

2009 BLUEGRASS REGIONAL SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING SUMMIT TO BE HELD

Bluegrass Area Development District will host the first regional summit of its kind in April at the 2009 Bluegrass Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Summit.

In observance of Earth Day, the Summit will be filled with opportunities to share a common vision for solid waste and recycling for the Bluegrass Region. The event will take place:

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Embassy Suites
1801 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511

The program has been specifically designed to reinforce opportunities to network and engage with the Region's local elected officials, solid waste coordinators, landfill operators, area consultants, engineers, contractors, and industry; in addition to school superintendents, interest groups, and other stake holders in solid waste and recycling in the Bluegrass.

Speakers on the agenda include representatives from Kentucky Division of Waste Management, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Kentucky Pollution Prevention Council, Bluegrass PRIDE, 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games, Garrard County Solid Waste, Lexmark, and others.

Reservations are required and must be received by noon Friday, April 17, 2009. For more information on the 2009 Summit, contact David Duttlinger at dduttlinger@bgadd.org or Laurel Wood at lwood@bgadd.org. To register, please contact Mary Ann Fegley at (859) 269-8021 or mfegley@bgadd.org.

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HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GUIDELINES TRAINING SCHEDULED; ADD STAFF POISED TO ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Kentucky Department for Local Government has scheduled its HUD CDBG guidelines training for the 2009 round of funding. The annual two-day training session will be held again this year at the Bowling Green Holiday Inn University Plaza beginning at 12:30 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, April 14. There is no charge for the training, but pre-registration is strongly recommended. Interested persons may contact Tammy Sipes at the Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG) at 502/573-1519 or tammy.sipes@ky.gov. The registration form may also be obtained on line at www.dlg.ky.gov

Again in 2009, the ADD is offering assistance in the conceptual development of viable applications for HUD CDBG funds. The programmatic areas in which the ADD has developed a credible record of knowledge and success are programs relating to the following:

- Public facilities (most often water and wastewater projects)
- Economic development (related to job creation and/or job retention)
- Community programs (a broad spectrum of activities are eligible)
- Community emergency relief (efforts meeting public needs following a recent emergency, i.e., the ice storm)

David Duttlinger, the ADD's Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, can put inquirers in touch with the appropriate ADD staff person.

Only cities and counties are recognized as eligible applicants, but it is not uncommon for a city or a county government to apply on behalf of a different unit of local government or a not-for-profit organization. A would-be applicant must meet at least one of three HUD national objectives in order to be eligible to apply. Most often, the relevant national objective is the one that relates to the benefit (of the project) to persons, at least 51 percent of whom are of low-to-moderate income.

"STEPS TO SUCCESS" 2009 SCHEDULED

Preparations for the 2009 Steps to Success Youth Competition are well on their way. WIA staff have been diligently working to secure sponsors, donations and volunteers to assist with this year's competition set to take place on March 26 and 27.

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Spencerian College in Lexington is the host site for the day of competition on Thursday, March 26. College officials and staff are excited to be able to have the students on campus and to have their staff volunteer and assist with the competition.

Students will compete against each other as individuals, and as teams, in the categories of: public speaking, service learning, essay, employment techniques, decision making, scrapbooking, and logo design. The theme for this year is the Olympics. Jose Acevedo, Rondel Sorillo, and Mikel Thomas, track and field athletes from the University of Kentucky, will be sharing their Olympic experiences with the students.

The awards celebration and banquet will be on Friday, March 27 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. For more information, please contact Jennifer Compton at 859-269-8021 or jcompton@bgadd.org.

INTER-UTILITY (WATER/WASTEWATER) MEETINGS CONCLUDING

The last of seven inter-utility meetings is set to conclude by the end of April. Beginning in late January, the ADD staff began holding a series of seven inter-utility meetings with mayors, judges-executive, water/sewer utility managerial staff, and local health department representatives. Many area consulting engineers have also attended these meetings, which have been scheduled in convenient locations close to the center of the impacted counties.

Meetings already held or scheduled to be held are these:

Friday, January 30

Estill and Powell Counties (meeting held in Stanton)

Wednesday, February 4

Harrison, Nicholas, and Bourbon Counties (meeting held in Paris)

Friday, February 20

Boyle, Garrard, and Lincoln Counties (meeting held in Lancaster)

Friday, March 6

Anderson and Mercer Counties (meeting held in Lawrenceburg)

Thursday, March 19

Franklin, Scott, and Woodford Counties (meeting held in Frankfort)

Thursday, April 9

Fayette and Jessamine Counties (meeting to be held at the ADD)

Thursday, April 30

Clark and Madison Counties (meeting to be held in Richmond)

David Duttlinger and Don Hassall have been conducting the meetings, which have been very fruitful. Not only do these exchanges of information allow the ADD staff better to understand the plans and problems of the utilities, the meetings also permit water/wastewater utilities to hear and understand what is happening with other and similar utilities that are geographically close. The rapidly-changing landscape of federal and state financial assistance programs has also been a topic of much interest.

In these opportunities for face-to-face contact, the ADD is also seeking to update information contained in its annual publication of utility rates and related utility and other demographic information. With the assistance of the affected water/wastewater utilities, the ADD is attempting to keep rate, water production, measured wastewater flow data, water customer tallies, and related information more current and readily available to those utilities and consulting engineers who find the information to be useful.

**CENTRAL KY JOB CENTERS ANNOUNCE DATES FOR
SPRING JOB FAIRS**

Erica Sluder, Todd Blanton, and Paula England, Business Service Specialists with the Central Kentucky Job Centers, are currently planning the spring job fairs for the Bluegrass ADD. Area employers that have open positions are encouraged to participate since there is absolutely no cost to them. The Central Kentucky Job Centers provide the space and the marketing for the event. The job fairs are scheduled for the following dates:

April 1, 2009 in Jessamine County at the Jessamine Career and Technology Center located at 881 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY. For more information contact Erica Sluder at 859-239-7411 or Erica.Sluder@ky.gov.

May 5, 2009 in Franklin County at the Frankfort Convention Center located at 405 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY. For more information contact Paula England at 502-863-2402 ext. 240 or Paula.England@ky.gov.

In June, 2009, a job fair will be hosted in Clark County. The date and place are yet to be determined. For more information contact Todd Blanton at 859-425-2182 or Robert.Blanton@ky.gov.

Employers may also register at the website, www.ckyjobs.com.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA WORKSHOP HELD; PRECURSOR TO AUGUST EXERCISE

On March 20, 2009, Kentucky Emergency Management hosted a one-day Pandemic Influenza Workshop at the Transportation Cabinet offices located at 200 Mero Street in Frankfort, KY. This workshop was designed for elected and appointed officials serving in government and justice agencies to discuss the unique administrative and legal challenges associated with the maintenance of government and justice activities during a major pandemic. The workshop leads up to a state-wide Pandemic Influenza Exercise to be held in August, 2009.

The implications of an influenza pandemic are far-reaching and potentially catastrophic. Traditional government risk mitigation, security and disaster response plans for naturally occurring and terrorism-related events are insufficient in preparing for pandemic influenza. Potential impacts include lost employee productivity (e.g., increased absenteeism) and disruption in daily operations and facilities being shutdown, while citizen expectations of level of service increase.

Kentucky Emergency Management's goal is to build stronger working relationships between the various levels of government and to identify their unique needs and capabilities so as to be prepared to manage citizen expectations and provide realistic resources support in the middle of a major pandemic. With the potential threat of a pandemic flu spreading to our borders, many organizations have already taken steps to create continuity plans. This workshop provided a forum for these discussions and served as a springboard for the Pandemic Influenza and Terrorism exercise in August, 2009 offered by the Commonwealth.

Through this workshop, participants:

- Developed a basic understanding of pandemic preparedness and the importance of continuity of government and organizational planning;
- Identified some of the key issues that general government and the justice system in the state would face; and
- Began to develop some relationships to support increased planning in the future and support for the statewide Pandemic Influenza exercise.

For more information, contact Laurel Wood at (859) 269-8021 or lwood@bgadd.org, or Heather Pillion at (502) 607-1682 or heather.pillion@us.army.mil.

MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2009 – “LIVING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW”

May is Older Americans Month, a great time to bring attention to the issues that affect older adults and create community-wide opportunities to help older Americans improve their quality of life. This year's theme is "Living Today for a Better Tomorrow," and we, as a nation, must work together to give older adults the tools they need to make healthy decisions.

By 2030, one in every five Americans will be age 65 or older. Although the risk of disease increases with advancing age, poor health is not an inevitable consequence of aging. Many illnesses, disabilities and even death associated with chronic disease are preventable.

Nearly 40 percent of deaths in America can be attributed to poor health habits such as lack of physical exercise, poor eating habits and smoking. Older Americans can prevent or control chronic disease by adopting healthy habits such as exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy diet and ceasing tobacco use.

The U.S. Administration on Aging and its National Aging Services Network support a number of successful programs throughout the country that are helping older adults live better today and in the future. These programs keep people independent and out of nursing homes through streamlined access to health and long term care information and options and provide home and community-based systems of services that include the support for family caregivers. These programs also encourage older people to remain active and make behavioral changes through the increased use of evidence-based disease prevention programs under the Older Americans Act as well as the use of preventive benefits available under Medicare.

Americans of all ages and backgrounds can celebrate Older Americans Month. Contact your local Agency on Aging and volunteer for activities in your area; promote community, state, and national efforts to serve older adults; and find ways to enrich the lives of older adults who touch your life. Additionally, actively search out ways you can involve your community's older adults in volunteer efforts, allowing them to share their wisdom and energy. By working together, we can improve the health and well being of our Nation's older adults and pave the way for better health as we age.

IRVINE CITY COUNCIL TAKES BOLD ACTION REGARDING SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

One of the premier cooperative local government efforts in Kentucky in recent years has been the attempt by the City of Irvine, the Irvine Municipal Utilities, the Estill County Judge's office, and the Estill County Water/Sewer District to collaborate on wastewater treatment efforts in Estill County. Both Irvine and the Estill County Water/Sewer District presently have wastewater treatment plants operating in close proximity -- one just across the Kentucky River from the other. Irvine and the Estill County Water/Sewer District have both been placed on the sanctions list by the Kentucky Division of Water. With the leadership of Estill County Judge-executive Wallace Taylor, Irvine Mayor Ernest Farmer, and the Irvine Municipal Utilities, the decision was made to work together toward the expansion of the Irvine municipal wastewater treatment plant to serve all of these interests. The collected wastewaters from the Estill County Water/Sewer District would be pumped north beneath the Kentucky River for treatment at the reconstructed (and larger) Irvine treatment plant. Also planned is the installation of additional collector sewers in the Wisemantown area of the water district. Finally, the Estill County Water/Sewer District would then decommission its own wastewater treatment plant.

The estimated cost of plan implementation exceeds \$13 million, an extremely large financial undertaking for the limited number of sewer ratepayers. The most favorable financial scenario would result in an infusion of grant funds from the HUD CDBG program, the US Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and USDA's Rural Development. Loan financing would complete the financial package. In order for the City of Irvine to take on significant new long-term debt, sewer rates charged by the Irvine Municipal Utilities (IMU) would have to be raised significantly. The wholesale sewer rate that IMU could offer to the Estill County Water/Sewer District (ECWD) would be substantial as well, and the ECWD could only pay to Irvine that fee by increasing rates to its own sewer customers.

In February, the Irvine City Council acted to raise sewer service charges substantially. No one wanted to take that action, but the financial reality had set in. The available grant/loan project that was emerging was the best deal that the city was likely to get. Accordingly, the increase in the charges for sewer service was unavoidable in order to ensure the repayment of the additional long-term loan financing that the city is preparing to accept. The new monthly rate for sewer service in Irvine for an "average customer" (using 4,000 gallons of water per month) will be almost \$29.

The ADD has sought to act as a resource to the Estill County Fiscal Court and to the City of Irvine and its Municipal Utilities Commission in this regional effort for more than three years. The cooperative effort to solve this problem collaboratively was identified as the top wastewater project need in the 17-county Bluegrass Area by the Bluegrass Water Management Council for several consecutive years. For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR DISASTER RELIEF ILLUSTRATED

It's not everyday one might see an Anheuser-Busch truck delivering cases of cans to a local Salvation Army; cans of drinking water that is.

With the Central Kentucky area reeling from January's historic ice storm, and residents hit with the one-two punch of a widespread power outage and a boil-water advisory, the beer giant donated several thousand gallons of canned drinking water to area locations for distribution.

At the Danville Salvation Army, the truck dropped off 500 cases of canned water, which translates to about 1,000 gallons of drinking water. Cans came in cases and six-packs, much like beer bought for Super Bowl Sunday.



Anheuser-Busch donated several thousand gallons of canned drinking water to area locations for distribution.

The Salvation Army distributed the drinking water based on a formula based on people per household. Recipients were intrigued according to Salvation Army Lt. Dan Nelson. Throughout the recovery, the Salvation Army helped provide shelter, food, necessities and water to those in need.

The Anheuser-Busch cans were delivered to a number of area locations, including Burgin, where Mayor Terry Pitman said they were met with a welcome reception because the City was under a boil-water advisory. The Mayor said Bluegrass Area Development District put the City in touch with Anne McBrayer, president of Kentucky Eagle Beer, a distributor of Anheuser-Busch. She

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Burgin Mayor Terry Pitman watches outside City Hall as an Anheuser-Busch employee unloads drinking water canned by the beer company for disaster situations.

explained what the brewing company offered in disaster situations, the Mayor said.

According to the official web site of Anheuser-Busch, the brewing company has provided canned relief to such notable disasters as Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Much like Nelson, Pitman praised the beer maker for helping in an unconventional way.

For more information on disaster relief, contact Laurel Wood at (859) 269-8021 or lwood@bgadd.org.

WINTER STORM OF 2009 PROVES COSTLY

The cost of an icy winter storm that downed power lines and riddled the state with debris is approaching \$200 million. That figure will continue to grow as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state emergency management officials continue to complete damage assessment across the state.

More than 100 of Kentucky's 120 counties declared states of emergency after the late January winter storm that knocked out power to more than 700,000 customers at its peak and was blamed for more than 30 deaths. Tree branches and other debris are still being collected from Kentucky roadsides.

"Literally every county in Kentucky was immediately impacted to some degree," said Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel, director of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) who led the Commonwealth's massive response.

Federal disaster aid was made available almost immediately through a Presidential Emergency Declaration on January 28, less than twelve hours after Governor Steve Beshear's request. A major disaster declaration for 93 of Kentucky's counties was signed by President Obama on February 5, to reimburse costs for eligible debris removal and emergency protective measures. Commonwealth officials have gathered data for nine additional counties, which may be added to the disaster at a later date.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Federal Emergency Management Agency Acting Administrator Nancy Ward toured the damage with Governor Beshear. Briefings were held in late February with public and private nonprofit entities as the first step toward reimbursing them for disaster-related emergency expenses.

The Kentucky National Guard deployed 4,100 soldiers at the peak of the storm and engaged in a door-to-door “wellness” campaign. Soldiers assisted with debris removal, traffic control and other missions. They also delivered life-saving and life-sustaining commodities.

The Federal government has so far agreed to pay 75 percent of the cost of the storm and will pick up the tab for deploying the Kentucky National Guard, a rare move. States typically pick up the tab for employing the National Guard during emergencies.

In Kentucky, FEMA’s coordination has extended to agencies handling transportation issues, public works, medical services, sheltering, logistics support, food supplies and others at federal, state and non-governmental levels.

Other Federal agencies helping in the emergency response to Kentucky include:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, conducting site assessment, debris clearing and directing installation of emergency generators;
- U.S. Department of Transportation, through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, monitoring road conditions, airports, rail lines and transit systems;
- The American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Southern Baptist Convention, providing shelters and meals;
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Kentucky Hospital Association and agencies in other southeastern states to determine the status of medical facilities and the need for specialized medical care in shelters and elsewhere.

For more information on disaster relief, contact Laurel Wood at (859) 269-8021 or lwood@bgadd.org.

POWELL COUNTY ATTEMPTS TO BALANCE ITS BUDGET

Kentucky’s Constitution allows neither State Government nor local governments to operate at a deficit. A series of circumstances has converged upon the county government in Powell County that has caused the county to operate in the red. With the assistance of the Kentucky Department for Local Government (as

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well as assistance offered by the ADD), the Powell County Fiscal Court has set a course of increasing its revenues while decreasing its expenses in order that the county might comply with the requirement that local governments operate in the black.

Some of the moves are certain to be unpopular in the county, but county leaders have had little choice in taking the measures that they have taken. To do anything other than to bring its budget into balance would be to invite a take-over by the State of the operation of county government. In addition to trimming of staff positions where possible, some county employees are being periodically furloughed without pay. A tax of 6 percent on insurance premiums (exclusive of health insurance) is being considered as a revenue enhancement measure, as is an increase in the county's occupational tax from 1.0 percent to 1.25 percent. The initiation of fees to be paid by jail inmates and booking fees to be imposed upon persons who are arrested are examples of other measures to enhance the revenue side of the county's ledger sheet. The county government leadership team must be recognized as stepping up to do the right thing.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S WATER AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM BENEFITS FROM FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS LEGISLATION

The recently-enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act brings additional grant and loan authority to the Kentucky office of USDA's Rural Development (RD). Recent information suggests that Kentucky will be receiving an additional \$90 - \$95 million in supplemental loan authority and an additional \$30 - 35 million in supplemental grant authority for well-developed water and wastewater projects. Indications are that RD's goal is that one-half of the new money must be obligated by Rural Development within 120 days of the bill's passage with the other half being obligated by Rural Development before the end of September, 2010.

For more information, contact Don Hassall or David Duttlinger at the ADD or RD's Gene Floyd at 502/633-3294, Ext. 4, or Vernon Brown at the State RD office at 859/224-7336.

KENTUCKY'S HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM TO RECEIVE FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS MONEY

While the details have yet to be worked out, it does now appear that the Department for Local Government will receive about \$14.5 million in new money for Kentucky projects from the newly-enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Of that sum, it appears that about half (or \$7.28 million) will go to entitlement communities, Lexington-Fayette being one, with the other \$7.28 million to go to the HUD CDBG Small Cities program. The Small Cities program has been used with regularity by Bluegrass Area cities and counties for many years. Just how the new Small Cities money will be divided between program categories (e.g., public facilities, housing, economic development, etc.) has yet to be determined. Also an open question is whether the new funds will be offered as a separate round of funding or whether they can be added to the existing 2008 program year funds for the purpose of simply approving more grant project applications presently in hand.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

WATER/WASTEWATER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH TWO REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS AT STATE GOVERNMENT

In order to be able to access existing federal/state organizational programs and staffs to get federal economic stimulus money spent, the American Recovery and Reinvestment legislation has identified the USEPA's State Revolving Fund programs of the 50 states as the pipeline to get the money from the US Treasury to local communities across the nation. The aim, of course, is two-fold. First, the legislation is intended to infuse capital into the economy to create (or save) jobs. The secondary aim is to address the problem of aged and inadequate infrastructure across Kentucky and the nation.

The most recent information would suggest that Kentucky will be receiving from the federal government about \$48 million in additional financing for its Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) Fund A revolving loan fund (for wastewater projects). The KIA Fund F revolving loan program will receive about \$20 million (for drinking water projects). While the new federal money is to be funneled through these two state revolving loan programs, there is a twist to the term "loan." Apparently, up to one-half of each loan is to be forgiven over the life of the loan, which tends to make this new money essentially a 50 percent grant/50 percent low-interest 20-year loan.

Competition for the new money is brisk. While the rules for the money are being written hurriedly, it appears that a project to receive funding from this infusion of funds will have to be both shovel-ready and listed within the Kentucky Division of Water's *Intended Use Plan* (IUP). While the IUP had been considered complete and closed for the current fiscal year, the decision was made to open up the IUP process for a brief time to allow additional projects identified as shovel-ready to be added to

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the list. The opportunity to add new projects to the IUP closed again on the last business day of February. Eyes are now on the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and the Kentucky Division of Water to see which projects are selected for this infusion of new federal dollars.

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

THE BLUEGRASS AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING PROMOTES HEALTH AND WELLNESS THROUGH REGIONAL BOOMER AND SENIOR GAMES

Nearly 40 percent of deaths in America can be attributed to smoking, physical inactivity, poor diet, or alcohol misuse - behaviors practiced by many people every day for much of their lives. Adopting healthy behaviors such as eating nutritious foods, being physically active and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or control the devastating effects of many of the nation's leading causes of death regardless of one's age.

Regular physical activity greatly reduces a person's risk from dying of heart disease, and decreases the risk for colon cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Physical activity also helps to control weight; contributes to healthy bones, muscles, and joints; helps to relieve the pain of arthritis; reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression; and can decrease the need for hospitalizations, physician visits, and medications. Finally, physical activity does not need to be strenuous to be beneficial; people of all ages benefit from moderate physical activity. However, people tend to be less active as they age. By age 75, about one in three men and one in two women do not engage in any physical activity.

The Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living (BGAAAIL) has for many years provided seniors in our communities with opportunities for increased activity and exercise through our 18 Senior Citizen's Centers, and the BGAAAIL continues to be dedicated to providing services and programs to maintain the health and well being of seniors. For the second year, the BGAAAIL is sponsoring the Bluegrass Regional Boomer and Senior Games to be held on the campus of Berea College.

On September 12, 2009, athletes 50 years old and older, of all skill levels, will gather to compete in athletic events ranging from cycling to track and field events. A \$15.00 entrance fee is all it takes for anyone to compete in the competition(s) of their choice. Pre-registration will be available this summer on both the ADD and Berea College websites along with listings of the events and timetables. If volunteering is more to your liking, we will be

glad to have your assistance with registration, directions, event coordination or anything you would like to assist us with.

For further information about the 2009 Bluegrass Regional Boomer and Senior Games please contact Randy Lawson at the ADD.

**MISSING: PLEASE HELP LOCATE THE 6200
BLUEGRASS AREA RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR EXTRA
HELP TO PAY FOR A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
PLAN**

Many people are still not aware that the Social Security Administration offers extra help to pay for Medicare Prescription Drug plans. This extra help can pay for prescription drug costs, monthly premiums, and annual deductibles associated with the Medicare Prescription Drug benefit, also called Medicare Part D. An individual might be eligible for extra help if their monthly income is below \$1,373 and their resources are below \$12,510. Married couples might be eligible for extra help if their monthly income is below \$1,841 and their resources are below \$25,010. Please keep in mind that the income limits may be higher if the person receiving Medicare supports other family members who live with them. In determining eligibility for the extra help benefit, the Social Security Administration does not consider the following as income or resources - a home, all vehicles and a large portion of earned income.

To apply for extra help you can call your local Bluegrass State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for assistance. Your local SHIP can also help with the Medicare Prescription drug benefit, other issues relating to Medicare and will screen to see if you are taking advantage of all government programs available to you. For assistance please call the SHIP hotline at 1-866-516-3051.

If you are interested in helping others with Medicare related issues, the SHIP program is currently looking for volunteer counselors, marketers, and recruiters to assist beneficiaries and the SHIP Program. Please contact Angela Zeek at 1-800-928-4556 ext. 2236 to volunteer. For more general information, you can call Randy Lawson at the ADD.

**TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDING IS PART
OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Transportation Enhancement (TE) project funds totaling \$800 million dollars have been approved as part of the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Of that, Kentucky was appropriated \$12.6 million. Even though TE is the funding source for recreational projects including biking, hiking

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and walking trails, the \$800 million amounts to less than 2 percent of the total transportation funds.

ARRA stipulates that 50 percent of the \$12.6 million must be obligated within 120 days from March 3, 2009, and that the remaining 50 percent must be obligated by March 3, 2010. Projects that have not been funded will receive priority. In addition, projects that are ready to proceed immediately with little to no further design or acquisition will also be considered a priority. The immediate creation of new jobs from these projects will greatly aid in the economic recovery process.

All current applications for the 2009 funding cycle are in the processes of submittal and review. These projects will not be impacted by the stimulus package and will be funded with traditional allocated Transportation Enhancement funds. There will be no new applications accepted for the stimulus funds.

STANTON/CLAY CITY/POWELL COUNTY TAKE STEPS TO DEAL WITH WASTEWATER TREATMENT ISSUES

Acting with the firm resolve that "working together works," the cities of Stanton and Clay City together with Powell County have acted to create the Red River Wastewater Authority through an interlocal cooperation agreement. Both cities are presently hamstrung with capacity problems at their respective wastewater treatment plants. A regional wastewater facilities plan, completed and approved in 2008, recommended that the two cities collaborate on the issue of wastewater treatment by expanding one of the two cities' wastewater treatment plants while decommissioning the other. Stanton owns the treatment plant planned for expansion/improvements, while wastewater from Clay City is to be pumped to Stanton for treatment. Under the terms of the approved plan, the Clay City wastewater treatment plant would then be decommissioned. The mayors of both cities have agreed that having one of everything is bound to be more efficient and effective than having two of everything when there is a viable option to achieve the economies of scale.

The last part of 2008 and the first part of 2009 were consumed with the development of an acceptable interlocal cooperation agreement. When the negotiations over the wording of the agreement had concluded, the Stanton City Council, the City Council at Clay City, and the Powell Country Fiscal Court each approved the agreement unanimously. "It's not often that the legislative bodies of both cities and the county fiscal court can agree on something without a single negative vote, but that is what happened," said Stanton Mayor Dale Allen. "It just makes so much sense," said Clay City Mayor James Caudill. "Growth here in Powell County has all but been shut off by the

enforcement actions of the Kentucky Division of Water,” added Allen. “Bringing jobs to Powell County has been made ever so difficult when there is no wastewater treatment plant capacity available for new companies. We have to ask permission from State Government just to add a sewer connection from just a single house in our city,” said Mayor Caudill. “Working together to solve this issue make a whole lot of sense,” said Craig Dawson, executive director of the Powell County Industrial Development Authority.

Drawing upon assistance made available from the ADD and from Roger Recktenwald of the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo), the interlocal cooperation agreement was developed and approved. Similarly, the Articles of Incorporation of the new entity, the Red River Wastewater Authority (RRWA), have been developed and approved. On March 2, the By-laws of the RRWA were finalized and approved. Five directors of the RRWA have been named—two named by Stanton, two named by Clay City, and one named by the Powell County Fiscal Court.

A contingent of the Powell County project leadership team met in mid-February with Department for Local Government (DLG) Commissioner Tony Wilder and with Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) Executive Director John Covington. Both state leaders appeared to be pleased with the “let’s work together” approach taken by the three governments in Powell County, and they encouraged the unified effort to move forward with dispatch. On March 2, the RRWA directors moved forward with the process of engineering procurement as they approved a Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) and authorized the publication of the legal ad that initiated the formal process of engineering procurement. That advertisement was published on March 5, and a March 25 deadline was established as the deadline for responses to the RFQ/RFP.

The ADD has been offering and continues to offer assistance to the two cities and to the Powell County Fiscal County. More recently, the ADD has also begun to assist the Red River Wastewater Authority (RRWA). The leadership of the RRWA would like to fast track this project so that it might have an opportunity to access some of the economic stimulus money that is headed to Kentucky through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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

WILMORE IS “MOST AFFORDABLE SUBURB IN KENTUCKY”

It seems Jessamine County is one of the best places in Kentucky to live. Residents of Nicholasville and Wilmore have always known that; now it's official. Last year *Money* magazine ranked Nicholasville as the “Number 1 small city in the country for affordable housing.” This year, *Business Week* has named Wilmore as the “most affordable suburb near the largest city with the highest quality of life.”

Criteria for the nomination included: towns located with 25 miles of the largest city of the state, short commutes, low pollution, high student test scores, and affordability of housing. There were some discrepancies noted in the actual data gathered for the criteria. It is surmised that data from the 2000 Census prior to Louisville merging with Jefferson County was used.

Wilmore residents, however, are not disputing the fact that their town is one of the best places in the country to live!

FEDERAL AID FOR 2008 KENTUCKY TORNADOS NEARS \$10 MILLION

Even as Kentucky recovers from a major winter storm, its citizens have memories of another event whose one-year anniversary recently passed. On February 5 - 6, 2008, a series of severe storms and tornados swept across Kentucky and as a result, a presidential disaster declaration designated 23 of the Commonwealth's counties eligible for Federal disaster assistance. A year later, that assistance totals nearly \$10 million.

More than 1,000 people applied for disaster assistance as a result of the weather event's impact on Kentucky and received a total of more than \$5.3 million in Federal disaster aid. FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) Program provided nearly \$1.5 million in disaster grants to households, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provided almost \$3.9 million in low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses. Counties within the Bluegrass ADD declared for IA include: Fayette, Harrison, Mercer and Nicholas.

Meanwhile, FEMA has obligated more than \$4.6 million in Public Assistance (PA) Program funds to local governments and agencies to remove debris, provide disaster-related emergency services and repair or rebuild damaged infrastructure. Counties within the Bluegrass ADD declared for PA include: Estill, Franklin, Harrison, Mercer and Nicholas.

For more information on disaster relief, contact Laurel Wood at (859) 269-8021 or lwood@bgadd.org.

**SENIOR SCAMS ARE ON THE RISE...PLEASE
USE CAUTION AND PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL
INDEPENDENCE!**

Anyone can be a victim of financial abuse. There are lots of scam artists out there, and lots of people too willing to trust them. Seniors are often the targets of these scams. The older generation is thought to be more trusting - raised to believe that a man's word is his bond. And many have built up a nice nest egg from years of saving and investing. But by knowing what to look out for, and what not to fall for, you can keep your money and your belongings safe from greedy hands.

Beware of Federal Stimulus Economic Refund Scams! If you receive an email, supposedly from the IRS, claiming that you need to click on a link and fill out the necessary information to receive your Federal Stimulus Economic Refund, don't be fooled. It looks legitimate, but it IS NOT. The IRS does not initiate contact through email.

If you're approached by an unfamiliar charity, check it out. Most states require charities to register with them and file annual reports showing how they use donations. Ask your state or local consumer protection agency how to get this information. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance also offers information about national charities. Call 703-276-0100 or go to www.give.org.

The top five things to remember are:

1. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
2. When it comes to a "now or never" opportunity, choose "never."
3. Keep account numbers, codes and passwords private.
4. Shred bills, junk mail and receipts when discarding them.
5. Don't be afraid to report your experiences. If you feel uncomfortable, tell someone.

For more information on protecting yourself from scams, call the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Office in Frankfort, KY at (502) 696-5389, go on-line to <http://www.ag.ky.gov> or contact Randy Lawson at the ADD.

MERCER COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT PREPARES TO START ITS INITIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The efforts of three years are to come to fruition in April as the Mercer County Sanitation District's initial construction project is set to receive wastewaters from the Bright Leaf area immediately south of Harrodsburg. The collected wastewaters will be conveyed to the Harrodsburg municipal wastewater treatment. The new collector sewer project will replace four package treatment plants in the Bright Leaf area and will also serve some householders who have depended upon malfunctioning septic tank systems. The initial project will serve approximately 165 customers. Mike Sanford, manager of the Lake Village Water Association, will serve as the manager of the Mercer County Sanitation District as well.

The sanitation district has also targeted other areas of Mercer County for community wastewater service. Under consideration for future service by the sanitation district are the City of Burgin and environs, selected lakefront areas on Herrington Lake's western shore, and the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center site near McAfee.

For more information, contact Mercer County Sanitation District Chair Jim Carpenter, Mercer County Judge-executive John Trisler, or Mercer County Sanitation District Manager Mike Sanford.

STANFORD NEARING COMPLETION OF A FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION

For four years out of the last five, Stanford has, on an average day, operated its wastewater treatment plant at a rate that exceeds the plant's hydraulic capacity. With the implementation of planned improvements to US 27, an anticipated push toward increased urbanization is approaching Stanford (and Lincoln County) from the south, (i.e., Somerset) and from the north (i.e., Lexington and Nicholasville). Lack of wastewater treatment capacity could easily deter orderly, planned growth in Lincoln County's largest city and seat of county government. The City of Stanford, its Water Commission, and the Lincoln County Fiscal Court have been collaborating to deal with this problem of inadequate wastewater treatment plant capacity.

It appears that project financing through the USDA's Rural Development may soon be finalized and that construction might begin in the near term to expand Stanford's 800,000 gallons per day wastewater treatment plant. For information, contact Stanford Utility Manager Alan DeShon.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS CAUGHT IN A DILEMMA AS THE FDA ISSUES NEW RULES

Many if not most county governments in Kentucky have, over the years, been attempting to subsidize the true cost of the removal of dead animal carcasses from farmsteads, but changing rules established by the US Food and Drug Administration now threaten that service. In an effort to thwart the spread of a malady commonly known as Mad Cow Disease, the FDA has added new and onerous rules concerning the removal and the use of dead animal carcasses for their eventual use in animal food, fertilizers, fuel, and other industrial products. If the rendering plants are not allowed to use these animal carcasses in their processes, those firms will stop picking up the animals even in situations where there is a county subsidy paid just for that purpose.

It is suspected that this change in the federal rules will have dramatic unintended consequences locally. If there is no way for farmers to dispose of dead cattle, horses, etc., the fear is that many of those carcasses may be dragged to a sinkhole or to the back of the farm and that the environment will be negatively impacted. At present, there is no answer to this thorny situation facing Kentucky counties.

WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION/CLARK COUNTY FISCAL COURT OKAY PRIVILEGE FEES TO FINANCE SEWER EXTENSIONS

It is a fact that the charges for public drinking water service as well as the charges for public sewer service are increasing at a rate that far outstrips the recognized rate of inflation. Environmental regulations continue to tighten, those changes adding to the cost of service for drinking water and for sanitary sewer service. Winchester's capital construction plans to address significant infrastructure needs for both drinking water and wastewater have become an increasingly expensive in recent years, and that trend continues.

In an effort to derive financial support from sources other than just the existing customer base of Winchester water customers and sewer customers, a measure has recently been approved at both the city level and at the county level that would initiate a new system of "privilege fees". The plan has been in the works for years and seeks to establish a more equitable way to spread the cost of installing sanitary sewers lines among developers. New sewer lines must be of a sufficient size to support all of the future development within a watershed and not just large enough to support the first stage developments in a newly-urbanizing watershed. Of course, a new fee upon developers does not stop there, as the developer must recoup his additional costs by adding

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that expense to the cost of each improved building lot that is sold. Other cities may be looking to Winchester to ascertain the success of this new source of infrastructure financing.

For more information, contact Winchester Municipal Utilities Manager Vernon Azevedo.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY READINESS FOR OLDER ADULTS RECOMMENDED

Recent disasters remind us that personal emergency readiness needs to be a priority for everyone, including older adults and caregivers. The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) recommends a simple, three-step approach:

Step 1: Know the basics. Learn about the risks your particular community faces; know how to do things like turning off your gas and electricity; get to know your neighbors.

Step 2: Have emergency supplies ready. This includes items you would need to survive in your home until help arrives; it should also include a personal evacuation bag, partially packed and ready to go.

Step 3: Make a personal plan. Many older persons have special needs relating to medications, medical equipment, mobility, and support services; making a personal emergency readiness plan increases the likelihood that essential needs will still be met, even in an emergency situation.

For more information about AoA's Emergency Preparedness and Response efforts, visit AoA's Emergency Preparedness Section, online at <http://www.aoa.gov/prof/preparedness/preparedness.aspx>

HARRODSBURG SEEKS TO EXPAND MUNICIPAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT

A recent tally of 2008 water production information in the 17-county Bluegrass Area reveals that Harrodsburg is operating its drinking water treatment plant closer to its rated capacity than any other city in the region. For the calendar year just ended, Harrodsburg operated its treatment plant at 70 percent capacity on an average day with high water demand days in the range of 21 to 23 hours of daily operation. Community leaders have concluded that the city's margin of safety is far too tenuous and that expansion of the water treatment plant in the near term is advisable.

Harrodsburg's City Commission has authorized the city's consulting engineers to develop plans and specifications that would, when implemented, expand the city's ability to treat water

from 4 million gallons per day (MGD) to a new and higher level of 6 MGD. The project cost is presently estimated to be in the range of \$13 million.

The City Commission has asked the ADD to assist in the development of a financial package that would maximize the grant portion of that \$13 million project while minimizing the need for long-term debt financing. The ADD is presently teaming with the city's engineering consultant in an attempt to develop that optimal financial package. Harrodsburg-produced drinking water is retailed in all of Mercer County and in parts of Washington, Anderson, and Boyle County as well. Harrodsburg's wholesale customers are these:

- North Mercer Water District
- Lake Village Water Association
- City of Burgin

Those three wholesale water customers are prepared to cooperate with Harrodsburg in the undertaking of a statistically sound income level survey of more than 500 retail residential customers selected randomly among the four water retailers. The hoped for outcome would be that the survey would show at least 51 percent of the residential customers to be of low to moderate income as defined by the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Harrodsburg Mayor Lonnie Campbell and Mercer County Judge-executive John Trisler have sought permission from the Kentucky Department of Local Government to file a multi-jurisdictional application seeking \$2.0 million in grant funds from the 2009 round of the HUD CDB grants.

Also under development is grant/loan application to Rural Development since that agency has recently analyzed Census division information and has determined that the Harrodsburg water treatment plant project is eligible for RD grant support in addition to RD loan support. Other possible sources of grant financing or low-interest loan financing could be KIA State Revolving Fund F (the drinking water fund) along with the economic stimulus money that Kentucky will be receiving from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

WHAT IS THE "OTHER" AAA?

Have you ever wondered what services the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living provides? Here is a brief description:

Bluegrass Aging Network – includes the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) located at the ADD, 18 senior centers, 20 nutrition sites, 12 adult day centers and other regional contract providers. All together they employ nearly 300 full and part-time workers.

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A few of the services include:

Adult Day Care and Alzheimer's Disease Respite - Adult day centers offer services for physically disabled or frail persons 60 and older in need of supervision for part of the day. Alzheimer's respite includes services provided at senior center or in the home for persons of any age with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia disorders.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program - serves family members caring for relatives older than 60 and grandparents and other older relatives caring for children younger than 18. The services include:

- Information and assistance in finding and obtaining services for caregivers;
- Caregiver counseling;
- Local support groups;
- Caregiver training to help with problem solving and decision making;
- Respite care to give caregivers a break from daily pressures of caregiving. Some forms of respite care include in-home services, adult day care or, occasionally, a residential setting; and
- Services to help improve care being provided

Consumer Directed Options - allows people eligible for Medicaid waiver services to choose their own providers for non-medical waiver services. Provider choice gives members greater flexibility in the delivery of services received.

Elder Abuse Prevention - Elder abuse is often a silent crime, rarely noticed behind closed doors and rarely reported by those who think "it's none of my business." The law says it is our business to report elder abuse when we witness or suspect it. Visit the CHFS Elder Abuse Prevention site to learn more about the signs of elder abuse, what you can do to prevent it and how to report it.

Homecare - In-home services for individuals 60 and older with functional disabilities who are at risk for requiring long-term, institutional care include: personal care; home management; home health aide; home-delivered meals; home repair; help with household chores; respite; escort; and case management and assessment.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman – The ADD contracts with the Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass to provide advocacy for residents of nursing homes, personal care homes and family care homes.

Senior Community Services Employment Program - This program serves persons 55 and older with incomes less than 125 percent of the federal poverty level who need training, subsidized employment and help with job placement. Benefits include:

- Earned income
- Training and experience to help develop employment skills.
- Annual physical exams.
- The chance to obtain full or part-time unsubsidized employment.
- Meaningful social and physical activities.
- Engagement in activities to support independence and provide satisfying personal results for older persons

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) - Information and assistance services are available through a network of counselors and referral sources. Health insurance and benefits information is available to people who are eligible for Medicare.

Support Programs – Services provided to people 60 and older include: congregate meals, home-delivered meals, in-home services, disease prevention and health promotion and Elder Abuse Prevention. Many services are provided through local senior centers.

For more information about other services provided by the Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living call your local senior center or the ADD.

WILMORE MAY LOOK TO EXPAND/IMPROVE ITS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Wilmore is wrapping up a major revision to its regional wastewater facilities plan and may soon look for financing to expand and improve its wastewater treatment plant. The Jessamine County city is poised to experience growth in the coming decade and may seek to upgrade and expand its 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) wastewater treatment plant in order to be able to accept that anticipated growth. The ADD stands ready to assist the city in its efforts.

STIMULUS PACKAGE PROVIDES FUNDING FOR CRITICAL SENIOR NEEDS

Congress passed and President Obama signed into law an economic stimulus package that includes many funding priorities that will help millions of vulnerable older adults. The act includes the following provisions:

- \$100 million for senior nutrition programs
- \$120 million for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- \$87 billion to increase the federal Medicaid match to states (FMAP)
- A one-time payment of \$250 in the form of a tax rebate to retirees and disabled individuals and veterans

The package also extends the Medicare Qualified Individual (QI) program through Dec. 31, 2010.

CENSUS IS LESS THAN A YEAR AWAY

The once-every-ten-years US Census is nearly here. Preparations have long been underway for the Census that will commence on April 1, 2010. The most frequently-used information that comes from the Census is the enumeration of persons by city, by county, by state, as well as the national totals. The impacts of this fresh data result in states gaining (or losing) representation in the US House of Representatives as well as the redrawing of state senate districts and state house districts (in Kentucky). Even magisterial districts (at the county level) and council districts (for some cities) are subject to being redrawn following an analysis of the Census data. These events follow the requirement that, insofar as possible, all districts (US House, the state senate, state representative, and local shall be equal in the population. This follows the "one man/one vote" mandate.

Other significant information is also drawn from the US Census. Much of the demographic data that Americans will use for the next ten years will be drawn from the 2010 Census or, in the later years of the decade, from estimates extrapolated from the 2010 Census. The Census effort is under the umbrella of the US Department of Commerce. Temporary Census workers are always needed and, in these difficult economic times, the rosters of temporary workers may fill quickly.

“GREEN” HOUSES: OLD VERSUS NEW

It seems everyone is talking about going green these days. One area for the green talk centers on homes. Typically people have a tendency to think older homes are less energy efficient and therefore, less green than newer homes. But are newer homes actually greener than older homes?

One common problem with older homes is heating/cooling loss. Older homes may need just a few minor upgrades to make them more efficient. For example, weather stripping around windows can be effective and not as expensive as replacing those windows. On the same hand, utility costs for those same older homes can run as much as 27 percent less than newer homes. Even some houses built before 1920 are more energy efficient than newer homes, according to a recent article in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

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MEETING CALL

Board of Directors	4/29 6:00 p.m.
Executive Board	5/27 7:00 p.m.
Aging Council	4/8 & 5/13 10:00 a.m.
Citizen Corps Council	4/15 2:00 p.m.
Development Advisory Committee	4/17 & 5/19 10:00 a.m.
Homeland Security Council	4/15 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Committee	4/9 10:00 a.m.
Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee	4/8 3:15 p.m.
Regional Planning Council	5/6 4:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Committee	4/13 & 5/11 1:30 p.m.
Tourism, Historic Preservation & Recreation Advisory Committee	5/12 10:00 a.m.

ALL meeting dates/times are subject to change.

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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