

HEARING,
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about this”. She did add that community members can voice their concerns at city council meetings as well, which are held on the first Monday of each month at the Purchase Area Development District office in Mayfield. Aaron Blount, the Mayfield Public Works Superintendent, talked about one motivation behind the proposed city-wide trash service which is to mitigate

the effects of “street rolling.” He went on to say that an over-abundance of heavy trucks and machinery, such as waste vehicles, has gradually damaged the roads, while a streamlined city-wide service fleet would reduce that exposure. Justin Carrico, the Mayfield City Projects Administrator added, talked about another benefit which is in performance clauses, where the franchise winner is bound by contract to be reliable or face penalties. He stated

that a prospective bidder would need to accommodate roughly 4,300 residential properties and 795 commercial properties, furnishing them with waste bins estimated at a total between \$200,000 to \$300,000. He went on saying that trash services would bid based on the cost they would charge per can, while the city would add a franchise fee for road maintenance. All these fees would be factored into citizens’ monthly water bills. There were several

local business owners that described their companies as small to mid-sized and during the public hearing, they highlighted potential difficulties when going for the contract against large waste management corporations. The small business owners said the financial bandwidth and the loans that would be needed to expand their operations through additional employees, street equipment, and landfill expenses would be high. In order to grant a

fair opportunity for smaller businesses to compete, Blount stated that the city could potentially negotiate with private landfills for a fixed rate in the contract. Bruce Sanderson, the owner of Quality Disposal spoke up during the hearing and stated, “There’s three giants in this thing, and they’re the ones who own the landfills. It’s a financial strain on me, for sure.” Sanderson’s business serves around 500 Mayfield clients, which accounts

for approximately 30% of its revenue. Sanderson stated, “If it’s not broken, don’t fix it. We don’t have the resources. The bigger companies own landfills and have the equipment in place to take on a contract like this.” He continued by saying, “I’ve lived here my entire life, and to take something away from someone who’s trying to make a living is just heartless. I agree that the roads need work, but blaming them on the garbage trucks is not a legitimate reason.”

HOWARD,
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POLICIES,
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Education Program.” McCain went on to discuss another addition to the student handbook, which is required by the Kentucky Department of Education, and it underlines the opportunity for students to complete the Early Graduation Program (EGP). The EGP is an optional academic pathway in which a student may receive a high school diploma, Early Graduation Certificate, and any scholarship award from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. The Kentucky General Assembly outlines the extensive set of requirements in 704 KAR 3:305, Section 5. It was said

that MHS will disclose further information upon request from students and parents. McMain went on to state a few key points with this program, which is that students have to meet with a certified teacher, be accepted into college

and be on track to graduate and that they have to declare they’re interested at the beginning of their sophomore year. McMain did add, “Students who graduate early are still technically juniors, not seniors.”

Reduce the risk of lost pets this summer



- *Choose well-fitting collars and harnesses.* A collar can be rendered useless if the pet is able to slip its head out, especially when a little pressure is applied. A martingale collar is a special collar that will safely tighten when the dog tries to pull away. When the dog loosens up the pull, the collar goes back to its comfortable position. Harnesses may be even more secure for escape artists because they attach around the midsection rather than the neck.
- *Use leashes on pets.* The animal should be on a leash whenever it is taken outdoors where there is no fence or secured area. Even the most well-trained pets may run off from time to time. Not to mention, leash laws exist in many areas for both the dog’s and people’s protection. It’s important that pet owners take steps to prevent their furry friends from running away and getting lost.

Pets bring a lot of joy to people’s lives. Is it any wonder that, as of 2024, 66 percent of households in the United States, or 86.9 million homes, owned a pet, according to the American Pet Products Association? In fact, 97 percent of pet owners consider their pets to be family members. And according to Made in CA, 77 percent of households in Canada own at least one type of pet. Introducing a pet into a home is not a decision to take lightly. In addition to the considerable financial investment associated with pet ownership, owners must devote time and energy into safeguarding the well-being of their pets. That includes reducing the chances the animal becomes lost. The Animal Humane Society says it’s estimated one in three pets will go missing in their lifetime. Many of those pets will not be reunited with their owners.

But people can do their part to protect pets from escaping or getting lost. Here are some proactive steps to take.

- *Get pet identification.* Take a multi-layered approach to identifying the pet, such as name and contact information printed on a collar tag. In addition, have the pet microchipped. A microchip is a small device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted just under the skin. The microchip can be programmed to emit identification information about the animal when scanned. Pet parents should routinely check and update the chip’s data if they move or if there is a change in phone number or pet ownership.
- *Consider a GPS-enabled collar.* Another great tool is attaching a GPS-enabled device to a pet collar. In the event the pet cannot be found, pet owners can track the animal’s

location using a mobile phone.

- *Secure the home and yard.* Check for any apparent points of weakness around the home or yard. Is there a large gap between the bottom of the fence and the lawn that needs remedying? Is the gate latching securely or does it pop open? Are all window screens secure, or could they be pushed out from the inside? Curious animals can quickly turn into escape artists, especially if there is a wild animal

to chase or a scent they want to investigate. Securing the home can cut down on potential problems.

- *Utilize obedience training.* Working with a certified dog trainer or cat behaviorist can teach the pet to curb an instinct to bolt. If they start to run off, training can help pets develop adequate recall skills to come back when called. Trainers also can teach techniques to quell pets’ desires to dart when a house or fence door is open.



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