

SG Commission begins work on sparse parking options

By Jack Thomas
Georgetown News-Graphic
jthomas@news-graphic.com

STAMPING GROUND — More parking options in downtown Stamping Ground are on the way. “We’ve heard the concerns from residents and visitors alike about the limited parking options downtown,” City of Stamping Ground wrote in a Facebook post. “We agree, it’s time for change.”

A public parking lot in downtown Stamping Ground is currently in the planning phase, spearheaded by Stamping Ground Commissioner Cody Meadows. “We’ve had a lot of concerns through citizens,” Meadows said. “Parking-related problems for the downtown area.”

The proposed parking lot area is adjacent to Stamping Ground City Hall, where an old water building used to be, Meadows said. He believes the city-owned

property was torn down following the 1974 tornado that cut through Stamping Ground. Meadows hopes that the parking lot, which could have up to 10 spots, will “help relieve some of the parking for the businesses around the surrounding area,” he said.

Among those affected by Stamping Ground’s limited downtown parking is Whitney Monhollen, co-owner of downtown salon Misfits On Mane. In May this year, Monhollen’s salon moved to a larger location in due to a growing clientele, she said, but immediately ran into parking issues. “It’s affected us greatly,” Monhollen said. “Not only do we serve Stamping Ground, but we serve surrounding counties. When people, especially people who aren’t familiar with Stamping Ground, they come into the town and they’re like, ‘Where do

we park?’” Misfits On Mane clients have been given parking tickets and asked to move from private parking areas, Monhollen said. “(It’s) really awkward,” she said. “It’s been a mess.”

Multiple businesses in downtown Stamping Ground have contacted the commission with parking problems, Meadows said. “(Misfits On Mane) had reached out, and the liquor store has really had trouble with parking,” he said. “Even City Hall, when we have our city (commission) meeting, there’s no parking.”

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the gravel parking lot

project at a meeting Aug. 14, Meadows said, contingent on the city’s ownership on the property. “Mr. Joel Day came out and did (a survey), and it is exactly what we thought it is, and we do own what we say we own,” Meadows said. “We’re basically trying to move into the next step with the RFP and the process of putting a gravel pad down there for parking.”

Day is a property surveyor who did the original survey on the area behind Stamping Ground City Hall around the early 2000s, Meadows said. “I reached out to (Day), he came out and I asked him, ‘Can you resurvey for me?’” Meadows said.

‘We’ve had a lot of concerns through citizens. Parking-related problems for the downtown area.’

Cody Meadows
Commissioner

“He said, ‘How about this? I’ll just remark it for you.’”

The area in question is still marked with orange spray paint, Meadows said.

Clarity has been another issue for parking near the salon, Monhollen said, as some spaces are not clearly marked. “(Our clients) still get confused because there’s blue lines, which some know that as handicap parking,” she said at a Stamping Ground Commission meeting Tuesday, Aug. 26. “Some will park there, some won’t. We don’t really know what to tell them. I don’t know if it’s supposed to be there.”

Commissioner Kenneth Koger addressed parking clarity, stating that a solution is in the works. “There’s (about) 30 spots available out there,” Koger said. “It might be easier for people to park if they know what’s actually parking.”

“I’ve talked to (Roads

Department Commissioner Megan Brown) a little bit about when the crew comes in to do the painting and stuff, to make sure that they get all the spots highlighted so everybody knows that it’s actually a parking spot,” he said.

In addition to the parking lot and street parking projects, Stamping Ground Commission unanimously voted to change two previously city-officially reserved spots on Main Street to public parking at its meeting Tuesday. “Do we need two spots out there?” Commissioner Dale Perry asked the commission. “Do we have that much business during the day?”

Koger made a motion to remove the city hall reservation on both parking spots after commissioners agreed they were not necessary and may be better suited for public parking. “That is a huge win for us,” Meadows said.

Jimmy Thorne honored as distinguished veteran by Kentucky General Assembly

Special the News-Graphic

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Thorne was formally recognized on Wednesday before the Interim Joint Committee (IJC) on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection for his decades of decorated military service and his continued impact as a civic leader in the commonwealth.

Thorne, a Vietnam War veteran and longtime Williamstown resident, received a formal citation from the Kentucky General Assembly after being introduced by Sen. Matt Nunn, R-Sadieville, and Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge. “I could think of no person more deserving of this recognition than Sergeant Major Thorne,” said Nunn. “I’ve gotten to know him over the last year and a half, and I found him to be a very kind man. When I learned about his history and how impressive it is, I knew this honor was more than earned.”

Thorne enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965 and completed two tours in Vietnam before serving in Lebanon and Somalia. Thorne earned numerous military honors throughout his career, including the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, among others.

“I made two decisions in my life that I am proud I did,” Thorne said. “One, enlisting in the Marine Corps. Two: moving to the state of Kentucky.”

Maddox reflected on Thorne’s long-standing role in the community and her personal memory of his kindness.



Sen. Matt Nunn (left) and Rep. Savannah Maddox (right) present United States Marine Corps (Ret.) Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Thorne with a legislative citation recognizing his decades of decorated military service.

“I’ve known him since I was just a teenager in high school, working my very first job at a local grocery store,” Maddox recalled. “Even back then, his kindness stood out in a way you don’t forget. Jimmy Thorne is the kind of person whose goodness runs deep. He is genuine, intentional, and unwavering in his dedication to both our community and our nation. That early memory has stayed with me all these years because it truly speaks to the essence of who he is. Jimmy carries a quiet humility, always choosing to lift others up rather than seek recognition for himself. His life is a reflection of service, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to putting others first. His heart for this community is, and always has been, something truly special.”

Thorne is the president of Volunteers In Com-



Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection chair Matt Deneen (left), R-Elizabethtown, greets distinguished veteran, United States Marine Corps (Ret.) Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Thorne.

munity Events (VICE) and continues to support public safety programs in Grant County.

TMMK Recycling Day returns mid-October

From Staff Reports
Georgetown News-Graphic
news@news-graphic.com

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK) Recycling Day is set for Saturday, Oct. 18, Solid Waste Management Coordinator Jared Hollon said. “The hours will be from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.,” Hollon said.

In 2024, about 120,000 lbs. of hazardous and electronic waste were collected at TMMK Recycling Day, according to scottky.gov.

“We are happy with the continued partnership with TMMK and the City of Georgetown for our annual Super Recycling Day,” Hollon stated in a 2023 annual report. “A special thank you goes to TMMK for leading this project for the community every year.”



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LOCAL POLICE ROUNDUP

Man killed in I-75 accident when car flips

By Mike Scogin
Georgetown News-Graphic
mscogin@news-graphic.com

A man was killed Sunday afternoon when his car left I-75 and flipped, according to Lt. Robert Tackett of the Scott County Sheriff’s Office.

The vehicle was northbound on the interstate at mile marker 124 when witnesses told police the car left the road, apparently struck a road, and flipped, Tackett said. The driver was pronounced at the scene.

A witness said the car was speeding when the

driver appeared to lose control and left the roadway, Tackett said.

The victim has been identified as Keith Richie, 63, of the Lexington area.

Attempted vehicle break-ins spotted

By Mike Scogin
Georgetown News-Graphic
mscogin@news-graphic.com

Video surveillance cameras captured an individual who appeared to be attempting to break into multiple vehicles on Dunn Circle, according to the Georgetown

Police Department.

The attempts were unsuccessful. Police warn to lock secure vehicles to prevent theft.

If anyone has any information about the events seen on the video surveillance, contact Officer J. Scott at 502-863-7820.

Car erupts into flames downtown

By Mike Scogin
Georgetown News-Graphic
mscogin@news-graphic.com

A car sitting outside Fava’s 1910 diner in down-

town erupted into flames Sunday afternoon, forcing the evacuation of nearby businesses.

Flames burst from through car’s the grill and around its front bumper, witnesses said.

Georgetown Fire Department responded. No one was hurt.

“I want to praise the Georgetown Fire Department and Georgetown Police Department for responding so quickly, to what could have been a catastrophic fire in downtown Georgetown,” said Fava’s owner Harold Dean Jessie.”

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137 E Main St, Georgetown, KY

502 542 7384