



# GEORGETOWN News Graphic

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# Q&A addresses housing questions

By Kayla Thomas Engle  
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Eight shareholders from a variety of housing-related interests came together as a Q&A panel at the Scott County Public Library Wednesday to answer the public's questions about housing.

The panel was moderated by BCTC Georgetown Campus Director Lynn

Godsey and consisted of People's Exchange Bank Market President Les Jarvis, Housing Authority Executive

Director Rick Tooney, Planning and Zoning Director of Development Services Holden Fleming, May Commercial Group General Counsel Jacob Cassady, Gathering Place Executive Director Heather Johnson, Scott and Bourbon Counties Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Lena Ramsey, KB Realty Group Realtor/Broker Maria Patrick, and Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Director Kandice Whitehouse.

"What got this started is a lot of conversation around housing in the community," Fleming said. "When you have all these conversations going on,

sometimes it's a good idea to get everybody in the same room. ... Anybody who has a question about it can come forward and get that question answered."

The conversations had during the panel will continue forward, he said. There's a lot of "hard work" to be done to address the city's housing problem.

"We've got to take a hard look at our policies to make sure that we allow for that flexibility," Fleming said. "We have to find ways to make sure that development reflects the values of Georgetown, and that's a twofold analysis. Hopefully, we'll get something brought forward that continues the conversation."

Nearly 50 attendees, representatives of non-profits and activists came to meet one-on-one with representatives of various organizations prior to the panel and participate in the Q&A.

*What specific steps are being taken to attract affordable housing to Georgetown?*

**Fleming:** "From a planning and zoning perspective, the number one thing that we can do is make sure that the types of housing, the more affordable housing, are allowed in our zones across the city. What that means is we've

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NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JAMES SCOGIN

## Soaring through the sky

Matthew and Edward Howell fly their kite at Scott County Park Saturday as part of the annual Georgetown Rotary Club Kite Festival.

## Mayor shares 'budget message,' addresses growth, resource needs

By James Scogin  
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Mayor Burney Jenkins provided his "budget message" with Georgetown City Council Monday, May 12, and remained vocal about growth and providing proper resources for the city.

This year's projected general fund revenue is "around \$47 million," Jenkins said. "This is a 6.2 (percent) increase

over last year's projected."

Jenkins credits this increase to "commercial and industrial growth," he said. "Jobs." General fund expenditures are projected to be "just a little bit over \$48.5 million," Jenkins said. "This is also including some capital projects

Jenkins

that we have. So, you're talking about not really a big deficit than what we've had in the past."

Storm water expenditures equal \$1.4 million, he said.

"Everybody knows that that has been an issue we have—many administrations have talked about for years," Jenkins said. "We know that that is something we have to address."

Jenkins suggests proactive maintenance,

he said.

"I recall in my first year in (2023), I had to go put in a new drainage ditch out there by Walmart," he said. "I get a call from my city engineer. He says, 'Mayor, are you sitting down?' ... He told me, he said, 'Hey, we have an issue out here.' I went to investigate that issue. It was a pipe that (had) collapsed."

Jenkins recalls having

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# Traditional 'Tornado Alley' shifts eastward as climate changes

By Kenneth Heard  
Kentucky Lantern

In the 30 days after several damaging twisters hit Arkansas on March 14, the state saw nearly four times as many tornado warnings as Texas did.

The National Weather Service issued 144 warnings in Arkansas, compared to 39 in Texas from March 14 to April 14. Mississippi also recorded 144 warnings over the same period and Tennessee saw

125 warnings. Alabama noted 57 warnings.

It's an indication that the classic "Tornado Alley" region — the area from central Texas through Oklahoma and Kansas, so named because of the number of tornadoes there — is shifting eastward.

The shift is attributed to climate change, the warming of the Gulf of Mexico's waters and a dip in the cold jet stream pattern.

Arkansas, scientists say,

**'Radar can't see tornadoes. It can see circulation aloft when it's likely a tornado is forming. If we wait to see the debris cloud from a tornado that's on the ground to issue a warning, it's much too late.'**

Dennis Cavanaugh

NWS Warning Coordinator for North Little Rock

is nearly in the bull's eye of a new tornado-prone area that's referred to as "Dixie Alley." The region, which has seen a vast increase in tornadoes over the past several years, also

encompasses Mississippi, Alabama and western Tennessee.

Weather Service survey teams have already confirmed 35 tornadoes have touched down in Arkansas

through April. The state averages 42 twisters per year.

The storms have also been larger. Arkansas was hit with two EF-4 twisters on March 14 —

one in Jackson County and one in Izard County

The last time a tornado of that strength hit the state was on April 27, 2014, when a tornado cut a 41-mile path of destruction through western Pulaski County, Mayflower and Vilonia in Faulkner County, and on into White County. Sixteen people died in that storm.

Victor Gensini, a professor of meteorology at

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Coming up:  
Property Transfers  
Friday



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