

FIVE DAY
forecast

12/18/25

THURSDAY

55/35

FRIDAY

49/41

SATURDAY

58/40

SUNDAY

47/40

MONDAY

53/47

HOPE

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▲ PHOTO | WANDA SANDIDGE
Crystal Hughes, Taylor Wilson, Cheryl McMillen, Ashley Hancock, and Tony Roberts.

clear: the county has outgrown its current facility.

A new project, Animal Haven of Hart County, aims to meet that need by laying a foundation of hope with a modernized shelter designed to better serve animals, staff, and the community.

Tony Roberts, current Director of the Hart County Animal Shelter and president of the Animal Haven of Hart County, has been involved since the project's earliest stages.

"Me and Steve Thompson are partners in this," Roberts said of the Haven. "We got this thing rolling with the judge (Hart County Judge/Executive Joe Choate) back a couple years back...We're a nonprofit, and we've just been working pretty hard trying to get this thing rolling."

The difference between the existing shelter and the upcoming Animal Haven is substantial. The current facility houses 28 kennels, whereas the Haven will be designed for 100.

"Everything will be updated," Roberts said. "...We're going to be a state-of-the-art facility. It's going to be a model in the state of Kentucky for others to look at possibly building the same type of structure."

The Haven will be built on five acres and designed with both animals and staff in mind. Plans include climate-controlled kennels, healthy ventilation systems, dedicated quarantine and medical spaces, and a layout that supports rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption under one roof. Dogs will have individual indoor and outdoor kennels, plus shared grassy areas for exercise and enrichment.

"Everything will be under one roof," Roberts said. "It'll be built in pods of five kennels in a pod. They'll have their individual kennel, and then they'll have their outside kennel, and



▲ PHOTO | WANDA SANDIDGE
The long-term success of the Animal Haven will depend heavily on donations, grants, and fundraising.



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED
Now through December 31, the Animal Haven is hosting its Season of Giving campaign, which is themed A Foundation of Hope. You can donate by using your smart phone to scan the code.

then the group of five will have an extra yard kennel outside."

For Roberts, the urgency behind the project comes from the numbers. Hart County's human population hovers around 19,000 to 20,000, yet the intake of stray dogs rivals - and sometimes exceeds - much larger counties. This includes true strays, owner surrenders, and dogs from other counties without shelters.

"I did not realize how many strays that we end up with every year in Hart County," Roberts said. "...It's incredible. It really is."

Despite limited space, the current shelter staff continues to push adoption rates through volunteer support and partnerships with other organizations.

"These girls that I've got working right now (at the animal shelter), they are just phenomenal about getting adoptions, and we're still averaging 20-plus a month," Roberts explained.

The planned Animal Haven project is a mix of public and private support. The county and cities will contribute, but

long-term success depends heavily on donations, grants, and fundraising.

"Once we're under roof, the majority of the funds will be privately funded from donations, grants, and whatever we can drum up to do fundraisers," Roberts said.

That need for support is front and center this holiday season. Now through December 31, the Animal Haven is hosting its Season of Giving campaign, which is themed A Foundation of Hope. The goal is \$146,000 - the amount needed to pour the concrete foundation and complete the exterior shell of the new shelter building. Every tax-deductible donation moves the project one step closer to becoming a reality.

Progress is already underway. The building has been ordered, groundwork is planned, and the construction company has donated its time for site preparation.

"The goal is 18 months, but we're going to try to shoot for less than 18 months," Roberts said of when the Animal Haven is expected to be completed.

Until then, Roberts said community involvement matters in every form, from volunteering time to donating supplies or making monetary donations, for both the current animal shelter and the future Haven.

Roberts hopes residents see the Animal Haven not just as a building project, but as a shared responsibility.

"I don't care if it's bringing a penny up and putting it in a can," he said. "It all adds up."

When complete, the Animal Haven of Hart County will be more than a building of concrete and steel. It will represent a community effort to create a foundation of hope and second chances for the county's most vulnerable animals.

GRANT

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room schoolhouses in the county. He asked the court to consider helping with financial assistance with the project.

All county departments gave reports, including Jailer Israel Bergerson who stated there was a total of 149 in the county jail.

Sheriff Jeff Wilson reported that 79% of the county property taxes had been collected, and the Sheriff's Department would be purchasing body cameras for the road units at a cost of \$38,000.

In other business, the court appointed Kelly Rosser, Kate Kenny, and Doug Wells as road viewers to take off 0.148 of a mile of the Robert Stinson Road.

In final business, the court approved:

- the judge to sign FEMA Public Assistance Grant;

- the judge to sign Scope of Service agreement with Branstetter and Carroll for spec building;

- the judge to sign SFY26 SAR Aid Fund for the Hart County

Rescue Squad for \$7,500;

- the judge to sign SFY26 Sar Grant for Canine Search for \$18,000;

- the judge to sign additional service IWork agreement for \$1,250 per year;

- clerk's budget and salary for 2026;

- and Christmas Eve Day will be a paid holiday for all county employees.

The courts next meeting will be Tuesday December 23 at 9 a.m. in the courtroom.

EARLY DEADLINE

Due to all offices of Jobe Publishing begin closed on Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25 for Christmas, deadlines for all advertising and articles will be by 1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 17. All offices will also be closed on Thursday, January 1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

COMBINED NOTICE

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

December 18, 2025

Hart County Fiscal Court 270-524-5219
P.O. Box 490, 200 Main St. 800-648-6056 (for hearing impaired)
Munfordville, KY 42765

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for the activities to be undertaken by the Hart County Fiscal Court.

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

On or about January 20, 2026, Hart County Fiscal Court will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Project Funding (CPF) under Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Public Law 117-328, to undertake the following project:

Hart County Fiscal Court proposes to develop a 109-acre tract into a build-ready industrial site for future companies seeking to locate in the region. The scope of work includes excavation and a sewer extension to support industrial development. The proposed project is located in Bonnieville, Hart County, KY.

The Hart County Fiscal Court has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (PL-91-190) is not required. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting the within project has been made by the Hart County Fiscal Court which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, at 200 Main Street, Munfordville, KY 42765 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday – Friday. The environmental review record is also available online at <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>. No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted.

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with the ERR decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Hart County Fiscal Court to the Judge/Executive Joe Choate. Such written comments should be received at 200 Main Street, Munfordville, KY 42765 on or before January 19, 2026. All such comments so received will be considered prior to authorizing submission of a request for a release of funds or taking any administrative action on the within project prior to the date specified on the proceeding sentence. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

The Hart County Fiscal Court will undertake the project described above with Community Project Funding (CPF) under Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Public Law 117-328. The Hart County Fiscal Court is certifying that Hart County Fiscal Court and Joe Choate in his official capacity as Judge/Executive consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval the Hart County Fiscal Court may use CPF funds and HUD will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities.

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Hart County Fiscal Court certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission dates or it's actual receipt for the request (whichever is the later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- The certification was not in fact executed by the Hart County Fiscal Court Certifying Officer.
- The Hart County Fiscal Court has failed to make one of the two findings pursuant to S58.41 or to make the written determination decision required by SS578.57, 58.53 or 58.64 for the project, as applicable.
- The Hart County Fiscal Court has omitted one or more of the steps set forth at Subparts F and G for the preparation and completion of an EA.
- No opportunity was given to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation or its Executive Director to review the effect of the project on a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places or found to be eligible for such listing by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.
- Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted via email to: CPD_COVID-190EE-KY@hud.gov

Joe Choate, Judge/Executive
Hart County Fiscal Court
200 Main Street, Munfordville, KY 42765



Where's My Buggy?

Amish Transportation Services

- Family Visits (Overnight or Out of State!)
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- Work Sites/Job Transportation

Christopher Medcalfe • (270) 473-0763 • Hart Co., KY