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Early voting begins June 8 for primary

Filing deadline is near for General Election

By Crystal Cecil
R-H Staff

The filing deadline is near for the upcoming general election, November 3 and Green County Clerk Jessica Shofner Baker wants to be sure everyone is aware.

"The filing deadline is June 2 for those planning to run for city council, school board, or soil conservation officers in November," Baker said.

Additionally, the Clerk's office is conscientiously preparing for the upcoming Primary Election, which is set for June 23, and there are changes as to how the election will be conducted due to COVID-19.

The option to vote an absentee ballot will be expanded to include every voter.

On the June 23 Primary ballot, the Republican ballot includes: US President, US Senator, and US Representative Congress (2nd Congressional District);

Democratic ballot: US President and US Senator.

Baker says the office will be open beginning June 8 for early voting during regular business hours. Early voting will be available through June 22.

"We will also be open on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. [CT] starting June 1," Baker said.

Starting June 8, Green County voters can vote absentee in the office by appointment only. Voting equipment will be sanitized between each voter, officials say.

"Anyone who is afraid to come to the poll at the courthouse to vote in person, please call the office and request a ballot," Baker said, "Please call us; we will be happy to assist you."

Other ways citizens can vote by absentee (also published in more detail on page 10A):

Election Dates
Primary Election: June 23, 2020
General Election: November 3, 2020

Voters may contact the clerk's office by phone at 270-932-5386 or 270-932-7718 to request an absentee application. The office will then mail the application to sign. Once the application is received back, the office will mail the ballot.

Absentee by drive-up: For this election, voters can pull up to the courthouse parking lot and call the office to request an absentee. Office staff will bring the application to sign, then bring the ballot and envelope.

Absentee by pick-up: For this election, voters may call the Clerk's office to have the application ready and voters can pick it up and sign it. The clerk's office will then give voters the ballot and envelope.

See Election, page 10A

District uncertain about upcoming school year

Schools asked to remain flexible during unprecedented times

Schools continue to remain affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools were closed throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky from March 12 throughout the remainder of the academic year. As schools reach summer break, many unanswered questions still remain for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently released guidelines for several organizations, including schools. The guidance lays out criteria that should be considered before schools reopen. General requirements included the ability to follow local and state health orders, screening students and employees when they arrive on campus and protecting them while they remain on campus, and continuously monitoring everyone's health for any changing conditions.

The CDC document also specifically mentioned social distancing, sanitation, and facemask requirements.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has requested that districts remain flexible in their planning for the fall.

Interim Commissioner Kevin Brown has stated that the department is developing guidelines, but districts should be prepared for the possibility of school starting earlier than normal, as regularly scheduled, or later than normal.

If KDE anticipates the pandemic becoming increasingly worse throughout the fall and winter, they may call schools into session in July to try and get as many days in as possible prior to reaching another COVID-19 peak season. If KDE anticipates a new vaccine reducing risk of COVID-19 transmission, it is possible school openings could be delayed until September. KDE is also advising districts to be prepared for alternative schedules that could include a mixture of in-person and virtual classes.

Superintendent of Green County Schools, William Hodges, commented on planning at the local level.

"While there are still many uncertainties for the fall, we have already started preparing for numerous scenarios," Hodges said. "It is our hope that students will be able to return to in-person classes in a safe manner as this is best for student learning."

"We will continue to monitor guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Kentucky Department of Education, and our local health officials," the superintendent said. "I am completely confident that the staff of Green County Schools will be prepared to do what is best for our students during these unprecedented times."

Fiscal Court holds special called meetings

By Clevis Jeffries
Staff writer

Green County Fiscal Court, in a special called meeting Friday via Zoom and Facebook Live, approved the first reading of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The total budgeted appropriations amount to $4,325,544.51.

Funds budgeted include: General - $1,393,700; Road - $2,062,626.51; Jail - $338,500; LGEA - $120,150; Forest Fire - $2,103; Park - $69,025; E911 - $161,240; and 911 CMRS - $178,200.

Judge-Executive John Frank indicated major cuts will be in road and flex funding. Regarding road funds, there will be an estimated 13 to 14 percent reduction amounting to approximately $117,000. Flex funds would also experience a similar reduction, from some $162,000 to about $144,000.

"We are experiencing substantial cuts to our road fund, because people have not been traveling as much as usual and not purchasing as much fuel and gasoline. The state road fund receipts have taken a substantial hit and obviously that is passed on to us," said Judge-Executive John Frank.

In other business, magistrates approved:

(1) To apply for a $4,000 Waste Tire Grant;

(2) To advertise for bids for Reverse Salt Auction.

The Court also rejected all bids received with regard to the removal of the two rescue buildings, including all metal, steel and other materials, but excluding the concrete foundation and floors.

Green County Fiscal Court, in a special called meeting Monday via Zoom and Facebook Live, gave approval to advertise for the demolition of rescue buildings and removal of materials.

"The Court will be taking bids to have both rescue buildings removed. We will actually be paying someone to remove them and they will be allowed to sell the metal or steel if they choose to," said Judge-Executive Frank.

New construction

Photo submitted

Tennis Technology, Inc. began construction last week on East Hodgenville Avenue, on the new tennis courts. School officials say the courts will be ready in time for the spring sport, if all goes as planned.

Man arrested after running over another with car

Staff Reports

A Green County man was arrested May 12 after an altercation in Summersville led to a man being airlifted to a Louisville hospital.

The report states that the Green County Sheriff's Department was originally dispatched to 3395 Taylor's Chapel Road in Summersville for a report of two men yelling at each other. While the Deputy Josh Judd was enroute, it was told to the Greensburg E-911 center that a male subject had been ran over in the front yard of that residence.

The victim, Dalton Smothers, was flown by Air Evac to a hospital in Louisville and Michael Edward Withrow was lodged in the Taylor County Detention Center by Deputy Judd on charges of Assault, 2nd degree; Wanton Endangerment, 1st degree and Buy/Possess drug paraphernalia.

Deputy Judd was assisted on scene by members of the Green County Sheriff's Department, Green County Constable, Summersville Fire Department, Green County EMS and Air Evac Lifeteam.