

MY VIEWS: Fix patchy spots in lawn now

Late summer is the preferred time for complete lawn renovation or seeding a new lawn. We don't need a complete redo, but we do have some persistent bare spots that need some attention. So, we are gathering our supplies to tackle the chore. The simple version is to loosen the soil to ensure good soil/seed contact; broadcast the seed evenly and heavily. Top it off with some loose straw to prevent the area from washing away



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or pooling seed during heavy rainfall (this is why our problem has been persistent!) or from completely drying out in the sun. Once the seed is moist it needs to stay moist until germination occurs. With the basics behind us, what are our options in grass seed? Today most people have tall fescue lawns. Bluegrass is only a romantic notion...I would never have it as my turf grass because it is sensitive to soil conditions, drainage,

drought, insects, and disease problems. Bermuda belongs in the desert, it is invasive and browns out after the first frost. Annual rye grass is too competitive with good grasses and should be left to areas that will be turned under for cultivation or as a quick fix before fescue establishes. Zoysia is what I call a commercial grass, good for heavy traffic areas but not our home landscapes. And the old school Kentucky 31 fescue, festuca elatior . Well, it made an undesirable list over 25 years ago. Once the only fescue available in Kentuckiana, Ky

31 is now on the "Severe Threat" list of the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council's "Invasive Exotic Plants". That's not a list you want to be on if you are a plant! I also am not a fan of what is termed "contractor's mix" which is usually rough fescue and weed seed! So, that leaves us with other tall fescue varieties as the most reliable choice because of their ability to do well in poor soil, tolerate full-sun to light shade, and tolerate disease and insect damage. The University of Kentucky recommends several tall fescue varieties for Ken-

tuckiana. Included are Duster, Falcon II, Gen-91, Lancer, Lexus, Pixie, Montauk, Rebel, Jr., Rebel 3D, Tomahawk and Eldorado (which is considered a dwarf, because it grows a little slower in the spring and the fall). These varieties have all proven to do well against brown patch and other turf diseases. Many seed sources will sell mixtures of seed, combining varieties that do well in light shade with others that do well in full sun so that the homeowner has a mixture that balances out in the varying environments that a single lawn may have.

And remember that grass simply does not grow well in heavily shaded areas and under large shade trees. Here, I let the violets take over! When doing your seed broadcasting remember that tall fescue must be heavily seeded because it typically forms clumps. If it is too lightly seeded the lawn will look sparse and patchy. When you broadcast the seed on your bare spots cover the soil surface and remember to keep the area moist until germination takes place.

MY VIEWS: Veterans, families and children

Lawmakers continue to give their attention to some of Kentucky's most important priorities during the second-to-last week of July: honoring those who have served our nation, protecting children and strengthening families, and improving public safety. Through committee meetings and presentations from experts across the Commonwealth, members explored ways to better support veterans, improve outcomes for children, encourage stronger family engagement, and ensure Kentucky's laws and public safety systems



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continue to meet the needs of our communities. Each committee has its own page under the Committees section, where you can find meeting agendas, materials, membership lists, and other resources. If you would like to watch the discussions firsthand, archived video recordings of every committee meeting are available through the Live Coverage link on the website's main page. You can also go directly to YouTube and search @LRC Committee Meetings. Summaries from the week's interim joint committees (IJC's) and statutory

panels include: IJC on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection: Lawmakers first honored four veterans – one from each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces – highlighting their stories of service, sacrifice, and lifelong community impact. They heard personal reflections on military experiences that shaped careers and inspired continued public service. Members also learned about efforts to commemorate the Commonwealth's military legacy, including America250KY events and museum exhibits. Then members held public safety discussions on improving missing persons reporting. They emphasized aligning missing person reporting requirements with

national standards to improve accuracy and coordination. Additionally, members highlighted the need for stronger backflow prevention requirements to protect drinking water systems and reduce public health risks. IJC on Families and Children: Panel members discussed two annual reports related to promoting positive childhood outcomes. The first was presented by the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Panel. This panel tracks and reviews cases of death and near death among Kentucky's children. They reviewed 248 cases in 2025. The second report was presented by Kentucky Youth Advocates, which highlighted the orga-

nization's KIDS COUNT Databook, which tracks statistics related to the economic well-being, education, health, and family and community categories of child welfare. Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity: Members heard a discussion on the importance of fatherhood and family engagement, focusing on how involved fathers contribute to stronger outcomes for children, families, and communities. Presenters also highlighted statewide efforts to connect fathers with parenting resources, employment support, and other services designed to strengthen families while encouraging greater collaboration among community organizations.

There are no meetings scheduled for the last week of July, but lawmakers will return to Frankfort on August 4 for a week stacked with budget, banking and insurance, and education topics. Specific agendas will be available closer to the meeting dates and meetings will be livestreamed on the YouTube channel and meeting materials can be found on the website. As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Thomas.Huff@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

Maplehurst HOA seeking info on flooding issues

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THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW — The only topic discussed at Hillview City Council meetings as much as vehicle speeds is stormwater runoff speeds. Members of the Maplehurst Homeowners Association discussed flooding issues in their neighborhood with the council, primarily seeking information regarding the issue. Gina Lesschafft, representing the HOA, said the area experienced significant flood issues during recent heavy storms. She asked if the city had its own civil engineer. Mayor Jim Eadens mentioned that the city contracted with engineer Jim Harned whenever necessary. Lesschafft asked where HOA could acquire a copy of building plans for the area. City attorney Harlen Compton said the plans were kept by the county in the Planning and Zoning Commission offices. Eadens informed the HOA members that the city's experiences with developers was "terrible" over the years. At the city's past business meeting the council discussed such issues, with Eadens adding that developers attempt to cut costs and didn't always follow engineer recommendations. "They do things as cheap as they can and then leave us with the mess," Eadens said, adding that he recently contacted Harned to look into the Maplehurst development. According to Lesschafft, several residents had to pay out of pocket for home repairs. She said one resident collected eight inches of water in the basement. Eadens said stormwater drains were not designed for unusual storms that included eight inches falling in such a short amount of time. He said

heavier rains were being experienced due to impacted natural weather patterns. The mayor added that Maplehurst being located near a rock quarry did not help, as there was very limited soil in that area to soak up rain water. Eadens said he spoke with developer Brad Hurst about the neighborhood, suggesting that Hurst pave the streets so the area could then be turned over to the city for future maintenance, including lighting. Lesschafft mentioned the area was still in the process of being built and asked about legal silt fence requirements for builders (Silt fences are temporary and collect silt runoff from the property being constructed). Eadens said there were regulations, adding that the city gave builders a five-day warning once they learned of the issue. "If this comes up again, don't put it on Facebook, call (the city) and let us know," Eadens said, adding that the city wasn't informed until weeks after complaints appeared online. He said the city's public works department could act on an issue as soon as they were made aware. Lesschafft asked when builders were required to add the silt fence. Eadens said the rule was immediate. Council member Randall Hill said a lot of builders in the Maplehurst area were not using silt fences when the big storm hit, leading to a lot of the area's flooding during the incident. Lesschafft shared further concerns that a recent sports complex building placed onto the North Bullitt High School campus caused additional stormwater runoff to impact the neighborhood. Council member Wes Stafford mentioned that the new North

Bullitt baseball field was also raised higher. Asked what the HOA could do, if anything, about the issue, Eadens suggested they contact Bullitt County Public Schools (North Bullitt is located within the city of Hebron Estates). Lesschafft expressed frustration about the engineer not catching the North Bullitt drainage issue before development. Eadens said the city met with the developer, but plan changes occurred afterward, including the addition of an access road. "I wasn't happy with the superintendent when the road was built," said Eadens, adding that the city was told the gates would only open for games and emergencies but that they are never shut. "It should have never happened," Eadens continued. "The developer knew that." The mayor said the city would attempt to hold Hurst accountable for any issues determined by Harned's review. He reminded the HOA members that it wasn't the first time the city had problems with developers. "There is no help for eight inches of rain," he said. "I don't know how you stop that. But drainage is a number one problem for any mayor, especially in this area. Our city works department has improved over the years, tough." - The next Hillview City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 3, 7 pm, at the Hillview Government Center. A public hearing for two rezoning requests near the intersection of E. Blue Lick Road and John Harper Highway will also take place at 6:30 pm. The city is invited to attend both the meeting and public hearing.

Seniors are not alone thanks to MPCA call program

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE — Seniors who would like someone to talk with on a regular basis are reassured that the option is just a phone call away. The Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency provides a free Telephone Reassurance program for ages 60 and over. Bullitt County MPCA Senior Center director SEE SENIORS/PAGE A8



The MPCA Senior Center program took a trip to the Southeast Bullitt Fire Station for an Independence Day celebration. Seniors decorated their own t-shirts while enjoying games with prizes and a cookout with desserts.

Public hearing scheduled for Hillview rezoning

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THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW — A Hillview location that has long been rumored to be developed may finally take a step closer to reality. Hillview city attorney Harlen Compton presented two ordinance proposals regarding the rezoning of over 30 acres near the intersection of E. Blue Lick Road and John Harper Highway during the city's July 20 business meeting. The larger portion, owned by Carney Brooks Crossing LLC on the north side of John Harper, included 28.13 acres requested to rezone from R-1 Residential to B-1 Business. The second property located south of John Harper, owned by Brooks Crossing LLC, includes 4.35 acres requested to rezone from R-2 Residential to B-1 Business. Mayor Jim Eadens said the plan included apartments on the properties with businesses located in the front portions along the highway. He said property plans have been in the works for over 20 years but have never come to fruition until a new buyer for the property was found. Council member Kim Whitlock asked about 21 acres being designated for business. Eadens said it sounded like a lot of land but technically was not. He added that over 50 total residences were included in the property plans. The Bullitt County Planning and Zoning Commission provided a favorable recommendation for both requests

with restrictions, including a 50-foot vegetative buffer zone barrier at borders along residential property lines and a 100-foot right-turn lane along E. Blue Lick. The city will host a public hearing prior to their next business meeting, allowing residents to formally discuss the issue. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 3, 6:30 pm, at the Hillview Government Center. The public is invited to attend. In other business: - Council member Alice Keister presented a letter of resignation to the council. Keister, who has served on the council since 2016, retired from her job with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with 20 years experience. She also worked five years with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Due to a new state law, Keister is required not to work at any position for a 30-day period following her retirement, which includes her council position. Keister said she would be eligible to return to the council after the 30 days, adding that she would love to return. She is also on the November ballot. - Compton presented the first reading of a proposed one-year moratorium on data centers within city limits. The city's proposal, similar to a moratorium passed by Bullitt Fiscal Court for the entire county, would keep proposed data centers from eligibility to build within city limits for 12 months until further rules and regulations can be determined. The Shepherdsville City

Council was also working on its own moratorium, with the Mount Washington City Council expected to discuss and potentiality pass one as well. Though data centers are known to create a boon of tax revenue for an area, the physical toll that a super center facility may take on the the local community, via consumption of energy and potential water pollution, have made them both unpopular and controversial in many communities. Council member Wes Stafford felt that it was a good idea for the city to create its own moratorium until more information could be understood. Eadens mentioned that there was likely not enough room for the city to have a larger data center established. Council member Randall Hill said there was already a much smaller center in the city near the old Blue Lick Baseball site. A second reading of the proposed ordinance and a vote to approve or deny are scheduled to take place at the council's next meeting. - The city's public works dumpster will be available for city residents only Saturday Aug. 1, from 8 am to 4 pm. - The next Hillview City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 3, 7 pm, at the Hillview Government Center. The public hearing for the rezoning requests at John Harper Highway and E. Blue Lick Rd. will take place at 6:30 pm prior to the regular meeting. The public is invited to attend.

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the first option to invest. The city will still have money to pay upfront for the \$2 million flood wall pump. It will be reimbursed for that expense by the federal government. The maximum expense for the city will be \$135,000.

There could be in-kind services which would lower the city's portion. The short-term deal at 3.5 percent is better than nothing that the city is currently earning off its money, said Dangerfield. *The police department made 169 runs in June, according to chief Terry Phillips. A new officer will also be sent to the academy in the

near future. *Dangerfield said work was done on the walking bridge at the park. He said it now safe to use with a blue and white paint job to finish the project. The next meeting of the Lebanon Junction City Council will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3, at the community center. The public is always invited to attend.