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Versailles city flag, the first in history, raised at City Hall

Versailles City Council also approves spending from opioid settlement funds



THE NEW CITY OF VERSAILLES FLAG was manufactured by Ruggles Sign of Versailles to the precise design of the winning Southside Elementary team. (Photo by Scott White)

By SCOTT WHITE
MANAGING EDITOR

Versailles Mayor Laura Dake presided over the formal raising of the first, official City of Versailles flag on the flag pole next to City Hall just prior to the Versailles City Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16. The flag was raised by now Southside Elementary fifth graders Mayleigh Brehm, John Harrison Prather and Dominic Perez, Versailles Fire Chief T.A. Rankin and Public Works Director Bart Miller.

They were joined by members of the Versailles City Council, Woodford County Schools Superintendent Lori Jones, Southside Principal

Paige Samples, the three fourth-grade teachers (Brittany LeVeque, Mary Ann Adams and Stephanie Wells) who led the “project-based learning” program, which resulted in the winning flag design, along with parents and friends.

The selection of the flag was the result of a partnership between the city and the entire fourth grade class at Southside Elementary. Based on the principles of “Project Based Learning (PBL),” the entire class researched the history of Versailles, the history and concepts of flag design and making, and how all of that could be represented in a Versailles flag. Working with designers from Ruggles Sign,

the class was divided into 23 groups and each group created a flag. Each team made a presentation at a class expo where a team of teachers judged the entries, selecting four finalists.

Then, at a council meeting in May, the four teams repeated their presentation and the council voted on the winning design in a secret vote. The winning flag was announced at a later meeting, where the members of the team were given proclamations of distinction. The members of the winning team were Mayleigh, John Harrison, Dominic and Madie Greene, who was unable to attend this week’s council meeting.

“PBL is just a really won-



THE NEW CITY OF VERSAILLES FLAG was raised at City Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 16, prior to the Versailles City Council Meeting. The winning team of fourth graders, now fifth graders, from Southside Elementary, along with their principal, teachers and new Superintendent Lori Jones, were thrilled by the experience. From left, Superintendent Lori Jones, Southside teacher Brittany LeVeque, Principal Paige Samples, teacher Mary Ann Adams, and teacher Stephanie Wells. Students Dominic Perez, John Harrison Prather, and Mayleigh Brehm. (Photo by Scott White)

derful and transformative approach, not just in the way we teach our content but the way our students experience school, and this (shows the great things that come from PBL,” Samples told the crowd at the flag raising. “I really think the city for partnering with us, recognizing how vital (PBL) is, and how life changing this is for our kids . . . for years to come, our kids will be able to drive by City Hall and say, ‘I did that,’ or say to their own kids, ‘I did that, my class did that.’”

Jones added, “It is exciting to see this work. This is Portrait of a Learner (POL), and it is truly happening today in front of all of us. I’m excited to be at a district that values POL and PBL and knows what we want our students to experience in stellar classrooms like these.”

Following the flag raising, the group trooped into the City Council chambers for the council meeting. Following the prayer and pledge, Dake formally recognized the winning team, their families and the teachers and staff at Southside before presenting each of the students with a smaller version of the flag.

“This flag was a summarization of our entire fourth grade year. It was something that was fun, that we worked hard for and that brought us together,” said Mayleigh, speaking for the team. “I’m so glad it turned out like this, and for all the other flag teams that did not win, everyone worked so hard. I feel so lucky to be in the group that designed the flag that is flying way up there and it’s going to be there for . . . I don’t know how long!”

NET Recovery device
On a non-agenda item, which is allowed by council rules, Councilmember Lisa Johnson made a motion asking the City Council to approve transferring an additional \$11,000 to the Woodford County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP) to fund the purchase of two additional NET (Neuro Electrode Transmitter) Recovery devices, which cost \$5,500 per patient.

The current balance of the city’s Opioid Settlement Fund, prior to this disbursement, was \$198,109. Johnson is the council’s representative on the ASAP board. Council unanimously approved the motion.

Earlier this year, the council approved spending \$11,000 of its opioid settlement funds to pay for two Woodford County residents to receive a NET Device manufactured by NET Recovery, which claims its proprietary device alleviates the symptoms of opioid withdrawal in some people. Both requests came from the Woodford County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP), which had been studying the use and success of the device, including discussions with other counties that are using it.

According to its website, the NET Device employs a transcranial alternating current stimulator worn behind the patient’s ear. The device is programmed specially for each patient, depending on the drug to which they are addicted. The device’s use has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is the subject of several ongoing clinical trials.

Johnson said the reason ASAP wants to make four additional device purchases (two from the city and two from Fiscal Court) is that it has been used successfully by three Woodford County Detention Center prisoners seeking to recover from opioid addiction.

She said Woodford County Jailer Michele Rankin reported to ASAP that she is encouraged by the success, and the cost of managing opioid withdrawal with this device. Without the device, the cost is approximately \$10,000 per prisoner.

Johnson added that ASAP board member and the director of the Woodford County Emergency Medical Services, Freeman Bailey, also supported the purchase, describing the devices as “one more tool in the toolbox.”

Fire gear

The City Council approved the request of the Versailles Fire Department to purchase various items of personal fire protection gear, including gloves, boots, and AeroFlex pants with suspenders, from America’s Bravest Equipment Company located in Corbin, Kentucky. The cost is \$20,525, and the vendor is on the state price contract.

Plan for grocery, home improvement stores on Lexington Road moves forward

By BOB VLACH
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

A site development plan for grocery and home improvement stores at 1218 Lexington Road (Edgewood Farm property) was approved by the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission at its Sept. 11 meeting. The 45.144-acre site is zoned B-4 highway business.

“For several months, there’s been speculation around town about what these (stores) are,” Planning Director Steve Hunter said. He said the term “home improvement store” was first heard during a review of the development plan at last month’s Technical Review Committee meeting.

“The applicant did say I can say with confidence this won’t be a Piggly Wiggly,” Hunter added. “So I can tell you with 100 percent confidence that this will not be a Piggly Wiggly. But I don’t really know what it’s going to be because no names have been released at this point.”

The first question from the commission directed to the applicant of the plan was “Who is it?”

“That’s one of the things we can’t share at this time,” said Theo Stone, representing applicant 29:11 Versailles, LLC.

Asked about the viability of having another grocery store in Versailles, he said, “Competition breeds competition.” After noting the Kroger in Versailles is among the highest-ranked stores owned under that brand, he added, “There’s room for more grocery shopping in Versailles.”

On the development plan, three out-lots are shown along Lexington Road with a rear frontage road accessing four other lots, including 8.09 acres for a 54,964 square-foot grocery store and 9.96 acres for a 107,504 square-foot home improvement store. Two parking lots with a total of 646 spaces are also shown on the “Shops at Woodford Farm” site plan.

The developer will come back to the commission at a later meeting to seek approval of a plat so roads accessing lots in the shopping center can be constructed, Hunter told the commission. A right-in, right-out road onto Lexington Road is shown on the plan, with another proposed road accessing Lexington Road at the traffic signal across from Pad-dock Road. The City of Versailles is currently constructing a road network to the west of the proposed shopping center, Hunter noted.

The final design for the shopping center’s storm water drainage system will be a part of construction plans and must happen prior to building permits being issued, Hunter told the commission. He said the preliminary landscape plan for the development exceeds what is required between the individual lots.

The developer agreed to build a grocery store using higher quality materials and exterior design after meeting with him and city leaders, Hunter said.

“We try to bring the best opportunity and product that we can to the communities that we go into,” said Stone. “It starts with adherence to the ordinance. The tenant partners that we typically operate with have high standards as well. We try to assure that they’re pleased...”

Conditions of approval included no building permits being issued until final storm water drainage design plans are approved in consultation with the City of Versailles, and a uniform package for signs must also be approved, Hunter said.

Small community lots

After closing a public hearing with no one voicing opposition to the zone change, the commission recommended approval of 12.004 acres at 10351 Clifton Road (Jo Carol Carter) in Millville from A-1 agricultural to A-4 small community in order to create two 6-acre lots. An adjacent property owner wants to acquire one of the lots and a home

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CORRECTION: The Sun incorrectly identified the persons holding the ribbon in the Save a Lot grand reopening photograph in the Sept. 11 paper. They are, from left, Jamie Dunn, WesBanco, Woodford County Judge-Executive James Kay, Save A Lot store manager Heather Robinson, supervisor Cory Dick, Tina George, WesBanco, and Versailles Mayor Laura Dake. The Sun apologizes for the error. (Photo by Cory Cooley)

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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Monday, Sept. 22, School Board at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 23, Fiscal Court at 5:30 p.m.