

Collins to lie in state at Old State Capitol

BY AUSTIN HORN
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER
(TNS)

Late Kentucky Gov. Martha Layne Collins will lie in state at the Old State Capitol in Frankfort on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced at a press conference Wednesday that Collins would lie in state at the downtown Frankfort building from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. The public will be able to pay their respects that time, he said.

Details for an official funeral service have yet to be finalized, Beshear said.

Collins was 88 years old.

Collins, a Democrat, was the 56th Governor of the commonwealth, serving from December 1983 to December 1987. She is remembered for becoming Kentucky's first, and so far only, woman governor, and recruiting the massive Toyota manufacturing plant to Central Kentucky.

Beshear called her a "powerhouse" at the press conference.

The governor's father, former Gov. Steve Beshear, was lieutenant governor under Collins.

"She created a foundation for us to build a strong future on, and her legacy will continue to benefit Kentucky families for generations," Andy Beshear said. "She was a proud Kentuckian, and she'll be greatly missed. As a kid, I got to see her in that role and the strength in which she governed. I remember getting the opportunity to go over to the governor's mansion — she had a dog named Jinx.

"But (she was) just a great person who later would provide good advice, a lot of support, and would continue the great foreign direct investment ties she had to benefit the commonwealth for decades after she served as governor," Beshear said.

The current state Capitol building is undergoing massive renovations, and operations

there are expected to be halted for construction for several years.

Beyond her recruitment of Toyota, Collins is remembered for chairing the Democratic National Convention in 1984, speculation that she could have been a candidate for vice president, and her many electoral victories. Collins defeated giants of Kentucky Republican politics, winning her lieutenant governor position against Dean of the U.S. House Rep. Hal Rogers and defeating late U.S. Senator Jim Bunning.

Collins went down as the third woman to win a regular election to become governor in U.S. history.

"The idea of a woman running for governor was something people couldn't really wrap their heads around. But she simply outworked everyone," Crit Luallen, a former auditor, lieutenant governor and Collins staffer, said.



Lexington Herald-Leader photo
Kentucky Gov. Martha Layne Collins gives John Henry a rub on the head after the famous Thoroughbred race horse arrived in Lexington Aug. 26, 1985 at Blue Grass Field, now called Blue Grass Airport.

Agenda

Daviess Fiscal Court

Daviess County Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Daviess County Courthouse. The agenda includes the following items:	13-2025 effective Nov. 4, 2025 - Consider renewing the following bids: - Bid No. 2425-45.1 — Mosquito control services (annual) - Bid No. 2425-46.1 — Property maintenance services (annual) - Bid No. 2425-48.1 — Roadside litter collection services (annual) - Bid No. 2425-51.1 — Fleet fuel system (annual) - Consider awarding RFQ No. 2526-28: Clerk record book preservation (Clerk) - Consider awarding RFQ No. 2526-29: Three (3) signage bases (Parks) - Consider awarding RFQ No. 2526-30: Three (3) park entrance signs (Parks) - Consider change order 01 for Bid No. 2425-92: Transfer station office building project (Transfer Station) - Other business to be brought before the Daviess County Fiscal Court - Public comments - Comments by Daviess County Fiscal Court
- Consider minutes of October 23, 2025, Daviess County Fiscal Court meeting - Consider all claims for all departments - Consider audit engagement letter with the State Auditor of Public Accounts for Fiscal Year 2025 - Consider contract with Axiom Architecture for Robert M. Kirtley Judicial Annex roof replacement design services - Consider contract with Axiom Architecture for Schertzinger Facility renovation design services - Consider security services agreements through the Daviess County Sheriff's Office: 10-2025 effective Sept. 4, 2025 11-2025 effective Oct. 23, 2025 12-2025 effective Sept. 26, 2025	

Plan for trail connectivity adopted by Elizabethtown council

BY GINA CLEAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

The brainchild of a local conservation and preservation society, the city of Elizabethtown is adopting a master plan for pedestrian and bicycle traffic safety.

The goal of Envision Active Elizabethtown Bicycle and Pedestrian Master, which city council adopted into its Envision Elizabethtown 2040 Comprehensive Plan, is to create a city-wide trail plan and improve sidewalks to connect paths and trails throughout the city.

"We have almost 40 miles of trail in Elizabethtown, Greenspace trails, but one of the people think about those, they think of off-road, and we want interconnection between all of our trails," Elizabethtown Mayor Gregory said Monday following a city council meeting where the plan was adopted. "To be able to do that, we're going to have to use some of the routes that we have that are black-top and pavement."

The plan involves the city, Greenspace, who raised money to pay for the study that led to the plan, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to execute, Gregory said.

"We're working with KYTC internally and also with Greens-

pace to try to connect everything that we have, whether it be off-road, on-road, sidewalks, whatever it is, so people can get all throughout the city in a safe way on trail," Gregory said. "We're really excited about the plan that we have, and we think that we're going to be able to link everything up in the next several years because of all the construction and all the roadwork that's going on and then also because of all the trails that we have been adopting."

The board of Greenspace, a non-profit organization committed to the development and maintenance of the city's trail system, started the initiative as a means of developing a strategic plan on how to improve our trails and looked for a firm to do that.

"As we talked about it, what we realized is what should probably come before enhancing our trails is improving connectivity through our trails by nonmotorized means, you, make it more walkable, make it more bikeable," Haines said. "Our trails almost encompass the entire city or go around the entire city — some are better known than others — but they give people the ability to get on a bike or walk or hike or run to a trail and get out in the woods."

The master plan was born from the idea of connecting trails throughout the city, so the engineering firm Gresham Smith developed a master plan that identifies multiple projects to complete over a period of time.

"They really put it into three different buckets," Haines said. "There's kind of these relatively low-cost, easy-win type projects, and that could be simply marking bike lanes, pedestrian lanes on some streets that are heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. And then there's sort of these medium-sized ones that the city may have to budget out over a few years and that could encompass some changes in sidewalk or building multi-use lanes instead of sidewalk."

Then there are a few multi-million dollar projects, such as the one on U.S. 62 in front of Pritchard Community Center, that now has designated bike lanes.

"So that's a larger project, but that's a great kind of indication of what we hope will continue to happen in Elizabethtown, throughout the transportation system in the trail system," Haines said.

Haines said he already has eyed a project he think could have significant immediate impact.

CEO

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donations) and Century Donor (100 donations) milestones. In April, she was honored as one of 10 alumni at Brescia University's inaugural Laurel Awards.

When asked what stands out most from her career, Howard points to the people who make the center run.

"I think, first and foremost, I'm most proud of our donors — always," she said. "Second is the staff. You can't achieve anything if you don't have good staff. You really, really can't — people that are loyal, that know how important their jobs are.

"A majority of the time we don't see the patients, but it's very humbling sitting at your mother-in-law's bedside and she is getting transfused with blood that you know you've touched, or you've tested, you've drawn ..."

Despite the rewards, running a blood center comes with challenges — from urgent donation needs to adapting to new developments in the medical field.

"When I started here, the only infectious diseases we tested for were hepatitis B and syphilis," Howard said. "And then the discussion (of) AIDS (began) ... (in the) early '80s; and when they (found) that it was transmissible through blood, strangely enough the first flight I ever took in my life was in 1985 to fly

out to Dallas to learn how to do HIV testing."

Other challenges have arisen over the years, including the coronavirus pandemic.

"That was completely uncharted territory," she said of COVID-19. "Everything you do at a blood center, there's regulations. Regulations changed constantly on what was acceptable. We were having phone calls almost on a daily basis, nationally, about what's acceptable, what's not.

"Besides that, your staff had to be here," Howard continued, praising her employees for showing up despite their own concerns. "You're taking everyone's temperature that walks through the door. You're hearing: 'This is what

you ought to do. This is what you ought not do.' It changed all of the time, but you still had to be here.

"It's a never-changing field," she said. "There's always something changing, but that's OK."

In a few months, the center will face another big change when Howard retires — though she plans to remain active in the community.

"I have some volunteer things I want to do," she said, noting her passion for working with seniors. "My mother was at Wellington Parc (of Owensboro), and the sheer number of elderly people who'd have no

one visit them — it broke my heart when Mom was there.

"I'm just going to come in and chit-chat with people," she said of her plans. "I don't mind to talk."

And while she won't be full time at the center come 2026, Howard doesn't plan to stray too far.

"I'm going to come back and help them from a lab standpoint when I need to," she said. "I don't mind that at all."

Carrie Wimsatt, who has been training alongside Howard since January, will take over after Howard's departure.

"Janet is extremely car-

ing. Not only is she the boss and the leader, but she genuinely cares about all of the staff here," said Wimsatt, who previously served as program director for the Medical Laboratory Science Program at Owensboro Health. "It makes this small nonprofit feel like a family.

"I think that's definitely the culture that I want to continue here," she added. "It's definitely what makes this place so special."

For Howard, her four-plus decades at the center have brought her nothing short of fulfillment.

"I think I've been blessed," she said.

CLERK

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And as for the future at the county clerk's office without her presence?

Eaton said that she's leaving the department in capable hands.

"The previous county clerks who I worked under left our office in great shape. Linda Johnson left the office in great shape for Stacy and then Stacy did that for me. So, all I had to do was contin-

ue and modernize with the times and continue to grow and improve the office," she said.

Eaton also wants to give the citizens of McLean County a "thank you" for allowing her to serve as county clerk.

"It's been a wonderful experience," she said. "I have not taken public service lightly. It's been a very serious role, and I feel like the people of McLean County elected me to be county clerk and gave me a great honor. I was shocked that

they elected me, honestly. And I took it seriously. I wanted to serve my people. I wanted to fight for my people. I love my people. I'm not perfect. I didn't do it great all the time. I made some mistakes, but I've tried to own them. I've tried to do my best because I love McLean County, and I love the people. I am so thankful they've allowed me to have this opportunity. Thank you, McLean County. I think your next county clerk will be well prepared."

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Sun, 9 Nov: Teaching & Aarti @ Hindu Temple @ 6:30 pm
Tue, 11 Nov: Midday Meditation @ Unity Fellowship @ 11 am
Wed, 12 Nov: Youth Peace Summit @ 3rd Baptist Church @ 6-8 pm
Thu, 13 Nov: Torah Study @ Synagogue @ 6:30 pm
Sat, 15 Nov: Bluegrass Gospel Concert with Lowland Ramblers @ Central Presbyterian Church @ 7 pm

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@ Third Baptist Church
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Wednesday, 12 Nov @ 6-8 pm
Facilitated by NonViolent Owensboro
For teens & accompanying
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For more information:
nonviolentowensboro@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENT
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