

# Mayor Razmus provides Corbin updates at Rotary meeting

BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Staff Writer

**CORBIN** — Corbin Mayor Suzie Razmus addressed her fellow members of the Corbin Rotary Club during their weekly luncheon on Thursday at David's Steak House and Buffet, offering updates on city projects, and public services.

Razmus acknowledged that several major projects are currently underway, but not yet ready for public announcement.

"There's so many things in motion, but there's like no announcements to be," she said. "What I will say is that a lot of really cool things are happening behind the scenes."

She emphasized that progress often takes time but said city staff continue working to address long-term needs.

"It takes forever to get these big projects completed, and it's very frustrating not only to me, but the entire staff at the city, but we all work extremely hard trying to solve the problems and look for opportunities for our city," Razmus said.

During the recent winter storm most of the region experienced, Mayor Razmus spoke on the city's

cold-weather sheltering efforts. Razmus explained that when White Flag Ministries reached capacity last winter, the city temporarily opened its recreation center to prevent people from being exposed to dangerously low temperatures. While effective, she said the arrangement placed strain on staff and facilities.

As a long-term solution, the city partnered with Sacred Heart Church this year to operate a warming shelter when White Flag resources were exhausted. City employees staff the shelter, while police conduct walkthroughs to ensure safety. Razmus said the shelter has been used several nights this winter and has provided a reliable backup system. She added that collaboration between churches and local government has been key to its success.

Razmus also praised city employees for their response to recent snow and ice storms, particularly Public Works crews who worked extended hours under difficult conditions. She noted that winter road treatment requires careful timing once temperatures drop below the point where salt is effective.

"They just did a really



Corbin Mayor Suzie Razmus speaks at the Corbin Rotary meeting. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

great job," she said.

Transportation concerns were also discussed, including upcoming interstate bridge demolition work near Exit 29. Temporary traffic impacts were to occur on I-75 during the demolition on southbound I-75 Monday night and northbound I-75 overnight on Tuesday.

During both closures, I-75 traffic was detoured via Exit 29 or Exit 25, with assistance from law

enforcement.

Economic development and annexation efforts were another major topic. Razmus said Walmart is in the process of coming into city limits, though delays have affected the city's ability to benefit from occupational tax revenue due to interlocal agreements with Laurel County.

She said the city will receive alcohol regulatory fees once alcohol sales begin, though she voiced

concern over proposed state legislation that could significantly reduce those revenues.

According to Mayor Razmus, a flagship business is slated near the former King's Truck Stop property, with more details to be released as timelines become clearer.

She said the city has positioned its tax structure near Exit 29 to attract development and is simultaneously planning for expanded public safety infrastructure, including possible police and fire substations and new equipment supported through grants.

Razmus also discussed grant efforts, including the city's unsuccessful application for a large federal "Safe Streets for All" grant. Despite disappointment, she said the city continues to pursue alternative funding sources for road improvements, fire equipment, and public safety

needs.

Additional updates included improvements at the Corbin Housing Authority, recent police hires with more expected, and praise for the Corbin Fire Department's response to a major fire in Williamsburg. Razmus also acknowledged rising costs associated with recycling services, noting that changes will likely be necessary in the future.

She concluded by highlighting recent progress at the Corbin Arena and its smooth business operations, the ongoing expansion of the Corbin Center projected for a late 2026 completion, and the opening of the new hotel next to the center.

"We're not a county seat. We're in the center of three counties," Razmus said. "We've got to fight for every dime, but that doesn't mean we don't keep trying."

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## AUDIT

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brush fires — and noted assistance provided to Williamsburg during the recent fire that affected

their downtown.

City officials also provided an update on the Dixon Building demolition, saying mobilization was expected to begin Monday, Feb. 9, with third-floor hand demolition

estimated at about two weeks and a total project timeline of roughly 12 weeks, weather permitting.

Council voted to set salaries for the next administration, increasing the mayor's pay from \$1,000

to \$2,500 per month while keeping council pay the same. Members stressed the change would not apply to current office-holders, and instead apply to whoever is elected in the upcoming cycle.

appreciation for the swift, coordinated efforts of all agencies involved.

Agencies assisting in the response included Baptist Health staff and security, Corbin Police Department, Kentucky State Police, Williamsburg Police Department,

Whitley County Sheriff's Department, Knox County Sheriff's Department, Bell County Sheriff's Department, Laurel County Sheriff's Department, Knox County 911, Whitley County 911, Laurel County 911, Corbin Dispatch and Whitley/Laurel County

Emergency Management, Bell County Sheriff's K-9 Stevie and other K-9 units were also utilized during the search.

Phillips is scheduled to be arraigned in Whitley District Court on her new charges Thursday afternoon.

wait and appoint the the Republican nominee and that way we can have a consistency moving into

the election."

White indicated that his goal is to ensure stability in the office while

respecting Foley's legacy and allowing voters to ultimately decide the next constable in November.

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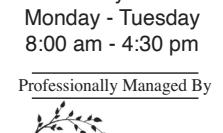
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