

THE WOODFORD SUN

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$50, Woodford County residents
\$38, Woodford County senior residents
\$60, Kentucky residents
\$65, out of state

From Our Files

10 Years Ago
January 7, 2016

At what is typically a very short meeting at the end of the year for bill-paying and transfers, the Fiscal Court saw heated debate, including a threat from WC Emergency Management Director Drew Chandler to resign, over the long-simmering issue of pay to Emergency Management Agency employees—whether to use the standard county employee pay rate or an enhanced emergency worker rate. With only Magistrates Jackie Brown and Linda Popp voting against it and Gerald Dotson absent, the court passed the emergency rate.

Versailles City Council approved three 18% rate increases to pay for the construction of a new \$20 million dollar wastewater treatment plant.

Vanessa “Niecy” Bush Hale, a lifelong Woodford County native and member of the prominent Bush family of Midway, passed away. She was retired from the Fayette County Public School System. She is survived by a son and daughter, two sisters, and six brothers.

WCHS Lady Jackets basketball player, Caitlin Ferguson, became the 16th player to join the 1,000 Point Club. The Lady Jackets topped Frankfort for their first District win. Boys basketball head coach

Scott Hundley celebrated his 100th victory with a win over Frankfort. The Mat Jackets made it three tournaments in a row winning the Bates Creek Invitational meet.

25 Years Ago
January 4, 2001

Bluegrass Community Hospital (formerly Woodford Memorial Hospital) opened for business at 7 a.m. Tuesday, ending a period of eight months in which Woodford County had no local hospital services.

Todd Osterloh of Versailles worked as a White House intern during the fall semester of his senior year at Western Kentucky University.

Woodford Feed is thriving in its 61st year in business. Owner Robert Cleveland turns 83 this month.

First-class postage will rise by one cent, to 34 cents, on Jan. 7, the U.S. Postal Service has announced.

Sarah Cleveland of Versailles recently appeared in dance theater winter concerts at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, where she is a first-year student.

The WCHS Lady Jackets basketball team defeated host Ohio County 55-53 Saturday for its second straight Lady Eagle Classic title.

The WCHS Mat Jackets won last weekend’s 22nd

annual Woodford County Invitational wrestling tournament.

40 Years Ago
January 2, 1986

Woodford County horseman Brereton C. Jones announced Sunday that he plans to announce later this year his Democratic candidacy for lieutenant governor in 1987.

Woodford County had barely enough snow for a white Christmas, with an accumulation of less than an inch. The thermometer stood at zero to five above that morning.

Woodford Countians named Outstanding Young Men of America include Ronald W. Baker, Wayne M. Hougland Jr., Stephen L. Collins, Thomas S. White, Anthony B. Yalkut, James Woolums Jr., and Mark A. Edwards.

Troy Furlong of Woodford Christian Church served on a short-term mission project in Mexico in December with a group from APC Ministries of Mt. Gilead, Ohio.

The Woodford County High School wrestling team finished as runner-up to Christian County in the local school’s invitational tournament.

Former Woodford County Jailer Raymond Coubert died Dec. 2 at the age of 79.

Letters to the Editor

South Woodford Farm Land Preservation

You can tell you are in Woodford County by the farm land, open spaces and lack of rural housing sprawl. You can see the difference in neighboring counties. Now South Woodford County is in the crosshairs for further housing development.

The problem was identified two years ago by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Agricultural Advisory Board. Farm land was being cut up into smaller housing lots. So far, no decisive action has been taken to fix this problem.

The Comprehensive Plan, which is supposed to guide the land use wishes of the people into the future, was approved unanimously by the Woodford County Fiscal Court in January 2024. A stated goal in the Comp Plan is to “Encourage future residential growth to be located within the urban service

boundary and small communities while discouraging residential subdivision growth that is scattered outside the urban service area.”

Amendments to Articles II and VII in the Woodford County zoning ordinances were forwarded to the Fiscal Court, which will realign them back to the original intent. The Fiscal Court will address this problem at its Jan. 13 meeting.

We have held two well-attended public meeting at the Troy Center at Troy Presbyterian Church to learn about and address the threat of rural housing sprawl. I encourage residents to join us in asking the county judge-executive and Fiscal Court members to vote YES on the proposed Amendments to Articles II & VII.

Jim Mansfield
Versailles

Zoning Ordinance Amendments

My wife and I have lived and farmed at the end of McCowan’s Ferry Road for more than 26 years and in that time our road has gotten excessively built up with houses along its full length. We used to think that we were so far out of town that it would not be a problem where we live, but that has proved not to be the case.

The main culprits in the rampant development in the southern part of Woodford County are the zoning compromises worked out decades ago regarding in-family conveyances and rural residential developments. Those compromises were intended to help preserve the rural/agricultural nature of the area, but they have failed because the rules are being abused for development purposes. If something is not done to fix the zoning ordinances, it will become more and more difficult to continue farming.

Our best bet for fixing the problem is the proposed amendments to the zoning ordinances as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The amendments would not eliminate in-family conveyances or rural residential developments, but they would help slow down residential develop-

ment by restricting the abuses of the current ordinances.

These amendments have been unanimously approved by the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission, but now need approval by the Woodford County Fiscal Court. These proposed amendments are the best chance for slowing down the rampant development that threatens to totally change the rural nature of the southern part of Woodford County.

This is an issue that affects all Woodford County residents, not only those of us who live and/or farm in the southern part of the county.

I urge people to contact their magistrate and ask them to vote for the proposed changes. You can also come to the Fiscal Court meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 13 to show your support. Also, check the Fiscal Court’s website to see if this issue is going to be debated and voted on in a committee session that is held before the regular Fiscal Court meeting. If so, these meetings are held on the same day as the regular meeting, usually starting at 4 p.m.

John H. Wilhoit
Versailles

Decision on Troy Pike zone change request on tonight’s Planning Commission agenda

WOODFORD SUN STAFF

A decision on a request to rezone 9.67 acres at 1470 Troy Pike from agricultural to single-family residential is on the agenda of tonight’s Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission. The Thursday, Jan. 8 meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodford County Courthouse.

During a public hearing on Dec. 11, neighbors of the planned development urged the

commission to deny the zone change request because what the developer described as a scaled-down plan to add 25 homes will still worsen existing traffic woes on Troy Pike.

Also on the Jan. 8 agenda: an audit presentation, Woodford Fiscal Court appointee Karen Isberg being introduced as the newest commissioner, and the election of officers, including a new chair. Planning Commission Chair Patty Perry retired after last month’s meeting.

Clippings from our past...

Editor’s Note: We are republishing excerpts from the 1891 Woodford Sun. At this time, the Sun had grown to an average of eight pages, was operating in a new building, which it continues to publish from today, and subscriptions, printing jobs and advertising had grown considerably for the Bowmar brothers. The years from 1890 to 1891 were significant in Kentucky history, and continue to be so today. The Constitutional Convention of 1890-1891, which enacted the constitution that remains intact today with numerous amendments in force, began meeting in September 1890, and was presided over by the great abolitionist, Ambassador Cassius M. Clay of Madison County. The excerpts related to this will be the Clippings focus.

[Headline: Pisgah’s New Pastor]: Rev. Erasmus E. Ervin, the recently called pastor of Pisgah Presbyterian, is a native of South Carolina, and is of Scotch-Irish descent. He was born in the year 1847. He entered the State Military Academy (the Arsenal) at Columbia, in January 1863, and was advanced to the department at Charleston (the Citadel) in January 1864. In the fall of that year, the enemy’s guns having gotten the range of the citadel, the students were removed to Orangeburg to continue their studies there, but were soon after, at their own request, ordered into the Confederate service. Mr. Ervin and his classmates were utilized in drilling the last draft of soldiers and in repulsing the marine raids along the coastline of railroads in the Southeast part of the State and in holding the works on the islands near Charleston. On the evacuation of that city, they retreated into North Carolina, dodged Sherman between Fayetteville and Raleigh and returned to Greenville, S.C., where the Legislature had assembled. On learning there of the surrender at Appomattox, Mr. Ervin quit the war on a furlough of twenty days. “During the eight months of service,” said Pastor Ervin, “only one of our boys deserted and we caught him and carried him on.” After the war, Ervin ploughed one year and taught school one year. Entering Davidson College in 1869, he was graduated in 1872, and in the fall of the same year entered the Theological Seminary at Columbia, but re-

moved to Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, during the Christmas holidays. There he continued two years. Mr. Ervin was licensed to preach by the Harmony Presbytery, in South Carolina, in April 1874 and was ordained as the pastor at Brittain Church in North Carolina, by the Mecklenburg Presbytery in September 1875. In 1876, he removed to Clark County, Kentucky, and was in charge of Salem Church, in connection with other churches, for three-and-a-half years. He was afterwards in charge of the church in Washington, Ky., for three years, subsequently having charge of Paint Lick Church in Garrard County for four years. Paint Lick is one of the most important Presbyterian country churches in Kentucky. It is usually two completely organized churches in one — one in connection with the Southern and the other in connection with the Northern Assembly. On account of a severe catarrh contracted on a visit to Louisville, during the Moody meetings in time of a great schism several years ago, Pastor Ervin thought it prudent to return South and tarried for a year in Shelby, NC, in charge of the church there; then took charge of the churches at Demopolis and Farmsdale, Alabama, until Pisgah called in November. Pastor Ervin said to us, “I have found Christ everywhere, in the kindness of men and in all my wanderings have left no soul behind to whom I could not to-day speak with cordial good will. You will observe my years of active work have been spent

mostly in Kentucky. My three children are Kentucky born. I love the Kentucky people for many reasons: certainly, for their vim and their cordiality.”

[Headline: Caught On The Fly]: The faith of the negro, and we may add the average white person, is like that of the old lady, who, in relating her experience in a runaway accident said, “I put my faith in Providence until the braking broke and then I gave myself up for lost.” As an African church in Versailles one night last week the shouting members became so hilarious as to upset a hot stove. “Pick it up Brudder Smith and ca’y’t out, the Lord aint’s gwine let bu’n ‘yer,” yelled the pastor addressing the foremost member of the church. Brudder Smith lifted the stove but dropped it with a greater degree of alacrity than he exhibited in picking it up, and turning to the pastor of the flock with an expression of mingled pain and disgust upon his countenance retorted, “Yess, the hell’s will.”

Some other counties have them, and why couldn’t Woodford’s farmers organize themselves into a “Farmers Club.” Not a club designed for political purposes, but an organization that would meet once a month on Court Day, or any other day, for the discussion of any topic of importance to the farmer and an interchange of views on everyday things of the farm.

[Headline: Midway’s Big Blaze]: One of the most destructive fires that Midway has had for the past fifteen years occurred late Wednesday afternoon last week, when Collins’ Hall



What’s Growing On...

Pause and Reflect

BY JOANNA DUNLAP KIRBY
CONTRIBUTING GARDENING COLUMNIST,
OWNER AND OPERATOR OF A CUT FLOWER FARM IN GARRARD COUNTY

As I look out at my gardens on this cold and frosty winter morning, I see patterns in the evergreens and last summer’s fading grasses. It appears that time has stopped, and the earth is still and quiet under the hold that winter has taken. This is such a magical time as frost covers and coats all in its path and continues its beauty through the early morning hours.

Now is the time to reflect on last year’s gardens, as we wait patiently for the earth to warm again.

I delight in this quiet, reflective time as I remember all too well the scorching heat and drought of last year, praying that we will have a gentler garden year in 2026. I see spaces that could easily be filled with new plant material, possibly changing the course of my view or leaving open spaces to broaden my view. Either way I decide to go will possibly give me inspiration for reconfiguring the lay of the land.

Oh, how I love the winter garden dreams!

Now, let’s think about our seed inventory for this next gardening year. Seed catalogs have been streaming in since early December, and this is the best time to order, since many of these companies are offering discounts and free shipping. You will find your best selections now, but fewer if you put this on your back burner and wait. Here are a few of my favorite seed companies: The Gardener’s Workshop, Swan Island Dahlias, Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, K. van Bourgondien, Floret Flowers, Park Seed, Burpees, and many more that are too numerous to mention, but you get the point. There are a lot of choices online, as well as your favorite garden centers across the state to choose from.

was discovered to be on fire.

The town was threatened with entire destruction to the business portion, as the fire was

discovered in the middle of

the most prominent portion of the town, and had not the fire walls protected the houses

on each side of the burning

district, every house on the south side of Railroad Street would have been consumed.

Find us on

