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Keiths acquire historic French Quarter Inn in Maysville

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The French Quarter Inn, a hotel located in downtown Maysville, has been acquired by James and Amanda Keith, along with their development partners.

The Keiths have acquired the French Quarter Inn from its original owners, Gary and Bunni Phillips, and will take over the operation of the facility in July.

The Ledger Independent recently spoke with James and Amanda Keith in an interview to discuss their acquisition.

“The acquisition was realized with the continued support of Judge Owen McNeill and Tyler McHugh over six years. The French Quarter Inn was first built in 1997, and has long been a fixture in Maysville’s downtown, drawing thousands of visitors a year,” the Keiths stated in a press

release.

For the Keiths, Maysville brings to mind family connections. James Keith’s father, John D. Keith Jr., was born there in 1936, and as he grew up, he heard his mother and father talk about Maysville. Keith & Keith Motor Company, a business located on Second Street, was founded by James Keith’s grandfather and great uncle, John D. Keith and Thomas A. Keith, Jr.

“I have pictures of their home and family Christmases at 7 West Third Street,” James Keith stated. “I grew up with pictures of Maysville and my dad always singing ‘Maysville, hometown of my heart.’”

In 2006, James and Amanda Keith saw a sign for Maysville during a road trip and decided to pay a visit to James’ father’s home.



Photo provided by James Keith
The Keith family at 7 West 3rd Street in approximately 1939-1940.

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Photo by Perry Vaile
James and Amanda Keith during the midst of the restoration of the NuWray Hotel.

Adams Co. man arrested in human trafficking operation

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An Adams County man was one of 122 individuals recently arrested in a human trafficking operation.

According to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, 122 individuals were arrested as a result of a statewide human trafficking operation conducted by several agencies throughout Ohio this month.

“This operation brings us to 1,065 arrests since our statewide stings began in 2019,” Attorney General Dave Yost stated. “It shows the problem isn’t going away, but perpetrators are getting increasingly skittish as our message reverberates – Don’t buy sex in Ohio.”

Doug Curl, 58, of Peebles, Ohio, was one of 122 individuals arrested



during Operation Spring Cleaning, which took place from May 13-20. According to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Curl has been charged with engaging in prostitution or solicitation.

Additionally, the Ohio Attorney General’s Office stated, “38 people were arrested on felony charges, including promoting prostitution, compelling prostitution, attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, trafficking in persons, and drug possession and/or trafficking. 84 ‘johns’

seeking to buy sex were arrested and charged with engaging in prostitution or solicitation. 42 human trafficking survivors were referred by law enforcement to health-care and social-services organizations. 15 search warrants were executed in connection with suspected human trafficking at massage parlors in Akron, Columbus, Dublin, Grafton, Powell, Toledo and Willoughby. More than \$120,000 was seized, along with evidence for long-term investigations.”

Heavy rains



Jennifer Donahue/The Ledger Independent

North Fork rushing and exceeding the banks in Lewisburg.

Maysville City Commissioner Boone proposes expanding historic districts

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On Thursday, May 14, Maysville City Commissioner Robert Boone proposed expanding the city’s two historic districts to the City Commission at its regular monthly meeting.

According to the National Register of Historic Places, Maysville’s downtown historic district, which was previously expanded in 2017, currently includes West Second Street, Sutton Street, Market Street, Limestone Street, West Fourth Street and East Fourth Street. Maysville’s

second historic district includes the village of Old Washington.

Boone suggested that the extension could include Fourth and Fifth Streets, Forest Avenue, East Second to East Third Streets and West Second to West Third Streets in downtown Maysville, and Green Street in Old Washington.

However, Boone stated, “From my perspective, the decision to be included in the historic district is certainly up to the majority of the people who live in that outlay.”

He expressed that benefits to living in a historic district include tax cred-

its, grant opportunities and more “stringent” zoning regulations for land use.

“But, you know, it starts with public comment and very adequate public comment,” Boone concluded.

Maysville City Manager Matt Wallingford referenced a previous circumstance in which the City invited residents to a public forum to discuss the widening of the AA Highway.

“That’s where I would recommend you start, is, pick an area that you want to go with and get the feedback from the folks who live there,”

Wallingford stated.

Zoning Administrator George Larger noted that on Aug. 6, three trainers from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions will host sessions on topics including preservation incentives and benefits and community engagement. The public will be invited to attend these sessions.

“We also need to include an education component of what the impact of that would be, both positive or negative, or just from the different perspectives, so that if people are giving public comment, they have correct information on

which to base their opinion,” expressed Mayor Debra Cotterill. “And so, I would like to see some educational component that is offered to make sure people understand what they’re getting into.”

Larger then explained that the formal process for “creating or amending an existing historic district is a public hearing held by the Board of Architectural Review, they forward what they got to the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission holds a public hearing and then the Planning Commission forwards its recommendation to you

all,” referring to the City Commission.

He further stated that an application to the Board of Architectural Review must be formal, requiring the City to have its “property selected” and its “reasoning behind it” when it applies.

Larger also added that residents living within a historic district must follow certain regulations under the Board of Architectural Review, but that the board will work on updating its outdated design review guidelines at the training sessions later this summer.



Ponto the office dog says:
Every path hath a puddle.

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