

# Metcalf

## From Front

people of Garrard County in November 1961. His tenure began following a career that included service as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky and active military duty, including during the Berlin Crisis.

Metcalf's education laid the foundation for his career in law and public service. After graduating from Paint Lick High School in 1951, he pursued higher education at East-

ern Kentucky University, then completed his legal studies at the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1954. After entering private practice in Lancaster in 1957, he later transitioned to public office, where he remained until his retirement in 1989.

During his years in office, Metcalf saw significant transformations in the local legal system, particularly the restructuring of Kentucky's court system. "During all of these years of public service, I have been blessed with having good

fellow officials," Metcalf said in 1989, reflecting on his career. "There has never been an argument with any of them."

Colleagues praised Metcalf's professionalism and dedication upon his retirement. Former County Clerk Shelton Moss described him as a fair and professional figure who "withstood the obstacles encountered in a fair and professional manner."

Former Circuit Clerk Fred Simpson recalled Metcalf as "very reliable and dependable," emphasizing his com-

mitment to public service.

Former Sheriff Buddy Rogers called him "a very honorable person," and Judge Robert J. Jackson, formerly of the 13th Judicial Court System, remembered him as "a congenial, competent, compassionate person" upon his retirement.

Metcalf's career began in a period when the responsibilities of a county attorney were markedly different. By his own account, the role grew significantly more demanding over the decades, particularly as legislative changes expanded

attorney were also reviewed. Elleman suggested the jailer's current salary remains appropriate given the absence of a local jail—Garrard County contracts with Jessamine County for inmate housing—and said no immediate changes were proposed for the county attorney's compensation, though further discussion was welcomed.

Magistrate Chris Davis highlighted the role of continuing education and training incentives available to officials, explaining that participation in programs can result in additional pay after completing required hours annually. He and others emphasized the educational value and networking opportunities such training provides.

Public attendees and officials alike acknowledged the challenges associated with public service at the county level, agreeing that low compensation may deter qualified individuals from running for office. "You're not here for the money. You're here for the community," one attendee remarked.

In closing, Judge Elleman and the magistrates agreed to

emphasizing that gains have come without additional burden on taxpayers. Population growth was also cited as an indicator of the county's progress. Elleman noted that when current officials assumed office, the population was around 16,000. "I think we're over 18,000 now," he said, pointing to both natural growth and the county's appeal to newcomers.

In closing, Elleman reiterated that gains have come without additional burden on taxpayers. Population growth was also cited as an indicator of the county's progress. Elleman noted that when current officials assumed office, the population was around 16,000. "I think we're over 18,000 now," he said, pointing to both natural growth and the county's appeal to newcomers.

He leaves behind a legacy of professionalism and integrity that has shaped Garrard County for decades; and will continue to do so for decades yet to come.

ated the administration's commitment to transparency and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. "We're not up here to brag," he said. "We're just up here to tell you what we're trying to do on the county good."

Following the remarks, a motion to adjourn was made and approved, formally concluding the session and marking the county's entry into 2026.

of nine candidates for the six available seats. The list includes incumbents and past winners such as Brandon McGlone, Lanny Ray, Dan Waters, Joe Naylor and Michelle Ballew, who was the top vote-getter in the 2022 council race. They are joined by Mary Ezaizat Jarboe, Emmlee Dawn Tudor, Meagen C. Baxley and Marc Smith.

Constables In the Constable races, the incumbents for District 1, Michael Ray Bain, and District 2, Casey Carpenter, are both seeking re-election. For District 3, Donald G. Stephens has filed. In District 5, Andrew Hounshell has filed; Hounshell previously ran for this seat in 2022 but was defeated by Bryan Wilmot.

What's Next? With the filing deadline passed, the candidates will now look toward the primary election on May 19, 2026. A public drawing for ballot positions is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Voters in Garrard County have witnessed a transformative and often volatile few years in local government. With former rivals squaring off and incumbents running on their records of major infrastructure changes and legislative controversy, 2026 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for the future of the county.

# Salaries

## From Front

significant step toward revisiting elected official salaries—many of which have remained stagnant for decades. Elleman noted that magistrates currently earn \$12,209 annually, a figure that has not seen meaningful adjustment in over 20 years.

Magistrate Glendan Barker presented comparative data and proposed a modest increase. "If we counted every year for 20, which would be 1% a year, that

could put us up at \$15,000," he said, pointing out that a similar raise was implemented in neighboring Lincoln County, which experienced a smaller population increase over the same time period.

Elleman expressed support for raising magistrate salaries to \$15,000, emphasizing the demands of the role and the need to incentivize capable candidates to seek office. "We need to set it up going forward that we have good people that run through these positions... I think it's a testament to that for every-

body," he stated.

Particular attention was also given to the county coroner's salary, currently set at \$16,000. Elleman recommended increasing the position's pay to \$20,000, citing both the difficult nature of the work and the coroner's consistent record of staying under budget. "It's a tough job and we're one of the lowest paid on that level," Elleman noted. "\$20,000 is not enough to do the job of a coroner, but it is a step in the right direction."

Other positions such as the county jailer and county

attorney were also reviewed. Elleman suggested the jailer's current salary remains appropriate given the absence of a local jail—Garrard County contracts with Jessamine County for inmate housing—and said no immediate changes were proposed for the county attorney's compensation, though further discussion was welcomed.

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# Year in Review

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department, allowing two mowing crews to operate full-time and improving overall road conditions. Elleman stated, "Our roads are, in my opinion, better shaped than they've ever been."

A major development milestone for the county has been the progress on the long-anticipated Lancaster Bypass project. Elleman confirmed that the bypass is in the final phase of site design and is fully funded. "Hopefully in 2026 here they start to buy right-of-way," he said, expressing confidence that land acquisition could begin this year. "That's been 20 years in the works."

On the financial front, the Judge Executive described the

county's fiscal position as its strongest in 25 years. "From a financial standpoint... I think we'll be even better when the fiscal year ends," Elleman said. Despite major equipment purchases and infrastructure investments, he emphasized the county remains largely debt-free, with the exception of courthouse renovation costs structured under a prior administration.

Economic development was another key theme. Elleman announced that the county's newly completed sawmill is operational, though not yet at full capacity. With estimated annual revenue projections of \$10 million, the sawmill is seen as a major economic driver. "They're rolling every day," Elleman said. "That's a step forward with new jobs coming in."

While specifics were withheld, Elleman hinted at further economic announcements expected in February. "We're hoping in February that we have announcements that every individual in this county will be proud of," he stated, referencing ongoing discussions and upcoming filings.

The court also reaffirmed its involvement in the RGL (Regional Growth and Logistics) agreement with neighboring Rockcastle and Lincoln counties. The initiative, focused on developing a 1,400-acre mega-site, has advanced significantly, with \$65 million already secured to place land under contract. "We know the understanding that Garrard County doesn't have the infra-

structure to handle something like that, so we looked at a regional standpoint," Elleman said, underlining the importance of cooperation across county lines.

Occupational tax revenues continue to grow year over year, with Elleman projecting another record-breaking year. Notably, the county has managed this growth without increasing tax rates. "We lowered county tax rates," he reminded the court,

emphasizing that gains have come without additional burden on taxpayers. Population growth was also cited as an indicator of the county's progress. Elleman noted that when current officials assumed office, the population was around 16,000. "I think we're over 18,000 now," he said, pointing to both natural growth and the county's appeal to newcomers.

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# 2026 Election

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members attempt to defend their seats.

County Judge/Executive Incumbent Christopher "Roo" Elleman has filed for re-election. Elleman swept into office in 2022 with a commanding primary victory, securing over 70% of the vote against Betty Holtzclaw. His first term has been marked by significant activity, including the completion of the new EMS building, the relocation of the Sheriff's Office, and the contentious handling of solar farm regulations that sparked a lawsuit from local landowners in late 2025.

Magistrates The races for magistrate are shaping up to be competitive, with challengers filing in several districts.

District 1: Incumbent Chris Davis, who won decisively in 2022 with nearly 79% of the vote, will face a challenge from Teresa L. Waters.

District 2: This race is crowded. Incumbent Chris Butner is seeking re-election after holding off challenger Colby Reik in 2022. Reik is back for a rematch, joining a field that also includes Kevin Arnold and James E. Holloway.

District 3: In a reversal of the 2022 dynamic, incumbent Glendan Barker will defend his seat against the man he defeated four years ago, former Magistrate Bill Warren. In 2022, Barker unseated the incumbent Warren by securing 42% of the vote in a three-way race.

District 4: Incumbent Bobby O. Preston, who retained his seat in 2022 with over 76% of the vote, will face opposition from Billy "Buckeye Bill" Moore. Moore previously won the Constable race for District 4 in 2022.

# Paint Lick News

I believe this.... more than half of our nation is waking early this morning for work, school or maybe lack of sleep and that's a good thing or so daddy would say.... early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy wealthy and wise".

How come I don't feel so wise this early morning? It's 4:36 a.m. and I did go to bed early after Doug and I watched repeated shows of The Virginian. I love that show. I love all the old Westerns after a day of winding down with that last evening cup of coffee that I shouldn't have had but I did anyway. "I'm like that," what I get to enjoy, it makes my day. But this early morning has become somewhat of a ritual as it's peaceful and very quiet. No traffic on The Old Railroad and the neighbors probably still snoozing so it's time to get up, get the coffee and then sit down again!! Now where's the logic in that? These mornings do not require logic and that's good. Or I think so.

My Sunday was worth remembering as I found the book of JUDE to be a relaxing end to my time spent at church. I had not read that particular chapter before ....no I really had not.

But the words sent me to thinking. Try it sometime. I believe it made my day better.

Our porch thermometer reads a cold right under 20 degrees this early Tuesday morning with no

wind or the lasting effects of the small blizzard like snowstorm that came through on Sunday after I made it to church. It didn't last long. HE was just giving me a hands up on the morning. Thank You.

The week ahead looks like. Old Man Winter is creeping around again although some days, we can hardly tell how our week will turn but it's going to be cold with the highest temp of upper 40's. So bundle up folks.

We volunteers have closed the Friends of Paint Lick this week and will open again on Thursday. January 23rd. It's our time of year for a thorough cleaning and reorganizing. WE are not accepting donations. BUT.....call me here at home if you have a need for extra bedding or warm clothing. My landline is usually working and please leave a message. Or take a chance and call us at Friends. We have our Paint Lick T-shirts, long sleeved and if you prefer short sleeved for sale to keep you warm and they make nice birthday gifts for someone special. A selection of sm. youth long sleeved T-shirts are also available.

Happy belated birthday to neighbor, Ms. Eunice Locker this past Sunday. To nephew Terry Cheeks today January 12th who shares his day with Ms. Katherine King also. To good friend, Judy Mabes and nephew Charlie Davis this January 13th. To nephew

"Red" Baker on January 16th.

Praying you all can stay warm in the week ahead.

There are lots of birthdays that I've not listed ... just forgot I guess ... I do that a lot.

May God Bless.

Katie Rollins

# Life On The Ridge

We are having a quiet day up here on The Ridge. After the warm weather last week these colder temps are keeping us inside. The horses are enjoying a rest from riding by laying in the sun today.

I have been trying to get a head start outside by cleaning up leaves in flower beds and trimming what needs to be trimmed before spring. I still need to give the asparagus plants some attention. Its about time to start thinking about what plants can go in the raised beds in a few weeks. We sure enjoyed the snow peas I raised last year.

Don't forget the Trail Pleasure Saddle Club annual fundraiser auction is January 24th this year. All members and anyone interested in horses are invited to join us. We will be in the banquet room at the First Southern Bank on the square in Lancaster at 6:30 p.m.

Have a good week, folks, and God Bless.

Debby Jo



## Garrard Central Record

# Classifieds

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### FAMILY MINISTRY

GCCP/FAMILY MINISTRY CENTER is open for shopping on Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. We have clothing for the entire family, household good, and antiques, etc. We are closed the second week of every month. Call 792-3300 if you need anything.

### LEGAL NOTICE

### FLEA MARKET

New and used items arriving weekly at COUNTY LINE FLEA MARKET, locally owned and operated, 2794 Stanford Road, Lancaster. Booths \$125 per month. More booths and new vendors. See Tom or Shirley, Peggy, Eddie and Ernie or call 859-792-6853 or 502-370-8777. NOW OPEN seven days a week! (6-12-tfc)

### POSTED

We positively will not permit fixed hunting of any character, fishing, dogs or trespassing on our farms. Any violations will be prosecuted. \$2.00 per week or \$51 per year for posted list.

### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY GARRARD DISTRICT COURT PROBATE NO. 26-P-0001 NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY BENNETT SHELL DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that by order of the Garrard District Court, Lancaster, Kentucky in probate number 26-P-0001 dated January 8, 2026, Giles Shell was appointed Executor of the estate of Gary Bennett Shell.

/s/Dana Hensley, Circuit Clerk  
Garrard District Court  
Garrard Justice Center  
54 Stanford Street  
Lancaster, KY 40444  
(1-15-1tc)

### RATES FOR POSTED LIST - \$2 PER WEEK, FIRST PROPERTY \$51 PER YEAR - \$10 EACH ADDITIONAL PROPERTY

### POSTED

• Michael & Dana Carrier, 2539 Kelly Ridge Road.....5-26  
• Danny & Judy Browning's property at end of Conn's Lane.....10-26  
• Carolyn Sparks property at 5252 Lexington Road.....7-26  
• Paul Black Farms, Hwy. 1355 (Sugar Creek Road).....10-26  
• Paul and Suzanne Wells at 4129 White Lick Road, Paint Lick.....10-26  
• Tammy Fowler, 749 Nina Ridge Road.....10-26  
• Mike and Pam Fathergill, 111 Lynnwood Drive.....6-26  
• Chris and Joy Fathergill, 317 Richmond Street.....6-26  
• Mary Alice (Paul) Drew, 810 Carry Nation Road Property.....6-26  
• Kathy Tuggle & Paula Tudor - Jim Clark Road.....11-26  
• David M. and Rose Walker, 1163 Wolf Trail Road.....2-26  
• The Kenton Property, 795 and 719 C Valley Drive, Berea.....7-26  
• Grover Drew Farm, Carry Nation Road.....3-26  
• Doug and Anna Graves, 319 Richmond Road, Loop 2.....8-26

### POSTED

• The Brenda Farms, 4870 Harmon's Lick Road & Hamilton Valley Road...10-26  
• Vockery property on Polly's Bend Road.....10-26  
• Noah Wagoner and Kelsey Perkins, 10997 Buckeye Road.....11-25  
• Mary and George Watkins Property at 2961 Gabbard Road.....11-25  
• Hugh and Amy Johnson, 6198 Lexington Road.....6-26  
• Dale Marie Hellard - Barbara French & William Randall Causey Farms at 2178 Hamilton Valley Road, 2636 Hamilton Valley Road And 1454 Hamilton Valley Road.....8-26  
• Frank and Althea Rice, 390 Leavell Ridge Road, 372 Leavell Ridge Road and Rice Farm at Three Forks, all of Lancaster, KY.....10-26

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