

Versailles City Council honors man who saved a life

By Scott White
MANAGING EDITOR

At the beginning of its Dec. 2 meeting, the Versailles City Council honored Stefano Slone, a Versailles native resident and employee of Carey's Towing, who received a Chief's Commendation from Versailles Police Department Chief Rob Young.

Young described how Slone selflessly and with no thought to his own safety saved a man's life who was threatening suicide on the Tyrone Bridge on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

Young said, Slone was transporting a vehicle to Lawrenceburg after work and was approaching Tyrone Bridge, where traffic was backed up on the Woodford County side. Assuming it was another wreck, Slone got out of the truck and walked to the bridge, where he was told there was a man on the bridge threatening to jump. Without delay, Slone approached the man, a military veteran suffering a mental health crisis, in an attempt to de-escalate the volatile situation. He saw the man was holding a phone and positioning his body, one foot on the rail and one on the ground, to jump. Slone saw the man was temporarily distracted and "went hands-on." Along with an unidentified Good Samaritan who had run up, they wrestled the

man to the ground, holding him until first responders arrived. When Versailles Police arrived and were able to take over, Slone told them, "Not today, not in this county."

"Stefano did an extraordinary thing. We hear stories of how ordinary people do extraordinary things," Young said. "On that particular day, that is exactly what happened."

Judge Wilhoit honored
The City Council approved a resolution proposed by Mayor Laura Dake honoring Judge Anthony "Tony" Wilhoit on his 90th birthday, which passed on Nov. 5, 2025.

After enumerating the many accomplishments, achievements and honors of Judge Wilhoit and noting he was a native and life-long resident of Versailles who married the love of his life, Joyce, a native of Nonesuch, Judge Wilhoit was invited to say a few words.

"I used to get booed in this room!" he began. "Thank you so much. This is so undeserved, but I appreciate you all so much. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Versailles is paradise on earth."

Contracts
Council approved the following contracts: the Fire Department's purchase of a Fire Thermal Imaging Camera from low-bidder America's Bravest Equipment Co. for \$7,200, \$3,500 of which is funded by a grant; \$30,000 amendment to the contract



STEFANO SLONE was honored by the Versailles City Council with a Chief's Commendation for his selfless actions in saving a man's life on Nov. 26, 2025, on Tyrone Bridge. Slone is holding the framed commendation that was presented to him by Versailles Police Chief Rob Young, with councilmembers and Mayor Laura Dake looking on. (Photo by Scott White)

with Kentucky Engineering Group, PLLC, for services related to additional work on the water distribution system; and, the annual contracts for seven types of wastewater and water treatment chemicals priced by the pound given the total amounts needed are unknown with different winning low-bidders for each chemical - Brenntag Mid-South, Univar, USALCO, and CITGO.

When it came time to present the seven chemical contracts, an annual event, Dake said, to chuckles all

around, "Now, everybody's favorite time of year, the annual water and sewer chemicals. Mr. (Bart) Miller." And, then, after a pause of a few seconds, "Oops, I'm sorry, Ms. (Mitzi) Delius," who had since taken the responsibility to obtain the chemicals.

Delius replied, "Mayor, you ruined the moment." Which, of course, generated more and welcomed laughter from the entire room.

Edgewood Connector Project
On the recommendation of

PUBLIC NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-18
AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE TWENTIETH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE COUNTY OF WOODFORD, KENTUCKY

WHEREAS, American Legal Publishing Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio, has completed the twentieth supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the County of Woodford, which supplements contain all ordinances of a general nature enacted since publication of the Code of Ordinances of Woodford County, Kentucky;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Fiscal Court of the County of Woodford, Commonwealth of Kentucky, as follows:

That the twentieth supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the County of Woodford, Kentucky, as submitted by American Legal Publishing Corporation of Cincinnati, be and same are hereby adopted by reference as if set out in its entirety.

Introduced and given first reading at a special meeting of the Woodford County Fiscal Court on November 12, 2025, and fully adopted after the second reading at the regular meeting of the Woodford County Fiscal Court on November 25, 2025.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force when passed, published and recorded according to law.

DATED: _____

JAMES KAY
WOODFORD CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST: _____
CLERK, WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

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Miller, who had reviewed the responses to an earlier request for qualifications, the council approved the city to begin negotiating an agreement with QK4, Inc., to provide engineering services for the extension of Paddock Drive into the Edgewood Farm commercial development.

Public Passway closing
Council heard the first reading of a proposed ordinance which, if enacted at its second reading, will close a public passway between 270

and 274 High Street. The city has the authority to do this when a passway, which this one is unpaved, has not been used for a lengthy period of time.

The adjoining property owners to the passway are the City of Versailles and K&J Frye Properties, Inc. The ordinance grants ownership of half of the passway from the property line to the midpoint of the passway to each of the two adjoining property owners.

Possible in-family conveyance changes looming for Fiscal Court

By Scott White
MANAGING EDITOR

In a shorter-than-usual Woodford County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 25, the meeting opened

with an issue that has been batted back and forth between the court and the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission (Commission) since December 2024 - proposed changes

to the ordinances regulating in-family conveyances of agriculturally zoned land.

As the Sun has reported, the issue was teed up by the Commission in December 2024, when it requested the

court order a moratorium on in-family conveyances to allow time for changes to those real estate transactions to work their way through the system. The court declined and directed the Commission to study the issue and to make explicit recommendations on proposed changes for the court to consider. This occurred, and a divided court ended up voting to send the proposed changes back to the Commission with four directives to be considered and addressed in new changes. This occurred at the Commission's October meeting when it approved the most recent proposed changes and transmitted them to the court for approval.

At the Nov. 25 court meeting, during the public comment portion of the meeting, James Mansfield and Steve Mullins, both owners of agricultural land in southern Woodford County, spoke directly on the in-family conveyance issue, raising both concerns and asking questions.

Judge-Executive James Kay advised that the proposed in-family changes - which are text amendments to the governing ordinances - are not yet ready for consideration by the court.

Kay said that though the proposal is technically before the court, it is waiting to act until the Planning Commission staff can complete its preparation of the record, on which the court will make its decision. Kay said, assuming the record is complete and provided to the court in time, then the proposal will

be considered in committee at the next court meeting on Dec. 9.

The court will be able to take action on the proposals at that meeting.

Leases
The court approved the lease with Fast Pitch Inc. to operate the indoor softball facility at Falling Springs.

Kay said the lease with the Woodford County Fair Board remains under discussion.

Kay said an agreement between the county and the Woodford County Historical Society regarding the permanent placement of the Crittenden Cabin in Woodford County Park is being finalized. Kay said that a grant was used to dismantle and move the cabin from its location at Frontier Nursing University to the park, and it is being scheduled for reassembly.

Flood buyout program
Woodford County Emergency Management Agency Director Drew Chandler provided good news to the court. The required meeting between the county and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which had been canceled due to the federal shutdown, was able to be held last week.

The result is that the buyout program for property owners impacted by the most recent floods in Clifton, Lower Clifton and Shore Acres "is live and owners can now formally apply for a buyout," according to Chandler.

All of the information and necessary forms for submitting a request and describing the overall process have been set up on the county's web-

site, Chandler said.

As part of the original application, Chandler said there were 37 owners who indicated interest in participating. If it turns out there are new applicants, the agreement with USDA can be amended to include them. The website, which has a detailed video that provides simple and clear instructions on how to proceed, can be found at: <https://www.woodfordcountky.gov/214/EWP-Buyout-Option>.

Road Department supervisor
Kay announced that Road Department Supervisor Bob Wilson is retiring, and that Scott Dean, the head mechanic, will be serving as interim director. The council approved proceeding with a hiring process for a new director.

Larland Estates
The court approved releasing \$57,929.55 from the developer of Larland Estates' bond account for payment to Mago Construction for paving of the completed road. The council further adopted the road into the county road system, so long as it satisfies the county's road specifications.

Contracts
The court approved a contract with Johnson Controls for the alarm system at the Detention Center for \$1,349.76 for one year.

Treasurer Report
County Treasurer Melody Traugott reported the current money market account balance is \$14,232,089.50.



WOUNDED VETERANS and their assistants are pictured prior to the annual WORTH (Warrior Outdoor Recreation Therapy) deer hunt. The assistants were there to help when needed, according to hunt organizer Joe Lacefield. He says the vets were granted hunting license exemptions from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Photo submitted)

Hunts help wounded veterans experience 'a day coming alive'

By Bob Vlach
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Wildlife biologist Joe Lacefield says he gets to experience "a day coming alive" whenever he gets in the woods to hunt or to do his job.

Hearing songbirds is a magical, therapeutic experience that this Woodford County resident got to share with 22 military veterans who participated in the annual WORTH (Warrior Outdoor Recreation Therapy) deer hunt during the weekend of Nov. 14-16.

Most of the veterans are Purple Heart recipients who have suffered injuries in the military, says Lacefield, so they are accompanied by volunteers who assist them with whatever they need during the hunt.

When the veterans of Desert Storm, Operation Freedom and other military conflicts are not hunting, they

talk to other vets who have an understanding of what they've experienced while serving their country, says Lacefield.

Lacefield says he did not serve in the military, but his dad, granddad and great-uncles did, so "I just have a lot of respect for them (veterans) and I want to give back, and I appreciate the sacrifices that they've made for all of us."

Lacefield says Byron Marlowe was working at Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass when they started the annual veteran deer hunts in 2012, five or so years before being organized as a nonprofit.

Because he and Marlowe did not want to limit the mental health benefits of "healing through hunting" to Woodford County, the program involves veterans and volunteers from across Kentucky, Lacefield says. This year's hunts were held

on private lands in Woodford, Anderson, Washington and Shelby counties.

Local volunteers prepare and serve meals for the veterans during their weekend spent here.

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry allows WORTH to use a refrigerated trailer so deer harvested during the hunt that veterans want to donate (about one-third this year) can be given to local food banks and families, Lacefield says.

With fewer young people hunting, the hunts are also beneficial to slow the deer population growth because too many results in overgrazing habitat, damage to property and an increase in the number of auto collisions with deer, he adds.

"It's something I look forward to every year," says Lacefield of getting wounded veterans into the woods for the annual deer hunt.



AMERICAN FLAGS lined the driveway to welcome veterans to lunch after they were escorted through downtown Versailles by Patriot Guard and Rolling Thunder motorcyclists on Nov. 14. (Photo submitted)

THORNTONS

Hereby declares its intention to apply for
a tobacco, nicotine, or vape product
license no later than Dec. 31st, 2025.

The licensed premises will be located at
the Thorntons location at 524 Lexington
Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

The president is Lisa Blalock
2600 James Thornton Way,
Louisville, KY 40245.

Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the
license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street,
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.