

MY VIEWS

Spiders in the garden

I'm not frightened by spiders; this doesn't mean that I want them crawling on me. I enjoy seeing them in the garden this time of the year. They seem to be everywhere: between the chair and the umbrella, in the frame of the garage door, across the window frame in the office, and across the path through the fern garden. This last one sometimes elicits panic because I tend to forget about it in the evening and end up walking through it. I like spiders but I don't want one on my shoulder.

In the garden spiders mostly mind their own business. And they are mostly harmless. But, in respect to full disclosure, something bit me last year while removing suckers from the crabapple trees. I am not sure what it was (although I suspect it was a wolf spider), but it left its mark, it oozed for two days, itched like crazy and made my ankle tingle and my toes feel numb one night. It was not a brown recluse or black widow. It was just something that I disturbed, so it bit me. I am still not afraid of spiders, although I am more careful when wading through the garden.

Most of the spiders out in the garden are large and visible, which I like. On mornings after a rain or heavy dew the webs of spiders become apparent- almost in an artistic way.

There are many more out there than you may suspect. The messy webs on the lawn, the zippered web of the garden spider and the finely woven web of the orb spider glisten with beads of moisture.

These spiders are busy, working daily to keep their webs in working order so they can trap their prey and nourish themselves so they can produce and lay eggs. During the day the spider rests out of sight but by

early evening they are back to work remaking or repairing their web: same place, same time to wait for their next meal.

Watch the construction sometime. I was curious about the webs that are attached to opposite structures that seem pretty far away from each other, especially if you are the size of a nickel; so, I observed the work one late afternoon. The spider, an orb spider in this case, did a little trick called ballooning. The spider adeptly caught a ride on a breeze as she spun her fine silk. Once the initial contact is made, she can travel along her silk as she spins to construct her web.

Young spiders will also use wind currents to get

from here to there. If you have read or seen Charlotte's Web you may recall Charlotte's children alighting on the wind at the very end of this classic story about life, friendship, diversity, death, and renewal. At some point the spiderlings let go and land in a new location. I suppose it takes a couple of tries to get where you want. This fine silk used to float on air is called

gossamer. So, if you see fine strands of silk floating in the air likely there was a recent dispersal of the next generation of spiders. We are likely to see this in October on a warm, still day. In fact, this correlation gives way to the term gossamer.

According to my favorite entomologist, Tom Turpin at Purdue University, gossamer is an old English word that

refers to the time of the year that the goose is brought to the table. Like our Indian Summer, the gossamer is named for a period of warm weather in November while the geese were being eaten known as goose summer. This was also the time that ballooning spiders were seen in abundance, so the association stuck. Goose summer thus becomes gossamer.



JENEEN WICHE

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LEGAL NOTICE

REQUIRED HEARING NOTICE FOR TAX RATE EXCEEDING COMPENSATING RATE

PUBLIC NOTICE 2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Anderson County Fiscal Court will hold a public hearing on 9-11-2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the Anderson County annex for the purpose of obtaining comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

The tax rate levied last year was **11.40** and produced revenues in the amount of **\$2,748,722**

This year's compensating rate is **10.90** and will produce revenues in the amount of **\$2,876,101**

The Anderson County Fiscal Court proposes a tax rate of 11.30 which will produce a total of **\$2,981.646** in revenues.

Revenue expected from New Property is	\$25,793
Revenue expected from Personal Property is	\$635,673
Revenue expected from Motor Vehicle is	\$382,701
Revenue expected from Watercraft is	\$12,021

Revenue received in excess of last year's revenue will be used for
GENERAL BUDGE EXPENSES

The Kentucky General Assembly requires that the Anderson County Fiscal court publish this notice with above information contained herein

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