

February is anything but quiet in Oldham County

Not just for lovers –
A February for everyone

BY HELEN MCKINNEY
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Photo by Jane Ashley Pace

Brooke Yarbrough and Jacquelyn Kiekhefer manned a hot chocolate bar inside the dining car at the La Grange Railroad Musuem during the 2025 La Grange Main Street Chocolate Crawl.

Retreat: A Journey into the Shadow Heart is a trauma-informed, three-day retreat for women exploring embodiment, self-trust and conscious awareness in a grounded, supportive setting. This retreat takes place at Valaterra on Feb. 13 from 4 p.m. – Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. Participants will engage in practices that explore conscious consideration, consumption and indulgence to develop awareness of what we take in physically, emotionally, mentally and energetically. Cost is \$155 - \$555.

February also sets the stage for renewal and growth, so if you get the itch to tackle a DIY project, the Watts Home Center Spring Home Projects Show is where you will want to find yourself on Feb. 7 from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at CityPlace Expo Center in La Grange. You will be able to meet local vendors and contractors and explore options for home needs in roofing, decking, flooring, painting, landscaping and more. Admission is free but donations can be made to benefit Pillar, an organization that helps individuals with developmental disabilities lead happier, more meaningful lives.

In addition to events celebrating your special someone, February is also an exceptional month filled with unique experiences such as the La Grange Chocolate Crawl on Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. For \$20 per person, you'll be sure to enjoy one of La Grange's sweetest traditions. Spend the day strolling through charming downtown local shops as you receive a chocolate sample at each participating stop.

You've also got the chance to make your sweetie a handcrafted keepsake gift with the Valentine's Clay Workshop on Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. – noon. For \$20 per person, ages 5 to adult, you can spend a fun-filled morning creating handmade gifts with a loved one as well.

At a time of year when the Aurora Borealis is often most visible, the arts take center stage and shines bright with "Now and Then," the latest play performed at the Little Colonel Playhouse in Pewee Valley, one of the state's longest running community theaters. The play will run Feb. 20-21 and 26-28 from 7:30 – 10 p.m. and Feb. 22 and March 1 from 2 – 5 p.m. On a night in 1981,

just as Jamie is closing the bar where he works, a desperate last-minute customer offers him and his girlfriend Abby \$2,000 to sit and have a drink with him. As the trio swaps stories and Jamie considers the decisions he faces about his musical career and his future with his girlfriend, the young couple begins to realize that this older man is unusually invested in their choices... and the reason he gives them is completely unbelievable. See what develops in this heartfelt romantic comedy. Tickets for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$10 for students.

Browse Sounds Like Music, a competitive art show at Gallery 104 that explores a visual connection to music and dance. The exhibit will be showcased Feb. 3 – 28 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This dramatic art show explores a visual connection to music and dance; each artwork will capture the spirit of music, whether abstract or literal and explore how music can be seen, and not just heard. An opening reception will be held Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

Be sure to catch the many free books signings at From The Ground Up Books. The "Ink Happens" signing event with S Lee Davis will occur on Feb. 7 from noon – 4 p.m. Another Book Signing Event with Carol Preflatish will take place on Feb. 14 from 12 – 4 pm. Preflatish is the creator of the beloved "Coyote Canyon" mystery series. Pick up a few great reads while there for those cold, snowy days in anticipation of curling up with a good book at home.

Make it a family affair by getting out and about with the family for the 18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count at Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve on Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. – noon. This annual event is hosted by The Louisville Audubon Society and Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve in Goshen. Beginning to advanced bird watchers of all ages are invited to attend this fun birding event led by birding experts Lee Payne, Jr.

and Brandon McQueen. Sightings will be reported to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This is a free event but please RSVP.

February may be the shortest month of the year, but the entire month is devoted to Black History to recognize the contributions of African Americans to the nation's history, such as Oldham County's Underground Railroad and its award-winning Kentucky Black Trailblazers Augmented Reality project. And don't forget to celebrate America's 250 years of history with events at the Oldham County History Center.

Genealogy Deep Dive 2- Wills and Estates Workshop takes place on Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. – noon. Program will focus on how estates were managed, inventoried and more. Bring any brick walls you may have encountered. Cost is \$25 per person. A WWII dinner series highlighting 1942-1943 will take place on Feb. 25 from 6 – 8 p.m. Military Historian Matt Goldberg leads this second lecture of a three-part series. Cost is \$40 per person and includes buffet dinner and cash bar.

Round out the month with The Dinner Table Project: A Be Kind to Your Mind event on Feb. 27 from 5:30 – 8 p.m., hosted by CityPlace Expo Center in collaboration with the Oldham County Public Library, The Pete Foundation, the Coalition for a Healthy Oldham County, the Oldham County Health Department, Operation Parent, Seven Counties and the Oldham County Extension Office.

Find all this and more in February...only in Oldham County. For the complete countywide calendar of events for February visit touroldham.com/february-anything-but-quiet/.

For more information, contact Kim Hydes, executive director of Oldham County KY Tourism & Conventions, at 502-817-6043 or email Director@TourOldham.com.

Louisville housing market ends 2025 with inventory up nearly 30%, setting the stage for 2026

Oldham County new listings up just over 16%, median sales also up

BY ERA STAFF

New data from the Greater Louisville Association of REALTORS® (GLAR) in 2026 shows the local housing market closed out 2025 with growing inventory, steady buyer demand and sustained home price appreciation. GLAR says these trends point to a market that is moving toward healthier balance.

New listings increased 12.5% year over year for the full year, reaching 22,904 homes in 2025 compared to 20,361 in 2024. This steady rise in seller activity helped ease inventory constraints that defined recent years.

Closed sales for the year totaled

15,192, up 3.3% from 2024, reflecting consistent buyer demand despite higher mortgage rates and affordability pressures.

Home prices remained resilient throughout the year. The median home sale price finished 2025 at \$288,500 year to date, a 4.5% increase over last year, while the average sale price rose 5.5% to \$346,519.

Inventory growth was one of the most notable shifts of the year. Homes for sale increased 27.6% by December, reaching 3,324 active listings, while months of supply climbed to 2.7 months, up from 2.1 months at the end of 2024.

"2025 marked a meaningful transition for our housing market," said GLAR President Rip Phillips. "We saw inventory rebuild, demand remain steady, and prices continue to grow, all signs of a market moving toward greater stability rather than overheating or contracting."

Homes spent an average of 46 days on the market during the year, up from 41 days in 2024, and sellers received 98.4% of their list price on average, reflecting a slight moderation in pace while maintaining competitive conditions.

"Heading into 2026, we expect this more balanced environment to continue," Phillips added. "Buyers should see more choice, sellers should continue to benefit from stable pricing, and the overall market should remain healthy and resilient."

In Oldham County, according to GLAR, single family and townhouse/condo new listings were both up 16.2% in 2025, while median sales prices for single family homes were up 5.6% from \$450,000 to \$475,000. Townhouse/condo median sales prices in Oldham increased by 13.7% from \$229,500 to \$261,000 in 2025.

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our international and local fans alike.

Beyond the excitement inside our exhibit halls, guests will notice the largest expansion and renovation in the Kentucky Exposition Center's history taking shape on the northwest side of the property. By this time next year, our National Farm Machinery Show attendees will be among the first to experience the expanded show footprint in the new building. This strategic investment by the Kentucky General Assembly to grow the Kentucky Exposition Center into the nation's fifth largest facility of its

kind underscores our shared commitment to keep these shows thriving for generations to come.

As we approach this unforgettable event, we extend our sincere thanks to the farmers who work tirelessly to feed our nation and a good part of the world and provide the economic foundation for our economy. Our history and heritage with you and your families continue to shape us, and our mission remains unchanged from its earliest days to be the place where the best in the field come together.

We look forward to seeing you Feb. 11-14, 2026.

David S. Beck is President & CEO of Kentucky Venues.

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doing so requires Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the respective legislative body's approval.

County Attorney D. Berry Baxter then explained legal constraints for the situation: "some of the magistrates have requested that particular zones that [Fischer] went through [be removed] ...

"If you remove any one of those [zoning districts], that would be a material change that, in my opinion, would require another first reading ... because it affects the rights of those property owners at the last minute ..."

Baxter stated that "Chapter 100" of state law requires the fiscal court to approve or deny a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission within 90 days and, due to the approval occurring on Oct. 28, there would not be enough time for another first and second reading.

To address the time crunch, Baxter recommended that the court deny the regulations and send them back to the Planning Commission for further edits. With the moratorium on data centers lasting until regulations are

approved by the court, the pause on data center development would still stand.

In wanting to allow attendees to still address the court regarding the regulations, the court still conducted the public hearing, where many attendees urged the regulations to not allow the largest classification of data centers in IPD zones.

As previously reported, the Oldham County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance details that developments typically only allowed in heavy industrial zoning are not allowed in IPD zoned areas as permitted or conditional uses — only light industrial and all commercial zonings.

"Personally, as your county judge, ... I don't think there is any place where a hyper[scale] data center would fit in Oldham County ..."

Voegele said after the public hearing ended. "We have a very limited amount of space, other than KSR [the Kentucky State Reformatory] ... If the state decided they wanted to let a data center in there, I'm not sure there is anything we could do to stop it ..."

Magistrate Stephanie Hawkins made a motion to deny the regulations "for the purpose of sending changes that the members of this body

wish to see as part of this ordinance back to the ... Planning [and Zoning] Commission." Magistrate Kevin Woosley seconded the motion.

Debate on whether or not to consolidate the different magistrates proposed changes ensued for over 10 minutes before Magistrate Michael Logsdon called for the question — a parliamentary procedure intended to end debate, which was approved unanimously.

Despite the unanimous vote to stop debate, Voegele took the opportunity to further explain the court's discussion, saying that each magistrates' requests are different and in different formats, and even gave one of his requests as an example.

After Hawkins reread her initial motion, Voegele requested to make an amendment to her motion, specifically: "that every magistrate submit to my office a typewritten form with exactly the wording you want ..."

"I'm not going to include that in my motion ..." Hawkins replied. "I think the planning commission is smart enough to take all five of our [documents] and figure it out."

"No, they're not," Voegele said. "Quit pushing the work onto everybody else. Do the

work yourself instead of being lazy."

The discussion led to an overlapping verbal exchange between Hawkins and Voegele, ending with Voegele slamming the gavel while shouting, "Quiet!" and Hawkins telling Voegele to "take the vote."

When finally brought to a vote, the court unanimously agreed to send the regulations back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further review.

The court then took a recess, after which Hawkins and Voegele apologized to one another.

In other news, the court heard several complaints regarding the Flock cameras — automated license plate readers used to track vehicles associated with crimes — present around the county, citing them as an invasion of privacy that could lead to data breaches, stalking or other ill intentions.

Oldham County Police Chief Greg Smith later confirmed that there are 17 currently in the county, four of which owned by the county — the rest are owned by cities and HOAs.

Smith also stated that data collected by the county's Flock cameras has a 30-day retention period unless specifically

requested to be saved, that they can be used to supplement warrants and that they have been instrumental in at least three homicide cases in Oldham County.

Smith also confirmed that the photos taken by Flock cameras are public records, and thus are subject to open records requests — if requested before specific data is deleted.

Smith also confirmed that all Oldham County Police officers are authorized to make inquiries into the Flock database — and 4,821 inquiries were made in 2025.

Despite the voiced concerns, the court approved a three-year contract for three additional Flock cameras — bringing the total in the county to 20 — at a \$27,000 cost for both the cameras themselves and the service for a three-year period.

The court also approved a contract with Onsite Health Solutions, which provides annual voluntary biometric screenings for county employees, at no additional cost to the county thanks to their insurance.

As required by state statute, the court also approved 2026 bonds for the Oldham County Clerk's Office and Oldham County Sheriff's Office. The bonds are for \$100,000 and

\$325,000, respectively, and cost the county \$407.20 and \$1,056.68, respectively.

These bonds are provided through Liberty Mutual — a partner of the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) — and are to protect the county from the actions of either elected individual, guaranteeing they perform their duties with fidelity.

The court also approved a resolution accepting a safety action plan developed as part of the Safe Streets and Roads 4 All (SS4A) program.

The court previously paid \$7,663.54 as a 20% match of the \$750,000 divided by population to develop safety action plans for each community, County Engineer Jim Silliman said. Having accepted the safety action plan, the county will be able apply for future SS4A federal grants.

The court also approved the contract renewal of Oldham County Police Officer Kelly Ernst, effective Jan. 22; the hiring of Greg Sharp to the Road Department as an equipment operator, effective Jan. 21; and the reappointment of Dr. Brad Olds to the Oldham County Board of Health for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2027.

The Oldham County Fiscal Court's next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3 at 2 p.m.