

THE PIONEER NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 WWW.PIONEERNEWS.NET VOL. 143, No. 74 \$2

Residents clear in displeasure over warehouses

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Residents living near a proposed light industrial development made it clear Monday to the Shepherdsville City Council.

They were totally opposed to the request to rezone five tracts, totaling around 55 acres, off Stevens Drive to IL Light Industrial.

A public hearing on Monday brought out a large crowd of residents who opposed the proposal by Roebing Development to construct three small-to-medium size warehouses.

Attorney Jon Baker led the presentation for the applicants seeking the rezoning, which got a 9-1 favorable recommendation from the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission.

Baker, along with company representatives, said that the request fit the comprehensive land-use plan. Property in that area was designated for light industrial growth.

With changes made to the designs after input from the residents, Baker said that the buildings would be compatible with the area.

Issues such as drainage issues already in the area could be improved with the installation of two retention

ponds, as well as improvements to the existing system.

Berms would be installed, keeping some of the existing trees and then installing others.

Building setbacks would range from 120 feet to as much as 300 feet from existing residential property owners.

And one building would be built with an existing hill making it unseen by neighbors.

Baker said that the applicants agreed to a number of conditions during the planning hearing.

Those included repairing the existing drainage system; make sure lighting is no taller than 20 feet and

would be directed downward; the only access would be off of Highway 480 with an emergency gated entrance on Stevens Drive; storm water retention would be at least 1.5 times the required amount of storage; screening and berms would be installed; sidewalks would be installed; and the planning commission would get one final look at the site plan.

Mark Stout, one of the applicants, said that changes have occurred in the area and that warehouses are important to the county.

When the county pushed state officials to build Exit 114, Stout said that was done to save jobs and to

bring in others. With 70 percent of the city's general fund being derived from occupational taxes, Stout said that money is important in providing services to the residents.

Several concerns dominated the conversation from the audience.

Councilmember Faith Portman started the discussion on traffic, asking if a study had been done on the area.

Baker said he did not know if the KYTC had done any such study. If the state recommends a center turn lane or turn lanes, he said that would have to be done by the

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HOW SWEET IT IS for BULLITT EAST



MIKE FARNER

The Bullitt East Lady Chargers will return to the Clark's Pump-N-Shop KHSAA Girls' Basketball Sweet Sixteen on Thursday when they play Franklin-Simpson. See page B-1 for all of the details of the regional championship and a preview of the state tournament.

Man charged with wife's murder

MOUNT WASHINGTON – Williamsburg Court is typically a pretty quiet area. However, Mount Washington police were called to the scene of a home and they found anything but a quiet scene on March 6.

What they found was a man and a dead body.

Richard Chesher, 67, of Mount Washington, faces charges of murder with domestic violence, as well as tampering with physical evidence and abuse of a corpse.

He is currently being held at the Bullitt County Detention Center on a \$1 million bond. His next court appearance will be on March 17, according to court records.

Around 9 p.m. on Friday, Mount Washington police officers were dispatched to Williamsburg Court.

The arrest citation states



Bullitt County Detention Center

that when officers arrived at the home, Chesher was near his garage door. They observed him by the door with "with what appeared to be blood all over his clothing, hands and face."

Upon investigation, officers saw a body that was

SEE MAN/PAGE A7

County to ask state for lower speeds, shoulder work on Hwy. 44

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – They came to the recent meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court looking for help.

Their plea came just days after a 36-year-old woman lost her life in a traffic accident on Highway 44 East near Watergate Drive.

The Kentucky State Police said that a juvenile went off the road and over-corrected, striking the victim's vehicle.

The accidents on Highway 44 have become common for those residents and they came to fiscal court looking for answers, especially in a section at Watergate Road between Foster Lane and Douglas Drive.

After the discussion between residents and fiscal court members, the consensus was that requests would be made to make the state-maintained road a little safer.

The court unanimously voted to ask the state Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit from 55 miles per hour to 45 and to make improvements on the shoulders of the road from Sunview Road to Big Clifty Drive.

There was also a list of other minor

improvements which the county would pursue with state officials.

Roanne Hammond lives across the street from the accident. As a retired planning administrator, she knows the amount of growth which has occurred along Highway 44.

Thanking the First Responders for their work, Hammond said there must be something which can be done to make the road safer.

The cost of acquiring right-of-way for expansion of Highway 44 has made major improvements prohibitive. But Hammond said that owners of property which sought rezonings were required to provide at least a 10-foot easement to the state for future expansion.

She called the state about the condition of the roadway and contacted state Rep. Thomas Huff.

After the accident, she said state officials did patch a hole at the scene. But that work was done prior to the conclusion of the KSP reconstruction of the scene, said Hammond.

"You all have the power," Hammond told Scott Czanya. "We need your help." Scott Sztanya said the problem is that erosion along the side of the road next to a new paintball facility has caused

a major dropoff with no way for a vehicle to recover if it gets off the pavement.

He said he had made several calls to state officials and had received no response.

Ava Smith said that when the property was rezoned for the paintball facility, the developer was to add a turn lane but that has not been done.

"I'm just disgusted," Smith said of the dangerous situation.

Kay Coots loves the neighborhood but the new construction has caused a lot of change in the area.

She hears emergency vehicles all the time traveling Highway 44. She feels high speed by westbound vehicles are then facing a sharp curve and they run off the side of the pavement.

Tony Burnett said there had been two deaths in that area and there are regularly accidents.

"The accidents have picked up a lot more since that construction started," said Burnett.

He said the white line on the outside of the pavement is missing in various spots along Highway 44 and drivers are going too fast with nowhere to go if

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Stephen Thomas

Bullitt County Public Schools Homeless Education Assistance Liaison Tiffany Reynolds will welcome students and families at the new house location.

A new home for homeless student assistance

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

PLEASANT GROVE — There's no place like home... a familiar motto to many, but it means much more to homeless students and families.

The Bullitt County Public Schools McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Program provides support and assistance to 460 reported homeless students throughout the district.

This year the program will be able to provide one extra and important benefit: they can at least make students and families feel like they're home.

Work is being completed on the new McKinney-Vento Heart House, a former farmhouse being converted into the program's headquarters.

The Heart House is located at 329 Ellis Cook Road, near Eastside Middle

SEE HOME/PAGE A4

Mike Rice for Bullitt County Magistrate District 3
Responsible Development and Growth
Honest and Open Communication
Common Sense Solutions from a Proven Local Entrepreneur
Election Day - May 19th, 2026
Paid by Candidate Mike Rice



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