

Bardstown finalizes FY26 budget

Bardstown City Council briefs

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Bardstown City Council met last Tuesday, approving the second reading of its budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The fiscal year began July 1. Council also heard a presentation by Stacey Phelps, Tourism President, on its budget for this year. Phelps reported that she had been meeting just that day with several national and international magazine writers doing articles on Bardstown and its tourism offerings. She said that because of the attention the city gets from

those magazines and other tourism publications, the city gets about \$22 million in free advertising and exposure. The Tourism budget is up by about \$300,000 over last year, and Phelps said this is a conservative budget, with the anticipation that visitors from other countries may be in decline this year. “We are a little worried about international travel,” Phelps said. The Tourism Commission is also contributing about \$600,000 toward the renovations of its work space in the Old Courthouse, which is closing for about six months for repair work on both floors. The various organizations that have offices in the Old Courthouse have temporarily relocated while work is being

done. Phelps said her department is in line to receive about \$140,000 in community development fund grants, and she noted that Tourism’s sponsorship commitments have risen for this year. In other news: • Catherine Beavers with Nelson County government was on hand to put in a request for a street closure of East Flaget between 2nd and 3rd Street adjacent to the Farmers Market on Aug. 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. The county is hosting a family movie night that day and will be showing “Lilo and Stitch 2.” Beavers said the event will be family focused and feature drug-free themes. • The city approved a change order for the East

Bardstown Water Main project, which is into its final stretch, Engineer Jessica Filiatreau said. The change order does not involve the city needing to contribute any additional money, only an additional 60 days. Filiatreau said the rainy spring has slowed the project down. The city approved a second change order for repairs on the electrical substation at Barton. The change order called for an additional \$20,116 on top of the original \$135,000 bid. The change was necessary to replace a bad pole item in the field, as well as some items that were missed in the original bid, including the running of a new power line. • City Fire Chief Todd Spalding reported that his

department has performed 21 water rescues this year, many of them originating in the April flooding and other weather events. Bardstown Fire performs about three water rescues in a typical year, he said. • Police Chief Kim Kraeszig said with the temperatures and humidity on the rise, it’s important for people to check their vehicles for children and pets to avoid tragic overheating, and for them to also check on their neighbors, especially the elderly. • Councilman Franklin Hibbs IV said the state sold 1,242 of the specialized Bardstown-themed license plates in their first year of existence; Bardstown is the only city in Kentucky with its own license plate. Some

proceeds from the sales return to Bardstown and Nelson County. “Hopefully we can double that up in 2025,” Hibbs said. • The city discussed the new kickball field off Allison and Forrest avenues that went up in recent weeks. The field is adjacent to Bardstown Community Park, which hosts weekly concerts on Friday nights, and that area is also being used as overflow parking for the concerts. Council members had heard some complaints from residents in the area over concerns about parking, and drivers attempting to turn around in driveways on Allison, which is a dead-end street. The city will look into installing more signage in the neighborhood to alert drivers.

JAIL LOGS

Shannon Nicole Bourgoin, 43, no registration receipt, no registration plates, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, operating motor vehicle under the influence of substances, possession of marijuana. Karen Marie Hamilton, 53, reckless driving, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. Stephen Lee Hatton, 40, wanton endangerment, second-degree (2 counts), unlawful transaction with a minor, illegal possession of legend drug. Carl Joseph Lovett, 43, contempt of court/libel/slander resistance to order. (hold for another county) Robert Andrew Lyvers, 21, reckless driving, driving motor vehicle using hand-held mobile telephone, wanton endangerment, second-degree-police officer, possession of open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle prohibited, failure to wear seat belts, operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. Fess Lee Matthews, 36, assault fourth-degree dating violence (minor injury), alcohol intoxication in a public place,

first-degree wanton endangerment, theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others. Tristan Kiernan Oberg, 29, speeding 24 mph over limit, fleeing or evading police, first-degree (motor vehicle), wanton endangerment-second degree-police officer, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, first-degree (cocaine), possession of marijuana. Timothy David Shelburne, 47, speeding 15 mph over limit, reckless driving, improper display of registration plates, possession of open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle prohibited, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/substances, possession of a controlled substance, third-degree - drug unspecified, possession of marijuana. Johnathan Paul White, 35, contempt of court libel/slander resistance to order. Joseph Kain Yates, 21, possession of defaced firearm, serving parole violation warrant, possession of firearm by a convicted felon. Steven Thomas Brown, 34, speeding 15 mph over

limit, operating vehicle on a suspended/revoked operator's license, no registration plates, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, no motorcycle operator's license, buy/possess drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, possession of handgun by a convicted felon. Alfonso Reyes-Gonzalez, 34, no operator's-moped license, possession of open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle prohibited, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol (aggravated circumstance). Matthew Eric Rogers, 37, theft by unlawful taking or disposition shoplifting \$1,000 but less than \$10,000. **Note:** The information above is a compiled list of daily booking logs from the Nelson County Jail. These are only a record of arrests. All individuals arrested are presumed innocent unless proven otherwise in a court of law. The bookings state the persons arrested and the charges against them. This information is public record.

Fireworks and festivities set for Stephen Foster Story's July 4 celebration

The Stephen Foster Drama Association in Bardstown has announced they will host their 25th annual 4th of July celebration, which will coincide with the evening’s performance of "The Stephen Foster Story." Guests will have the best seats to the fireworks display presented by the Stephen Foster Drama Association through the generous support of FiveStar-Marathon. “For 25 years, this presentation of ‘The Stephen Foster Story’ on Stephen Foster’s birthday has captivated audiences with a night of celebration, outstanding outdoor theater, fun and games and, of course, fireworks,” said Johnny Warren, Executive Artistic Director for The Stephen Foster Story and the Stephen Foster Drama Association. “We are grateful for Fivestar-Marathon, and the 25 years of support they have provided to support

this event.” July 4 is a notable day for the Stephen Foster Drama Association, celebrating both the nation's birth and the birthday of its namesake, Stephen Foster. Born on July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence was ratified, Foster is commonly known as the “father of American music.” To honor both occasions, a variety of family-friendly festivities sponsored by FiveStar-Marathon will take place outside the J. Dan Talbott Amphitheatre at My Old Kentucky Home State Park before the 8 p.m. performance of “The Stephen Foster Story.” The celebration will include bouncy houses, temporary tattoos, hula hoop and water balloon games and a cast meet-and-greet. During intermission, the audience will be treated to cupcakes. After the performance, audience members can stay

in their seats to enjoy the closest access to the fireworks show, an audience countdown and a custom music track to each explosion. “Our 4th of July celebration is one of our keynote events of the season and is essential to the ongoing success of ‘The Stephen Foster Story,’” Warren said. “Our community and guests love this special performance and we plan to continue this celebration for years to come.” Tickets can be purchased at stephenfoster.com/tickets or by calling (502) 348-5971 or 800-626-1563. Because of the event’s popularity, attendees are encouraged to purchase their tickets early. To learn more about “The Stephen Foster Story” and other productions and events hosted by the Stephen Foster Drama Association this season, visit www.stephenfoster.com.

Musk proposes a new political party, Trump suggests DOGE 'might have to eat Elon'

BY MEG KINNARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elon Musk's feud with President Donald Trump — and seemingly any congressional Republicans who support the president's massive tax cuts and spending package — has reignited, with the tech billionaire threatening to launch a new political party, and Trump suggesting Musk could be punished for his opposition. The dispute has laid bare not only the differences between the Republican

president and one of his most vociferous one-time advocates, but also has reignited the possibility that the world's richest man will — along with his billions — reenter the political spending arena. Here's a look at the latest in the Musk-Trump dispute: **MUSK REENTERS THE POLITICAL FRAY** Musk — who spent at least \$250 million supporting Trump in the 2024 presidential campaign as the main contributor to America PAC —

said in May that he would likely spend “a lot less” on politics in the future. But his recent statements seem to indicate Musk might be rethinking that stance. On Monday, the tech billionaire and former Department Of Government Efficiency chief lashed out multiple times at Republicans for backing Trump’s tax cuts bill, calling the GOP “the PORKY PIG PARTY!!” for including a provision that would raise the nation’s debt limit by \$5 trillion and calling the bill “political suicide” for Republicans.

On Sunday, July 27th



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