

OBITUARY

Danny Donnelly, 72

CRESTWOOD — It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Danny Donnelly, 72, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, who left this world on June 2, 2025. He was born on June 1, 1953, in Louisville.

As we celebrate Danny’s life, we take comfort in knowing that he touched the hearts of so many. His legacy of kindness, humor, and love will continue to inspire us all.

A celebration of life will be held in his honor on Sunday, June 22, 2025, from 3-5 p.m. at The Coffee House & Cafe, 408 S 1st St., La Grange. Family and friends are invited to come together to share



memories and celebrate the incredible life of Danny Donnelly. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hosparus Health, in Danny’s name, to continue his legacy of helping others. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Council approves open alcohol zone

City to begin licensing process with state for open container area

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR

LA GRANGE — An ordinance establishing an “Entertainment Destination Center,” allowing certain open containers of alcohol in downtown La Grange, was approved unanimously at the June 3 La Grange City Council meeting alongside several other ordinances.

As previously reported, the “Entertainment Destination Center” (EDC) ordinance details numerous regulations, including a boundary within the corners of South Fourth Avenue and West Jefferson Street; East Jefferson Street and Cedar Avenue; Cedar Avenue and East Washington Street; and all of Springs Park.

The boundary also extends on East Main Street to include the La Grange Railroad Museum, adding an additional stretch on Eddie Mundo Way to East Walnut Alley and East Walnut Alley to Cedar Avenue.

The hours of operation will be everyday from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Consumers will be required to:

- Only use branded, non-reusable, 16-ounce clear cups provided upon purchase of an alcoholic beverage from a participating business.
- Remain inside the boundary while in possession of an open alcoholic beverage.
- Only enter businesses with entertainment center permits, as denoted by a branded storefront sticker.
- Never bring any alcoholic beverage purchased outside the boundary into the entertainment center.

Participating businesses will have to obtain a specific EDC permit from the City’s ABC Administrator in order to sell alcoholic beverages allowed freely in the boundary or to house persons in possession of the permitted alcoholic beverages. The permit is proposed to not require a fee, but businesses must pay for the required non-reusable cups.

Participating businesses also will have to:

- Post a visible, branded storefront sticker.
- Keep their city business license current.
- Adhere to the entertainment center’s operational hours for the provision of alcoholic beverages to be carried or consumed outside of their business.

- Agree to indemnify the city and hold the city harmless for any incidents, injuries or losses incurred as a result of the holder operating within the entertainment center.
- Provide supplemental training to all servers and bartenders, which will include specific rules for the entertainment center.
- Terminate their permit upon transfer of ownership.
- Agree to fines or punishment up to or possibly including the forfeiture of their EDC license for any violation of the regulations of the ordinance.

OTHER STIPULATIONS INCLUDE

- Businesses or entities are permitted to sell alcohol from one or more non-permanent locations within the boundary as long as they hold the required license for each location and each location is “properly set up.”
- If permission is denied, suspended or revoked, the permit holder may file an appeal to the La Grange Board of Adjustments and Appeals within seven days of the notice.

IN OTHER NEWS, THE COUNCIL APPROVED

- Amendments to two ordinances exempting temporary entertainment providers, such as bands or DJs, from the business license tax and temporary vendor fees — Councilor Lucy Ricketts opposed and Councilor Jason Kinser abstaining.
 - An ordinance amending the zoning map for 700 W Jefferson St., changing the zoning of the .75-acre lot from R-2A to R-4 for Bishop Place Apartments LLC.
 - An ordinance adopting the city’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 — councilors Latosha Booker-Bishop, Laura Taylor and Kinser opposed.
 - An ordinance adopting the city’s upcoming alcohol regulatory fees budget, Kinser opposed.
 - Ordinances for the upcoming Oldham’s Public Bus, stormwater and municipal road aid budgets.
 - A resolution to authorize the filing of an application with the US Department of Transportation for grants for Oldham’s Public Bus.
- The next La Grange City Council meeting is scheduled for July 7, at 6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE A1

Though Grant County Schools has less than one third the amount of students, Herald said that the difference in population will not be a challenge for her.

“The issues are the issues across the state ... no matter the size of the district ... [Having] more students just gives me the capability to get out and be visible in more schools.”

Herald said that she, alongside the board, will continue to focus on issues like teacher retention, as well as putting students first.

“From day one I’ve been about kids and celebrating student success. I think it’s important to know every student’s story and their background and challenges, and to be able to make a difference in their lives.

“I think if you ask various people from Grant County, they would say that I’ve never lost a focus about being about students.”

In doing so, Herald said she wants to make herself visible inside every school in the district, and envisions going to schools on a weekly rotation by zones.

“One of the things that I think everybody will see is that I’m very transparent. I have an open door policy. If there are questions or issues, the board and I want to be aware of those, be able to talk through those and find solutions to make everybody feel better about the situation.”

With one of her two sons still a sophomore in high school, Herald said she feels a connection to par-



Photo by Grant Gerstner

“I’m very excited about the district office personnel and getting to know them in the transition period, but also getting into the schools and meeting with building-level leadership ... to see what they’re doing that is great and how we can capitalize on that and just continue the movement forward,” said new Oldham County Schools Superintendent Claudette Herald.

ents and their concerns: “I understand and I can relate and we can get in there and solve [issues] together.”

When asked about the concern around cellphones in schools, Herald said she had first-hand experience with the issue when she was a principal, and that “the key piece, no matter if it’s a district policy or a school policy, is about monitoring and everybody ensuring that with fidelity.”

Board Chair Carly Clem said that Herald “impressed our superintendent selection committee at the beginning, and then the board as well ...

“She really aligns with our strategic plan and our goals. We had similar things that we wanted to do moving forward, and I think

she is going to work really well with our staff and continue our positive culture here ...

“The last three to four years have been challenging. We have worked on staff raises ... and we’re really hoping that Mrs. Herald can continue the track forward. We’re not looking to make a bunch of huge changes ...

“She is a decision maker. She is confident in her decisions and we were looking for someone to jump in and help us lead that way.”

According to a release issued after the announcement, Herald’s four-year contract includes a base salary of \$205,000. Her first day will be July 1.

This story may be updated with further information.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

The only approved exemptions were for jurisdictions outside of city limits and for applications filed prior to the effective date of the moratorium — both of which are true for the recently proposed site of the Sauerbeck Family Drive In.

During public comment, Planning and Development Director Ryan Fischer was asked to speak in regard to the new application for the Saurebeck property, and he said that any moratorium will not affect it because it was filed before the moratorium was passed.

Fischer added that the approval process for the project will depend on how the Board of Adjustments votes on multiple appeals scheduled to be heard at 9 a.m. on June 19, which are against the classification of data centers as a “Private Utility.”

After the appeals are heard, the next steps are the Technical Review Committee, which could be held July 16 at the earliest, and then the Board of Adjustments for final approval, no sooner than August.

OLDHAM COUNTY FISCAL COURT

After conducting the first reading of the moratorium, discussion arose concerning an exemption of “broadband and telecommunications” providers and if votes can be held at first readings.

Concerns about the exemption were first mentioned by attendees during public comment, who said that the usage of the word “telecommunications” could provide a loophole for data center developers to still apply by claiming their data centers are for telecommunications purposes.

One attendee, Rob Houchens, said that regulations in Jefferson County use the word “telecommunications” in their definition of data centers, which worsens the risk of a loophole.

During the April 24 Study Review Committee Meeting, Planning and Development Director Ryan Fischer also mentioned the Jefferson County definition, as a large data center was recently approved on Camp Ground Road, he said.

Fischer also said that “telecommunications hotel” is one of the near-

est definitions of data centers in the American Planning Association Dictionary — a resource Planning and Development refers to as part of the American Planning Association.

Magistrate Woosley shared the concern of a possible loophole and asked to remove “telecommunications” exemption. He also asked where it came from, as it was not included on the moratorium when the court first approved it to be sent to the Planning Commission.

Judge Executive David Voegele replied that the exemption “was added simply because AT&T requested it. They felt like it had the potential to interfere with their delivery of services to existing [customers] within Oldham County. As you know, we entered into an agreement with AT&T to provide broadband service to all homes in Oldham County.”

Voegele agreed that the exemption is needed: “Now, if any of your homes happen to have your broadband go out, you can forget your service for 150 days because we’re not going to have any broadband for you or anybody else in this county. I don’t think this is unreasonable ... There is no loophole here.”

Later in the meeting when one attendee called out that they were concerned about a loophole, Voegele replied “Well, you shouldn’t. How about trusting us a little bit?”

Voegele also said that he is “trying to be open-minded and fair to everybody” and “trying to think of the county as a whole,” but that he did not believe anyone was trying to “take us to the cleaners.”

Voegele also addressed claims made by an attendee at the La Grange City Council meeting that the data center would produce 90 decibels of noise:

“We’re not going to allow 90 decibels. It might be 59 decibels of noise at the max, probably 49. We’re not going to do that, but somebody got up and made that assumption ... Let’s all give everybody an opportunity to be treated fairly here in our community.”

Magistrate Michael Logsdon suggested naming AT&T in the exemption and Magistrate Stephanie Hawkins said the exemption may not apply to AT&T due to the contract between AT&T and the court occurring long before the moratorium.

Voegele replied: “This is a first reading, if there’s confusion about exactly what AT&T was trying to accomplish we can invite a representative to come to the second reading of this and listen to their explanation.”

County Attorney D. Berry Baxter agreed that AT&T “should have an opportunity to come in and explain why they want that language in the ordinance.”

With some magistrates wanting to remove the exemption anyway, the question soon arose as to if the court is allowed to make changes to the moratorium during the first reading.

Baxter had first said that the Kentucky Revised Statute is not clear on when changes have to be made, only that they must be put in writing.

“We can eliminate that [exemption] at the second reading,” said Voegele. “Let’s give them the chance to say what their thinking is. Maybe there’s

something that they know that we don’t ...”

Later in the meeting, Baxter said that the court would “have an opportunity to debate after the public hearing” that occurs at the second reading.

When Woosley requested that the court hold a special meeting on June 18 to conduct the second reading sooner, Voegele said “I don’t plan on calling a special meeting ... we can handle it on the 26th as part of our normal process.”

Though the Oldham County Fiscal Court’s next meeting is scheduled for June 17, the second reading of the data center moratorium will not be held until June 26 due to the requirements of seven day notice in the Era for a second reading to be held.

As of publication date, no special-called meetings have been scheduled before June 26 to quicken the moratorium approval process.

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