

YOUTH FOOTBALL ENTERS
SECOND WEEK OF ACTION...
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THE PIONEER NEWS

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City begins cleaning up Fifth Avenue eyesore

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – After years of asking for help, neighbors in the Fifth Avenue community of Salt River will get some relief.

Living next to a home which was surrounded by a variety of objects, including sandbags, has been a nightmare for residents.

The slow legal process has finally put the city of Shepherdsville in place to remove the eyesore.

The city recently purchased the property of Jonathan Cooper, which was sold by the Master Commissioner earlier this year after it fell into foreclosure.

Shepherdsville mayor Jose Cubero, who was greeted with the situation when he took office three years ago, said it has been a long legal process before the city could take action.

On Tuesday, First Responders were on the scene, along with other inves-



Stephen Thomas

tigative agencies, to make sure that the house was safe and there were no hazards on the property.

Cubero said the plan is to demolish the home sometime this week and remove the debris.

"The planned cleanup is an important step toward improving the safety and quality of life for residents in the surrounding neighborhood," Cubero said in a release. "Deteriorating and unsafe properties can present concerns related to public safety, emergency response

access and community well-being and the city is committed to addressing those concerns responsibly."

The mayor said the immediate concern was to make sure that none of the items on the property would pose a risk to the residents or First Responders.

Ironically, the former property owner was arrested for criminal trespass as he was on the property without permission. Cooper, 37, was held in the Bullitt County Detention Center as of Tuesday morning.



Stephen Thomas



ALL PHOTOS by THOMAS J. BARR

The ribbon was cut Thursday on the UofL Health -- Brown Cancer Center at South Hospital in Hillview

Brown Cancer Center new facility to serve rural Kentucky

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

HILLVIEW – "Where you live shouldn't determine if you live."

A strong statement from a man who travels 400 miles every three weeks for treatment of his cancer.

Chris Sutton was just one of the speakers Thursday afternoon as the UofL Health – Brown Cancer Center at South Hospital cut the ribbon on its \$25 million facility in Hillview.

The facility, next to UofL Health South Hospital, will also be the home of the University of Louisville's new Center for Rural Cancer Education and Research.

State and local officials, along with those from the public, marveled over the facilities. The focus on the state General Assembly's \$25 million grant was for the new cancer center that would provide more access to comprehensive cancer care in Southern, Central and Western Kentucky.

Sutton, a resident of Eddyville in western Kentucky, said that it was a shock when he learned that he had a rare form of melanoma. He was being treated in Paducah but the team there didn't have the expertise to battle the cancer.

Doing a little research led Sutton to watch a YouTube video by Dr.



All Hillview mayor Jim Eadens could say about the new cancer center was "WOW".

Jason Chesney. Within two days of making the call to the Louisville office, Sutton was in the office and Chesney's team was starting on the treatment plan.

"We went to work," said Sutton.

He had surgery in 2023 and rang the bell at the end of his treatment in 2024. Unfortunately, this March he got the news that cancer had returned but the team immediately

got a plan of attack started.

He said the construction of the Brown Cancer Center in Hillview is vital to those in rural parts of the state. The ability to have great teams to battle the cancer must be available to people all over the state of Kentucky.

Even the saving of time from

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Shepherdsville tax rate to drop significantly

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – It was probably the largest decrease in real estate property tax rates in the city's history.

But, due to the growth, Shepherdsville city officials had no recourse unless they wanted to face the voters on the ballot.

At a special meeting on Tuesday, the council approved tax rates for real estate, tangible personal property and motor vehicles by a 5-0 count. Dana James was not present.

Taxpayers paid 11.61 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate during the past year. That equates to \$116.10 on a \$100,000 home.

With the \$500 million increase in assessments, the city's option on tax

rates was to set it at 10.1 cents for real property.

If you didn't have a reassessment on your property, the \$100,000 home would pay \$101, a savings of over \$15.

Anything above that rate would allow voters to file a petition to put the matter on the ballot.

That amount would also be the compensating rate. The city could generate \$6.2 million in revenue this year, compared to \$4.7 million last year.

The rates for tangible personal property will remain at 10.1 cents and the motor vehicle/watercraft rate remains at 12.5 cents.

During the initial discussion, James wondered if the real property taxes could be eliminated.

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Board finalizes lower property tax rate

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Without any protest, taxpayers will see a drop for the second consecutive year in the tax rates imposed by the Bullitt County school district.

At a special meeting Monday, the school board unanimously accepted the recommendation to lower the real property rate.

Finance director Lisa Lewis had outlined the options for board members earlier in August.

Last year, the real property tax rate was 75.7 cents per \$100,000 of real estate and the same amount on personal property.

For example, if you owned a \$100,000 home, you paid \$757 in property tax to the school district.

Board members heard that the proposed rate

would be 73.1 cents on real property and 73.1 cents on personal property.

That rate would not exceed the 4 percent increase in tax revenue and would not be subject to voter recall. If the board had opted to have a higher rate, it would have been subject to the public to seek to place it on the ballot.

Even though the rate will decrease, the school district would still generate additional revenue.

Under the past tax rate, the district realized \$90,547,190.23 from local revenue.

With the proposed rate, the district would still generate \$109.4 million.

Of the revenue, over \$36 million would be generated from new real estate and personal property.

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