

## Community Briefs

From staff reports

### GET YOUR CHILD READY FOR KINDERGARTEN WITH FREE STORY TIMES

The Oldham County Public Library and the Oldham County Early Childhood Council will be hosting special three-week series of story times at your local schools including Crestwood, Harmony and Goshen.

The series will allow children to get to know school staff and become comfortable in the school while enjoying fun activities designed to help your child get ready for school. The program is open to families with children 5-years-old and younger who not currently enrolled in kindergarten.

The Harmony and Goshen series will be Friday, April 17 and 24 from 10 to 11 a.m. The Crestwood series will be held Friday, April 17 and 24 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Story times sessions are free, bilingual and do not require registration. Guardians will need to bring a valid license or ID for entrance into the school. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Julie at julief@oldhampl.org.

### DEDICATING OLDHAM COUNTY'S LIBERTY TREE

The Peter Foree Chapter DAR is inviting the community to help celebrate America 250 by dedicating Oldham County's Liberty Tree at 10:45 a.m. on Arbor Day, April 24, 2026, at the Goshen Branch of the Oldham County Public Library, located at 3000 Paramount Commons in Prospect. The event is free and open to the public.

To commemorate 250 years of American history, the Kentucky Historical Society has partnered with the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution to plant a Tulip Poplar tree in each county in Kentucky. The trees planted in this Liberty Tree Project will serve as memorials to the men and

women who founded and built our country and as symbols of hope for the future.

The original Liberty Tree, an Elm, was planted in 1646 in Boston. This tree served as a gathering place to share information, exchange ideas, organize resistance to British policies and grow the limbs of Liberty. Thus, it is fitting that our Liberty Tree is planted on the grounds of our Public Library.

The Tulip Poplar is native to Kentucky and was named the Kentucky State Tree in 1994. Because of their abundance and height, Tulip Poplar trees were vital to Native Americans and early Pioneers alike for building canoes and homes. Donated by the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Tulip Poplar trees planted across our state will promote the conservation of this important native species.

### OLDHAM COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER DEDICATION

A dedication ceremony for the recently reopened Oldham County Judicial Center in La Grange — known to many as the Oldham County Courthouse — is scheduled for April 30 at 11 a.m.

A limited number of keepsake items are now available to order to commemorate the event — including a commemorative coin enclosed in a plastic case and a wooden replica of the Oldham County Judicial Center.

Prices are \$10 for the coin, with the optional \$5 for a coin display holder, and \$15 for the wooden replica. Those who purchase a keepsake will be notified via email when orders are available to be picked up at the Oldham County Judge Executive's Office located at 100 W Jefferson Street in La Grange.

Order online at oldhamcountyky.gov/store.

# Court receives annual update from MSD on utility projects

BY GRANT GERSTNER  
EDITOR

The Oldham County Fiscal Court received its annual report from the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), which included several updates on current and future projects.

Senior Regulatory Engineer John Loechle gave most of the report, first stating that Louisville MSD acquired the facilities formerly owned by the Oldham County Environmental Authority (OCEA) in 2019, as well as the City of Crestwood sewer system that it operated and maintained for over 20 years prior.

Some of the work that has been recently completed includes modernization of pump stations, emergency repairs as needed, the elimination of the Ash Avenue treatment plant, and more.

Loechle said that, currently, MSD is working on the rehabilitation of the Ohio River area lift station, which is funded by a state revolving fund loan and includes replacing two pump stations, and the elimination of the Kavanaugh Road pump station, which is expected to cost over \$6.2 million.

Some of the projects planned for the future are the expansion and rehabilitation of the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) treatment plant, the design phase of which is approaching 90% completion, according to Loechle.

The entire project is expected to cost \$23 million and is planned to be complete in the summer of 2029.

Magistrate Kevin Jeffries asked how the closure of KSR and following increased development in the area would affect the treatment plant, to which Loechle replied that they expect the treatment plant to be adequate for 10 to 12 years, and will by then

have a better idea on how to move forward.

Another planned project is the improvement of the Buckner pump station, which includes adding four new pumps and a wet well. The project is expected to cost \$3.5 million, with an expected design phase completion date in June.

Another planned project is the elimination of the Mockingbird Valley treatment plant, which has an expected cost of about \$5 million and has an expected construction start date in the summer of 2027.

Magistrate Kevin Woosley asked for a comparison between the average rates for Oldham County customers versus Jefferson County customers.

Loechle answered that MSD customers in Oldham County on average pay \$79.99 per 4,000 gallons, while Jefferson County customers have an average rate of \$68.05.

Loechle also stated that one difficulty in funding the improvements and estimating when they can be completed is due to the fact that projects in Oldham County can only be paid for by funds collected from ratepayers in Oldham County.

In other news, the court also received an annual report from Oldham County Solid Waste and Recycling, and approved Judge Executive David Voegelé to sign two grant applications.

The first grant, dedicated for household hazardous waste, is a \$28,680.74 grant from the state that requires a 25% match.

The grant has previously paid for one hazardous waste drop off day each year, but Solid Waste and Recycling Director Caroline Schoenig said she hopes to get approved for enough funding for two drop off days.

The second grant, dedicated for recycling education

and equipment, funds the Oldham County Waste Wizard, recycling advertisements and pays for the department to be present at Oldham County day. In total, the grant is for \$27,690, and requires a \$860 match composed of labor and recycling materials.

The court also heard an update on the North Central Kentucky Drug Task Force from County Attorney D. Berry Baxter, who said that the task force is seeking a director, but needs more funding to increase the director's pay to incentivize applicants.

As previously reported, the task force received a \$25,000 grant from Seven Counties services, and \$15,000 of that will be applied to the director's position, bringing to salary range to \$100,000-\$110,000.

The task force also heard from a representative of Sen. Mitch McConnell about a one-time \$500,000 disbursement, but Baxter said he had not yet heard any update on that funding. He also told the court that he will likely come to them soon regarding acquiring some of the county's opioid abatement funds.

The court also approved an update to the Oldham County Detention Center's policies and procedures. The 128-page document had about five minor changes that mainly altered single words or phrases.

The court also approved the recommendations to release the Brentwood Section 7 performance surety, the Brentwood Section 8 performance surety and the erosion control surety for 2243 Commerce Parkway — a \$39,780 check, \$17,550 check and \$24,440 bond.

The Oldham County Fiscal Court's next meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 2 p.m.

# Council considers creating master plan with community input

BY GRANT GERSTNER  
EDITOR

PEWEE VALLEY — The Pewee Valley City Council heard from Amy Williams of Taylor Siekfer Williams Design Group during its April 1 meeting and discussed developing a master plan for the city to better outline its goals and eventually bring them to fruition.

Councilor Emily Rademaker first explained that the idea to create a master plan came from discussions at the city's Overlay District Committee, where former Planning Director Jim Urban recommended the city look into a master plan to better determine what the council and community wants for the city's future.

Williams presented her design group's approach, involving three "tasks" ultimately creating a "Pewee Valley Vision Plan Sketchbook."

The first task revolved around analyzing the city's existing conditions and receiving community input to understand the vision for future of the city.

"The big thing is really doing public engagement," Williams said. "We would have kind of an interactive workshop where residents and everybody can come in, tell us what is it that they love and maybe want to improve — or something they've seen elsewhere that they want to bring here."

Williams said that the workshop could be accessible in-person and online, and that other communities have had success by hosting the event alongside another local event that regularly brings many members of the community together.

"Task two would basically take all of that input that we received and start to synthesize it and analyze it," Williams said, ultimately narrowing the public input into 10 main strategies, projects or ideas for the city.

"When we get to task three, we would take those strategies, projects, ideas and we would

**"It's not so much stuff for us, but for our kids and our grandkids ... We want them to all come back to this area and enjoy living here."**

— Amy Williams

of Taylor Siekfer Williams Design Group

develop them even more with some recommended steps ... So if you need to know the next five ... steps that you're going to do to actually implement the project, we would outline those steps."

Williams said that the third task would also involve looking at funding sources for the desired projects and the creation of renderings and designs to help better illustrate the project or idea.

Williams also said that the city could start the tasks, but stop after completing the first or second if desired.

"We're not trying to develop or change Pewee Valley necessarily," Rademaker added, "but even if we just want to preserve the things that we have, we have to have a plan to do that. And we all love living here, but what can we do to kind of increase the livability of our city — or maintain it even?"

"It's not so much stuff for us, but for our kids and our grandkids ... We want them to all come back to this area and enjoy living here ... The beauty of this is we can make it what we want as a community ..."

The end of Williams' proposal also listed fees for each task: \$9,010, \$4,455, and \$11,035 for each task respectively — a total of \$24,500 for all three tasks. Under "Project schedule," the proposal said that the design group is confident all three tasks can be completed in as little as six months.

The council took no action regarding hiring Williams or creating a master plan.

In other news, the council heard several reports:

Mayor Bob Rogers reported that the city's Environmental

Day is April 17 at 1 p.m. in Pewee Valley Central Park, and that home-schooled kids are welcome to attend alongside the classes from St. Aloysius Elementary Academy to learn about the environment.

Rogers also said that the council will conduct a first reading of next fiscal year's budget at their next meeting, that he is looking at making the speed limit monitoring sign on Maple Avenue solar-powered, and that the speed bumps on Old Floyd'sburg Road will be reinstalled once the roadwork is complete.

Rademaker reported that Shakespeare in the Park is scheduled for April 23 at 6:30 in the Pewee Valley Central Park, and that the event venue at 314 Mt Mercy Drive is the "rain out" space. The event will feature "The Tempest."

Rademaker also said that the survey for the sidewalk being added to Maple Avenue up to Elm Street is complete, and design work is underway. Tree work is also underway.

Councilor Allen Ford said that a contractor leveled out the pavers around the gazebo in the central park about two weeks ago, reddid the sod around it and added sand between the pavers to ensure they stay level.

Councilor Amanda Mudd asked attendees to use the contact information listed on the city's new website to reach out to the members of the council with any questions or concerns.

The next Pewee Valley City Council meeting is scheduled for May 6 at 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Jane Ashley Pace

**Police say a juvenile suffering from gunshot wounds after a shooting at a residence on Betances Court in La Grange is still being treated for his injuries as of press time.**

## SUSPECTS

FROM PAGE A1

Oldham County EMS transported the injured juvenile from the scene to the University of Louisville Hospital for medical treatment. Police say that the juvenile is still being treated for his injuries as of press time.

While the juvenile was being transported, Oldham County Police soon found the vehicle traveling south on I-71, which prompted Louisville Metro Police to follow suit as the vehicle exited Oldham County.

The pursuit ended in the Vermont Avenue area

of west Louisville, where officers located a male occupant of the vehicle with an apparent gunshot wound. Police say that the other occupants fled sometime before or at the end of the pursuit.

Though La Grange Police Chief Greg Collett said that the other occupants are still at large as of press time, there is "no information to [indicate] that there is a current threat to the area."

Collett also stated that all involved parties were

together "by their own arrangement."

La Grange Police, with assistance from Oldham County Police, is investigating this incident. The case is ongoing, and police say that no further details are currently available.

If you have any additional information about this case, please contact the La Grange Police Department at 502-225-0444 or Oldham County Dispatch at 502-222-0111 or reportinfo@lagrangepoliceky.org.

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### CORRECTION

In the April 9 edition of the Era, a story titled "Not all heroes wear capes" incorrectly stated that Cassidy Stocker is a student at Oldham County High School. The article should have stated that Cassidy Stocker is a student at South Oldham High School. For a fully corrected version, visit oldhamera.com.

## The Oldham Era

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