

Feathered and furry critters eating your vegetables?

I like all animals. I like that I live in the country and get to see all kinds of creatures but when they get my blueberries before me or when they open the birdseed can in the middle of the night or when they dig up flower pots or nibble off the tops of perennials or chop my tomatoes to the ground...well, you surely understand.

A few years ago, our barn hosted a young squirrel family. I grew fond of the baby squirrels as I watched them navigate their new surroundings. At first, they were timid as they held fast to the wood siding, sometimes even falling off, once even into a bucket of water! How could I not be charmed after that? I also caught them eating chicken feed out of the trough alongside the hens...it was cute. But as my vegetable garden started to produce some of that charm wore off.

We have an eight-foot wildlife fence around the vegetable garden which prevents deer browsing but not bunny, squirrel, bird or raccoon problems. So, what's the solution? Well, I have no magic bullet only a few suggestions. To state the obvious, don't leave pet food out at night (or birdseed cans that can be opened by a raccoon's human-like hands). Havahart traps would be the

most conclusive. Humanely trapping raccoons and releasing them far away solves your problem (but causes another for someone else). And don't stop after the first raccoon, there is usually a family of them.

Deterrents work best when there are other natural food sources available. Animals will eat what they must to survive regard-

less of the coyote urine you sprayed! Yes, many of the manufactured sprays have real or simulated coyote urine components to them. Cayenne pepper may help because it acts as an irritant. One gardener in my area used it to deter raccoons from digging in pots, she said she wasn't sure it worked because they dug the first night after application...but they have not returned since. Maybe one encounter with the pepper was what it took.

My father received a recipe many years ago from a gardener in Corydon that also included cayenne pepper: mix 3 tablespoons of cayenne pepper in one gallon of water and boil slowly for about 20 minutes. When it cools put it in a spray bottle and apply to corn, tomato, or other vulnerable plants to deter the pest, it should work for squirrels and rabbits, too.

Many native and orna-

mental fruiting plants are thriving this season which might work to our advantage when it comes to the birds getting blueberries and pecking on tomatoes. If there is plenty else to eat, then maybe they will leave my garden alone. Our blueberries, for example, usually are not discovered by the birds until July (that's when we pull out the hoops and the nets for protection). Prior to that I have red and silver mylar tape to tie to the bushes; when the breeze catches the shiny tape and it flutters, it deters the birds.

When it comes to birds and tomatoes a water source seems to help; since they are not interested in eating the tomatoes, only seeking moisture, a bird bath of some sort will deter them from pecking your ripe tomatoes. I have even used old red, glass Christmas tree

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Kentucky free fishing days are June 7-8

FRANKFORT — Step aside, Black Friday. You just can't top the 100% discount on fishing licenses being offered during the first weekend of June.

Take your family to the water June 7-8 and enjoy fishing for free both days.

The weekend pass doesn't entitle you to hop your neighbor's fence and access their pond. You always need permission to fish private waters. It's also not an excuse to ignore daily limits, size limits, or other regulations.

It does mean that anyone fishing in Kentucky doesn't need a license or permit. It doesn't matter whether you hail from Louisville or Louisiana – everybody fishes for free.

Communities all across Kentucky participate in the fun with special events for anglers, especially the youngsters in the crowd. Go online to fw.ky.gov to search for a list of events.

Plenty of resources are available on the Kentucky Department of Fish and

Wildlife Resources' website at fw.ky.gov to help get you started:

Get the basics: Search "Learn to Fish" for instructional videos covering knot tying and how to fillet fish.

Get equipped: Look up "loaner poles" for locations of free loaner fishing pole locations.

Learn the rules: See the annual "Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide."

Where to go: Visit the Fishing in Neighborhoods ("FINs") page for lists of easily accessible, specially stocked lakes.

Get inside information: Peruse the "fishing forecast" for intel on fish around the state.

Find the fish: Search "fish attractors" for habitat maps at various lakes – you can even download GPX files from there.

For those on the go, there's an app anglers can use to find directions to local lakes, read fishing reports, learn about regulations, find stocking

schedules, locate the nearest boat ramp and more. To download the app to your phone, search for "Fish Boat KY" in your preferred app store.

ABOUT US

Founded in 1887
Phone 859-336-5905

Email:
editor@lebanonenterprise.com
Website:
www.lebanonenterprise.com

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THE STAFF

Alice Walker
General Manager
Advertising Sales Representative
awalker@thespringfieldsun.com

Jane Reid Kleyn
Editor
editor@lebanonenterprise.com

Denis House
Reporter
dhouse@lebanonenterprise.com

Lawrence Hamilton
Delivery Driver

LETTERS

Want to share your thoughts and opinions? Email a letter to the editor to editor@lebanonenterprise.com. Be sure to include your name, address and a phone number. And remember, letters should be 400 words or less.

YOUR OPINION

The Lebanon Enterprise welcomes opinion letters for the "Your Opinion" box. Local letters about local issues are given top priority, but letters about other topics are accepted. "Thank you" and other types of letters run in the card of thanks or other appropriate sections for a nominal charge. For more information call 859-336-5905.

Letters are published as space becomes available, and letters must be limited to 400 words or less. The Enterprise reserves the right to edit letters for content and length. Only one name will be published as the author of a letter.

No letter is published without a first and last name, complete mailing address, and daytime telephone number. Emailed letters must include the same information.

Letters can be mailed to The Lebanon Enterprise, 115 S. Proctor Knott Ave., Lebanon, KY 40033 or emailed to editor@lebanonenterprise.com

E-VIEWS



PUBLIC NOTICE

The second reading and adoption of the Marion County proposed budget ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026 is scheduled to be held at the David R. Hourigan Government Building on June 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

BUDGET SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF MARION COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the fiscal court on the 1st day of May, 2025 and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer on the 21st day of May, 2025.

SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

GENERAL FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5000	General Government	\$2,834,000.00
5100	Protection to Persons and Property	\$599,000.00
5200	General Health & Sanitation	\$2,448,500.00
5300	Social Services	\$307,000.00
5400	Recreation & Culture	\$70,000.00
6300	Transportation of School Children	\$20,000.00
7000	Debt Service	\$485,700.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$2,229,000.00
9000	Administration	\$4,292,800.00
	Total General Fund	\$13,286,000.00

ROAD FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
6000	Transportation Facilities & Service	\$0
6100	Roads	\$3,739,000.00
6400	Other Transportation Facilities & Services	\$0
7000	Debt Services	\$0
8000	Capital Projects	\$0
9000	Administration	\$296,000.00
	Total Road Fund	\$4,035,000.00

JAIL FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5100	Protection to Persons & Property	\$5,108,100.00
7000	Debt Service	\$0
8000	Capital Projects	\$0
9000	Administration	\$1,770,900.00
	Total Jail Fund	\$6,879,000.00

L.G.E.A. FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5100	Protection to Persons & Property	\$20,000.00
9000	Administration	\$150,000.00
	Total L.G.E.A. Fund	\$170,000.00

EMS FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5100	Protection to Persons & Property	\$1,947,000.00
9000	Administration	\$541,000.00
	Total EMS Fund	\$2,488,000.00

EVENT CENTER & SPORTSPLEX

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5400	Recreation & Culture	\$336,400.00
9000	Administration	\$45,600.00
	Total Event Center & Sportsplex Fund	\$382,000.00

OPIOID SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
9000	Administration	\$207,000.00
	Total Opioid Settlement Payments Fund	\$207,000.00

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY PROGRAM FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5400	Intergovernmental Revenues	\$100,000.00
	Total Rescue Squad Fund	\$100,000.00

COUNTY CLERK PERMANENT STORAGE FEE FUND

Category	Purpose	Budget Appropriation
5000	County Clerk Permanent Storage Fee Expense	\$126,000.00
	Total County Clerk Permanent Storage Fee Fund	\$126,000.00

TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS

	Total General Fund	\$13,286,000.00
	Total Road Fund	\$4,035,000.00
	Total Jail Fund	\$6,879,000.00
	Total L.G.E.A. Fund	\$170,000.00
	Total EMS Fund	\$2,488,000.00
	Total Event Center & Sportsplex Fund	\$382,000.00
	Total Opioid Settlement Payments Fund	\$207,000.00
	Total National Scenic Byway Program Fund	\$100,000.00
	Total County Clerk Permanent Storage Fee Fund	\$126,000.00
	Total Budget	\$27,673,000.00

SECTION TWO. This ordinance shall be published in The Lebanon Enterprise by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE. This ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations in Marion County are hereby notified that a copy of the county's proposed budget in full is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

David Daugherty
Marion County Judge/Executive