

GRANDSTAND
Continued from p. 1

“At the end of the day,” he added, “the dollars for this project need to be spent on this project.”

The board also approved change order 12 for the new WCHS, which adds a total cost of \$26,430.21 and moves the project’s final completion to Jan. 4, 2025, Ratliff said.

Asked if this change order will affect the move-in date, Adkins and Ratliff said the project remains on schedule for students to move into the new WCHS when they return from winter break.

In his monthly project update, Ratliff said they’ve got good solutions for the complications they’ve run into. He noted interior finishes are ongoing, with gymnasium bleachers and auditorium seating installed. Also, landscaping is complete and one more dry-weather day is needed to finish the site’s sod installation, he said.

Southside walkway

With the fencing contractor busy on a larger project in an adjacent school district, the board was informed a barrier would be removed in order to open up a walkway connecting the Southside Elementary School campus to The Legends subdivision. Smith said not having a fence shouldn’t pose any issues, but Adkins said more supervision will be needed for students using the walkway.

Board member Sarah McCoun said she’s grateful a solution was worked out so folks can start using the sidewalk, which “looks great.”

2025-26 school calendar

Assistant Superintendent Garett Wells presented the options for the 2025-26 calendar to the board and will ask for its approval in December. He noted the recommended calendar was supported by a majority of the over 1,000 staff, students and parents who responded to a survey.

Next school year will begin on Thursday, Aug. 14 and end on May 27, which comes after Memorial Day (May 25). The recommendation to start the school year on the second Thursday follows a similar template as recent years, Wells said.

Other noteworthy dates on the 2025-26 calendar are fall break: Sept. 29 to Oct. 3; winter break: Dec. 20 to Jan. 5; spring break: April 6 to 10; and five staff workdays on Aug. 29, Oct. 6, Jan. 5, March 6 and April 13.

Fire science program

Pathways in career and technical education (CTE) at WCHS may soon include a new fire science program through a collaborative effort with the Versailles Fire Department (VFD) and Chief T.A. Rankin, Chief Academic Officer Ryan Asher told the board.

Having a fire science program at WCHS is an opportunity for students to learn here and, hopefully, stay here after they graduate, according to Rankin. Plans include having a VFD employee teach the fire science program, likely in the shop at the current high school, and using equipment that’s no longer being used by his department, he said.

Rankin told the board that the Versailles City Council has approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU), and Asher said the board will be asked to approve an MOU, “hopefully next month.”

In addition to employing full- and part-time firefighters as well as having volunteer firefighters, VFD has a junior fire program, Rankin said. He described the junior program as an opportunity for teens (15 to 18 years old) to learn about what firefighters do. He also wants to offer more internship opportunities for WCHS students, he said.

Financial report

A motion to move the monthly financial report from the consent agenda to the regular agenda failed 3 to 2.

“My reasoning for wanting to pull that out (for discussion) is the same that it has been for the last several months, just for transparency so we can talk about finances and make sure the public is aware of how we’re spending their tax dollars,” said McCoun, who made the motion. Sherri Springate seconded it.

Executive session

The board went into executive/closed session to discuss pending litigation, but took no action afterward.



THE JACK JOUETT HOUSE’S historic dry stone cemetery wall is being restored and preserved via a joint project of the Woodford County Extension Master Gardeners, dry stone mason Keenan Bishop and other community partners. (Photo by Scott White)

PLANNING

Continued from p. 1

sailles, but “this is better, it’s going to create less traffic than the plans that have come before us previously,” said Wells.

The commission also approved the development plans for a convenience store/quick-serve restaurant and a residential community with 220 one- and two-bedroom apartment and townhouse units and a clubhouse, which will occupy two of the 16 mixed-use lots at 1735 Troy Pike.

“This is not going to be built overnight,” said Murphy. “We’re giving you this plat and this traffic relating to all 16 lots, but it’s probably going to be a build-out of about five to 10 years on this project.”

The property was rezoned B-5 (business) in 2014 when a Walmart Supercenter was proposed. The development plan generated a lot of community discussion and did not move forward, Hunter noted based on what he has been told.

“It’s not that big box development that you saw before,” said Murphy. “We’re a much less intense development than that.”

Regulating cannabis

After hearing no public comment, the commission approved zoning ordinance text amendments to Articles III, IV, V and IX that regulate the location of medical cannabis facilities in Woodford County. A majority of voters supported allowing medical cannabis in the county and the City of Versailles in the November election.

The amended ordinance regulates the zoning district where the facilities are allowed.

Small community lots

The commission recommended Woodford Fiscal Court approve a zone change of 19.46 acres on Clifton Road (Frank Marcum and Robin Reed) from A-1 agricultural and CO-1 conservation to A-4 small community, resulting in a 12.361-acre lot at 9046 Clifton Road, a 4.53-acre lot at 9042 Clifton

Road and a 2.582-acre lot at 9048 Clifton Road. No one spoke during a public hearing on the zone change request.

Fire hydrant to serve lots

An in-family conveyance plat creating four residential lots at 1480, 1500, 1526 and 1598 Germany Road led to a prolonged discussion about the need for installing a fire hydrant when a waterline – that will provide sufficient water pressure for the hydrant – has not been installed.

A proposed note to address the fire hydrant issue so the plat meets new subdivision regulations gave the property owner 180 days to have the hydrant installed and functioning, but the waterline may not be in place in 180 days.

The commission eventually voted to approve the plat on the condition that it would not be recorded until after a hydrant is purchased or bonded.

After the in-family lots are conveyed to a daughter, son and sister, the remaining parent property at 1744 Germany Road (Robert Daniel and Diana Whalen) will be approximately 83 acres.

Other in-family conveyances

The commission approved two other in-family conveyances.

Randy Bicknell is creating a 39.214-acre lot at 2241 Shryocks Ferry Road to convey to son Wyatt Hunter Ott-Bicknell with a remaining 1.334-acre lot at 2235 Shryocks Ferry Road.

Marlin and Milta Lanham are creating a 1.063-acre lot for their grandson and wife Jacob A. and Megan K. Hoad, with a remaining 18.133-acre lot at 1051 Lillards Ferry Road.

Minor plats

The commission approved a minor subdivision plat for 112 and 113 Mustang Cove (Bear Group, LLC, and Brian and Natalie Nichols) that consolidates land parcels in Jessamine and Woodford counties.

A minor consolidation plat creating a .711-acre lot at 2625 Lillards Ferry Road (Katie Lynn Torbett) was also approved.

It's A Wonderful Woodford Christmas every weekend until Christmas!

brought to you by:

Nov. 23: Rock ‘n Shop
Find ornaments around town in a scavenger hunt for deals!

Thanksgiving Weekend:
Select shops open Thanksgiving evening
Shop Local Black Friday deals & Small Business Saturday deals

Dec 6 & 7:
Friday- Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:30pm, Santa, carolers and Jane’s School of Dance will perform
Saturday- Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Santa Shuffle 5k and Kids Dash at 1:45pm
Christmas Parade with K-State Band at 5pm

Dec 13: Sip ‘n Shop in Christmas pajamas. Shops open late 5-7pm and gift wrapping available in certain shops!

Dec 14: A Wonderful Woodford Christmas Saturday in The District with Santa, bounce houses, ice skating rink, s’more fire pits, Christmas Tree Village and more! Noon to 4pm
Christmas Candlelight Caroling event Main Street 4-5pm

Shops also have Sunday hours 1-4pm this holiday season.

For all of the fun this season, go to: VisitWoodford.com/events or download our app: [Visit Woodford](#) & on social media