



ALEXA BLACK | Times Leader

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# Zoning issues near Princeton-Caldwell County Airport

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CALDWELL COUNTY, Ky. — Planning and Zoning Commission hosted a public hearing to settle a dispute over a property owner near the Princeton-Caldwell County Airport who unknowingly committed a violation ordinance. The resident had built a garage on the side of the house, which could create a potential obstruction.

Though the building itself is not an obstruction, it is still considered a violation of the ordinance. The commission was somewhat divided on what precedent it could set for other property owners if the restrictions were changed for this specific instance.

**The proposed changes will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting, where the council can either accept or deny the changes.**

The resident stated before the commission board that she was unaware of it being a violation, after moving to the city. She asked the commission board to change the ordinance to accommodate her unique situation. Currently, the garage is positioned in a way that the airport hangar is directly behind the building. She has contacted both Airport Board Chairman Lloyd Murdock and Board Member Phillip Sisk, who has agreed to work with her.

Princeton Planning Commission Chair Bill Perry asked if she had gotten a permit for the build, as it has been on the books for years prior. The resident then said that she takes full responsibility for not knowing of these restrictions and will take the building down if need be, but pleaded her case that it is not an obstruction, that the building is maintained and may potentially increase the property value.

The resident then showed pictures to the entirety of the

board and elaborated that she understands the importance of this ordinance in other situations. Planning and Zoning Administrator Jenny Clark then explained that this is a unique situation, as there is only one other property similar to the resident. However, Clark said that in general, zoning practices do not change in order to accommodate one person, but the community as a whole and that these ordinances have been in place for quite some time.

Various board members then deliberated, some feeling that if they were to change the ordinance, it would give others initiative to do the same and could cause

visual hazards. Board member Ty’Quan Bumphus and Gale Cherry say that they would be willing to work with the resident, noting that the appearance of the building itself is in adequate shape and is not making massive changes to the property overall. The resident felt that, even if she were to have the building taken down, the visibility would still be the exact same as it currently is.

Overall, Bumphus, Cherry and Woodall voted to allow changes to the ordinance, while Perry and Hooks voted no. The proposed changes will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting, where the council can either accept or deny the changes.

# McConnell’s farmland preservation bill becomes law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A measure introduced by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell in an effort to combat the loss of farmland to large-scale developers has been signed into law by President Donald Trump.

The legislation, called the Protecting American Farmlands Act, aims to help farmers who want to sell their land keep it in agricultural production by decreasing the capital gains tax burden if they sell to another farmer. More specifically, the measure defers the capital gains tax over

a four-year period if the farmer sells the land to a farmer who will keep it in agricultural production for a minimum of 10 years, McConnell’s office explained in a news release.

McConnell’s office said the senator made sure the measure was added into President Donald Trump’s “One Big, Beautiful Bill,” which the president signed into law on July 4.

“The Protecting American Farmlands Act addresses the steady decline in available farmland by easing the

tax burden on our hard-working producers,” a statement from McConnell read. “This is a huge win for Kentucky farmers and will help preserve our vital farmland for future generations.”

Among the measure’s supporters is Kentucky Farm Bureau, which in 2024 launched the Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative Network in an effort to preserve farmland in the state. According to the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the network is “a coalition of Kentucky agricultural organizations and institutions committed

to preserving farmland for active farmers.”

When the network announced its endorsement of the Protecting American Farmlands Act in March, Kentucky Farm Bureau President Eddie Melton released a statement saying “The farms we know and love as Kentuckians are at risk,” and “At the current rate of farmland loss, the number of Kentucky farmers will be cut in half over the next 60 years. We can’t solve this problem alone, and fortunately, we don’t have to. With the support of Senator

McConnell and so many influential leaders in agriculture, we have an opportunity to make real progress in preserving our farmland. The passage of the Protecting American Farmlands Act is an essential step in this effort.”

In another statement released Monday celebrating the bill’s passage, Melton explained why he and the Kentucky Farm Bureau believe capital gains tax relief will help preserve farmland in the commonwealth.

“This is a crucial first step in providing

America’s farmers capital gains relief while incentivizing keeping farmland in the hands of active farmers,” the statement read in part. “This will provide farmers with another tool when looking to transition their land while also addressing the drastic loss of farmland across the country. Senator McConnell has long been a champion for Kentucky agriculture, and this legislation is a testament to his commitment to the American farmer and the future security of America’s food supply.”

### Disability Tax Exemption For Real Estate

To qualify for the Disability Exemption a taxpayer must meet the following requirements:

1. The Real Estate must be in the home-owners name and claim as their primary residence as of January 1st, 2025.
2. The taxpayer must have been classified as totally disabled under a program authorized or administered by the U. S. Government or by any retirement system either within or outside Kentucky.
3. The taxpayer must be receiving disability payments from January 1st through December 31st 2025.
4. Persons that apply for a disability exemption must notify the PVA Office of any change in their disability status in the year their status changes.
5. No exemption can be granted if the application is not received prior to December 31st,
6. Tile total exemption allowed is \$49,100.

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