

THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE



SPORTS

Yun, Sacred Heart dominate Lady Bruin Invitational with titles
PAGE B1



TASTE

Avoid the lines by mimicking famous theme-park treat
PAGE B8



TODAY

Mostly cloudy

82 - 68

COMPLETE REPORT, A2

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Downtown E'town residential rezoning proposal withdrawn

Elizabethtown Planning & Development has decided to withdraw its rezoning proposal for residences bordering downtown after meeting resistance to the proposal and advising their legal counsel.

In order to match its Downtown Master Plan, the Elizabethtown Planning and Zoning Department had initially proposed a rezoning of 56 properties bordering the downtown area to convert them to C-5 “Downtown Mixed Use.” This would allow for commercial uses in neighborhoods that are currently residential only. The city sent letters to residents who would be affected by the zone change, attaching a map of the affected parcels and letting them know there will be a public hearing.

Now the public hearing, scheduled for 6 p.m. on July 28 in the Elizabethtown City Council chambers, located at 212 W. Dixie Ave., will serve as the time and place for the proposal to be withdrawn.

Director of Planning & Development Aaron Hawkins explained the two



Submitted

From left, Ruthie Lockard and Amy Jo de Kramer, friends and next door neighbors, stand with a sign that reads "I heart (love) my neighborhood," in response to a downtown Elizabethtown residential rezoning plan being withdrawn. The plan would have rezoned 56 parcels to fall under C-5 “Downtown Mixed Use,” which includes commercial use.

key reasons for the proposal being withdrawn.

"This will give us time to evaluate the needs of the area and have multiple public meetings in order to

gather even more information and determine a path forward that works best for the city and the residents in the area," Hawkins said.

He added that withdraw-

ing the proposal will also give the planning commission more time to figure out a new rezoning plan after working more closely with the public.

"If we were to just table or continue the hearing, we are legally required Tuesday night to announce the date of the meeting at which the hearing will be continued. Because we won't know the path forward until after the additional public meetings, it's impossible for us to announce a specific date," Hawkins said. "If the direction we get from the public is to create a new zone entirely, that will require a lot more time and with our current workload, we would not be able to give even an estimated time for that on Tuesday night."

Because the public hearing was already advertised to locals and affected residents, Hawkins said they will still call the meeting to order so that he can inform the planning commission that the proposal will be withdrawn. Because the proposal will be withdrawn, there will not be allotted time for public testimony on it at this event.

"Ultimately, we feel pretty good about this as this will give us more time to evaluate and come up with a solution that works

best for everyone instead of just trying to utilize the only tool we currently have, which is the C-5 zone," Hawkins said. "By the community coming together and asking us to reconsider, that shows us we needed more public input than what we received during the master plan process. I view this as a good thing because the result will hopefully be one that's right for all parties involved."

Lockard described herself and other citizens as "elated" in her correspondence with Hawkins when she found out the news.

"Downtown Elizabethtown isn't just the place where I live, it's where I experience everyday life," Lockard said. "My downtown neighborhood represents the kind of place where people want to put down roots. As a person who lives, works and spends time everyday, I hope that future decisions of the Elizabethtown City Planning and Zoning Departments will work to preserve the qualities that

SEE **ETOWN/PAGE A4**

Mayoral candidates Murrell and Owens value transparency, accountability

BY GREG THOMPSON
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Editor's Note: This story is the final story in a series focusing on Toshie Murrell and Terry Owens who are running for Mayor of Radcliff in November.

Toshie Murrell and Terry Owens both lead busy lives and are involved in their community in various ways.

As candidates for mayor of the City of Radcliff, the women were asked if they would be willing to give up something to run the daily business of local government.

"While I am a busy person, I have never been too busy for my responsibilities," Murrell said. "I will not have to give up anything to be an effective mayor. I have always been able to balance my personal, professional and civic life."

Surrounded by supportive people, Murrell adds she has a dedicated staff and family that she trusts to handle many of the daily operational decisions of Forever Homes for Paws, Network Real Estate Services and other organizations she is involved with.

Murrell lives by the old adage, "If you want something done, ask a busy person."

Answering the same question, Owens was also definitive in her



The News-Enterprise file

Radcliff City Councilwoman Terry Owens, left, assists former Radcliff Mayor Sheila Enyart at a former Radcliff Woman's Club event. Owens is running for Radcliff mayor in the upcoming General Election in November.

response: "Absolutely."

"I understand that serving as mayor requires personal sacrifice. It means giving up time that could be spent elsewhere because the needs of the city don't always fit into a normal schedule."

What Owens will not give up are her principles, she added. Compromising integrity, honesty and commitment to transparency for political convenience or personal

gain will not fit into her style of leadership.

"I and my family believe Radcliff deserves a leader who is fully engaged," Owens said. "The office of mayor is not about power or prestige - it's about ethical leadership."

Both women are using traditional methods of sharing their messages, knocking on doors, talking with

SEE **MAYORAL/PAGE A4**



KODEE BRINEGAR/The News-Enterprise

To help get into the school spirit, North Hardin cheerleaders painted blue, black and white dots on many Trojan Fest attendees' faces Thursday at North Hardin.

Trojan Fest gets families, staff excited for school

BY KODEE BRINEGAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

It's the final countdown until the 2026-27 school year begins.

Area families and school staff are celebrating the new school year with their annual back-to-school festivals at each of Hardin County's three high schools.

Bruin Fest at Central Hardin was Tuesday and

Bulldog Fest at John Hardin was Wednesday. Trojan Fest at North Hardin was Thursday and the final fest for the season.

Each fest hosts community partners to provide HCS families with back-to-school information and fun, such as face painting, games and door prizes,

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OBITUARIES

Victor Worth Alexander
David Hunt

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SINCE YOU ASKED

Results of The News-Enterprise online poll as of 5 p.m. Friday.
Do you often see stray cats wandering in Hardin County?
Yes: 56.2% • No: 43.8%
TODAY'S QUESTION: Do you participate in Christmas in July events?

Editor's note: This question is a repeat from yesterday as our site experienced a poll question error.

FEATURES

Cruisin' the Heartland returns with thousands of classic cars

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