

Mail-In Ballots

From Front

2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern as the deadline for requesting a mail-in absentee ballot. Voters requesting a mail-in ballot locally may want to mkae sure the rquest is made by October 19 to meet the deadline with the Garrard County Clerk. Kentucky requires voters

Structure Fire

From Front

ed, bringing personnel from Lancaster City Fire and Rescue, Buckeye Fire Department, Cartersville-Paint Lick Fire/Rescue, Garrard County EMS, the Garrard County Sheriff’s Office and Garrard County Emergency Management to the

Walker

From Front

counting a résumé that includes the 1996 NCAA championship, three NBA All-Star selections and an NBA championship with the Miami Heat.

Walker, a Chicago native, recalled attending Mount Carmel High School, where one of his basketball teammates was future NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb. Walker said McNabb played basketball throughout high school despite football seasons that regularly delayed his arrival to the basketball team.

“He was the second-leading scorer on the team,” Walker said, describing McNabb as “super athletic.”

Much of the conversation centered on the 1995-96 Kentucky Wildcats, who went 34-2 and defeated Syracuse in the NCAA championship game. Walker said he began to understand the potential of that team during a preseason European trip, when the Wildcats had an opportunity to play together during the summer.

Walker pointed to Kentucky’s depth and versatility as qualities that separated the team from others he played on. The roster

requesting a mail-in absentee ballot to meet one of the eligibility requirements established under state law. Qualifying circumstances include certain voters who will be absent during the applicable voting periods, students temporarily living outside their home county, certain military and overseas voters, voters temporarily residing outside Kentucky, and voters unable to vote in person

scene.

When emergency crews arrived, they found the structure partially involved in fire, with the flames primarily concentrated near the center of the residence. Responders confirmed that all residents had made it out of the home and that no one was trapped inside.

Firefighters immediately began attacking the blaze.

included numerous players who eventually reached the NBA, and Walker said the competition within the program made practices especially demanding.

“I truly believe that we have the best college team ever,” Walker said, acknowledging his own connection to the team while pointing to its depth as the basis for that view.

Nearly three decades later, Walker said the relationships created during that championship season remain intact. He identified Allen Edwards and Nazr Mohammed as two of his closest friends from Kentucky and said members of the 1996 team continue communicating through an active group text. Walker also discussed his transition from a dominant Kentucky program to the NBA after the Boston Celtics selected him in the 1996 draft. The adjustment was dramatic. After winning a national championship at Kentucky, Walker joined a Celtics organization in rebuilding mode that won only 15 games during his rookie season.

The franchise’s history, however, made an impression on him. Walker recalled being around Celtics figures including Red Auerbach, Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, K.C. Jones, M.L.

open its drive-thru for taxpayers who want to make payments in person without entering the office. Skeens said the drive-thru will open Oct. 1 and remain available throughout October and November.

“We’ll have it open through the day, through the whole month of October and November,” Skeens said, adding that activity generally begins to slow

taxes account for much of that amount. The district anticipates \$4,666,156 from general property taxes, \$1.27 million from motor vehicle taxes and \$900,000 from franchise taxes. Utilities tax revenue is projected at \$1.125 million. Other projected local revenue includes \$105,000 in delinquent property taxes, \$105,000 in investment interest and \$451,858 from other local revenue sources.

State sources remain the largest component of General Fund receipts. The budget projects \$19,647,475.10 in state-source revenue. That figure includes \$10,912,086 from the SEEK program, Kentucky’s primary school funding mechanism, along with \$8,462,189.10 identified in the budget as on-behalf payments. The SEEK appropriation is below the \$11,546,017 shown as the previous fiscal year’s actual amount in the working budget report.

Federal revenue within the General Fund is comparatively limited, with \$250,000 budgeted for Medicaid reimbursement.

Judge-Executive Chris Elleman recommended the court save the roughly \$80,000 instead. He said the state cut about \$200,000 from the county’s road funding.

filed in the county’s deed room, formally documenting the transaction.

With the property transfer completed, county officials can begin turning their attention toward preparing the site. Elleman said he plans to consult with county personnel about possibly beginning clearing work before winter arrives.

The county could also consider preparing a pad at the prop-

rating businesses with an opportunity to reach local runners, families and spectators.

Three sponsorship levels are being offered.

Gold sponsorships are available for \$300. Gold sponsors will receive the largest company-logo placement on race shirts, placement on the event banner and signage, recognition on social media before and after

because of age, disability or illness, among other circumstances.

Eligible voters can request a ballot through the Kentucky Voter Information Portal at GoVote.KY.gov.

For voters eligible for excused in-person absentee voting, the designated dates are Oct. 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28. Kentucky’s no-excuse early in-person voting follows on Oct.

Crews brought the fire under control within approximately 20 minutes, according to emergency management officials. Firefighters remained at the scene afterward to extinguish the remaining fire and conduct overhaul operations, a process that involves searching for and eliminating hidden hot spots that could cause the fire to rekindle.

Carr, Tommy Heinsohn and Cedric Maxwell. He compared the experience of joining Boston to playing at Kentucky because of the history and expectations surrounding both programs.

Walker developed into one of the league’s prominent young players and was selected to his first NBA All-Star Game in 1998. He remembered the experience as particularly significant because the game was held at Madison Square Garden and placed him alongside players he had admired before entering the league.

Walker recalled that he and Kobe Bryant were among the younger players in an All-Star environment populated by established stars such as Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Patrick Ewing. Bird, then coaching the Indiana Pacers, coached the Eastern Conference team.

Asked about his most difficult individual matchups, Walker identified Kevin Garnett and Tim Duncan, citing Garnett’s length, athleticism and ability to play above the rim. Walker also remembered Garnett as one of the NBA’s most persistent trash talkers, putting him alongside Jordan in that category.

Walker joked that his early record against Jordan was de-

after November.

Property Valuation Administrator Brian Swinney used the approaching tax season to remind property owners to make sure their information is accurate before bills are processed and distributed.

Swinney said residents who have changed addresses or who notice other information that needs to be corrected should

The district also anticipates \$1,796,555 in interfund transfers and indirect-cost transfers.

Instruction represents the largest General Fund expenditure category. Garrard County Schools budgeted \$18,135,256 for instruction, including approximately \$10.38 million for salaries and \$5.92 million in on-behalf costs. Another \$731,025 is budgeted for employee benefits, while \$798,703 is allocated for instructional supplies. Total instructional spending is roughly level with the \$18.12 million reported as actual spending in the preceding fiscal year.

The district budgeted \$3,254,502 for plant operations and maintenance. That includes \$929,662 for salaries, \$245,529 for employee benefits, \$467,894 in on-behalf costs, \$530,960 for purchased property services and \$888,991 for supplies.

Student transportation is budgeted at \$2,610,733, down from approximately \$3.26 million in actual expenditures reported for the previous fiscal year. The

“I think it’s wise for us to hold on to our funds,” Elleman said. He explained that unused flex funds carry over and could be spent on county roads next

erty as part of the initial work. If preparations proceed as anticipated, Elleman said officials hope to break ground on the new park in the spring.

The deed also resolves questions surrounding the extent of the property involved in the transfer. Whitworth said the deed included all of the property in the area that county officials believed had previously been conveyed to Garrard County

the event, recognition during race announcements and four complimentary race entries. Gold sponsors will also have an opportunity to include items associated with the event.

Silver sponsorships cost \$200 and include medium-sized company-logo placement on race shirts, placement on the event banner and signage, pre- and post-event social media recog-

29, 30 and 31. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, with polls open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. local time.

Completed mail-in absentee ballots must be received by the county clerk no later than 6 p.m. local time on Nov. 3 to be counted. The State Board of Elections also reports that the U.S. Postal Service recommends placing completed absentee ballots in the mail by

The fire was fully extinguished and overhaul operations were completed within approximately two hours.

Garrard County Emergency Management Deputy Director Dustin Price confirmed that the residence was occupied at the time of the incident. Damage from the fire left the home uninhabitable, displacing the residents.

cidedly unfavorable during the Chicago Bulls’ championship years before the balance shifted when Jordan later played for the Washington Wizards.

His NBA career ultimately included another championship. Walker was a member of the 2005-06 Miami Heat team that defeated the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Finals, playing alongside Dwyane Wade, Shaquille O’Neal, Alonzo Mourning, Gary Payton, Jason Williams and James Posey under coach Pat Riley.

Walker said that Heat team reminded him in some respects of his Kentucky experience because of its closeness away from competition. The players embraced a “15 strong” mentality, he said, and spent considerable time together on and off the court.

Still, when an audience member asked Walker to compare his NBA championship with the NCAA title at Kentucky, he said the college championship carried a different significance because of the amount of time teammates spent together and the friendships that have endured.

Walker’s relationship with Kentucky basketball remains evident. He spoke during the

contact his office and the sheriff’s office as soon as possible.

“Tax bill season is coming real quick,” Swinney said. “If anybody has any address changes or anything like that, let us know and the sheriff’s office know as quick as possible so we can go ahead and start making those corrections.”

He reiterated that the request applies not only to address

earlier total included \$569,214 in property expenditures, while the FY27 working budget lists no appropriation in that transportation property category. The FY27 transportation budget includes nearly \$1.19 million for salaries, \$333,291 for employee benefits, \$581,431 in on-behalf costs, \$373,700 for supplies and \$122,661 for other purchased services.

School administration support is budgeted at \$2,222,565, while district administration support is budgeted at approximately \$1.61 million. Business support services account for \$848,411.50, student support services for \$900,299 and instructional staff support services for \$562,555. The General Fund also includes \$305,753 in fund transfers.

Beyond the General Fund, the district’s Special Revenue Fund carries a \$3,962,542 budget. Of that amount, \$2,330,943 is projected from restricted federal funding passed through the state and \$1,431,888 from restricted state revenue.

year.

Magistrate Glendan Barker moved to decline the flex fund expenditure on Poor Ridge, and Preston seconded. The motion

several years ago.

Elleman said some of the property is on White Lick and referenced land across the road as officials continue working through the site’s details. He said he had met with another county official before the Fiscal Court meeting and that the county would work to finalize the property description and related details.

The Paint Lick project is part

tion, recognition during race announcements and two complimentary race entries.

Bronze sponsorships are available for \$100. Businesses at that level will have their company name included on event signage, receive a post-event social media acknowledgment and recognition during race announcements, and receive one complimentary race entry.

Oct. 27. Voters may also return their ballots using authorized county drop boxes.

The Garrard County notice directs voters to the Garrard County Courthouse, 15 Public Square, Lancaster, for its listed ballot return/drop-box location and provides the county clerk’s office number, (859) 792-3071, for questions.

The key dates for voters to remember are Sept. 19 through

The American Red Cross was contacted following the fire, and resources were obtained to assist the displaced family.

Deputy Directors David East and Daniel Napier also assisted at the scene.

Despite the extent of the fire and the multi-agency response, officials reported that no civilians or emergency responders were injured during the inci-

program about Wildcats coach Mark Pope, his former UK teammate, and urged fans to give Pope time as he navigates the demands of coaching in the SEC.

Walker said he was happy when Pope received the Kentucky job because of Pope’s connection to the university, although he acknowledged initially wondering how his former teammate would handle the position. Walker said he believes Pope has gained a better understanding of the SEC and the type of personnel needed to compete in the conference.

Asked to compare Kentucky’s 1996 championship team with the 2014-15 Wildcats, who began the season 38-0 before losing to Wisconsin in the Final Four, Walker unsurprisingly backed his own team but explained his reasoning through its depth, professional talent and margin of victory. He recalled that when members of the 1996 squad gathered for a 20th-anniversary reunion and watched the national championship game, he was struck by how poorly Kentucky had played by its standards — yet still defeated Syracuse for the title.

For Walker, that remains evidence of how formidable the

changes but also to name corrections and other information that could affect a property tax bill.

“If anybody’s got any address corrections or anything like that, name corrections, anything that we need to be made aware of, they need to get that to us as quickly as possible,” Swinney said.

Providing corrected information promptly will allow offi-

Special Revenue Fund spending includes \$3,100,112 for instruction, \$353,860 for instructional staff support and \$326,489 for community services.

The Student Activity Fund has \$1,074,491 in budgeted resources, including a \$323,951 beginning balance and \$750,540 in projected student-activity revenue. The district’s separate district activity fund has a \$403,934 budget.

Capital and facilities-related funds also represent a substantial part of the district’s financial plan. The Building Fund carries \$5,475,093 in total budgeted resources, including a beginning balance of \$1,113,320, projected local property-tax revenue of \$2,357,823 and \$1,978,950 in restricted state revenue. Its expenditures include approximately \$4.34 million in fund transfers and \$1.14 million designated for debt-service contingency.

The Construction Fund budget totals \$2.5 million, all of which is projected as restricted state revenue. Of that amount,

passed.

Elleman also said the county submitted a request for discretionary state funds to work on Gillespie Pike. The coun-

of broader discussions about recreational facilities in the county. Elleman also briefly referenced efforts concerning the northern end of Garrard County, saying he and Magistrate Davis had spoken with individuals in that area and were hoping to receive additional news.

For Paint Lick, however, completion and filing of the deed represents a concrete step toward development of the pro-

The event represents a new addition to Lancaster Parks and Recreation’s community programming, with organizers emphasizing the importance of local partnerships in establishing the race during its first year.

Businesses interested in becoming sponsors or obtaining additional information can contact Lancaster Parks and Recreation at mgaffney@cityoflan-

Oct. 20 for eligible mail-in absentee ballot requests; Oct. 21-23 and Oct. 26-28 for excused in-person absentee voting; Oct. 29-31 for no-excuse early voting; and Nov. 3 for Election Day and the deadline for county clerks to receive mail-in absentee ballots.

dent.

Garrard County Emergency Management also thanked Bluegrass 911 Communications for its assistance during the emergency response.

The cause of the fire was not provided in the agency’s initial report.

group could be even when it was not at its best.

His appearance also served as part of a continuing series of former Kentucky basketball guests at Ethan’s Sports Cards & More. Upcoming events include former Wildcats Aaron and Andrew Harrison next month as well as former Kentucky NCAA champion and NBA player Walter McCarty as an Oct. 17 special guest on the “Beard and Lank Show,” beginning at 6 p.m., followed by a 30-minute meet-and-greet with autographs or photos at \$20.

The Walker interview ultimately blended basketball history with the type of personal stories rarely contained in a box score. From playing alongside McNabb as a Chicago teenager to celebrating championships at Kentucky and Miami, Walker repeatedly returned to the relationships formed along the way.

And when he addressed the Kentucky fans gathered in Lancaster, his connection to the program was unmistakable.

“I’m Big Blue to my heart,” Walker said. “This is a special place. I enjoy coming back.”

cials to begin making the necessary changes and issue corrected tax bills when needed, he said.

With Oct. 1 marking the beginning of the process, county officials are encouraging property owners to review their information and report necessary changes promptly as the sheriff’s office prepares for its busiest months of tax collection.

\$1,737,502 is budgeted for building improvements and \$762,498 for fund transfers. The figures represent a sharp reduction from construction activity in the prior years shown in the report. The district recorded approximately \$5.31 million in Construction Fund expenditures in the previous fiscal year and approximately \$15.83 million two years earlier.

The Debt Service Fund totals \$4,041,706, including \$3,785,020 in interfund transfers and \$256,686 in state on-behalf payments. The full amount is appropriated for debt service.

Approval of the working budget establishes Garrard County Schools’ operating financial plan for FY27. The document shows a district continuing to direct the largest share of its General Fund spending toward classroom instruction while also budgeting for transportation, facilities, administrative operations and a multimillion-dollar contingency as it moves through the fiscal year.

ty won’t hear back until the General Assembly returns to session.

posed park.

The county now controls the property needed for the project and can move into planning and early site preparation, with additional discussions expected as officials determine the scope and timing of work ahead of a possible spring groundbreaking.

caster.com.

With preparations underway for the inaugural event, organizers hope the Halloween-themed 5K can generate support for recreation efforts while establishing a new fall tradition for Lancaster and Garrard County.