

HANCOCK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Boxes for our patrons 18+

There will not be a Book Box in May, so the Book Box lady can prepare for the next three months. Mark your calendar for the June box sign-up on Monday, June 2nd. Theme: Everything's Coming Up "Roses"

The Friends of the Library Book-fest

The Friends of the Library Book-fest 2025 is almost over! Don't miss this great opportunity to stock your home library with books, DVDs and magazines at NO COST! The Book-fest will be open at the Lewisport Branch library Thursday and Friday 4/24-25 from 9:00AM-5:00PM and Saturday 4/26 from 9:00AM-1:00PM. Take home one or two items, or fill up a bag. Monetary donations are appreciated, but not required. Come check it out!

Storytime

There will be an "Evening Storytime" at 5:30 pm May 13, 2025 at the Lewisport Branch Library. Another will be held at the Hawesville Library May 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm. All ages are welcome! Everyone loves a good story!

Service Highlight

Interlibrary Loan – Is there is a book you would like to read or a movie you would like to watch that we do not have at our library? We can request that item from another library through the interlibrary loan service

Lewisport City Council Votes to Form Independent Planning & Zoning Board

By Jennifer Wimmer

The Lewisport City Council met on Thursday evening, April 17th, and the decision has been made for the city to disassociate from the Hancock County Urban Planning Commission (Planning and Zoning).

Council members had discussed this, and made the decision at the budget workshop they had earlier this month. They made the approval at the meeting for the City of Lewisport to mail an official letter of intent, "to the Hancock County Fiscal Court and to the Planning and Zoning Board of the intent to withdraw from its organization effective July 1, 2025."

Lewisport Mayor Chad Gregory explained, "Lewisport has no accounting of the \$10,000 annual contribution to the organization, when taxpayer money is used, and I want full accounting of the funds used in any organization. There has not been a meeting for planning and zoning since December 2024. Lewisport, for the past several years, has experienced unprecedented growth, and needs answers/solutions and can't depend on every-other-month meetings as set forth by Planning and Zoning. The City of Lewisport, I feel, has not been on the same page with Planning and Zoning and its outlook for the future for some time now."

In addition, the City of Lewisport intends forming its own fully-funded planning and zoning board for its incorporated city limits.

Utility Rate Increases

Council members reviewed the choices they discussed at the budget workshop for percentage increases for gas, water, and sewer. The choices were: 5, 8, or 10 percent increase on gas; and 3 percent increase on both water and sewer.

Councilwoman Mary Margaret Hawkins said, "I say 3 percent on all of the money. Everything is just so high anymore. I bet it

we provide. It may take a few weeks, but we will make every effort to locate and bring the requested item for your enjoyment.

Book Review

Crow Mary by Kathleen Grissom

In Montana in the summer of 1872, Crow Mary marries Abe Farwell, a white fur trader, and accompanies him to his trading post in Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, Canada. In the spring of 1873, they are preparing to return to Montana when they witness the Cypress Hill Massacre, in which forty innocent Nakoda are killed by a drunken gang. Following the massacre, Crow Mary single-handedly rescues five Nakoda women who are held captive and abused by the gang. Thus, she sets off a whirlwind of colliding cultures that brings out the worst and the best in the cast of unforgettable characters and pushes the love between Farwell and Crow Mary to the breaking point.

Inspired by the life of the real Crow Mary and endorsed by her great-granddaughter, Crow elders, and Crow scholars, this is an epic love story that sweeps across decades, showcases the beauty of the natural world, and probes the intimacies of a marriage and one woman's heart.

Closed

The Libraries will be closed for Staff Development Day, Monday May 5, 2025.

will come down, eventually, but I can't see hitting all of our customers with everything at one time."

A vote was taken, and all members agreed on a 3 percent increase on all three, and to re-evaluate percentages again in October or November.

Heritage Fest Update

The 2025 Lewisport Heritage Festival is Thursday, May 29th, Friday, May 30th, and Saturday, May 31st, and event preparations are underway.

"The Heritage Festival Committee has booked the bands," Gregory said.

Two local artists will be entertaining on Thursday night, Jaysen Wilcox and Jade Hamilton. On Friday, Whiskey Row, an acclaimed high-energy country band, plays from 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. On Saturday, Boscoe France Band plays from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., entertaining with impressive slide guitar skills and a fusion of blues, rock, and country. Super Bee will play on Saturday from 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m., a popular classic rock band from Louisville.

"The festival t-shirt design is confirmed," Gregory said. "The color this year is green."

Heritage Fest 5K

The 5K Color Run is Saturday, May 31st, and starts at 8:00 a.m., at 190 4th Street, in Lewisport. A special 5K event t-shirt is guaranteed for all who pre-register by May 19th, and registration is \$20. Forms are at Lewisport City Hall, Hancock County Public Libraries (Hawesville & Lewisport), the HC Career Center, HC Senior Center, Rehabilitation & Performance Institute, and Poole's Pharmacy. The race is sponsored by the HC Health Coalition, HC Chamber of Commerce, and HCPL. Medals will be awarded in age categories, and proceeds go toward scholarships and future events. Call Julie Newton if you have questions, at (270) 922-7580.

Police Department Update

Hawesville's Justin Nugent Recognized for Real Estate Excellence

By Jennifer Wimmer

Justin Nugent, of Hawesville, a distinguished real estate professional with RE/MAX Real Estate Executives in Bowling Green, ranked third out of all RE/MAX agents in Kentucky for total transaction sides closed, as well as ranking seventh overall for total commissions earned in 2024. These prestigious awards affirm his steadfast commitment to excellence.

Justin is one of 40 agents at the RE/MAX Real Estate Executives office in Bowling Green, and excels working from his home in Hawesville, providing outstanding service to his clients in Hancock, Breckinridge, Daviess, Ohio, and Grayson Counties. He is part of the Greater Owensboro Realtor Association and the Owensboro Multiple Listing Service, and serves clients throughout all of Kentucky, with a main focus on local areas.

"I've never gotten an award like this," Justin said. "This just doesn't happen without people trusting me and allowing me to work with them. It's all about trust. That's something I strive for. I just treat others the way I want to be treated. I've never focused on the money; I've always focused on helping the client. I feel like that's what has gotten me to where I am today...I don't focus on the awards. I helped 89 families find a home or property last year, and that's what I focus on. My biggest year, I

helped 97 families."

Only top-performing real estate agents who demonstrate outstanding sales achievements and dedication to their clients are honored with these awards. Justin seamlessly manages a high volume of successful real estate transactions, and is praised for consistently delivering optimal results, while always maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. These accomplishments truly set him apart in Kentucky's competitive real estate market.

Justin graduated from Hancock County High School in 1994. He earned his associate's degree at Owensboro Community Technical College (OCTC) in 1998, and began working at Commonwealth Rolled Products that same year. He continues to work at Commonwealth, and has for the last 27 years, as a Material Driver.

Justin and his wife, Shanna, always try to give back to individuals and organizations in the community, especially different school organizations. Justin is a Gideon with the Hancock County Gideon Camp. In the past, he served on the Hawesville City Council, and on the Hancock County Public Schools Foundation Board for several years.

He began taking real estate classes in 2004 at OCTC, and earned his license in 2005. He worked with Next Home, in Bowling Green, before joining RE/MAX Real Estate Ex-



The Nugent Family (l to r): Oliver Nugent (grandchild), Shanna & Justin Nugent, Reid Nugent (grandchild), Jordan & Autumn Nugent, Tristan Cox (Shayla's boyfriend), and Shayla Nugent.

ecutives, and earned sales volume awards with the Next Home team as well.

"I originally started with Hancock Real Estate & Auction (in Hawesville)," he said. "I felt like I needed a change in 2010. I almost quit; I was one day away from putting my license in escrow, and I just happened to meet a broker in Owensboro, from Bowling Green. His name was Greg Raymer. He asked me if I'd ever thought about making a change. I tried it, and the next year I sold twelve. It wasn't until 2016 that this took off for me. It took 11 years of working, and then finally it took off, and it's done very well."

His clients and colleagues compliment him on his unmatched personalized approach and deep understanding of the local market. He has earned a loyal and trusting following because of his honesty

and integrity. He is dedicated to consistently placing client needs first, with an unwavering commitment to outstanding care.

Justin and Shanna's two children are Jordan and Shayla Nugent. Jordan and his wife, Autumn, have blessed them with two grandchildren, Oliver and Reid.

Shanna was a manager at Kraftco Federal Credit Union, and retired three years ago in order to spend more time with their grandchildren, and help with babysitting. She is the daughter of Lloyd & Linda Basham. Justin's parents are Billy Joe & Caroline Nugent, of Lewisport.

Clients can contact Justin Nugent directly at (270) 316-8946 to discuss their real estate needs. His website is: <https://justinnugent.com>, and the email address is: kentuckyrealestate@hotmail.com.

Safely Dispose of Unused/Expired Medicines This Saturday at the HC Sheriff's Office Parking Lot

By Jennifer Wimmer

On Saturday, April 26th, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., the public is encouraged to bring all unused, expired, or unwanted prescription drugs and drop them off to the attendant at the parking lot of the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, in Hawesville. This is a convenient opportunity to safely and responsibly dispose of these medications.

Hancock County Court Security Officer Tom Myers will be at the HC Sheriff's Office parking lot Saturday to collect those, so that they can be properly disposed of. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a biannual event, and part of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Drug Take Back initiative.

"We'll take them in whatever container

they're in," Tom said. "This is just an easy way to dispose of them. Some people put them in plastic bags, and others just give us the container. The containers will go right in a box, and they'll go to an incinerator. We've been doing this for about 17 years...It kind of started because, back in the day, we used to have a problem with kids taking drugs out of their parents' or grandparents' medicine cabinets, and then they'd put them together and have pill parties."

Thankfully, that particular problem doesn't seem to be happening much anymore, he said, but there are still many dangers with pills not being disposed of in the correct manner.

Hancock County holds a Prescription Drug Take Back Day in April, and

lift station was completed, and up and running before the flood hit.

"Before the floods, we heard what the prediction was going to be on crests, and we put an extra 2-foot [barrier] to protect that station, and it worked like it should," he said. "We've been working on cleaning up after the flood. There has been a lot of debris - driftwood, etc...We have 2 water and 2 gas services scheduled to put in next week; Two new homes going up. Just finished spring hydrant flushing (April 14-17, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.). That all went pretty well. Troy completed his Class 2 water license. We're proud of him for that."

Regionalized Water Plant

Engineers Matt Curtis and Bryan Lovan, Co-owners of Bluegrass Engineering, have been doing a study at the potential site for construction of the Regionalized Water Plant, located behind the Lewisport Library. They did some test drilling, and now a new well has been drilled.

Layne Company drilled the well, and the casing is being inserted next. The following week, they'll return to administer the 72-hour pump test. The test is set at pumping out 750 gallons per minute for the full 72 hours to record water levels, and assess the well and aquifer performance.

The Regionalized Water Plant project for Hancock County that the city has been working on

again in October. The goal has always been to prevent drug misuse, abuse, and accidental poisonings by providing a way for the public to remove potentially dangerous medications from their homes. These events also serve to raise public awareness about the risks of prescription medication abuse.

"Everything I get will be turned over to the DEA the next Monday," Tom said.

In addition, he strongly advised against flushing unused prescription pills down the toilet. This can introduce harmful drugs into the sewer system, which wastewater plants cannot fully remove. Flushing prescription pills can pollute local waterways, potentially harming wildlife, and possibly having a negative effect on human health as

in order to supply local needs, is in the first phase of construction. The \$20M reverse osmosis water plant will be sized for approximately 1.5 million gallons, and could be operational in as soon as three years.

The capacity would cover the approximate 600,000 gallons per day used by both Lewisport and Hawesville, as well as excess for future growth. Transmission mains have been designed, including ones that run into Vastwood Park, with a master meter to serve Hawesville, if the City of Hawesville decides to enter into the agreement.

For this project, \$8M has been awarded from the state so far, with \$6.3M grant principal forgiveness. \$2.5M has been requested from Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office as well. With an agreement signed by both cities for regionalization, it is a possibility for 80-90 percent principal forgiveness of grant funding moving forward.

Both cities have older water plants, which was the main factor in moving forward with plans for a new water plant in Lewisport, that would also have an interconnect for Hawesville. The goal is to keep the plant local, and with no outsourcing.

There was a tentative date set for a Public Meeting, and that was canceled. As soon as a new date is set, it will be announced in The Clarion. The meeting will allow the public to ask ques-

well. Flushing them can also harm the bacteria in both septic and city sewer systems that are essential for breaking down waste. The disruption could also cause treatment plants to have to use more chemicals or processes to compensate for the loss of biological treatment, making wastewater treatment less efficient and possibly even more expensive.

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office is located at 225 Main Street, in Hawesville.

If you're not able to attend the event on Saturday, the HC Sheriff's Office and the Lewisport Police Department both have drop boxes available for ongoing disposal of unused or expired medications. Lewisport Police Department is located at 210 Caroline Street, in Lewisport.

tions and get answers on the project.

Road Bid Approval

Gregory said that he, R.J., and City Administrator Jason Roberts are compiling a list of the curbs that need replacing. So far, he said River-view Drive will probably be first on the list for that because it is in the worst shape, and then maybe some on Fifth Street, as well as at the entrance at Hancock Park. The council approved taking bids for the designated roads.

Gas Main Extension Approval

At the council meeting in March, a gas main extension for Brandon House was approved, at Antionette Estates. It is located on a cul-de-sac, and once the area is more developed, there may also be more homes built there that will need gas lines added in the future.

Lewisport Farmers Market

Vendors are needed for the 2025 Lewisport Farmers Market, and it's FREE to set up! Call Megan Simpson at Lewisport City Hall for more information, at: (270) 295-3324. The tentative dates are set for the Saturdays of June 14th, July 12th, July 26th, August 9th, August 23rd, September 13th, and September 27th; and the Mondays of June 23rd, July 7th, July 21st, August 4th, August 18th, September 1st, September 15th, and September 29th. The market is held at Chapman Park in downtown Lewisport.