

Tourist commission makes two more hires for Anderson-Dean park

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The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission has made two more hires for Anderson-Dean Community Park.

At a special-called meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 11, the tourist commission's board of directors voted unanimously to make employment offers to Sidney Barnett as assistant operations director and Brady Morse as park services coordinator.

Barnett has previously served as a volunteer, outreach and education program director for the Kentucky Horse Park. Originally from Frankfort, Barnett earned a bachelor of science in management at the University of Kentucky. During college, she worked as a seasonal employee with the Kentucky Horse Park's Education Department, later

accepting a position at the Big Barn as equine operations coordinator.

"Sidney brings an incredible combination of operations experience, event planning, marketing, and community engagement," said Chase Blain, the new operations director at Anderson-Dean, via email. "She understands what it takes to create memorable experiences for visitors while also supporting the day-to-day responsibilities that keep an organization running smoothly. I'm excited to work alongside her as we build something the community can be proud of for years to come."

Brady Morse earned a master of Business Administration from Lincoln Memorial University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Administration from Bellarmine University. Morse has worked at Boyle County Parks and Recreation since

2020. Morse, who also played baseball at Lincoln Memorial and Bellarmine, also works at Morse Baseball and Softball Academy.

"As we continue building our leadership team, finding people who share our vision for Anderson-Dean Community Park has been a top priority," Blain said. "Brady brings a great attitude, strong character and a commitment to serving others. I'm excited to welcome him to our team and can't wait to see the impact he'll have on the park and our community."

Last month, the tourist commission hired Chase Blain—who previously served as event coordinator at Elizabethtown Sports Park—as operations director at the park. Blain's first day was Monday, Aug. 10.

"One of Chase's first priorities has been helping identify the right people to build a culture centered

around teamwork, innovation, and exceptional customer service," said Daarik Gray, executive director of the tourist commission, via email. "He has been heavily involved throughout this hiring process, and I appreciate the leadership and vision he's brought as we continue assembling a team that will move Anderson-Dean Community Park forward."

Gray introduced Blain to the Harrodsburg City Commission on Monday and the Mercer County Fiscal Court on Tuesday. Gray told the fiscal court the tourist commission had received as many as 150 applications from as far away as Washington State.

Blain said he was excited to be in Harrodsburg.

"That park out there is a very big asset," Blain told the magistrates. He said they hope to turn Anderson-Dean into one of the region's premier facilities.

"The future of Anderson-Dean Community Park is incredibly bright, and adding Sidney and Brady to our team is another exciting step forward," Gray said. "Their enthusiasm, experience, and commitment to serving our community make them tremendous additions, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact they'll have."

On Monday, the Harrodsburg City Commission also approved street closures for the opening weekend of the Lawn on Main, the tourist commission's latest

brainchild to drive traffic on Main Street.

Based on Shelbyville's The Lot, the Lawn on Main is a dedicated food truck park that will be open on weekends. The closures include Poplar Street from Main Street to 111 East Poplar Street—the downtown barber shop/brick building—on Friday, Aug. 21, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 23, from noon to 5 p.m.

City officials say the street will close only if there is an overflow crowd.

Planning

Warren said they are not seeking to add new structures or to change the nature of the existing structure.

No one spoke in favor or against it.

Jerry Catlett said he couldn't see any use in the zoning change. Warren said A1 was not appropriate zoning for the 1.2 acre lot. Jonathan Elliott noted the applicants were trying to separate the house from the A-1 land. The remaining 2.7 acres would stay A-1, while the 2.47 acres would be combined with the extension office property.

"They actually need this to be able to expand onto that property," Elliott said.

"It's my opinion this in line with the comprehensive plan and you can recommend the rezoning," Kylie Donnally said.

After the public hearing closed, Catlett moved to approve the zoning change, with Elliott seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business, the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission:

- Approved a site plan and improvement plans for a Kentucky KOA Journey Campground.
- Altus Mercer Hospitality LLC requested approval for a KOA campground on the property at 2565 Louisville Road, which is zoned A-1 (Agriculture).
- Monty Rhody of Rhody Engineering and Land Surveying represented the applicant. Rhody noted they had already received technical approval after going before the technical review committee twice. He noted the applicant's plan to build 49 campground spots on the property. He said Campgrounds of America, the largest system of privately owned family campgrounds in the nation, approved it and prepared the layout to their conditions. Rhody said it also meets the state's requirements.
- Under questioning from the commission, Rhody noted the entrance will be on the left side of Mundy's Landing.
- "There's nothing there," the engineer said, "a cornfield."
- "It's never been in front of us," Catlett said. "I don't have a whole lot of information to approve a campsite."
- Henry Smith, the attorney for the planning and zoning commission, said a conditional use permit was issued in September 2025 and the plan had been approved by Harrodsburg-Mercer County Board of Adjustments in January 2026.
- "The idea for the campground has been vetted through a public hearing process," Chairman Bobby Upchurch said.
- Upchurch said the com-

mission could table it.

"I don't know if that would change a whole lot," Upchurch said. "I'll open the table for a motion either way."

Board member Jim McGlone said there was no need to keep kicking it down the road anymore and moved to approve it. Elliott seconded McGlone's motion, which passed 3-1, with Catlett abstaining.

- Approved a final plat amendment for Harrods Glen, Phase One submitted by Crozer LLC, Wedgewood Townhomes LLC and Elite Property Development Group LLC. The applicants seek to subdivide Lot 2B into Lots 3B and 4B. The property is located on Pinehurst Way in Harrodsburg and zoned R-2 (High Density Residential).
- Kendal Wise of Vantage Engineering said they were redividing the property to allow parts to be financed separately.
- Approved a final plat amendment for Harrods Glen, Phase 2C, submitted by Priorities LLC and Carver Group Inc. to add drainage easements to Lot 5 and adjust the property boundaries for five other lots. The property is located on Pinehurst Way and is zoned R-2 (High Density Residential).
- The plat was approved on the condition that the applicant obtain a required signature from North Mercer.
- Approved releasing a bond held for Creekside Subdivision Phase One. The bond release was requested by B&R Investment Properties LLC. Colton McGlone of Vantage Engineering said phase one—the condemnation and replacement of an old sewer line—was complete, and contractors are currently working on phase 2, which is on a separate bond. Colton McGlone said state testing was required before the city took over what had been completed.
- Learned the planning and zoning commission and the City of Burgin were close to having an agreement on the friendly little city's return to planning and zoning.
- "The will is there," attorney Henry Smith said. Smith said he's been in touch with Burgin City Attorney John Wood and they are closing in on an interlocal agreement that determines Burgin's membership and financial requirements.
- The interlocal agreement needs to be adopted by the City of Harrodsburg as well as the Mercer County Fiscal Court and the planning and zoning committee would need to hold a public hearing.
- "Third time may be the charm," Upchurch said, referring to the two previ-

ous times when Burgin entered—then quit—planning and zoning.

Elliott asked whether a requirement could be added to prevent Burgin from leaving again.

"As much as we would like to, we can't bind them to that," Upchurch said.

- Approved advertising a request for proposals for updating the county's comprehensive plan, which was adopted in 2022. State law requires such plans to be revised every five years.
- "We're actually behind the ball," Upchurch said. The chairman noted that it could take up to 8 months for the new plan to be completed, meaning the com-

mission would not be able to adopt it until 2027.

"We anticipate this might cost \$120,000," Upchurch said. The chairman noted the commission had previously handled the plan in-house.

"We are in changing times," Upchurch said. He said they might need help from someone, so they would need proposals before they could ask for funding. They approved advertising for proposals.

The next regular meeting of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission will be Thursday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. at Harrodsburg City Hall (208 South Main Street).

from 4A

THE MERCER COUNTY JOINT BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS

The public will take notice that a **Public Hearing** has been scheduled at the request of the following:

26-12 – Terell Royalty is requesting a Variance of 19’ from 30’ to 11’ on the front yard setback. The property is located at 291 Longview St in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned R-1 (Residential).

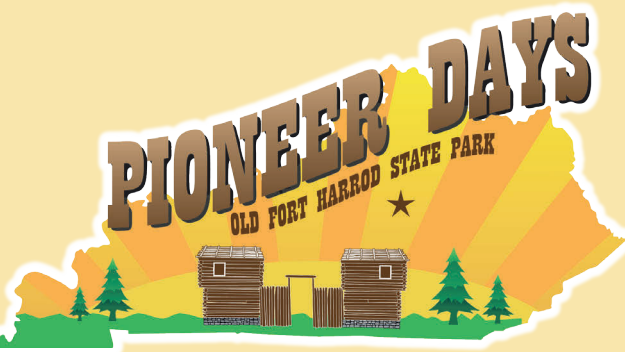
26-13 – WEH Investments LLC is requesting a Variance of 25’ from 80’ to 55’ on the front yard setback and a 12’ Variance from 15’ to 3’ on the detached structure setback. The property is located at 544 McCroskey Pike in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned A-1 (Agriculture).

26-14 – Kelly Caton is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a home occupation. The property is located at 204 Lee Oak Circle in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned R-1 (Residential).

26-15 – SN Cabins LLC is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a short-term rental. The property is located at 2406 Louisville Rd in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicated the property is zoned A-1 (Agriculture).

This public hearing has been scheduled for **Friday, August 28th, 2026** in the Harrodsburg City Commissioners meeting room located at 208 S. Main St. (2nd Floor) in Harrodsburg, KY at **8:15AM EST/7:15AM CST**. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to view proposed plans, please contact the Planning & Zoning Office at (859) 734-6066 or you may visit the Planning & Zoning Office at 109 Short St. Harrodsburg, KY.

Bobby Upchurch
Chairman



2026 Schedule of Events

Thursday Aug. 13

- 5pm Disney Princess Meet & Greet
- 7pm Baby Show

Inflatables, Yard Games, Picnic Areas, Giant Mural

Friday Aug. 14

- 5pm Shoot Off & Festival Opens
- 5:30pm Dad's Mad
- 6pm Tree ID Walk @ Orange Tree
- 6pm Jam/Jelly Taste Off
- 6:30pm Pickled Contest
- 7:30 Meet the Titans
- 8pm Ghost Walk at Cemetery
- 9pm Trailer Trash

Free Train Rides, Corn Hole, Art Council Activities/Mural, Vendors, Pioneer Village, Inflatables, Petting Zoo, Robot Character

Saturday Aug. 15

- 8am Lions Club 5K
- 8:30am Live with James THE Gardner on Hometown Radio
- 8:30am Cardio Class with Image Fitness
- 10am Pet Show with Cherjoe's County Care & Training
- 10am Precision Dance for ages 2-4
- 10am-2pm Big Jack Pearson Memorial Car Show
- 11am US Yoshukai Karate Demo

Saturday Aug. 15

- 12pm Papa Johns Pizza Eating Contest
- 1pm Pie Eating Contest
- 2pm Precision Dance Show
- 2:30pm Blue Groove Jazz
- 4:30pm Casebar
- 6pm Tree ID Walk at Osage Orange Tree
- 6pm Elite Wrestling Meet & Greet
- 6:30pm Larry Sanders & Borderline
- 7pm Elite Wrestling Alliance
- 8pm Ghost Walk at Cemetery
- 9pm Hillbilly Frank (ZZ Top Cover Band)

Free Train Rides, Inflatables, Petting Zoo, Stilt Walker, Vendors, Robot Character, Giant Mural, Cast Iron Cooking, Pioneer Village, Blacksmithing Inside Fort

***ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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