

Dake wants to continue as Versailles Mayor

I'm pleased to announce that I am running for Versailles Mayor and would be honored to serve for a full term. I have served thoughtfully and ably the past year-and-a-half following my appointment in late 2024. The city is strong, and our future is bright. I bring significant experience to the job and am dedicated to serving this community with integrity, transparency, compassion and vision. I am dedicated to strengthening Versailles' economic viability while retaining its close sense of community.



Laura Dake

years, my husband Bill and I raised three children here. Before becoming mayor, I worked in the senior services field for many years, most recently at ITNAmerica as Project Manager for a national demonstration project that brought Woodford Wheels to Woodford County, a service that has provided nearly 4,500 rides to county residents. I serve on three boards, including Woodford Wheels, the Bluegrass Council for the Blind, and the Versailles Housing Authority.

I can be reached at laurada-keformayor@gmail.com or 859-351-0460 and am happy to speak with you. I am #5 on the ballot and would be grateful for your continued support on November 3rd!

What I am working on:

- Creating well-paying jobs without damaging our irreplaceable landscape;
 - Maintaining a fiscally responsible city budget while keeping city taxes low;
 - Improving our infrastructure (water/sewer/streets/stormwater/cemeteries);
 - Strengthening public safety (police/fire);
 - Communicating with residents more effectively;
 - Improving quality of life (events, parks, walkability, housing and retail options);
 - Continuing to encourage residents to get involved in the work of the community.
- A Versailles resident for 34

Midway Council begins discussion on golf carts

By SCOTT WHITE
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Midway Mayor Grayson Vandegrift opened up a discussion about the use of golf carts in Midway, which some residents use for transportation around town, at the Midway City Council meeting on Monday, July 6.

"The state law has change to allow cities to begin regulating the use of golf carts on city streets with a speed limit of under 35 m.p.h.," he said. "Before then, they were simply illegal, so we need to make a decision."

Vandegrift said he had spoken with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to glean details, and was told the city cannot regulate on state roads and golf carts are forbidden on them. This means that it is illegal to operate a golf cart on any state road, like Winter Street, which runs through Midway.

Councilmember Patrick Hall, a lawyer, said the statute also defines what a golf cart is and what such vehicles must have to be able to be operated on city streets. This also includes a requirement that a county's sheriff must inspect the golf cart and approve it for operation on streets. This entails a fee.

Vandegrift said the council would listen to public comment, including

reading out loud any emails sent from residents on the subject, and then form a committee to study the issue. The committee would be required to come back to the City Council by the end of August with a recommendation. He also said that City Attorney Sharon Gold will analyze the relevant statutes and look at how other cities are dealing with the issue so that she can advise both the committee and the City Council.

Several folks spoke in favor of allowing golf carts. James Justice, who recently retired and moved to Midway, said he has a cart and it makes it easier to get around. Joyce Lang, who also moved from Lexington to retire, said she uses her golf cart for similar purposes. Jon Maybriar said he also has a golf cart, which is his primary method for getting around Midway. He also suggested the city form a committee to look into the issue since the ability for cities to regulate golf carts presents a real opportunity for the committee.

Cortney Neikirk and Zach Rankin spoke on behalf of the Midway Merchants Association (MMA). Neikirk said MMA uses golf carts during the Midway Bourbon and Blues Festival and the Midway Fall Festival for a variety of purposes, from transporting

visitors and vendors to and from parking lots to setting out and picking up traffic cones. Because of this, MMA wants an exception to any golf cart ordinance that would otherwise limit their use during these events.

Vandegrift said in his conversation with the Transportation Cabinet, the representative said, "Golf carts will never be allowed on state roads, including where a city street crosses a state road." The one exception to this Vandegrift said was for events like the Fall Festival, and only then as a crossing with police presence.

Vandegrift told the City Council that he would seek a diverse group of opinions to serve on the committee, and specifically asked Hall and Maybriar to serve. "We need to try to get this resolved by the end of August so the Merchants Association will know what they can and can't do," he said.

New dump truck

The council approved the purchase of a new Dodge Ram 5500 11-foot dump truck from John Jones Dodge for \$82,827.50. Vandegrift said the current truck's engine had finally become unrepairable, and the truck selected for purchase was on the recommendation of the city's director of public works.

BOA approves short-term rental on Fords Mill Road, variance in Midway

By BOB VLACH
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

An application for a conditional use permit (CUP) to operate a short-term rental at 1430 Shore Acres Road was approved by the Board of Adjustments (BOA) after a public hearing on Monday, when neighbors asked questions and shared some concerns.

In her application for the CUP, property owner Rachel Gniady (Rocketfam, LLC) placed eight conditions on operating a short-term rental in the four-bedroom home, including up to 10 guests (and the person who rents the property must be 25 years old or older), quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the 24-hour availability of a local property manager if problems arise with a renter.

The BOA added conditions to its approval of the CUP for the short-term rental – no parties or events or outside guests, and no amplified music performances, including bands, DJs or karaoke – in response to concerns raised by neighbor Julie Springer.

"We don't want any more short-term rentals," Springer, who lives and owns properties on Shore Acres Road, said. "... We want neighbors."

She told the BOA that she's had issues with another short-term rental on Shore Acres Road not having an on-site manager and outside guests (people who are not renters) coming onto the property for "a big party." She also shared concerns about allowing amplified music in an area where outdoor sound carries large distances. "So it's serious, the noise issue down there," she said. "So we don't want any

amplified noise..."

Kenan Mujkanovic, an attorney representing Gniady, told the BOA that his client has made a significant investment to restore the property because of damage caused by flooding.

"This project is especially meaningful" to Gniady because she was a victim of Hurricane Katrina, Mujkanovic said. He said Gniady, who lives in New Orleans, has owned and operated several short-term rentals over the last seven years.

BOA Chair Tim Turney and board member Tandy Pryor were absent, so Vice Chair David Prewitt chaired the meeting.

Variance in Midway

The BOA approved a setback variance so a two-family residence can be constructed at 330 Second Street in Midway.

The residential (R-2) lot fronts both First and Second streets, which was a significant factor in property owner Robert Feagin needing a 30-foot variance, Planning Director Steve Hunter told BOA members. Two-car driveways are shown on the plat for a duplex – one residence fronting Second Street and the other fronting First Street.

A neighboring property owner said she has concerns about parking on First Street, but Hunter told her a proposed 25-foot setback for both residences is adequate for a two-car driveway that will keep those vehicles off the street.

It was noted in the motion for approval that the shape of the property made the variance essential.

Hearing postponed

A public hearing on an application from Derrick Poor for a CUP to create an in-family conveyance lot on 34.881 acres at 6633 Fords Mill Road was postponed because there was no one representing the applicant at the meeting.



A DAIRY COW NAMED BEE visited the Woodford County Library on July 7 for a program to educate children about milk and other dairy products. Read more about her visit in next week's Sun. (Photo by Bob Vlach)

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