

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

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 Sloane

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 Duesbou
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
Pailynn 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 Sloane
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

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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