

THE WOODFORD SUN

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Letters to the Editor

It's Time to Say "NO" to Overdevelopment

Yes, our community needs growth in order to thrive. But the kind of unchecked overdevelopment we are facing today threatens the very things that make Versailles and Woodford County special.

Mick McNulty hit the nail on the head in last week's letter to the editor. If we don't slow the current pace of development, it's clear that in just a few short years, the south side of Versailles will look—and feel—completely different. The rolling green open spaces that now welcome us into town will be gone. In their place: densely packed housing developments, multi-story apartment buildings, multiple traffic signals—and dangerously congested roads.

It's a pattern we've seen far too often. Out-of-town developers purchase farmland at low prices, request zone changes and bring in teams of engineers and lawyers to pack as many units as possible onto a single property. For them, it's all about the bottom line. The more units they build, the more money they make.

And then they leave.

What's left behind is our problem: overcrowded schools, strained water and sewer systems and roadways that simply can't handle the increased traffic. This is not sustainable—and it's certainly not the kind of growth that benefits our long-term future.

It's time for the people of Versailles and Woodford County to stand up and say, "Enough."

Say **NO** to development that outpaces infrastructure. Say **NO** to decisions that prioritize outside profits over local quality of life.

Contact your City Council members and magistrates. Email the mayor, the county judge- executive and the Planning and Zoning Board. Let them know how you feel. Our voice matters—and it's time to use it.

Let's protect what makes our community great. Let's ensure Woodford County remains a place where we can live, work and play—now and for generations to come.

Karen Isberg
 Woodford County

Local leaders need to reflect will of people

First, thank you to the Planning Commission for its recent vote to deny the creation of a subdivision in Nonesuch.

I can guarantee you that not one person has moved to an area such as Nonesuch to live in, next to, or nearby a subdivision. What attracts us to rural areas is the ability to farm the land, ride horses, exercise our dogs, watch deer and enjoy the peacefulness of a rural lifestyle. This is a conscious choice among us, and those who would subdivide the land for financial gain do a disservice to every single one of us who have made our homes here.

It is clear the antiquated law governing small community districts needs to be abolished to protect them from development. There is frequently a difference between what is legal and what is right. This gap needs to be addressed on this particular issue.

Perhaps Mr. Moore, the attorney who argued in favor of the Nonesuch subdivision, would like to come to my home and observe the water pressure from my kitchen sink. It is

half as strong as it was just a couple of years ago. This is the real world, which is far different from his lawyer arguments.

I attended the Comprehensive Plan meeting held in Nonesuch a year or two ago. There were about 50 of us there and we were unanimous in not wanting further development south of Versailles along Troy Pike. Or in small community districts. Of course, we continue to be ignored. After all, we are only citizens.

It is past time that our magistrates, zoning commissioners and planning commissioners better reflect the will of the people of Woodford County rather than approving the type of growth that compromises the quality of life here. Until then, we will continue to pay the price for pro-development officials and their appointees. That price includes less-efficient services, choking traffic congestion, the loss of farmland and a way of life many of us cherish.

Lenny Shulman
 Versailles

From Our Files

10 Years Ago

April 23, 2015

The Versailles and Midway City Councils, both in contentious meetings, separately voted on a proposed interlocal agreement to resolve the ongoing dispute involving a countywide Emergency Management Agency. Both councils were divided in approving the agreement. The Fiscal Court will now need to accept the cities' proposal at its next meeting. If approved, the cities will receive a pro rata share of state emergency management funds which now all goes to the county, and more oversight over the agency's budget. The approved proposed interlocal was drafted by Versailles City Council member Steve Kerkhoff who has been on the negotiating team.

School Superintendent Scott Hawkins recommended the school year end on June 4, the same day graduation is scheduled, which would mean the system would fall one-day short of the required 175 instructional days. The school was marred by more than anticipated snow days causing the difficulty. Some School Board members, led by chair Ambrose Wilson IV, voiced concerns about losing an instructional day. The board will decide the issue at its next meeting.

Rob Young, a parent chapteron on the Simmons Elementary School's fifth-grade class trip to Washington, wrote a lengthy letter to the editor extolling the amazing work of the teacher

leaders and involvement of the students. In particular, Young noted the involvement of four students in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Woodford County Republican Party hosted a lively and substantive debate between the four gubernatorial candidates running in the primary: Matt Bevin, James Comer, Will T. Scott, and Hal Heiner.

State Representative James Kay, Jr. (D-Woodford) was appointed by House Speaker Greg Stumbo to a newly formed legislative subcommittee on tourism development.

The Lady Jackets softball team continued to show off their bona fides as a state championship threat by winning the Capital City Showcase tournament, which required six wins in the two-day tournament. The Track Jackets had a successful run at the 19th Jane Spurlock Lake Cumberland Classic, with the girls finishing fourth and the boys finishing sixth. The Bat Jackets continued their dreary season with four straight losses, two in district play, over the last week, and have seen their record dip to 5-12.

25 Years Ago

April 27, 2000

Woodford Fiscal Court, on a 4-4 tie vote broken by Judge-Executive Joe Gormley, changed course and decided again to seek a public hearing on a proposed marina on the Mercer County

side of the Kentucky River at Cummins Ferry.

The possibility of a local group to form a non-profit organization to purchase the Woodford Hospital property and lease it to an outside health care provider has been broached.

Kentucky Army National Guard Lt. Col. George R. Smith, a resident of Midway, has taken command of the 201st Engineer Battalion.

St. Leo School's elementary future problem solving team won first place in regional competition. Team members are Paige Johnson, Lindsay Bentley, Katherine Dale, Lance Wireman, and Sarah Absher.

WCHS baseball player Rob Sobolewski capped off a six-RBI evening with a grand slam homer in the Bat Jackets' 12-3 win over Mercer County on Wednesday of last week.

40 Years Ago

April 25, 1985

The Woodford County Board of Education has voted to set a one-half of one percent occupational tax to fund program and facility improvements. (The idea was later dropped when it was learned that the tax would produce less than anticipated because out-of-county residents would be exempted from paying the tax.)

Dr. C. Noel Hall was honored last week for his 40 years of service as a member of the Woodford Memorial Hospital staff.

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White Lines...

Easter's promise of true Freedom

SCOTT WHITE
 MANAGING EDITOR

Easter is my favorite holiday . . . not only do we celebrate and venerate the promise of resurrection from the dead to true Life; but we see its evidence all around us, particularly in our beloved Woodford County. Weanlings frolicking in pastures. Dormant wildflowers and bulbs emerging from ground frozen just a month ago. Blooms budding out from shrubs. And, the smells.

But we live in a contemporary world, which works against this . . . a world which seeks to pen us in a cage of fear. Social media and news sites report on a world marred by war, refugee crises, economic fragility, class, religion and race conflicts, countries turning inwards and Superpowers sword rattling.

As Christians, thanks to the Easter promise, we can abide these anxieties with real hope in our hearts, a hope that promises we are not prisoners of these "worldly concerns." The history of our faith tells us none of this is new,

none of it will prevail. Ultimately, as serious Christians, we are gifted with true freedom from which no power or evil can resist.

My daughter-in-law, Joanna Chin, is a remarkable woman. She was recently promoted to a significant position at New York University in the department of Student Success. She is a loving, attentive, creative mother. She is a leader in their church. She has more friends than a lottery winner. She loves my son Nate and granddaughter Mia fiercely. Lordy, she even tolerates me! What more could I ask for in a daughter-in-law?

Well, Joanna is also a gifted, accomplished writer. She wrote the below poem on Easter morning, telling us, "I literally wrote it this morning after the title popped into my head. . . . I had to get it out!" It is so moving, and though you can access it soon online when its published, I wanted to share it now.

Happy Easter.

To Those Who Are Free: Share Freedom A poem for Easter morn

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." — Galatians 5:1

I.
 To those whose hearts have plumbed
 The bitter edges of dark
 Where fires once lovingly tended Expired
 Extinguishing each spark
 as loss upon loss battered each flame
 swallowing
 the warmth of what you knew
 as if dousing rain
 so dry and cracked you stumbled
 into a world abandoned by Hope
 deadened dreams littered streams
 that once watered the fields
 your children loped
 through with wild
 abandon

II.
 To those who have sat
 Lonely
 At the corner of a Wall
 No direction to proceed
 Your only company the call
 Of mocking voices who demand
 For you to disappear
 Now that you've already
 been shrunken small
 Your courage commandeered
 By the despair that comes with doubt
 That your limbs locked with
 chains can be freed—linked-regrets-and-
 oppressions-depressions-forced lessons
 by Life-the-strife-of-
 being
 at-war-with-a-world
 (that doesn't seem to want you
 as you are)
 No, you doubt
 you can ever
 leave.

III.
 To those who found a way
 to dream (again)
 and to those who have been found
 by a Love who searched the Dark
 to pull your hand into the Light.
 To those who had someone fight
 for them, speaking to the Voids and
 voiding
 all the ways you did wrong
 all the ways you were wronged
 so you would no longer be chained
 to their weight. To those who

waited, detained, and gave up
 waiting for an answer
 to the question born from birth:
 Do I matter?
 One morning shattered
 the cage you were cramped in—shook
 the metal veil surrounding you
 until it ripped/back, a doorway
 forced open.
 Then it finally dawned on you
 As if this morning had been crafted
 a million mornings ago in time
 to on this very day wreck
 the prison you had been dragged to
 with a single Word nailed
 to the gate
 so you knew: I do.

IV.
 To the multitudes now mounted
 On peaks of promise
 who know your work now
 who have been Freed
 Lead now from that—not
 by a Law that glories
 in punishment, that
 satiates itself in looking down
 upon others who are still
 imprisoned
 and distancing yourself
 as if you never knew a cage.
 May you know rage for those
 the World has discarded.
 May your hands reach to theirs
 when they are bombarded
 by missives of hate
 by missiles that
 amputate
 the limbs that connected
 the sinews of home
 family
 self
 To those who are free: share freedom.
 It has been bought at a price
 not only for you,
 but that your hands will then reach
 into the Dark,
 echo the arc of steps that your Savior took
 to draw others into the Light.
 What you have been given
 is not yours to hoard
 but yours to invite neighbors in
 at the welcoming Word of your Lord.



Nate White, Mia White, Joanna Chin on Easter morning. (Photo submitted)

Clippings from our past...

Editor's Note: We are publishing excerpts from the Woodford Pennant from January to April, 1861, which chronicled the outbreak of the Civil War in Woodford County.

The Woodford Pennant April 13, 1861

On Saturday night, a negro woman, the property of William McIlvaine of Versailles, who was hired to Elder Henry Anderson of Midway, met with a shocking death. After returning from church she threw herself upon the bed which took fire from a candle. Badly burned and much frightened the woman jumped through the second story window and then found

dead.
 The Pennant's front page story was an analysis of the differences between the U.S. Constitution and that of the new Confederate States:
 In place of the words, "persons held to labor" the word "slaves" is substituted in the Southern Constitution. The President and Vice-President of the Confederacy are elected for six year terms, and the President may not be reelected. Cabinet offi-

cers will be drawn from the Confederate legislature and remain in office while also a cabinet minister. In the U.S. Congress, the vicious custom has grown up of tacking onto a bill of vital importance, all sorts of incongruous and non-essential amendments so the president must approve all, good and bad, or veto the entire bill. Under the Southern Constitution, the

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