

Picture perfect



Lexy Ijames takes some photographs of her 9-month-old daughter, Morgan Folz, out in her yard during a photo shoot in a summer outfit on Thursday in the 2100 block of Ottawa Drive.

Elizabethtown police department growing to meet service needs

BY GINA CLEAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Elizabethtown is growing and with it comes a need for expanded services. To show how his department was growing to meet the needs of the community, Police Chief Jeremy Thompson brought along a majority of the department's most recent 38 hires Monday to a city council meeting.

"This is the safest city council meeting maybe ever," Mayor Jeff Gregory said looking out over the crowd.

The department has added 38 personnel in the last 18 months, Thompson said.

"This is a reflection of trust of this council, trust in the police department and hopefully trust our community has in this department as well," Thompson said. "We were voted one of the safest cities in the United States a few years back. We didn't stop there just say, 'Well, that's in the past.' We want to continue to provide that same level, if not a higher level of safety and security for our citizens. If not for the trust ..., we wouldn't be able to accomplish those things."

Thompson, who has served as chief for the last six years, said thanks to the support of city council in the last several budget cycles to support public safety, which included pay increases and adding positions to the department, it has been able to keep up with the city's growth without a loss of services.

"We have over the last six years given our plan for the P.D.," Thompson said. "The growth, we know what

BlueOval has done to our community, all of the side businesses that have popped up whether it be in our industrial park, restaurants, what have you, that growth, we need to match that growth."

The department now is at its "authorized strength" of 90 personnel, Thompson said. According to a chart Thompson shared with council, the 90 personnel includes two deputy chiefs, three lieutenants, seven sergeants and five supervisors or managers among its leadership ranks.

It also includes 38 new officers, from new hires to lateral transfers, and other personnel in the department's civilian support personnel and dispatch center.

"We've been able to successfully get a lot of that because of the lateral success," Thompson said. "We didn't have to wait for some of those academy positions to open up and the six-month backlog to get into the academy."

The increase in personnel has allowed the department to deploy its Flex platoon, which addresses "complicated problems," such as traffic violations, a part of Thompson's vision when he became chief.

"There was only one lieutenant in 2019, Josh Richardson, and he's been deputy chief about as long as I've been here as chief now," Thompson said. "You allowed us to the position of having four to lead all of the growth."

Thompson again commended the council for its support of the department's growth that shows a dedication to public safety.

"We have tremendous commitment to public safety in the city, and that is because of plan we brought forth and then the response you all have given us," Thompson said. "This is a time ... to give credit where credit is due, credit for your belief in our plan. ... But this is proof positive that what you all have allowed us to do is working, our city has not seen a reduction in police services."

"Many cities that have seen population growth percentage wise have had to reduce police services, fire services because they can't keep up with the growth, because they've not been investing in personnel," Thompson added. "We haven't had to do that. As a matter of fact, we are building and we are adding on to the services as we provide."

Thompson pointed to a chart showing the department's calls for service with police responding to 33,269 calls in 2024 and 15,663 so far in 2025.

Councilman Tony Bishop pointed to the escort the department gives to funeral processions, including for his father, and how a relative noted that not all cities provide that service.

"I do always say everything starts with public safety, because if you don't feel safe where you live, then nothing else is going to work," Gregory said. "People aren't going to come here, they aren't going to do things here, they're not going to spend money in your town, they're not going to shop, they're not going to go to ballgames. They want to feel safe where they live. We do take pride investing in our P.D. and our fire departments."

QUARTET

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quartet — which has had varying lineup changes — stayed busy with performing more than 140 concerts in over 35 states until 2013, when Bridgmon "retired" the group to embark on a solo career in inspirational country music.

The group has since reunited multiple times throughout the years, and Bridgmon said preparing for shows is "sort of like riding a bicycle."

"... Most of these guys recorded these songs (15 to 20) years ago. We've been singing them every year,"

he said. "It's really an amazing experience When we get back together, it's like we've been singing all year long."

The setlist will consist of the group's older material and southern gospel radio hits, along with some of Bridgmon's solo discography — including a new song.

"We want to just bring glory to God," Bridgmon said, "... and we want to show that gospel music isn't dead."

Bridgmon said the group will be recognizing a milestone in the near future.

"We are actually celebrating our 25th anniversary next year," he said, "and we're going to have some really cool stuff planned."

Payne said Sunday's concert will open with a performance by The Fletcher Family, who are also attendees of the church.

"You will get a blessing whether you're laughing or you're crying or praising the Lord," Payne said,

"because the music is so good."

The concert is free to attend, while a free love offering will be accepted.

For more information, visit facebook.com/firm-foundationquartet.

GARAGE SALE
CENTRAL- Sweeney St. 1521, Owensboro KY
Audubon Area Head Start
Obsolete Sale.
Friday, July 18 9:00-3:30 and Saturday, July 19 9:00-noon
Cash or business check only.

TWO

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coupled with a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree from Western Kentucky University, she was the perfect candidate to further TWO's youth and educational programs as the new education coordinator."

She said TWO's staff and board "are elated at the opportunity to be able to work alongside someone whose personal mission is to create a safe, inclusive and fun environment for young artists to thrive. We are excited for what the future holds for TWO youth with Kayla at the helm."

Keith Lawrence,
klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 25.02
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF WHITESVILLE, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026
ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message have been prepared and delivered to the City Commissioners; and
WHEREAS, the City Commissioners have reviewed such budget proposals and have made necessary modifications,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WHITESVILLE, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION ONE: That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is hereby adopted as follows:
RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

	GENERAL FUND	ENTERPRISES (WT /SW)
Intergovernmental	\$193,000	
Real & Personal Tax	\$40,400	
Regulatory	\$136,000	
Miscellaneous	\$101,100	
Permits	\$250	
Enterprises		
Sub-total	\$470,750	\$1,728,450
Total Resources available for Appropriations:	\$470,750	\$1,728,450
APPROPRIATIONS:		
General Government	\$355,850	
Public Safety	\$42,350	
Public Works	\$72,550	
Enterprises		
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:	\$470,750	\$1,728,450
TOTAL TRANSFERS IN:	\$193,000	
TOTAL TRANSFERS OUT:		\$193,000

SECTION TWO: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its final passage, approval and publication as required by law.
INTRODUCED AND PUBLICLY READ ON FIRST READING, this the 19th day of June, 2025.
PUBLICLY READ AND APPROVED ON SECOND READING, this the 23rd day of June, 2025.

Patsy Mayfield
Patsy Mayfield, Mayor

ATTEST:
Monique Brooks
Monique Brooks, City Clerk

CROWN

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combat mental-health and substance-abuse issues, said the art is part of the residents' healing process.

"Art is a gateway to healing," Irizarry said. "It builds resiliency. Everything that you've held in for so long, it gives you an opportunity to share out and express. This also helps the person navigate those kind of behavioral issues that kind of stem from holding everything in."

"So it gives that opportunity to share that out in a productive way and promotes a lot of the healing process."

Irizarry said the artwork is the perspective of the artist who has experienced challenges in their lives, whether it stems from what's happening in their family circle, what's happened to them, or they've been impacted by whatever they're involved in.

"A lot of that is sharing their story," she said, "telling you through art their perspective on how they've seen things or how they've experienced things."

The artwork on display includes everything from animals to skulls to superheroes to faceless heads.

"We say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so when you're viewing the art, you're seeing it from your perspective and the perspective of the person who created it and trying to understand what that looks like and what that means to you," Irizarry said. "For example, with faceless, the person could feel lost. They don't have a face anymore because they lost their identity. They don't know where to navigate, who they are, and that could have been from challenges and traumatic events that happened in their childhood. It can mean a lot of things within that."

With the artwork often exposing patients' inner feelings, it often provides a pathway for treatment.

"If I see that someone

is having that challenge that they don't know who they are, how can I help them navigate that so they can find themselves?" Irizarry said. "And on the behavioral health side — it helps with the therapeutic side as well — addressing some of that, because now we know from the perspective of the child what those things are. Art brings that about. It offers that opportunity."

"But it also offers that voice that they've been maybe holding off so long, haven't been able to speak it, but can draw it, illustrate it, and can demonstrate what's going on and how that's impacted them and maybe demonstrate why the challenges that they're in the middle of right now stems from that. It offers a lot of perspectives."

Some of the artwork includes inspirational messages, such as an exceptional drawing of a tiger's face with the inscription "Our mind is like a tiger: powerful, proud and sometimes in need of quiet to regain its strength. Even a tiger rests in the shade — give your mind permission to pause, too."

Irizarry said the show provides a great opportunity for the community to better understand the issues others face.

"This can happen with anybody, and community members may not know what it's like, what that is, because they haven't experienced it personally, they viewed it differently, or its something they've never thought of," Irizarry said. "This opportunity of displaying art offers that moment where you can kind of come in and see and maybe ask questions, maybe bring up the conversation, and understand just a little more so we're more trauma informed in how to address that in our community."

"We all want to help the community, but how do we do that if we don't reach out and understand what the other side is facing and those challenges that they have?"

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF WHITESVILLE
ORDINANCE NO. 25.01
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 01.16 THE LICENSING OF TRADES, BUSINESSES, AND PROFESSIONS TO REFLECT NEW LICENSE FEES AND ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR PERSONS CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF WHITESVILLE, KENTUCKY

WHEREAS, the Whitesville City Commission deems it necessary and desirable to revise the current business licensing ordinance to clarify any confusion as to whom the license applies as well as revise the fees for certain trades, businesses, and professions conducted within the city limits.
NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City of Whitesville, Kentucky as follows:
SECTION ONE: LICENSE FEE
The license fee shall be for each category as follows:
I. Rental Property
A. Commercial or Residential
1. 1-3 Units [\$35.00] **\$45.00**
2. 4-6 Units [\$75.00] **\$85.00**
3. 7-10 Units [\$125.00] **\$135.00**
4. 10 Units or more [\$125.00] **\$135.00** + \$25.00 each additional unit
B. Storage Units
1. 1-5 Units [\$35.00] **\$45.00**
2. 5-10 Units [\$50.00] **\$55.00**
3. 10 Units or more [\$100.00] **\$105.00**
II. Peddler/Food Truck Licenses
A. License per day \$10.00
B. License good for 30 days \$25.00
C. License good for 90 days \$30.00
D. License good for 1 year **\$50.00** Based on date of issuance
III. General Business License (for all other trades, businesses, or professions)
A. Standard License [\$35.00] **\$50.00** each
B. Additional Licenses [\$25.00] **\$30.00** each as follows:
1. Grocery Sales
2. General Merchandise
3. Tobacco Sales
4. Ice Machine Sales
5. Drink Machine
6. Arcade
7. Prepared Food Sales
8. Propane Tank rentals
9. DVD Rental Machine
C. Special Licenses
1. Laundry
A. Regular Washers [\$10.00] **\$15.00** each
B. Extra Large Washers [\$15.00] **\$20.00** each
C. Dryers [\$10.00] **\$15.00** each
2. Gas Pumps
A. Gas Pump [\$15.00] **\$20.00**
B. Additional Gas Pump [\$10.00] **\$15.00** each
3. Lottery Machine [\$15.00] **\$20.00**
4. Multiple Booth Rentals \$100.00

PENALTY
Any person conducting business in this city without first having paid the license fee to the appropriate authority and having obtained a license therefore shall be guilty of Class A misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense. Each day that business is conducted without having paid the license fee and obtaining a license shall constitute a separate offense and subject to the penalties set out herein.
SECTION TWO: All ordinances conflicting with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict. This ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2025 upon passage and publication according to law.
INTRODUCED AND PUBLICLY READ at first reading this 12th day of June, 2025.
PUBLICLY READ AND ADOPTED at second reading this 19th day of June, 2025.

Patsy Mayfield
MAYOR

ATTEST:
Monique Brooks
CITY CLERK