

James Harrod Trust Invites the Public to Experience History Like Never Before During Echoes from the Porch: Bringing History to Life

This September, history won't be confined to museums or history books—it will step onto the front porch.

The James Harrod Trust invites the public to experience Echoes from the Porch: Bringing History to Life, an immersive historic home tour on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, where Harrodsburg's rich history comes alive through the voices of those who lived it.

Unlike a traditional home tour, visitors won't simply admire beautiful architecture—they'll meet the people who made history.

As guests stroll through one of Harrodsburg's historic neighborhoods, they will visit several remarkable homes and buildings where costumed actors portraying former homeowners and notable historical figures will greet them from the porches and share stories of family, community, triumph, hardship, and everyday life in Kentucky's oldest town. Through engaging first-person storytelling, visitors will experience Harrodsburg's past in a way that is both educational and unforgettable.

"Echoes from the Porch is about bringing history to life in a way that is person-

al, memorable, and engaging," said Ian Nagy, Board Member of the James Harrod Trust. "Rather than reading plaques or listening to lectures, visitors will have the opportunity to meet the people who once called these homes their own, ask questions, and hear their stories in the very places where history happened."

Featured characters include physicians, civic leaders, business owners, and other influential residents whose lives helped shape Harrodsburg and Mercer County. Each portrayal was developed through historical research, newspaper accounts, public records, and local histories to create an authentic educational experience.

Two guided tours will be offered at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., with each tour lasting approximately 90 minutes. Participants are encouraged to arrive at least 20 minutes before their scheduled tour time to check in. Guests may bring a folding chair if they

like.

Tours will begin at the James Harrod Trust Welcome Tent on The Lawn on Main, adjacent to Olde Towne Park at the corner of East Poplar Street and South Main Street in downtown Harrodsburg.

Tickets are \$15 per person and are available now at www.jamesharroddtrust.org/news. A limited number of walk-up tickets may be available on the day of the event if openings remain.

In the event of inclement weather, the tour will be rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3, with tour times remaining at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Proceeds directly support the James Harrod Trust's mission to preserve, protect, and promote the historic places, architecture, and stories that make Harrodsburg and Mercer County unique.

Whether you're a lifelong Mercer Countian, a history enthusiast, or someone discovering Harrodsburg for the first time, Echoes from the Porch offers an unforgettable

opportunity to experience the people, places, and stories that continue to define our community.

The James Harrod Trust gratefully acknowledges the generous businesses and community members whose support has helped bring Echoes from the Porch to life. Porch Partners include AK Autoworx and J Elliott Heating & Air. Heritage sponsors are Noel & Susan Turner and My Harrodsburg Honey Co. and the Storyteller sponsor is Lanham & Company, P.S.C.

Their investment in preserving Harrodsburg's history helps create meaningful educational experiences for residents and visitors alike.

About the James Harrod Trust

The James Harrod Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the historic places, architecture, and stories of Harrodsburg and Mercer County. Through preservation initiatives, educational programming, and community partnerships, the Trust works to ensure that our region's remarkable heritage continues to educate and inspire future generations.

Boosters visit the Kentucky State Fair

Mackville Boosters

**Maria Wheeler
& Barbara Best**
Guest Columnist

We have had a beautiful week of nice weather: cool, crisp mornings and evenings. It makes us think that fall, the most beautiful time of the year, is coming soon.

Please remember in your prayers all of those people across the country who have lost their homes due to floods, fires, storms and tornadoes.

Thanks to Bro. Jay for taking the Mackville Baptist Church van and some Boosters to Senior Day at the Kentucky State Fair. They enjoyed the exhibits, horse show and food - although they were in sticker shock at \$5 water, \$8 ice cream and \$12 footlong hot dogs. David Walden gave us puzzles for door prizes. They are greatly appreciated! And a big thank you to Robbie Canterbarry for designing the Harvest Festival Poster!

We had 23 in attendance and finished our meal by celebrating our August Birthdays with homemade birthday cake and ice cream. Happy Birthday to Nelson Reynolds and Glenn Black. Next week's meal is an Amish Haystack (taco salad). Call Pam if you would like to come and enjoy.

Country music lost one of its favorite stars this week: Dolly Parton. We all could be better people if we followed her life goals. Dream, believe, work hard, give generously, be thankful, and love everyone.

We went over our lengthy prayer list. Bro. Jay prayed over it. We said the pledge, sang God Bless America, then adjourned to play Bunco. Donna Harmon was the winner.

Mackville area residents: start decorating your yard for the Festival contest. It will be judged Sept. 18. The decorated yards make our town look beautiful and welcoming.

Sept. 19 is the day of the Harvest Homecoming Festival. It will be here soon. Make plans to participate and attend.

Board of Adjustments deny conditional use permit for home base business

**April Ellis
Herald Staff**

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals heard four requests, two for variances and two for conditional use permits, at a public hearing on Friday, Aug. 27.

The board voted to approve a variance on the front yard setback for the property located at 291 Longview Street, which is zoned R-2 (Residential).

Terrell Royalty requested a variance from 25 feet to 11 feet on the front yard setback. The property has a pole barn with a lean-to shed built in 1972, which prevented the 25 feet variance.

Planning and Zoning Executive Director Kylie Donnally said allowing the variance would not hinder traffic flow and would keep the house in line with neighboring houses.

The board voted to approve the variance. Chairman Bobby Upchurch reminded Royalty the City of Harrodsburg would have to grant permission for any additional driveways onto the property.

The board also voted to approve a variance for a property located at 544 McCroskey Pike. The property, zoned A-1 (Agriculture).

WEH Investments LLC requested a variance from 80 feet to 25 feet on the front yard setback and a variance from 15 feet to a three foot setback on an existing detached struc-

ture.

The applicant is looking to build a home for his son in a subdivision that pre-dates planning and zoning.

In order to keep the home in line with other houses in the subdivision, Donally said it would be necessary to approve the variance. Following her recommendation, the board voted to approve it.

The board or adjustments also approved a conditional use permit requested by SN Cabins LLC to operate a short-term rental at their property located at 2406 Louisville Road. The property has two buildings, one with five bedrooms and one with three bedrooms.

Attorney Heather Warren of Arvin & Manning PLLC of Nicholasville represented the applicants. Warren said the buildings sit on 30 acres with five additional buildings. She said the need for additional rental properties speaks to the volume of tourism in the area.

Donnally reviewed the short-term rental rules, which include no more than two people per bed, limiting both properties to 16 total people.

Warren asked for more specific language requesting to use the term adult, with age limits to replace the wording for people so small children would not count toward occupancy limit on the property for the rental period.

The board approved the

conditional-use permit with the stipulation the conditional permit rules would be published on the booking site for the properties.

Finally, the board held off on a conditional-use permit requested by Kelly Caton to operate a home occupation in the basement of her home.

Caton's property is located at 204 Lee Oak Circle in the Lee Oak Subdivision and is zoned R-1 (Residential).

Caton explained she is a beautician and wants to install a shampoo sink and styling chair in her walk-out basement. She said she had ample room for parking and that clientele would not have to park on the street. Caton said she would be governed by the Kentucky State Cosmetology Board and that the Mercer County Health Department had already approved the septic system, which would be capable of handling addi-

tional water usage.

Wallace Seraji, a resident of the Lee Oak Subdivision, spoke in opposition of issuing the permit. Seraji said the Lee Oak homeowners association bylaws do not permit a commercial business.

Caton said she had spoken with the HOA president and received the go-ahead. She said she was not running a commercial business, but a home-based business.

Chairman Bobby Upchurch said the board would need a notarized letter from the HOA approving the business before they could issue the permit.

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals is moving its meeting time to the fourth Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. Their next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m. at Harrodsburg City Hall (208 South Main Street).

Save a life at blood drive on Sept. 8

Grab a slice of saving lives by donating blood at the upcoming drive with the Kentucky Blood Center on Tuesday, Sept. 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Harrodsburg Christian Church Fellowship Hall (305 South Main Street).

All donors will receive a "Grab a Slice of Saving Lives" T-shirt—while supplies last—as a thank you for adding a key piece to the blood supply.

The Kentucky Blood Center, the exclusive provider of blood to most hospitals in Central and Eastern Kentucky, is coming off a difficult summer. Donations, as they often do in the summer months, suffered because of seasonal vacations, an absence of school blood drives and extreme temperatures, which deter donors from attending drives. At the same time, transfusions increased

during trauma season when emergency rooms saw an uptick in severe, life-threatening injuries, many of which required blood.

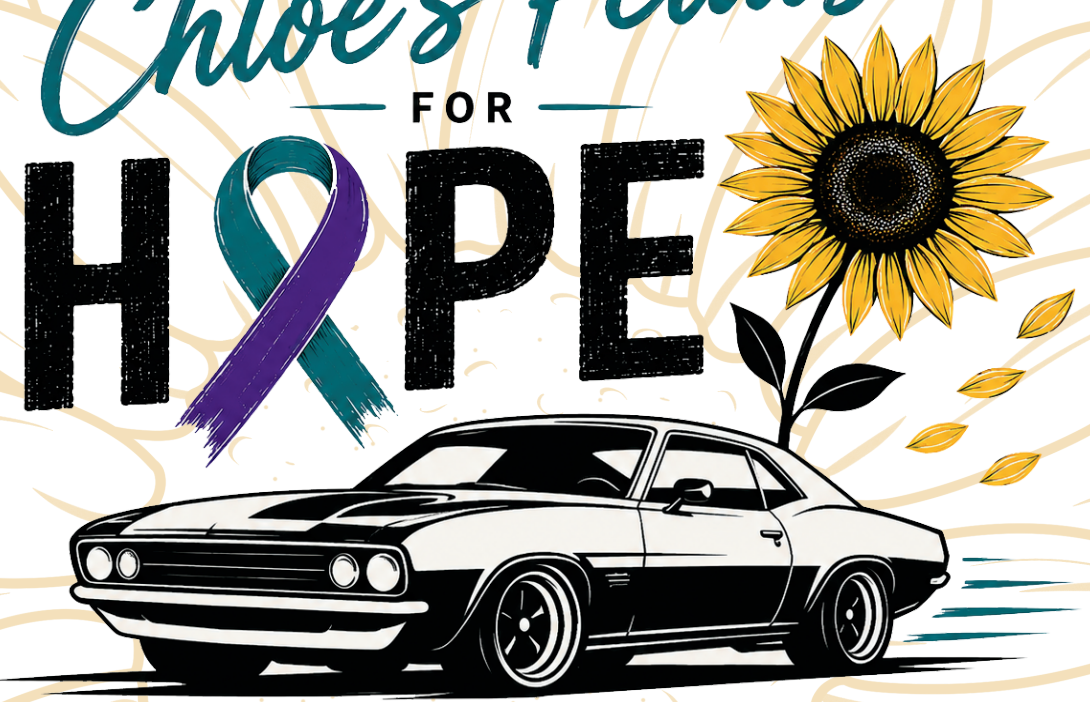
Fall blood drives like the one on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Harrodsburg Christian Church Fellowship Hall, are important to restock hospital shelves. Because blood cannot be manufactured, the health of the local blood supply relies entirely on the generosity of Kentucky donors.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800-775-2522.

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