



SOCCER

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MESSANGER-INQUIRER

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Cars pass by the old Texas Gas building structure on Tuesday in the 3800 block of Frederica St.

Owners get 3 years to decide fate of former Texas Gas building

Company must submit progress report every 6 months

BY JAMES MAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The owners of the former Texas Gas building on Tamarack Road will have more time to either make something of the property, sell it or tear down the structure.

The city Property Maintenance Board voted to give the owners until Sept. 1, 2029, to make something of the property.

Meanwhile, the \$67,000 in fines the owners had racked up for not maintaining or securing the property have been set aside, for now.

In June, the city fined The Shoppes At 3800 Frederica Street LLC after a May inspection by city property Maintenance Director Joe Sublett found several issues at the site.

In particular, Sublett issued violations for uncut grass and weeds, graffiti on the steel skeleton of the former building and a lack of fencing to keep trespassers out.

The property also contained pits that were not fenced off, creating a hazard for people intruding on the site, Sublett said Tuesday.

All of those issues have been addressed, Sublett said.

"The graffiti has all been covered," Sublett said. "They are mowing. The perimeter fencing is now closer to the building and secured, and the pits are also fenced off," Sublett said.

The owners "have done a lot" to address those issues, Sublett said. The pits in particular needed to be

secured, since "there is a substantial falling hazard," he said.

The Property Maintenance Board dismissed the violations regarding mowing, fencing and graffiti, city attorney Mark Pfeifer said.

But an issue that remains is the violation that Sublett issued the firm for not making "measurable progress" on the structure.

The ordinance states: "Any renovation or construction to structures or grounds must be completed through consistent, sustained effort and no such building or grounds under construction or renovation may be allowed to be uncompleted for an unreasonable length of time, giving due consideration to the type of project."

For commercial projects, 180 days without consistent work is considered "an unreasonable length

of time" unless the city receives a "sufficient, specific, written explanation" for the delay.

Pfeifer said the board voted to give The Shoppes at 3800 Frederica Street three more years to either develop the Texas Gas structure, sell it or tear the structure down.

"If they fail to do so, they have to demolish the site," Pfeifer said.

While the \$67,000 fine has been set aside, it could be reimposed if The Shoppes does not meet the new deadline. As a condition, the company has to submit a report to the Property Maintenance Board every six months outlining their progress with the site, Pfeifer said.

The property has to be maintained in all other ways, Pfeifer said.

"They have to be in compliance with the property maintenance code," Pfeifer said.

DCPS board sets 2026-27 tax rates

BY JAMES MAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Daviess County Board of Education's proposed tax rates for the 2026-27 fiscal year include a slightly higher rate for real estate and a reduced rate for personal property.

Board members discussed the district's tax rates at Tuesday's board luncheon but did not vote on the proposed rates.

Sara Harley, the district's finance director, said the board will vote on the tax rates at its Sept. 15 luncheon, after the rates have been advertised and the public has had a chance to comment to school board members.

There will not be a public hearing on the proposed rates, as one is no longer required by law.

Harley said the public can comment by contacting school board members.

The current real property rate, which applies to real estate, is 69.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Meanwhile, the rate on business personal property, which includes business machinery and inventories, computers, furniture and aircraft, is 71.5 cents per \$100 of value.

Under Tuesday's proposal, the real property and personal property rates will both be 70.4 cents per \$100 of value.

Harley said for a home valued at \$200,000, the increased real property rate will result in an additional \$12 annually for the homeowner.

The new rates are estimated to generate \$58.023 million in the new fiscal year.

Overall, the district anticipates receiving \$4.073 million more in revenue in the 2026-27 fiscal year than in the previous year. Of that amount, \$2.311 million will go toward instruction; \$907,913 to the building fund; \$462,000 to transportation; \$308,246 to plant maintenance; and \$82,683 to the cost of collections.

While the public can comment, the proposed tax rates are not subject to recall by residents in the county school system, according to information Harley presented to the board.

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Music icon, actor, philanthropist Parton dies of cancer

BY KRISTIN M. HALL AND ANDREW DALTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dolly Parton, the country music icon whose soaring vibrato vocals, poignant songwriting and sparkling costumes defined her rise from a log cabin in the Tennessee mountains to the height of stardom and acclaim, has died in Nashville. She was 80 years old.

"After bravely facing a brief battle with cancer, Dolly departed her Earthly life today at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center surrounded by loved ones," her publicist, Marcel Pariseau, said in a statement Tuesday.

Known for her curvy physique, massive blond wigs and skin-tight outfits that served her self-deprecating wit, she was among the most beloved personalities in music and beyond — the rare celebrity whose appeal transcended generations, geog-

raphy and politics.

She wrote hundreds of songs, including classics like "Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors" and "I Will Always Love You," that totaled more than 100 million worldwide sales and more than 1 billion online streams. Parton, who plucked bejeweled banjos, guitar and dulcimers with her long fingernails during performances, was a generous philanthropist and successful businesswoman whose projects included a theme park in the Smoky Mountain foothills near her birthplace.

Her career was forever influenced by her upbringing as one of 12 children born into what she called a "dirt poor" Tennessee family. She started her education nonprofit, Imagination Library, to send free books to children in Tennessee because her father, who quit school to work on the farm, struggled to



Dolly Parton poses at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Ceremony in New York, on Oct. 13, 2022.

learn to read.

Parton's first musical performances were in church, where her grandfather was a preacher. By age 10, she was learning gui-

tar and singing on local television shows. At 13, she appeared on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, where Johnny Cash introduced her as "a little girl here from up in East Tennessee."

With a suitcase of songs, she followed her uncle, Bill Owens, also a songwriter, to Nashville after graduating high school in 1964. Fred Foster, who produced Roy Orbison, Willie Nelson and more, saw her potential and got her songs cut by other artists, as well as recording and releasing Parton singing her own material. By the mid-1970s, Parton was a Nashville queen.

A KEY COLLABORATION WITH PORTER WAGONER

Parton's partnership with Porter Wagoner, a pencil-thin pompadoured star with flashy rhinestone outfits, was key to her career. She honed her acting skills on his syndicated TV show and he advocated for her to get a record deal at RCA. Their first duet, "The Last Thing On My

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