

OBITUARIES



DONALD DIVINE
Donald "Butchie" Divine, 76, husband of Carolyn Divine, died Thursday, July 10, 2025, at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington.
Born May 18, 1949, in Harrodsburg, he was the son of the late Valace "Buck" Divine and Betty Louise Coyle Divine.
He was a U.S. Army veteran of Vietnam where he earned two Purple Hearts, retired as a tool and die machinist after working at Square D, Alton Tool & Die, Ohi Automotive of America, Gcom and was a member of Boone's Creek Baptist Church.
Survivors in addition to his wife include: four daugh-

ters, DeeDee (Lee) Sanders of Mercer County, Stephanie (Johnny) Clark of Lawrenceburg, Becky (Jeff) Marstella of Lawrenceburg and Jamie (Bobby Osborne) Nantz of Lawrenceburg; two brothers, Ernie Lee (Kathy) Divine of Mercer County and Stephen (Deanna) Divine of Versailles; two sisters, Geraldine (the late Eddie) Cartwright and Ida Lou (Ben) Rankin, both of Mercer County; seven grandchildren, Ryan Sanders, Dolton Chaney, Jacob Sanders, Brianna Melton, Zachary Osborne, Sydni Marstella, and Carly Marstella; one great granddaughter, Lakelyn Chaney; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service with military honors will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at the Bluegrass Memorial Gardens with Tom Rawlins officiating. Pallbearers will be Dolton Chaney, Ryan Sanders, Bobby Osborne, Johnny Clark, Ernie Lee Divine Jr., Luke Divine, Joseph Rankin and Lee Sanders.
Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Hburg

September 30.
Residents who complained to City Hall about the bills were informed via social media that residents aged 60 and over are eligible for a senior discount through Republic to enroll. But residents who called the company were given conflicting answers.
The Harrodsburg Herald reached out to Republic more than three weeks ago for a response but had not received a response by press time.
Mercer County is served by two waste collection companies: Republic, the second largest waste management

company in the United States and is headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, and Rumpke Waste and Recycling, which is a family-owned business headquartered near Cincinnati, Ohio. Republic has the franchise for waste disposal and recycling in Harrodsburg, while Rumpke has the franchise for Burgin and Mercer County. The franchise agreements preclude other waste disposal companies from operating in the defined locations.
Earlier this year, Harrodsburg advertised for bidders for garbage collection and recycling services after receiving complaints about trash not being picked up in several areas around town.

Burgin

offered by Rumpke, the rate would have increased to \$23.50 a month with a senior rate of \$21 a month.
Under the new agreement, residents will be able to keep their current cans if they want. The other option presented to the council would have required residents to switch out their cans for 95-gallon ones.
People who want to keep their current cans should contact Burgin City Hall or Rumpke.
Seniors who can demonstrate a disability can pay \$19.50 and still receive carry-out service, which costs \$43 for anyone who is not disabled. Anyone who qualifies should contact City Hall.
The agreement also allows every household to dispose of one large item per week.
"We just ask the residents to give us a call and schedule it," said Frances Richie, a construction specialist at Rumpke who represented the company at the council meeting.
"We'd still like to see it cheaper," said Burgin City Councilwoman Melinda Wofford. Wofford said many seniors are on fixed incomes.
"We try to do a 20 percent discount for the seniors," Richie said. She said Rumpke factors in the cost for the whole city into their rate.
"We look at it as a whole, the number of stops, the amount of garbage and the number of employees," Richie said.
Wofford also asked about recycling.
"That is something we could do," Richie said. If the city wants to offer recycling, it would be put out to bid along with trash service.
Richie said the company could also put out a dumpster for citizens to drop off their recycling. The city council took no action on that option.
The three-year contract contains yearly escalators—incremental rate hikes. The residential rate will increase to \$23 per month effective Aug. 1, 2027, and to \$24 a month effective Aug. 1, 2028, according to the paperwork made available by the city. Richie said before the COVID pandemic, Rumpke offered

five or seven-year contracts, but when they were renewed, they often included bigger rate hikes. With shorter contracts and yearly price escalators, "It won't be such a sticker shock," Richie said.
Rumpke serves all of Mercer County except the City of Harrodsburg, which is served by Republic. The two companies are often the only bidders for trash collection. Wofford called the situation a monopoly.
"This is what they consider a franchise," said Richie, who said residents of cities that do not have a franchise often pay rates of \$30 a month.
The council voted to renew the agreement, with Wofford voting no and Councilman Sindicat "Sid" Dunn, who arrived late, abstaining.
The city council also approved raises for the city's staff, with Assistant City Clerk/Water Clerk Britney Smith getting a nine percent raise, City Clerk and Treasurer Angela Stewart getting a five percent raise and Luis Ayala, who serves as the friendly little city's public works department, getting a three percent raise.
The council voted to approve the raises, with Councilman Travis Irvin voting no because he thought Ayala should get at least five percent as well.
The raises were included in Burgin's new budget.
"We shouldn't spend that amount of the taxpayers' money on salaries," Wofford said.
"We're not going to find anyone else to do their job," said Councilwoman Moran. "I feel like they deserve it."
Moran noted the city was not paying any benefits for Smith. She said a teenager could make more stocking shelves.
"We're not going to get somebody to walk in and do that job," Moran said.
Councilman Dunn suggested performing an annual evaluation before granting raises. Mayor Jamie Keebortz said the city has no personnel policies that would allow it to start performing evaluations.
Keebortz said Smith "could potentially go to

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and Stanford.
Pending the city commission's vote on the zoning change, Glaser told the Harrodsburg Herald that construction of the 20,000 square foot store could begin in the fall, in either October or November, with the store opening in spring 2026.
The property on North College Street, which is approximately 3.4 acres, is owned by Bluegrass Industrial Warehousing LLC.
During a public hearing held to discuss the zoning change, attorney John Nefflen of the law firm Thompson Burton, who represented the applicants, stated that adjacent properties are zoned for both residential and business use. Nefflen said allowing the property to remain industrial would be inappropriate due to its location, which could negatively impact property values and potentially allow noxious industrial uses. Nefflen said the property is a corner lot with excellent visibility and access to US 127 and said rezoning would be consistent with the county's comprehensive plan. In addition, Nefflen noted the developer had submitted a site plan that includes buffers, including hedges.
No one else spoke in favor or against the zoning change. After the public hearing adjourned, Planning and Zoning Executive Director Kylie Donnally stated that she agreed the industrial zoning was inappropriate due to the neighboring properties. Donnally recommended approval.
The commissioners voted unanimously to recommend the zoning change and to approve the site plan. The site plan approval is contingent on the city approving the zoning change and on the applicants adding vegetation as well as collecting all necessary signatures within 30 days.
"If it's not within 30 days, we go through this again," Planning and Zoning Chairman Bobby Upchurch warned the applicants.
In other business, the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission:
• Approved proposed text amendments to the City of Harrodsburg Zoning Ordinance that include proposed changes to the permitted uses in the 1-2 zone.

During a public hearing to discuss the text amendment, Greyson Evans, executive director of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority, said he requested a change for I-2 zoning because of the Wilkinson Farm industrial site. In 2023, the Mercer County Fiscal Court and the Harrodsburg City Commission voted to enter into a purchase agreement with Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company to purchase the 958-acre site. The primary focus is the development of a large-scale industrial factory that officials say could employ thousands of people.
"The city, the county and the industrial authority have been planning for significant development," Evans said.
At the planning and zoning meeting, Evans said automotive assembly and metal manufacturing were areas of development under current economic conditions. He requested the removal of the existing conditional use permit requirement, which could slow down growth.
"Consultants move very, very quickly," Evans said.
He said the future tenant of the Wilkinson Farm site could do as much business as the Astemo Americas Plant in Harrodsburg. Evans said the text amendment would be in "the best interest of the community."
If the text amendment were approved, Commissioner Jerry Catlett asked if it would allow a buyer to turn the property into a junkyard.
"I would say that would

from 1A

do anybody else," Currens said.
Some online commentators have suggested not paying Republic and taking garbage to the county transfer station. But the county charges a minimum fee of \$15.
City ordinance also requires "every residence, commercial enterprise, or other waste-producing entity" to "subscribe to the waste collection services" authorized by the city.
Anyone with questions can call Republic Services at 859-
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from 1A

firmed the presence of the cave stream valley below Burgin. Keebortz noted that the UK did the majority of the work on their own dime.
Chuck Taylor, head of the Water Resources Section with the Kentucky Geological Survey, discussed the results of that research as well as the plan to drill wells at a town hall meeting hosted by the city on Monday, July 7.
"It was a very enlightening meeting to me," Mayor Keebortz said.
Councilman George Hensley said the research helps "rule stuff out."
Hensley has previously served as Burgin's mayor as well as a city councilman and director of public works.
"We're getting closer than we were before," Hensley said.
Monday night was Keebortz's first meeting as the mayor of Burgin. The council will appoint his successor to fill the councilman spot on the Burgin City Council at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Burgin City Hall (117 Maple Street, Burgin).

Opportunity for Employment

Position: Mercer County Conservation District Equipment Manager.

Qualifications and Job Description:

- Must have a valid and clean driver's license and record.
- Must have experience with transporting various equipment that is wide and/or requires slow speed to prevent damage.
- Must work in various types of weather.
- Will be working with the farming and urban community.
- Must be courteous and punctual.
- Must be responsible for getting contracts signed by customers.
- Some knowledge of grain drills, sprayers and planters required.
- Mechanical skills required for machinery repairs as needed.

Salary and Wage:

- To be discussed during the interview process.
- Position is full-time.
- Workload dictated by the seasons and weather conditions.
- Work directly with the administrative secretary and the oversight of 7- supervisors that represent the District board.

Please contact the Mercer County Conservation District Office to Apply – 859-734-4326 Ext. 3.

Deadline to apply: 8/4/2025

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LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 65A.080 (2), KRS 424.220, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the financial report and supporting data may be inspected by the public at the Mercer County Conservation District Office located at 227 Morris Drive Harrodsburg, KY 40330, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. The Mercer Conservation District holds its regularly scheduled board meetings at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the conference room at 227 Morris Drive. All meetings are open to the public. Our budget and audit reports can be accessed on the Department of Local Government website: <http://kydlgweb.ky.gov>

This advertisement was paid for by the Mercer County Conservation District using taxpayer's dollars.

CITIZENS SERVING ON THE MERCER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ARE:

Chairman: Tony Best, 2314 New Dixville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Vice-Chairman: Paul Campbell, 2250 Talmage-Mayo Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Secretary/Treasurer: Dale Heise, 1535 Perryville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Member: Stephen Bailey, 1162 Paradise Camp Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Member: Zack Ison, 1225 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Member: Ian Thomas, 630 Balden Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Member: Brooks Peavler, 921 Bellows Mill Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330