



Judge Executive's Report

By George Sparks

October 2024 County Judge Executive Monthly Report

October has been an extremely busy and productive month. I met with a lot of great people and organizations, and I will highlight those meetings here.

I was visited by John Wilson who serves as ARC Market President, Addiction Recovery Care. John oversees ARC's network of residential treatment centers across Kentucky. John served four terms as Garrard County Judge Executive. We met with the ARC Brad Bentley who works in the Lewis County Court System, Lewis County Health Department Director Anita Bertram, and Fresh Start's Operations Manager Kristina Holzapfel. During our meeting, we discussed Addiction Treatment options in Lewis County and how important follow up support and care is to the success of a person who has been in rehab. Helping them find community support programs, housing, and jobs is part of becoming a Recovery Ready Community.

I attended the Fleming County High School Annual FFA Tractor Parade. Senator Mitch McConnell was chosen to be Grand Marshal. Mitch arrived early and toured the Ky. Welding Institute. Afterwards, he spoke at a lunch provided by Hinton Mills. I was invited to attend the event and meet Senator McConnell. Lewis County was represented well. Several others went along with me for the visit - Ben Harrison, Tom Bertram, Kenny Ruckel, Dennis Brown, and Ben Collier. We were able to talk with Agricultural Commissioner Jonathan Shell and several other state and local elected officials at the event.

The Lewis County Recreational Committee also met this month. We discussed the capital campaign, grants, and moving forward with work on a basketball court.

Camp Dix Fire Department/Community Center Project opened the bids during a meeting on 10/7/24. No bids were received at this meeting. We discussed with BTADD (Kristie Dodge and Sierra O'Cull) our next steps in getting a general contractor to bid and build the project. We do have some interest and will be working with some companies. We will hold a new open bids meeting on November 21, at 1:00.

The 5th Annual Keith Prater Memorial Bike ride, organized by Dennis Prater, was a success this year. Dennis decided to add a motorcycle ride this year, as well. Bro. Howard Wilson welcomed everyone and gave the opening prayer. Mayor Blankenship and I also welcomed everyone and thanked the list of sponsors. Dennis Prater has worked very hard putting this event together. Great job, Dennis!

The Garrison Rough Riders Saddle Club hosted their annual Fall Horse Show and feed the community day. This event was well attended by the community and horse lovers. There were many horses and there was plenty of great food. Thank you to the Rough Riders Saddle Club!

I presided over the October Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Danny Palmer and Michael Byble presented a monthly EMS Activate. The court approved BTADD to apply for an ARC Grant to do Riverport planning. Acknowledgement of 2024 School Taxing District Rates. Fiscal Court approved advertisement for bids on a bridge on Ribolt Epworth Road through the 80/20 bridge program. The Presidential Election was approved as a Holiday. Fiscal Court approved a snow removal agreement with Wade Washing and Lawn Care. Steve Vice was appointed to serve on Tollesboro Sanitation District and finish Kevin Cornette's term. Ben Mitchell, Danny Plamer, Jeremy

Ruckel, Lee Thomas, Levi Clark, and Ammon Cooper were appointed to serve on the Lewis County Port Authority. Trick or Treat will be held October 31, 5-7 p.m. Emilee Hobbs was approved to work part-time at the Animal Shelter. Reports were presented and approved by all departments. The next Fiscal Court meeting will be held on November 12, at 3 p.m.

BTADD held their annual meeting at JBS Entertainment in Maysville. Chairperson Jesse Melcher called the meeting to order. Chairman Melcher welcomed retired Executive Director Amy Kennedy to the meeting, and Incoming Executive Director Kevin Cornette. Interim Executive Director Stephen Culp gave a financial and Director's report. Committee Reports were given by Department Directors and Staff. Frankfort and Washington updates were given, followed by awards. Lori Ulrich was given a plaque for making Exceptional Contributions to the Region. Bill Boggs was given a gift for 45 years of serving on the board. Caroline Ulery was given a Certificate for 25 years of service. Sharon Hall was given a Certificate for 25 years of service. Brittney Shepherd, Cassie Lykins, and Whitney Downing were given Certificates for 5 years of service. The Oath of Office was given to new officers by 19th Circuit Court Judge Jeff Schumacher. I am honored to serve as Chairman, Rebecca McGinnis Co-chairman, Secretary Owen McNeill, and Treasurer Tina Teegarden.

The Salvation Army Lewis County Service Unit met at the Lewis County Health Department. Chairperson Anita Bertram led the meeting. Alex Halsey gave a Welfare and Treasurer's report. They were both approved. Anita then discussed the Red Kettle Campaign that will be set up Monday-Tuesday at Maysville Walmart, and full time at Clark's Pump and Shop in Vanceburg.

I worked with Solid Waste Coordinator Roger Lewis, County Attorney Benjamin Harrison, and Road Foreman David Goodwin in getting some properties cleaned up in Tollesboro, Laurel, Route 8, and Garrison. Lewis County has an ordinance that requires citizens to have trash pickup or show proof of trash disposal through landfill receipts.

Lewis County High School's JROTC program held their second annual Clean Up the Creek event. The event began at Laurel Point Church. This year, their goal was to clean debris, trash, and tires out of a three-mile section of the creek. There was a great turnout for the event. Even with the cool temperatures, the teams didn't hesitate to get right to work. Joining them in the clean-up again this year was Brian Storz, Team Ky. Licking River Basin Coordinator. Thanks to District 4 Magis-

trate Mark Horsley, Lewis County Solid Waste Coordinator Roger Lewis, Lewis County EMS Philip Rogers and Tammy Smith, JROTC Instructor Major Ricky Vittow, and several Lewis County School staff members.

The City of Vanceburg held their first annual Oktoberfest this month. There was a great turnout at the event. Thanks to Mayor Blankenship and the City of Vanceburg staff. There was a lot of hard work in getting set up and prepared.

We had a productive Zoom meeting with Geo Conex. The county received a grant to upgrade the E-911 Center CAD Computer Aided Dispatch System from KOHS Ky. Office of Homeland Security. Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown and I attended a planning meeting about how the upgrade will take place. The new system is likely to be installed during the second week of December. Training will be given to all dispatchers before the new system goes live and the old system will then be taken down. The Center is also switching from Windstream copper cable to Windstream Fiber Internet which will be more secure and reliable to run the new system. This system will be an upgrade to improve communications for Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services.

Led the LVCAP monthly board of directors meeting. During the meeting, Sidney Gray presented a financial report that was approved. Executive Director Kenny Walters gave reports on all programs. The FTA Drug & Alcohol Policy was updated and approved. Kenny invited everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Fleming County Senior Center October 30, at 11 a.m. Governor Beshear plans to attend and speak at the ceremony. The executive board met after the regular meeting to discuss the Executive Director's yearly evaluation.

We held a BTADD Lewis County Project Ranking meeting at the Courthouse. Infrastructure Planner Cindy Ring and GSI Specialists Kevin Wells were in attendance. We met with Chad Clark, Trent Underwood, Tony Hunt, and Bill Tom Stone. We discussed five sewer projects and ranked them followed by four water projects. These are all ranked from 2-10 years. They are reviewed and reranked each year.

Hospice of Hope Audit/Finance Committee meeting.

I attended the open house at the Lewis County Career and Technical Center. Principal Jeremy Ruckel gave us a tour and an overview of all the different programs at the Center. Superintendent Dr. Michael Melton joined me and several others, and we

discussed the benefits of having this new center here in Lewis County. If you haven't yet taken the opportunity to see this new facility, please take time to go see for yourself what the Lewis County students have available to help them be better prepared for college and/or a career.

As part of KCADD Communications Committee, we made a brief video on Regionalism Works Campaign with BTADD Community Development Specialist Jamison French and Molly Haines. We shared short success stories of how BTADD has partnered with the Lewis County Fiscal Court. We talked about their support and/or help getting grants for Fire Departments/Community Centers, Tornado Sirens, Broadband Expansion, Industrial Site Development, Community Development Parks/Playgrounds, and their support and assistance in us starting our own Lewis County EMS Service.

We are continuously working with Charter Spectrum in getting Fiber internet in the courthouse and the Emergency Management Center, and upgrades at the Road Department, Solid Waste, and Animal Shelter. This project will include a new phone system for all departments.

I attended the Buffalo Trace Agency for Substance Abuse Policy Board meeting. During the meeting, we talked about grants, anti-drug campaigns, membership, and reviewed the bylaws.

I attended the Comprehend Inc. annual dinner and meeting. Awards were given to those who had 5, 10, or 20 years of service including those who were stepping down from the board. A new board member was sworn in, and the new officers were announced.

I was honored to attend Senator Rand Paul's visit to Maysville at the KY Gateway Museum Center. Senator Paul gave a great speech and answered many ques-

tions. BTADD Regional Transportation Committee met at Buffalo Trace. During the meeting, we discussed goals and objectives, reviewed the bylaws, and heard highway district office updates. Guest speaker Tyler McHugh, Maysville-Mason County Economic Development Director, spoke about the Riverport project at

Maysville. I attended the LVCAP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the New Fleming County Senior Center. Fleming County Judge Executive John Sims, Flemingsburg Mayor Van Alexander, LVCAP Executive Director Kenny Walters, State Senator Steve West, and Governor Andy Beshear spoke at the ceremony.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
THE LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Lewis County Health Department on Thursday, November 7, 2024.
VETERANS DAY CEREMONY - The Lewis County High School (LCHS) annual Veterans Day Ceremony will take place Monday, November 11, 2024. It will start with a video tribute to local veterans beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the LCHS auditorium. The ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m.
COVERED BRIDGE CHAPTER TO MEET - The Covered Bridge Chapter of Kentucky Public Retirees will meet Thursday, November 14 at 11:00 a.m. at the Double S Entertainment Center on Foster Street in Flemingsburg. Scheduled Guest Speaker will be Lynn Reed with Travel Escapes. All city, county, and state retirees are encouraged to attend.
BENCHMARK FAMILY SERVICES - Benchmark Family Services is taking applications for foster parenting. As the largest private foster care agency in the state of Kentucky, we are able to provide our foster parents with an unmatched level of training, support, and financial reimbursement. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, please call 606-783-0268 or go to www.benchmarkfs.org.

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CONSIGNMENT # 1 IS FROM A LOCAL ESTATE AND INCLUDES: SHOTGUNS, HANDGUNS, AIR RIFLE, KNIVES, AMMO & OTHER.

SPECIAL LOCAL INTEREST: Lewis Co., KY Henry .22 w/ specialty Historical Armory engraved stock and forearm (*ONLY 50 of these were made, highly sought after and sold out quickly and are ALMOST impossible to find today!*).

OTHER CONSIGNMENTS INCLUDE: SPECIAL LOCAL INTEREST: Lewis Co., KY Henry .22 # 29 of 50 w/ specialty Historical Armory engraved stock and forearm (these were highly sought after and sold out quickly and are ALMOST impossible to find today!); Four high quality 12 ga. Over/Under shotguns (with beautiful wood stocks and forearms) including a Browning Citori; a Miroku (same factory in which the Browning Citori is made); Kassnar Imports (made in Italy); Baikal (made in Russia).

COINS & SILVER BULLION: (41) Morgan dollars including 1878CC; (12) Peace Dollars; (32) USA "Eagle" .999 fine silver dollars; 1780 Mary Theresa Thaler; 2015 China 5 oz. .999 fine silver "Year of The Horse"; 2015 Australia 10 oz. .999 fine silver "Koala"; (24) 2015 "Funnel Web Spider" 1 oz. .999 fine silver; (100) Silvertowne 1 oz. Rounds; (40) Prospector 1 oz. .999 fine silver rounds; (60) Sunshine 1 oz. .999 fine silver rounds; (20) John F. Kennedy 1 oz. Rounds; (180) 1 oz. .999 fine silver bars.

OTHER: Civil War Sword "D" Guard (Confederate?); 17" (overall) long knife with 3 "5 pointed brass stars" in handle; Case "Moby Dick"/"Nantucket Sleigh Ride" knife; Samurai Sword (hand-made HMS); Predator Eradicator Hunting Light Kit (New In Package); (2) compound bows w/ quiver and arrows: Bear Pathfinder 26" draw, 15-29 lb., 14-25" youth bow (new); a Bear Mini-Magnum compound bow; several lots of rifle, handgun and shotgun ammunition; several gun cases.

Watch for complete listing in next week's Lewis County Herald.

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