

Time to enjoy the Mackville Festival

Mackville Boosters

Maria Wheeler
& Barbara Best
Guest Columnist

Getting ready for a festival is sort of like preparing for a wedding: so much work and many details, and then it is here on Sept. 19 - Mackville Harvest Homecoming. Welcome everyone!

After a blessing by Glenn Devine, 22 boosters enjoyed

a delightful meal of chicken, noodles, dressing, California blend, sliced tomatoes and delicious peach and blackberry cobbler. Thanks, Pam and Penny! We read the prayer list, and Bro. Jay prayed for all of the sick and families who have lost loved ones. Bingo was enjoyed, with everyone winning a prize. Pledge to the Flag and God Bless America ended our program.

Now to festival news: a few of the activities include free donuts and coffee provided by Magnolia Lodge; booths with crafts, etc. will

be set up; a Civil War exhibit; a silent auction; a quilt show; museum rooms featuring Mackville School memorabilia (you might see your picture!); Americana rooms with areas dedicated to Peggy Devine, Jim and Joyce Powell, Violet Elliott, and Lions Club. An interesting display is a Deep Creek baseball uniform. Also, there's plenty of info about Kentucky, America and Mackville. Be sure to visit Kiddyland, the marble swap, and play Rook, horse-shoes, corn hole, and croquet. We'll have a petal pull, coin in haystacks and much more

for kids and adults. Check out our tractor show. There will even be a music show beginning at 11 a.m. Be sure to visit the food booths, including ribeyes, burgers, hot dogs, drinks and fries. There will even be a couple of food trucks. The parade begins at 1 p.m. Events run until 5 p.m. Be sure to check out the Veterans Wall dedicated to Mackville-area veterans. There are lots of activities.

Come and enjoy your day in Mackville with family and friends. See you Sept. 19 for a day of fun, food, and fellowship. Everyone welcome!

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Tourist

he'd spoken with a tournament organizer who got more interested when he learned they were installing turf.

"Turf sells itself," Blain said.

Blain and Evan Teague, the new maintenance director, both hit the ground running. Blain started work on Aug. 10 while Teague was in his first week. They updated the board on the park.

Blain said he was creating online documents for rentals and tournaments and was working with travel baseball, building up a calendar for next year, specifically the spring.

Blain said they had reviewed the previous year's numbers and were about \$2,000 ahead as they entered the park's down season. He said he'd reached out to renters for park shelters.

They're also meeting with employees to see who's interested in staying on board after the tourist commission formally takes over park operations Oct. 1.

"We're doing the best we can," Blain said. "Usually, learning to swim, you start off drowning."

The board is continuing to make hires. On Wednesday, they voted to offer Tanner Smith a full-time maintenance position.

Teague said he was excited to get started.

"I've got my work cut out for me," he told the board. "I have a list of things in my mind I need to take care of."

They are working on cooperating with the Friends of Anderson-Dean. Along with the Harrodsburg Tree Board, the Friends of Anderson-Dean is planning to

plant 20 ginkgo trees at the park on Oct. 17.

"In my opinion, you'd want trees scattered out, and you'd want a variety," Teague said Wednesday. He said it would provide variety of color in the fall.

Daarik Gray, executive director of the tourist commission, said he would be meeting with Blaine and Teague every Monday.

"I think these two are really going to work well with each other," Gray said.

Gray said they were going down a list of what they need to do over the next nine months, including creating a dog park. He said he'd already talked with a possible sponsor about naming rights.

Blain had already purchased 40 new trash cans, but Gray said they'd need more to make it more consistent. Gray said some of the picnic tables needed a lot of love, and the park's way-finding signage needed the new logo and color scheme.

The Friends of Anderson-Dean Community Park is receiving a \$50,000 grant from Lowe's Community Impact Program for improvements to the building structure at the soccer complex, including a new roof, gutters, windows, HVAC, bathroom remodels, lighting, drywall, fresh paint, refrigerators, landscaping, outdoor mural and picnic table.

Gray said they were working on new park rules and information boards to inform visitors of closing time and other policies.

Securing the park is a concern for the tourist commission, which is considering expanding security cam-

eras to cover more of the park's high-traffic areas.

The park has a mix of locks, including some that require punch codes. Gray said it would cost \$70,000 to install punch codes on every door in the entire park. Still, they are hoping to cut down on the number of keys in circulation.

Board member Jay Anderson said they needed to change the code at the garage door at the baseball facility, which allows people to turn on the lights.

"Everybody and their mom knows the number," Anderson said, adding that he'd driven to the park twice in the past week to turn off the lights.

"I'm glad kids are out there enjoying the park," Anderson said. "There are worse things they could be doing than playing pickleball at 10 o'clock at night."

"I've never seen a park where the public has access to the lights," Blain said.

Gray said the park is losing a lot of money because the lights are left on.

"It's also a safety issue," Gray said.

The light system is the original one installed in the 1990s. Blain said they'd have to be redone to give management control over the lights.

Gray said he would like to announce their agenda for the next nine months. He said he'd send out a press release.

Gray said the tourist commission had transferred \$100,000 into Anderson-Dean's new bank account. The board voted to open a credit card for the park.

They also approved a hay-mowing contract with

Jared Cocanougher. Cocanougher was previously under a verbal contract with the park, mowing the hay twice a year and taking care of odd jobs.

"It's a pretty good trade-off," Gray said. He said Cocanougher had recently cleaned out the pond.

The contract would cover two cuttings a year and go into effect on Oct. 1.

After an executive session, the tourist commission approved increasing Assistant Director and Events and Community Development Coordinator Kaitlyn Harder's salary to \$67,500.

"We appreciate your work, and you've done a great job," board member John Holiday said.

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission will meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 9 a.m. at Diamond Point Welcome Center (488 Price Avenue). For more information, visit visitharrodsburgky.com.

from 1A

City

from 4A

ordinance creating a natural gas franchise. Under the ordinance, the city could sell the natural gas franchise for 20 years in exchange for an annual payment equal to 3 percent of revenue and establish a bid process to award the franchise to the successful bidder.

• Approved a request from the Harrodsburg Historical Society to install a permanent display at Bataan War Memorial that honors the Harrodsburg Tankers. The display features a map showing where all the Tankers served during World War Two.

"We want to put it in a permanent display," said Ann C. Howells, treasurer of the Harrodsburg Historical Society. Howells said they would like to hold a dedication ceremony on Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day.

Mayor Bob Williams asked Howells to coordinate with the Harrodsburg Tree Board, which is planning to plant native trees and bushes that same day. "We'll have a combined crowd," Williams said.

• Made personnel moves. The commission approved EMT certification pay for Firefighter James Lawrence-Mathe. The additional pay is \$50 per week.

They also approved promoting Dalton Carrico to police officer, grade 21. Carrico graduated from the Police Academy on Aug. 27.

The commissioners voted to hire Samuel Hitch-

ner as a water plant operator trainee, pending a background check, drug test and alcohol test.

The commission approved two municipal orders, amending the utility clerk job description and creating a senior utility clerk job description.

• Approved street closings for the Harrodsburg Animal Hospital Oktoberfest 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 19, from Thursday afternoon and Friday, Sept. 17, from 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Street closures will include South Chiles Street from Lexington Street to Mooreland Avenue; Mooreland Avenue from Chiles Street to Beaumont Avenue; Beaumont Avenue from Main Street to just past Runyon Road. Runners will turn around and follow the route back to the starting point.

Kaitlyn Harder, Assistant Director and Events and Community Development Coordinator with the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Tourist Commission, said they've done the same route with the Shamrock Shuffle. Harder also said they've ordered extra barricades and will have 40 volunteers on hand.

Harrodsburg City Hall will be open for a half day on Thursday and closed Friday. HPD will use City Hall for operations during Oktoberfest over the weekend.

• Authorized Mayor Williams to sign the Fiscal Year 2025 Management Representation Letter from Kerbaugh, Rodas and Butler regarding the city's audited financial

statement.

• Authorized Mayor Williams to sign the Affordable Care Act Reporting Renewal Form from McGregor and Associates Inc.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harrodsburg City Commission will be Monday, Sept. 28, at noon at Harrodsburg City Hall (208 South Main Street). A calendar with meeting dates and other information is available online at harrodsburgky.gov.

URBAN FOREST INITIATIVE PRESENTS

TREE WEEK OCTOBER 9-18 2026

Help us Celebrate

October 10th:
Tree planting and Tree Week Proclamation at Veterans Park (The Army Tank)

October 13th:
Mike Hayman lecture at the Mercer County Public Library

October 14th:
"How to kill a tree" class at Mercer County Extension Office

October 15th:
Tree walk and volunteer tree care at The Big Spring

October 17th:
Tree Planting volunteer event at Anderson Dean Park

Details and additional events coming soon!

MACKVILLE Harvest FESTIVAL

10651 MAIN STREET, MACKVILLE KY

Saturday, September 19, 2026

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.

- Free coffee & donuts (Sponsored by the Masonic Lodge, Magnolia #201)
- Vendor Booths Open

9:00 a.m.

- Quilt Show
- Civil War Exhibit
- Kiddy Land/Bouncy House/Blow Ups
- Museum & Americana Rooms Open
- Farm & Harvest Rooms Open

10:00 a.m.

- Silent Auction Bidding Starts
- Tractor & Farm Machinery Show (across from Mackville Christian Church)
- Rook Tournament (Card Room)
- Croquet
- Corn Hole
- Horseshoes

12:00 p.m.

- Coins in Haystack
- Marble Swap Meet

11:00 a.m.

- Music Starts (behind Community Center)
- Concession Stand & Food Trucks Open
- Car Show Judging (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place)
- Pedal Pull
- 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (in gymnasium)

1:00 p.m.

- Parade
- Awards for Floats

2:00 p.m.

- Hay Toss (all ages)

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Open Gym

3:00 p.m.

- Silent Auction Bidding Closes

Other activities still in the works!

FOOD - Pam Pinkston @ 859-481-1196

BOOTH RENTAL - Sarah Jo Riley @ 859-481-4516 or Burbona Riley @ 859-481-5055

SILENT AUCTION - Jeannie Hatchett @ 859-481-3005

ALL OTHER QUESTIONS - Donna Sue Harmon @ 859-612-5630 or Billie Ann Riley @ 859-805-1707

MORE TALES

Emceed by Marvin Bartlett

Wilmore Storytelling Festival

September 18 & 19

Friday 6:30pm—9:00pm Saturday 10:00am—9:00pm

Dan Glass Pavilion, Wilmore Municipal Center
210 S. Lexington Ave, Wilmore KY

Thanks to our generous sponsors, More Tales is a

FREE EVENT!

For more information