



**EKU to Host 40th Annual Bluegrass Regional High School Art Exhibit Featuring Student Artists from Across Kentucky**

A-10



**Trail Pleasure Saddle Club Coggins Clinic**

The Trail Pleasure Saddle Club will be hosting a Coggins Clinic on March 21st at Logan Hubble Park at the campground pavilion beginning at 9 a.m.

▶ Photo: Matt Leibel/Here

# Garrard CENTRAL RECORD

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## Garrard CASA Volunteers Honored With Serve Kentucky Awards

Lancaster, Ky. (March 10, 2026) – Four CASA volunteers were honored at the Garrard County Fiscal Court meeting Monday for giving hundreds of hours to help abused and neglected children.

Well-known Garrard resident Linda Baker was one of two CASA volunteers to receive a “Top CASA Volunteer” medal for volunteering with the Garrard County CASA program for more than 300 hours last year.

The other three volunteers could not attend the meeting, but they are Priscilla Miller (also a “Top CASA Volunteer” with more than 300 hours of service in 2025), Susan Maupin and Megan Huston.

Maupin and Huston each volunteered for more than 100 hours in 2025. Together, the four volunteers logged 1,497 hours working CASA cases. All four received Serve Kentucky Awards signed by Gov. Andy Beshear.

The Serve Kentucky Volunteer Recognition Program is a partnership among the Office of the Governor, AmeriCorps, and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It recognizes volun-



Four CASA volunteers were honored at the Garrard County Fiscal Court meeting Monday evening.

teers who make a difference by giving their time within the state of Kentucky.

CASA volunteers are matched with children in the family court system who have been abused or neglected. Each volunteer visits their CASA child at least monthly, gathers information about the child’s life, provides reports to the judge on the child’s case, and speaks up if the child needs something they aren’t getting.

Garrard’s CASA program used 14 volunteers to serve 30 children in 2025. CASA’s Executive Director Melynda Jamison said that represents roughly 12% of all the children who have open abuse or neglect cases in Garrard County.

“We want to see that percentage increase and we’re working to make it happen,” Jamison said.

Children who receive See **CASA**, A-3



Volunteer Linda Baker

## County to Purchase Three New Dodge 3500 Road Trucks, Retire Aging Fleet

Officials negotiate return of four F-350s to Enterprise while keeping two F-550s

By Ted Cox

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Garrard County Road Department is moving forward on purchasing three new Dodge Ram 3500 pickup trucks to complete the replacement of its original seven-vehicle fleet, the Fiscal Court approved Monday.

Judge Executive Elleman and the Road Department

administrator were authorized to seek bids and present the court with final numbers. Elleman said the county will keep two of its existing F-550s but return or surplus the third, and that the 3500 platform should be sufficient for road department needs without the added \$15,000–\$20,000 cost of a 5500-series truck.

The county has been ne-

gotiating with Enterprise Fleet over the return of four F-350s. Elleman said Enterprise attempted to reduce a previously agreed trade-in value of \$1,750 per truck, citing weather delays, but that he refused. “If they don’t want to honor that, then we’ll just sell them on our own and get more money out of them,” he said.

Elleman credited an ear-

lier decision — made near the start of his administration — to cancel a planned fleet swap when most trucks still had fewer than 30,000 miles. That move, he said, saved the county more than \$300,000 and allowed the county to now purchase the trucks outright without taking on debt.

Court members also dis-

See **Trucks**, A-3

## Soil Conservation Board Reports Dramatic Growth in County Recycling and Conservation Programs

Christmas tree drop-off jumps from 5 to 55 in one year; backyard conservation applications surge

By Ted Cox

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Garrard County’s conservation programs are gaining major momentum, according to a report delivered Monday night to the Fiscal Court by Jeff Dembo, chair of the Garrard County Soil Conservation Board.

The county’s Christmas tree recycling event, launched last year with just five trees collected, brought in 55 trees in its second year — an elevenfold increase. Two barrels of electric holiday lights were also collected for recycling.

The county’s Backyard Conservation Program saw equally striking growth. Within just one and a half weeks of the program going live for 2025, applications already equaled the total number received throughout all of last year.

“If I were to give Garrard County a grade, I would have to say Garrard County exceeds expectations regarding conservation,” Jeff told the court.

The board also announced significant expansions to the Backyard Conservation Program this year, including a two-round structure allowing landowners to complete two separate projects. New eligible project categories include low-flow water irrigation systems, native trees and shrubs, monarch milkweed gardens, and decorative water features such as bird baths, butterfly ponds, or garden waterfalls.

The broadleaf weed control program — formerly called the 2,4-D program — was also expanded to give landowners more herbicide options, addressing concerns about chemical resistance.

## Electronics Recycling Event Expected to Return This Year After Two-Year Absence

Fiscal Court backs holding both e-waste and fence recycling events in 2025

By Ted Cox

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Garrard County residents have been asking about it for two years, and officials say the popular electronics recycling event is likely coming back.

At Monday’s Fiscal Court meeting, Soil Conservation Board Chair Jeff Dembo asked members whether the county should revive its e-waste collection event, hold a fence recycling drive, or attempt both. The court enthusiastically backed doing both.

The original electronics recycling event — sparked by a conversation between Judge Executive Elleman and Wayne Day — collected eight tons of e-waste and drew a larger crowd than anyone anticipated. “I never would have dreamed the amount of people showed

up,” Elleman said Monday.

Magistrate Day said residents are still calling the county asking when the next event will be held, and that old electronics are turning up in roadside ditches and on rural roads. Magistrate Barker noted that someone recently dropped an old television off on Rogers Road because they had nowhere else to take it.

“I think it’s time to try to make it tradition — we try to do it every year,” Elleman said, noting that the county has invested heavily in litter cleanup for the past three years.

The fence recycling event, held the following year at the county fairgrounds, also drew a strong turnout and attracted participants from neighboring counties. The

See **Electronics**, A-5

## County and City of Lancaster to Co-Host Easter Egg Hunt April 5 at Ballpark

Fourth annual joint event will feature 8,000 eggs; county approves candy purchase

The Garrard County Fiscal Court approved funding Monday for the fourth consecutive joint Easter egg hunt with the City of Lancaster, set for Saturday, April 5, beginning at noon at the Lancaster ballpark.

The county will purchase 4,000 plastic eggs, matching the city’s contribution, and both entities

will pool funds to fill them with candy. Officials said setup will begin around 10 a.m.

The event has become a popular community tradition, and court members said it has drawn strong attendance each year.

No specific budget figure was discussed publicly, though the motion passed unanimously.



## County Officials Clear Roads by Hand During February Ice Storm, Earn Public Praise

Magistrate Glendan Barker and Judge Executive Elleman drive and clear District 3 roads themselves

By Ted Cox

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Magistrate Glendan Barker and Judge Executive Elleman rolled up their sleeves — and got behind the wheel of road equipment — to personally clear snow- and ice-covered roads in District 3 during February’s winter storm, drawing widespread praise from residents on social media.

A citizen, speaking during the public comment period of Monday’s Fiscal Court meeting, asked that the officials’ actions be formally memorialized in the court’s minutes so that future generations could read of their commitment to the commu-

nity.

“Social media doesn’t necessarily extend through perpetuity,” the speaker said, “whereas the minutes of an organization like a fiscal court should remain to memorialize actions like that by two leaders in a community.”

The citizen said that dozens of residents commented on a February 2nd Facebook post praising the two men, and that he was appearing “on behalf of all those who responded in social media but are not here.”

Judge Executive Elleman accepted the praise with good humor, joking that he may have clipped a few mailboxes in the process.

## County Eyes Route 52 Property for New Community Park

State may have failed to deed roadway parcel back to Garrard County; officials to pursue transfer

By Ted Cox

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Garrard County officials are pursuing a parcel of land along U.S. 52 in the Cartersville/Paint Lick area as a potential site for one of two new community parks the court voted to develop earlier this year.

Judge Executive Elleman said the county initially be-

lieved it already owned the property — a remnant of the Route 52 road realignment — but discovered the state of Kentucky still technically holds the rights to it. County Attorney Chris Whitworth said the state appeared to have intended to deed it to the county but that no record of the transfer exists.

“I feel like it should be

See **Community Park**, A-3

## Sazerac Purchases Distillery Debt in Move Toward Full Acquisition



Buffalo Trace parent company buys Truist Bank loan, signaling takeover of GBRE distillery.

By Ted Cox

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Sazerac Company, the parent of Buffalo Trace Distillery, has purchased the outstanding debt owed by the owners of a local distillery from Truist Bank, Garrard County Attorney Chris Whitworth told the Fiscal Court at its Monday evening meeting.

The move is widely seen as a first step toward Sazerac acquiring the property and assets of GBRE Distillery outright. Whitworth said the company now holds “the vast majority of the debt” connected to the distillery and its property.

Judge Executive Elleman characterized the develop-

See **Distillery**, A-10