



## Judge Executive's Report

By George Sparks

### July 2025 County Judge Executive Monthly Report

As expected, there were a lot of great events held during the month of July in Lewis County. Community members and visitors enjoyed events spanning from one end of the county to the other. Citizens were able to enjoy the July Jubilee, the Tollesboro Lions Club Fair and Horse Show, events at Mudlick Valley Raceway, and recreation at 1806 Adventures, just to name a few. This just goes to show that our beautiful county has so much potential for tourism and outdoor recreation.

One of my first stops this month was to visit the Mudlick Valley Raceway July 3rd race. What an awesome event right here in Lewis County! Thank you, Jamie, Judith and the Jent family.

Next up, I had the opportunity to experience some of the July Jubilee events. Thanks to Mayor Blankenship and the City of Vanceburg officials for a fun-filled weekend of events.

As a horse lover and former horse trainer, I was excited to attend Garrison Rough Riders Saddle Club Horse Show. As usual there was a great turnout, and everyone had a great time showing and watching the horses.

Back in the office, I attended a Teams meeting with Meadowview Regional Medical Center, Primary Plus, BTADD, Workforce Development, Ben Collier Local 248 Business Manager, and Lewis County Finance Officer Morgan Cooper. We discussed plans to have a Health Fair/Career Fair in Lewis County coming up in October 2025. This will be a great opportunity to have several health tests done for a small fee, and if you or someone you know is searching for a job it will be a great place to connect with employers. We are looking to share more details about the event in August, so please keep an eye out for our flyers and our Facebook posts for more information.

I presided over the July Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette. Sheriff Johnny Bivens led the court in the Pledge of Allegiance. The past regular meeting and the special meeting minutes were approved. The bids to build the Camp Dix Fire Dept./Community Center were approved and the lowest bid was accepted. The court approved moving forward with a full ARC grant application for a river port planning and design study. An animal shelter agreement with Dr. JT Williams and Colonial Heights Vet Clinic was approved. An inter-local agreement with Greenup County Tourism was tabled until the next meeting. Resolution 25-11: Recreational Park Committee Board Member Les Wilson was approved to serve on the board for four years. Nate Stone and Mary Ann Collins were both reappointed to serve four more years on the Recreational Park Committee. Resolution 25-12: County Priority Projects Funding FD-14 agreement was approved. The 2024-25 Annual Treasurer's Settlement and advertising the financial pages of the audit in lieu of the full settlement was approved. County Attorney Benjamin Harrison gave the court a financial report of his office. The court approved to advertise for bids on the 2025-2026 blacktop

projects. Gary Crawford was approved as an electrical inspector in Lewis County. The court discussed the setting up of inflatables at the recreational park. The court also went into closed session. Reports from all departments were presented and approved before the court was adjourned.

I headed to Maysville for the BTADD monthly Executive and Full Board of Directors meeting. During the executive meeting, the past meeting minutes and Director Cornette's time/travel sheets were approved. We were given an update on the personnel and workforce direct service contract. The annual meeting was discussed. The Executive Director will appoint a staff committee to put plans together for the meeting. The full board was opened with prayer by James Stephens with Senator Rand Paul's office and the Pledge of Allegiance led by DLG's Allen Ravenscraft. Minutes from the regular 6/17 meeting and executive 5/20 meeting were approved. Stephen Culp presented the financial report that was approved. Executive Director Cornette spoke about a printer contract and purchase order workforce/career readiness program. We then were given updates on Frankfort and Washington by James Stephens of Senator Rand Paul's office, Megan Bankemper of Senator Mitch McConnell's office, Allen Ravenscraft of the Department of Local Government, Craig Shockley of Congressman Andy Barr's office, and Mr. Ben Collier, Business Manager with Local 248 in Ashland. We were then given staff reports, followed by Director Cornette's reports. I want to thank Executive Director Cornette and the entire staff at BTADD for the incredible work they are doing in this region. Thank you to the board of directors for their service and dedication!

I was able to attend Governor Beshear's monthly local leaders update via Zoom. The meeting was run by DLG Commissioner Matt Sawyers who gave a Department of Local Government update. We heard an update from KTC Secretary Jim Gray, Commissioner Bobbie Jo Lewis, KY Infrastructure Authority Shirley Williams, Secretary of Economic Development Jeff Nole, and several other state leaders.

I had another Zoom meeting with the Ohio River Way. There were many different speakers who talked about recreation and tourism. We were also able to discuss the upcoming Ohio River Way Summit, set to be held in Louisville this October.

The quarterly Lewis County Salvation Army meeting was held at the Lewis County Health Department. Chairperson Anita Bertram called the meeting to order, followed by prayer. The meeting minutes from the first quarter meeting were approved. A service, welfare, and financial report was given and approved by Alex Halsey. A goal for the Red Kettle Campaign was set before the meeting was adjourned.

Next, I attended the Buffalo Trace Regional Debris Management meeting at Vanceburg City Hall. Kayleigh Zeigler met with county and city officials to discuss and build the debris management plan.

Destiny Conner, Reentry and Employment Service Navigator for the TENCO region, came to meet with me

and Finance Officer Morgan Cooper. Destiny had a wealth of information to share about the resources available to help those who have recently been incarcerated and those who are close to being released from incarceration. This program will help many of our people at a time when resources and guidance are invaluable. Destiny also visited County Attorney Ben Harrison's office to introduce herself and share information and resources.

I attended the Tollesboro Lions Club David Irely 5-K Run/Walk and participated in the opening Sunday parade. Thank you to the Tollesboro Lions Club and the Lewis County High School baseball team for providing and serving a great meal in appreciation of all first responders. The Tollesboro Lions Club never disappoints and continues to put on an incredible annual fair. Visitors come from far and wide to enjoy and participate in a wide-array of events. I have no doubt that it takes an enormous amount of effort, time, planning, and teamwork to put it all together.

The Licking Valley Community Action Program Monthly Board of Directors meeting was held. I called the meeting to order followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The past meeting minutes and a financial report were presented and approved. Executive Director Kenneth Walters presented the program reports followed by the financial manual approval. The board completed the Executive Director's Kenny Walters annual evaluation. The meeting was then adjourned.

I was able to attend a few Hospice of Hope meetings this month. First, I participated in the Hospice of Hope Audit/Finance Committee meeting by Zoom. Later, I was able to attend the Hospice of Hope Quarterly Board of Directors meeting in person. Chairperson Barb Campbell called the meeting to order followed by approval of the past meeting minutes. A presentation was given by Sarah Shepherd, Director of Clinical Services, about the new advanced lung care program that will be implemented in August. Executive Director Shawn Flaughter presented the financial report and a budget amendment. I want to express my gratitude to Shawn and the Hospice of Hope staff. They go above and beyond to provide comfort and care at a time when

our loved ones need it the most.

One of the highlights of the month was the Camp Dix Fire Department/Community Center pre-construction and groundbreaking meeting. This project is very much needed and has been a long time in the works, but we are now moving closer to it. I am ecstatic to see this dream becoming a reality for the good people of Lewis County. Thanks to BTADD's Kristie Dodge, Sierra O'Cull, and Kevin Cornette, TSHD Architect Kirk R. Donges, Governor's Department of Local Government Commissioner Matt Sawyers, Camp Dix Fire Department Board of Directors Troy Hughes, Magistrate Mark Horsley, Lewis County Fiscal Court, and Utility & Environmental Concepts LLC's Chad Clark.

I attended by Zoom a meeting with the USACE Army Corp, the Kentucky Division of Water, and Lewis County Attorney Benjamin Harrison to discuss the Garrison Boat Ramp and tourism in Lewis County.

I attended a Zoom meeting with Ben Collier, Jasper Gilardi, and Betsy Madru to share information about Collaborative-Based Siting Spent Nuclear Fuel.

I was able to spend some time at the Tollesboro Lions Club Horse Show. The weather was beautiful and there was a great turnout for this year's horse show.

To wrap up, I want to take some time to thank our county employees. I am proud of their hard work and the effort they put in each and every day. Our county employees work at their respective jobs to further our mission: "To cultivate a vibrant Lewis County by nurturing our local economy, celebrating our unique heritage, and inviting others to experience the beauty and the spirit of our community." I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with each and every one of them. Thank you all!

### 👉 MEDICAID

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something that might happen, right? This might get changed. Well, what if it doesn't? I mean, you still have to plan for what is in the law today, right? And that's great if it gets delayed, but at the end of the day, it's a bad policy."



## Clara Kamer is turning 90!



**Join us for her birthday celebration!**  
**Sunday, August 17, Noon-6:00 p.m.**  
**at Black Oak Fire Department.**  
**She would love to see her family, friends, and former students.**

### 👉 COUNCIL

**Cont. from page 1**

medical service.

"What are we going to do if you say no (to the request)," Sparks asked rhetorically. "We're going to dispatch you tomorrow just like we did today. We're going to give you 100 percent and we'll continue to work on a solution."

Walje made a motion to provide \$22,500 to the 911 facility in monthly installments over the next year with Grabill seconding.

Cantu, Walje, Grabill, and Pugh voted for the motion with McCann and Patton voting no.

Members heard the second reading of a budget amendment for fiscal 2024-25.

Grabill said he had requested information from the Kentucky League of Cities as well as the attorney general concerning amending a previous budget and suggested the matter be tabled until more information became available on the matter.

"I don't think it needs to be tabled," Walje said. "I think we need to get past last year's budget and move forward."

A motion to table the

matter failed while a motion was made by Patton to approve the amendment and seconded by McCann. Cantu and Walje also agreed to the motion to adopt with Grabill and Pugh voting no.

A copy of the amended budget may be found in this edition on Page 6.

Members approved pursuing a funding opportunity through the Kentucky Waters Program on behalf of the Electric Plant Board and heard the first reading of a proposed amendment on the Green Street Apartments management agreement and change to the budget before adjourning.

To view a video recording of the meeting, follow the QR code or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfRAUyvrn-Q> Ray Schaefer with the Ledger Independent also contributed to this article.



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## Lewis County Football/



*Lewis County Lions*

### How it Works

- We will sell each yard line on the football field (99 total yards)
- Yard lines will be designated as either East or West with one person getting the 50-yard line.
- Each yard line will cost \$25 and will be randomly assigned the week before the first home game (Aug. 22nd). Should any marker be unsold at that time, it may be purchased during the season, but will still be randomly assigned. Previous quarter placements will not apply, only quarters going forward from sell.
- At the end of the 1st and 3rd quarter at HOME GAMES, the yard line that the ball is spotted on according to the scoreboard designation will win \$100.

- 5 home games X 2 quarters = **10** opportunities to win.
- You will have the same yard line for the entire season; therefore, you could win multiple times.
- You may buy more than one yard line.
- You do not need to be present to win.
- No current Lewis County student or football coach may purchase a yard line.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LEWIS COUNTY FOOTBALL. GOOD LUCK!!!**

Yard line drawings will be posted on our Facebook page "LionBackers" and at the games.

Please fill out all the information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Yard Lines Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Lionbackers".

Please return to one of the Lionbackers or coaches with the money by August 20th. Roll Pride!!!

Contact Bill Tom Stone, Corky Prater, or Bub Lee. Thank you for supporting the team.

Mail form and check to:  
Lionbackers  
Attn: Bub Lee  
PO Box 539  
Vanceburg, KY 41179

# BINGO

## VFW Post 5438

Thursday, Aug. 14th

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m.

Clarksburg Road, Vanceburg

*Come early,  
Space is  
limited.*