

Container gardening can turn small spaces into great gardens

Container gardening turns even the smallest balcony or stoop into a pocket-sized farm. If you rent an apartment, battle heavy clay soil, or just prefer vegetables closer to the kitchen door, planting in pots lets you sidestep many headaches that come with traditional plots. The method also works for those with limited mobility as containers can sit on a sturdy table or a rolling platform, bringing those veggies up where bending and kneeling are not required.

Pots let you match each crop to its favorite microclimate. A lettuce tub can chill in afternoon shade, while an eggplant basks beside a sun-soaked brick wall that stores extra heat. Moving crops from the ground to containers now and then even plays a role in crop rotation; shifting soil out of the disease cycle keeps problems such as wilt or root rot from getting a foothold.

Almost any vegetable will grow this way, yet leafy greens, herbs, bush beans, peppers, and cherry tomatoes shine. Plant breeders have created compact “patio” versions that load fruit on short stems. One large

pot can hold a cherry tomato, another supports a dwarf pepper, and a shallow tray brims with spinach. Remember that every plant sharing a container must enjoy the same amount of sunlight and moisture, or one partner will suffer. The container itself matters less than drainage, volume, and weight. Clay and

wooden pots breathe, so roots rarely drown, though you’ll water more often on hot days. Plastic, metal, or glazed ceramic hang onto moisture longer, which is handy during vacations but demands restraint with the hose. No matter the material, drill or punch several quarter-inch holes near the bottom and raise the base on bricks or pot feet so extra water can escape. Dark, pint-sized pots heat up fast; keep them out of relentless sun unless you’re growing chilies that adore warm roots.

Fill your vessel with fresh soilless mix, not ground soil. The bagged blend of peat or coir, vermiculite, and compost stays light, resists compaction, and comes free of weeds. Moisten it the day before planting; dry peat sloughs off water at first, so give

it time to drink. Mix a slow-release fertilizer into the top few inches, or plan to feed weekly with a half-strength liquid fertilizer once seedlings sport their second set of leaves.

Tall or vining crops need backup from the start. Slide a tomato cage, bamboo stakes, or a small trellis into place at planting so roots remain undisturbed later. On a windy balcony, lash cages to the railing or slip the container inside a larger, heavier planter for ballast.

Check moisture by sticking a finger two knuckles deep; water only when the mix feels dry. Soak until you see water run from the holes, then empty saucers so roots don’t sit in a swamp. During blistering weather, move pots to temporary shade or cluster them together where foliage casts mutual cover.

When lettuce bolts or beans finish, pull the spent plants, toss the used mix onto a compost heap or garden bed, scrub the container with a 10% bleach solution, and start planning the next round. With a small stash of pots, fresh mix, and a bit of attention, you’ll harvest salads, salsas, and stir-fry ingredients right outside the back door—no backyard required.



DENNIS MORGESON
WASHINGTON COUNTY AGENT FOR HORTICULTURE

Marion, Washington counties certified as Recovery Ready Communities

Two weeks after Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Kentucky saw a 30.2% decrease in overdose deaths in 2024 compared with the year before, last week, the Beshear administration certified four more counties as Recovery Ready Communities.

Counties are recognized for having established services for residents who are seeking help for drug or alcohol addiction in three different categories — prevention, treatment, and recovery support.

“Kentucky has made great progress in reducing addiction and overdose deaths, and to continue this momentum we must ensure every community has access to critical resources,” Gov. Beshear said. “I am grateful to these four counties for doing the hard work needed to provide employment, treatment, housing, and health care to those in their communities who are in addiction recovery or have been released from incarceration. They are making their communities safer and ending generational cycles of crime and addiction.”

A total of 25 counties in the commonwealth are now certified as Recovery Ready Communities for having established services for residents who are seeking help for drug or alcohol addiction.

Marion and Washington counties submitted a joint application for certification, which represents a combined population of 32,120 Kentuckians. The two counties demonstrated close inter-county and interagency cooperation bolstered by strong local health coalitions such as the Marion County Heartland and Washington on Wellness coa-

litions. They have been designated as a Recovery Ready Community as they are home to two of the largest addiction treatment providers: Isaiah House and Addiction Recovery Care’s Crown Recovery Center.

They also operate an innovative addiction treatment and recovery support program at the Marion County Detention Center. Both counties combined resources to reopen the Lebanon/Marion County Career Center to provide residents with local access to education and employment support services. The counties utilized local opioid abatement funding to hire a Community Support Specialist at the career center to provide barrier reduction services to individuals in recovery from addiction or reentering society from incarceration. Since reopening the career center, two large regional factory employers have completed the Kentucky Chamber Foundation’s Fair Chance Academy and are working with the center to offer second chances to residents.

“Being certified as a Recovery Ready Community is not just an achievement; it is a commitment to our citizens,” said Marion County Judge/Executive David Daugherty. “This certification signifies that we are actively working to prevent substance misuse, support individuals in recovery and create meaningful employment opportunities. When people are provided with the tools to heal and the opportunity to work, families are strengthened, and our entire community thrives. This certification represents both a significant milestone and the beginning of ongoing progress and hope.”

Kentucky ag development board approves funding for Washington County Cattlemen

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$4,386,001 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

“The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board is committed to strengthening our agricultural

economy by investing in diverse projects across the state,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Board Chair Jonathan Shell. “By supporting a wide range of initiatives, we’re building a stronger, more resilient future for Kentucky’s farm families and rural communities.”

Among the projects

funded was on for Washington County. Washington County Cattlemen Association, Inc was approved up to \$3,150 in Washington County funds to purchase a supply trailer for community cooking events.

For more information, contact Taylor Smith at taylor@springfieldstate.bank.

Parks named chief executive officer of Spring View Hospital

LEBANON — Spring View Hospital, a Lifepoint Health hospital, announced today the appointment of Vicki Parks as chief executive officer, effective July 7.



Vicki Parks

Parks brings more than 25 years of healthcare leadership experience to her new role. She most recently served as CEO of Wythe County Health System; another Lifepoint Health facility located in Wytheville, Virginia. There, she led several strategic initiatives focused on improving the delivery and accessibility to care, expanding physician services and strengthening the overall patient experience.

“Vicki understands the importance of strong local hospitals and the people who make them work,” said William Haugh, division president of Lifepoint Health. “She is the kind of leader that makes a measurable difference for hospitals, patients, and communities. We’re confident she will be a strong match for Spring View Hospital and a valuable addition to the Lebanon community.”

During her time at Wythe County Community Hospital, the hospital earned a CMS four-star rating and received Leapfrog “A” grades for patient safety in both 2024 and 2025. With Parks’ leadership and strong collaboration across clinical and operational teams, the hospital was also recognized with two of

Lifepoint Health’s highest honors: the Operations Excellence Award in 2022 and National Quality Program designation, a distinction given to facilities that successfully transform their culture of safety and meet high standards in care quality, performance improvement,

and patient engagement. “I am excited to join Spring View Hospital and be part of this community,” said Vicki Parks. “Hospitals like Spring View play such an important role in the lives of local families, and I look forward to working with the team to support excellent care and strengthen the

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LEGAL

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LEGAL NOTICE


BG 555 Fuel Mart, LLC, Mailing address 150 Aachen Way, Versailles, KY 40383 hereby declares intention to apply for a NQ4 Retail Malt Beverage Drink License no later than June 10, 2025. The business to be licensed will be located at 14570 KY 555, Willisburg, KY 40078 doing business as BG 555 Fuel Mart. The (owner(s); Principal Officer(s) are as follows: Baljinder Kaur of 150 Aachen Way, Versailles, KY 40383, Gurjinderpal Singh of 150 Aachen Way, Versailles, KY 40383 and Shinder Pal Singh of 150 Aachen Way, Versailles, KY 40383. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the licenses by writing the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY. 40601, within 30 days (KRS 243.430) of the date of this legal publication.



LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that Washington County Fiscal Court, 109 North Cross Main, Springfield, KY 40069 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to remove the bridge deck, beams and substructure and replace entire bridge with precast concrete box beams on new abutments for a single span 54-foot long bridge. The bridge is located off Haydon Brothers Rd, Springfield Kentucky; from Elizabethtown, KY take Bluegrass Parkway East to Exit 34 to Bloomfield. Take right onto KY-55 N for 0.6 miles. Take a right onto State Hwy 2738 for 3.1 miles. Take another right onto State Hwy 2775 for 1.54 miles. Turn right onto State Hwy 485 for 2.7 miles. Turn left onto KY-433 S for 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Haydon Brothers Ln for 0.5 miles and the bridge is located over Long Lick Creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Flood Plain Management Section 300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone:



LEGAL NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WASHINGTON FISCAL COURT RELATING TO STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES #2025-02

WHEREAS, 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 89 (hereinafter "the Act") became law on March 26, 2025 and allows for the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles on certain highways within the Commonwealth of Kentucky if allowed by ordinance of the local government within whose jurisdictional boundaries the highway is located; and

WHEREAS, the Act becomes effective on Friday, June 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Fiscal Court has determined that it is appropriate to allow the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles on specified highways within the jurisdictional boundaries of Washington County in accordance with the Act and this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the fiscal court of county of Washington, Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. Definitions

The definitions set forth in Section 1(1) of the 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 89 (hereinafter "the Act"), and as may be amended in the future by the Kentucky General Assembly, are adopted and incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

SECTION 2. Designated Highways

Option 1. Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall be allowed to the extent permitted by the Act on all highways that are located within the jurisdictional limits of Washington County.

Option 2. Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall be allowed, to the extent permitted by the Act, on the following highways that are located within the jurisdictional limits of Washington County:

(a)

(b)

(c)

Option 3. Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall be allowed, to the extent permitted by the Act, on the following highways, or portions thereof, that are located within the jurisdictional limits of Washington County where the speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less:

(a)

(b)

(c)

Option 4. Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall be allowed, to the extent permitted by the Act, on the highways, or portions thereof, that are located within the jurisdictional limits of Washington County where the speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less.

SECTION 3. Exceptions

Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall not be allowed to operate:

(a) On any highway, or portion thereof, located within the jurisdictional limits of Washington County unless allowed by this ordinance.

(b) On any highway, or portion thereof, that is a controlled access system, including but not limited to an interstate or parkway; or

(c) On any highway, or portion thereof, where the United States Department of Agriculture prohibits special purpose vehicles.

SECTION 4. Prohibitions

(a) Street-legal special purpose vehicles are prohibited from traveling a distance greater than twenty (20) miles on a highway displaying centerline pavement markings.

(b) Minitrucks shall not be operated as street-legal special purpose vehicles on a highway that has been constructed pursuant to a federal highway program.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective on _____ (not earlier than June 27, 2025).

The forgoing ordinance having received its first reading on the 12th day of May, 2025 was given its second reading and passed by the fiscal court of Washington County on this the ____ day of ____, 202__.

COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

ATTEST: _____

COUNTY FISCAL COURT CLERK