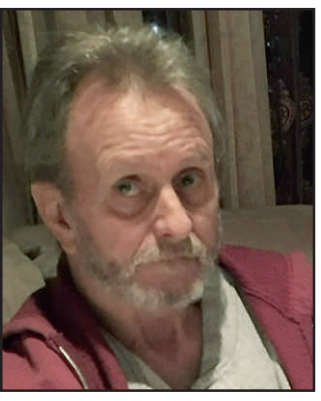
Obituaries



RONALD BLACK

Ronald Carol Black, Sr., 78, died Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Born in Harrodsburg, he was the son of the late Zelbert Black Sr. and Gracie Hulette Black.

He was a self-employed mason, was a member of the Fellowship Baptist Church and was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

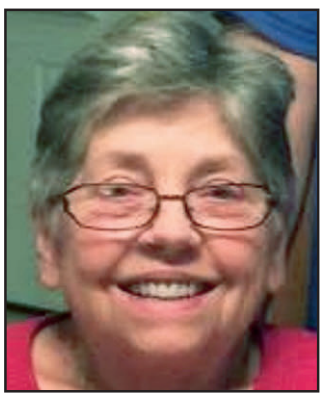
Survivors include: three sons, Randy Black and Michael Back of Wesley Chapel, Fla. and Greg Black of Harrodsburg; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one son, Ronnie C. Black, Jr. and one brother, Zelbert "Buddy" Black Jr.

Graveside services will be held 1 p.m., Friday, April 10, at Spring Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Randy Black, Michael Black, Danny Black and Greg Black.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.alexanderandroyalty.com.



JANE BROWNING

Barbara Jane Browning, 85, widow of Othel L. Browning, of Mackville, died Friday, April 3, 2026, at Harrodsburg Health and Rehab in Harrodsburg.

Born Oct. 3, 1940, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late George Jenkins and Nona Louallen.

She was a member of Herrington Lake Pentecostal Church and was a licensed practical nurse (LPN) for Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

Survivors include: three daughters, Sharon (Ted) Lewis, Allison Patton and Sheree Jackson; one son, Eddie (Kathy) Browning; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, Ruth Bailey, Violet Abrams, Josephine Cook and Treva Hill.

Funeral services are today, Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com.

CHARLOTTE HART

Charlotte Mae Hart, 89, of Harrodsburg, widow of Merle J. Hart Sr., died Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at Baptist Health Lexington.

Born March 7, 1937, in Harrodsburg, she was the daughter of the late Cornell and Lillie B. McRay.

She was a bus driver for Mercer County Schools for over 33 years.

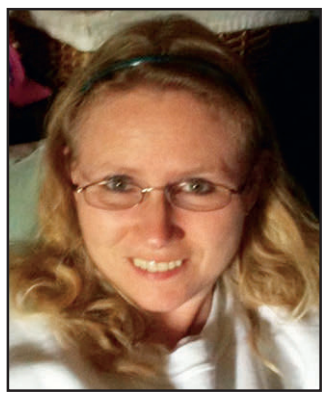
Survivors include: one daughter, Teresa Coleman of Harrodsburg; one son, Merle J. (Lisa) Hart Jr. of Harrodsburg; and five grandchildren.

Charlotte was preceded in death by one son, Danny J. Hart; one son-in-law, David Coleman; two brothers, C.H. "Buddy" McRay and Thomas McRay; and four sisters, Pansy Houston, Shirley Bailey, Barbara Lake and Kathleen Patterson.

Private graveside services were held Monday, April 6, at Grace Baptist Church Cemetery in Danville with Mark Henson officiating.

Memorial services will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, April 11, at the Grace Baptist Church.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.simsfuneralservices.com.



DANA NICHOLS

Dana Marie (Ritchey) Nichols, 54, of Lawrenceburg, wife of Nathan Edmond Nichols, died Saturday, April 4, 2026, at her home.

Born Oct. 25, 1971, in Versailles, she was the daughter of Clyde and Sue (Murphy) Ritchey.

She was an Anderson County High School graduate, attended Eastern Kentucky University, worked for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Walmart and was a member of the Alton Christian Church in Lawrenceburg.

Survivors, in addition to her husband and parents, include: one daughter, Natalie Marie Nichols; one sister, T.J. McElroy of Lawrenceburg; best friend, Tony; and one nephew.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m., Friday, April 10, at the Alton Christian Church in Lawrenceburg with Noel Cotton Jr. and Bailey Miller officiating. Burial will be in the Lawrenceburg Cemetery.

Visitation, today, Thursday, April 9, 5-8 p.m. and Friday, April 10, 10 a.m. until the hour of service at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, P.O. Box 88540, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.ransdellfuneralchapel.com.

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Burgin

from 1A

ning and zoning?" Councilman Syndicat "Sid" Dunn asked.

Councilman George Hensley said he was the mayor the last time Burgin voted to leave planning and zoning. Hensley said people complained Burgin was being treated differently from Harrodsburg.

Dunn asked about lot sizes. Upchurch said that would be up to the city council.

"We can work with anything you all want," Upchurch said.

"As long as the ordinances don't violate state, federal or constitutional law, you can make the laws say whatever you want them to say," he said. "We'll try to enforce them."

Planning and zoning does not employ an enforcement officer. Upchurch said they cut the position after the 2007 housing market collapse. Upchurch said they relied on people filing complaints. After an investigation to determine whether the property owner was in violation, they would send a cease-and-desist letter. If there were no response, they'd turn it over to the county or city attorney.

"We don't get a whole lot, to be honest with you," Upchurch said.

Councilman Travis Irvin asked about someone building a house in Burgin.

Donnally said they'd have to apply for a building permit. She said she would check and go over setbacks with the applicant. Then they would apply for a building permit. It was noted that, even though Burgin does not currently belong to planning and zoning—and, under state law, is prevented from enacting zoning ordinances on its own—residents still needed to apply for building permits.

"The problem is, there's really no set restrictions on the potential of a property," Mayor Keebortz said. He said builders could put multiple homes on a lot right now, and there was nothing the city could legally do about it. Keebortz asked about duplexes or single-wide trailers in residential areas. The mayor asked how specific the ordinances could be.

"It gets a little touchy when you talk about manufactured housing," Upchurch said. "They're covered by state regulations. You can restrict trailers, but most manufactured homes are not really trailers."

"You have to allow an area for them," Upchurch said.

Donnally noted that the building inspector checks trailers.

Burgin City Attorney John Wood asked about existing structures.

"Any existing use would be grandfathered in," Upchurch said. If that usage stopped for longer than a year, it would not be able to be used that way again, he said.

Commissioner Melinda Wofford asked about representation.

Upchurch said representation would be decided under an interlocal agreement between the city and planning and zoning.

He was also asked about meeting times. Recently, the planning and zoning commission has been criticized for holding its meetings at 9 a.m. in the morning.

Upchurch said the commission is trying to move the meeting to Thursday at 5 p.m. He said the meetings, which used to be held in the evenings, were moved to an earlier time to accommodate their attorney's schedule. Upchurch said he would prefer to hold meetings in the evening.

"That's time away from my job," Upchurch said.

Wofford also asked about variances, which are granted by the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals. If Burgin joins planning and zoning, they would also join the board of adjustments. Upchurch said planning and zoning granted fewer than 50 variances a year.

"How often could we modify the map?" Councilman Dunn asked.

"Once you set the map, you wouldn't modify it unless you wanted to do a zoning change," Upchurch said. He said final approval of the map would depend on the Burgin City Council.

Every few years, they revise the current maps. He said planning and zoning had hired Vantage Engineering to draw maps of Harrodsburg.

Upchurch said the comprehensive plan is the core of planning and zoning.

"Zoning doesn't really exist without planning," he said.

Comprehensive plans mark areas for residential, business and industry. Upchurch said public hearings would need to be held and it could take months.

Dunn asked how Burgin would compensate planning and zoning. Upchurch said that would be handled under the interlocal agreement.

"It would be minimal for the City of Burgin to join us right now," he said. Upchurch said income from building permits would go to planning and zoning.

Donnally said there were seven or eight building permits, which Keebortz said amounted to approximately $5,400.

"They're not making a fortune off Burgin," Keebortz said.

Wofford also asked about short-term rentals. Donnally said they are considered for conditional usage.

"You've got to be within a certain area or have someone be within a certain area," Upchurch said.

The planning and zoning commission makes recommendations. Zone and ordinance changes would be returned to the Burgin City Council for final approval.

Dunn asked about remodeling an existing structure.

"It's on a case-by-case basis," Upchurch said. An existing non-conforming structure that's too close to the property line cannot be added to.

"If you're not changing the footprint, you'll be fine," Donnally said.

"If the use was conforming, that would be allowed," Upchurch said. He gave an example of a general store in a residential area. He said the store could continue to operate its business, but it couldn't add on.

Hensley asked about someone adding a garage. Upchurch said that was fine as long as it was within setbacks.

"The ordinances are your ordinances. They're not ours," Upchurch said.

He referred to Harrodsburg properties along the railroad, which are zoned industrial but too small for most industrial development. After a public hearing, they allowed residential development in those formerly industrial zones.

"We've had several people applying," Upchurch said. "Some business, some residential."

Wofford said constituents are afraid they would lose their independence.

"It does restrict property rights, it does," Upchurch said. "It restricts everybody's."

He said planning and zoning ensure no one moves in to start a welding shop or a commercial storage unit in a residential area.

"It gives them protection of what goes around them," Upchurch said.

Dunn asked about liquor stores. He said rejoining planning and zoning would give the council a voice on the location of alcohol outlets.

Keebortz noted Burgin would still have to follow Kentucky ABC regulations.

In February, the council voted unanimously to have Wood draft an agreement with planning and zoning. At last week's meeting, Wood said they'd start with the former agreement. Upchurch recommended that Burgin authorize Wood to meet with attorneys for the City of Harrodsburg and the planning and zoning commission to draft the interlocal agreement. Once they had an agreement ready, they could hold a public hearing.

"It's hard to have a public hearing if you don't have something," Upchurch said.

He also recommended that the council establish a committee to hash out the details, such as ordinances and zoning maps.

"Burgin's kind of slow growing, it's not changed too much," Upchurch said.

"It's really zooming now," Dunn said.

The council took no further action.

Earlier in that meeting, the council approved a deed of easement on a property so testing can begin on possible solutions to the flooding issue, which has plagued Burgin for years.

The next meeting of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission will be Friday, April 10, at 9 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Burgin City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Burgin City Hall (117 South Maple Street, Burgin).

local

from 1A

Officers did not find anyone inside the residence besides the dog, according to the uniform citation.

After dispatch confirmed Berry was a convicted felon, police obtained a search warrant. During their search, investigators located a box of ammunition that matched the caliber of the handgun, according to the uniform citation. Police would also locate flanged ammunition, according to the uniform citation, as well as a Taurus nine millimeter in the living room.

Investigators also located several bags, including one filled with a substance consistent with methamphetamine, according to the uniform citation, as well as a bag with white pills. They also discovered a scale with powdered residue and what was described as a "blue ball" containing a suspected solid crystal-like substance, according to the uniform citation.

Investigators also found $770 in cash in a pair of black pants by the window. Berry told police the money was his entire paycheck, according to the uniform citation.

Berry was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2nd degree possession of an unspecified controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, 1st degree possession of a controlled substance (five counts), using restricted ammo during the commission of a felony, 1st degree possession of cocaine, and 1st degree trafficking in fentanyl.

Berry was incarcerated at Jessamine County Detention Center, according to the uniform citation. His bail was set at $20,000.

Patrolman Josh Kerby is the arresting officer.

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Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Storage4Harrodsburg located at 1785 Louisville Rd., Harrodsburg KY 40330 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored by tenants for default on their rental agreement. The public sale will occur as an online auction via **www.lockerfox.com** on 4/13/2026 at 11:00AM. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions may apply.

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Harrodsburg is accepting sealed bids to blacktop City streets. Bid specs and street listings can be picked up at City Hall. Sealed bids should be turned in to the City Clerk at City Hall, 208 S. Main Street, no later than 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 and will be opened at this time. Bidders are to have all work completed by June 30th, 2026.

The company that is awarded the contract must possess a City Business License and also hold liability and workers comp insurance. A W-9 must be completed once the bid is awarded.

The City reserves the right to waive formalities and reject any and all bids or to accept other than the lowest evaluated bid if deemed in the best interest of the City.

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