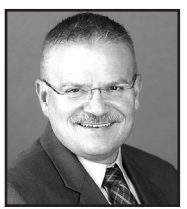


You can put more into your 401(k) this year



Financial Focus

Perry Dressler
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

Once you retire, you'll likely need to draw on a variety of financial sources — and one of the most important ones may be your 401(k). And for 2025, you can put even more money into your plan than ever.

You can invest in your 401(k) in one of two ways, depending on your employer's plan. With a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, which can lower your taxable income, and your money can grow tax deferred. If you have a Roth 401(k) option, you can contribute after-tax dollars, which aren't deductible, but

your eventual withdrawals will be tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you're at least 59½.

For either a traditional or Roth 401(k), as well as similar plans such as a 457(b) (for government employees) or a 403(b) (for educators and employees of some nonprofit groups), the contribution limit has increased by \$500 for 2025, to \$23,500. If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$7,500, for a total of \$31,000. And under the SECURE 2.0 legislation, if you are between 60 and 63, you have a higher catch-up contribution — \$11,250, instead of \$7,500, for a total of \$34,750.

If you can afford to contribute the full amount to your 401(k) or similar plan, consider doing so. Of course, not everyone is in that position. If you're a younger worker, you may well have other financial obligations, such as paying off student loans. And even if you've been in the workforce for a while, you may be putting away money for other things — such as your children's

education — as well as your own retirement. But even if you can't "max out" on your 401(k), try to contribute at least enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.

Regardless of how much you contribute to your 401(k), consider these suggestions on managing the money within your plan:

- Create a portfolio that fits your risk tolerance. Most 401(k) plans offer up to a dozen investment options, while some plans offer many more. You obviously want to increase your 401(k) balance as much as possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean putting all your 401(k) dollars into the most aggressive funds available. Instead, consider spreading your 401(k) contributions among a range of investments, which can help you lower your risk level while still giving you opportunities for long-term growth. Everyone's risk tolerance is different, though, so you'll want to evaluate yours when constructing your 401(k) portfolio.
- Adjust your portfolio as

needed. It's a good idea to review your 401(k)'s investment mix at least once a year to see if it's performing as you'd hoped. But be patient — one "down" year doesn't necessarily mean you must make changes. However, as you approach retirement, you may want to lower the risk level of your 401(k) by moving some of your dollars into more conservative vehicles. Still, even when you're retired and have started drawing money from your 401(k), you might want to keep some growth potential in it to help you stay ahead of inflation.

By contributing what you can afford to your 401(k), and by carefully managing the investments within your plan, you can help maximize the value of this powerful retirement savings vehicle — and give yourself a key asset to help you enjoy your retirement years.

(Editors Note: This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.)



Photo Submitted

Bryant speaks to Rotary Club

The speaker at the Rotary Club of Harrodsburg on Wednesday, January 22nd, was Jason Bryant, Principal of King Middle School. Bryant was introduced by Rotarian Trevor Short.

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

LAKE VILLAGE WATER ASSOCIATION MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY ISON LANE STANDPIPE REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Lake Village Water Association (OWNER) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
Ison Lane Standpipe Rehabilitation Project

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by OWNER at 801 Pleasant Hill Drive, Burgin, Kentucky 40310, until Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 3:00 pm, local time.

The Project includes the following work: Replacement of the bolts along the seams of the 250,000 gallon glass lined standpipe and replacement of the mastic covering.

The Bid must be accompanied by Bid security made payable to OWNER in an amount of 5% of the Bidder's maximum Bid price.

A wage rate determination is not a requirement of this project.

OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any Bid which it deems advantageous. All Bids shall remain subject to acceptance for 85 days after the time set for receiving bids. The contract award shall be made based on the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

The Bid is subject to Kentucky Revised Statutes Section 45A.490 through 45A.494, which in general provides that a "resident bidder" of Kentucky is to be given a bidding preference over a "non-resident bidder" who is registered in a state that gives preference to its in-state resident bidders over a Kentucky resident bidder. The bidding preference is to be the same as that stipulated for the state of the "nonresident bidder". If the state of a "nonresident bidder" provides no specific preference, then the "resident" and "nonresident bidders" are to be treated the same with evaluating Bids.

All Bidders must comply with all Federal, State and Local Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

All taxes are the responsibility of the successful Bidder.

For further information regarding Bid submittal or questions concerning the Project scope please contact Mr. Mike D. Sanford, Executive Director, Lake Village Water Association, 801 Pleasant Hill Drive, Burgin, Kentucky 40310 or (859) 748-5642.

Published by the authority of the Lake Village Water Association
Mike D. Sanford, Executive Director
Date: February 6, 2025

Black History month display returns



Gretchen Hines-Ward Mercer County Library

Our annual Black History Month display of local African American families, curated by our intrepid Carolyn Sue Patterson, is back on display. Every year more pictures get added, so we have some new ones to see.

Our new director, Jenni, was able to put dibs on a great new table for our teen section. It was being given away by Marion County Public Library. It's a high table with a great work surface and some plugs and USB outlets. Unfortunately we didn't realize it weighed about 400 pounds until we went to pick it up, so David

and Drew ended up taking it apart to get it back here. It is now back in the old Kentucky section, re-assembled, and our Teen Section is really taking shape. Be sure to wander back and take a look!

Our calendar is really getting full. Yoga with Sherman Fracher has returned to Tuesday nights, and teens also have a weekly craft event on Tuesday afternoons. Teens also have monthly Trivia (for adults) is back — next one is Thursday, Feb. 6, at 5:30 p.m., and will return monthly after that.

Friday Family Flicks is moving to 6 p.m. for February. We want to see if people prefer to come out a little earlier in the winter months. It will probably return to 7 p.m. in the summer, so just check our website or Facebook events.

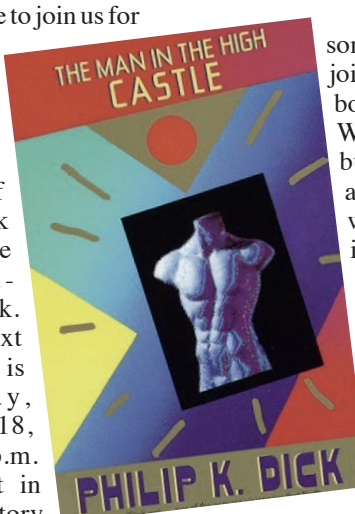
Evening Book Club this month is reading "The Man in the High Castle," by Philip K. Dick. (He also wrote "Bladerunner"). It is an alternative history novel which

centers around the idea that the Allies lost World War II. I have just started it, and it's an interesting read. It was published in 1962 and won the Hugo Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy (but I wouldn't call it science fiction or fantasy, exactly) and was recently made into a series by Amazon Prime. If you'd like to join us for Evening Book Club, you can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. We meet in the History Research Center, which has been a nice change of venue.

Lunch Bunch Book Club is reading "Absolution by Murder" by Peter Tremayne.

The Lunch Bunch is no longer being led by yours truly, but is now being led by Kelsey. I suspect Kelsey will provide better snacks. They will be meeting in the regular meeting room on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 12 noon. Again, the book is available to check out, free of charge.

We'd love for some new people to join us for either or both book clubs!. We're a lively bunch and have a lot of fun. We won't judge you if you don't finish the book. Turns out we always have mixed opinions on the books we read, and it's fun to hear different points of view. Both books are reasonably short, so you still have time to read — or at least start them!



Rep. King appointed to ag and rural development committee

State Rep. Kim King of Harrodsburg has been appointed to serve on the Council of State Governments South (CSG) Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, according to an announcement from the Kentucky House Majority Caucus.

"It is an honor to be appointed to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee for CSG South," King said in a press release. "Agricultural and rural issues are important to my district and have been two of my top priorities in my time in the General Assembly. I look forward to working alongside my colleagues across the south to create responsible policies to encourage rural development and sup-

port our agriculture sector."

Founded in 1947, the CSG South office is member-driven and the largest of the four regions operating under The Council of State Governments. The mission of CSG South is to promote and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation among their 15 member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Predominately, this is achieved through the ongoing work of committees, the Executive Committee, and five additional standing committees, including the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

"Kentucky's participa-

tion in the Council of State Governments provides both resources and an opportunity to collaborate with our legislative colleagues throughout the region," Speaker Osborne added. "We learn a great deal about what worked and what failed in other states, and it is more important than ever that we work together. The issues we face in areas like education, health care, energy resilience, and economic development don't recognize state boundaries."

King has served in the General Assembly since 2011 and represents the state's 55th House District which includes Mercer, Jessamine (part) and Washington counties. For more information on the General Assembly, visit legislature.ky.gov.

Hire a professional



Chamber Chat

Jill Cutler
Executive Director
Mercer Chamber of
Commerce

Businesses large and small depend on profes-

sionals to assist them in things like accounting, tax preparation, marketing and so on. Very small businesses have to be their own "chief cook and bottle washer" as they say. They are the janitors too. Very large corporations have literally staff teams of such in departments. Either size of business needs a good administrator.

This point person must see the bigger picture as well as the detail that will be needed. That individual very well may be the one to execute both, but that is

extremely challenging. The Chamber can assist in some of this by request. That may mean a referral to professionals we know or it could mean direct assistance. It could mean a connection with governmental contacts or support in the area. We often have surveys, formal and informal. We have set private meetings with key participants to make a collaboration.

Whatever the need, contact your chamber. Our Board Directors and our network may just be a fit for you.

ABSOLUTE ESTATE FARM AUCTION

128 +/- ACRES – BRICK HOME – BARNS – LAKE FRONTAGE
268 DOSSETT LANE, HARRODSBURG, KY
ESTATE OF DARLENE BOWLES, SELLER

ON-LINE BIDDING ONLY – AUCTION CLOSSES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Online Absolute Estate Auction - Prime Mercer County Farm!
Bid Now on a Rare Opportunity!

RM McGINNIS LLC Real Estate & Auction Professionals is excited to announce the ON-LINE ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION of a stunning 128 +/- acre farm in the heart of Mercer County. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a piece of picturesque farmland with rich history and incredible potential!

The property includes a charming 3-bedroom, 2 bath brick residence. The home has an eat-in kitchen, den with wood burning fireplace, living room, dining room, sun room and garage. Other improvements include a 70' x 48' hay barn, 64' x 52' machinery shed, 119' x 40' tobacco barn with an attached 25' shed, a large dairy barn and several more outbuildings. The mobile home on the property will also remain with the farm.

There is well water servicing the home and barns. Lake Village treated water is available for hook-up.

This wonderful farm has great potential as a working farm operation. It also offers nearly 1 mile of scenic frontage along the Cane Run section of Herrington Lake, providing a rare opportunity for potential development. A small portion of the lake frontage is zoned R3 (minimum 1 acre tracts) while the majority remains A-2 agricultural.

This farm has been in the Bowles family for over 50 years, historically operating a successful dairy and crop farm, with recent use for hay production. Featuring gently rolling terrain, beautiful landscapes, red-painted buildings, and stunning views of Herrington Lake. This is rare chance to own unspoiled farmland in a coveted area, with options for agricultural use or future development. Don't miss your chance to own this unique property!

PUBLIC PREVIEW – SATURDAY, FEB. 1 FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM
Register and place your bids at rmmcginnis.hibid.com

RM McGINNIS, LLC

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Ritchie McGinnis - Principal Auctioneer

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