

What's Growing On...

Scavenger hunt

By Joanna Dunlap Kirby
Contributing gardening columnist,
Owner and operator of a cut flower farm in Garrard County

Leaves are falling, winds are blowing and the air is finally beginning to cool off. I am delighted! Fall has arrived in all her glory with vivid oranges, reds and yellow popping up in our yards, forests and byways. Pumpkins and corn shocks adorn many pathways and front doors as time marches on.

I have been busy as a bee (still) taking care of those last-minute chores that never seem to get finished. I really think I need a spreadsheet to work this out, but I lack the time it takes to come inside, sit at the computer and work on one. I would much rather be outdoors feeling the breeze on my face watching the leaves as they slowly float to the earth.

That brings us around to 'The List'.

Don't forget to winterize your watering system by unhooking and rolling up your garden hoses, checking outdoor water faucets for leaks or cracks, and emptying pails and buckets. Remove any stakes or trellising that may blow over in those cold winds and turnover your compost pile so it will break down for Spring use. Plant any Spring blooming bulbs now, and add a generous handful of bonemeal in the hole. Fill it in with soil and add a few inches of mulch over the top to keep it from heaving up during the Winter. Dig any Summer flowering bulbs, tubers or corms from dahlias, caladiums, cannas and gladioluses and store them in a cool (not freezing), dry location.

I always wait for the 'killing frost' before I dig my dahlias. Thus, triggering them to go into dormancy and survive my storage method.

It's not too late to plant evergreens, shrubs and trees giving them an ample supply of water as you do, and weekly if we don't have rain until the ground freezes. Instead of raking leaves we use a mulching attachment on the mower that puts chopped up leaves back on the ground. They will decompose and breakdown during Winter and help to enrich your lawn. If you do not have one of these attachments, you may need to get out your trusty rake and move them around a bit.

I am still gathering herbs to dry and share as Christmas presents. I have an old wooden drying rack that I spread them out on since I will be burning a fire and cannot use the mantle for drying. Once they are dry to the touch, I put them in a 200-degree oven on cookie sheets for a few minutes to make sure they are completely dry. Using a large bowl I then remove the leaves throwing away the stems and store them in small, glass jars. It's important to make sure they are dry before storing. If not, they may mold in the jars and not be safe to use. Today, I am harvesting sage, oregano, dill and parsley. I had lovely parsley earlier this summer and just when I was getting ready to harvest some,

I spotted several Swallowtail caterpillars having a feast. I immediately withdrew and photographed them instead. They were trying to eat as fast as they could before crawling onto a sturdier support to make their chrysalis on. In doing this it has prompted me to remind you that there are many other insects that use garden debris such as old leaves, stems, wood piles, tree bark, etc. for their winter homes. Look around your yard and gardens to see if you can locate some of them.

Just the other day I was tidying up a flower bed under a common buttonbush (cephalanthus occidentalis) and spotted three silkworm moth cocoons (promethea silkmoth) hanging almost side-by-side. I was amazed for several reasons. One, that they were even there and two, because I saw them!

Hence the title, scavenger hunt.

One more tidbit of information. Raking leaves now can reduce the number of fireflies next summer, and a thanks to Sue of the wonderful Woodford County Master Gardeners group, for that tidbit. Just rake them off your garden paths and walkways and leave the rest for the bugs.

Happy Fall

The Pink Sisters

By Haylee Hogan
WCHS student journalist

On Friday, Oct.16, 2026, in downtown Versailles, the community came together to support breast cancer awareness at the third annual "Light Up Woodford County," which aims to turn all of downtown pink, with most everyone wearing something pink.

The event offered educational booths, temporary tattoos and face paint for kids, live music and the breast cancer "Honor Walk" to the courthouse, where the annual group photograph is taken, which ran in the Oct. 22 edition of *The Woodford Sun*. Light Up Woodford County is held in October because it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The event brought breast cancer survivors, fighters and families together to show support and let it be known that no one fights alone.

Hosted by the Pink Sisters of Versailles, the community was able to walk around and learn about breast cancer and how to spot signs for early detection, which can be critical to a successful battle with the disease.

Chrissy Brooks was the guest speaker this year. She shared her breast cancer journey story, and how important it is to not put off your screening exams.

"The most important piece of advice I can give you is to get your yearly mammogram and do self-checks," she said.

Pink Sisters was co-founded by sisters Amy Thomas Iwahara and Catherine Anderson. Catherine said, "My daughter Peyton Whitaker deserves most of the credit. It all started with her idea to create banners honoring breast cancer along Main and Lexington streets and those we have lost."

Pink Sisters started as a small way to show support to community members, and has since grown into a non-profit organization that hosts monthly meetings for those affected by breast cancer.

Catherine explained in an email what she hopes the community will take away from this impactful event: "My hope is that this event not only raises awareness about breast cancer, but also reminds those facing the diagnosis that they are never alone."

At the Honor Walk this year, the community really showed up to support and honor one another. The courthouse steps were filled for the photo at the end, and you could see the event's impact. Once the large crowd dispersed, the survivors took another photo together. Amy said the photographs are her favorite part of the event. "After the group photo, we ask the survivors to stay for a survivor photo. These are the real heroes and warriors who make Pink Sisters," she said.

Catherine was very open about her diagnosis and journey, saying, "I found my lump about a month before my 36th birthday and thought I would just mention it at my upcoming annual physical. Shortly after turning 36, I was diagnosed with triple-positive breast cancer. I never imagined I would be facing breast cancer at that age. That's why I can't stress enough the importance of self-awareness, paying attention to changes, and speaking up when something doesn't seem right. Don't assume you're too young. Early detection can save lives!"

Cancer is incredibly scary. It doesn't matter the time, place or person.

"I wish everyone knew that preventive care truly saves lives, and lean on your support system," Amy stressed. "We are here for anyone and everyone in our community; no one has to fight alone."

Pink Sisters is offering free mammograms on Dec. 7, 2026, in Woodford County. You can register for a mammogram appointment on their Facebook page: Pink Sisters - Versailles, KY.

Editor's Note: This story is the product of the school system's "Portrait of a Learner" partnership between the Sun and WCHS teacher Renee Boss' journalism class, in which the Sun works with students to write and publish news stories.

HOUSING

Continued from p. 1

vation Easements," but also included acreage information and statistics about the Conservation District.

Isberg stressed that those are two different terms, with one being a land district and the other being an easement placed on the land to protect farmland from being developed. "I'm going to make a note to clarify that," she said, which she added is another reason she would like to see more people attend and provide input at meetings like the one held last Thursday.

"This is what we want the public to do, is come and look at it," said Isberg, so they can tell us when something doesn't make sense or should be changed.

Two more meetings are coming up – tonight, Nov. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Northside Elementary in Midway, and Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Troy Presbyterian Church. The meetings will give people another opportunity to give input and ask questions about the new and updated chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

The process of updating the 2018 Comprehensive Plan began in the spring of 2023 with a series of public meetings led by facilitators from the Kentucky League of Cities, Hunter told those attending last Thursday's meeting.

After the goals and objectives were approved by the city and county governments in 2024, more meetings were held to get additional public feedback on other chapters in the plan, he said.

Hunter said a Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that provides a blueprint for the future for a community, but is not a law and is typically only used for zone change requests to determine if the zoning is appropriate.

A Comprehensive Plan is reviewed every five years, Hunter said, but an update is not required every five years under state law. He said plans that are done well can be 10-, 15-, 20- and 30-year planning documents for communities.



KRISTIN INGWELL-GOODE, at right, spoke to Planning Commissioner Karen Isberg, who chairs the subcommittee working on an update to the Comprehensive Plan, during a meeting on Oct. 29 in Versailles. (Photo by Bob Vlach)

OF THE 25 OR SO PEOPLE at a public hearing to discuss proposed updates and new chapters in the Comprehensive Plan on Oct. 29, about half were elected or appointed officeholders, candidates for public office, or employees of the city, county or Planning Commission. (Photo by Bob Vlach)

Two more meetings are coming up – tonight, Nov. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Northside Elementary in Midway, and Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Troy Presbyterian Church.



MADISON McGOLDRICK, a school psychologist, received a Superintendent's HIVE Award during the Woodford County Board of Education's meeting on Oct. 26. Recently honored with the Kentucky Association of Psychology in the Schools Regional Best Practice Award, McGoldrick was honored on Oct. 26 for seamlessly blending deep clinical expertise with genuine empathy. Pictured, from left, are BOE Chair Adam Brickler, BOE members Sarah McCoun and KT Gould, McGoldrick, BOE student-representative Reese Divine, Superintendent Lori Jones and BOE Vice Chair Ambrose Wilson.(Photo by Bob Vlach)



ROBIN TAYLOR, principal at Northside Elementary School, received a Superintendent's HIVE Award on Oct. 26 at the Woodford County Board of Education meeting for "her wholehearted support of both students and staff," with "a student-first mindset." Pictured, from left, are BOE Chair Adam Brickler, BOE members Sarah McCoun and KT Gould, Taylor, BOE student-representative Reese Divine, Superintendent Lori Jones and BOE Vice Chair Ambrose Wilson. To nominate a student, staff member or community partner for a HIVE Award visit the Woodford County Public Schools website and fill out a nomination form. (Photo by Bob Vlach)



NATALIE BASANTA, a freshman at Woodford County High School, received a Superintendent's HIVE Award during the Woodford County Board of Education meeting on Oct. 26 for being a foundational member of Woodford County Middle School's FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) chapter as an eight grader last school year. Natalie was honored for being the only student in the FCCLA chapter at WCMS to qualify and compete at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. last summer. Pictured, from left, are BOE Chair Adam Brickler, BOE members Sarah McCoun and KT Gould, Natalie, BOE student-representative Reese Divine, Superintendent Lori Jones and BOE Vice Chair Ambrose Wilson. (Photo by Bob Vlach)