

# Frankfort Plant Board has water flowing to Midway

By SCOTT WHITE  
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

The major public works project begun during the term of former Midway mayor Stacy Thurman and the Midway City Council, switching from Kentucky American Water Company (KAW) to the Frankfort Plant Board (Board), is now complete and running as of Wednesday, May 13.

The project was expected to be ready last spring, but the Board required two extensions to construct a new pump station due to delays from parts manufacturers.

At Midway City Council's Monday night meeting, Midway Mayor Grayson Vandegrift said the switch-over was nearly seamless except for a minor problem, which caused an hour loss of water to the city when KAW inadvertently shut off two valves at the wrong time. Vandegrift said the city water manager "kept his cool and calmly worked with KAW to work it out." "This is a big plus for our citizens and taxpayers," Vandegrift said. "KAW got several rate increases over the last few years, and the Plant Board only filed for one in the last five years. We are now paying \$2.55 per 1,000 gallons of water instead of \$8.31 to KAW."

## Farmers raise concerns about running and bicycle races

A group of farmers and horse breeders raised concerns about the impact of running and bicycle race events that traverse Spring Station and Woodlake roads. Spring Station essentially extends from Stephens Street in Midway and later dead-ends at Woodlake, which runs from Old Frankfort to Leestown Pike.

Located in this area are several historic farms, such as Nuckols, and horse breeding farms, as well as cattle and ground crops. Heavy farm machinery uses these roads daily, which are narrow with no real berm, and pastures and barns with high-strung thoroughbreds and other horses about the roads.

The primary spokesperson for the group was Michelle Lyons who gave specific details about issues with runners and cyclists in large numbers causing several problems, such as: causing de facto road closures, making entry and exit from farms difficult, creating serious safety issues for high-strung horses, particularly during foaling season, producing large amounts of trash and even human waste on the side of the road, creating possible emergencies if veterinarians or first responders cannot get through to the farm, and making it difficult for farm workers to

get to work on time. As Lyons pointed out, these businesses are open 24/7, 365 days a week, and just because most of the races occur on a weekend does not lessen the issue.

Charlie Nuckols, who also operates Nuckols Hay and Grain and a boarding and riding lessons business, recounted that it took his partner nearly 40 minutes to get to the farm from Midway during one of the races.

Hurst Nuckols recounted how, during one race, a few weeks after his wife gave birth, a group set up a water station in his driveway entrance, blocking any ability to get in or out. When he asked the folks to move, they simply refused.

"We like to be good neighbors and to accommodate folks," Alfred Nuckols said. "But there is a total lack of consideration from not just the participants, but the people running these. The race organizers make money, and they are not being responsible." Vandegrift said the council and city had limited ability to impact this since the roads impacted are outside of Midway's jurisdiction, and they are controlled by the county or state. Vandegrift pointed out that unless organizers who use those roads on their race routes obtain county permission, then any permission Midway gives is meaningless.

Vandegrift did point out that the concerns with the Jan. 1 "Frozen Rails" run have been switched from going out Spring Station to going to Wiesenberger Mill instead. And that in the last few months, the city adopted a new race permit application requesting more details before approval, including a plan worked out with the Versailles Police Department to deal with traffic issues.

Following the meeting, Vandegrift said the council may consider making it a requirement for a Midway permit seeker to first obtain its permit from the county if the route uses county and Midway roads.

## Midway Christian Church and Fall Festival

After numerous meetings and discussions over the past two months, the council and Midway Christian Church worked out a solution to permit the church to rent stalls to vendors during Fall Festival along Bruen Street.

Councilmembers Logan Nance and Steve Simoff both said they appreciated the ability to resolve the issue, which addresses safety and crowd concerns while allowing the church to raise significant dollars for its missions. They both said the city can try it this year, see how it goes and make any needed changes next year.

# Woodford County native, her son in 'Hunchback'



ERIN TUTTLE, a 1994 graduate of Woodford County High School, says she's "ridiculously proud" of her son Addison, who is portraying Quasimodo in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at Woodford Theatre. (Photo submitted)

By BOB VLACH  
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Auditioning for roles in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" was an opportunity for Woodford County native Erin Tuttle and her son, Addison, to be a part of a musical that they've enjoyed watching.

So they embraced an opportunity to tell this beautiful story to Woodford Theatre audiences, but Erin is more excited for her 22-year-old son because playing Quasimodo is a role "he has worked on singing for years, for years," she says. "And so this was really special. I don't think a week goes by where someone in the cast" doesn't remind her how "ridiculously proud" she is of Addison.

Erin, who plays Madam Matildas, an ensemble role, says, "We dance past each other a few times," but

watching her son portray Quasimodo from backstage lets her see his growth as a performer onstage.

"I've always wanted to do this," says Addison, who graduated from the University of Kentucky with a theater degree last fall.

Seeing a live performance of "The Lion King" exposed him to people on stage, who he says got to act, sing and dance all at once. The experience made him realize "that's what I want to do."

His introduction to Woodford Theatre happened before he was born. In 2002, Erin remembers telling others in a cast that she was pregnant. Later, he came along for rehearsals — "running around that backstage" — as a baby, she remembers.

"So before he even knew it," she adds, laughing, "he was kind of already a part of it."

## BUDGET

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lies with higher meal costs, but also acknowledged the much larger increase that would be mandated by KDE before she voted to approve the price increase. Springgate cast the lone no vote on the 4 to 1 vote to increase breakfast and lunch prices.

## Pisgah property

The BOE voted 4 to 1, with Springgate voting no, on a motion to sell the former Woodford County Board of Education and Central Office property at 330 Pisgah Pike and accept sealed bids. Those offices have been moved to portions of the old Woodford County High School building.

"I do think it's fiscally responsible for us, the board, to sell the Pisgah property," said Jones during the budget work session.

## Auditors hired

The BOE unanimously approved a contract with Maddox & Associates, certified public accountants in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, for fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, through 2030. Its fee will

be \$24,000 in 2026 and will increase by \$1,000 annually.

A request for proposals from other auditing firms was made after the district's previous auditor, Summers, McCrary & Sparks, informed Gribbins that it would not be available to provide auditing services to WCPS for FY26, Gribbins said.

## Retirees honored

The BOE recognized 14 retiring employees for giving 271 years to public education.

"This is always such an exciting part of May to recognize our retirees," WCPS Communications Officer Elaine Bailey said. "... Tonight, it's all about the honor and gratitude we just want to give to them. We're just so thankful for the work that our teachers and staff members do every day."

Jill Hall of Southside Elementary has been the "ultimate cheerleader" for her students and colleagues during 35-plus years in public education, Southside Principal Paige Samples said. "Quite simply," she continued, "no one loves Southside more than she does."

Peggy Henry became like a grandma to students

at Southside over the last decade, cafeteria Manager Amanda Sargent said. She said Miss Peggy "opened up her arms and heart, and she showed me how to do (our jobs) the school way."

Emmaline McNabb has spent her more than three decades at Southside "doing so much more than teaching," said Samples. As a special education teacher who always finds innovative ways for her students to participate and thrive, "she's been a passionate advocate, a leader among her peers, and a fierce believer that every single student can learn at high levels."

For more than two decades at WCHS, Cathy Lafser has lifted students with her legendary hallway pep talks — "pouring belief into them until they finally feel like, 'Okay, I guess I really am completing this assignment,'" WCHS Assistant Principal Amanda Best said. She lauded Lafser for being a fierce advocate of students who refused "to give up on them."

During her decade of service Carla Stephanski didn't show up to do a job, Trans-

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

The City of Midway  
Monday, May 25 | 10:00 am  
Midway Cemetery on W. Stephens/Spring Station Road  
Featuring a musical selection performed by Blake Jones  
We hope you will join us.

Find us on 