

Sweeping Roles Come Full Circle

By Becky Greenwell
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The beginning of the month was an interesting time for me. I wrote a couple of columns about my hometown when I was a child. Writing and thinking put me in a nostalgic frame of mind.

First there was the Village, then the house, then in my mind I wandered through the house.

I remembered Saturdays when my mother got into one of her crazy cleaning moods. Growing up our daily chores were to keep our rooms clean and help with the dishes every night.

Then when company was expected it was all hands-on deck kind of cleaning. We had to clean our rooms with extra oomph, dust, sweep the floors, and scrub the one bathroom.

My dad was also on cleaning detail. He was Chief Broom Sweeper and loudly barked orders. He swept everything up. He didn't pick up anything and barely gave us time to pick our stuff up before he started sweeping everything into the pile. "Get in front of the broom," he would announce. "Anything left in front of the broom goes into the trash can."

It didn't matter if it was clothes, homework papers or a favorite Barbie doll, if the broom was faster, then the item was lost forever. We hustled getting things picked up; no lolly-gagging while he was in charge of the broom.

Afterwards we would head to the backyard and make sure everything in the yard was picked up. There he became the Chief Yard Raker, and he could handle the rake as well as he could the broom.

While everyone was staying ahead of the broom and rake, my mom was letting it be known what she expected in housecleaning. She wanted the house clean enough for the President of the United States or the Pope of Rome to come to our house and she would not be embarrassed. They were the most important people in the world who could ever come to our house.

When we lived in Illinois the most important people who ever came to

our house were relatives from Kentucky. When word was received they were coming to visit, whether it was two days or two weeks, house cleaning day commenced. By the time they arrived the house was spotless and we kids were exhausted and way too tired to misbehave.

Years later my children became my house cleaners. When it was company-is-coming time I became the Chief Broom Sweeper. I even barked out the same orders my dad did. I remember taking the broom and pulling everything out from under the beds. I started instructing them to get in front of the broom and pick it up or it was going in the trash can.

I don't remember this much stuff in front of my dad's broom. A lot of my kids' stuff ended up in the trash because they didn't seem to care whether it did or not. So long as they didn't have to pick it up.

Now I am the Chief Broom Sweeper and Chief Yard Raker, without any minions to go in front of the broom or rake. I also don't have much of anything swept into a pile except for dust bunnies, and leaves and tiny pebbles from the flower beds tracked in from outside.

Now I sweep, vacuum, dust, clean five bathrooms, do laundry, and cook special meals for the most important people who come into my house now.

It isn't for the President or the Pope, but my children and grandchildren. The children who were once the young cleaners are now who I speed clean for.

After they leave then I will go back to picking up and doing a lick and a promise kind of cleaning until the next round of special guests call and say, "Hey mom, we're coming home for a few days!"

I wonder if when I call them and say, "Hey, kids, I'm coming to visit for a few days," do they pull out the broom and start barking orders about getting in front of the broom.

I would like to think so. Surely, I rubbed off on them at least a little.

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Metrics To Gauge Financial Health

Effective money management can help men and women achieve their short- and long-term goals. Wise investment strategies and a commitment to saving for retirement are great ways to manage money over the long haul, but it's important to seek ways to do so in the short-term as well.

Monitoring financial health is a short-term strategy that can keep individuals on a path toward long-term security. While various metrics can be looked to as indicators of financial health, adults can keep these three variables in mind as they look to utilize short-term strategies to ensure their long-term success.

1. Debt-to-income ratio: Debt-to-income ratio can be a good indicator of financial health. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau defines debt-to-income ratio (DTI) as all your monthly debt payments divided by your monthly gross income. Lenders utilize DTI to determine the creditworthiness of loan applicants, but individuals also can use it as a metric to gauge their financial health. Monthly debt payments include mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and other debt payments, including credit cards. Individuals whose debt payments total \$2,000 per month and who earn a gross monthly income of \$6,000 have a 33 percent DTI. The credit experts at Experian suggest a DTI of 35 percent or less is indicative that debt is being handled well, so that's a figure to keep in mind.

2. Savings balances: Savings accounts don't generate as much interest as they did throughout the 1980s and 1990s. According to Nasdaq, savings interest rates climbed as high as 8 percent in the 1980s, but have fallen below 0.25 percent since the financial crisis of 2008. That's led some to devalue savings, but savings balances can be a good indicator of financial health. A substantial savings account can help individuals avoid taking on debt when costly emergencies and expenses arise unexpectedly, thus helping them keep their DTI in a financially advantageous range.

3. Credit score: Credit score is another strong, and easily accessible, indicator of personal financial health. Individuals can now access their credit scores for free each month through their banks and credit card providers. Experian notes that credit scores range from 300 to 850, and where a score falls in that range can indicate if a person is managing credit in a healthy or unhealthy way. Experian reports scores 740 and above are very good, while scores between 670 and 739 are considered good. Scores between 300 and 579 are considered poor, while a score between 580 and 669 is considered fair. Scores below 669 indicate there's room to use credit more wisely, which involve reducing reliance on consumer credit, making payments on time and ensuring payments are more than the monthly minimum.

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The **Union County Air Board** will accept sealed bids for the **Phase II - Drainage Design Project at the Sturgis Municipal Airport, Sturgis, Kentucky**. Bids will be received by the **Union County Air Board** at the **Sturgis Municipal Airport** located at **580 Pryor Boulevard, Sturgis, KY 42459** until **1:00 P.M. (local time) on April 23, 2026**.

Bids which are delivered in advance by any means shall be delivered to the **Sturgis Municipal Airport, 580 Pryor Boulevard Sturgis, KY 42459**, Attention: **Gary Ervin, Chairman**.

The bid package and shipping envelope shall be clearly labeled: **Phase II - Drainage Design Project - Sturgis Municipal Airport - DO NOT OPEN**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BIDDERS: A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, April 09, 2026, in the Sturgis Municipal Airport Terminal Building, for the purpose of discussing the scope of the project and answering questions.

ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE BY AN APPROPRIATE CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE IS MANDATORY IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT A BID.

Project Description: This project involves the construction of Phase II improvements of the existing airfield drainage system focusing on the Runway 01-19 corridor and subsequent runway safety and object free areas. This includes the installation of new/replacement pipes and catch basins along with perimeter and lateral underdrains to minimize flooding of the Runway 01-19 corridor and promote positive drainage of the runway subgrade. Other project items include erosion control and turf stabilization.

Contractors intending on submitting a bid must purchase contract documents from Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC, 6 Cadillac Drive, St. 350, Brentwood, TN 37027, telephone (615) 614-0121, at a non-refundable cost of \$200 per set.

It is the intent to make the plans/specifications available for review at the locations listed below:

Sturgis Municipal Airport 580 Pryor Boulevard Sturgis, KY 42459 (270) 333-4487	KY - Department of Aviation 90 Airport Road, Building 400 Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-4480
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Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC 6 Cadillac Drive, St. 350 Brentwood, TN 37027 (615) 614-0121	Builders Exchange 2300 Meadow Drive, Suite 100 Louisville, KY 40218 (502) 459-9800
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The Union County Air Board, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that for any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and no businesses will be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), creed, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability in consideration for an award.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a Bidders Bond on the form contained in the Proposal Book from a surety company acceptable to the Union County Air Board or a cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Union County Air Board for not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid. A 100% Contract Bond will be required of the successful Contractor. Liquidated damages for delay in contract completion shall be as stated in the Proposal.

The project is funded partially with federal funds, therefore is subject to the following provisions: Buy American Preference, Davis Bacon Act, Debarment and Suspension, Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, Foreign Trade Restriction, Lobbying Federal Employees, and Procurement of Recovered Materials.

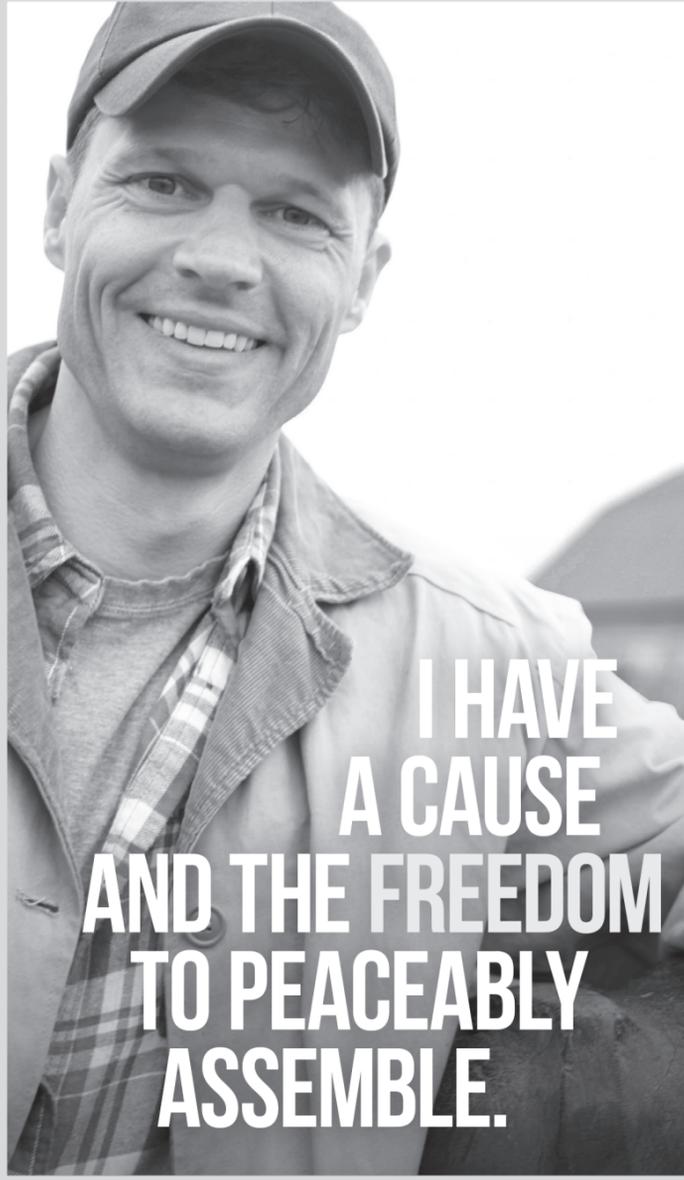
No bids will be considered unless the bidder, whether resident or non-resident of Kentucky, is properly qualified to submit a proposal for this construction in accordance with all applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The prime contractor shall perform, with their organization, an amount of work equal to at least 30 percent of the total contract cost. The prime contractor must either be prequalified with KYTC or adhere to the requirements set forth in Section 20-02 (Proposal Requirements and Conditions - Qualification of Bidders) of the Project Manual. KYTC prequalification is not a requirement for bidding.

The proposal, which shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, shall be clearly labeled on the outside of the envelope, at a minimum, with the name of the project, Contractor's name and address, and the date and time of the Bid Opening (so as to guard against premature opening of any bid). **Failure to show these items on the outside of the envelope will result in the bid being returned to the Bidder unopened.**

Withdrawal of Bid: Any Bidder, upon his or her authorized representative's written request, will be given permission to withdraw his proposal not later than the time set for opening thereto. At the time of the opening of proposals, provided written request has been submitted prior to the time of the opening, when such proposal is reached it will be returned to the Bidder unopened. Unless contrary to the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky including local charter provisions no Bidder may withdraw a bid submitted for a period of ninety (90) days after the actual bid opening without the Owner's consent.

The Union County Air Board reserves the right to reject any/and or all proposals, to waive any formalities and informalities in the proposals received, and to accept any proposal which in its opinion may be in their best interest.

Union County Air Board
Gary Ervin, Chairman



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