



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED  
The Metcalfe County High School students and Carol Perkins gathered in the gymnasium.

# Shirts, Flags, and Our Declaration

By **Carol Perkins**  
JOB PUBLISHING CONTRIBUTOR

Following up from last week, the high school event was on Thursday, but I mixed up the dates and went to the middle school at 8:00 that morning. At that hour, I am usually sitting quietly, drinking coffee, and enjoying not having to go to work anymore.

I arrived early with my cohort, Jo Meredith, who is not a morning person either, and noticed that no one in the office was wearing a commemorative shirt, which seemed odd. After Miss Jenny finished the morning announcements, she smiled, came over, leaned down, and said, "Miss Perkins, our program is tomorrow. The high school program is this afternoon."

Jo and I left and met again at the high school that afternoon. On the drive home, I took in the morning's beauty and remembered the early hours when life was bustling around me, and I am not. Upon arrival, I saw students wearing their shirts and waving their flags in the hallway until school staff sent everyone to the gym. It had been years since I had stood before a group of teenagers, nearly four hundred of them, so I was a little nervous about how they might behave.

History teacher Dr. Rob Bunch presented facts about the Declaration, and as



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED  
Metcalfe County Middle School principal Jenny Stotts-Lundy, speaking to the middle school.

the students listened attentively, I became more nervous. But once I held the microphone, a sense of calm came over me. I first explained that the community had sponsored their shirts and the City of Edmonton donated copies of the Declaration. Then I asked the students whose family members had served our country to stand, and the number amazed me. I also recognized five young men who were enlisting in the military and spoke briefly about protecting our freedom. We ended with a rousing "Happy Birthday, America."

The middle school students gathered in the gym the next morning, and their school ambassadors presented the program. Among other things, I repeated how these gifts came about and then talked about a young girl from Africa whose village only had a school up to sixth grade. For high school, if their test scores were high enough, students

had to move to a bigger town and live with someone there. College was only for those who excelled in high school. I mentioned how in America, we can change our minds about our future. In some countries, the government tells people what jobs they will have.

The three programs were heartwarming, and the students were so well-behaved. I appreciate all those who made these events possible. Metcalfe County students are likely the only ones in the state to have a commemorative shirt, flag, and a copy of the Declaration for America's 250th birthday, thanks to all who made it possible.



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED  
The elementary school students and teachers gathered in the gymnasium for the program.

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSAL

This is a Request for Qualifications/Proposal to provide architectural services for the design of parking and tractor-trailer ingress/egress for the George K. Bowling Community Park Food Pantry at 1608 West Stockton Street in Edmonton, KY. Bowling Park is applying for grant funds from the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Program and possibly other grant programs for the re-design, plan implementation, and paving work to improve traffic flow for the food pantry's surrounding lot, especially for safer and more efficient tractor-trailer or large vehicle access.

The project will include assisting the client with design of ingress/egress and lot traffic flow to meet space requirements and code compliance. The RFQ/RFP is for the design, detailed cost estimate, and (if the grant is approved) bidding and construction management services required for the project. Proposals should also include the architectural/engineering firm's price for these services, as these fees will be built into the grant proposal.

You are invited to submit a proposal to be received no later than 9:00 am CST on Friday, June 19, 2026. Four copies of your proposal should be submitted to Bowling Park Executive Director Lisa Boswell, P.O. Box 849, Edmonton, KY 42129. The park's phone number is (270) 432-7204.

This Request for Qualifications/Proposal consists of the following attachments, which can be obtained by contacting Matt Pedigo, Barren River Area Development District, by email at [Matt.pedigo@bradd.org](mailto:Matt.pedigo@bradd.org); or by calling (270) 306-4254. TTY: 1-800-648-6056 (for hearing impaired only).

- Attachment A - Problem Statement
- Attachment B - Scope of Work
- Attachment C - Project Schedule
- Attachment D - Contract Type
- Attachment E - Proposal Contents
- Attachment F - Factors for Award/Evaluation of Criteria
- Attachment G - Area Map

The Contract will be awarded to the responsible offerer whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to Bowling Park. The factors to be considered and the method to be utilized in the evaluation of the qualifications and selection of the architect are set forth in Attachment F.

Bowling Park is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Attention of offerers is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed under the contract: Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109, Title VI, and EEO 11246. Local, minority, and female-owned firms are encouraged to respond.



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Through classroom instruction, leadership development, hands-on learning, and extensive community engagement, students gained meaningful skills and experiences that will support their future careers in agriculture and beyond.

The chapter continues

to build on a strong tradition of student achievement, community partnership, and agricultural excellence.

If you would like to see more of the events and photos from the FFA school year, go to their Facebook page, MCHS FFA.