Calvert City Council honors centenarian and updates ordinance to match state

BY ALEXA BLACK
ABLACK@TRIBUNECOURIER.COM

The Calvert City Council met in regular session Monday to celebrate Ruby Lee Hurley's 100th birthday, changed language in multiple ordinances to get in compliance with the state and shared some details regarding an airport project.

Mayor Gene Colburn first opened discussion stating that Possum Trot-Sharpe Fire Department's Ricky Bearden will be greatly missed. Colburn then listed Bearden's lifelong contributions to the community and his legacy working with the fire department.

Colburn then announced a proclamation for Ruby Lee Hurley, whose one hundredth birthday had just passed.

Hurley was born Nov. 6 of 1926 in Paducah. Her birthday marked "a century of remarkable memories, accomplishments and contributions through her family and community," according to the proclamation.

"Ruby Lee spent much of her childhood in Calvert City and later returned to make her home, raising her family and establishing lifelong friendships within the community, and at age 16 Ruby Lee answer the call to serve her country during WWII by working in Evansville, Indiana manufacturing rivets in support of the nation's wartime efforts, earning her place among the extraordinary women remembered as Rosie the Riveters," the proclamation stated.

Colburn recounted her January 1948 marriage to Eugene Hurley and the family they built, which now spans six generations. She also spoke of how her steadfast faith and love of people reflect a life shaped by kindness, compassion, and a deep appreciation for others.

Nov. 6, 2026, was proclaimed Ruby Lee Hurley Day.

Turning to old business, Colburn welcomed a new council member, noting that he had already made contributions early in his tenure.

She discussed ongoing work in the Highway 62 area, including securing rights-of-way, coordinating with the highway department and contacting the engineer.

The council then addressed revisions to city ordinances that conflicted with state statutes regarding council approvals.

The ordinance required edits to clarify which city officers needed council approval, remove several outdated positions, and add the Chief of Police as required.

Another amendment revised a section concerning the titles "captain" and "sergeant," replacing them with police "chief" and police "officer," and clarifying that these nonelected city officials are appointed by the mayor and approved by the council.

Similar changes were made to other ordinances, including reinstating the Fire Chief's oath and designating the position as a nonelected city official.

These changes would bring the ordinance into compliance with state law and eliminate roles that no longer exist.

Also, the KY Dam Airport's runway tree obstruction and mitigation bid came in 67% above estimates, while the fence project will be rebid in November.

Airport staff received only one bid for runway tree mitigation and said a federal infrastructure grant would cover the shortfall. They planned to negotiate with the bidder.

The separate airport fence project will be advertised in November, with construction scheduled to begin in January.

Garden Committee upgrades Arts Center garden for future events

BY ALEXA BLACK
ABLACK@TRIBUNECOURIER.COM

The local garden committee has begun adding new features to the Marshall County Arts Center garden, including pathways for visitors to enjoy when the warmer weather arrives.

Committee member Liz Jones and many other volunteers worked to make the garden a special community space throughout the year. They see it as a place to relax, support native flowers and pollinators and learn.

According to Jones, contractors and volunteers have both helped with this nearly finished project, which focuses on enhancing the pollinator garden.

"There is a large pollinator garden in the middle of the formal garden," Jones said. "That is called a rain garden, or a pollinator garden, which is designed to catch water and slowly release it. There are native plants that have been planted there, and those native plants are very important to pollinators — to bees, butterflies and insects and the birds that eat those insects."

Jones said providing habitat for insects and animals benefits any environment.

Although the garden contains a diverse range of plants, she noted that visitors may see it as an ordinary patch of weeds.

The club also looked for ways to make the space more accessible to young people and community members so they can experience the pollinator and rain garden up close.

The resulting pathway will let visitors walk through the garden and take in its beauty during the spring, summer and fall.

"It also helps with maintenance too, because these access trails allow us to get in, and it divides it up into five different sections and allow us to maintain them and keep them clean, such as plants and grass that we don't want," Jones told the Tribune-Courier "It kind of had a two-fold purpose. One, to get people to understand and immerse themselves in it, so they could actually see what we are growing. And two, it is going to help us maintain it, and make it a little easier for us to water, maintain and keep track of things."

The garden committee has also recently installed benches.

Jones said these improvements will support more activities between the Marshall County Arts Center garden and local schoolchildren, giving them a place to explore both nature and art during their visits.

The group also hopes to offer classes for adults, such as gardening, flower drawing, and journaling.

"Art is nature and nature is art," Jones said. "This, I think, will give us an opportunity to do more programming and give people an opportunity to go sit and check it out. It'll be more of a space to, hopefully, inspire people."

Calvert City hosts Holiday Yard of the Season contest

BY TRIBUNE-COURIER STAFF

Now is the time to show off your holiday spirit. Calvert City, along with the sponsor Jeter Real Estate & Property Management, is hosting a Holiday Yard of the Season contest.



The contest " is for exterior decorations, including decorations in windows that are visible from the exterior," according to the city. Participation is open to all residents and businesses within the city limits, the city stated.

A person can chose to nominate themselves, another home or a business, and judging will take place on Friday, Dec. 11, from 5-8 p.m., according to the city.

Judging will be based on: unique design and creative use of lights and decorations, a present storyline or theme, display and placement of decorations, animated objects, etc. and the overall presentation.

There will be two categories, according to the city, "Wild and Over the Top" and "The Classic Christmas."

People can submit nomination by calling city hall at 270-395-7138 or by emailing info@calvertcityky.gov.

Winners will be announced at the Dec. 11 city council meeting, the city stated.

