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City Council approves long term rental property regulations

BY TAYLOR DAVIS
EDITOR

During the last Shelbyville City Council meeting, the council members and the public heard updated regulations pertaining to long-term rentals. This time, the council voted to approve the ordinance, putting it into effect. “The focus of this ordinance is specifically on those who derive income from long-term residential properties, and a lot of the changes you see are grammatical changes,” said City Attorney Steve Gregory. The main change in the

ordinance is that previously, owners of long-term rentals had to pay occupational taxes and obtain a business license only if the rental property took up 20% of their income and time was derived from the rental. Now, the ordinance requires only long-term rental property owners of two or more properties or one property that includes more than four separate subunits to obtain the license and pay occupational taxes. The fee to obtain a business license from the City Clerk is \$75. The property owner is exempt

from the ordinance if they live on the property they sublease, the unit contains no more than four subunits, and the owner does not collect income from any other properties. The ordinance is designed to pertain to folks who are in the long-term rental business; those who own one piece of rental property are exempt. In other business: The council heard a first reading of an ordinance amending the title of a position at the Shelbyville Fire Department. The ordinance changes the current position of

the Recruitment and Retention Officer/Administrative Assistant to the Grants and Volunteers Services Coordinator. Along with the name, there are differences in duties between the old and new roles. In order to stay competitive in the market and maintain their fiscal responsibilities, the council heard and approved a second reading for an ordinance amending the salary ranges and scales for all city employees. The ordinance outlines the updated pay structures for all departments, including five new positions: the Grants and

Volunteers Services Coordinator at the Fire Department, Stormwater Program Manager, Stormwater Engineering Technician, Maintenance Technician III, and Maintenance Technician I at the Public Works Department. Upon passage by the council, the updated salary ranges retroactively took effect as of June 23. A public hearing will be held before the next Shelbyville City Council regularly scheduled meeting on August 21 at 5:15 pm. The regular meeting will begin at 5:30 pm at City Hall.



Taylor Davis

Members of the Centro Latino team give out valuable information and prizes to community members. See more photos on A3

Local organizations take over Kroger parking lot on Community Night

BY TAYLOR DAVIS
EDITOR

As shoppers grabbed their weekend grilling essentials at Kroger in Shelbyville to prepare for the hot weekend ahead, they couldn't help but notice the celebration coming from one end of the parking lot. On Friday evening,

August 8, the Shelbyville Police Department, along with several Shelby County businesses and organizations, occupied the parking lot to connect with the community and have some fun. The Shelbyville Community Night event was created by the police department to promote

partnerships between various local businesses, organizations, first responders, and citizens of the community. The event included over 20 booths filled with information, freebies, and contests from local organizations and businesses, a live D.J., an appearance from Darren the D.A.R.E.

Lion, a KY Office of Highway Safety rollover simulator, a prescription medication take back station manned by the Shelby County Coroners Office, appearances by the Shelbyville Police Department K-9 Unit, a demonstration of the police department's drone, and appearances from local first responders.



Submitted by Alexis LaVon

Gabriel, starting fourth grade, Ezekiel, starting kindergarten, and Breylan, starting seventh grade, pose for a photo before heading to school on the first day. See more photos on A6

Shelby County goes back to school

BY TAYLOR DAVIS
EDITOR

The day parents have been looking forward to, and the one students have been dreading, is finally here. It's the first day of school for Shelby County, and all across the district buses revved up their engines early in the morning, teachers prepped their rooms with welcoming activities, parents packed healthy lunches, and students made sure all their supplies were ready to go for a fantastic year.

Hackworth reflects on his time and impact as Shelbyville mayor

BY TAYLOR DAVIS
EDITOR

Driving down Main Street in Shelbyville, you may not give much thought to why it looks so good and has been preserved for so long, but for former Mayor Neil Hackworth, it is something he has spent many years maintaining and promoting both during his time in office and behind the scenes even now. Hackworth is a native of Shelbyville and grew up with a sense of community belonging as his father participated in the Shelbyville city council. After graduating from Kenyon College in 1970 as a political science major, serving a stint in the US Air Force, and attending the



Neil Hackworth

University of Kentucky Law School in 1973, Hackworth returned to his hometown to practice law. In 1982, Hackworth was elected Mayor of Shelbyville and served 13 years in the position. “When I ran for Mayor, I said we need to focus on downtown,” said Hackworth. During his time as Mayor, Hackworth began creating the Shelbyville 2000 plan, which, just as it sounds, would be planning the city's growth for the year 2000. Hackworth recalls that there are many plans that have come true, such as keeping government buildings downtown, and the Shelby Main Street program, and also plans that didn't happen, like a downtown grocery store.

“We didn't have the internet and we didn't have cell phones when we were trying to get this off the ground,” said Hackworth. In 1984, Hackworth discovered the Main Street program by happenstance at a conference where he saw a presentation of Madison, Indiana's Main Street program. He was immediately inspired and knew that this program could be revolutionary for downtown Shelbyville. Hackworth recalls that when he and the council first started to outline the historical downtown district of the city and the regulations surrounding the buildings within that location, he stated that there was some controversy among the business owners. “All of a sudden, people were being told what to do with the buildings, but I think today people look back and think it was a good

idea,” said Hackworth. When creating both the historical downtown district guidelines and the Main Street Program, Hackworth, the council, and local business owners first turned to the community. “Downtown is what defines our city,” said Hackworth. “The Main Street Program has made a huge difference for Shelbyville.” During his time as mayor, the Shelbyville Horse Show was created, the Weissinger Golf Course was developed, Hackworth threw out the idea for a horse statue in front of the fairgrounds, which eventually came to fruition, and the city donated the first houses for the Habitat for Humanity program. Hackworth is still involved with the Main Street Program even today, as he is the chairman of the program's foundation. The foundation

was created after the program received a gift from another organization to be able to provide lower interest rate loans to new business owners wanting to open a business in downtown Shelbyville. Hackworth explained that he loves Shelbyville because of the diversity and balance of farming, industry, and small businesses in the community. “I think we have one of the greatest little places in the world,” said Hackworth. “Our community works together regardless of political affiliation; they pull together for the community stuff.” Outside of the main street foundation board, Hackworth enjoys spending time with his wife of 56 years and high school sweetheart, Sharon, and his five grandchildren,

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