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Bath County

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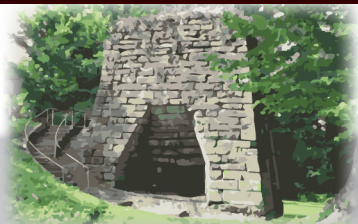
NEWS-OUTLOOK

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Thursday, June 12, 2025

Miss Bath County
2025



72ND ANNUAL MISS BATH COUNTY PAGEANT

Saturday, June 14, Bath County High School Auditorium, 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m.

The theme will be "The Year of Women's Empowerment."

Tickets \$10

Check out our Miss Bath County Pageant special inside this week's edition!

Sharpsburg finances remain uncertain following completion of audit

By Cecil Lawson
KyNewsGroup
cecil@kynewsgroup.com

The City of Sharpsburg's finances remain uncertain after over \$71,000 may not have been categorized properly or billed properly, as identified following a recently completed audit.

Sharpsburg City Commissioners approved their completed FY 2023-24 audit report during last Saturday's regular June meeting.

Mayor Dorothy Clemons said the 2023-24 audit of the city's finances and the annual Uniform Financial



Photo by Cecil Lawson
Sharpsburg City Clerk Tonya Briscoe, right, read the City of Sharpsburg FY 2023-24 audit report at Saturday's regular June City Commission meeting, with Mayor Dorothy Clemons, left, looking on.

Information Report (UFIR) has been completed and sent to Frankfort. She said she discussed details of the

Sharpsburg
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Weekend Happenings

Friday, June 13
Jam Night at Debbie's Music Theater, 8209 E Hwy 60, Salt Lick, starts at 7 p.m. Bring your fiddle, banjo, guitar—or just bring yourself. Whether you're picking or listening, there's a seat for you at Debbie's. We're lighting up the stage for a night of real bluegrass jamming the way it's meant to be: loose, loud, and full of heart. No headliners. No pressure. Just pickers, singers, and friends. Let's keep the music going till we can't anymore. Free admission.

• Food, Music, & More—Like Always at Debbie's.

Saturday, June 14
Seeds to Snacks, Bath County Farmers Market, 2914 E Hwy 60, Owingsville, 10 a.m. to noon, Kids participate in crafts and events and earn "market dollars" to shop at the market!! Contact Susan Harris at soapdiva44@yahoo.com

Salt Lickin' and Park Pickin', Salt Lick City Park, 6-8 p.m. Brock Donohew performing, food and craft vendors

Sunday, June 15
Christian Wages Benefit Fundraiser, Silent Auction, and Vendor Fair, 12 to 4 p.m. at the Bean Bag Coffee Shop, 39 Miller Drive, Owingsville, Pulled Port or Chili Dog Meal. Christian is the son of Mark and Sieara Wages and Serena Hardin and was diagnosed with grade 3 astrocytoma cancer.



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Owingsville City Council holds first reading of FY 2025-26 budget

By Cecil Lawson
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Owingsville City Council members approved a first reading of their Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget during Monday evening's regular June meeting.

The budget estimates \$1.64 million in the general fund, including a \$500,000 carryover from this year, and \$2.577 million for the city's water and sewer fund.

Mayor Gary Hunt went over the budget in detail during the meeting and highlighted the upcoming purchase of a new police car, street paving, new fire truck, the hiring of a new city works employee and new truck, and a grand-funded technology overhaul at the sewer treatment plant. The budget also estimates \$1.075 million in expenses for the coming fiscal year, with a \$388,000 carryover for next year.

Hunt said the budget includes a \$1 an hour raises for all hourly city employees, \$150,000 set aside from



Photos by Cecil Lawson
Owingsville City Council members held a first reading of their annual budget on Monday evening. From left, City Attorney Earl Rogers III, Council members Karen Ratliff, Steve Bashford, and Steve Butcher, Mayor Gary Hunt, and Council members Angie Buckler and Jackie Anderson.

the general fund for paving (with streets to be determined), and an increase in water and sewer revenues reflecting a 35 percent increase in water rates this year.

\$289,000 from water and sewer, kept in a bank CD, will be used this year to clean and update the two water tanks in town. Hunt also noted that an estimated 10 percent increase in insurance costs for the city turned out to be only about 6.5 percent for the coming year.

Mayor Hunt said it was "a very strong budget this year," even without federal American Rescue Plan Act funds available.

A special-called meeting to hold a second reading of the FY 2025-26 budget will be held on Friday, June 20, at noon at City Hall, to be preceded by public hearing

on municipal street aid at 11:30 a.m. and another public hearing for the budget at 11:45 a.m.

During the meeting Mayor Hunt also announced that Assistant Police Chief Johnny Botts was retiring from his position effective July 31, with 20 years and 6 months of service as a police officer.

City Police Sergeant Justin Sutherland will be moved to the Assistant Chief's position, and Wayne Mays, currently a Deputy Sheriff, will be hired to serve as an Officer in the city. He said Mays is a nine-year military veteran with two tours of service in Afghanistan as well as multiple awards for his service, including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, and has his law enforcement certification.

City Council member Rhonda Hatton said she dis-



Michael Rudolph discussed the Owingsville Christian Church's new Celebrate Recovery program, to be launched in September.

agreed that Justin Sutherland should serve as Assistant Police Chief under his father, Chief John Sutherland.

John Sutherland became Chief in 2023, following the retirement of Tout Tout, and Justin Sutherland was promoted to Sergeant. During discussion at the time following concerns raised by Hatton, it was established that Justin Sutherland's immediate supervisor would be Assistant Chief Johnny Botts.

Mayor Hunt said at Monday's meeting that Justin Sutherland would answer to him as his immediate supervisor, not his father.

"I've heard a lot of problems," Hatton said. "I'm surprised you haven't." Other council members said they had not heard of any issues, and Mayor Hunt said things had been running smoothly.

Mayor Hunt also said that Officer Brad Short, who was injured in the line of

duty, remains on medical leave but hopes he can return to duty later this summer.

Council members also heard from Michael Rudolph, ministry leader at GIC Ministries, who will be heading up the launch of Celebrate Recovery program at Owingsville Christian Church in September. He said Celebrate Recovery is an established 12-step re-

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