

# GRADD Executive Director Announces Retirement

Green River Area Development District (GRADD) Executive Director Joanna Shake has announced her plans to retire on February 1, 2026, concluding a distinguished career spanning three decades in economic and community development.

Shake, who began her career at GRADD as an intern in 1994 and rose through the ranks to become Executive Director in 2020, notified the GRADD Board of Directors on Wednesday at their monthly meeting. Her retirement will mark the close of a three-decade career dedicated to advancing economic development and regional collaboration in the Green River region.

“I want to express my deepest gratitude for the support and inspiring leadership that has guided my journey,” says GRADD Executive Director Joanna Shake. “My career

has been immensely fulfilling, with numerous challenges and successes that have helped me grow personally and professionally. I am especially appreciative of the regional spirit and collaboration that have been a hallmark of my time with GRADD.”

With more than 28 years of experience in economic and community development, Shake has led transformative projects in infrastructure, broadband expansion, Brownfield redevelopment, and environmental sustainability. Before becoming Executive Director, she served as GRADD’s Associate Director for Economic Development, overseeing grant administration, strategic planning, and multi-agency collaboration across GRADD’s seven-county region.

“We’re excited for Jo and we’re certainly going to miss her,” said GRADD Board

Chairman and Hancock County Judge Executive Johnny “Chic” Roberts. “While reading her letter to the board Wednesday, Jo spoke about GRADD’s impact on her—but we all know it’s truly about the impact she has had on GRADD. Whenever I’m out in my county and I mention GRADD, the first thing I always hear is how much people love Jo. The entire region is a better place because of her selfless service. She truly has a servant’s heart, and it certainly shows.”

Shake succeeded Jiten Shah, who served as Executive Director for an unprecedented 43 years. Having worked closely with Shah during her tenure as Associate Director, Shake brought both continuity and innovation to the organization’s mission.

“For three decades, GRADD has been privileged to benefit from

Jo’s exemplary service,” says former GRADD Executive Director Jiten Shah. “Her unwavering dedication, tireless work ethic and deep commitment to the Green River Region have been instrumental in shaping the organization’s success. As she enters a well-earned retirement, we reflect with gratitude on a remarkable career and a legacy that will continue to positively impact the region for many years to come.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Shake has remained deeply engaged in civic life, serving on the boards of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, Impact 100, past chair of Owensboro Riverport Authority, past chair of the United Way of the Ohio Valley, appointed to the Kentucky Housing Corporation, and graduating from the Delta Leadership Institute.

“The experiences

I’ve gained are invaluable and have shaped my career in countless ways,” says Shake. “I am grateful for the trust placed in me and the freedom I had to innovate and push boundaries. It has been an honor to work alongside such a talented and dedicated squad, contributing to the district’s growth and success. I am incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished and the progress we have made.”

## Nominations Open For USDA County Committee Elections

Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and ranchers to serve on local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

“Serving on an FSA county committee provides producers with a unique opportunity to have a say in local farm program decisions, ensuring FSA policies work, as intended, for producers at the county level,” said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. “Nominations are now open; here’s your chance to support USDA’s commitment to putting Farmers First by amplifying the voices of farmers and ranchers within your community and effectively delivering the economic support they deserve.”

Elections for committee members will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction and may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Producers interested in serving on the FSA county committee can locate their LAA through a geographic information system locator tool available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office.??

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- \* Participate or co-operate in a USDA program.
- \* Reside in the LAA

that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages all eligible producers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agriculture community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recov-

ery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other agricultural issues.

### Urban, Suburban County Committees

FSA urban county committees work to promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production practices. Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs, serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of growing urban communities.

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

## 4-H NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
BY  
ANNETTE BUCKMAN  
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR 4-H

Kentucky 4-H youth will be showcasing their hard work and talents at the upcoming 2025 Kentucky State Fair, to be held August 14–24 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. This annual event marks the culmination of months of dedication through 4-H project work in counties across the Commonwealth.

A 4-H project is more than just a hobby—it’s a hands-on learning experience that empowers youth to explore their interests while developing essential life skills. Kentucky 4-H offers a wide variety of project opportunities for young people to pursue in seven core areas: natural resources; agriculture; communication and expressive arts; family and consumer sciences; health and wellness; leadership; and science, engineering, and technology.

Throughout the year, 4-H members spend six or more hours working individually or in clubs to master specific skills within their chosen project area. Along the way, they gain valuable competencies, such as public speaking, record-keeping, and decision-making, that lead to 4-H members who thrive and are beyond ready for what the future may hold.

The Kentucky State Fair serves as the pinnacle event for 4-H project work every year. Youth who earn champion status at the county level are invited to compete at the state level, where their projects are displayed for thousands of fairgoers to admire—from livestock exhibits in the West Hall to creative arts and STEM displays in Cloverville, located in the South Wing.

“All 4-Hers who participate in county, regional, or state fairs are winners,” said Kimberly Schrader, extension specialist for 4-H Youth Development. “They walk away with

more than ribbons—they gain confidence, skills, and a sense of accomplishment that lasts a lifetime.”

All members of the public are invited and encouraged to visit the 4-H Cloverville exhibit during the fair to celebrate the achievements of Kentucky’s youth and to learn more about the impact of 4-H in their local communities.

For more information about Kentucky 4-H projects and participation at the Kentucky State Fair, contact the Union County Extension office.

Source: Kimberly Schrader, extension specialist, 4-H Youth Development

### Follow Us On Facebook!

To keep up with all the fun events happening in the Union County 4-H Program follow Union County 4H on Facebook for all the latest news, events, and information about 4-H. There you will find interesting articles related to youth/4-H and much more!

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment news and communications team provides monthly Extension Exclusives in the categories of Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H and Family & Consumer Sciences.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on March 13, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on August 4, 2025, at 9 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2025-00045. This is an examination of the Electronic Application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](https://psc.ky.gov).

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](https://psc.ky.gov).

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### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY UNION CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00101

KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION  
vs.  
RENEE M. BROWN

PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT

#### NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on the 10th day of June, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

**Property Address: 723 N. Lee Street, Sturgis, Union County, Kentucky 42459**  
**PVA No. / Map No.: S1-12-03.**

**The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.**

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 3rd day of July 2025.

Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner  
7/23c

### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY UNION CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00249

FIRST UNITED BANK AND TRUST COMPANY  
vs.  
MALINDA M. DAILEY, DONALD K. SLATON,  
TAX BRAKE, LLC, UNION COUNTY, KENTUCKY,  
AND CITY OF STURGIS

PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANTS

#### NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on the 28th day of April, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

**Property Address: 804 North Washington Street, Sturgis, KY 42459 P**  
**VA No. / Map No.: S3-08-08.**

**The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.**

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

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