

THE WOODFORD SUN

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What's Growing On... Masters of the Garden

BY JOANNA DUNLAP KIRBY

CONTRIBUTING GARDENING COLUMNIST,

OWNER AND OPERATOR OF A CUT FLOWER FARM IN GARRARD COUNTY

Here we are, on the brink of spring when Kentucky winds blow and early spring bulbs begin to appear. We can at last see the light at the end of such a long, bleak winter. We are anxious to get outside and go about our garden chores.

We can now begin the task of cutting back the dead foliage of perennials and grasses. I took it upon myself this year to take the battery-operated hedge trimmer and remove the tall grasses in one of my beds. It was an easy job and was finished in less than an hour, just before a storm appeared overhead. Now, I will move on to the rest of the gardens, one at a time, so I will not be completely overwhelmed and try to crawl back inside.

A few other chores that can be done now are to sharpen shears, look over garden tools, seed your lawn if you did not get this done in the fall and make a plan for your vegetable and flower gardens. A great place to get garden information is at your local county Extension office. They have excellent brochures and handouts available on many garden-related topics.

The Woodford County Extension Office also hosts a Master Gardener Course that is well worth the time and commitment to take. This program was started in 1972 by David Gibby, PhD, in Washington state. As a local Horticulture Extension Agent, he helped train volunteers "with a passion to learn more about gardening and to assist extension offices by helping others." This program is now in over 49 states, the District of Columbia, several Canadian provinces and South Korea. It is one of the largest volunteer organizations in the country with over 76,000 volunteers!

In Kentucky, we have over 60 counties offering a Master Gardener program. The 40 hours of classes include botany, soil health, plant pathology and entomology taught by university professors and Extension agents. A comprehensive exam is given at the end of the course, and students then enter an "intern" phase where they give back to their

community. In order to earn their official title of Master Gardener, students must complete 40 hours of volunteer service within their first year (think, hands-on) and 20 hours of service the following years. I took this program many years ago in Garrard County and have referred to my "notes," taken then, on many occasions.

This program has helped me as a gardener, speaker and volunteer many times over.

If you are interested in taking this course, just contact your local extension office to see if they are offering one this year or if they plan to. It is a "boots on the ground" program.

The Woodford County Master Gardeners host an annual Spring Gardening Workshop, and this year promises to be great. It will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Woodford County Extension Office on Beasley Road. Pre-registration is required through Eventbrite or by calling the Extension office at 859-873-4601. The cost is \$20 and includes breakfast and snacks throughout the day.

The program offers nine concurrent sessions, including: composting in small spaces, backyard ponds, gardening for butterflies, spring vegetable gardening, planting containers for summer color, eco-friendly gardening, identifying ticks, planting with native perennials, and establishing a mini-meadow.

As you can see, there is something for everyone!

The Capitol Area Master Gardeners of Frankfort will have its annual Plant Market on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lakeview Park, 112 Park Avenue, Frankfort, KY. This market is a great way to purchase well-grown herbs, vegetables, perennials and more, and is just 30 minutes away.

There is a world of local information available for Kentucky gardeners at your county Extension office, helping to "Grow people, plants and partnerships."

Happy gardening.

From Our Files

10 Years Ago
March 3, 2016

Woodford Forward announced its opposition to the proposed expansion of the urban service boundary to include the Edgewood Farm on Lexington Road saying "it would send the wrong message." A public hearing on the proposal was canceled at the request of the City of Versailles.

The State Republican Party will hold a presidential caucus on March 5, at which registered Republicans can participate. The Woodford County location is the courthouse.

OSRAM Sylvania failed to sample and test mercury levels at its plant for the second year in a row and faces penalties.

"Shrek: The Musical," will be the high school's Spring play with performances beginning March 7.

Don, a former magistrate, and Dottie Schmitt kicked off their 55th wedding anniversary by enjoying a chili lunch at the Woodford Sun's celebration of "A Relay for Life."

Matthew Lawson, a 2015 WCHS graduate, received a full scholarship to study engineering at Western Kentucky University from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. As part of the award, begun in 1948, Lawson will also work at the Cabinet during summers.

Jacqui Kowalke finished 18th in girls one-meter diving at the Kentucky State Championship Swim and Dive Meet. The boys basketball lost to Franklin County in the District Championship and will move on to next week's Regional Tournament. The Lady Jackets basketball team's season came to a dramatic end losing to Western Hills in overtime.

The Woodford Sun's John McGary was awarded second-place in the "Best Column" weekly class-3 category at this year's annual Kentucky Press Association's annual awards dinner.

25 Years Ago
March 1, 2001

Local support of and use for Bluegrass Community Hospital, formerly Woodford Memorial Hospital, in its first two months of operation appears to be growing, adding to optimism for its future success.

The P&Z Commission closed public hearings Feb. 22 on a plan to expand and reconfigure the existing Versailles Center on Lexington Road.

If approved, the proposed 161-unit residential development on Elm Street near Elm Street Heights would be the first in the state applying the principles of "New Urbanism" — mixed-use developments that have higher density, are pedestrian-friendly and consume less land. A public hearing is set for March 8.

A redesign of the layout for a proposed commercial-industrial development at Midway's Interstate 64 interchange is touted as reducing the site's per-acre costs.

Bill Shanks, owner of the convenience store at 275 South Main Street, has purchased the franchise from Dairy Mart and the store will again be known as Convenience Food Mart, but it will have no affiliation with the Illinois-based chain of the same name.

Fonta Sawyer of Versailles won first place as best dramatic actress and first place in best soap opera actress at an international convention for actors and models held in Hilton Head, S.C.

The WCHS Yellow Jackets lost their final game of the regular season last Thursday with a 101-71 shellacking by Lexington Bates Creek.

The Lady Jackets topped Frankfort 72-60 in the opening round of the 41st District Tournament Tuesday night.

40 Years Ago
February 27, 1986

Terri Cecil was crowned queen of the Woodford County High School Jacket-fest at Friday night's WCHS-Lincoln County basketball game. Chantel Brown was first runner-up and Micki Hill was second runner-up.

Robert Richardson, a farmer and past chairman of the Woodford Board of Education, died Sunday morning of a heart attack. He would have been 61 on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Threlkeld of Versailles recently visited Fort Rucker Ala., Fort Benning, Ga., and the NASA Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Ala.

Mark Goode, a WCHS student, was the recipient of the Good Citizen Award presented by the Marquis Calmes Chapter of the DAR.

Scott Parsons of Versailles has been elected to the Interfraternity Council at the University of Kentucky. He is a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Sgt. Floyd F. Raglin of Versailles has completed a U.S. Army primary leadership course in West Germany.

Michael Thomas, Donald Mitchell, Gene Gaunce and Darrell Atwood of Midway recently spent a week in Florida and attended the Daytona 500 race.

The Yellow Jacket wrestling team finished in fifth place in last weekend's state wrestling tournament, held in Louisville.

Clippings from our past...

Editor's Note: We are republishing excerpts from the 1891 Woodford Sun. The Constitutional Convention of 1890-91, which enacted the constitution which remains intact today with numerous amendments since, began meeting in Sept. 1890, and was presided over by Ambassador Cassius M. Clay of Madison County. The excerpts related to this will be the Clippings focus. For historical purposes, we reprint the Clippings "warts and all," and so the presence of derogatory and racist stereotypical words are reprinted.

The Woodford Sun
March 5, 1891

[CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FETE]: The reception ball, and banquet given by the Convention delegates last Thursday evening to the people of Frankfort in return for the generous entertainment they have received at the hands of those people at the past six months, was a brilliant success and rivals any social triumph. About 500 guests were present and the toilets of the ladies were unusually elaborate and elegant. The guests were given a handsome souvenir badge of white satin bearing the inscription "Con. Conv. 1849-1890" with the Kentucky coat of arms. The north wall of the ballroom was elaborately hung with flags in the center of which was a handsome oil portrait of Gen. John C. Breckenridge in his Confederate uniform. There were several square dances and a Virginia Reel on the dance card. Woodford County was represented by three of the prettiest girls who were present in the persons of Misses Henrietta Black-

burn, Sunbeam Hempstead, the daughter and niece of Woodford's able delegate, and Miss Willie Robb. The first two lovely brunettes and the latter a blonde of almost perfect type with a beautiful eye and hair. The gentlemen from Versailles were John Winn and Mr. Mastin. Daniel Bowmar was present amongst the press for the Sun. We congratulate the men of the Convention for the success of their big "Blow Out."

[FARM NOTES]: There were 500 head of Woodford County raised cattle on sale at the Winchester court. Woodford County tobacco sold for good prices in Louisville.

[WOMEN'S SUFFERAGE]: Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, of Versailles, delivered an address before the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington last Friday, on the "Kentucky Constitutional Convention."

[D U K E O F MARK=LBOROUGH PURCHASES TROTTERS]: The Duke of Marlborough, England, has purchased six high-bred, young trotting

horses from A.J. Alexander of Woodburn Farm.

[ASSAULT IN JACKSONTOWN]: Last Saturday night, Levi Parker went to the house of Anderson Taylor in Jacksontown, and calling him to the door struck the latter between the eyes with brass nucks, knocking him senseless. They had both had a difficulty. Both are colored. Parker was landed in jail and on Monday Judge Parrish fined him \$10 and costs.

[POLICE COURT]: There were three cases in court, all involving colored persons, for engaging in Sunday fights, and charged with assault and battery.

[COUNTY WEALTH COMPARED]: Woodford, one of the smallest counties in the Commonwealth, compares in taxable wealth according to the last assessments as follows: Woodford, \$8,509,000; Mercer, \$4,571,000; Jessamine, \$4,797,356; Madison, \$8,089,000; Clark, \$8,123,620; and, Warren, \$9,500,000.

BOA wants safeguards to prevent sex offender from renting short-term rental in Midway

BY BOB VLACH
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

After hearing a neighboring property owner's concern about a proposed short-term rental (STR) near a public park in Midway at a hearing on Monday, the Board of Adjustments (BOA) took no action. Instead, applicant Cameron Miller agreed to explore adding an enhanced background check to their application process to address concerns related to the dangers of a sex offender renting the property at 421 Elkton Place for up to 30 days.

"This decision is about ... whether transient lodging belongs within 5 feet of their neighbors, 35 feet from the university athletic field, and steps away from the public park," Mark Perkins told the BOA. He identified himself and his wife as the owners of a neighboring house on Gratz Street where their daughter and her family with three young daughters live. He urged the BOA to make "a reasonable decision that helps protect our children and preserves the character of our neighborhood."

The BOA agreed to take no action on the application for a conditional use permit (CUP) until Miller can provide them with information about adding an enhanced background check to his application process for the property. It was unclear if a BOA decision will come next month because three of the five BOA members may not be present, so the body may not have a legally required quorum to take action.

Miller whose company operates other STRs, told the BOA that no one has asked him to add an enhanced background check before, "so this is a new question for me..." when asked if he has used enhanced background check software in the past.

No provision exists in the zoning ordinance regulating STRs that directly addresses the concern raised during the hearing about sex offenders renting STRs; although state law does require general language with an approval that protects the public health, safety and welfare.

During a BOA discussion about the application, it was noted a sex offender registry list exists for Kentucky residents and residents of Kentucky are sent alerts when a registered sex offender moves into their neighborhood.

Perkins told the BOA that the public park was 168 feet away from the property proposed for an STR, and noted that state law prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 1,000 feet of a school, playground and day-care facility.

The applicant submitted eight conditions to operate a STR in the three-bedroom home, including a maximum occupancy of six people, quiet hours (from 9 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and off-street parking for up to three vehicles in a driveway and garage. His is zoned R-3 (medium density residential), a district eligible for a CUP to operate a short-term rental.

The applicant informed the BOA that they have provided neighbors with contact information if issues arise related to the STR, but Wendy Perkins said she and her husband were unsuccessful in their efforts to contact the applicant about a fence they were installing at their Gratz Street property.

Zoning regulations

Planning Director Steve Hunter updated the BOA on changes to the zoning ordinance, including revisions to conditional use permits.

The changes include in-family land conveyance applications that will now be coming to the BOA for an approval of a CUP before moving to the Planning Commission, which will approve the plat subdividing the property. "We're not sure how this is going to work. We're not sure exactly what the role of this board will really be," told the BOA.

However, he said if issues related to health and safety issues (such as the need for a fire hydrant or a road being too narrow) are raised during a public hearing, those issues "are right in the realm of what you all have historically looked at."

Hunter said zoning ordinance revisions also add standards for a campground as a conditional use in the conservation district, while limiting RV parks to industrial zones.

Guidelines for letters to the editor:

The Woodford Sun welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be original, on topics of public interest, and not addressed to a third party.

Letters must contain the name, address, and daytime telephone number of the writer for purposes of verification. The Sun does not publish unsigned or unverifiable letters. We reserve the right to reject or condense any letter and to limit frequent writers. Letters should be typed, not in all upper case, and be no longer than 400 words.

Thank-you letters and those containing personal messages are not accepted, nor are all letters concerning candidates for local offices.

The deadline for receipt of letters is noon Monday. Letters may be brought to our office at 184 South Main Street, mailed to us at P.O. Box 29, Versailles, KY 40383, or emailed to news@woodfordsun.com.