

The Beattyville Enterprise

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Three Generations, One Tradition:

Celebrating Family, Community & Halloween



This year marked the Jennings family's 14th year of celebrating Halloween together, with a special theme honoring America's 250th birthday! The family consists of 11 members spanning three generations: parents David and Judy Jennings; their oldest daughter and her husband, Sara and Chris Charles, and their daughters, Allison and Olivia Charles; their next-oldest daughter and her husband, Mary and Derek Adams, and their children, Chet and Molly Adams; and their youngest daughter, Ellen Grace Jennings.

The three generations range in age from family patriarch David Jennings, 71, to the youngest grandchild, Molly Adams, just 4 years old. Although the family has always enjoyed dressing up, the tradition of coordinating costumes around a group theme began in 2013. The roots of the tradition, however, go back much further — to two very special women who helped make Halloween memorable for generations: the children's grandmothers.

Both grandmothers loved Halloween, dressing up, handing out candy and preparing a big pot of chili. Their maternal grandmother, affectionately known as Mamaw, transformed her carport in Paintsville with black tarps, disco lights and music. Children from nearby hollows would gather to enjoy her homemade chili and receive candy. The experience offered a glimpse of a simpler, country-style Halloween, where children truly walked from house to house through the hollers.

Their paternal grandmother, known as Grandmommy, lived in Beattyville, allowing the family to spend many more Halloweens with her. She loved preparing chili and handing out candy at Gourley Heights. Those evenings were filled with visits from neighbors and community families, costumes and trick-or-treating from house to house in what felt like a sweet, storybook neighborhood.

Both grandmothers have since passed away, but the traditions and memories they created continue to live on.

In their honor, the family gathers each year to vote on a Halloween theme, coordinate costumes, enjoy chili and hand out candy during Trick-or-Treat on Main in support of their church, St. Thomas. Afterward, the children in the family get to trick-or-treat at Gourley Heights, giving the next generation an opportunity to experience the same special memories their parents and grandparents cherish.

Over the years, the community has shown the family tremendous support, not only for their annual Halloween themes but in countless other ways. As a way of expressing gratitude and giving something back, the family launched Costumes for a Cause in 2025.

The concept is simple: For every like received on the family's annual Halloween Reveal post, one dollar is donated to a local charity or organization of their choosing, up to a predetermined maximum donation amount. The family keeps its theme a secret until shortly before Halloween, making the annual reveal even more special. The initiative was created as a way to give back to a community that has given the family so much. This year's donations will benefit Lee County Veterans and Passionately Pink.

The family says the community means so much to them, and they are humbled by the continued support. Their hope is to carry on the tradition for as long as they are blessed to do so. More than an annual Halloween celebration, the tradition represents three generations coming together to honor their roots, remember loved ones, support their community and create lasting memories for the next generation.

It is a celebration of family, tradition and the special community that has helped make it all possible.

Info via Ellen Grace Jennings

Woolly Worm Committee Recognized at Council Meeting

By Lisa Robinson

The Beattyville City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott Jackson. Sally Gilbert, City Clerk, called the roll. Four of the six council members were present. Savannah Mays and Glenna Cummins were absent. Councilman Sam Cockerham gave the Invocation and then everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jackson welcomed all visitors.

Paul Nesbitt from Nesbitt Engineering gave his monthly report. "The WPA Project – working with the $75,000 grant that Teresa Mays got for the project. They are working on the electrical and the hardwood floors upstairs. Waste Water Treatment Plant – they are going to bring a filter press for us to try and see if it is better than the system we have now. Water System Improvement Phase 2 – we have to have the bill to the state by December 1, 2026. You can go ahead and authorize the mayor to sign anything that needs to be signed and you will not need to have a special meeting. Water System Improvement Phase 3 – construction will begin in the spring. The Water Tank Rehab Project – we have three water tanks that were funded with grants. The Crystal Creek Trailhead and Outlook – we are still waiting on funding. The Bald Rock Fork Road – is under construction." A motion was made and carried to pay an Invoice for $271,495.84. A motion was made and carried to authorize the mayor to sign papers for the projects that need to be done by December 31, 2026.

Nathan McIntosh from KRADD said, "Paul has already talked about everything that I had. We are submitting pre-apps for the Crystal Creek Trailhead and Beattyville Outlook. I am hopeful that the Bear Track Project will be fully funded in the next month or two." A motion was made and carried to renew the contract with Beattyville Housing for Payroll Services. We charge them $400 per month. A motion was made and carried to approve the prior meeting minutes.

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KY Coal Heritage Trail Regional Summit Celebrates Eastern Ky's Coal Heritage

People from across Eastern Kentucky gathered Friday, November 6, at Herman's Brew in Beattyville for the KY Coal Heritage Trail Regional Summit, celebrating the people, places and communities that helped power a nation through coal. The summit focused on connecting the trail by strengthening regional tourism and supporting Main Street communities at the heart of Eastern Kentucky's towns.

Participants shared a common vision of preserving the region's stories, heritage and the legacy of generations of coal miners and their families while creating shared opportunities that will help lift every community along the trail. The effort recognizes that Eastern Kentucky's coal heritage is more than a part of its past. It is an important piece of the region's identity and an opportunity to build stronger communities and a brighter future through tourism, collaboration and preservation.

Below; Terry Congleton telling about Congleton Mine family history in Lee County. Teresa Mays, Director of Beattyville Main Street Program. More Photos Page 8





KENTUCKY COAL HERITAGE TRAIL