

# Multiple Juneteenth celebrations planned for Madison County

Blake Vickers  
Richmond Register

While Juneteenth is officially on June 19th, celebrations of the holiday will be held throughout the month in Madison County.

On June 13, a festival will be held in Richmond's Dillingham Park from noon to 4 p.m. That festival will include vendors, food trucks, kids activities, and a special color guard ceremony from the United States Colored Troop, African drumming, and more. "This is the first event of its

kind that we're doing. We're going to kind of just start small and see what we can do, but it doesn't feel small," said Aaron Banther, one of the events organizers. "We wanted to have a base that we can start off with. Something impactful, something that's good, and something that we can kind of help grow as the years go on."

Over in Berea on June 14, a musical celebration will be held at the city's skate park from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The theme for both event's is "Rooted in History, Rising in Power."

They're both supported by the Richmond-Madison County NAACP, Our Land of Promise, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, The Home of Opportunities and Dreams, the Telford YMCA Achievers, and the Human Rights Commissions from both Richmond and Berea.

On June 20, the fourth annual Juneteenth Freedom 5k will be coming at White Hall State Historic Site. It kicks off at 8 a.m. that morning. Quilt squares will be serving as directional markers — a symbolic gesture paying trib-

ute to the quilt codes used to communicate to enslaved people seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad.

That 5k will be raising money for several local charities including the Telford YMCA Achievers, New Liberty Family Shelter, the Friends of the Maple Grove Cemetery, and the Maurice Hibbard Non-Traditional Scholarship.

Banther sees the expansion of Juneteenth celebrations in the county as proof of the holiday's acceptance on both local and national levels. He noted that the

holiday, which celebrates the true ending of slavery on June 19, 1865 — isn't just a holiday for African Americans.

"What I appreciate most about it is seeing a diverse crowd that's coming to attend these events and celebrate our shared history. Because it's American history," Banther said. "We're not free until we're all freed. That's the kind of message I'd like to send out... For us to come together to celebrate and have conversations and learn about each other's cultures. That's impactful."



BLAKE VICKERS — RR

Richmond Police Chief Rodney Richardson and several Special Olympics athletes pose with the torch just before the Kentucky Special Olympics 2026 Summer Games kick off.

## TORCH

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Once the games started, athletes competed in bocce, rhythmic gymnastics, track and field, and soccer at the games.

Some of those athletes will also be competing at the national Special Olympics later this month in Minneapolis. They include Dillon Meador of Bowling Green. Alongside being an athlete in the games, Meador is also an ambassador for the Special Olympics.

"I'm super happy to be here. I want to thank the law enforcement officers and everybody for doing the torch run. It means a lot to me and all of the fellow athletes of mine. It's a great way to see law enforcement come out and support the special needs community. It just means a lot," Meadors said.

Another one of the weekend's competitors was Madison County's own Crystal Tudor. She's been competing with Madison

County Special Olympics for several years now. She read a poem about how much the games mean to her just before the games started.

"Special Olympics has year round sports, where we have our gold, silver, and bronze. But most of all, we have fun. We have our track, where we have each other's back," Tudor said. "We have dance, where we all have a chance. We have swim, with the pool filled to the brim. The coordinators, coaches, volunteers, parents, and community are essential in giving the athletes the opportunity to grow in these programs. Thank you to you all."

The closing ceremony was held on Sunday evening. Chief Rodney Richardson will be among those representing Kentucky in the Special Olympics National Games. They kick off on June 20 and run through June 26.

**A1A Self Storage Center**  
507 S. Keeneland Dr.  
will be selling contents of 1 storage units on Saturday June 13, 2026 at 11:00 a.m

**The Richmond Board of Architectural Review will hold a public hearing at 239 W Main Street, Richmond, Kentucky on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026 at 3:30 pm to consider an application to update the exterior of a property located on W Irvine Street in the H1 district. Contact the Building Inspection Department for more information, 859-625-6428.**

## KANGAROO

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they said that they had taken no such calls regarding the animal.

It was Richmond Police Chief Rodney Richardson who first confirmed to us that there was a missing kangaroo on the loose in the community.

The State Police said that they had been joined by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to look for Hunter the Kangaroo in the Gibson Bay area.

According to Trooper Kearney, they were unsuccessful in finding him.

Thankfully, Hunter was later returned back to his family. Phillips herself confirmed this to us not long after Hunter was home safe.

Kangaroos are not among the exotic animals that are illegal to keep in Kentucky. More information on exotic animal ownership can be found on the Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Transportation-and-Holding-of-Live-Exotic-Wildlife.aspx>.



**ALLISON BALL**  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Reagan Taylor, Madison County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Mike Coyle, Madison County Sheriff  
Members of the Madison County Fiscal Court

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Madison County, Kentucky, and the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the Sheriff's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

*Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting*

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements of the Madison County Sheriff and the receipts, disbursements, and fund balances of the Madison County Sheriff's operating fund and county fund with the state treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws as described in Note 1.

*Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinions on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Madison County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2024, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Madison County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

*Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Madison County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky, to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Madison County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Madison County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Madison County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

The Honorable Reagan Taylor, Madison County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Mike Coyle, Madison County Sheriff  
Members of the Madison County Fiscal Court

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 28, 2026, on our consideration of the Madison County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Madison County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Allison Ball*  
Allison Ball  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

April 28, 2026  
State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at [auditor.ky.gov](http://auditor.ky.gov) or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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AUDITOR.KY.GOV

**YARD SALE**

132 Pleasant Ridge Dr.  
Deacon Hills  
Fri/Sat  
June 12 & 13  
8am- ?  
Household, adult clothing, christmas misc. and more

**Community Yard Sale**

Grey Oaks Subdivision- Richmond  
Grey Oaks Drive  
Saturday, June 13, 2026  
8:00 am-2:00 pm

**COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE**

DEACON HILLS SATURDAY JUNE 13 STARTS AT 7AM  
FRANKIE DRIVE  
SEE SALES ON ALL STREETS  
RAIN OR SHINE