

ATOM Fest 2025



Photos: Wesley Bird Photography

Harrodsburg Enjoys A Thing On Main
A crowd of over 1,000 attended the fifth annual ATOM (A Thing On Main) Fest on Saturday, May 17. The event featured three live music performances, food trucks, drinks and more. Event proceeds benefited Honor Flight Kentucky. Above left: Tracee Humble enjoyed a “girls day out” with her three daughters. Above right: LeMayne Ellis, one of the organizers of ATOM Fest, introduced representatives from Honor Flight Kentucky, an organization that flies World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans to Washington D.C. for a one-day, all-expenses-paid visits to national memorials.



Commission

from 1A

sales had been at the previous Oktoberfest events, but he said he was unable to get those numbers as he hasn’t been given access to the files/financials from the previous Oktoberfest organization. Judge Executive Sarah Steele who was at the tourist commission meeting said she had been provided with some financials from previous events, which showed the profits from alcohol sales ranging anywhere from \$35,000 to \$58,000 between 2019 to 2023. Financials for the 2024 event were not available.

Kaitlyn Harder, who formerly served as executive director of Harrodsburg First before being hired as community development and events coordinator for the tourist commission, said they had paid Kentucky Eagle \$20,000 and got \$8,500 back during last year’s Oktoberfest.

“If they provided the information we asked for, we wouldn’t be in this situation now,” said board member John Holiday, who attended the meeting remotely.

“We’re taking a shot in the dark,” Holiday said.

Gray said time is of the essence for the tourist commission, which has taken over all of the events that Harrodsburg First used to organize, including Friday Nights On Main as well as the Halloween on Main in October and Christmas On Main event in December. The tourist commission has also taken over paying for and arranging the downtown flowers.

“We are swamped,” Gray said.

“We either have to find an organization to help us, or we have to do it,” Gray said. The

Rotary Club has been handling beer pouring at Oktoberfest since the beginning. Gray said the board members would have to assist if they didn’t approve the contract.

“We can’t wait until the middle of June,” Gray said.

Harrodsburg First/Downtown Harrodsburg dissolved at the end of last year.

During a series of meetings, Gray said the tourist commission didn’t feel the financial information presented was adequate.

It was also noted that while there was overlap in the memberships of both Harrodsburg First/Downtown Harrodsburg and the Harrodsburg Rotary Club, there were also membership overlaps with many other organizations.

Harder suggested the tourist commission get access to Square readers used by the Rotary Club, which would provide some information.

“It’s a one-year contract,” said tourist commission board member Leigh Lopez, who also serves as the secretary. If the tourist commission was not satisfied with the Rotary Club after this year’s Oktoberfest, Lopez said, “They don’t get to do it again.”

“We have to trust people at some point to get things done in this community,” said Gray. He said he had met with Mike Harden and Will Begley of the Rotary Club. It was also noted that 100 percent of the profits made by the Rotary Club go directly back into the community.

“They’ve done it. They’ve already got a lot of them that have had their STARS training,” Gray said. “This is not a little task.”

The tourist commission is

asking the Rotary Club for all purchase receipts as well as access to the Square Reader information. The two organizations are meeting to discuss if other alcohol vendors will be allowed at Oktoberfest, however, a decision has not been made yet.

The tourist commission will purchase wristbands and cups, which allows them to sell sponsorships. The Rotary Club will purchase alcohol, tickets, and STARS training.

Gray said he would make the suggested changes and have them reviewed by the tourist commission’s attorney.

On Tuesday, the board also approved revisions to the tourist commission’s 2025-2026 budget to account for the Rotary agreement. They gave second reading to the \$1.2 million budget, which includes total marketing expenses of \$973,800, including \$400,000 for sponsorships and \$130,000 for phase I of a proposed infrastructure project.

Gray said the commission will start sending out letters to event organizers to let them know if they received funding and how much they received.

In other business, Wednesday was the last meeting for Chairwoman Joan Huffman, who is cycling off the board. Huffman has served five years on the board and has also been involved with tourism as manager at Old Fort Harrod State Park and served on the board for Harrodsburg First. Huffman also has a reputation for cooking delicious treats, which are served after board meetings are over.

“This has been an honor,” Huffman said, whose term officially ends on June 30, 2025.

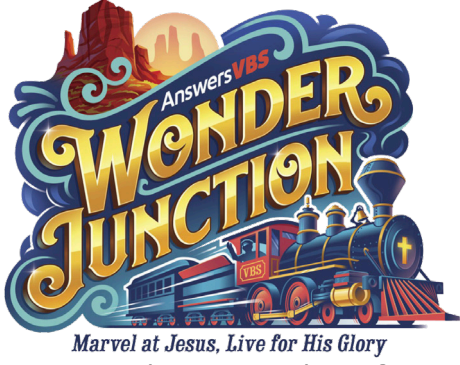
Nikki Elliott, who has served as the vice-chair for the current fiscal year, will serve as chair starting at the next regular meeting of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission, which will be held on Wednesday, June 11, at 9 a.m. at Diamond Point Welcome Center (488 Price Avenue).



Photo Submitted

Murray Graduates with Nursing Degree

Karmen Alexis Murray graduated from Campbellsville University Harrodsburg Campus with a Bachelors of Science degree in nursing on Saturday May 10, 2025. She is a 2021 graduate of Mercer County Senior High school and the daughter of Shannon P. and Shannon F. Murray of Harrodsburg.



Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory

Fellowship Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School

June 2-6 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ages 4-12

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SUMMER 20
READING 25
COLOR



WORLD™
@Mercer County
Public Library

Summer fun for all ages at MCPL!

Check out our events calendar
and complete reading challenges
to win awesome prizes!

KICKOFF EVENT May 31
10 am - 12 pm

Face Painting Prizes Treats
Inflatables Registration Crafts

ORDINANCE 2025-03

An Ordinance amending provisions of the City of Harrodsburg Ordinance # 2024-26

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the City of Harrodsburg desires to amend a portion of the Budget of Ordinance 2024-26.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, that a portion of the Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF HARRODSBURG FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, The City Commission has reviewed such budget and made necessary modifications; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF HARRODSBURG:

Section 1. The annual budget for the City of Harrodsburg for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is hereby amended as follow:

APPROPRIATIONS:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| General Fund:..... | [\$ 10,772,158.84] | \$ 9,922,158.84 |
| Water and Sewer Operating Fund: | [\$ 10,260,275.15] | \$ 12,189,504.15 |
| Cemetery Fund (Perpetual Care): | \$ 150,200.00 | |
| Tourism Development Fund (Restaurant Tax): ... | \$ 33,000.00 | |
| Municipal Aid Fund: | \$ 197,893.55 | |
| ABC Fund: | \$ 236,800.00 | |

Total[\$ 21,650,327.54] \$ 22,729,556.54

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

Passed 1st Reading: April 28, 2025
Passed 2nd Reading: May 12, 2025

Published On:
May 22, 2025

Robert O. Williams, Mayor
City of Harrodsburg

ATTEST: Shavonna Huffman
City Clerk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honoring veterans with flags and poppies

Dear Editor:

This week those of us who are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Bataan Post 6935 in Harrodsburg will be at all cemeteries in Mercer County placing flags on over 1600 veteran’s graves. Flag placement will begin on Thursday, May 22.

We try not to miss any, but occasionally we do. So, let me apologize in advance if that happens.

Then on Saturday, May 24, several of us will be at various locations distributing buddy poppies. We will not come right out and ask for any donations while distributing them, but if donations are offered we will be happy (and grateful) to accept them.

The year the buddy poppy distribution began in 1922 and it continues to this day.

In 1924 the buddy poppy was patented and the VFW was given trademark rights and became the official memorial flower of the VFW.

The VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by veterans in VA Hospitals and the proceeds benefit needy veterans and helps to support the VFW

National Home for Children.

So, if you see veterans at locations such as Kroger, Dairy Queen, Ace Hardware, Apple Market, and the four-way intersection in Burgin - this is why.

Thank you again to *The Harrodsburg Herald* for providing this great service - it allows us an opportunity to get the word out about important things that might otherwise be overlooked.

Sincerely,
Jo Lynn Pike

Complaints about new trash service

Dear Editor:

We recently had a cleanup week where we could place items at the curb for Republic Services to pick up. I place a pile of brush out Sunday evening before the pickup started. Following Monday it was still here so I called the water department to see if Republic was just running behind. They gave me a phone number for Republic’s customer service center. 13 minutes into the first call, a lady decided she needed to transfer me. Maybe she cut me off, but I ended up in their customer satisfaction

survey. Could not get out, so I decided to fill out the survey hoping it would send me to the next place. No matter what I typed, it said “invalid entry” and started over. I hung up and called back. This time the call center background noise was much worse. Gave up after 25 minutes of no help and dragged the brush back up my driveway to my back yard. If these two ladies are typical, we are in big trouble. Starting July 1, 2025, if you have a question regarding your trash service, instead of calling the water department and reaching someone helpful that you can understand, you will have the fun of calling Republic! And, this will only cost you \$48.84 more per year; what a deal! The Harrodsburg Herald said we only received two bids for the service and that “In April, city officials said there wasn’t enough difference between the two bids to switch over.” Note that no apparently said what the difference was.

Let’s just hope the customer service people at Republic are not involved in billing us each quarter.

Sincerely,
Tom Hardy