☞ COUNCIL

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the schools through established curricula, including Too Good for Drugs.

Bertram said the Health Department has been working with school officials to develop the program and has hired an employee who will undergo the necessary training.

Council members expressed support for both proposals but discussed how the funding should be divided.

Some favored splitting the money equally, while others suggested considering different percentages. Concerns were also expressed about ensuring that city opioid settlement funds primarily benefit residents of Vanceburg and Lewis County.

Rather than determine the allocations immediately, council voted unanimously to table the matter until its December meeting to allow additional discussion.

In another action, council voted unanimously to name the renovated Boat Dock Recreation Area in honor of Mayor Joe Billman.

The property will be known as Joseph W. Billman Park and Boat Ramp.

The proposal recognized Billman's work in improving the riverfront property, including renovations and recreational improvements.

Council members expressed their appreciation for the mayor's efforts, and the action was greeted with applause.

Billman, who is not seeking election to another term, thanked council members for the recognition.

Council also approved the purchase of additional playground equipment for the riverfront park.

The equipment, estimated to cost $6,389, will provide additional recreational opportunities for children at the renovated facility.

The city expects to qualify for reimbursement of approximately half the purchase price through a Kentucky League of Cities liability grant program.

Funds are available through the city's restoration fund to cover the initial purchase.

Council accepted the resignation of Kenny Ruckel from the city's Recreation Board and appointed Kenny Kegley to fill the vacancy.

Ruckel is stepping down because of his involvement with ongoing work at the Lewis County Shooting Sports facility.

Kegley's appointment runs through March 1, 2030.

Councilwoman Angie Patton reported that Vanceburg Electric Plant Board Superintendent Levi Clark has accepted a position with Buffalo Trace Area Development District.

Clark's final day with the utility will be November 30.

The Electric Plant Board has begun advertising for applicants to fill the position.

Patton also reported that the board continues to discuss a proposed backup battery project and recently completed its annual audit.

Council approved a resolution formally declaring the city's approximately three-acre property on Halbert Avenue surplus and authorizing its disposal through public auction.

The property has been the subject of several council discussions this year. An earlier attempt to sell the tract failed to bring the city's minimum asking price, prompting renewed discussion about retaining it for possible public use.

In September, council voted 3-2 to offer the property for sale again, with Council members Angie Patton and Richard Walje opposing the action.

During last Monday's meeting, City Attorney Stephen McGinnis addressed questions concerning the resolution and the statutory requirements for disposing of city-owned property.

Council unanimously approved the resolution.

Billman reported on several ongoing projects and activities.

The city's Halloween celebration drew a large crowd, with organizers preparing 400 hot dogs and distributing all but three, along with pizza and other refreshments.

Billman estimated attendance at nearly 1,000 people and thanked the employees and volunteers who helped organize the event.

He also reported that paving work has been completed at the city's maintenance building.

Additional improvements include Welcome to Vanceburg signs along the riverfront and plans for another sign identifying Scott Park.

Billman said city crews have also been cutting back vegetation and cleaning rights-of-way.

The city has submitted another grant application seeking funding for additional riverfront improvements. A public hearing concerning the application was held October 27.

Council also received a letter of appreciation from the Housing Authority.

The meeting concluded following an executive session concerning a personnel matter.

Lewis County Officials Present Monthly Reports

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County officials presented their monthly reports during the October meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court.

Sheriff Johnny Bivens filed his department activities from September 14, 2026 through October 12, 2026.

- Citations 35
- Subpoenas Served 4
- Domestic Related Calls 57
- Civil Summons Served 70
- Arrests 15
- Cases Open For Investigation 12
- Accident Investigations 6
- Criminal Summons 15
- Prisoners Transp. to Secure Facility 0 miles
- Juveniles Transported 150 miles
- DVOs and EPOs 4
- Court Security Hours 620.5 hours
- Prescription Deliveries 1
- Auto Inspections 89
- Funeral Escorts 7
- Concealed Carry Permits 14
- Miscellaneous 31
- Taxes Collected:

Property $0.00
Franchise $351,002.03
Total $351,002.03

Stolen property recovered: 0

Total recovered $0.00

911 Coordinator Pam Jordan submitted a monthly report for the Lewis County E-911 Dispatch Center.

The center received the following calls for service in October:

- Sheriff 453
- Vanceburg PD 111
- EMS 154
- Coroner 1
- Air Evac 1
- Lewis County FD 17
- Garrison FD 11
- Vanceburg FD 14
- Black Oak FD 4
- Firebrick FD 4
- Lewis County 2 FD 1
- Tollesboro FD 15
- Camp Dix FD 0
- EMA 11

Total Calls 797

911 Wrecker Log October:

Mullin's	0
McCann's	4
W KY 8	2
Ginn's	3
G&H	0
Thayer's	2
Clark's	2
Crawford's	0
Bradford's	0

Road Supervisor David Goodwin submitted his road maintenance report for the month.

Goodwin said 995.3 tons of gravel and stone and 82.93 tons of hot patch had been hauled by the county.

Roadways Graveled/Repaired: Red Brush Hill, Armstrong, RC Lane, Craycraft, North Fork, Little Holly, Saw Pit, Nolan, Rose MT, Glen Springs, Lower Kinney, Crooked Creek, Highfield Ln., Old Trace, Throckmorton, Paint Lick, Rock Camp, and Carrs.

Roadways Graded: North Licking River Rd., Bowman Springs, and Paint Lick.

Blacktop/Gravel Patching: Slate Hollow, Craycraft, Raccoon, Stamper, Dummitt Br., Laurel Rd., Lexi Lane, Crooked Creek, and Fingerboard.

Roadways Mowed/Brush/Trees: Red Brush, Birchwood, Lower Kinney, Jordan Ln., Meadowbrook, Black Oak, Riverview, River Rd., Bradford, Indian Hills, Union Hill, Echo Hills, Slate Point, RC Lane, Rock Run, Clarksburg, Holly, Burnt Cabin, Old Rankin, Skidmore, Payton, McDowell, Holly, McCleese, Hardy Fork, Cooper Fork, Briery, Hazel, Blue Springs, Hamilton, Red Oak, Straight Fork, McCarthy Bend, and Mosby.

Signs Made/Repaired: N. Fork Licking River, Burnt Cabin, and Brackman Hollow.

Roadways Repaired Shoulder: Lower Kinney and McDowell.

Pipe Installed/Repaired: Throckmorton and McDowell.

Solid Waste Coordinator Roger Lewis gave his report:

- Performed all regular coordinator duties.
- Sent out letters, received several phone calls and completed several site visits concerning complaints and nuisances.
- Still taking in recycle material.
- We are still picking up cardboard from most of businesses in Vanceburg and in the county.
- We want to thank the County Road Department for hauling us a load of rock.
- We want to thank the County Road Department for hauling a load of cardboard for us.
- Pickers have picked 73 miles of roadway and have collected 762 bags of trash and 6 tires. I have inspected the work the pickers have done and they're doing a good job.
- Roads that have been picked are Rt. 984, Rt. 8, Rt. 57, Rt. 1443, Rt. 10, Rt. 1237, Rt. 989, McDowell Creek Rd., Rt. 59, Rt. 1021, Quicks Run Rd., Bowman Springs Rd., Blue Springs Rd., Lower Kinney Rd., Beechy Rd., Trinity Station Rd., and the AA Hwy.

Animal Control reported 6 picked up; 9 dropped off; 8 rescued; 0 reclaimed; $0 donation; 0 adoptions ($0), 10 E-911 calls; 31 office calls received. Cash total: $0.00; Check: $0.00; Total: $0.00. Fleming County Fiscal Court was billed $300.00. Fifteen dogs remained at the shelter at the end of the month.

Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown gave his report. The Lewis County Alert System continued to gain followers. It was activated five times in September to notify residents of severe thunderstorms, flood advisory, flood watch, and dense fog. The alert system allows notifications to our residents through text, email, voice (telephone), Twitter, and the Smart 911 App. Targeted alerts can notify small groups (specific county offices/groups/employees). Lewis County Alerts has more than 5,600 subscribers.

- Worked with Vanceburg Fire on the smoke alarm partnership with Red Cross to provide units to area residents. Will continue working with all departments making this program available countywide.
- Pursuing grant for locator/tracker devices for residents who may wander (Alzheimer's/dementia). In discussion to join an adjacent county on this project.
- Pursuing grant funding for water rescue kits/medic kits for first responders.
- Completed necessary paperwork with KYEM as required.
- Participated in continuing education for EMA.
- Participated in continuing training for Red Cross Volunteer position.
- Planning CERT/preparedness trainings for local school/student groups.
- Attended Kentucky Emergency Services Conference in Louisville. (September 8-11)
- Attended a PIO Zoom session on social media monitoring for PIOs. (September 2)
- Completed 8 hours Pilot Access and Functional Needs in Disaster Response. (September 10)
- Performed outdoor siren maintenance at all locations.
- Completed Storm Damage Assessments following weather incident. (September 16)
- Completed 24 hours Active Shooter Incident Management at CDP. (September 21-23)
- Assisted Red Cross with assistance to family following house fires.
- Working with Greenup County Public Safety for mutual aid dispatching.
- Maintaining EM office hours Mon. - Fri.
- Working to complete required Access Control List for CJIS.
- Working with Lewis County Schools on campus safety. (Raptor and Command Point)
- Responded to Kinetic pole down in Tollesboro. (September 16)
- Attended Dispatch Academy graduation at DOCJT. (September 30)
- Working with Comprehend officials for more thorough implementation of 988 services in Lewis County.
- Assisted with Animal Control matters.
- Working RAVE mass notification program to streamline notifications processes.
- Working with other counties in the region with communications plans for mutual aid.
- Working with Tollesboro Fire to improve communication link between Dispatch and Tollesboro Fire's radio repeater and outdoor warning siren. (Siren tech also involved in project)
- Working with Christian Appalachian Project to restore Operation Sharing Program in the county.
- Participated in Kentucky Qualification System – PIO certification training.
- Participated in Broadband Improvement review discussions with providers and local officials to finalize county plan.
- Created newspaper, radio, and social media PSA distribution for heat, ticks, and weather preparedness.
- Working with AK and Windstream to restore 911 telephone service multiple times.
- Assisted LCSO with traffic control and scene photography for various incidents.
- Telephone conference with Area Director Jason York to discuss training and reporting practices.

County Treasurer Penny Lee reported the total of all county funds for the month of September had a beginning balance of $3,547,020.54 and an ending balance of $3,143,885.48. Receipts for the month totaled $34,135.09 while disbursements totaled $437,270.15. The next regular meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court was at 3:00 p.m. November 9, 2026.



Ribolt Ladies meet on October 3



LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Ribolt Ladies met at deSha's in Maysville Saturday, October 3, for lunch! What a wonderful time visiting with each other and reminiscing of the older days! We missed several today but hopefully they can join us next time! Left to right, Doris Thoroughman, Jan Fuller Riffe, Elaine Gardner, June Grierson, Constance Boyd Trisler, Carma Boyd, Vickie Insko, Carol Dixon, Kathy Jordan, Tona Cracraft, Jennie Wilson, Shirley Free, Faye Dixon (seated), Joyce Duzan wasn't in photo.