

POOL

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Memorial Day Week-end if everything went as planned.

When Councilman Jerry Little asked if the contractors played a role in the delay, Sandlin said that the contractors and project manager Brian Reed did their jobs well, but that the external factors, such as bad weather and supply chain delays, couldn't be avoided.

Mayor Bruce Fraley expressed his regret that the pool would be closed, but he said the pool was in serious need of repair due to significant safety issues on the deck, as well as chronic problems with the pool's plumbing.

"I'm very disappointed that the pool is not going to open," Fraley said. "But I also think we need to acknowledge that the pool is over 30 years old. It was at the point that it was going to have to be shut down if we didn't do something to get it repaired."

Fraley added that since public safety is a priority for the city, doing the repairs was unavoidable.

"Without the repairs, we couldn't guarantee their safety," Fraley said, adding. "My hope is that we can get it fixed and do it right so that we can have it for the next 30 years."

Berea Parks and Recreation Director Priscilla Bloom said she shares the public's frustration that the pool will be closed for the season.

"We just hope people will understand. They are going to be disappointed and frustrated, and I can't blame them one bit. I feel the same way," Bloom said.

"The pool is a pretty important place for people in Berea and in surrounding communities. But like the mayor said, the pool is over 30 years old. The repairs had to be done. We were trying to keep that from interfering with the pool season, but that didn't happen."

The \$2.3 million renovation of the 32-year-old facility included replacement of the pool floor with a safer, softer material, two new diving boards, new drains and repaired gutters, and two new slides.

Berea City Councilman Steve Caudill expressed surprised at the delay, wondering if the renovation contract contained any recompense for the lost pool season due to delays. Sandlin said he would consult the contract.

In the meantime, Terrill requested contacting Berea College to determine whether the public could temporarily use the swimming pool on campus.

Sandlin said that on the current schedule, the pool could have been ready by the first week of August. Unfortunately, the city would have incurred significant staffing and preparation costs to open it, only to have to close the facility for the season two weeks later.

Details on the upcoming summer programs are forthcoming, officials said.

DIVIDE

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related to development, stating some information out there is mere rumor. Taylor said rumors of a gaming center (allowing off-track betting) are still just rumors. County Planning Director Bert Thomas, meanwhile, said rumors that a large residential development is pending in Red Lick are not true either, since the infrastructure needed simply doesn't exist.


At one point in the discussion on development, Combs said that people need to also consider the potentially positive elements instead of focusing solely on the negative.

Combs noted, for example, that professionals like doctors and tech workers are looking for places to live, and that they can contribute to the county's tax base and support local schools.

"It's more than just about whether you like development," Combs said.

Taylor, meanwhile, encouraged members of the public to contact him or magistrates directly when they need to confirm whether something is true.

Taylor lamented the fact that rumors run wild on social media, and that he has been accused online of having a direct financial interest in future devel-



Madison County Magistrate Brian Combs, right, answered a question from Kristie Bratcher at a Fiscal Court town hall meeting last week at Central Kentucky Regional Airport. Bratcher expressed concern about overdevelopment in Madison County. Combs said there are two sides to development, and that it can attract professionals and help build the county's revenue base.

opment – something he said is not true, and that he serves because he loves Madison County. When in doubt, Taylor said, call him.

"We won't always agree, but I don't want to hurt anybody," Taylor said.

"Our job as elected officials is not to tell someone what they can and can't do with their property. But we can try to limit the negative impact on their neighbors."

Tom Botkin, meanwhile, expressed hope citizens will lobby state officials in order to get funds for needed road projects, particularly that affect the future of

U.S. 25.

"In my opinion, right now, there should be four lanes from Berea all the way to Richmond," Botkin said. "The state is always, in my opinion, 40 years behind on all of their road plans. You should call your state representatives just like we do and tell them we need four lanes from Richmond to Berea."

Botkin also advocated contacting state officials to secure funding for a four-lane highway between Richmond and Irvine.

"Help us help you," Botkin said.

Residents were also curious about the role the Central Kentucky Regional Airport will play in future growth. Madison County Airport Board Chairman George Wyatt was on hand to answer questions.

When asked why investment in the airport is necessary, such as a new terminal, Wyatt said the airport may be the first thing corporate site selectors see when they land in Madison County to gauge the region's readiness for economic development and job growth.

"The airport, to corporate America, is the front door to your community," Wyatt said. "If we want to bring economic developments, jobs, and tax revenue into Madison County, we want them to see a really inviting front door."

The next town hall meeting will take place on April 24 at 5:30 in White Hall Park, Richmond.

Madison County Public Library
Richmond, Kentucky

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Madison County Public Library Board of Trustees is requesting Lump Sum bids for the **Demolition of (3) Buildings** located at 114 and 116 5th Street in Richmond, Kentucky. Bids are due at the current Madison County Public Library located at 507 W. Main Street in Richmond, Kentucky on **Thursday, May 8th, 2025 by 2:00 PM EST**. Bids will be publicly opened in the Meeting Room and read aloud. Note that this project is Tax Exempt and Bidders **ARE NOT** to include taxes in their Bids. Scope of Work consists of, but is not limited to the following:

- Building Demolition and Basement Fill with Compaction Testing of Fill
- Concrete Pavement Demolition
- Site Utilities Demolition
- Abatement has been completed by the Owner's Abatement Contractor.

The Report will be included in the Project Manual.

Bidding Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be purchased from the following:

Lynn Imaging
328 Old Vine Street in Lexington, KY
859.255.1021 tel.
11460 Bluegrass Pkwy in Louisville, KY
502.499.8400 tel.

If documents are to be mailed, a mailing charge is required, made payable directly to Printing Company at the time of the order.

Plans and Specifications are also available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Owner:
507 W. Main Street - Richmond, Kentucky 40475 (859.626.4433)

Office of the Architect:
527 Main St., Shelbyville, KY 40065 (502.719.0845)

Sealed Bids submitted as specified, received by the correct time and date shall be opened and publicly read aloud. Bids must be submitted only on the forms provided in the Project Manual. The proposal envelope must have the Project Name, Contractors Name and date on the outside.

The Madison County Public Library Board of Trustees wishes to give notice to all prospective bidders that participation by minority business entities is encouraged.

A Pre-Bid Conference for the Demolition Project will be held at the Site located at 114 & 116 5th Street in Richmond, Kentucky @ 2:00PM EST on April 24, 2025. A review of the Contract Documents will take place at this meeting and a tour of the site will follow the meeting.

Bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total bid are required. Performance and payment bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract amount are required of each successful bidder upon execution of their contract.

All contractors and subcontractors employed on this project shall be in compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky requirements for Worker's Compensation Insurance (according to KRS 342) and Unemployment Insurance (according to KRS Chapter 341).

The Madison County Public Library intends to award contracts based upon the best evaluated bid. The Library reserves the right to accept the bid deemed by it to be in its best interest, not necessarily the least expensive bid; the right to disqualify bids from bidders not deemed to be qualified; the right to disqualify bids deemed to be defective; the right to waive defects on bids where such defects are not deemed significant; and the right to waive any and all formalities and the right to reject any and all bids. Bidders are encouraged to carefully read the entire set of Contract Documents and visit the site.

No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days there from.

All questions regarding project information, or clarifications, should be addressed by fax to the 5253 Design Group, (502) 719.0848 or by email to chris@5253designgroup.com.