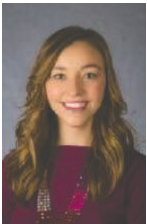


January Is National Glaucoma Awareness Month

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases often referred to as the “sneaky thief of sight” because it typically causes no symptoms until vision loss has already occurred. This vision loss is due to damage to the optic nerve, which carries visual information from the eye to the brain. Once vision is lost, it is usually permanent.



CABRINA BUCKMAN

There is no cure for glaucoma, but early detection and treatment, through medication or surgery, can help slow or prevent further vision

loss. According to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, glaucoma affects more than 80 million people worldwide. Of these, it is estimated that half of them do know they have it. In the United States, over 4 million individuals are living with glaucoma. It is the leading cause of irreversible blindness, and because it often progresses without noticeable symptoms, up to 40% of vision can be lost before a person realizes something is wrong. As a

result, regular eye exams are essential for early detection and treatment. There are two main types of glaucoma. The most common form is Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma, which develops slowly over time. It typically responds well to treatment when detected early through routine eye exams. The second type, Angle-Closure Glaucoma (also known as narrow-angle or closed-angle glaucoma), is less common but more serious. It can occur suddenly and requires emergency medical attention to prevent rapid vision loss.

- RISK FACTORS**
 - People over 60
 - Individuals of African, Asian, or Hispanic descent
 - Those with a family history of glaucoma
 - People with diabetes
 - People who have high blood pressure
 - People who are severely nearsighted or farsighted
- TAKE ACTION**
 - Schedule regular eye exams, especially if you are in a high-risk group.

- Make healthy living a habit. Control your weight and blood pressure, avoid smoking, stay active.
 - Talk to your family about glaucoma and encourage them to get screened.
 - Start treatment early if diagnosed to help preserve your vision.
 - Share information with your community to raise awareness.
- Source:
Amy Kostelic, PhD

Associate Extension Professor for Adult Development and Aging

Reference:
Glaucoma Research Foundation. (2025). January is Glaucoma Awareness Month. Retrieved October 14, 2025 from <https://glaucoma.org/articles/january-is-glaucoma-awareness-month> Microsoft. (2025). Copilot (GPT-4). Prompt: Summarize my literature review on glaucoma for an Extension information release. Accessed October 14, 2025.

Want To Become A Beekeeper?

SPRINGFIELD - With spring approaching, many people think about becoming a beekeeper for a variety of reasons. If that is you, this is an excellent time to find out about becoming a beekeeper and to find a mentor or advisor who can help you begin the process of establishing your first beehive.

To help you determine if beekeeping is an interest you want to explore, the Washington County Beekeepers Association is hosting a presentation on becoming a beekeeper at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, at the Washington County Extension Office. Topics discussed will include equipment, costs, difficulty, locations, as well as a question/answer period.

Experienced beekeepers will soon become more heavily involved in working with their own hives, so this is an excellent time to network with other beekeepers and begin the process



Photo provided

Beekeeping can be an activity for all ages. David Donathan shares his knowledge with the next generation of beekeepers.

of setting up your own apiary.

There is still time to become a beekeeper and establish your first hive this year.

Thousand Acres Distilling, LLC, with a mailing address of **114 South Third Street, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004**, hereby declares its intention to apply for a **Class B Distiller, NQ2 Retail Drink, Special Sunday Retail Drink and Sampling Licenses**, to be filed no later than **February 1, 2026**. The premises to be licensed are located at **994 Thousand Acres, Springfield, Kentucky 40069**. **Thousand Acres Distilling, LLC** is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the primary owners of which are **McCoy Family Management, LLC, 114 South Third Street, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004; Wild Mercury, LLC, 114 South Third Street, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004; and Reiss Hospitality, LLC, 114 South Third Street, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004; and the primary manager of which is Dustan Chad McCoy, 114 South Third Street, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004**. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcohol-ic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within (30) days of the date of legal publication.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
ORDINANCE # 2025-014

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY REGULATING GENERAL NUISANCES

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the health, safety and welfare of its citizens require the regulation of general nuisances; and

WHEREAS, KRS 65.8840 authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance for the abatement of nuisances, owner liability and enforcement procedures;

WHEREAS, through the Establishment of a Code Enforcement Board through Ordinance 2025-012 in conjunction with this ordinance, Ordinance 2014-003 should be repealed in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Springfield as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to define and prohibit general nuisances to protect the health, safety and enjoyment of property by residents within the City. Violations of this ordinance shall be deemed a public nuisance.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

A. **Nuisance**- any condition that is offensive, unhealthy, hazardous, or interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property and/or those offenses which are known to the common law and statutes of Kentucky as public nuisances.

B. **Code Enforcement Board**- An administrative body created and acting under the authority of the Local Government Code Enforcement Act, KRS 65.8801 to 65.8839.

C. **Graffiti**- Any display of words, letters, numbers, design or symbols scrawled, by hand or otherwise, in any ink, paint, chalk, dye or any other medium on any building or structure, with or without the consent or authority of the owner thereof, and which is within view from any public property or right of way.

D. **Junk Vehicle** - Any motor vehicle that is: (1) unlicensed or unregistered; (2) inoperable; or (3) in a state of disrepair such that it cannot be operated on public roads, including but not limited to vehicles with flat or missing tires, broken or missing windows, missing engine or transmission, missing doors or body panels, or visible rust deterioration.

SECTION 3. PROHIBITED NUISANCES

A. Accumulation of trash, garbage, debris, rubbish or discarded materials.

B. The placing or permitting to remain anywhere in the city any garbage or other material subject to decay for more than 96 consecutive hours, except in tightly-covered metal or plastic container or as part of a compost operation.

C. Depositing or permitting to fall from any vehicle any garbage, rubbish, debris on any public street or highway in the city.

D. The hauling of garbage in any type vehicle other than a packer-type garbage truck approved by the Code Official or the County Solid Waste Officer.

E. Failure to dispose of any dead animals, fowl and reptiles within six hours after discovery of same by the owner or possessor of the premises.

F. Overgrown weeds, grass, or vegetation exceeding 5 inches in height.

G. Any offensive odor, noise, smoke, or dust that impacts neighboring properties.

H. Any attractive nuisance that may pose danger to children or the public.

I. The occurrence, existence or continuation of any graffiti.

J. Anybody except an officer of the law to fire or discharge any gun, pistol or firearms including .22 rifles and BB guns, within the City Limits of the City of Springfield.

K. Anybody littering, tossing or throwing debris of any nature or description onto the streets, alleys, branches, drainage ditches, or other public places of the City of Springfield, Kentucky or sweeping or moving excessive dirt and debris from the sidewalks onto any roadway or other City property.

L. Any junk vehicle, as defined herein, that is visible from any public street or neighboring property. An exception shall be made for vehicles actively undergoing repair for a period of up to thirty (30) days upon written request to the Code Enforcement Officer. Only one such exemption shall be granted per vehicle per calendar year.

SECTION 4. EXCEPTIONS

The following shall not be subject to this ordinance or constitute a nuisance:

A. Licensed and properly zoned auto repair or salvage businesses.

B. Temporary mechanical breakdowns (not exceeding 3 days).

C. An exception shall be made for vehicles actively undergoing repair for a period of up to thirty (30) days upon written request to the Code Enforcement Officer. Only one such exemption shall be granted per vehicle per calendar year.

SECTION 5. CIVIL OFFENSE

A violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall constitute a civil offense. Each day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate civil offense. Enforcement and penalties shall be administered in accordance with KRS 65.8801–65.8839 and any other applicable provisions of Kentucky law.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this ordinance shall be the responsibility of the City of Springfield Code Enforcement Board and the City of Springfield Code Enforcement Officer.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance are severable. The invalidity of any provision shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

SECTION 8. REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES

City Ordinance 2014-003, along with all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon its second reading, passage, and publication as required by law.

	YES	NO
Daniel Bishop	✓	___
Joann Ellery	✓	___
Michael Hale	✓	___
Carolyn Hardin Absent		
John Pettus	✓	___
Lance Smith	✓	___

First Reading: December 8, 2025
Second Reading: January 13, 2026
Published in the Springfield Sun: January 21, 2026

/s/ Chris Essex, Mayor

ATTEST:
/s/ Jessica Hart, City Admin./ Clerk

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
ORDINANCE # 2025-015

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY REGULATING UNSAFE, ABANDONED OR DETERIORATED BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens require ensuring that buildings and structures within the City are safe, sanitary, and structurally sound; and

WHEREAS, KRS 65.8840 authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance for the abatement of nuisances, owner liability and enforcement procedures;

WHEREAS, through the Establishment of a Code Enforcement Board through Ordinance 2025-012 in conjunction with this ordinance, Ordinance 2014-003 should be repealed in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Springfield as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public health, safety, and welfare by regulating buildings within the City.

SECTION 2. ADOPTION OF CODE

That a certain document, one (1) copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky, being marked and designated as the International Property Maintenance Code, 2024 Edition, as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Property Maintenance Code of the City of Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky for regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of said Property Maintenance Code on file in the office of the City Clerk are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this chapter, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

A. **Unsafe Building**: Any structure that is dilapidated, deteriorated, unsanitary, a fire hazard, or otherwise dangerous to public safety.

B. **Code Enforcement Board**: An administrative body created and acting under the authority of the Local Government Code Enforcement Act, KRS 65.8801 to 65.8839.

C. **Construction or Demolition Activity**: The erection, including excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building, structure or roadway or any utility related construction, for which all necessary and proper government permits have been obtained.

D. **Dwelling**: Any part of any building or its premises used as a place of residence or habitation or for sleeping by any person.

E. **Owner**: A person, association, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity having a legal or equitable title in real property.

F. **Premises**: A lot, plot, or parcel of land, including any structures upon it.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following are declared nuisances:

A. Any Building that is not in compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code.

B. Any structure becoming unfit and unsafe for human habitation, occupancy or use.

C. Buildings with structural failure, collapsing walls, roofs, or foundations or any other condition which are dangerous or injurious to the health or safety of the occupants of the structure or the occupants of a neighboring structure or anyone in the City.

D. Buildings open to trespassers or vermin.

E. Fire-damaged structures not repaired within 120 days.

F. Buildings with missing doors, windows, or utilities creating unsafe conditions.

G. Any outdoor swimming pool in which the water in the pool is contaminated with dangerous disease causing pathogens, including bacteria; or is capable of holding over twenty-four (24) inches of water, in depth at any one point; and the pool area isn't always completely surrounded by a fence that is at least four (4) feet in height, which precludes access to the water in the pool without opening a gate or climbing over the fence.

SECTION 5. RENTAL PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

For all properties not occupied by the owner of record as shown in the Washington County Property Valuation Administrator's records, the property owner shall be solely responsible for compliance with all provisions of this ordinance, including but not limited to:

A. All structural maintenance and repair requirements; all exterior maintenance including paint, windows, siding, roofing, doors, porches, and other visible components; grass cutting and weed control; removal of trash, debris, junk vehicles, inoperable vehicles, and accumulated materials; maintenance of driveways, walkways, and parking areas;

B. Property owners may not contractually transfer responsibility for structural maintenance, exterior repair, or compliance with building codes to tenants. Any lease provision attempting to transfer such responsibility shall be void and unenforceable for purposes of this ordinance.

C. If a tenant is creating or maintaining a nuisance through accumulation of personal property, vehicles, debris, or other violations of this ordinance, the property owner shall have thirty (30) days after written notice to remedy the violation through any lawful means, including but not limited to eviction proceedings.

SECTION 6. ABANDONED OR VACANT BUILDINGS

A. For purposes of this section, a building shall be deemed “abandoned” or “vacant” if it has been unoccupied for more than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days and exhibits two or more of the following conditions:

1. Broken, missing, or boarded windows or doors;
2. Open or unsecured doors or windows allowing unauthorized entry;
3. Structural deterioration visible from any public street or right-of-way, including but not limited to damaged roof, collapsed porch, deteriorated siding, or compromised foundation;
4. Accumulation of trash, debris, or discarded materials on the premises;
5. Overgrown vegetation;
6. Disconnection of electrical, water, or gas utility services for more than one hundred eighty (180)consecutive days;
7. Posting of “condemned” or “unsafe” notices by any governmental authority;
8. Evidence of unauthorized entry, vandalism, or use for criminal activity.

B. Registration Requirements:
Property owners of any building that has been vacant for more than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days shall register the property with the City Clerk within thirty (30) days of the property becoming vacant, providing:

1. Owner's name, current mailing address, telephone number, and email address;
2. Name and contact information for local agent or representative authorized to act on owner's behalf;
3. Property address and tax parcel number;
4. Intended use or disposition of the property;
5. Estimated timeline for reoccupancy or demolition.

Registration shall be renewed annually. Registration fee shall be \$50.00 per year made payable to the City of Springfield. Failure to register a vacant or abandoned building shall be deemed a nuisance.

C. Maintenance Requirements for Vacant Buildings:
All owners of vacant or abandoned buildings shall:

1. Secure all doors, windows, and other openings to prevent unauthorized entry;
2. Maintain exterior in compliance with International Property Maintenance Code;
3. Maintain grass, weeds, and vegetation;
4. Remove all trash, debris, and discarded materials from the property within fourteen (14) days of accumulation;
5. Post on the front of the property, visible from the street, a weather-resistant sign of at least 18 inches by 24 inches displaying the property owner's name and 24-hour contact telephone number;
6. Conduct monthly inspections of the property and maintain records of such inspections;

D. Immediate Safety Hazards
The Code Enforcement Officer, in consultation with the Fire Chief, Building Inspector, or other qualified official, may declare an immediate safety hazard for any property exhibiting any of the following conditions:

1. Structural collapse or imminent threat of collapse of any building or structure;
2. Fire hazard from accumulated combustible debris, materials, or vegetation in contact with structures;
3. Open, uncovered, or inadequately secured wells, cisterns, cesspools, excavations, or swimming pools capable of holding more than twelve (12) inches of water;
4. Severe vermin infestation (rats, mice, cockroaches, bedbugs, or other pests) documented by health department or pest control professional as affecting or likely to affect neighboring properties;
5. Active use of the property for illegal drug activity, as documented by law enforcement;
6. Unauthorized occupancy by squatters or trespassers;
7. Exposed electrical wiring, broken gas lines, or other utility hazards;
8. Accumulation of hazardous materials or chemicals posing threat to public health.

SECTION 7. CIVIL OFFENSE

A violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall constitute a civil offense. Each day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate civil offense. Enforcement and penalties shall be administered in accordance with KRS 65.8801–65.8839 and any other applicable provisions of Kentucky law.

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this ordinance shall be the responsibility of the City of Springfield Code Enforcement Board and the City of Springfield Code Enforcement Officer.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance are severable. The invalidity of any provision shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

SECTION 10. REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES

City Ordinance 2014-003, along with all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon its second reading, passage, and publication as required by law.

	YES	NO
Daniel Bishop	X	___
Joann Ellery	X	___
Michael Hale	X	___
Carolyn Hardin	Absent	
John Pettus	X	___
Lance Smith	X	___

First Reading: December 8, 2025
Second Reading: January 13, 2026
Published in the Springfield Sun: January 21, 2026

/s/ Chris Essex, Mayor

ATTEST:
/s/ Jessica Hart, City Admin./ Clerk