

# Stout has seen many changes in economic development

THOMAS J. BARR  
THE PIONEER NEWS

**SHEPHERDSVILLE** – Many things have changed since Mark Stout took a seat on the Bullitt County Economic Development Authority.

It was in the late 1990s that Stout and the EDA board hired its first full-time director, Stephen Wolfe.

There was a little development in the county but not a lot.

But, that has certainly changed.

Stout was recently honored as he retired from the volunteer position on the board, where he served various roles.

The Mount Washington businessman was the last of the original members to leave the agency.

“We’ve sure seen a lot of changes,” Stout told a group of well-wishers during a recent celebration.

Going from little to a county



Thomas J. Barr

**Mark Stout is honored by Bullitt County CFO Keith Griffie during a reception to honor his years of service to the Bullitt County EDA.**

where development is busting at the seams, Stout praised all the leaders and financial supporters throughout the past in making Bullitt County the success that it is today.

Few in the celebration that day worked with Wolfe, who died suddenly early into his tenure. John Snider and Bob

Fouts also served as executive directors over the years.

Stout said that the public doesn’t understand the work it takes to lure companies to the community.

“A lot of that goes on behind the scenes,” said Stout.

With five interchanges, Bullitt County is blessed. And the exposure to Interstate

65 is a natural attraction for the large distribution warehouses.

While he knows people complain about the facilities, Stout said they need to realize the vast amount of taxes generated through things such as property taxes, occupational taxes, inventory taxes and insurance taxes.

The board has been instrumental in helping companies locate to the entire county. But Stout said it has worked hard to keep companies here and to deal with issues that might drive them away.

“Many of these places came to Bullitt County because of the work of the Bullitt County EDA,” said Stout.

It was the board that brought up the problems developers were facing due to the lack of natural gas. Stout said industrial, commercial and residential clients need natural gas.

When the shortage of

supply was recognized, Stout said it was the local agency that went to Louisville Gas & Electric officials to see if something could be done.

After a lengthy legal challenge, the gas line along the Cedar Grove Road area is under construction.

Keith Griffie, Bullitt County CFO and serving as interim director for the EDA, said that Stout had seen a lot over his time. This includes the struggles and the triumphs.

“You had a bird’s eye view,” said Griffie.

Stout said that the agency always pushed for things that would help the community.

The 40-year-old battle over getting a separate zip code with a post office was one that stretched back to the late state Rep. John Harper and his workings with the federal government. That is one that the county could not win.

Stout said having good

relationships with the utility companies has been important. Those companies are also interested in luring new customers to their service territory.

Local banking official Rick Clements said that people don’t realize the difference between a small company or a major company. They just want to see things come to their community.

Fouts remembered the time when two fire departments literally fought on the grounds of Gordon Food Service over who had the jurisdiction to provide protection to the major company.

Stout said he would miss his work with the Bullitt County EDA. However, he is at the point in his life that he was looking to cut back a little.

“We have made a difference,” Stout said of the Bullitt County EDA. “We have seen a lot of good things come to Bullitt County.”

## MAYOR

FROM PAGE A1

Owen announced that the Mount Washington Football and Cheer Association project was completed, with upgrades at the sports complex including new bleachers, scoreboards and bathrooms, as well as baseball field renovations at both the complex and at Lindsey Duvall Park.

The mayor added that

playground and walking trail improvements took place at Frank Cornell Park, while the city’s pool received concession stand updates.

“We are fortunate to live in a community that continues to grow, evolve, and succeed,” he said. “The accomplishments shared represent only a portion of the progress made over the past year.”

Owen extended his appreciation to “our council members, city employees, and the residents of Mount Washington for your con-

tinued support and commitment to our shared success.”

In other business:

- The council approved a rezoning of 19 acres located at 457 Bleemel Lane from R-3 Residential to AG-Agricultural.

Property owners Charles and Kimberly West requested the change to sell the property to new owners who are planning to open a new event venue, “Season on the Mount.”

- City attorney Scott Wantland presented the first

reading of a proposed consensual annexation ordinance regarding one acre of property located at 11704 Highway 44 East.

Nicole DeVore, representing property owner Michael Guelda, said the current property included one home facing Highway 44 and surrounded by city property.

According to DeVore, the current house was on a septic system. She said property owners wanted to annex into the city so they could add sewer service. She mentioned

that the owners were looking to place two homes onto the property, which is zoned as R-2 Residential.

The city is required to notify the county of the proposed annexation, allowing 45 days before a second reading and approval vote can take place.

- City officials mentioned that the America’s Freedom Tribute organization’s American Veterans Traveling Tribute wall was back on track to visit the city.

Discussing payment and communications issues at a

previous meeting, officials said a recent planning meeting for the event went well.

Wantland mentioned that the city still had not located any correspondence from AFT regarding missed payments, but was pleased that the issue was resolved.

The wall was scheduled to appear in the city Sept. 17-20 at the sports complex.

- The next Mount Washington City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 6:30 pm, at Fick Hall. The public is invited to attend.

## LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes 100.207, 424.145 and 424.270, notice is hereby given that the Bullitt County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on **March 12, 2026**. The meeting will be held at 149 N Walnut Street, 3rd floor, in the City of Shepherdsville at 5:30 PM. Information related to cases on the docket may be found at the following link: <https://bcplanning6.wixsite.com/bullitt-county-pandz>

All interested citizens are urged to attend this hearing. All files may be reviewed at the Planning Commission office at 149 N. Walnut Street in Shepherdsville from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Duane Price, Chairman  
Bullitt County Board of Adjustment

## LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice

In accordance with the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes 100.207, 424.145 and 424.270, notice is hereby given that the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **March 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Bullitt County Courthouse at 300 South Buckman Street in the City of Shepherdsville. Information related to cases on the docket may be found at the following link: <https://bcplanning6.wixsite.com/bullitt-county-pandz>

All interested citizens are urged to attend this hearing. All files may be reviewed at the Planning Commission office at 149 N. Walnut Street in Shepherdsville from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday.

John Miller, Chairman  
Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission

# BULLITT COUNTY FISCAL COURT

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This educational ad paid with opioid settlement funds

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