

CBD

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hemp industry, Kentucky is already laying the groundwork to do it here. They want the tax revenue from a tightly controlled medical program and don't like that hemp retailers are selling similar products with lower taxes."

Matheny pointed to several recent legislative actions that he says have already harmed small hemp businesses, including a 2019 ban on hemp flower sales and a 2025 law limiting THC in beverages to five milligrams and restricting those products to alcohol retailers.

"That change raised the price of THC beverages from about 15 cents per milligram to over a dollar per milligram," he said. "That's an 88-cent increase that goes straight to tax revenue. These moves are meant to squeeze out small businesses like ours."

With those concerns in mind, Matheny said closing the Nicholasville store is a strategic decision to avoid a costly \$30,000 lease commitment in an unpredictable market.

"Knowing what we're facing, it just made sense," he said. "We decided to put our full attention on the Danville location. The store is newer, prettier, and more accessible for clients with mobility issues. It's also built with reinforced doors and windows to protect inventory once people realize THC products are available."

Matheny said the Danville store will now serve as the company's flagship location and hub for advocacy efforts.

"Our Danville store will be our fully stocked fortress," he

said. "We're getting ready to launch new billboard campaigns and online advertising now that some of our social media restrictions have been lifted. We're aiming for awareness, because even after all this time, a lot of people still don't know we're here or that we offer legal cannabis products."

In addition to retail sales, Matheny said the Danville location will function as a community center for education and activism.

"Danville will be the heart of our decriminalization efforts," he said. "Our sales have always helped fund our activism, and that won't change. We'll continue organizing outreach programs and bringing people together to push for cannabis reform in Kentucky."

Matheny, who entered the industry shortly after hemp was federally legalized, said the early optimism has faded as regulations and stigma continue to slow growth.

"When I started KY CBD Farmacy, I knew the Farm Bill offered us a freedom we hadn't had since 1937," he said. "But farming hemp has already dropped by 70% since 2018 because of over-regulation and the fear of becoming a criminal if your crop grows too well. If these new restrictions go through, the industry will collapse. The only thing left would be fiber and seed production."

Matheny said one of the biggest challenges remains lack of representation in Frankfort.

"I've had an open invitation to all of our local legislators," he said. "Some refuse to even have a conversation. Representative Kim King said she doesn't support marijuana, at

least she responded. Others won't even take the meeting. We're unrepresented in our own statehouse."

In an effort to get voters more involved, Matheny is encouraging residents to send handwritten letters to lawmakers before the 2026 session begins.

"We've had people call and email for years and get nowhere," he said. "So this time, we're asking for letters. If nothing else, they'll have to open the envelope or empty the trash can it lands in. It's one more way to make them pay attention."

Although the Nicholasville closure marks the end of a chapter, Matheny said it's not a step back—it's a shift in strategy.

"By stepping away from one store, I'm showing that this fight is bigger than business," he said. "It's about uniting the hemp and marijuana communities that legislation intentionally divided. The state told hemp advocates not to support cannabis reform and told marijuana supporters not to back hemp. I'm here to stand in between and say we're all fighting for the same thing."

Looking ahead, Matheny said his one-year goal is to see meaningful progress toward full cannabis decriminalization in Kentucky.

"I want to see the people stand united and force representation to do their job," he said. "If we can get there, farmers, processors, and retailers will have the freedom to rebuild this industry. And when that happens, I'll be ready to open more stores across the state. Until then, I'll keep fighting for truth, fairness, and the future of cannabis in Kentucky."

BOYLE

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local agencies and law enforcement to reduce homelessness and drug-related risks.

INSURANCE AND BENEFITS UPDATES

Sherrill Morgan, representing the county's insurance provider, discussed upcoming insurance renewals and plan changes for the next fiscal year. Following that, Human Resources Director Steve Griffin outlined proposed dental coverage adjustments, explaining that the new plan aims to reduce costs while maintaining service options for county employees.

CORRECTIONS AND RECYCLING REPORTS

Jailer Brian Wofford briefed the court on the Re-entry Class Program, which helps inmates transition successfully back into the community. Wofford reported positive outcomes and participation growth, noting that the initiative continues to provide valuable workforce training and life skills.

Recycling Director Angie Muncy presented updates on environmental projects, including the acquisition of a glass pulverizer to improve local recycling capabilities. She also discussed progress on an Illegal Dump Grant, which will support cleanup efforts across rural parts of the county.

ETHICS AND LEGAL AGREEMENTS

Ethics Vice Chair Teresa Nolet reviewed proposed changes to the county ethics code, designed to enhance transparency and strengthen conflict-of-interest policies. She also discussed a new agreement with Currens Law Office to assist with compliance and advisory services for the Ethics Board.

FISCAL AND PROJECT REPORTS

Treasurer Shannon Greene delivered the September settlement report, quarterly financial statement, and an update on ongoing county audits, noting that Boyle County remains financially stable heading into the final quarter of the year.

County Administrator Julie Wagner closed departmental reports with updates on several community projects, including the JRA Architects pickleball court design, which remains in the planning phase. Wagner said the courts will provide additional recreational opportunities once construction begins in 2026.

ZONING AND PUBLIC CONCERNS

Later in the meeting, magistrates spent time discussing the Planning and Zoning Commission's vote to raise the county's minimum residential lot size from one acre to five acres, a move they said could significantly raise

housing costs and strain local families.

Magistrate Tom Ellis noted that the change would make homebuilding far less affordable. A one-acre lot currently costs about \$30,000, while five acres could cost \$150,000 or more. Combined with construction costs—around \$375,000 for a modest home—the total price could top \$500,000, putting home ownership out of reach for many working families.

Ellis also said the proposal would hurt farmers and multi-generational families who rely on subdividing smaller parcels. "This would negate the ability to give kids one-acre tracts to build a home," one magistrate said.

Magistrate Jamey Gay explained that the five-acre proposal came from the county's comprehensive plan, which aims to prevent overdevelopment and protect rural infrastructure such as roads and water systems. He warned that smaller lot developments often strain services without generating enough tax revenue to support them.

The court agreed more public input is needed before any decision is made and discussed holding a community forum to give residents a chance to share their views and better understand the financial implications of the proposal.



The Danville City Commission welcomed Audrey Serres as its newest member during a special called meeting, where she was officially sworn in to fill the seat of her late husband, Commissioner Rick Serres. Serres joins fellow commissioners and Mayor James Atkins in continuing the city's work on community development and public service initiatives.

SERRES

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legacy of community

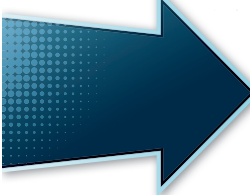
involvement.

With Serres now officially seated, the Danville City Commission returns to its full membership

ahead of upcoming discussions on infrastructure, planning, and city development projects.



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