



CHILD ABUSE, SEXUAL ABUSE PROCLAMATIONS

Russell Springs Police Chief Bryan Shepard welcomed representatives from the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), Children's Advocacy Center, Adanta Sexual Assault Resource Center (ASARC) and the Kentucky State Police as proclamations were signed last week to promote April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. City officials pledged to do their part to promote awareness and inform citizens about avenues of support.

Leadership Kentucky Accepting Applications

Leadership Kentucky is now accepting applications for the "BRIGHT Kentucky" Class of 2026. Since its launch in 2019, nearly 300 young professionals have graduated from the program that equips them to make a lasting impact on their communities and organizations.

"BRIGHT Kentucky" is designed to develop the next generation of leaders in the Appalachian region of Kentucky. This life-changing program will drive them to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. The program is designed to engage keen, entrepreneurial minds from all backgrounds to offer non-partisan, ethical leadership training, and expanded networks designed especially for residents of the 54 Kentucky counties of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). It is made possible through private funding from the Whitaker

Foundation, Kentucky Power Foundation, and others.

"Leadership Kentucky is pleased to have the opportunity to welcome the next BRIGHT Kentucky class this summer, developing the next generation of leaders for Kentucky's Appalachian Region," said Janice Way, President and CEO of Leadership Kentucky. "BRIGHT Kentucky works in collaboration with local leadership programs, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, colleges/universities, and Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) to recruit candidates, create programming, and develop meaningful discussions. This program is not competitive with any existing programs, so BRIGHT is a win for all in the region."

The Class of 2026 will gather in July in Berea and will travel to Adair County and Russellville in August, Ashland and Morehead

in September, Pikeville in October, and Middlesboro, Pineville and Harlan in November. Five months of three-day sessions throughout the Appalachian Region provide opportunities for aspiring leaders to connect with peers, develop leadership skills, and gain inspiration to create positive impact in their communities.

"The BRIGHT program is designed for young professionals who live and work in one of Kentucky's ARC counties. Each participant is thoughtfully selected to ensure a broad representation across geographic, ethnic, and demographic sectors, wrote Senior Director of Communications Carrie Truitt.

Anyone interested in being a member of the "BRIGHT Kentucky" Class of 2026, the application form is available online at leadershipky.org. All applications are due May 18.

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— Continued from Page One

The letter concerned property near Butler Lane and Robertson Street.

"I would like to address some particular concerns that have been relayed to us regarding the property of the late Marilyn Roy," the letter began. "We...have heard the commentary either in passing, or on the radio or in the newspaper that Mrs. Roy's home stands to be purchased by private industry and utilized as a substance abuse treatment facility."

"Although we have heard this commentary, or these rumors in our private capacities, the commission, itself, has fielded no requests from anybody or any entity seeking a change to our current zoning map or our regulations," the letter said. "Please know that the property of the late Mrs. Roy is zoned R2, and as such, does not afford the property to be used for commercial purposes, and to be used for medical treatment purposes."

"To be clear, the commission has not received any sort of request for a zone change, conditional use permit, or variance regarding the property of the late Mrs. Roy," the correspondence continued. "If such a request is made, same will be handled and administered by the commission per our zoning regulations...with no doubt, an opportunity given for open, public comment."

(A long-time, beloved educator and historian, Mrs. Roy, who passed away last June, lived in what is considered one of the premier homes and properties in the area.)

Russell Springs Mayor Eddie Thomas said Scott Wells, a co-owner/founder of SPARC, a local addiction recovery center, requested to speak with the council "on this issue."

"I just wanted to come and let you know we have not acquired anything (in reference to) the Roy home," Wells said. "I've not contacted any of the family, any real estate agents, anything like that as far as pertaining to that."

"I kinda just wanted to clear the air," Wells said, "and let you know

we have no intentions of currently looking at any property in Russell Springs. I just wanted to put that out there and let everybody know because apparently we have a lot of people that like to say we're involved in a lot of this real estate stuff, and we're just not. As of today, we have no intention of purchasing any other property in Russell Springs."

Wells invited the council to visit the SPARC facilities to gain a "better understanding" of their operations, and their adherence to state and federal requirements.

He further said he hopes the information he gave the council will put a rest to a lot of the "political fear mongering."

Lake Cumberland Tourism Director Danielle Wilson addressed the council concerning sponsorship for the upcoming 2026 High School Fishing World Finals at Lake Cumberland June 22-27.

"We acquired this through a \$35,000 ARPA grant," Wilson told the council, "and I applied for a grant for a sporting event that had never been to your county or your state within the last three years. This specific tournament has never been in Kentucky at all."

"So we were super-happy when I applied and we were awarded this fishing tournament," she said. Participants from 40 states are expected to attend the local event.

"We're expecting anywhere from 450-500 anglers," the tourism director told the council. "That's going to be two anglers and a boat captain on each boat. They're all (in) high school, so you know, mamas, grandmas, aunts, and uncles and all the people are going to come and watch."

"We're espying 3-4,000 spectators," she said.

Weigh-ins will be at the Veterans Fairgrounds due to Corps of Engineer restrictions at and around the Wolf Creek Dam.

"We are requesting a sponsorship from the City of Russell

Springs," Wilson said. "I try not to ask anything from anybody if we can be as self-sufficient as we can be. We've made it so far, but this tournament, the more people we have on board, the better it's going to look for our community."

Wilson said the overall cost for the tournament is \$100,000, and some entities have already donated in the ranges of \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Approximately \$25,000 will be needed to lodge participants, she said, along with "a whole list of things we will have to provide."

"But in return," Wilson said, "we are expecting, based on our numbers... anywhere from \$2.3 to \$3 million they will leave here. The economic impact is significant for not only Russell Springs and Jamestown, but all of Russell County."

"We get to showcase everything we have here," She said. "And if everything goes well... we have the right of first refusal to have it again here in four years."

Russell Springs Councilman Gary Frost asked "how close" the tourist commission is "to the \$100,000 you need."

"We are right at \$83,400," Wilson said, which includes the ARPA grant and a \$5,000 Lake Area Foundation grant.

Councilman Ricky Barnes suggested the council "table" the request "so the council can have some additional time to review our budget and consider...before taking action."

The motion was unanimously approved by the council.

Mayor Thomas said the city will "review" the budget to see what's left for possible un-budgeted donations.

In discussion of city property taxes, Clerk Ramsey said the city looks to have a less than ten percent delinquency rate.

"Last year, it was a lot more," he said, pointing out a downward trend in delinquencies. "I'm pretty proud of the staff for staying on top of it."

NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

In order to comply with the orders of the Russell Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Russell Circuit Court shall proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder at public auction the below properties on **Friday, April 24, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., CT, Russell District Courtroom, Russell County Judicial Center, Jamestown, Kentucky.**

Said properties shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and upon (unless otherwise indicated) the following terms and conditions:

A) For the purchase price, the Purchaser(s) must pay in full by cash or good check on the date of sale or the Purchaser(s) may pay ten (10%) down on the day of sale and shall execute a good and sufficient purchase money bond, with approved surety thereon, equal to the balance of the purchase price payable to the Master Commissioner within thirty (30) days. Any such purchase money bond shall have the force and effect of a Judgment and shall be a lien upon the property sold as additional security for the payment of the balance of the purchase price. The Master Commissioner's bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears from the date of sale until paid in full. **In the event the successful bidder is not paying the full amount of the purchase price on the date of sale, purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon.** In the event the successful bidder is the Plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the Plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the Judgment amount.

B) Purchaser shall be required to pay property taxes for current tax year and all taxes thereafter, for which the Purchaser(s) shall receive no credit against the purchase price.

C) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Russell County Court Clerk's Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s).

The Master Commissioner Sale/Deed is not a warranty of good title. Possession shall be given to the Purchaser(s) with the delivery of the Master Commissioner's Deed thereto. Purchaser(s) will assume and be responsible for all risks of loss to the premises upon acceptance of their bid by the Master Commissioner at the Master Commissioner's Sale.

Bidder should examine the records of the Russell Circuit Clerk and the Russell County Clerk prior to the sale for further information. Any statements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over advertised material. Bidder shall be prepared to comply promptly with these terms.

(Sale bonds will bear interest at the rate of Judgment entered in each separate action)

SALE NO. 1

Property: 11 Cayden Lane, Russell Springs, KY 42642 Map ID: 033-00-00-020.16
STOCKTON MORTGAGE CORPORATION C/O SERVICEMAC, LLC vs. RANDALL L. WALLS and SUSAN DORRENE WALLS
ACTION NO. 25-CI-00162 AMOUNT TO BE RAISED: \$136,692.84