

THE PIONEER NEWS

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Mayor delivers annual State of Mount Washington address

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

MOUNT WASHINGTON — A night before the president provided a State of the Union address, Bullitt County Judge/Executive Jerry Summers offered his State of the County address to the Mount Washington City Council.

Not to be outdone, mayor Stuart Owen also provided his annual State of the City address during the same meeting.

Expressing gratitude and pride for the position, Owen focused on the city's success over the past year while crediting the "hardworking families, dedicated employees, local

businesses, and neighbors who care deeply about where they live."

Owen mentioned that the city "has not borrowed a nickel in three years" while purchasing new properties, including the large corner lot formerly owned by CVS Pharmacy at N. Bardstown Road and Highway 44 East (the city purchased the lot in 2025 for \$900,000).

Under revitalization, Owen said the city's key focus remained on the Old Bardstown Road downtown corridor, with many buildings renovated or demolished due to disrepair, causing hazards.

"The city secured the property and we will put something nice there," he said. "The area is the cornerstone

of our community. Today it sits as a blank canvas presenting opportunity for prime development."

Owen announced that renovations were underway on the historic Lloyd House, located on South Bardstown Road, in partnership with the Mount Washington Historical Society.

"We have put a lot of investment into the Old Bardstown corridor," he added.

Owen mentioned a technology investment, meaning new bill payment options for residents via the implementation of a Purchasing Card (P-Card) program, as well as an online GIS mapping that included zoning information.

The city also updated the employee

policy and procedures handbook. Owen thanked all city employees and departments, mentioning the police department and a city crime reduction rate of 26 percent over the past year.

The mayor also credited the city's public works departments who remained busy and involved in many infrastructure issues.

"What they do is not as shiny as the other departments, but it shows that the city is investing heavily into the future," he said.

According to Owen, the GIS mapping system of the city's stormwater infrastructure was "now approximately 95 percent complete," while code enforcement helped with

orderly growth and improved quality of life.

Owen credited Jessica Thornton and the city's Community Development department for events such as the annual Farm to Table meal, raising over \$11,000 for local programs. He mentioned the city's farmers market earning national and state recognition.

"Expanded events like Harvest Homecoming, enhanced marketing efforts, new grant funding, and support for local farmers and producers all contributed to increased tourism and economic opportunity," he said.

SEE MAYOR/PAGE A6



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MWES can drive promotes recycling, education

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MOUNT WASHINGTON — The third graders at Mount Washington Elementary School are hoping to make animals smile with their "can do" attitudes.

For a second year, the third grade classrooms are participating in a nationwide aluminum can collection event known as the Million Cans Recycling Contest.

The event is presented by Recycling is Like Magic, created to help kids spark positive changes for the planet by making recycling fun, engaging, and educational. It is promoted by Jessica Alexanderson, a.k.a. Scuba Jess, a Washington resident who shares diving videos and supports ecosystems worldwide.

MWES assistant principal Julie Adams connected the school with the event through Tri-Arrows Aluminum, Inc., in Louisville, where her daughter



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worked. "The company collects used cans and recycles them," Adams said. "They want to recycle, it benefits locally. They looked for a school because there's

a contest." MWES is also in partnering with Grade A Auto Parts & Recycling, a

SEE MWES/PAGE A5

Every day a good 'Haire' day at Bullitt Lick

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SHEPHERDSVILLE — Bullitt County middle schoolers can always benefit from knowledge regarding both practical living and agriculture.

Kimberly Haire is the teacher providing those lessons and emphasizing both subjects at Bullitt Lick Middle School, where she hopes to continue making a difference in her students' lives.

Haire's efforts have been recognized as she received the Bullitt County Public Schools Middle School

Teacher of the Year Award. Haire had not yet considered a teaching career while attending the University of Kentucky, but the Elizabethtown native found herself in jobs and volunteer programs that all catered around youth.

"I decided to make a career of it," she said. "That's when I decided to go back to college."

With her UK Bachelor's Degrees in order, Haire entered into an accelerated teaching program at Spalding University in Louisville,

SEE HAIRE/PAGE A4



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Bullitt Lick Middle School instructor Kimberly Haire was selected as the Bullitt County Public Schools Middle School Teacher of the Year.



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Hillview Police Chief Bill Mahoney (left) introduced new officers Clayton Tanner and Emily Bible to the city council.

Hillview allows easement access to MSD

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HILLVIEW — The county's north end is in the process of upgrading its wastewater treatment capacity. The City of Hillview is doing their part to assist.

The Hillview City Council approved a resolution allowing the mayor to have the authority in providing easements to MSD for future upgrade projects.

MSD engineer Joey Ashby presented a request to the council and mayor Jim Eadens regarding an easement located through property at 1191 Hillview Boulevard, which includes the Hillview Police Department and the Eadens Resource Center.

Ashby discussed MSD's involvement with the overall north end upgrades, which began shortly after the collapse of the Hunters Hollow plant in 2016. By 2020 MSD had acquired the Bullitt County Sanitation District.

"(BCSD) had overflows, system defects, and permit violations," Ashby said, which led to MSD's current multi-year plans to overhaul the entire system.

According to Ashby, the line was located near the edge of the resource center's current parking lot. He said the land in question could later be repaved but could not have structures built upon it.

Ashby said acquiring the easement would allow contractors to begin the project as early as March.

Eadens thanked MSD for its ongoing efforts to improve the local system, which he said greatly benefitted all area residents and businesses.

"Without MSD, our local growth would've went the other way," he said.

In other business:

- Police chief Bill Mahoney introduced two of HPD's three new recruits to the council.

Both recruits are Bullitt County natives, including Ofc. Emily Bible of Shepherdsville and Ofc. Clayton Tanner of Hillview.

"They're both local and they've both expressed interest in staying local," Mahoney said. "They're making a difference in their own community."

According to Mahoney, the hiring of three new officers means the department will be fully staffed.

"We've tried the lateral (hiring) route," he said. "Now we're looking at new hires. It's always exciting to give someone a start in their law enforcement career."

Bible and Tanner are now training locally. Mahoney said the third officer would join the department after completing time with another location. He said all three new officers would head to official police academy training in April.

- City attorney Harlen Compton presented the first reading of a proposed ordinance to annex one acre of property located at 3105 Coral Ridge Road at Griffis Lane owned by AH Properties, LLC.

A second reading, along with a vote to approve or deny, is scheduled to take place at the council's next meeting.

- The council approved a donation of \$228 to the American Legion Post 244 Auxiliary in Jeffersontown to purchase a Buddy Bench.

Doris Schutz, representing the auxiliary, said Buddy Benches have been collected and placed at area school campuses, including one at Brooks Elementary.

SEE HILLVIEW/PAGE A2



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INSIDE

Obituaries A3
 Church A2
 Classifieds B4
 Sports B1
 Legal Notices A6, B3-4, B6

