

Awareness

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988 allows people in crisis to call, chat or text 988 to receive support 24/7. The calls are free and confidential.

“According to SAMHSA, nearly 16.5 million people in our country have reached out to 988 for help in the last three years. And again, more than 191,000 are Kentuckians,” Hannah Brosnan, executive director of Mental Health America of Kentucky, told Kentucky Health News.

And though the Trump administration eliminated a dedicated LGBTQ+ crisis line in July, the 988 crisis line is available to everyone. In addition, the Trevor Project continues to provide free and confidential suicide crisis support to LGBTQ+ young people, via text at 678-678, phone at 1-866-488-7386 or through the chat line on its website (thetrevorproject.org/get-help/).

A 2024 Trevor Project survey found that 43% of LGBTQ+ youth in Kentucky seriously considered suicide in the past year, including 50% of transgender and nonbinary young people.

Brosnan noted that when she is talking to people about suicide prevention, she often encourages them to go ahead and put these numbers in their child’s phone. This, she said, eliminates one step when a youth is in crisis.

“It’s already in their phone. They don’t have to remember the number,” she said. “So I definitely encourage folks to include those texts and call numbers for the Trevor Project as well.”

EmPATH unit

Kentuckians also have access to immediate, emergent care for those experiencing a mental health crisis at UK HealthCare’s EmPATH unit. EmPATH stands for Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing.

EmPATH is a mental health emergency room located on the campus of Eastern State Hospital at 1354 Bull Lea Road in Lexington. EmPATH has a separate, dedicated entrance from the hospital and is open 24/7, 365 days a year. The unit is designed to provide immediate access to mental health care and resources. Referrals are not needed to come to EmPATH.

“We served about 5,000 people in our first year,” Marc Woods, chief nursing officer for Eastern State Hospital and one of the leaders of EmPATH, said in a University of Kentucky news release. “And of those 5,000, about two-thirds were suicidal or having thoughts of suicide... We have a local affirmation that this is an issue we have that is prevalent and that we need to manage.”

Lindsey Jasinski, chief administrative officer for Eastern State Hospital and co-leader of EmPATH, said it’s important to talk about suicide even though it’s a difficult topic.

“It’s hushed, and it’s tucked away,” Jasinski said in the release. “But we have to talk

about this topic. It’s a preventable cause of death if folks can get access to care and intervention with specialists. What’s important to remember, too, is that this could be any of us — it could be our family members, it could be our friends. Many times, we don’t know unless we ask those questions specifically to understand what’s going on with someone.”

Woods and Jasinski discussed suicide prevention and treatment on an episode of “Behind the Blue.” Here are some of the things they talked about.

QPR training

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2023, roughly 12.8 million Americans said they had serious thoughts about suicide, and around 1.5 million suicide attempts were reported.

It might be easy — and potentially, more comfortable — to dismiss someone who has spoken of their suicidal thoughts as a “cry for attention” and not get involved. But that’s not the right mindset to have, said Woods.

“Whether they’re truly suicidal or not shouldn’t even enter our minds,” he said. “It’s not up to us to make those decisions... and none of us would ever want to be on the wrong end of that decision, right? I think any time someone is making comments or statements like that, it’s a cry out for help in some way.”

To learn how to help someone who is having suicidal thoughts, Kentucky offers QPR training, which stands for Question, Persuade and Refer.

QPR training allows individuals to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, interrupt that crisis and direct that person to proper care, according to the release.

“It’s like CPR — we’re trained on how to respond in an emergency,” Jasinski said. “What QPR teaches is how to listen, how to validate and how to ask questions.”

She adds that the question element of QPR is important, especially because it’s a common misconception that speaking about suicide leads to suicide or “puts the idea in someone’s head.”

“It’s important to be able to ask the question, ‘Are you feeling like hurting yourself?’” Jasinski said. “Do you have thoughts of wanting to die?” Those kinds of questions, those are hard to ask someone. But it can actually be very normalizing and validating to give someone the space to say, ‘Yeah.’”

Once a conversation like this is initiated, Woods and Jasinski both emphasize that it’s not the listener’s role to provide help — but rather to persuade the person to seek help and refer them to available resources.

Another key element to QPR training is to ensure that the person’s environment is safe — and that could mean temporarily removing potentially dangerous items from their reach, in-

Green County Food Pantry donation

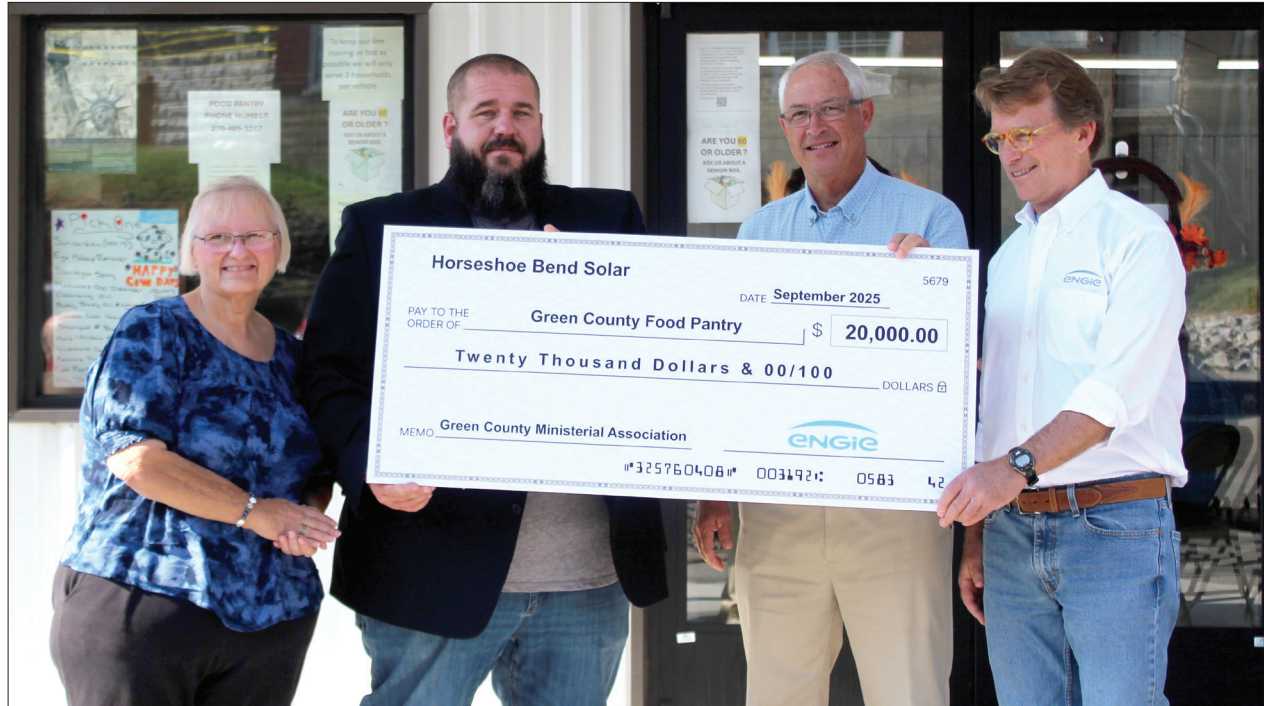


Photo by Clevis Jeffries

ENGIE North America Energy Company Director of Development Soloman “Solly” Van Meter, far right, presented a \$20,000 check to Green County Food Pantry Director Linda Judd, Green County Ministerial Association President Bro. Adam Marcum, and Green County Judge-Executive John Frank during a ceremony held Wednesday, September 17, at the local food pantry. The donation will be used to provide food items and much needed necessities to food pantry clients.

Safe Haven Baby Box Project donation



Photo submitted

Green County Homemakers’ Treasurer, Birgit Weeks, left, and Brenda Cook, President, present Maggie Lockard, Victims Assistance program a check for \$500 toward the Safe Haven Baby Box project. The Homemakers challenge other organizations and groups to support this project. Statistics show that as many as 6 babies have been abandoned in a year in Green County.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance amending the Green County budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, to include unanticipated receipts from Road and HB1 Various Projects in the amount of \$2,037,900 and increasing expenditures in the area of Reserve for Transfer, was adopted by the Green County Fiscal Court on September 18 at 5:00 P.M. A copy of the adopted ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

LEGAL NOTICE REGARDING THE GREEN-TAYLOR WATER DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that because of an increase in the cost of water purchased from Campbellsville Municipal Water, the Green-Taylor Water District will increase its rates for services effective October 1, 2025. An application requesting the proposed rates was filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on July 2, 2025 to increase rates as follows:

	Existing Rates	Proposed Rates	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
5/8-Inch x 3/4-Inch Meter:				
First 2,000 gallons	\$23.91 Minimum Bill	\$24.05 Minimum Bill	\$0.14	0.59%
Next 3,000 gallons	\$0.01011 per gallon	\$0.01018 per gallon	\$0.00007	0.69%
Next 5,000 gallons	\$0.00825 per gallon	\$0.00832 per gallon	\$0.00007	0.85%
Over 10,000 gallons	\$0.00556 per gallon	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00007	1.25%
3/4-Inch Meter:				
First 3,000 gallons	\$34.02 Minimum Bill	\$34.23 Minimum Bill	\$0.21	0.62%
Next 2,000 gallons	\$0.01011 per gallon	\$0.01018 per gallon	\$0.00007	0.69%
Next 5,000 gallons	\$0.00825 per gallon	\$0.00832 per gallon	\$0.00007	0.85%
Over 10,000 gallons	\$0.00556 per gallon	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00007	1.25%
1-Inch Meter:				
First 5,000 gallons	\$54.24 Minimum Bill	\$54.59 Minimum Bill	\$0.35	0.65%
Next 5,000 gallons	\$0.00825 per gallon	\$0.00832 per gallon	\$0.00007	0.85%
Over 10,000 gallons	\$0.00556 per gallon	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00007	1.25%
1 1/2-Inch Meter:				
First 10,000 gallons	\$95.49 Minimum Bill	\$96.19 Minimum Bill	\$0.70	0.73%
Over 10,000 gallons	\$0.00556 per gallon	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00007	1.25%
2-Inch Meter:				
First 20,000 gallons	\$151.09 Minimum Bill	\$152.49 Minimum Bill	\$1.40	0.93%
Over 20,000 gallons	\$0.00556 per gallon	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00007	1.25%
Leak Adjustment Rate:	\$0.00265 per gallon	\$0.00272 per gallon	\$0.00007	2.64%
Wholesale Water Rates:				
Larue Co. Water Dist. #1	\$0.00354 per gallon	\$0.00361 per gallon	\$0.00007	1.98%
City of Greensburg	\$0.00315 per gallon	\$0.00322 per gallon	\$0.00007	2.22%

As noted above, based on the increased cost of water from the Campbellsville Municipal Water, all rates will increase \$0.07 per 1,000 gallons. The monthly bill for a customer using an average of 4,340 gallons of water each month will increase from \$47.57 to \$47.87. This is an increase of \$0.30 or 0.63%.

The charges/rates contained in this notice are the charges/rates proposed by the Green-Taylor Water District. However, the Public Service Commission may order charges/rates to be charged that differ from these proposed charges/rates. Such action may result in charges/rates for consumers other than the charges/rates detailed in this notice.

Any person may examine this application at the offices of the Green-Taylor Water District office located at 250 Industrial Park Road in Greensburg, Kentucky. In addition, any person may also examine the application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Public Service Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Any comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website or by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602. The Public Service Commission can also be contacted at 502-564-3940.

This notice is published pursuant to 807 KAR 5:068 - Purchased Water Adjustment for Water Districts and Water Associations.

GREEN-TAYLOR WATER DISTRICT
s/sTerry Mardis, Chairman