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Water main break leaves MW without water

MOUNT WASHINGTON — A break in the main water line on Monday has left the city of Mount Washington dry on Tuesday.

Mayor Stuart Owen said the city's public works department received a call at 3:30 pm Monday regarding a line failure, which turned out to be the 16-inch main line along the Mount Washington Bypass, near Oakbrooke Circle.

Public works crews began work immediately, but soon realized the issue was worse than originally thought. At 10 pm, Owen said public works director Mike Hightchew anticipated repairs completed by around 5-6 am.

Unfortunately, overnight work led to the discovery of further complications. As a result, Bullitt County Public Schools were closed early Tuesday morning as the Mount Washington campuses had no water.

"The entire city is without water," Owen said. "Our crews will continue

working 24/7 until the issue is fixed."

City officials delivered water bottles to area nursing homes. Meanwhile, Owen said several cases of free water were available to city residents at the Mount Washington Police Department, located on Landis Lane at N. Bardstown Road.

Owen said public works can and will fix the line, although a completed time could not be estimated. He hoped to know more, or report the fix, by Tuesday evening.

The mayor mentioned that city infrastructure continues to age and that city officials will be looking at feasible future updates.



Bullitt County sheriff Walter Sholar (left) is part of a panel discussion from law enforcement representatives from across Kentucky as Attorney General Russell Coleman (center) and U.S. Rep. James Comer (right) listen.

Comer, Coleman hear law enforcement requests

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — U.S. Rep. James Comer will return to Washington, D.C., next month with a clear message from some of the experts in law enforcement from across the state.

More funding is needed to better combat the many issues society faces.

Comer joined state Attorney General Russell Coleman in a roundtable discussion on the issues facing law enforcement officials across Kentucky.

Bullitt County sheriff Walter Sholar hosted the hour-long discussion at Paroquet Springs Conference Centre in Shepherdsville.

"We are grateful for our law enforcement officials," said Coleman to two dozen leaders from across the Commonwealth. "But we must run faster."

Part of the problem with law enforcement agencies has been the tendency to worry about what happens within their own territory.



Congressman James Comer speaks as AG Russell Coleman and other law enforcement officials look on.

Instead, Coleman said the agencies must learn to tear down the territorial silos and learn to ask Frankfort and Washington for assistance.

Sholar said giving agencies statewide jurisdiction might be part of that discussion.

"Criminals are not paying attention to the county lines," said Sholar.

On several occasions, Coleman has mentioned his office's "zealous cooperation" and that spirit of working together must be advanced.

During his first term, Coleman said he has talked many times about his office's ability and willingness to provide assistance to local agencies.

He said illegal drugs are the root of the crime issues. And he has filed lawsuits to recoup money from pharmaceutical companies which can be used to combat drug-related crimes.

Comer, who said he would take the local message back to Washington, said that President Donald Trump's first step of closing the border has been significant.

The next step would be to go after the drug cartels.

There is no longer any talk of defunding police; instead, Comer said more

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Rice Lawn gets long-awaited permit with conditions

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

MOUNT WASHINGTON — After several years, and a lawsuit, residents left Thursday's meeting of the Bullitt County Board of Adjustment disgusted.

With a number of conditions, a request by Rice Lawn Care to operate a contractor storage yard off Bethel Church Road gained unanimous support.

The issuance of the conditional-use allows owner Mike Rice to continue to his property to store his lawn care equipment, as well as supplies such as mulch and salt.

The board previously denied the conditional-use permit, which resulted in a lawsuit by Rice. That suit was dismissed to allow the latest request to move forward.

Attorney Scott Wantland, who was not part of the original request, said he understood the concerns of the surrounding property owners.

"I understand that they are upset," Wantland said to the neighbors. "We want to be a better neighbor than we've been in the past. Help

us do this the right way."

Wantland said the concerns that it would become a parking lot for Ford vehicles or filled with storage units are unfounded. He said all the future holds is to hold his equipment and some supplies, such as mulch.

Residents had an opportunity to state their concerns, including an overall distrust of the applicant, who has operated the past couple of years without the conditional-use permit.

Amy Taulbee lives adjacent to the property. She said her concern began with he cleared the property and paved. The noise generated from activities on the property were also a concern. She said the noise created by the trucks has been heard at 4:30 a.m.

Robert Simms said he was OK with the Rice proposal. He said Rice has always helped the neighbors, including snow removal.

Jessie Hurley said she doesn't trust Rice to abide by the conditions of the permit. She has found ammunition shells on her property and that is dangerous for her children.

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Grace Village clears first hurdle

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — A plan to provide a facility for treatment of abuse issues cleared the first hurdle.

The Shepherdsville City Council will consider a favorable recommendation to allow Grace Village, as well as a new thrift store, on property sandwiched by Cedar Grove Road and Old Preston Highway.

Attorney Emily Vessels presented the case for Mark 12 Ministries, which has been seeking a location for Grace Village.

Two new buildings and six bunkhouses would be built on property owned by JC Howlett and Betty Howlett. The 6.5-acre property is currently zoned Agricultural and would be rezoned to a business classification.

A rezoning request for a trucking company was

denied by the city council a couple of years ago.

In the latest request, Vessels said that the six bunkhouse would be one room and have a capacity of two individuals. There are no utilities in the tiny homes.

For the residents who are there as part of a treatment program, they would go to a community center for showers and to eat.

Of the bunkhouses, two would be reserved for veterans seeking help. The other four would go to those participating in the Mark 12 treatment program.

The third building would be a new thrift store. Mark 12 operates the store on South Preston Highway and has outgrown the facility.

Complaints from surrounding neighbors included increased traffic throughout the area, drainage issues and homeless individuals

SEE GRACE/PAGE A5

Beech Grove project put on hold

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Residents along Beech Grove Road can exhale... at least for the time being.

Developers of a proposed townhome complex at Oak Grove Boulevard and Beech Grove Road have asked that their rezoning request be withdrawn for the time being.

This would give David A. Guelda Builder Inc. time to study the original proposal and see what concessions might be made to appease nearby neighbors.

Attorney Emily Vessels had appeared previously and requested a rezoning on a 1.2-acre tract. The request would allow the construction of 19 townhomes with the individual driveways hooking into Oak Grove Boulevard.

After several residents spoke in opposition, Vessels and her client had several discussions with council members.

On Aug. 12, Vessels reappeared before the Shepherdsville City Council and felt more time was needed to devise a plan that might be less offensive to residents.

One change already made was the reduction of units – from 19 to 18.

Despite adjacent neighbors being part of an HOA, Vessels said that access to the road is not a question or a problem.

She said her client is considering the density concerns, as well as the type of housing proposed.

Just prior to the most recent meeting, city attorney Katherine Dozier said she was notified that the applicant wished to withdraw any action at this time.

With the blessing of the Bullitt County

Joint Planning Commission, the applicant can withdraw its request with the city. It would be allowed to reapply and begin the process once again at any time. Residents would again be notified.

Mayor Jose Cubero encouraged Vessels and her client to meet at the government center once changes are made to the original plans. He added that this discussion between applicants and the public area always the best route to take.

Councilman Mike Hibbard inquired the cost of the units and how that would be affected if the number of units was lowered.

The developer hoped to keep the price at around \$200,000. And for each eliminated, the cost of the remaining townhomes would increase.

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