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Fiscal Court will debate new land use laws at next meeting

By SCOTT WHITE
MANAGING EDITOR

The Woodford County Fiscal Court, at its Dec. 9 meeting, decided to debate the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission’s proposed new ordinances relating to changes to land use at its first January 2026 meeting. The proposed changes include significant changes to the limitations and requirements of in-family conveyances in rural, agricultural land.

The in-family conveyance issue has gone back and forth from the Fiscal Court and the Planning Commission since late 2024. The proposed changes now before the court include several other proposals in addition to in-family conveyances, such as lot width, accessory buildings and public notice requirements for applications for conditional use permits.

Prior to its regular meeting, the Ordinance Committee, which is composed of Magistrates Mary Ann Gill, Larry Blackford, William Downey and Judge-Executive James Kay, heard a 35-minute presentation from Planning Director Steve Hunter on the details and specifics of the proposal, which included a chronological time line from when in-family conveyance changes were first discussed by the commission in the summer of 2023 through the current proposal.

Hunter also emphasized this was all being done in the context of the ongoing process to write a new Comprehensive

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FIRST PLACE in the *Sun's* Christmas Parade Photo Contest goes to Elaine Bailey for her terrific photo of the WCHS Marching Band, who decorated their instruments for the parade. (Photo by Elaine Bailey)

A WONDERFUL WOODFORD CHRISTMAS tree lighting and other events Friday, Dec. 5 brought an estimated 500 people to downtown Versailles. Before the tree was lit, students from Simmons, Northside and Southside elementaries sang two songs apiece. (Photo by John McGary)



JEFF SHERR as John Rosenberg on the Woodford Theater stage (Photo by Scott White)

One-man play on Kentucky legal legend is stunning: a review

By SCOTT WHITE
MANAGING EDITOR

In Kentucky legal circles, John Rosenberg is not just well-known but is beloved. Rosenberg is not just respected for his skills, accomplishments and utter commitment to the cause of public law in Appalachia from his base in Floyd County, but is also a hero and inspiration to generations of Kentucky lawyers and advocates.

Imagine the task, then, Jeff Sherr took on in writing and performing the one-man play “Stumbling Stones: The John Rosenberg Story,” which was performed to a sold-out crowd at the Woodford Theatre on Nov. 15.

Sherr is a familiar name to audiences here; he was just nominated for Best Supporting Actor by Broadway World-Louisville for his performance in Woodford Theatre’s production of Henry Miller’s “The Crucible.” What folks likely do not know is that Sherr is a long-time Woodford County resident and

himself a lawyer who spent his career in state government.

Sherr said the play “spans two continents and generations, from fleeing Nazi Germany to standing with civil rights workers in Mississippi and coalfield families in Kentucky.”

“Through decades of courtroom battles and community organizing, it is a testament to memory, resilience and the power of collective action—with an intimate thread of love and partnership with his wife Jean at its heart,” he added. “Ultimately, it’s a story of hope, reminding us that the work of justice is never finished and inspiring us to repair the world we live in today, stone by stone.”

Based on the breadth of Rosenberg’s life, hinted at by that description, it is not hard to imagine how daunting it must have been for Sherr to create a watchable piece of theatre. The success of the play is attributed to the light but experienced hand of well-known Kentucky Director Bo List.

Sherr succeeded. And, not just succeeded,

but the story he told is compelling, cogent and performed with a seeming effortlessness in embodying the person of John Rosenberg.

I admit to having initially been skeptical. I have known Rosenberg for 25 years and was involved in cases with him. I also knew his story well, having both heard him speak at conferences and during a speech he gave at a U.S. Justice Department event that honored him in Washington.

John was spirited out of Germany as a child with his parents in 1939. As Jews, they escaped in the nick of time, as Jews were already being herded into camps. John lost many family members to the Holocaust. He came to the United States on an immigrant ship, winding up with his family in segregated South Carolina, where his father was a blue-collar worker.

He excelled in school and went on to college and law school on scholarship, and

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Half-off adoption fees at Woodford Humane Society Through Dec. 17

By BOB VLACH
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Adoption fees are being reduced by 50 percent for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens at the Woodford Humane Society from Dec. 10-17.

With a very large population in its shelter, “we’re hoping the adoption drive can be that nudge that tells (someone) this is the right time” to adopt a pet, said Beth Oleson, marketing director for the nonprofit society.

“Our goal is always to be finding lifelong placements. And making an appropriate match is a big part of making an adoption last,” she added.

Adoption fees are reduced to \$75 for adult dogs, \$87.50 for puppies and \$50 for senior dogs (8 years and older), \$25 for adult cats, \$37.50 for kittens and \$12.50 for senior cats (10 years and older), according to Oleson.

The fees include the pets being spayed or neutered, core vaccinations (with dogs tested for heartworms and cats tested for feline leukemia), and a coupon for a free post-adoption veterinarian exam at all participating vets in the area, she said.

One-hour adoption appointments are available from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Call 859-873-5491 seven days a week beginning at 10 a.m. to schedule an appointment.

Anyone interested in adopting can visit woodfordhumane.org to see dogs, puppies, cats and kittens available for adoption, and “if folks call us and kind of tell us what they’re looking for,” said Oleson, “we’re happy to make recommendations,” because “we know (many of our animals’) likes and dislikes.”

Applications are provided prior to appointments so families can focus on getting to know and meet their potential pet or pets, and see which one is the best fit, she said, noting every adoption has a seven-day trial period.

The reduced adoption fees are sponsored by Quantrell Auto Group, which has partnered with the Woodford Humane Society to make the annual adoption drive happen every December since 2012, Oleson said.

More than 1,000 pets have found a forever home since



EASTON, a 5-month-old short-haired brown tabby with white markings, was just nine days old when he arrived at Woodford Humane Society with his mother and littermates, according to Beth Oleson of the humane society. She said he is one of 279 kittens taken in by the Woodford Humane Society this year. (Photo by WHS volunteer Whitney Branson)

the adoption drive began, “so it has made a huge difference and we’re very grateful that they continue to partner with us and help us make December just a little bit brighter for the animals and the adopters too,” Oleson said.

Oleson said the Woodford Humane Society’s dog population has been overcapacity for the last few years, with 33 dogs currently in a shelter built for 28. She noted that 15 dogs have been with them for one or more years.

While not as high as the dog population, the shelter currently has 103 cats and kittens, Oleson said. “We’ve taken in close to 300 (279) kittens this year,” she added, “so it has been a very, very busy year for us for cats as well.”

Oleson said she has been at the Woodford Humane Society



BAXTER, a 2-and-a-half-year-old shepherd/hound mix is one of 15 dogs that have been at Woodford Humane Society for more than a year. He arrived Aug. 11, 2024, according to Beth Oleson of the humane society. She described Baxter as happy-go-lucky and energetic, and tons of fun. He gets along great with other dogs, and we think he would also get along with both cats and kids, she said. (Photo by Beth Oleson)

since 2008 and others on their team have been there longer. “I don’t think you last very long in this line of work if you’re not passionate about it,” she said. “And that’s definitely true for all of us ... We’re just really invested in making sure that these animals have a chance for a better life...”

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Thursday, Dec. 11, Planning Commission at 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15, Midway City Council at 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16, Versailles City Council at 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16, Board of Education at 6:00 p.m.

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