

# School buses return to their routes

By Bill Allen  
Director of Transportation

August brings back that time of the year where everyone from parents and students to all the school personnel are gearing up for a new school year. Lewis County Schools will return to classes on August 24th. School buses will be on the roadways soon transporting children to and from school. Here are a few safety tips that will help keep everyone safe on and around the school bus at this busy time of the year.

- Before the bus arrives:**
- Make sure backpacks are ready to go.
  - Develop a morning routine that allows your child to be at the bus stop five (5) minutes early.
  - Students should stand no closer than ten (10) feet from the roadway.
  - All elementary students should be escorted to and from the bus stop by a guardian.
  - If your child must cross the street to board the school bus, they should follow instructions from the bus driver and be cautious of their surroundings as they cross.
  - Students crossing the street must cross in front of the school bus.
  - If your child drops an item while boarding the bus, get the driver's permission before retrieving it.
- On the Bus:**
- Children must remain seated at all times while the bus is moving.
  - All personal items must remain in the seat with the child.
  - Driving a bus takes skill and concentration, students should remain quiet and refrain from loud noises that distract your driver. If the driver is looking in the rearview mirror, they are not looking where the bus is going.
  - Students should follow the instructions of the bus driver.
  - All students will be assigned a seat on the bus.
- Leaving the Bus:
- If your child must cross the street when leaving the school bus, they should follow instructions from the

- bus driver and be caution of their surroundings as they cross.
- Students crossing the street must cross in front of the school bus.
  - Students should step ten (10) feet off of the roadways to a point where the bus driver can see them.
  - Elementary students must have a middle or high school escort or a guardian meet the school bus to ensure children are safely returned home.
  - Talk to your child when they get home about their day and ask how the bus ride home went.
- This year we will continue to partner with the bus routing program (Transfinder) that allows us to map out our bus routes. This has allowed us to provide our drivers and sub drivers with a better explanation of how to proceed through each route. We also use the Stopfinder program that is a parent app for your phone that allows us to communicate better when routing issues arise. This is also where you can find routing information such as pickup and drop-off times for your child this year. If you would like to know the bus number, driver's name, or arrival times for your child, it can be found there. You should have received an enrollment email from Stopfinder this week to the email that is linked to your Infinite Campus. Please give the drivers fifteen (15) minutes or so the first few days to get their routines down. Times will be adjusted as they get back into their routine. We also have some new drivers and several route changes this year. We will be posting on our district webpage, Facebook page, and in the paper with the route and start time for each. Everyone please be safe and have a great start to your school year.
- Kentucky House Bill 7, took effect on July 15, 2026, and it is a school bus safety law that requires drivers in all directions on multi-lane roads to stop for loading or unloading school and church buses unless an elevated barrier

- or unpaved median divides the highway.
- Key Provisions of Kentucky HB 7**
- **Stopping Requirements:** Motorists traveling in both directions must stop for extended school bus stop arms on all roads, regardless of lane count, unless a physical median or elevated divider separates opposing traffic.
  - **Stop-Arm Cameras:** School districts are permitted to install automated camera monitoring systems on school bus stop arms to record violations.
  - **Penalties and Fines:** Fines for passing a stopped school bus are increased, with first-time violations carrying a \$300 penalty and second-time offenses rising to \$500, scaling up to \$1,000 for severe or repeated infractions.
  - **Registration Suspension:** Failure to pay civil penalties on time can result in the suspension of a motor vehicle's registration via the Transportation Cabinet.
- House Bill 7 also allows school districts to put cameras on school buses to enforce a civil penalty for people who drive around a stopped bus with its stop arm extended. All traffic on two-lane, three-lane, and most multi-lane roads must now stop in both directions for a school or church bus with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign.
- Where You Must Stop**
- **Two, Three, and Four-Lane Roads:** Drivers in both directions must stop for the bus.
  - **Center Turn Lanes:** A center turn lane does not count as a barrier, so traffic on both sides must still stop
  - **The Only Exception:** Drivers traveling in the opposite direction on a four-lane road *do not* have to stop if the road is separated by a raised physical barrier or an unpaved median.
- We look forward to a safe year for our students and staff traveling to and from school each day. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Bill Allen at the Lewis County Bus Garage at 606-796-2191.

## COUNCIL

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who left to accept another position.

Council conducted the first reading of an ordinance which, if approved on the second reading, will establish the city's 2026 real estate and personal property tax rates.

City Attorney McGinnis read the ordinance, stating a real estate tax rate of 13 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and a personal property tax rate of 14 cents per \$100 of valuation.

Billman said the rates represent no change from previous years.

Council also reappointed Levi Clark to the Vanceburg-Lewis County Industrial Authority for a term expiring in August 2030.

Members approved a resolution authorizing an application for matching grant funds for the Vanceburg hydrant project.

Billman also reported progress on the transfer of property associated with the

city's boat dock recreation area.

He said the Huntington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers had notified the city that the property would be transferred to Vanceburg, with the stipulation that it remain available for public use and that the city be financially responsible for the deed transfer.

Billman said the city had accepted those terms.

Work is also underway at the park, including repairs to benches, work on basketball equipment, painting playground equipment, and plans to improve drainage and parking areas.

Billman said he intends to keep the planned parking work below the \$5,000 amount he previously agreed not to exceed without council approval.

He also reported that paving work on city streets is expected to begin before the end of the month.

Council entered executive session near the conclusion

of the meeting to discuss pending litigation. No action was taken following the closed session.

Council reconvened for a special called meeting Thursday evening to complete action on the annexation of Southern Ohio Medical Center property on Commercial Drive.

The item had been listed on Monday's agenda but could not be acted upon because the required notice had not been provided.

Billman took responsibility for the notice issue during Monday's meeting and announced that a special meeting would be held Thursday to complete the business.

Thursday's agenda also included the appointment of Jamie Hickie to the Vanceburg Electric Plant Board for a term expiring in August 2030 and consideration of HMB Professional Engineers as engineer for the Vanceburg Electric Plant Board Well Project.

# Plant Board holds regular meeting

By Dennis K. Brown

Vanceburg Electric Plant Board members approved action during their July meeting to pursue funding for two water system projects while also hearing that higher electric capacity costs are expected to increase the utility's monthly bill by about \$10,000.

Superintendent Levi Clark reported the city has been invited to apply for an Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Program grant for the \$900,000 Well No. 7 project.

Board members voted to provide the required two-percent match for the grant, totaling \$3,600.

The board also voted to apply for funding through the Kentucky WWATERS program for the city's

Water Loss Project and authorized Buffalo Trace Area Development District to move forward with the application.

Clark said the program is specifically designed to assist troubled or economically restrained systems. The application deadline is August 30.

Clark also updated board members on a significant increase in the cost of electric capacity.

With the first year of the utility's contract with AEP Energy Partners complete, the capacity rate increased from \$269 to \$329 per megawatt-day.

Clark said the higher rate is expected to add about \$10,000 per month to the Plant Board's bill with AEP.

The PJM RTO capacity auction for the 2028-29

delivery year was held in July, resulting in a rate of \$325 per megawatt-day, which is the established cap.

That represents a 2.5 percent decrease from the \$333 per megawatt-day rate for the 2027-28 delivery year. Clark reported the capacity price cap had been scheduled to expire but has been extended through 2030.

The Electric Department is also seeking a new lineman following the resignation of Brad Griffitt, who left the department to accept another position.

Clark reported Electric Department crews would be trimming trees and spraying weeds during July and August to help keep vegetation away from the system.

| LEWIS COUNTY SCHOOLS<br>2026-2027 Bus Routes |       |                                                                                                                  |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| ROUTES                                       | Start | PICKUP AREA                                                                                                      | BUS # |
| Holly                                        | 6:30  | Holly, From Fuller Branch to Vanceburg                                                                           | 185   |
| Salt Lick                                    | 6:40  | Toller Hollow, Big Salt Lick, Clarksburg Road (Lions Lane to Central K-6                                         | 181   |
| South End                                    | 6:55  | Downtown, Lexington Ave., Fairlane Dr. to SuperQuick, Halbert Avenue K-6                                         | 221   |
| AA Highway                                   | 6:50  | Rt 9, Manley Hollow (bottom of the hill), to Vanceburg on AA highway                                             | 233   |
| Beechy Creek                                 | 6:39  | Beechy Creek, Thorpe Ridge, Sargent Branch to Petersville                                                        | 180   |
| Oak Ridge                                    | 6:10  | Oak Ridge to Petersville to Rt 377                                                                               | 192   |
| Rock Run/Double A                            | 6:22  | Rock Run to Armstrong Church, Town Branch Hill, Grayson Spur Double A to Vanceburg, Halbert Avenue 7-12          | 232   |
| Indian/ Rt 344                               | 6:30  | McCleese Hollow, Cooper Fork, Rt 377 to Vanceburg                                                                | 194   |
| Meadowbrook                                  | 6:55  | Bradford Lane/ Flagpoint/Meadowbrook/Vanceburg 7-12                                                              | 202   |
| Blue Springs-Swg. Branch                     | 6:30  | Swearingen Branch, Blue Springs, Appletree, Fairlane Drive (grades 7-12)                                         | 210   |
| Fly Branch                                   | 6:26  | Fingerboard - Fly Branch, Hazel, 3037 Clarksburg, Green Valley, Southern Manor, Oakland Park                     | 211   |
| Indian Hills                                 | 6:40  | Indian Hills/Meadowbrook, Bel Aire, Echo Hills, to Slate Hollow                                                  | 212   |
| Quick's Run                                  | 6:50  | Quick's Run to Manley Hollow (top of the hill), Route 8/ Concord                                                 | 240   |
| Laurel                                       | 6:05  | Tar Fork, Laurel Creek, Twin Branch, Dummitt Branch to LES; Rt 59 to LCMS                                        | 229   |
| Carter County Line                           | 6:10  | Carter Co. Line, Racoon & Ole Trace to LES; Rt 59 to High School                                                 | 241   |
| Kinney, Rt. 59                               | 6:35  | Head of Grassy to Laurel School & Scott's Branch                                                                 | 201   |
| Straight Fork                                | 6:30  | Lower Kinney Rd to Armstrong Church, Straight Fork to Laurel Elem                                                | 187   |
| Montgomery                                   | 6:25  | Smooth Rock, Montgomery to Mudlick / GES SPED to LCCE and LCHS                                                   | 243   |
| Scaffold Lick                                | 6:20  | Scaffold Lick, Rock Creek, Vance's Creek                                                                         | 191   |
| Dummitt Ridge                                | 6:30  | K-12 Dummitt Ridge, Briery, Lower Garrison, Murphy Lane                                                          | 193   |
| Quincy                                       | 6:33  | Quincy, part of Brairy next to Rt10, Bentleyville                                                                | 213   |
| Bill Chain                                   | 6:29  | Greenbrier - Bill Chain, Murphy's Lane to Old Park on Rt 8, on to Vanceburg                                      | 242   |
| Firebrick                                    | 6:10  | All of Firebrick Route 8 Greenup County line to Quincy Post Office                                               | 190   |
| McDowell                                     | 6:25  | K-12 McDowell & Everman Greenview                                                                                | 228   |
| Trace                                        | 6:10  | Trace Creek through Kinney Road                                                                                  | 225   |
| Spy Run                                      | 6:45  | Spy Run, Dry Hollow, 1306 (AA-Collins)                                                                           | 182   |
| Happy Hollow                                 | 6:35  | Old Ribolt, Happy Hollow, Simmons Road, KY 10, Ribolt/Epworth Road                                               | 183   |
| Chalk Ridge                                  | 6:19  | Chalk Ridge, Poplar Flats, May Hollow                                                                            | 184   |
| Rolling Hills                                | 6:30  | Rolling Hills, Lions' Club Rd, County Rd (1314, 57 to Evans Lane and Owens Rd)                                   | 195   |
| Route 10 West                                | 6:30  | Route 10 West, Creamery Pike                                                                                     | 220   |
| Trinity/Sand Hill                            | 6:07  | Trinity-Sand Hill, Crooked Ck. Sullivan Ridge, Little Cabin Creek, Rt 57                                         | 224   |
| Nashtown/Mt. Zion Ridge                      | 6:10  | Foxport to Oak Ridge Rd. to Escolapia to Nashtown, Burtonville Rd to 57, Simmons Spur to Rt 10                   | 203   |
| Pine Valley                                  | 6:10  | Pine Valley, Nashtown Road, Ribolt/Epworth (Simmons Rd to Pine Valley), Buck Lick, Griffith Hollow, Maple Hollow | 226   |
| Big Cabin Creek                              | 6:20  | Big Cabin Creek to 57, KY 10 to Craycraft Lane                                                                   | 231   |
| Concord                                      | 6:10  | Concord - Rt 57, Gerike Rd, Andrew Mason lane, Rt 57 to KY 10, Osborne Lane                                      | 227   |
| SPED Garrison                                | 6:30  | Special Needs, Montgomery, Garrison, Upper Twin, Vanceburg                                                       | 200   |
| SPED Tollesboro                              | 6:30  | Special Needs, Tollesboro Area, to Vanceburg                                                                     | 230   |



King's Daughters

# KEEPING VANCEBURG HEALTHY



Kristy Turley, APRN; Julie Estep, APRN; & Anna Bayes, APRN



(606) 408-LUNG

Pulmonology nurse practitioner **Anna Bayes, APRN**, specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of lung conditions and diseases of the chest, particularly COPD, asthma, lung nodules, pulmonary hypertension, and sleep disorders.



(606) 408-7438

Rheumatology nurse practitioner **Julie Estep, APRN**, specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory (rheumatic) diseases, including disorders that affect the muscles, joints and bones; connective tissue diseases that affect ligaments, tendons, skin, and other organs; and autoimmune diseases.



(606) 408-0847

Cardiology nurse practitioner **Kristy Turley, APRN**, specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cardiovascular diseases, including coronary artery disease, acute coronary syndromes, angina, valve disease, heart failure, and cardiac arrhythmias.

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