

# Harrison County works to update Comprehensive Plan

BY **BETSY SMITH**  
EDITOR

Harrison County's Comprehensive Plan is due for an update, and the planning commission's January 12 meeting was dedicated almost solely to that mission. Both old and new business items on the agenda were postponed to the February meeting.

Kentucky requires municipalities to review their comprehensive plans every five years. Harrison County's current active plan was approved in 2019, according to Director of Planning and Community Development Bonnie Skinner.

"A lot of permit numbers, census numbers and general content

needed updated. This new plan has new charts, updated land use maps, street plans, census numbers, local permitting number updates," Skinner said.

Edward J. Holmes, AICP and president of EHI Consultants, did the 2019 plan, and was asked to make the updates.

He was present at the meeting and provided an overview of the suggested updated plan. The update takes into consideration data from the 2020 census, housing distribution and growth, residential and manufacturing permits from 2019-2024 and environmental constraints.

Holmes noted that while the population of Cynthiana remained steady—6,400 in 2000; 6,700 in

2023—the county population during that period went from 18,000 to 20,000, a growth rate of about 11%. However, long-range projections predict a decline back down to around 18,000 by 2045 due to limited net migration and an aging population.

Holmes also focused on infrastructure priorities, how to manage growth and transportation, and factors such as air regional air quality, an aging population ("prioritizing aging in place"), ADA compliance and enhanced safety standards for parks.

Infrastructure priorities include improving broadband and cell phone coverage, expansion of rural fire and water/sewer services as

needed to align with growth outside the Cynthiana city limits, protecting trail corridors, following best practices for stormwater, and road and bridge safety/maintenance.

In terms of transportation Holmes highlighted keeping the bypass limited to commercial access and controlling access management on U.S. 27 and U.S. 62 as priorities.

Moving to implementation shifts, Holmes advised first focusing on growth and development within the Cynthiana city limits then moving outward, adjacent to the city limits rather than on rural development. "Leapfrogging" out into rural areas incurs the need for more services, he clarified.

He encouraged removing

restrictive barriers to reinvestment and redevelopment and complemented the work of the EDA.

Holmes noted that goals and objectives of the 2019 comprehensive plan were not changed.

The existing land use map and a future development map showing where and how development should occur were presented for review and discussion.

At the Jan. 12 meeting, the planning commission took no action on the comprehensive plan but did vote to submit the updated 2025 comprehensive plan to the city commissions of Berry and Cynthiana and the Harrison County Fiscal Court as a matter of record.

## WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL - SECOND NINE WEEKS

### ALL AS

Aerith Adams  
Caleb Anderson  
Nash Arnold  
Sophia Beil  
Ian Bentley  
Rylan Brandenburg  
Lena Bruschi  
Asher Cercone  
Averi Cole  
John Collins  
Adaline Cook  
Natalie Cook  
Maverick Crump  
Harper Currans  
Kabella Daugherty  
Baylee Detillion  
Liam Dwyer  
Aldo Farmer  
Hazel Farrell  
Willow Fuhr  
Ava Furnish  
Maddox Goodlet  
Wesly Gross  
Kynlyn Hall  
Elsie Hartzel

Lane Hartzel  
Ava Howard  
Lillian Howard  
Evie Johnson  
Anya Levi  
Atlas Linville  
Shiloh Mitchell  
Samuel Mueller  
Annabelle Munich  
Avery Muntz  
Dustin Mynatt  
Liam Plymesser  
Layton Power  
Abigail Powers  
Will Probus  
Corey Proffitt  
Chaseton Rayburn  
Maya Reyna  
Wyatt Reynolds  
Oaklyn Riley  
Mariana Rodriguez  
Nola Santos  
Lillian Shearer  
Lucas Shearer  
Nora Shields  
Anders Slone

Hailey Soper  
Braylon Spence  
Nora Thomas  
Blake Tolle  
Ty Wiggins  
Liza Wilson  
Virginia Wood  
Kendyll Yazell

### A/B HONOR ROLL

Oliver Anderson  
Maci Arvin  
Cece Bailey-Rutherford  
Morgan Beckstead  
Makenna Bennett  
Issac Beverly  
Elijah Brewer  
Jacob Bruschi  
Axel Burgess  
Easton Butcher  
Kaydence Collins  
Clark Cordray  
Samuel Daugherty  
Timber Daugherty  
Riley Dotson

Zav Duesbout  
Gabe Eubanks  
Jace Follmer  
Kammy Grierson  
Jaxton Hammond  
Gracie Harlow  
Mazie Harrington  
Roman Hart  
Chase Hawkins  
Alex Himes  
Jace Hofmann  
Johnathan Ison  
Asher Kearns  
Xander Kiskaden  
Ethan Lindsey  
Emma Little  
Axel Lyons  
Brooke McKinney  
Raelynn Meadows  
Willow Meyer  
Easton Moore  
John Munich  
Pailyn Napier  
Jonah Nickerson  
Madalynn Noel  
John Noel

Kye O'Donoghue  
Peyton Ogden  
Maeve Peavler  
Layla Penn  
Dawson Perkins  
Azelea Plymesser  
Klay Rice  
Kanaan Rice  
Lennox Ritchie  
Lydia Setser  
Amber Setser  
Preston Slone  
Valen Smith  
Camden Spencer  
Lylah Tackett  
Gabby Tobin  
Gentry Tubbs  
Samuel Walker  
Faith Ward  
Tiffany Washington  
Casen White  
Brantlee White  
Gracie Wills  
Amelia Winkle  
Raylee Yazell

### B.U.G.

Leo Aguilar  
Morgan Beckstead  
Gabriel Blankenship  
Gunnar Boyer  
Rylan Brandenburg  
Elijah Brewer  
Baylee Detillion  
Hazel Farrell  
Wesly Gross  
Evie Johnson  
Emma Little  
Axel Lyons  
Roberta Madore  
Willow Meyer  
Layton Power  
Abigail Powers  
Corey Proffitt  
Lucas Shearer  
Blake Tolle  
Kenley Turner  
Rayne Wells  
\*Fitz Furnish - Honor Roll 1st  
9 weeks

## University of Kentucky releases Fall 2025 Dean's List

Students are eligible for the University of Kentucky's Dean's List by earning a grade point average of 3.5 or better while enrolled in 12 or more credit hours for a letter grade.

The following students from Harrison County are included on the Fall 2025

Dean's List:

Lydia M. Phillips  
Leah D. Wills  
Wynter H. Blanton  
Sophia C. Bowlin  
Jeremyah R. Cabrera  
Audrey E. Dawson  
Ashlee B. Foxworth  
Shelby R. Foxworth  
Sydney L. Furnish

Morgan S. Gross  
Marlee D. Harris  
Jolie K. Hill  
Sarah A. Lakes  
Dylan W. Maddox  
Micah N. Marsh  
Clifford T. McIlvain  
Riley I. Moses  
Wyatt L. Patterson  
Joshua T. Purnell

Emily C. Roberts  
Payton D. Slade  
Alex T. Sledd  
Jacqueline C. Smith  
Tanner R. Stroub  
Skylar B. Turner  
Caroline E. VanHook  
Chloe L. Vance  
Gabryel F. Vanover

## Georgetown College releases Fall 2025 Dean's List

Georgetown College is pleased to recognize 290 students who earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 term. To qualify, a student must have completed the spring semester with at least 12 credit hours

and a minimum 3.7 GPA. The following students from Harrison County are included on the Dean's List: Jenna Clay Gaunce of Cynthiana Allison Marie Patterson of Cynthiana

## MINDSET

FROM **PAGE A4**

determination was reached. The reason was that all their neighboring countries drove on the right, and the vast majority of the vehicles owned by Swedes were designed to be driven on the right. The decision was made with the intent to reduce accidents. Even then though, the change was not immediate. The switch was scheduled to occur four years later, allowing ample time for a comprehensive public information campaign.

And what a campaign it was. There were the expected television and radio advertisements, along with signs and billboards. But the Swedes went

further. The logo promoting the switch appeared on gloves, milk cartons and even commemorative underwear.

Perhaps the most inspired move of all was a songwriting contest hosted by Swedish television, inviting musicians to write a song about the change. The winning entry was Keep to the Right, Svensson, written by Peter Himmelstrand and performed by The Telstar. And, if you are curious, it is available on YouTube.

After four years of unrelenting messaging, you might assume the transition would be seamless. And, relatively speaking, it was. On the day of the switch, there were fewer traffic accidents than on an average day. The following day, there were even fewer. Clearly, the campaign had worked—or

so it seemed.

Over the next six weeks, accident rates slowly crept back up. Within a year, they had returned to pre-switch levels. Well-intended as it was, the goal was not achieved.

The lesson, to me, is that change is difficult. And there may be no better time of year to illustrate that truth than January. Many of us make New Year's resolutions—well-intended promises to ourselves. Yet by the time this column appears, a good number of them will already be broken.

According to Drive Research, 80 percent of Americans who make resolutions believe they'll stick with them throughout the year. Only 9 percent actually do. And 23 percent fail before the end of the first week.

Did some of those people know they would fail? Probably. But I suspect most did not. They had good intentions. They had desire. Like the Swedes, they started strong. But life intervenes. One distracted moment and muscle memory takes over—you drift into the familiar left-hand lane or into the McDonald's drive-thru. It happens.

I've made plenty of resolutions over the years. A few I've kept, but most I haven't. Even when I've succeeded, I've often found myself sliding back to old habits.

One year, I resolved to lose 15 pounds. I did—fairly quickly, in fact. Goal achieved. And not long after I was right back where I started. It felt less like learning a lesson and more like cramming for a test.

The novelist Henry Miller once wrote, "One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things."

With that in mind, I no longer make resolutions with rigid finish lines. Instead of losing 15 pounds, I aim to eat healthier. Instead of reading 50 books, I want to read more. I'm less interested in temporary achievements and more interested in living better.

As the Swedes taught us, lasting change is hard. There will be setbacks along the way. But if we focus less on a defined destination and more on reshaping our habits, change may finally stick—and chaos may give way to something that feels a little more natural.

## RESPECT

FROM **PAGE A3**

After 30 minutes, each teacher gathered the tests and placed them in the large envelope. They each walked the tests to the office and handed them to the principal. The principal placed them into a larger bag and waited for a representative from Columbia University to pick up the packets.

After about two weeks, each principal of the 50 schools received a written report on the test. It turned out that across all the schools, with thousands of students, only seven percent were reported as honest.

Many of the principals protested by sending letters to Columbia University. After about another week, the university spokesperson reported, "The written tests were a smoke screen. The one and only thing we kept track of was the number of

pencils returned, seven percent."

Some people realize that honesty must precede respect. Some people recognize that we earn respect by keeping our word and by meeting our responsibilities without excuses. Some people understand that telling the truth instead of telling little white lies brings respect.

I have learned that you can give love. I have learned that you can give kindness. I have learned that you can give patience. But I have also learned that trust and respect must be earned. We can give a person some space that might seem like trust. We can treat another person in a respectful way, but to genuinely trust and respect a person happens when that person has been honest and acted in a responsible manner.

I have wondered which a person prefers; to be respected and trusted by others or to have others treat us with kindness and

love. Believe it or not, I prefer to be respected and trusted because I have learned that when I am honest and when I meet my responsibilities people will respect me, they will trust me, and they will more likely be kind and loving to me.

I know I have not given you a specific Bible chapter and verse, but that is because being honest and meeting our responsibilities, in one way or another, seems to show up on every page of the Bible. It's as if God wanted to emphasize the importance of honesty and meeting our responsibilities.

## CYNTHIANA

FROM **PAGE A4**

purposes. The motion carried.

-Commissioner Slade of Fire Safety and Emergency Services made a motion to authorize to advertise for firefighter recruits, which carried.

Slade also made a motion

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to authorize to award the Cynthiana Fire Station #1 addition bid to Spectrum Contracting Services, Inc, which carried.

-Commissioner Conner of Public Utilities and Works noted that everything has been going smoothly across the board in his department. He also took a moment to applaud the MLK March the previous week, noting that nothing had been done for

MLK Day the last few years.

### LEGALS

Mayor Dailey made a motion to move into executive session for discussion of pending litigation per KRS 61.810 subsection 1 subsection c, which carried.

After coming back into regular session, Mayor Dailey noted that pending litigation had been discussed with no action taken.

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