

Ribbon-cutting on East Pike Street



Courtesy of Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce

Another business has opened in downtown Cynthiana. Silas Ridge Studio, located at 138 East Pike Street, Suite B, held an official ribbon-cutting and grand opening on Friday, Dec 5. The studio offers classes for children and adults and can host birthday parties and private events.

Smith updates City on Chamber progress

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

On Tuesday, Dec 2, the Cynthiana Board of Commissioners met for their first meeting of the month.

After a call to order and quick invocation, Mayor Isaac Dailey gave the podium to James Smith, Executive Director of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce to give the board an update on the Chamber.

“It’s good to be on this side of the table for a change,” joked Smith, former mayor of Cynthiana. “Thank you first of all for the support that you give us ... and also for the sponsorship of the Breakout Leadership Conference.”

Smith noted with emphasis the 65 new chamber members this year. Taking the position around 11 months ago, his goal was to gain 50 new members — one per week. “That’s the most new members I believe the Chamber has ever had and puts our all-time high in membership at 234.”

In reference to work done throughout the year, Smith mentioned as high points 45 weekly newsletters put out, 10 ribbon cuttings (and potentially one more), 160 people in attendance at the breakout leadership conference and an all-time attendance of over 200 people for the Chamber Awards Ceremony.

There was also a spike in subscriptions to their weekly newsletters, from 319 in January of this year to 575 now.

Smith made a point of listing things the Chamber has done recently, like the local business guide (meant to walk prospective business-owners through the process of opening one in Cynthiana-Harrison County) and the 2025 Holiday Gift Guide. He also noted they were gifted a \$5,000 grant from the county out of their opioid settlement funds for the Chamber’s new workforce readiness training program for people who have completed recovery.

“I’m a huge fan of this workforce readiness training program,” stated Commissioner Taylor Peoples. “I think it’s very thoughtful.”

“I have no questions, just want to commend your work the past year,” stated Mayor Dailey. “The results are speaking for themselves.”

“The newsletters, I personally think, are one of the greatest things that ever happened,” noted Commissioner David Conners. “I have so many people ask me ‘What exactly does our chamber do?’ I’ve actually printed off some of those [newsletters] and have

given them, so please keep them coming.”

Next, Mayor Dailey made a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting on Tuesday, Nov 18, which carried.

LEGALS

- City Attorney John Lair gave a second reading of Ordinance #1682 - Amending Water Distribution Coordinator job grade. A motion was made to approve the second reading, which carried.

- Attorney Lair also gave a first reading of Ordinance #1683 - Amending Mayor’s Salary, which would bump the mayoral position salary to \$55,000, with retirement, starting Jan. 1, 2027.

A motion was made to approve the reading, which carried. Mayor Dailey and Commissioner Peoples abstained.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Dailey gave his Virgie report, going over the long list of meetings he’s attended since the last report. These included a downtown committee meeting, senior citizens meeting, chamber board meeting, tourism board meeting, a meeting with the leadership of Harrison Memorial Hospital and a meeting with several central Kentucky representatives of Columbia Gas in regard to the new pipeline under the river.

“This will provide better gas services for everybody on the west side of town as well as open up the possibility of expansion onto the bypass and that western side where industry is moving now that the business park has been filled,” explained Dailey.

- Dailey made note of letters he’d received in his first week of office requesting that the town make more effort in decorating for Christmas.

“I think we’ve moved in that direction this year,” explained Dailey. “If you go downtown you’ll see more holiday decorations than in the past and I wanted to thank the

people that made that happen. One of them being Sam Lunger, our Tourism Director. And with the city assistance of Public Works and the Cynthiana Fire Department ... A private citizen, Josh Vest, has been instrumental in helping come up with ideas and providing from his own collection. I want to thank him for that.”

- Mayor Dailey also discussed the 139 East Pike Street property and the bid that was made/opened the day prior.

Commissioner Peoples made a motion to reject the bid to enter a negotiation phase with the bidder, which carried.

- Commissioners’ Reports
- Commissioner Mark Mattmiller of Public Property and Finance made a motion to pay the bills of \$131,220 in the general fund and \$101,831 in water and sewer, which passed.

Mattmiller updated the board on money in the bank: \$321,987 in the general fund, \$362,136 in water and sewer and \$147,939 in municipal road aid.

- Commissioner Peoples of Police Safety congratulated Officer Carter of the Cynthiana Police Department for finishing up and graduating.

He also said Officer Tussey will start soon.

- Commissioner Roger Slade of Fire Safety and Emergency Services noted that he’s been meeting with fire staff and 911 staff and that everything has been largely positive. He also mentioned that things will need to be done about the state of Station 2, sooner rather than later.

- Commissioner Conner of Public Utilities and Works made a motion to authorize to change job title of Jordan Fletcher from Equipment Operator to Distribution Operator, which carried.

The next meeting of the Cynthiana Board of Commissioners will be Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Office, 308 Webster Avenue, Cynthiana.

A letter to the community

BY CYNTHIANA MAYOR ISAAC DAILEY

As I near the end of my first year serving as Mayor of Cynthiana, I reflect with gratitude and humility. This year has brought transition and growth for both myself and our city as we’ve worked together to strengthen our community.

When I stepped into this role in January, following the resignation of Mayor Smith, I knew the task at hand was great. Several major infrastructure projects were in their earliest phases; we were facing PFOS mitigation, persistent snow early in the year, and an April flood that crested at 21.77 feet.

Yet, through each twist and challenge, one thing remained constant: unwavering community support, the resilience of our people and the daily commitment of those who work to make Cynthiana better. From our city staff and first responders to local business owners, volunteers and neighbors, you have always inspired me.

Over the past year, the city commission made meaningful strides. We focused on transparency and communication, ensuring residents feel better informed and connected by partnering with WCYN to stream our commission meetings.

We strengthened collaboration with the county government, local organizations, and regional partners. We worked hard to maintain our city’s water, wastewater, police, fire and dispatch services with care and responsibility, even amid rising costs and changing needs.

And we remained committed to improving infrastructure: creating a comprehensive road-improvement plan, securing the \$14.3 million needed for the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) facility at the water plant, and breaking ground on our joint city-county fire training facility.

Together, these efforts ensure the long-term health and safety of our community.

Beyond policies and projects, my most mem-

orable moments this year came from time spent in the community: celebrating new businesses’ ribbon-cuttings, judging student science fairs, attending community events, putting up Christmas decorations and supporting each other through the year’s challenges.

These moments show what makes Cynthiana special. Cynthiana’s greatest strength is its people, and serving you has been the honor of my life.

In 2026, I will continue focusing on collaboration, stability and building a Cynthiana for everyone. We will continue to update our strategic plan, improve communication and manage resources responsibly.

I believe wholeheartedly in Cynthiana’s future and in what we can accomplish when we work together with purpose and care.

Thank you, Cynthiana. I look forward to continuing this work side by side with all of you.

With hope and gratitude,
Mayor Isaac Dailey

16,000 fossil footprints in central Bolivia reveal dinosaur behavior

BY CARLOS GUERRERO AND ISABEL DEBRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORO TORO, Bolivia — Legend once had it that the huge, three-toed footprints scattered across the central highlands of Bolivia came from supernaturally strong monsters — capable of sinking their claws even into solid stone.

Then scientists came here in the 1960s and dispelled children’s fears, determining that the strange footprints in fact belonged to gigantic,

two-legged dinosaurs that stomped and splashed over 60 million years ago, in the ancient waterways of what is now Toro Toro, a village and popular national park in the Bolivian Andes.

Now, a team of paleontologists, mostly from California’s Loma Linda University, have discovered and meticulously documented 16,600 such footprints left by theropods, the dinosaur group that includes the Tyrannosaurus rex. Their study, based on six years of regular field

visits and published last Wednesday in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS One, reports that this finding represents the highest number of theropod footprints recorded anywhere in the world.

“There’s no place in the world where you have such a big abundance of (theropod) footprints,” said Roberto Biaggi, a co-author of the study led by Spanish paleontologist Raúl Esperante. “We have all these world records at this particular site.”



LEGAL NOTICE

---- Public Notice ----

Notice is hereby given that King Assets LLC, PO Box 122, Cynthiana, KY, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to build two single family homes located at 122 and 124 Creekview Street of Grays Run Estates, Cynthiana, KY at the intersection of Hayden Drive and Creekview Street. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

The Cynthiana
Democrat

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

FRIDAY - 4:00 PM

Contact Customer Service at
859-234-1035, Option 2 or
classifieds@cynthianademocrat.com
Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

*Holidays advance deadline by 24 hours