

# Mercer Chamber Foundation starts Friends of Anderson Dean

April Ellis  
 Herald Staff

In 2021, the Mercer Chamber of Commerce saw the need to set up a non-profit foundation to support their events like Pioneer Days and the Kentucky Ft. Harrod Jazz Festival. Under the direction of then president Sam Carr and Executive Director Jill Cutler, the group quickly recognized that the fundraising potential of a non-profit could not only help their events but the needs of the community.

From there, additional Chamber programs were moved to the umbrella of the foundation and new programs were started. One of those programs is the Friends of Anderson Dean Park

which has already received grant funds to improve the park. "Jill and I had started discussion about the benefits of creating a 501c3 Foundation," said former Chamber President Sam Carr. "This was to expand fundraising opportunities for the events and programs that the Chamber was organizing at that time—Pioneer Days, Jazz Festival, Adult Leadership, Youth Leadership and Lean To Green."

Each festival and program maintained separate budgets outside of the main chamber budget, but relied solely on their own fundraising efforts to support their individual budget needs. Creating a foundation opened up avenues to raise

funds through a 501c3 not otherwise available. It also allowed the Chamber to expand to other new programs to meet their mission of promoting the enhanced quality of life in Mercer County focusing on education, leadership, cultural, artistic, environmental, and historical programs and events.

"The Friends of Anderson Dean Community Park Board

are deeply proud of the progress we've made in improving our cherished park for our community," said Joanna Ashord, with the Friends of ADCP. "The support from the Mercer Chamber Foundation and the incredible support from grant opportunities are instrumental in making our vision a reality.

Together, we are not only enhancing the park for today's residents but also

ensuring it remains a vibrant resource for future generations."

"Our community thrives when we come together to invest in the places that bring us all closer," she said. If there ever was a mission statement for the Chamber, look no further than here.

The Chamber also worked with the law firm Stoll Keenan Ogden who specialized in setting up non-profits and filed their articles of incorporation and bylaws to start the Chamber Foundation.

Additional programs have been incorporated into the foundation including the Gail Chambers Brown Scholarship in April 2024, the Mercer County

African American Historical Society in May 2024, the Kiwanis Back Program in January 2025 and Friends of Anderson Dean Park in March 2025. The Chamber Foundation has a separate board from the Mercer Chamber but there is some overlap on board members. The foundation works in harmony with the Chamber.

With the 501c3 status, donations to the Foundation are now tax exempt. To donate, make checks payable to Mercer Chamber Foundation, Inc. and note on memo line if donating to specific Foundation event or program. PayPal and Venmo donation links on website [www.mercerchamberfoundation.org](http://www.mercerchamberfoundation.org)

## Are you taking steps to make sure your retirement isn't at risk?



### Financial Focus

Andrew Woerner  
 Edward Jones  
 Financial Advisor

It's important to save for retirement, but only half of Americans have calculated how much money they'll need, according to the 2024 Retirement Confidence Survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Yet without knowing how much you'll need, it's hard to know if you're on track to reach your goals for retirement.

Here are a few considerations to help shape your retirement savings strategy.

Calculate how much you'll need. You may dream of retiring "comfortably," but how do you define "comfortable" in terms of actual

money? Take the time to outline how much you spend now, and how much you think you'll spend in retirement. That will help you understand how much you need to save now to afford the retirement lifestyle you want later. A financial advisor can help with resources and knowledge for building and managing your retirement strategy.

Start saving now. It's easy to procrastinate, especially if you are younger and further away from retirement. But the earlier you start, the less you may need to save from each paycheck to build your funds over time. If you're closer to retirement, you can take advantage of catch-up contributions to most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan. If you're 50 or older, you can save pretax an extra \$7,500 to your retirement account beyond the standard total limit of \$23,500 allowed in 2025. Those 60–63 years old can contribute to these plans an extra \$11,250 above the stan-

dard total limit. That's an annual total of \$31,000 for people ages 50 and older; or \$34,750 for those 60–63 years old in pretax retirement plan contributions.

Take the right amount of risk. You may think it's risky to put money away for retirement instead of keeping it handy for discretionary spending. But the biggest risk of all is not reaching your retirement goal. For example, a portfolio that's all in cash will have little increasing value over time and won't provide any growth potential even to keep up with inflation. It's as if you're losing money every year. Then again, if your investments are only keeping up with inflation, your money is not growing. Consider growth investments to help build the funds you'll need in retirement. The key is ensuring you have the appropriate amount of risk — not too much, but not too little — to achieve your growth goals.

Save separately for emergencies. To protect your hard-earned retirement savings, build an emergency fund separate from your

long-term investments. It can help ensure you have what you need to cover surprises like a large auto repair, unexpected medical bills, temporary loss of income from changing jobs or early retirement caused by health issues. For most people, three to six months' worth of total expenses is an appropriate amount for an emergency fund. And you'll want to keep it in an accessible, low-risk account that holds cash and equivalents. Above all, try to avoid taking money from your long-term retirement investments. Doing so could result in taxes, penalties and reductions to your overall principal investment, all of which could affect your retirement savings.

Retirement should be an exciting time to enjoy what you've worked so hard to earn. Planning for what you'll need and protecting those savings can help ensure a comfortable future.

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

## Rudzinski named new assistant principal at Mercer County Senior High

Mercer County Senior High School announced Lisa Rudzinski as the new assistant principal.

Rudzinski will begin her assistant principal duties starting July 1, 2025, in the place of Mike Floro, who was named the next principal at Mercer County Senior High School.

With a background that spans both public service and education, she brings a depth of leadership experience to her new role at Mercer County Senior High School. After serving over two decades in the Kentucky State Police and attaining the rank of Major, then leading the Kentucky State Parks Rangers Division, she transitioned into education by teaching career and technical education at Eastside Technical Center in Fayette County Schools. She later advanced into school administration and has served as an assistant principal for the past three and a half years.

Her background includes instructional leadership, student support systems, and professional learning. She is especially focused on helping students discover their strengths, pursue meaningful goals, and graduate prepared for whichever path they choose—college, career or service. She is passionate about building a school wide culture that supports both achievement and purpose.

She earned her bachelor's degree in Communication and Leadership Development from the University of Kentucky and completed her master's degree in Career and Technical Education at Eastern Kentucky University. She is currently pursuing her



LISA RUDZINSKI

Doctor of Education degree in K–12 Administration at Morehead State University. She also serves on the Kentucky Education and Professional Standards Board, where she helps shape statewide policy and practice for teachers and school leaders.

In her spare time, she enjoys running, reading, sporting events, traveling, and spending time with her family. She considers herself a public servant at heart and views this role as a deeply meaningful opportunity to serve the students, staff, families, and educators of the community she calls home.

Her commitment to education is rooted in service, growth, and helping others succeed. She brings these values with her to this next chapter at Mercer County Senior High School.

"I am honored to join the leadership team at Mercer County Senior High School," said Rudzinski. "I look forward to working alongside newly named principal Mike Floro to build on the school's strong tradition of achievement in academics, athletics, and the arts"

### SECTION 00 11 13

#### ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

#### MERCER COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY GWINN ISLAND ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT CONTRACT 1-2025

The Mercer County Sanitation District (OWNER) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Gwinn Island Road Sanitary Sewer Project  
 Contract 1-2025

Electronic Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by OWNER until July 17, 2025, at 10 A.M., local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly downloaded and read aloud via teleconference. The login information for the teleconference is as follows: (309) 205-3325, Conference ID 938 3973 8238.

The Project includes the following Work: Small diameter, low pressure force mains, individual grinder pump stations, and submersible pump replacement.

Complete digital Project Bidding Documents are available at [www.strand.com](http://www.strand.com) or at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com). Download the digital Bidding Documents for \$75 by inputting Quest project number 9752021 on the website's project search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233 1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance with free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital Project information.

For this Project, Bids will ONLY be received and accepted via the online electronic Bid service through QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic Bid Form, download the Project Documents and click the Online Bidding.

The Issuing Office is Strand Associates, Inc.®, 651 Perimeter Drive, Suite 220, Lexington, KY 40517.

All Bidders submitting a sealed Bid shall obtain the Bidding Documents from QuestCDN.com.

Bidders who submit a Bid must be a Plan Holder of record at the Issuing Office. Bids from Bidders who are not on the Plan Holders List may be returned as not being responsive.

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

Bidders shall comply with all provisions of Federal Davis Bacon Wage Rates.

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.

Contract award shall be made based on the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

This 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 "nonresident 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 "resident" and "nonresident bidders" are to be treated the same when evaluating Bids.

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

Bidder's attention is called to the fact that any Contract awarded under this Advertisement to Bid is expected to be funded in part by funds from the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program and the Cleaner Water Program. All iron and steel products used on the project shall be produced in the United States and comply with the American Iron and Steel requirements. All iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials shall also be produced in the United States and comply with the Build America, Buy America Act requirements. Bidders shall comply with President's Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity as amended.

Bidders shall comply with 40 CFR 31.36 which includes but is not limited to the following: (1) the President's Executive Order 11246 (Equal Employment Opportunity) as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin, (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) the Anti-Kickback Act, and (4) the Contract Work Hours Standards Act.

CONTRACTOR and its Subcontractors shall comply with 41 CFR 60-4, in regarding to affirmative action, to ensure equal opportunity to females and minorities and will apply the timetables and goals set forth in 41 CFR 60-4, if applicable to the area of the Project. Bidder shall make positive efforts to use small, minority, woman-owned, and disadvantaged businesses.

All taxes are the responsibility of the successful Bidder unless specifically exempted in the Bidding Documents.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:30 A.M., local time, on July 8, 2025, at 801 Pleasant Hill Drive, Burgin, KY 40310. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.

The Strand Associates, Inc.® project manager is Liz A. Dienst, P.E., and can be contacted at Strand Associates, Inc.®, 651 Perimeter Drive, Suite 220, Lexington, KY 40517, (859) 225 8500 regarding the Project.

For all further requirements regarding Bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and Contract Award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Published by the authority of the Mercer Co. Sanitation District Mike Sanford, Executive Director  
 Dated at Mercer County, Kentucky, June 26, 2025

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING

A Public Meeting & Public Hearing will be held Friday July 11th, 2025, at 9:00a.m. in the Harrodsburg City Commissioner's meeting room (second floor) at 208 S. Main St.

Agenda Items under consideration:

**PUBLIC HEARING** – Zone Change 25-03 – 3.4 acres from I-2 to B-2 located at 905 N. College Street in Harrodsburg, KY. Submitted by Bluegrass Industrial Warehousing, LLC & Alex Dickerson, Thompson Burton PLLC.

**SITE PLAN** – Tractor Supply Company – Submitted by Greg Glaser, P.E. – GBT Realty for the purpose of gaining approval for a commercial building with outdoor storage areas, supporting parking and utilities. The property is located at 905 N. College Street in Harrodsburg, KY and is owned by Bluegrass Industrial Warehousing, LLC. The zoning map indicates property is currently zoned I-2 (Heavy Industrial).

**PUBLIC HEARING** – Text Amendment – This hearing is being held by the Mercer County Joint Planning & Zoning Commission for the purpose of considering public comment on proposed text amendments to the City of Harrodsburg Zoning Ordinance that include proposed changes to the permitted uses in the I-2 zone.

**PRELIMINARY PLAT, IMPROVEMENT PLANS** – Unit 3 – Harrods Trace – submitted by Brian Sims for the purpose of creating 23 residential building lots as part of Unit 3 of Harrods Trace Subdivision. The property is located on Charles Carr Drive in Harrodsburg. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned R-2 (High Density Residential).

**COST ESTIMATE** – Unit 2 – Harrods Trace – Submitted by Brian Sims for the purpose of gaining approval for the construction surety amount based on the remaining construction cost.

**FINAL PLAT** – Phase 1 – Skyline Drive – Submitted by Rick Reed to gain approval of 10 residential building lots as part of Phase 1 – Skyline Drive Subdivision. The property is located in Harrodsburg and zoned R-2 (High Density Residential).

Copies of agenda item and plats will be available for review in the Planning & Zoning Office, 109 Short Street, Harrodsburg, KY or via telephone 859-734-6066 if you have any questions.