

# Mercer

from 1A

planning and zoning by Nov. 1.

“There is a lot to this,” Judge Steele said.

The Burgin City Council was slated to give first reading to the interlocal agreement at its meeting that night at 7 p.m.

If everyone signs off on it, the planning and zoning commission would become the Harrodsburg-Burgin-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission. The board would expand to 11 members. The county would appoint five members, Harrodsburg would appoint four, and Burgin would appoint two.

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals would become the Harrodsburg-Burgin-Mercer County Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals. The board would expand to seven members, with the county and Harrodsburg appointing three and Burgin appointing one.

The jurisdiction of both boards would include all the unincorporated land in Mercer County as well as all land within the corporate limits of Harrodsburg and Burgin

Magistrate Susan Barrington moved to give the ordinance first reading, which was seconded by Magistrate Kevin Hicks. Barrington’s motion passed unanimously, although Magistrate Tim Darland had a question.

According to the interlocal agreement, the planning commission would pay its expenditures from revenue generated by fees for services. Harrodsburg and Mercer would split any remaining expenditures evenly, with Burgin making an annual contribution of \$250.

“Why don’t they have a percentage?” Darland asked Tuesday.

“They don’t financially have the ability to pay a significant amount,” Judge Steele said.

On Tuesday, the fiscal court also gave first reading to an ordinance establishing a code enforcement board.

The Harrodsburg City Council would also have to approve the interlocal agreement that creates the Mercer County-City of Harrodsburg Code Joint Code Enforcement Board. It would have the power to issue remedial orders and impose civil fines to enforce county and city ordinances. The board, consisting of six members and two alternates, can adopt rules and regulations to govern its operation and conduct hearings to determine whether violations have occurred. Membership on the board would be split between the county and city. Initially, members would serve staggered terms lasting one to three years, with subsequent appointments for three-year terms.

Judge Steele said the county and Harrodsburg had been working on it for two years. Magistrate Darland’s

motion to give the ordinance first reading was seconded by Magistrate Barrington. It passed unanimously.

## Fiscal Court Gives First Reading To I-T Ordinance

At Tuesday’s meeting, the Mercer County Fiscal Court gave first reading to a text amendment regarding the I-T zone related to data centers. The fiscal court received the findings of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission, which held public hearings before unanimously approving a text amendment to create an I-T Zone on July 30.

The fiscal court heard no public input on the ordinance Tuesday.

“This is just a first reading,” Judge Steele said. The judge said the fiscal court plans to call a special meeting for a second reading, most likely at the Campbellsville University-Harrodsburg gym, where the planning commission held its meetings. No date for the meeting had been set by press time.

Magistrate Dennis Holiday moved to approve first reading, which Magistrate Stephen “Pete” Elliott seconded.

“This is just saying we looked it over,” Magistrate Elliott said.

In August, the fiscal court unanimously approved a data center moratorium. The moratorium remains in effect for 12 months, but the fiscal court can terminate it earlier by subsequent ordinance—which would include the text amendment to zoning ordinances recommended by the planning and zoning commission.

The Harrodsburg City Commission is also drafting a moratorium on data centers.

In other business, the Mercer County Fiscal Court:

- Approved Mercer County Property Rates for 2026.

“Well, it’s that time again, folks,” said County Clerk Chris Horn, who presented the fiscal court with rates approved by the seven taxing districts.

In August, the magistrates approved a tax rate of 11.3 for real and personal property, down from last year’s rate of 11.6

The Mercer County Board of Education has approved a general fund tax levy of 69.9 cents on real property—0.6 cents lower than the prior year—and 70.5 cents on personal property—1.4 cents lower than the prior year.

At a special-called meeting on Monday, Aug. 31, the Harrodsburg City Commission gave first reading to the tax rate of .063 per \$100 in assessed value for real property and personal property, the same as last year.

Tax bills will be sent out Oct. 1.

- Gave first reading to a

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# Oktoberfest returns Friday, Sept. 18

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Oktoberfest—officially Downtown Harrodsburg for Oktoberfest 2026—is celebrating its eighth anniversary with two days of live music, great food, cold drinks, craft vendors, kids’ activities and more starting Friday, Sept. 18, at 5 p.m.

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission welcomes the community and visitors back to what has become Central Kentucky’s biggest Oktoberfest celebration.

“Oktoberfest is one of those weekends that really showcases what makes Harrodsburg special,” said Daarik Gray, executive director of the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission. “Our downtown comes alive with music, food, families and visitors, and we’re incredibly grateful for the businesses and community partners who help us keep this event free and continue making it bigger and better each year.”

The 5K through Downtown Harrodsburg returns this year before the festival gets Saturday underway. The Harrodsburg Oktoberfest 5K happens Saturday, Sept. 19,

at 9 a.m. The 5K entry fee is \$25. The hosts are Harrodsburg Animal Hospital, the Harrodsburg Baptist Church and Oktoberfest-Downtown Harrodsburg.

“We want Oktoberfest to be a weekend where everyone can find something they enjoy,” Assistant Director Kaitlyn Harder said. “Whether you come for the live music, the food, the vendors, the kids’ activities or simply to spend time downtown with friends and family, there is truly something for everyone. We’re excited to welcome everyone back for another great year.”

One of the big attractions is the music. Friday’s headliners are the Mad Taxpayers, who will take the main stage at 10 p.m. Saturday’s headliners are Zack Attack, who will take the main stage at 9:30 p.m.

Then there’s the food. Local restaurants have some of the busiest days of the year at Oktoberfest. Food trucks this year include Capt. Franks, Biscuit’s BBQ, Casa Mobile, Miss Steaks, Grillin’ Good Eats, Hogtown Barbecue, Life’s Lemons, the Scoop, Beez Street Eats, Billy’s BBQ, the Sandwich Shop, Triple J&C



The Harrodsburg Herald/Robert Moore  
**Daniel Wells got into the spirit of things at Oktoberfest in 2025.**

BBQ, Bishop’s Smash Burger and Johnson’s Country Hams Mobile.

Friday’s music schedule includes John Thomas Moore kicking off the music at 6 p.m., followed by the Deadly Medley at 7 p.m., returning favorites Conch Republic at 8 p.m., Year-Love at 9 p.m., and the Mad Taxpayers, at 10 p.m.

Saturday’s music schedule includes Jarrod Stratton at 1 p.m., Ridgeline Bluegrass at 2 p.m., Much Obligated at 2:55 p.m., the

Pour Decisions at 3:50 p.m., Paint Creek Band at 4:45 p.m., County Wide at 5:40 p.m., Grouper Soup at 6:35 p.m., Trailer Trash at 7:30 p.m. Sheerflow at 7:30 p.m., Zack Attack, who will take the main stage at 9:30 p.m.

As always, Oktoberfest is free to attend, making it an affordable weekend of entertainment for all ages.

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission would like to give a special thank you to G&J Pepsi, the

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# Shaker

from 1A



Photo Submitted

**The North Lot building stood at the entrance of the Shaker community over 200 years ago.**



Photo Submitted

**The cellar of the North Lot building shows the original timbers, with bark still intact, that were used as floor joist over 200 years ago.**

“This is a transformative moment for Shaker Village,” Rankin said. “The North Lot Family Dwelling tells a powerful story about how the Shakers formed their community and connected with their fellow Kentuckians throughout the 19th century.”

Rankin said the building’s location also gives it an important role in introducing visitors to Shaker Village.

“Plus, it will act as the ‘front porch’ of the Village since its placement along historic Highway 68 is the first Shaker structure many see when approaching the Village,” he said.

Louisville-based K. Norman Berry Associate Architects is partnering with Shaker Village on the restoration. The project will address the significant structural and water-related problems that currently threaten the building and will include structural repairs, masonry and exterior restoration and upgrades to mechanical systems.

Carole Yocum, principal of K. Norman Berry Associates, said the firm shares

Shaker Village’s commitment to maintaining the building’s authenticity while preparing it for continued use.

“We are honored to partner with Shaker Village in the stewardship of this remarkable and culturally significant building,” Yocum said. “Contributing to North Lot’s 210-year story is both a privilege and a responsibility and is a story we hope will continue for generations to come.”

But the plans for the North Lot extend beyond restoring the Family Dwelling.

Along with the restoration, historic markers will identify the ruins of structures that once stood on the North Lot, helping visitors better understand what the area looked like when it was an active part of the Pleasant Hill community.

A new trailhead is also planned for the North Lot, which will serve as an orientation point for outdoor and interpretive experiences. Together, the improvements will transform the property into a new gateway to Shaker Village while connecting



Photo Submitted

**Shaker Village CEO Billy Rankin toured the North Lot property pointing out the weather damage to the house that will be repaired in the restoration.**



Photo Submitted

**Repairs to the plaster are just a few of the interior repairs to be made to the Family Dwelling on the North Lot.**

its history with the Village’s extensive natural areas.

The Family Dwelling itself will return to a role similar to the one it served nearly two centuries ago as a place for people to gather. Once restored, the building is expected to provide space for retreats, workshops and other programs, continuing its historic tradition as a place of welcome, learning and reflection.

Rankin said in a recent update that the Family Dwelling will also once again be available for overnight rental, providing accommodations for families and small groups. Shaker Village continues to raise money for landscaping, furnishings, kitchen appliances, fencing, pavement and other amenities associated with the project.

Melissa Williams, Shaker Village’s chief development officer, said public and private support for the project demonstrates the importance placed on preserving Pleasant Hill.

“This investment reflects a shared commitment, from

public partners and private donors alike, to preserve a place that continues to inspire visitors from across the country,” Williams said. “The North Lot Family Dwelling is essential to telling the full story of the Pleasant Hill Shakers.”

Construction will follow a pre-preservation planning phase, with the overall restoration project scheduled for completion within three years. Rankin emphasized the importance of maintaining the Shaker standard of quality during the preservation process down to the smallest detail, including hand-forged hinges.

When complete, the improvements will give the North Lot a renewed purpose while highlighting both what remains and what has been lost over more than two centuries at Pleasant Hill. From the restored Family Dwelling and marked ruins to a new trailhead, the project is designed to make the North Lot once again a place where visitors begin their Shaker Village experience.

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