Tourist

from 1A

flowers twice a day and handle fertilizer and pesticides. The City of Harrodsburg has been paying as much as $12,000 in overtime a year for city workers to come in on weekends and water the flowers once a day.

The tourist commission has been giving the city $32,500 a year and allocates another $12,000 for beautification.

The beautification line item will be increased to $75,000 in the tourist commission's next budget.

"It's extremely important to the community," Executive Director Daarik Gray said Wednesday. "The more we can beautify, the better."

Starting this year, city workers will no longer water the flowers, which will save the city approximately $12,000 in overtime costs. Board member Kristen Flick, who also serves as treasurer for the tourist commission, said she didn't want public works employees to lose their jobs.

"I don't want to lose positions," Flick said.

Chief Administrative Officer Stacey Maynard, who also serves on the tourist commission's board, said there were plenty of other things to keep city workers busy.

"I'm sure they'd love not to handle that on the weekend anymore," Maynard said.

Divine Creations will be ready to start on Friday, May 1. Pemberton's will deliver the flowers on Tuesday, May 5. Divine will handle hanging the flower pots.

Board member Tim Kazimer moved to hire Devine Creations, with Flick seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

"That was very painful," said board member Jay Anderson. Anderson has admitted he is not a fan of the flowers downtown. "Hopefully, it will save the city some money."

On Wednesday, the board learned that the tourist commission has not received any quotes to install a sign in the Main Street lot next to Olde Town Park, which the commission owns.

In other business, the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission:

• Discussed the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, which starts July 1. On Wednesday, Gray handed out two versions of the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which the tourist commission will finalize at its May meeting.

Both proposed budgets project $1.2 million in income and $1.6 million in total expenses. However, one proposal includes contributing $170,000 to Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill to bring back the Well Crafted Festival.

Gray said Shaker Village officials hope to sign big-name artists for the festival, which would take place in July 2027. He said they hope to break even after ticket sales.

"We don't get reimbursed this fiscal year," Gray said.

Board member Tim Kazimer asked how the income would be divided. Gray said the first-year goal would be to break even. Anything above $170,000 would stay with Shaker Village.

"I am not opposed to the excess going to Shaker Village," Kazimer said. "We need to be a champion for them."

Board member Kristen Flick, who also serves as vice president of hospitality Shaker Village, said Tyler Childers, now a Grammy-winning American/country music star, played at the last Well Crafted Festival, which was held at Shaker Village but organized by others. Shaker Village kept the rights to the name.

Anderson asked if the commitment to the new festival would impact the tourist commission's allocation for other events.

Gray said it would not impact the money they already give out. He said they had reduced the line item for the infrastructure project.

"It's not hurting any other line on the budget," Gray said.

"Our job is to lean forward," said board member John Holiday. "I don't see this as a huge increase."

Holiday said he loves the idea of doing this with Shakertown, but said the event's success would depend on the acts they signed. The audience is capped at 3,000 because of parking.

"If you bring somebody that no one's heard of, no one's going to come in," Holiday said.

Officials said they felt confident that, with the tourist commission's commitment, they could secure some major names.

While discussing the budget, Anderson asked whether the tourist commission should give the Mercer Chamber Foundation one check and allow them to decide which events they'd fund.

In the past, the tourist commission has funded events like the Pioneer Days Festival and the Kentucky Heritage Jazz Festival separately. At Wednesday's meeting, Anderson noted that many of the events were using the Foundation's 501 (c) (3) status. He called that "a loophole."

"Technically, you could make an argument these events are invalid," Anderson said. He noted that the events were not eligible for funding from the tourist commission unless they were 501 (c) (3) nonprofits.

"The check should be made out to the foundation," Anderson said.

Holiday suggested getting a legal opinion.

"I agree with Jay, I think that would be a fantastic way to do it, if it's legal," Holiday said.

The board took no further action on the budget.

• Discussed holding a scavenger hunt, which Gray said can bring lots of visitors into town. The idea—which Gray called "outside the box"—comes from Kazimer, who said his hometown of Newton Falls, Ohio, which announced a $30,000 treasure hunt in March. The organizers of the Ohio scavenger hunt release a new clue every two weeks. If approved, the scavenger hunt would happen in the next fiscal year.

The $30,000 prize offered by the Ohio scavenger hunt comes from over 50 local sponsors. Kazimer recommended touching base with the organizers in Newton Falls.

"This has been a big thing for them," said Kazimer.

After an executive session, the board voted to accept all of the remaining tangible and intangible assets from a request from Downtown Harrodsburg, formerly known as the Harrodsburg First Main Street Program.

Downtown Harrodsburg closed at the beginning of last year. The organization hosted events to promote downtown, including Friday Nights On Main, the Halloween Spooktacular, and Christmas On Main. By far, the organization's biggest event is Oktoberfest, which drew 24,000 visitors to Harrodsburg in 2024. Those events have all been taken over by the tourist commission over the past year.

• Changed bank signers, adding Nikki Elliott, Kristen Flick and Leigh Lopez.

• Heard from Chris Reed, a candidate for circuit judge, who asked for their support.

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission will meet again on Wednesday, May 13, at 9 a.m. at Diamond Point Welcome Center (488 Price Avenue). For more information, visit their website at visitharrodsburgky.com.

Work

from 1A

That's not the only fiber project in Mercer County. At the fiscal court's regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, Judge-Executive Sarah Steele announced that another contractor, Star Construction, LLC is also laying fiber for AT&T.

AT&T has not updated the fiscal court on its project. Judge Steele asked the public to be patient with the work crews.

"We know that's inconvenient," Steele said.

She said the county has been provided a list of the roads they're working on.

"We're trying to share it as fast as we can," Steele said.

Anyone with issues can contact All Points through their customer portal online chat, support2@allpoints-broadband.com or by phone at 888-217-7827 if you notice damage caused by network construction. The fiscal court will also forward any complaints to the internet service provider.

Residents can learn more about the project at allpoints-broadband.com/mercer-county-project.

An All Points representative was supposed to give a presentation to the fiscal court at Tuesday's meeting, but no one appeared.

"I just wish they'd come and give us an update," Magistrate Dennis Holiday said.

In other business, the Mercer County Fiscal Court:

• Awarded bids. Samuel Derr, who bid $1,105, received the bid to cut hay once at the county landfill. The fiscal court also awarded Mercer Stone the contract to provide crushed stone and rock and Mago Construction Company LLC the contract to provide asphalt.

• Held a public hearing to gather input on Local Government Economic Assistance and County Road Aid.

The Local Government Economic Assistance Fund is a revenue-sharing program for Kentucky counties and cities. The program returns 50 percent of state-collected non-coal minerals severance taxes to eligible local governments—producers of non-coal minerals such as limestone,

See Work | 4A

Area Church News

Southside Christian Church

The Agape House, located at 1950 Danville Road, will be open to the public Saturday, April 25, 9-11 a.m. Free clothing, coats, boots/shoes, scarves/hats/gloves, baby items and home decor. Housewares and furniture will be given away if available.

Caring Friends Hope and Help

Caring Friends Hope and Help is a ministry for widows and widowers through the South District Baptist Association. It will host a meeting on Sunday, April 19, at 12:30 a.m. at the Junction City First Baptist Church.

Lunch will be provided.

Brandon Edwards will be sharing song.

Attendees need to RSVP to Barbara Satterly at 859-583-7686 or barbara.satterly@yahoo.com, or to Dr. Jim Clontz at 859-238-7624 or drjimclontz@gmail.com.

(Editors Note: The Harrodsburg Herald *will reserve the Church News Section for special events including: concerts, special services and benefits. Submit church news to* The Herald *by noon on Mondays to be included.)*

Church Directory

St. Barnabas Church of the Encourager
312 S Main St
We are a home church with a focus on relationships & living our Faith. We are liturgical, evangelical & charismatic.
(859) 734-3377
Sundays at 10 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
2782 Harrodsburg Rd.
859-481-2664
Rev. Jordan A. Simpson
Sunday School 10 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
"Hebrews 13:5"

Harrodsburg United Methodist Church
128 South Chiles Street
859-734-3704
Rev. Sylvia Baker-Noren
In-person worship services
11 a.m. in sanctuary
Worship services can also be viewed on our Facebook page

ABOVE THE EARTH

What a breathtaking view from the sky. Everything looks so small; the roads and rivers look like ribbons winding through the land. When the airplane reaches the perfect altitude, it's time; the skydiver jumps out and falls downward. The parachute opens and floats like a rainbow from the heavens. It takes a lot of trust in the one who packs the parachute; it must be perfectly assembled. The wearer also has a responsibility to pull the cord at the perfect place and time. That crucial collaboration determines the difference between a daring feat and a disaster. God created us in His image…as perfect as a human can be. If we follow his plan for us our life will come together as He wills. This week, visit your chosen house of worship; your life can be close to heaven on earth.

Daily Devotional Reading

Isaiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah
43:1-21	23:1-32	29:1-14	30:1-24	31:1-22	31:23-40	32:1-15

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Fellowship Baptist Church
481 Cornishville Street
Residing in His Presence
Reigning in His Power
Resting in His Peace
Pastor Lynn Releford
(270.562.4097)
Fellowshipbaptist.life
Sun. 11am & 6pm & Wed. 6pm

United Presbyterian Church
Rev. John White
326 South Main Street
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
www.upcharrodsburg.org
734-4710
Sunday service 10:45 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.
Corinthians 14:25-27

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
131 Short St.,
(859) 734-3569
www.stphilipsharrodsburg.org
The Rev. Jim Winborn
Sunday Services 10 am
All are welcome!

The Carpenter's Christian Church
1340 US Hwy. 127
Senior Minister Greg Warren
734-0670
www.carpenterschristian.church
Sunday School 10 am
Sun. Morning Worship: 8:30 & 11 am
See website calendar for
Sunday evening schedules
Wed. Small Groups

Harrodsburg Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Micki McHugh
Senior Minister
305 South Main Street
734-3224
Sunday School 9:30 am
Fellowship 10:15-10:30 am
Family Worship Service 10:30 am

Tim Murphy's Hair Company
734-2591
Paul Mitchell, Nioxin, Bare Minerals
861 S. College Street
Harrodsburg

Harrodsburg Community Church
1501 Danville Rd.
859-734-3036
Pastor Terry Morrison
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Wednesday 7 pm
A church with life in the spirit.
Ministering God's healing grace.

Mercer Church of Christ
1200 Louisville Road
Sun. Morning Bible Study 9:30 am
Sun. Morning Worship 10:30 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
Wed. Bible study 7 pm

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