

## Solar Ordinance From Front

vote is intended to be the transparent, on-the-record decision that residents on both sides have demanded.

Financial impacts are central to why the decision matters. Clearway has promoted a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) approach tied to an Industrial Revenue Bond that the company says could generate about \$354,000 annually during the first 20 years of operation, then about \$177,000 for a subsequent period at a reduced rate—figures based on a \$3,000-per-megawatt rate that company representatives say is above what other Kentucky counties have negotiated. Elleman has challenged how those sums flow in practice, noting that prior bond structures sent much of the total to other taxing entities and left comparatively little as general-fund revenue for county government itself. He has contrasted those estimates with what commercial development might generate on the tax rolls. The fiscal court’s choice of whether—and how—to use an IRB/PILOT framework will therefore shape not just whether the project proceeds, but who benefits and by how much.

Land use and agriculture are the second major axis of

the debate. Opponents argue that converting 2,500 acres, or roughly 1.75% of the county’s land base, to solar fencing and panels for 30–35 years would diminish productive farmland, alter rural viewsheds, and disrupt wildlife corridors in the Dix River watershed. Supporters counter that the leases keep open the option to return the land to agriculture after decommissioning, that vegetative screening and setback rules protect neighbors, and that the rights of willing landowners should carry significant weight. The ordinance decision will signal how Garrard County prioritizes agricultural preservation relative to energy siting when those priorities conflict.

Project safeguards and end-of-life responsibilities are a third pillar of the vote. Clearway has pointed to Kentucky’s decommissioning law—which requires a third-party cost assessment, periodic updates, and a bond held by the state—to argue that neither landowners nor the county would be financially exposed if the project were abandoned. Company representatives have said they support explicitly citing state decommissioning requirements in local law. For some residents, the state-level bonding regime provides assurance; for others, skepticism remains about long-term enforcement and site res-

toration.

Infrastructure planning provides another layer of stakes. The proposed Highway 27 bypass, which local and state officials have discussed for years, overlaps with the southern part of the county. Clearway has said it would avoid the final bypass route and has proposed writing a 300-foot solar setback from the planned right-of-way into any amended ordinance to prevent conflicts. Residents who view the bypass as crucial for future industrial recruitment worry that poorly crafted solar siting could complicate right-of-way acquisition; others see the proposed setback language as a workable solution. The court’s decision could lock in how solar and road planning are harmonized.

Community benefits and governance have also featured prominently. The company floated a \$1 million community benefit fund early in the debate, later suggesting that elected officials not serve on its board to avoid conflicts of interest and indicating a willingness to replace the fund with direct annual charitable donations if preferred. While some residents welcome additional local funding streams, others have voiced discomfort with any parallel mechanism that is not appropriated by elected bodies.

Finally, the outcome will

shape the county’s regulatory posture for years to come. One option discussed by company representatives has been a narrowly tailored amendment or exemption for projects with leases predating the 2023 ordinance, leaving other protections—setbacks, screening, road-use agreements, and decommissioning—intact. Another option is to maintain the current ordinance, preserving the prime-farmland protections that effectively foreclose utility-scale solar on much of the leased acreage. A third is to adopt a new ordinance that rebalances these provisions more broadly. Each path carries distinct legal, financial, and planning implications, and each will send a clear message to landowners, developers, and regional employers about Garrard County’s development priorities.

Public interest has been intense throughout, with packed meetings, sharply divergent testimony, and concerns about transparency shaping the discussion as much as the technical details. Monday’s vote is therefore not only about a single project; it is about how Garrard County makes consequential land-use decisions. Residents who want a say in that direction will find the decision point at the fiscal court meeting on August 25.

## Surplus

### From Front

and Municipal Aid. This represents an improvement of nearly \$400,000 compared to the \$325,000 deficit recorded at the close of the 2022–2023 fiscal year. The General Fund, which supports City Hall operations, police, fire, and parks and recreation, posted a surplus for the first time in more than eight years.

The city’s annual budget is approximately \$6 million. Gaffney credited the turnaround to disciplined fiscal management and collaboration among his administration, department heads, and city employees.

“It wasn’t easy—it took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to accomplish this amazing turnaround for our community,” he said.

While celebrating the milestone, the mayor emphasized that the work is not over. He called for continued public support as the city enters the 2025–2026 fiscal year, with the goal of further strengthening Lancaster as “the best possible place to live, work and play.”

Local agencies highlighted in the mayor’s remarks included the Lancaster Police Department, Lancaster City Fire and Rescue, the Lancaster City Council, and Lancaster Parks and Recreation.

## Livestock Sale

### From Front

have spent the year raising and caring for their project animals in preparation for the event, which serves as the culmination of their efforts and dedication.

Organizers are encouraging community members and local businesses to attend the sale and show support for the youth exhibitors. Buyers will have the opportunity to purchase livestock while directly investing in the agricultural education and experiences of Garrard County youth.

“The sale represents months

of hard work by these students, and it’s a great way for the community to show its support,” said Garrard County Extension Agent Eric Comley, who is coordinating the event. Those interested in supporting participants, whether individually or through a business, may contact Comley directly at eric.comley@uky.edu.

Attendees are encouraged to come out, enjoy a meal, and take part in celebrating the efforts of local youth at this year-end agricultural event.

## Death Valley Bowl From Front

2024 that concluded with a regional final loss to South Warren. The Eagles, who play in Class 5A-District 4, are making their first appearance in the Death Valley Bowl, though not their first trip to Death Valley. Nearly 40 years ago, in 1985, North Bullitt opened its season at Lincoln County, falling 21-19. The Eagles now return seeking a different result on a bigger stage.

For Garrard County, the game offers both opportunity and history. The Golden Lions are playing in the Death Valley Bowl for the 10th time, second only to host Lincoln County, which has anchored the event since its inception in 1998. Garrard County won the inaugural game that year, defeating Newport Cen-

tral Catholic 24-14. Since then, however, success has been difficult to sustain. The Lions have lost five straight appearances, including a 27-20 setback to Lincoln County last season.

Head coach Spencer Crutchfield brings an intriguing storyline into this year’s contest. Though Garrard County has struggled in recent bowl games, Crutchfield himself has been among the event’s most successful coaches. During his tenure at Lincoln County from 2018 to 2021, he led the Patriots to three Death Valley Bowl victories. That total ties him with the late Robbie Lucas of Somerset and former East Jessamine coach Mike Bowlin for the most wins in the bowl’s history. Now at the helm of Garrard County, Crutchfield seeks to bring that winning formula back to his current program.

The Lions are no strangers to early-season spotlight games. Their first bowl appearance came in the 1970 Recreation Bowl at Mount Sterling, where they fell to Paris 34-6. Since a mid-1990s rule change by the KHSAA expanded opportunities for bowl games, Garrard County has become a frequent participant, particularly in the Death Valley Bowl and in various contests hosted by Danville High School. Along the way, the program has produced some memorable moments. In 1995, the Lions shocked four-time defending state champion Beechwood with a 22-20 victory in the Constitution Bowl, led by Wayne Kiser’s 100 rushing yards and three touchdowns. In 2006, Garrard County battled through heat and lightning delays to defeat Barren County 18-6 in the Trojan Bowl, paced

by Steven DeBord’s all-around performance. Perhaps most notably, the 2011 Lions launched a landmark season by outlasting Clay County 40-38 in four overtimes in the Golden Lion Bowl, behind Cory Wilson’s three-touchdown effort.

While Garrard County has faced Bullitt Central, North Bullitt’s longtime rival, each of the past two seasons, the Golden Lions and the Eagles have never shared the field until now. That changes under the lights in Stanford, where both programs will look to set a strong tone for the season. For North Bullitt, it is a chance to establish itself in unfamiliar territory. For Garrard County, it is an opportunity to break its bowl losing streak and reclaim early-season momentum.

*(Historical data provided by Daniel Hopkins - full historical stats on A-9)*

Rincon (So.), and Lucas Wilson (So.). Trinity Christian fielded a youthful lineup with multiple freshmen and sophomores, led on the night by Carter and Barnes in the attack and Hingst in goal.

With the victory, Garrard County split its opening two fixtures and matched Trinity Christian’s 1–1 early-season record.

keeper John Hingst into six saves while conceding twice, indicating eight shots on target faced. For Garrard County, sophomore goalkeeper Mikie Leger registered two saves and allowed one goal. No shutouts were recorded.

Lopez Mendoza and Underwood each finished with two points (two points awarded per goal), accounting for Garrard County’s four-point team total on the night. Carter’s goal

gave him two points for Trinity Christian, and Barnes added one point for his assist, matching the Titans’ three-point team total in the game report.

Garrard County’s roster featured a veteran core, including seniors Lopez Mendoza, Underwood, Colton Goodwin, Landon Hatmaker, Jackson Kearney, Dylan Tsunoda, and Conlee Pickett, alongside underclass contributors such as Leger (So.), Elijah Moughamian (So.), Jared

## Trinity Win

### From Front

outing of the season for both programs. Through two matches, Garrard County has scored three goals and conceded three (1–1 overall), while Trinity Christian stands at 1–1 with five goals scored and three allowed.

Garrard County generated consistent pressure, forcing Trinity Christian senior goal-

# Garrard County Blanks Pulaski County 4–0

Garrard County continued its 2025 season in commanding fashion on Aug. 16, defeating Pulaski County 4–0 to move to 3–0 with a 15–0 goal differential through three matches. The Golden Lions’ attack was led by junior Paisley Poynter and senior Eva Elleman, who each scored twice to account for all four goals.

Junior Haley Hunt provid-

ed the match’s lone recorded assist, underscoring Garrard County’s balance in the final third. Through three games, the team has filed three stat reports with no goals conceded, reflecting a defense that has matched the pace set by its forwards.

In goal, junior Claire Weaver posted the shutout with two saves, closing the door on Pulaski County’s limited

attempts on target. Weaver’s clean sheet continued a perfect defensive start for Garrard County, which has yet to allow a goal this season.

Pulaski County fell to 1–1 overall and has now scored five goals while allowing six across two matches. Junior goalkeeper Jessica Phillippi faced sustained pressure and finished with seven saves, despite conceding four.



# CLASSIFIEDS

### FLEA MARKET

New and used items arriving weekly at **COUNTY LINE FLEA MARKET**, locally owned and operated, 2794 Stanford Road, Lancaster. Booths \$125 per month. More booths and new vendors. See Tom or Shirley, Peggy, Eddie and Ernie or call 859-792-6853 or 502-370-8777. **NOW OPEN** seven days a week! (6-12-tfc)

### STORAGE UNITS

859-792-3562 859-339-9584

## SOUTHSIDE STORAGE

Climate Controlled • Well Lighted • 24-7 Surveillance  
Stanford Road - Hwy. 27 South • Lancaster

### U-LOCK-EM Storage Units

US 27 In North Garrard  
8 Miles From Lancaster.  
10 ft. x 24 ft. With 8 Ft. Doors  
  
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(8-17-tfc)

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### YARD SALES

**GARAGE SALE**  
- 160 Sugar Creek Road. Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (8-21-1tp)

**ESTATE SALE**  
- 15 Eastland Acres, home of Carolyn Wells. Furniture, glassware, dishes, linens, home decor, miscellaneous items. Saturday, August 30th and Monday, September 1st, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cash only. No early birds. (8-21-2tp)

### LAWN CARE

**NO YARD TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL** - Drew’s Mowing Service. 1 time or every time. 859-329-9647. (3-6-21tp)

### UPHOLSTERY

### FELDMAN UPHOLSTERY

Custom Truck, Car, Boat, Interior Repairs, REPAIR HEADLINERS. Bryantsville 859-339-5122 (2-23-tfc)

### FOR SALE

**FOR SALE** - Like new 3 wheel Vive Scooter, excellent condition, only used once. \$300. Also scooter carrier, brand new, still in the box, 48 x 28 foldable, 2 inch by 2 inch receiver, hold up to 500 pounds - \$100. Call 859-792-2598. (8-14-1tp)

### REMODELING

### COMMONWEALTH CONSTRUCTION / HANDYMAN SERVICES, LLC DO ALL COMPANY

Registered, Licenses, Insured and Bonded. 220 Normandy Ct., Unit C, Nicholasville, KY 40356. 859-699-9949. crhservices1969@gmail.com (9-12-tfc)

### AFFORDABLE

**REMODELING/HANDYMAN SERVICES:** kitchens, baths, basements, drywall, painting, flooring, tiling, windows, doors, fencing, decks. Insured, licensed, bonded - 859-410-4330. (9-22-tfc)

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Garrard County Extension Service’s most recent audit and adopted budget can be viewed anytime on the Department for Local Government’s Public Portal website. If you would like to view our most recent financial statement, please visit us at our home office located at 1302 Stanford Road, Lancaster, KY, during our normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This ad was paid for by Garrard County Extension Service dollars.” (8-14-1tc)

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order of July 31, 2025, scheduling a public comment meeting to be held on September 8, 2025, at 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at Jefferson Community & Technical College: Hovarth Auditorium, 1000 Community College Dr., Louisville, KY 40272 for the purpose of hearing public comments on Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company applications for adjustment of its electric and gas rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments in Case Nos. 2025-00113 and 2025-00114.

### POSTED

We positively will not permit fixed hunting of any character, fishing, dogs or trespassing on our farms. Any violations will be prosecuted. \$2.00 per week or \$51 per year for posted list.

• Michael & Dana Carrier, 2539 Kelly Ridge Road.....5-26  
• Danny & Judy Browning’s property at end of Conn’s Lane.....10-25  
• Carolyn Sparks property at 5252 Lexington Road.....7-25  
• Paul Black Farms, Hwy. 1355 (Sugar Creek Road).....10-25  
• Paul And Suzanne Wells at 4129 White Lick Road, Paint Lick.....10-25  
• Tammy Fowler, 749 Nina Ridge Road.....10-25  
• Mike and Pam Fathergill, 111 Lynnwood Drive.....6-26  
• Chris and Joy Fathergill, 317 Richmond Street.....6-26  
• Mary Alice (Paul) Drew, 810 Carry Nation Road Property.....6-26  
• Kathy Tuggle & Paula Tudor - Jim Clark Road.....11-25  
• David M. and Rose Walker, 1163 Wolf Trail Road.....2-26  
• The Kenton Property, 795 and 719 C Valley Drive, Berea.....7-26  
• Grover Drew Farm, Carry Nation Road.....3-26

• Doug and Anna Graves, 319 Richmond Road, Loop 2.....8-26  
• The Brenda Farms, 4870 Harmons Lick Road & Hamilton Valley Road.....10-25  
• Vockery property on Polly’s Bend Road.....10-25  
• Noah Wagoner and Kelsey Perkins, 10997 Buckeye Road.....11-25  
• Mary and George Watkins Property at 2961 Gabbard Road.....11-25  
• Hugh and Amy Johnson, 6198 Lexington Road.....6-26  
• Dale Marie Hellard - Barbara French & William Randall Causey Farms at 2178 Hamilton Valley Road, 2636 Hamilton Valley Road And 1454 Hamilton Valley Road.....8-26

Rates For Posted List - \$2 Per Week.  
First Property \$51 Per Year -  
\$10 Each Additional Property