

# Carpenter Bees Active Around Homes This Spring

By Vicki Shadrick  
Extension Agent  
for Agriculture  
and Natural Resources

As warmer weather arrives, many homeowners are noticing large, black bees hovering around porches, decks, and eaves. These insects are likely carpenter bees, a common springtime visitor known for boring perfectly round holes into wood to raise their young.

Carpenter bees are often mistaken for bumblebees, but the two can be easily distinguished. Carpenter bees have a shiny, hairless black abdomen, while bumblebees have fuzzy bodies with yellow and black striping. Their nesting habits also differ. Bumblebees typically nest in existing cavities underground, while carpenter bees excavate tunnels directly into wood.

Carpenter bees prefer unpainted and weathered wood, especially softer types such as redwood, cedar, cypress, and pine. Painted or pressure-treated wood is much less attractive to them. Common nesting sites include eaves, rafters, fascia boards, siding, decks, wooden shake roofs, and outdoor furniture.

The entrance hole created by a carpenter bee is about the diameter of a little finger and perfectly round. Homeowners may notice coarse sawdust accumulating below the hole or hear faint tunneling sounds coming from within the wood.

Once the bee enters the wood, it turns at a right angle and tunnels parallel to the surface. Inside the tunnel, the female creates five or six chambers, each stocked with pollen and a single egg. The chambers are sealed with chewed wood pulp, and the developing larvae feed on the pollen until they mature.

Carpenter bees are solitary insects and do not live in colonies like honeybees. Adult bees overwinter individually, often in old tunnels, and emerge in the spring to mate and begin nesting.

Although their size and hovering behavior can be intimidating,

carpenter bees are less likely to sting than many other bees and wasps. Male carpenter bees, which are often seen aggressively hovering near nesting sites, cannot sting at all. Female carpenter bees can sting, but they rarely do so unless handled or provoked.

While carpenter bees are not as destructive as termites, they can still cause cosmetic and structural damage, especially when the same pieces of wood are attacked year after year. Repeated tunneling can weaken wood, and entrance holes allow moisture to enter, increasing the risk of rot and decay.

The best time to manage carpenter bees is early in the season, before tunnels are fully constructed. Insecticides labeled for carpenter bee control can be applied directly into tunnel openings. After treatment, holes should remain open for a few days so bees contact the product. The holes can then be sealed with a wooden dowel and glue, putty, or other appropriate sealant to deter future use and prevent moisture damage.

For widespread infestations, applying insecticide to vulnerable wood surfaces—such as eaves, fascia boards, and deck joists—may reduce new drilling. These treatments typically last three to four weeks and may need to be reapplied. Treatments should be done carefully, preferably at dusk, and with proper protective clothing.

Another option is the use of carpenter bee traps, which can be purchased or made at home. These traps consist of wooden boxes

with angled holes and a plastic bottle underneath. Bees enter the holes while searching for nesting sites, fall into the bottle, and are unable to escape. Traps should be hung in early spring near known problem areas. A long-term preventive measure is to paint exposed wood, especially in areas with a history of carpenter bee activity. Painted surfaces are rarely attacked. Keeping garages and outbuildings closed during peak nesting periods in spring can also help reduce infestations.

Because pesticide regulations vary, homeowners should always read product labels carefully and follow directions exactly. Those with questions about carpenter bee identification or control are encouraged to contact their local Cooperative Extension office for guidance.

Carpenter bees play a role in pollination, but when their nesting habits bring them into conflict with homes and structures, early identification and proper management can help prevent costly damage while keeping both people and pollinators safe.

## Webster County Jailer's Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 1886 hours between April 19 and April 25, 2026. Hours worked include 520 hours at the detention center; 280 hours at the RCC; 80 hours mowing; 360 hours for Union County; 40 hours for the city of Clay; 80 hours for the city of Dixon; 160 hours for the city of Providence; 40 hours for recycling; 40 hours

for the road department shop; 40 hours for the dog warden and 16 hours for Landon's Hope.

The total jail population is 176 with 35 county inmates, 31 Union County inmates and 110 state prisoners.

Inmates participated in the following programs: 38 in Moral Recognition Therapy; 22 in Anger Management with two graduates; 20 in Thinking for Good with one graduate; 15 in Untangling Relationships with one graduate. Eleven inmates participated in GED classes with one

test taken. Incarcerated during the same period were Sarah Beck, Richard Bell, John Mark Benson, Tammy Clark, Robert Dubose, Morgan Duncan, John Froman, Michael Hamilton, Frank Lamb, Paul Mabry, Steven McCarty, Curtis Mitchell, Finis Mullins, Jaelyn Oldfield, James Piercy, Rana Pinkston, Wesley Pinkston, Joseph Ray, Felix Tomas, Julie Utley, Dale Wise, Paul Wolfe.

## Pleas Heard In Circuit Court

Pleas were entered and sentences handed down in Webster County Circuit Court with the honorable Judge Daniel Heady presiding on April 23.

In the case of Steven McCarty, the defendant saw his probation revoked after he received new felony offenses in Hopkins County. McCarty was re-sentenced to serve ten years on his original charges: burglary, third degree, five year's incarceration and theft by unlawful taking over \$500 but under \$10,000, five years with the sentences to run consecutively. He was originally sentenced in November 2019, on the two Class D felonies.

Probation was also revoked for Frank Lamb who committed a second DUI offense and pleaded guilty to that offense. He was re-sentenced to five year's in-

carceration on his original 13 charges handed down in September 2024. Lamb was credited with 90 days good time for 180 days KCR completion.

In the case of Richard Kerry Bell, the defendant withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to flagrant non-support. Court costs were waived per KRS 453.190(2), and Bell was ordered to serve two year's incarceration.

In the case of Sherry L. Lindle, the defendant withdrew her not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to four charges of custodial interference. She was sentenced to one-year incarceration on each of the four counts with the sentences to run concurrently for a total sentence of one year. She was ordered to pay court costs waived per KRS 453.190(2).

Curtis N. Mitchell appeared before the judge and withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, first degree, first offense (opiates), a Class D felony and attempted tampering with physical evidence, a Class A misdemeanor. He was adjudged guilty of both offenses. His court costs of \$165 was waived per KRS 453.190(2). Mitchell was sentenced to three years on count one of the indictment and 12 months on count two with the sentenced to fund concurrent for a total sentence of three years., but consecutively to all other sentences.

John R. Oakley appeared in circuit court and withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to first degree possession of a controlled substance, third or greater offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess and possession of marijuana. He was adjudged

guilty of all three offenses and ordered to pay \$165 court costs and \$500 in fees. He was sentenced to three years on count one; 12 months on count two and 45 days on count three with the sentences to turn concurrently for a total sentence of three years probated for a period of five years.

In the case of Teal Morgan Bloodworth, the defendant was grant pretrial diversion for a period of five years. She must pay a supervision fee, obey all rules and regulations set forth by probation and parole, attend drug court if accepted, complete alcohol and drug assessment with MBC Outreach and complete all recommendations. A no contact order with her co-defendant was also issued by the court. Bloodworth was charged with first degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Webster County Fiscal Court is soliciting bids for the construction of a new Restroom Building at the Canaan Ridge Park, located at 1600 State Route 132-West, Dixon, KY 42409. The project includes a new 272 sq ft. slab on grade stick framed building with a 461 sq. ft. front porch. In addition, sidewalks and an ADA parking spot will be constructed.

All bids shall be received no later than 9:00 A.M., local time, May 11, 20216. Bids shall be in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Canaan Ridge Restrooms" in the bottom left corner of the envelope and delivered to:

**Judge/Executive Steve Henry  
Webster County Fiscal Court  
P.O. Box 155  
25 U.S. 41-A, North  
Dixon, KY 42409**

Bid packets may be obtained online at: [Maco/Evansville Blue, www.macoplanroom.com](http://Maco/Evansville Blue, www.macoplanroom.com).

Questions or requests for additional information shall be directed in writing or via e-mail to the project engineer:

**Frank Williams, PE  
fwilliams@jaengineering.com  
(270) 821-6392, Ext. 205  
(270) 836-1110 Cell**

**Ronald Johnson & Associates  
2740 N. Main Street  
Madisonville, KY 42431**

BIDDER may not withdraw his/her bid within 60 days after the actual date of the bid opening. A 5% bod bond is required to submit a bid. The OWNER reserves the right to waive any information or reject any or all bids. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of equal employment opportunity. Minority bidders are encouraged to bid.

4/29c

**-- PUBLIC NOTICE --**

**WEBSTER COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
INVITATION TO BID**

The Webster County Fiscal Court will accept sealed bids on the following items until 9:00 A.M., prevailing time, Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Webster County Courthouse in Dixon, Kentucky.

Bids shall be delivered to the office of Stephen R. Henry, Webster County Judge/Executive, P.O. Box 155, U.S. Hwy 41A South, Dixon, KY 42409, in a clearly marked sealed envelope.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the meeting of the Webster County Fiscal Court on May 11, 2026, beginning at 9:00 A.M. Bids will be awarded on May 25, 2026.

Copies of specifications may be obtained from the office of Stephen R. Henry, Webster County Judge/Executive. Bid prices submitted shall remain in effect from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

**Items to be Bid**

1. Corrugated Steel Circular Pipe
2. Corrugated Steel Arch Pipe
3. Corrugated Polyethylene Pipe
4. Emulsified Asphalt:
  - A. AE 200 Oil
  - B. RS-2 Oil
5. Bituminous Concrete Hot Mix
6. Crushed Stone (Various Sizes)
7. Crushed Stone & Hauling
8. Hauling Fee
9. De-Icing Salt
10. Chip & Seal
11. Motor Fuel

The Webster County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process.

5/6c

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Webster County Budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, to include unanticipated receipts from State Fund in the amount of \$122,674, Road Fund in the amount of \$11,902.58, General Fund in the amount of \$66,491.91, and LGEA Fund in the amount of \$25,353.17 increasing expenditures total to \$226,421.66, will be held Monday, May 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Webster County Senior Center. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

5/6c

**-- PUBLIC NOTICE --**

**NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE**

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Hopkins County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street STE:350, Lexington, Kentucky 40513, has applied for Phase I, II and III bond release on Increment No. 7, and Phase II and III on increments 13 and 14 of permit 917-0034, which was last issued on February 8, 2024. The application covers an area of approximately 167.20 surface acres.

The permit area is near the intersection of Slover Creek Road & Bruce Road.

The bonds now in effect for the mentioned increments are surety bonds in the amount of \$504,400. 100% of the original bonds receiving Phase III release in the amount of \$504,400 is included in the application for release.

Reclamation work performed includes: backfilling, regrading, topsoil replacement, and drainage control including soil preparation and initial seeding and mulching in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and a report for the area has been submitted to the cabinet in accordance with 405 KAR 16:200, Section 8 or 405 KAR 18:200, Section 8. revegetation has been established in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and the standards for success of revegetation, successful completion of all surface and reclamation operations in accordance with the approved reclamation plan such that the land is capable of supporting the post mining land use of cropland and pastureland approved pursuant to 405 KAR 16:210 or 405 KAR 18:220; compliance with requirements of KRS Chapter 350, 405 KAR Chapters 7 through 24, and 405 KAR 10:020 and release of 167.20 acres.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, 300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 by June 5th, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for 9:00 AM on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Madisonville Regional Office, State Office Building, Third Floor, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by Friday June 5th, 2026

5/6c