

MW fountain future looks to be fluid

By **STEPHEN THOMAS**
The Pioneer News

MOUNT WASHINGTON — Information leaked out about Mount Washington's potential upgrades to the city fountain.

Public Works director Mike Hightchew informed the Mount Washington City Council that estimates to update and repair the fountain were totaled around \$60,000. He added that ongoing expenses would remain following the upgrades.

The popular fountain, located along North Bardstown Road near the city pavilion in the downtown corridor, serves as an area landmark, with special events and farmers markets taking place nearby.

Hightchew alerted the council about the fountain's maintenance costs. The department would repair and upkeep the fountain, but costs would remain both ongoing and unknown.

The council will consider

approving the repairs or possibly removing the fountain altogether. Council member Layne Abell went as far as suggesting a city Christmas tree to replace the fountain, which could become a focal point of the annual Light-Up Mount Washington Christmas celebration.

No action was taken by the council regarding the fountain's future.

In other business:

- The council looked into preparing a new three-year lawn care contract for its next selected company.

Mayor Stuart Owen said the contract should be in place by July, including a long list of mandated mowing areas throughout the city. Council member Greg Gentry mentioned it was a very detailed contract.

Owen mentioned grass along Bardstown Road between Arby's and Kroger that had become an issue due to its height. He said the Public

Works department offered to cut the area for safety issues despite its location along a state right-of-way, adding that the state only cut twice annually.

Hightchew said the department would also take over mowing at city water towers to alleviate the situation of hiring more independent contractors.

- The city was accepting bids on two separate projects, one including salt storage sheds for Public Works. The sheds would store salt used on city roads during inclement weather events.

The other project was for public restrooms located at Duvall Park.

- Reporting on the city's police department, chief Dan Kelty said a new part-time officer position was established. He said the additional position would assist with the department's payroll during special events. The chief recognized Atila

James as the department's new School Resource Officer. He said Bullitt County Public Schools funded the SRO position, rather than the department.

Kelty reminded that the new Citizen's Police Academy was underway, a weekly training in which city residents learn and better understand the daily operations of police officers, as well as getting to meet some of the officers.

Also, a new counseling program was being established, coordinated through the Church of the Crossroads. Kelty said the church would provide a chaplain for free to officers seeking assistance in handling grief or stress in both their careers and their personal lives.

- The council discussed updating the city's Building Exterior Improvement program.

Originally passed in 2021, the project involved the city paying a certain percentage

toward building improvements and upgrades for businesses located along Bardstown Road within the downtown corridor.

The council has discussed expanding the allotted range of the project into other city areas. Owen reminded that if the program expanded, the council would need to provide further funding in the next fiscal year budget.

Abell suggested adding a stipulation that would keep business owners from acquiring funds to improve a building and then selling the location at a higher profit.

- The council officially canceled a future meeting scheduled for May 26, which falls on Memorial Day.

The next regularly-scheduled Mount Washington City Council meeting takes place Monday, March 10, 6:30 pm, at Fick Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Test scores generally rise from fall to winter

By **THOMAS J. BARR**
The Pioneer News

SHEPHERDSVILLE — While test scores do not determine the success of a school district, those numbers are used to help with the instruction of students.

And the detailed data now available can help educators pinpoint each individual student and find his or her strengths and opportunities of improvement.

Members of the Bullitt County Public School Board recently received an update on testing comparisons of students who took exams in the fall and again in the winter period.

Board members heard some numbers which were

pleasing but they also heard results which shows the need for improvement, especially in the area of math.

Dr. Brandy Howard, BCPS chief academic officer, updated board members on the test results.

Elementary students are part of the I Ready assessment. The color-coded results are pretty simple — Green shows students have a full understanding of the material; Yellow means that they understand the material; and Red means that they are below grade level and need more instruction.

In Kindergarten through fifth grade, numbers were high in the area of Green and 48 percent met national norms. The

number in the novice range was low, which is good.

In reading, the proficiency showed good marks with lower number scoring in novice when comparing the fall to winter scores.

In math, there was an overall increase of 16 percent in proficiency and a 13 percent decrease in the number scoring novice when looking at the comparison of the two testing periods.

The Pathway Through Proficiency program is used at the middle school level.

Howard said the overall reading numbers improved by 2 percent for proficiency and dropped 1 percent in students scoring as novice.

However, the one con-

cern was in the area of math. Overall, the number of students labeled as proficient dropped from 20 percent to 10 percent.

In high school, there were gains in English for both ninth and 10th graders. Algebra I scores improved and geometry took a slight hit.

Students are tested for what they should know by the end of the school year; however, much of the material had not been taught by the time of testing.

Dr. Adrienne Usher, assistant superintendent, said that the weather was poor in January, during which high school testing was conducted. Only once during the month did students attend in-person

instruction for a five-day period.

Howard said principals take the individual scoring to the teachers and they work to develop strategies. Principals will also look at teacher lesson plans.

There is a website being developed with high quality resources to help the students.

Superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon said that he is pleased with the progress being made at the elementary level. The use of high-quality resources has proven successful in the district's literacy work.

Math numbers remain a concern, said Bacon. Work continues on math, as well as reducing the learning gaps in middle and high schools.

You Can't Go to the Beach?.....

BULLITT COUNTY

SPRING BREAK

STAYCATION

March 28-April 7

Have fun by staying close to home in Bullitt County...

Does your business have attractions for the family that you would like to promote?

Does your small business want to partner with others to provide special sales during the spring break period?

Does your organization have special classes that might be offered during the period?

Would you like to decorate your business with the spring break theme and possibly be honored as the Best Dressed?

The promotional event will be publicized in The Pioneer News on March 27 and April 3. The Pioneer News Facebook, with nearly 10,000 followers, will also promote the event.

It will also be promoted on social media by the Bullitt County Chamber of Commerce and the Shepherdsville-Bullitt County Tourist and Convention Commission.

Have fun during this first-time event... bring in new customers...share your spring break experience with others

TO PARTICIPATE, please contact TOM BARR at editor@pioneernews.net or 502-477-5055 no later than March 14.

HOW DO YOU REACH OVER 27,000 homes in Bullitt County?

Advertise in the first of only two cover-the-county events...

THE PIONEER NEWS

will be sent to most homes in Bullitt County on **THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

This is the perfect time to reach NEW customers... just a handful of customers can pay for your advertising message.

If you don't advertise, your competitor might be.

Advertising deadline... Monday, March 25

Publication date... Thursday, April 10

Call TOM at 502-477-5055 or email tbarr@pioneernews.net

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

THE PIONEER NEWS is YOUR community newspaper!

This is a great opportunity for non-profit groups to tell their story to the entire county at a low price.