RADCLIFF

FROM PAGE A1

spend less than $5,000. That is one of two options for candidates to file.

Murrell also filed a Statement of Spending Intent document for the primary, but selected that she would raise and spend more than $5,000. Murrell filed $13,011 in total campaign receipts and expenditures.

It was the total expenditures and campaign receipts number for Owens' campaign that Eke took issue with: $0.

Despite having signs and billboards across Radcliff as well as a social media presence, Owens reported $0 in campaign receipts and expenditures for both the primary and general elections.

Eke said that this filing concerns her as she believes how someone handles their campaign finance documents would have an impact on how they handle taxpayer money should they be voted into office.

"If you're being straightforward from the beginning, then I can trust that person to take care of where I live at, of my community," Eke said. "I'm concerned, and that's why I just wanted answers."

Eke added that the best possible outcome in this situation is that she gets the answers she is looking for on Owens' campaign funds and spending so that she can feel confident in her vote before she hits the polls Nov. 3.

"I just want to know when I go vote that I am voting for the mayor that is there for me, for my community, and that they're doing the right thing," Eke said. "I'm not even accusing her (Owens). I just want to know why one candidate is spending all this money, and the other one shows nothing. How is that possible?"

John R. Steffen, executive director of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance explained the difference in filing a Spending Intent of over $5,000 or under $5,000.

"If someone expects to have a larger campaign, then they should select the 'over $5000' option when they submit their Spending Intent. This means they can raise and spend however much they want to, but they have additional reporting requirements," Steffen said in an email last week. "For the primary, those requirements are 30-day pre-primary, 15-day pre-primary and 30 days post-primary election finance statements."

If someone files a Spending Intent of $5,000 or less, they only have to file one report, which is the 30-day post-election finance statement.

"It should contain everything they raised or spent from the beginning of their campaign through to the end of it," Steffen said.

Owens attempted to file a response to the complaint, but her documents were caught in the mail.

When she was initially contacted by The News-Enterprise about potentially misfiling her campaign Spending Intent document for the primary, Terry Owens said she was unaware her response to the complaint hadn't been received.

"Once I received the complaint, I reacted within a week to submit my memo explaining what happened to include all receipts for expenses," Owens said.

Owens explained that the misfiling happened on accident as she thought she had more time to file her receipts and expenditures, which totaled $9,393.90 she financed personally and an anonymous $200 donation.

"The time expired for me to amend the spending intent, and I could not create a new spending intent document in the candidate dashboard because an approved spending intent already existed," Owens said. "I did file the required campaign finance reporting in a timely manner, and it was approved. However, I failed to amend the original document on time to include additional applicable contributions and expenditures for the primary election."

Owens printed out all of her receipts, expenses and an explanation of her filings, taking the 50-page document to the UPS store in Elizabethtown on Aug. 21 to be shipped to the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance in Frankfort.

The News-Enterprise obtained the shipping receipt for Owens' documents and confirmed she shipped them within 15 days of receiving the complaint from Eke.

Upon tracking the documents this week, Owens' learned they are currently at the Louisville USPS facility. She then contacted the KREF with her proof of response and was able to submit her supporting documents via email.

Despite Owens' making the effort to change her initial Spending Intent for the primary election, she will incur a $500 fine.

"The category (on the Spending Intent Document) I originally selected was $5,000 or less and I spent more, so that has to be changed, and because the report is late, I will pay a $500 fine," Owens said, adding that she was not trying to be dishonest in any shape or form when filing her campaign finance documentation.

Owens said she understands that voters may have questions about her filings, and said she is more than happy to answer their questions as she is committed to transparency.

"I understand that people may have questions about my amended Statement of Spending Intent or campaign finance documents, and I respect their right to ask questions. Campaign finance reporting should be transparent, and I have no problem explaining my filing," Owens said. "I believe the facts should speak for themselves. My commitment is to transparency, accountability, and following the rules."

Steffen confirmed Wednesday that the KREF has officially received Owens' response to the complaint.

Owens' opponent Toshie Murrell declined to comment, saying that the matter does not pertain to her own election financing reports.

LIMBO

FROM PAGE A1

of constructing a Dollar General on the two-acre piece of land.

The Bracketts are fighting hard to keep the rezoning from happening by gathering support from neighbors nearby, inviting those in opposition to attend a tentative public hearing on Nov. 17 and getting a petition signed. As of Thursday, Tricia Brackett said nearly 300 have signed the electronic petition.

Initially, when the Thornhills found out they were going to be told to move out, both were very angry, "and shocked too," Kristen said.

The couple's 10-year-old son has taken the situation hard. Wesley said he's been "pretty emotional" about the whole ordeal.

It would appear that Kristen, an employee of Wilson & Muir Bank in Elizabethtown, and Wesley, who works with Hardin County EMS, are in a state of limbo, waiting for the other shoe to drop in this scenario.

Not the case, actually.

"We went out and bought a piece of land; we're cutting our own way," Wesley said. "We're done with this."

The land the couple has purchased, a little over two acres, is just over the Hardin County line in Grayson County with a wooded area, a creek that runs through it and no one nearby. It has become a situation that both Kristen and Wesley feel has nudged them in a good direction.

"I look at it as a mixed blessing," Wesley said. "I'll be happy to be out of here."

A public hearing on the property was originally scheduled for Oct. 13. However, Rafferty Development withdrew their application around midday that day, only to reapply around 4 p.m., with, according to Tricia Brackett, the same plans as previously submitted.

The only difference was the addition of a second applicant - the engineering company for the project.

"It was a stall tactic," Tricia said.

There is currently a Dollar General located at East Dixie and Hwy. 210, about two miles away from the newly proposed location, and there is another one a few miles away in the opposite direction, just as you enter Hodgenville.

As far as the Bracketts go, the couple has declared them the best kind of neighbors one could possibly hope to have, and Kristen will be at the public hearing standing against the proposed zoning change.

The Thornhills said they have experienced an incredible amount of stress and anxiety since May. Until making the decision to purchase property of their own, wondering if they would be given notice to move out this week, or next week or the week after has made everyday life a handful for the family.

Both Thornhill boys will be uprooted from their schools, but Kristen and Wesley plan on staying in touch with their closest friends and their parents.

By the end of the first week of November, the Thornhills will have left behind the stress and have started fresh.

"We're going to make our way out to Grayson County, be happy and be left alone," Wesley said.

PARTY

FROM PAGE A1

a strong morality."

Although a straight party voter, McGinnis stopped by on Tuesday to be face-to-face with the Republican candidates and have a few conversations.

The mood at the meet and greet was generally light-hearted, with a little bit of fun thrown in as 10th District State Senator Matt Deneen and 25th District State Representative Steve Bratcher gave one another a good-natured ribbing.

One thing that every candidate in the room could agree on was that they each will be happy when Nov. 4 rolls around and this political season is in the books.

TRIAL

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said. "I made contact with the manager at Long John Silver's and actually reviewed the surveillance video. That's when we see Mr. Caudill pull in the truck. He gets out, goes up to the dumpster."

After reviewing the footage, Smith said he and another detective went to search the dumpster and located the gun, which only had one bullet in the chamber. They also located a razor and a smoke alarm at America's Best Value Inn, where Caudill and Kennedy were staying at the time of the incident.

The trial is scheduled to resume Friday at the Hardin County Justice Center in Elizabethtown. Caudill is being held in lieu of a $1 million cash bond at the Hardin County Detention Center.

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