her spare time Kathy enjoys cooking, gardening, playing the cello and spending time with her family. She and her husband Bob have two adult children and three grandchildren. Good luck Kathy! Sherry Culp, the current NHOA Program Director, will take Kathy's place as Executive Director. Sherry has been with NHOA since 1999.

LANCASTER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE ALMOST COMPLETED

The City of Lancaster Planning and Zoning Commission is currently in the final stages of its *2008 Comprehensive Plan Update*. On Thursday, February 12, 2009, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to gather final input from the community and consider adoption of the Plan. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 308 W. Maple St. in Lancaster.

For more information about the *2008 City of Lancaster Comprehensive Plan Update*, please contact Beth Jones at bjones@bgadd.org.

WILMORE HOPES TO PUT MUSEUM IN OLD GRANARY

The City of Wilmore has received a commitment of \$463,000 in Transportation Enhancement funds from the federal government to buy the old Brumfield Granary, a three story landmark adjacent to Main Street's crossing by the Norfolk Southern tracks that bisect the city.

Margaret Morgan, Wilmore's community development director, envisions the building as a place for a free museum that would tell the story of how railroads, stagecoaches, and Kentucky River travel combined to mold Jessamine County's development.

Appraisals must be conducted before the effort can move forward. Even then, there is no guarantee that the building's owner will want to sell the building. If Wilmore cannot purchase the building, the federal grant commitment would be lost.

STANFORD MOVES AHEAD WITH ANNEXATION PLANS

In early December, the Stanford City Council unanimously approved the second reading of an ordinance expressing its intent to annex certain lands outside of the present corporate limits. "We feel like we're at the point now where we've educated the public the best we can, showing them the benefits of annexation of the *intent to annex ordinance*," said Stanford Mayor Bill Miracle. The proposed annexation would affect some 300 residents.

The area targeted is on the northwest side of the existing city boundaries and includes the Food Lion shopping center and the

area along Foster Lane behind the Stanford Elementary School. There are 131 occupied dwellings in the area in which about 300 people live, according to an ADD-prepared study on behalf of the mayor and city council.

“Stanford, financially, is in fine shape, but small cities are going to have to grow or dry up and disappear,” the mayor said. “Annexation makes dollars and sense both for the city and for the affected residents. I think that we have proven to them (the residents) that being a part of the city can save them money.”

STANTON AND CLAY CITY TAKE NEXT STEP TO COLLABORATE ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT

In the autumn of 2008, the Powell County cities of Stanton and Clay City agreed on the future of wastewater treatment for these sister cities separated by less than five miles of the Mountain Parkway and Kentucky 15. Together with the Powell County Fiscal Court, the city councils of the two cities unanimously agreed to work together in the area of wastewater treatment. The three units of local government have voluntarily entered into an interlocal cooperation agreement. Both cities were operating their individual wastewater treatment plants under the terms of enforcement actions from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet. The enforcement actions relate to the fact that each city was operating its wastewater treatment plant in excess of its rated capacity on an average day. They agreed to work together to create a new entity, the Red River Wastewater Authority, that will come to own Stanton’s existing wastewater treatment plant and would expand it and improve it at an early date.

Under the terms of the interlocal cooperation agreement, the two cities would become the only wastewater treatment customers of the new Authority upon the completion of the planned expansion of the wastewater treatment plant that is located in Stanton,

Clay City would decommission its own treatment plant in favor of a pressure sewer line connection to the improved treatment plant at Stanton.

Having also agreed to the language contained in the articles of incorporation for the new Authority, the three local governments have now named the five persons who would be the initial governing board members of the Authority. The Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Local Government has signed off on the interlocal agreement. The Authority’s articles of incorporation have recently been registered with the office of the Kentucky Secretary of State. Presently, the Authority’s board is prepared to hold its organizational meeting and get on with the task that the Authority was created to perform.

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For more information on this outstanding example of interlocal cooperation, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

TRANSITION CENTER SERVICES PROVIDED - A NEW CONCEPT IN ADDITION TO RAPID RESPONSE

As the need for rapid response services increases, due to the recent number of lay-offs in the Bluegrass Region, the Workforce Investment (WIA) staff in partnership with the Office of Employment and Training (OET) staff provided Transition Center Services for dislocated employees of First Health Services in the Frankfort area.

WIA staff attended a conference in the fall of 2008 where this concept was discussed and had been used in other areas with great success. Typically, when a company requests Rapid Response Services, WIA staff along with other partners located in the local One-Stop center, conduct information sessions about the types of services available to the dislocated workers through the Central Kentucky Job Centers, located throughout the Bluegrass.

The Transition Center serves as an extension of the initial Rapid Response Services by providing OET and WIA staff, through the Mobile Job Center, to assist with resume preparation, to answer unemployment benefit questions, to conduct job center orientations, to register workers in the Employ KY database system, and to answer questions regarding the Workforce Investment Program.

For the First Health Services Transition Center, the Mobile Job Center was onsite December 23 and 30, 2008. The center provided services to 38 individuals during the two days. One of the participants conveyed her appreciation of the services and said "I have never been laid off from a job or applied for unemployment before, but your services have made this process much more understandable for all of us." Some of the participants stated that they were not aware of any of the services available to them through the job centers until WIA provided that information to them.

For further information regarding Workforce Investment services available through the Central Kentucky Job Centers, please contact the WIA Department at the ADD office at 859-269-8021

HOW IS THE ECONOMIC TURMOIL AFFECTING OLDER AMERICANS?

By [Richard W. Johnson](#), [Mauricio Soto](#), [Sheila R. Zedlewski](#)

"The slumping stock market, falling housing prices, and weakening economy have serious repercussions for the 94 million

Americans age 50 and older who are approaching retirement or already retired. Retirement accounts lost about 18 percent of their value over the past 12 months, and between January 2007 and May 2008, housing prices fell from 4 to 20 percent depending on where seniors live. Older Americans have little time to recoup the values of their homes, 401(k) plans, and individual retirement accounts—all important parts of their retirement nest eggs. More and more older Americans are working to bolster their retirement incomes, but the rising unemployment rate, now 6.1 percent, limits their prospects. This fact sheet examines the impact of the ongoing economic turmoil on retirement savings, home values, and retirement decisions.

“How Does the Financial Turmoil Affect Older Americans’ Retirement Savings?”

The stock market lost 27 percent of its value between September 30, 2007 and September 30, 2008, a roughly \$7 trillion drop. The loss has reduced the retirement savings of many Americans, particularly older adults.

“How Much of Older Adults’ Retirement Accounts Is Invested in Stocks?”

- Forty-nine percent of households ages 50 and older own retirement accounts. Seventy-nine percent of these accounts include stock holdings.

The typical retirement account of households ages 50 and older invests 50 percent of its assets in stocks. However, households ages 70 and older hold much less in stocks, reducing their exposure to market fluctuations.”

LAND SWAP FACILITATES 9-MILE TRAIL FROM DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON TO THE KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

A December land swap between the University of Kentucky and Vulcan Materials Company seems to have cleared the way for the early completion of the 9-mile Legacy Trail from downtown Lexington north to the Kentucky Horse Park. The University is giving Vulcan 57 acres of underground mineral rights in exchange for 74 acres of surface rights. With the additional land, UK can expand its agricultural research and farm program and the Legacy Trail can pass over the Vulcan mining operation. Without the swap of land, the trail would have had to be moved elsewhere, increasing its cost by \$1.25 million and delaying its construction completion beyond the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games. The affected land lies at the northeast corner of the juncture of Georgetown Road with I-64. The trail will accommodate both bicyclers and pedestrians.

NICHOLAS COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 2 RECEIVES ADD ASSISTANCE

Leaders of the Nicholas County Sanitation District No. 2 have worked for longer than a decade to bring sanitary sewer service to the urbanized area near Lake Carnico immediately west and north of Carlisle. The district, which presently is in the formative stage, has gone through the preparation of a wastewater facilities plan together with several amendments to that plan.

In recent months, there has been a renewed interest by the leadership of the sanitation district in developing a sewage collection system in which the collected wastewaters would be directed to a drip irrigation system where there is no discharge of treated effluent to a receiving stream of the Commonwealth. A recent field trip to a similar (and operational) wastewater system in Bath County led the Nicholas County leadership team and the local health department to take seriously the concept of a “no-discharge” sewage collection and treatment system. The ADD is seeking to assist the sanitation district in its efforts so that the sewage woes of the homes surrounding Lake Carnico will have an effective (and non-polluting) sewage collection and disposal system.

For more information, contact Don Hassall or David Duttlinger at the ADD.

CMS UNVEILS RATING SYSTEM FOR NURSING HOMES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has unveiled a new five-star rating system for the nation’s 15,800 nursing homes that participate in Medicare or Medicaid. Facilities are assigned star ratings from a low of one star to a high of five stars based on health inspection surveys, staffing information, and quality of care measures.

The Nursing Home Compare Web site provides a quality rating for each of the three areas, as well as a composite or total score. Rankings are dynamic and will be updated monthly. In the first round of quality ratings, about 12 percent of nursing homes received a full five-star rating, while 22 percent scored at the low end with one star.

To view the rating table, go to www.medicare.gov/NH

PLANNING WORK BEGINS FOR 2009 DEMENTIA CAREGIVER TRAINING EVENTS

The Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living and the Bluegrass Area National Family Caregiver Support Program, in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association and Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at the University of Kentucky,

have begun planning work for their Dementia Caregiver Training events for 2009. While all of the dates and times have not yet been finalized, interested parties are encouraged to check with any of the sponsoring entities for additional scheduling and registration information during the coming months.

WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES GETS NEW LEADER

Jamie Link, formerly the deputy secretary of the KY Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, has been named as the CEO of the World Equestrian Games. Link, of Versailles, had also been deputy director of the Kentucky Horse Park where the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will take place over 16 days in the autumn of 2010.

The World Equestrian Games had been without a full-time CEO since Jack Kelly left more than four months earlier for health reasons.

The Games, which will decide world champions in eight equestrian sports, are expected to attract more than 600,000 ticketed spectators from at least 60 counties. As many as 800 athletes and 900 horses will take part in sports to be televised around the world and seen by as many as 500 million people.

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELOCATES ITS FRANKFORT OFFICES

Many if not most services offered by of the KY Department for Environmental Protection were relocated and consolidated in the summer and autumn of 2008. This includes most offices related to the Division of Water, the Division of Air Quality, and the Division of Waste Management. These office/services are now housed at 200 Fair Oaks Drive in Frankfort.

STANFORD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE NEARING COMPLETION

The City of Stanford Planning and Zoning Commission is currently in the final stages of approval of the *2008 City of Stanford Comprehensive Plan Update*. On Thursday, January 29, 2009, the Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a public hearing to gather final input from the community and consider adoption of the *Plan*. The meeting was to be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Stanford Depot, 1866 North Depot St. in Stanford.

For more information about the *2008 Stanford Comprehensive Plan Update*, please contact Beth Jones at bjones@bgadd.org.

THE AGING SERVICES NETWORK: BROAD MANDATE AND INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES

By Carol V. O'Shaughnessy

"In 1965, when Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act were enacted, people age 65 and older represented slightly more than 9 percent of the nation's population. By 2006, the number of elderly had more than doubled, reaching 37.3 million people and 12.4 percent of the U.S. population. The first wave of the baby boom generation turned age 60 in 2006 and will turn age 65 in 2011—the year the Older Americans Act is due for reauthorization. By 2020, almost one in six people will be age 65 and older.

"The purpose of the Older Americans Act is to help older people maintain maximum independence in their homes and communities, with appropriate supportive services, and to promote a continuum of care for the vulnerable elderly. The 1965 Act represented a turning point in financing and delivering community services to the elderly. Before then, federal and state governments played a limited role in providing social services and long-term care to older people.

"The Act's reach has evolved significantly through the years. Initially, it created authority for a then new Administration on Aging (AoA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as well as state agencies to be responsible for community planning for aging programs and to serve as catalysts for improving the organization, coordination, and delivery of aging services in their states. It also created authority for research, demonstration, and training projects in the field of aging.

"Over the succeeding years, Congress expanded the scope, authority, and responsibilities of these agencies. The original legislation authorized generic social service programs, but in successive amendments, Congress authorized more targeted programs under various titles of the Act to respond to specific needs of the older population. In 1973, Congress extended the reach of the Act by creating authority for sub-state 'area agencies on aging' to be responsible for planning and coordination of a wide array of services for older people, as well as serving as advocates on their behalf.

"Some observers have pointed out that the Act's funding has not kept pace with increasing responsibilities. Today, the 'aging services network,' referring to the agencies, programs, and activities that are sponsored by the OAA, is comprised of 56 state agencies on aging, 655 area agencies on aging, 233 tribal and Native American organizations, and two organizations serving Native Hawaiians, as well as nearly 30,000 local service provider

organizations. These agencies are responsible for the planning, development, and coordination of a wide array of social, long-term care, and health-support services within each state. The aging services network administers not only Older Americans Act funding, but also, at a state's option, funding under other federal programs, including Medicaid, the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG), the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), and section 398 of the Public Health Service Act, as well as state and local funds."

For more information about your Area Agency on Aging, please contact the ADD office.

NINE KENTUCKY COUNTIES FAIL EPA AIR QUALITY TEST, NONE IN BLUEGRASS

In late December, the US Environmental Protection Agency designated 211 counties across the nation as being out of compliance with the federal clean air standard for fine particulate matter. That type of pollution is considered hazardous because fine particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers or less can be inhaled into the lungs and can aggravate heart and lung diseases, especially in children and elderly adults. The designations are based upon air quality monitoring conducted between 2005 and 2007.

States will have to submit plans detailing how they will reduce pollution in counties that are out of compliance. The nine Kentucky counties so identified are: Boone, Campbell, Kenton, Boyd, Bullitt, Jefferson, and McCracken, together with parts of Lawrence and Muhlenberg Counties. No Bluegrass counties had the dubious distinction of making the list of out-of-compliance counties.

The deadline to bring pollution levels back into attainment will be no later than 2019. Most counties will have to be in compliance by 2014, but areas with the most severe problems could receive a five-year extension.

CASHER JOINS ADD STAFF

Bob Casher, who retired in early 2008 as the long-time city manager at Paris, has joined the ADD staff. Bob, with significant hands-on experience in the daily business of local government, will serve as a public administration specialist for the ADD. He will assume some of the duties formerly performed by Dave Ewen who retired from the ADD at the close of 2008. In addition to his public administration duties, Dave Ewen also served as a grant administrator. A Bluegrass welcome to Bob Casher and to Dave Ewen, warmest wishes for a happy retirement.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON
AGING LETTER TO THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION
TEAM**

From Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer

“As you consider an economic recovery package, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) urges you to take the following important steps to help stimulate the economy and protect the nation’s most vulnerable older adults who are at risk of losing the critical health care and supportive services they depend upon.

“Emergency funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and services vital to vulnerable elders. We were very pleased to see \$60 million for OAA Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Programs (\$40.75 million and \$19.25 million, respectively) in the Senate’s proposed economic stimulus measure (S. 3604), and encourage you to include this proposed funding and additional funding for OAA Supportive Services in any agreement that is reached on the economic recovery package. Recent price increases for food and fuel have further compounded the problem of years of funding which has not kept pace with inflation or the growing aging population, leaving many aging programs struggling to meet the needs of current elders, even as new clients seek assistance in ever-greater numbers.

“Reports from around the country make it clear that older adults are cutting back on their food, medications, and other necessities because of the effects of the economic recession. Many aging programs believe that this situation will significantly worsen this winter as home heating bills force older adults to absorb these additional expenses by depriving themselves of other basic essentials such as food and medications.

“Aid to states through a temporary increase in federal funding for Medicaid. Many states in fiscal crisis are now considering drastic cuts to Medicaid due to budget shortfalls, which would further aggravate the economic situation. We believe an increase in the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) would be one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy and avoid Medicaid cuts that would jeopardize the health care and services for millions of older adults and persons with disabilities. There is also a clear and proven precedent for an increase in the FMAP during tough economic times. In 2003, Congress provided states with temporary fiscal relief, which had a significant positive effect on states’ business activity and wages, enabling them to stave off drastic cuts in this critical program.

“An additional investment in the Senior Community Service Employment Program to train and place 30,000 more older workers in community service jobs during the economic recession. The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Administration, provides a network of respected state and local job training and community service programs that is well positioned to assist local communities in promoting job creation and public service. By providing the SCSEP with a temporary infusion of \$187.6 million in additional resources under the economic stimulus plan state and national grantees could undertake an expanded role in promoting economic recovery by assisting an additional 30,000 older adults seeking employment during these tough economic times. Low-income older workers eligible for the SCSEP were already vulnerable before the downturn due to numerous barriers to employment and the recession has only made it more difficult for them. Community service placements will put low-income older workers on a path to self-sufficiency and reduce the likelihood that they will have to depend on other state and federal assistance programs such as unemployment benefits.

“Greater resources to support community-level outreach and one-on-one assistance to older adults to help them make the conversion to digital television. Additional resources of at least \$10 million are needed to ensure that older adults continue to have over-the-air television access after February 17, 2009. This funding would take efforts currently being undertaken by n4a and the Keeping Seniors Connected Coalition to national scale through a targeted campaign that would effectively build on the ongoing education efforts by government and private industry to the general public, but would specifically offer what those do not: direct, one-on-one assistance to older adults at risk of not making the DTV transition successfully on their own. Community-based projects are working feverishly to assist as many seniors as possible before the conversion date, but a significant infusion of new federal resources is needed in order to ramp up efforts nationwide and ensure that large numbers of older adults are not cut off from emergency information and other television programming.

“Direct a portion of infrastructure spending to community agencies and nonprofit organizations by encouraging states and local governments to invest projects that are environmentally sustainable and promote livable communities for all ages, such as community centers that serve people of all ages (i.e., infrastructure improvements that meet the needs of people across their lifespan), affordable low-income housing, and transportation projects that take into account the needs of all users and enhance the accessibility and availability of mobility services.

BLUEGRASS ADD-VANTAGE

“We also would like to express our support for other critical steps you can take to help spur the economy, such as an increase in the Social Services Block Grant program and additional energy assistance under Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for older adults in crisis.

“In these difficult economic times, it is now more important than ever for the Administration and Congress to provide emergency spending for these important community programs to help stem the tide of service reductions taking place. Without this support, more seniors will face the risk of going hungry, becoming isolated, suffering deteriorating health, and potentially losing their independence and facing unnecessary and more costly institutionalization.

“Thank you for considering n4a’s request to protect the millions of older Americans and persons with disabilities who rely on these safety net supports as your incoming Administration and Congress move forward with its plans to address an economic recovery package.”

TOURISM TRENDS FOR 2009 PROJECTED

According to a travel industry publication, nationally the industry is projected to grow during 2009 in much the same manner as in past years. A few of the changes expected for the coming year include tourists staying closer to home, spending less money and taking less time away from work. The economy is partially responsible for less spending, and a new phenomenon referred to as “time poverty” contributed to the shortened length of trips. “Time poverty” simply put is the lack of leisure hours Americans are willing to take away from their jobs. The era of two-week, summer vacations has been replaced by long weekends.

One other aspect of vacation planning is the method in which consumers search for information. Instead of planning with maps and an atlas, today’s trips are planned online. Various sites offer a wide range of information including directions, attractions, and special packages.

(Source: *Randall Travel Marketing, Inc.*)

SIX STATES TACKLE WATER POLLUTION IN THE OHIO RIVER

Six states and the federal government are working to clean up about 475 miles of the Ohio River that is sometimes unfit for swimming because of sewage contamination. The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) analyzed more than 14,000 river water samples taken from Pittsburgh to Cairo, IL

and found high fecal counts after heavy rains along almost half of the 981-mile river.

Much of the sewage came from treatment plant overflows, runoff from farms and slaughterhouses, and tanning, pulp and paper factories, ORSANCO said. Roughly 2,000 municipalities and companies have permits to discharge treated wastewaters into the Ohio River and its 130 tributaries. Problems often occur when heavy rains cause water flows to exceed sewer line or treatment plants' capacity, allowing untreated or undertreated wastewaters to flow into the river.

In addition to providing recreation, the Ohio River provides drinking water to nearly 3 million people and is a major transportation route, moving nearly 230 million tons of cargo annually, according to ORSANCO. The river is also a source for power generation.

The multi-state commission is working with the US EPA and with the states of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania to develop a remediation plan required to meet water quality standards of the Federal Clean Water Act.

SOMERSET AIRPORT GETS NASHVILLE FLIGHTS

In these days of shrinking air service and a diminished number of flights and air carriers from which to choose, the announcement of the return of commercial aviation to Somerset came as a trend-bucking event. Just after Christmas, a group of passengers heavy with local dignitaries took the first commercial flight out of the Lake Cumberland Regional Airport, bound for Nashville.

The flight came aboard Air Azul, a Surfside, Florida regional carrier. It marked the culmination of 15 years of work by local and federal officials to land a commercial carrier at the south-central Kentucky airfield.

Congressman Hal Rogers secured an air service grant of \$1 million annually that subsidizes the flights and helped develop the project. Rogers and city officials helped lure Air Azul, which now offers flights from Somerset to Nashville and back.

The Lake Cumberland Regional Airport also needed Transportation Security Administration security clearance. The airport became the 436th such facility in the nation to receive that designation. The new commercial air service may attract passengers from the southern counties of the Bluegrass Area.

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MEETING CALL

Executive Board	2/25 & 3/25 7:00 p.m.
Aging Council	2/11 & 3/11 10:00 a.m.
Development Advisory Committee	2/10 & 3/12 10:00 a.m.
Homeland Security Council (@Richmond EOC)	2/18 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Committee	2/12 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	2/11 3:15 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	3/4 4:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Committee	3/9 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation & Recreation Advisory Committee	3/10 10:00 a.m.

ALL meeting dates/times are subject to change.

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- Chairman
Mr. Dodd Dixon
- Vice-Chairman
Judge Larry Tincher
- Secretary
Mayor Connie Lawson
- Treasurer
Judge Donnie Foley
- Executive Director
Lenny P. Stoltz II

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