



Judge Executive's Report

By George Sparks

It's hard to believe April is here already.

March was a busy month with much going on.

Met with Lewis County Ambulance Service District Chairperson Danny Palmer.

We spoke by phone with the Gallatin County Judge Executive Ryan Morris and his EMS Director Brandon Terrell. They reached out to us after learning we are starting up a county owned and operated EMS service in Lewis County.

They have a nice ambulance, a Ford Expedition, and some EMS equipment that they are donating to help us get the service started. We appreciate Gallatin County's generosity and partnership.

Attended a Zoom meeting with Cassie Hunt and a team of Kentucky Career Center Workforce Development individuals who are working with me to host a job fair at the Lewis County High School gym on Thursday, April 4, from 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

three-mile section of Kinnick Creek. The event is scheduled for May 11.

Attended the Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association Spring Conference in Lexington with Magistrate Johnny Osborne. We heard from Governor Andy Beshear as he presented a Commonwealth Address. We attended training sessions on Opioid Settlement funds, KYTC Rural and municipal aid, Department of Agriculture, Fiscal Court Legislative Priorities, Fish and Wildlife, and current fiscal court affairs.

Toured the Foster Meade Career and Technical Center with our Lewis County EMS Chairperson Danny Palmer. We spoke with two of the Health Science classes about the soon to come county owned and operated EMS service in Lewis County. Thanks to principal Jeremy Ruckel and the LCHS staff for allowing us to visit and meet with students and instructors in several different

Recreational Committee members Penny Lee and Kenny Ruckel about the Black Oak Recreational Park development.

Visited Laurel Elementary School with Lewis County Emergency Director Dennis Brown. We spoke with Mr. Kidwell, teachers, and students about emergency preparedness, fire safety in the home, Community Emergency Response Team and basic first aid. We gave the staff some CERT kits and first aid kits as well.

Attended a meeting with the United Way of Northeast Kentucky Bridge Builders CEO Marshall Tyson and gave a presentation on school volunteerism. Several Lewis County students and school representatives were in attendance to listen and give feedback. Thanks to Ben and Leslie Collier for organizing the meeting and having Marshall come to speak.

Attended Hospice Board of Directors Audit Finance Committee meeting.

Attended the BTADD executive and full board meetings. Past meeting minutes and financial reports were approved. Reports were presented from all the departments. We heard updates from Frankfort and Washington. Division of Water gave an update and I spoke with them about helping Lewis County develop a watershed management plan. Executive Director Amy Kennedy gave an update to both the executive and full board. Chairperson Jesse Melcher gave an update on their search for a new executive director.

SHOOTING

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County Jail and will be transferred to Adams County Jail.

On Thursday evening Maysville Police released a statement saying MPD, Mason County Sheriff's Office, and Kentucky State Police were actively assisting Ohio authorities in locating the suspect.

The suspects were apprehended in Ohio by the Ohio State Police shortly before 9:00 p.m. Thursday in Clinton County.

CHECKPOINTS

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fullest extent of the law.

"We are also observing for distracted drivers," Bivens said. "Each day in the United States, approximately nine people are killed and more than 1,000 injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver."*

Bivens urges motorists to help keep roadways safe by reporting drivers suspected of being drug or alcohol-impaired.

Call the Lewis County Sheriff's Office at 606-796-2912 or 911 to provide a direction of travel, vehicle description and a license number, if possible, to report a suspected impaired motor vehicle operator.

Callers are not required to identify themselves.

"We are on a mission to identify and arrest impaired drivers to get them

off the roads and save lives," Bivens stated.

*National Center for Statistics and Analysis.



NEWS RELEASE

Lewis County Sheriff Johnny Bivens

Approved traffic safety checkpoint locations in Lewis County

- KY 8 at Firebrick.
- KY 8 west Garrison at Flag Point.
- Junction KY 59 and KY 344.
- Junction KY 377 and KY 344.
- KY 3311 (Montgomery Road) at Wright's Chapel.
- Junction KY 10 and KY 57 in Tollesboro.
- KY 59 approximately three miles south of Camp Dix.
- KY 59 at Emerson (KY 1662).
- Junction KY 59 and Lower Kinney Road at Camp Dix.
- KY 984 (Little Cabin Creek) approximately 1.5 miles from KY 57.
- Junction KY 8 and KY 57 at Concord.
- Junction KY 1306 (Kinney Road) and Skidmore Road.
- Junction KY 784 and KY 3311 (Montgomery Road).
- KY 984 (Junction of Little Cabin and Cabin Creek Road at concrete bridge).
- Junction KY 1068 (Laurel Road) and KY 59.
- Junction KY 8, KY 1306 and Garrison Lane.
- Junction KY 1237 and KY 989 in Burtonville.
- Junction KY 3020 (Ronald Reagan) and KY 8 at Black Oak.

Why traffic checkpoints are publicized

By Dennis K. Brown

If you've seen the story about traffic safety checkpoints in Lewis County (above), and the listing of locations, you've probably already wondered why that list is being publicized.

The short answer is because police agencies must advertise where the roadblocks will be held.

The longer answer has to do with a ruling by the Kentucky Supreme Court overturning a DUI conviction after determining the way roadblocks used to be conducted was a violation of state and federal constitutional rights.

Police and sheriff's departments in Kentucky must have approved roadblock sites, a supervisor has to be present, the stops must be brief, and the locations of the sites must be publicized, among others.

The US Supreme Court ruled (6-3) that checkpoints are constitutional but added they must be publicized in advance.

Without public notice, the brief stop at a checkpoint could be considered detention without reasonable suspicion and could be a violation of your Fourth Amendment rights.

The US Supreme Court has affirmed that DUI checkpoints satisfy a strong state interest in removing drunk drivers from

state highways and state interest outweighs the brief intrusion to a private motorist at a roadblock.

There are several guidelines in place when the roadblocks are held and all police agencies have policies dealing with how they are to be carried out.

Police agencies have been publicizing their checkpoints for some time now and they still make arrests of people who are driving under the influence.

And, by publicizing the locations of roadblocks a potential drinking driver,

having seen the listing at some point, may choose not to operate a motor vehicle after a few drinks.

US Constitution Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

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We hope to help individuals who are searching for a career to find their dream job and employers who are looking for employees to find them at this event. Food trucks will also be on site for the event. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this job and resource fair.

Attended the monthly Lewis County Ambulance Service District Board Meeting. During the meeting the past meeting minutes and the financial reports were approved. MCA billing company came and spoke to the board about the startup process and all that is going to be required. Philip Rogers from KDMT attended and announced that KDMC/UK medical was donating a very nice ambulance to the county.

Attended a Zoom meeting with the Ohio River Way. The meeting was about a tool kit that has been developed to do River Town Review. They are going to be doing workshops in different locations to teach groups how to use the tool kit.

Attended a meeting with the Lewis County JROTC, Superintendent Jamie Weddington, and Laurel Elementary School Principal Chad Kidwell. During the meeting we discussed cleaning up a

departments.

Presided over the March fiscal court meeting. We approved the past meeting minutes and the financial report. All departments gave monthly reports that were approved. The court appointed Paula Mason to the Lewis County Board of Health. The court approved me to hire four people for various vacant positions and four to pickup trash on the liter abatement grant. Our meeting is on the second Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. The meetings may be viewed on our YouTube channel as well.

Working with Burton Fencing in having some of the fence around Solid Wasted / Animal Shelter rerouted and extended to protect these and the recycle areas after hours.

Worked with the road department in submitting several county roads throughout the county that need repairs. They were submitted into the 2024-2025 discretionary funding with the KTC.

Megan Bankemper, Field Representative for Mitch McConnell, visited my office and we talked about economic, industrial development, farming, riverports, EMS, and parks in Lewis County. We also talked with

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