The POWER of LOCAL

Bluegrass Area Development District

2016 Annual Report
OUR MISSION

To enhance the economy of our communities through

PLANNING
to maximize resources,

PROJECTS
to promote development, and

PROGRAMS
to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the region.
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Bluegrass Area Development District Annual Report  
January 2017  
David Duttingler, Executive Director

Under the supervision and administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Local Government.

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Lexington, Kentucky 40517  
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859.269.7917 fax  
www.bgadd.org
Dear Friends and colleagues:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of and then Chair of this great organization. I would have never thought when I started attending meetings at the Bluegrass ADD in 1999 that I would have ever been asked or given the opportunity to sit at the head table.

Communities like Powell County need the Bluegrass ADD. It is quite often the only opportunity that a small community has to have their voice heard and to receive the professional services required to help us compete in a competitive global economy. It might seem funny to think of Powell County competing in a global economy, but yet everyday, people from across our country and across the globe travel to Powell County to enjoy the unique beauty and natural resources that are so abundant here. But when they arrive, in fact even the roads that they travel to get here, must be carefully planned and serviced, the infrastructure to support our visitors must be sufficient, and the communities that house the people who will welcome our visitors must be modern.

I have seen first hand the benefits that the Bluegrass ADD can bring to a small rural community. Ten years ago the two cities in Powell County, Stanton and Clay City, were both neck deep in trouble over the failing operation of two separate sewer plants. The county was quite literally on the verge of being shut down. The Bluegrass ADD stepped in and helped unite the county, the cities, the industrial development authority and concerned citizens to solve the problem by creating the Red River Wastewater Authority. It was then that I started making almost monthly trips with the ADD to Frankfort to advocate for joint funding applications for our new wastewater plant.

The regionalization that took place with our wastewater plant can and should also happen with our Land-use Planning, our Aging Services, and Workforce Development. Working with the Bluegrass ADD on these endeavors gives not just me a seat at the decision table, but gives Powell County and every small rural area a voice that can and should be heard. There is synergy when we work together and it is that synergy that gives power to our local units of government.

I hope to maintain my association with you for many years to come. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your organization, to advocate along side you for local control. Best of luck to you and to all of your communities throughout the Bluegrass ADD, both now and in the future.

God Bless,

James Caudill

Chair, Bluegrass Area Development District
Dear Bluegrass Area Development District Board:

Political scientists usually classify the core functions of government as policing, judicial, and regulation. From an economist’s point of view, governments exist to correct market failures. The market failure that the Bluegrass ADD works to correct is the equitable distribution of public services – primarily Aging, Workforce and Community Planning.

No one disagrees that these services need to exist. The only question to resolve is how they should be distributed and who should control that distribution. The Bluegrass ADD was constituted 45-years ago under the ideology of regional governance with a voice and a vote from every locally elected official in the 17-county region.

Why? One very simply reason – people prefer to live in a society based on a democratic government rooted at the local level. How does the saying go – all politics are local? And why is this? Because local governments are both responsive and responsible to the local citizens.

The Bluegrass ADD is part of a system that gives society a high return on investment on the taxes collected from our hard-working citizens. Without this regional, shared concept, local governments would not have access to the diverse variety of professional staff housed at the Bluegrass ADD – planners, public administrators, grant writers, social workers, engineers, economists, human resource planners, workforce development, information technology, youth service specialists, transportation planners….the list goes on and on. In total, 98 employees covering 60 unique position descriptions.

Throughout our 45-year history, the Bluegrass ADD has saved millions of dollars of public funds by finding ways to consolidate and regionalize water and wastewater systems. In just the past nine years, we have regionalized wastewater systems in Estill County, Powell County, Lincoln County, Mercer County and Harrison County. We have found economies of scale where nothing but inefficiency and disrepair existed, we have brought utilities back from consent decrees from the EPA and have made them safe again.

Current infrastructure costs demand the regionalization of utilities to make them affordable. The evidence is quite literally concrete. But that same regionally shared concept must be extended to other crucial services or communities and people will be left behind. It would be great to have a Career Center in every county, to have an Elderly Case manager in every Senior Center and to have a Land Use Planner in every city. Resource limitations, on every level, make this impossible.

But the beauty of regional governance is that we can share these assets. These much needed and valued assets can be shared through one ADD, controlled at the local level. That’s the Power of Local!

Very respectfully,

David Duttinger, P.E., MPA
Executive Director

Official Planning Agency for the Bluegrass • Area Agency on Aging • Designated Development District Title V Senior Employment and Home Healthcare • Administrative and Fiscal Agent for BGWIB
**Board of Directors**

**CHAIR**
James Caudill
Mayor, Clay City
Powell County

**VICE-CHAIR**
Judge Mike Pryor
Nicholas County

**SECRETARY**
Mayor Brian Traugott
Woodford County

**TREASURER**
Judge/Executive Harold McKinney
Boyle County

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**ANDERSON COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Judge Orbrey Gritton
Mayor Sandy Goodlett, Lawrenceburg
Wendell Bruce
Wayne Richard

**BOURBON COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Mike Williams
Mayor Michael Thornton, Paris
Jan Wagner
Randy Sparks

**BOYLE COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Harold McKinney
Mayor Mike Perros, Danville
Ernest Gooch
Martha Caywood

**CLARK COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Henry Branham
Mayor Ed Burtner, Winchester
Ed Mastrean
George Campbell

**ESTILL COUNTY**
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Bee Williams
Eugene Bush

**FAYETTE COUNTY**
Judge/Executive John Roberts
Mayor Jim Gray, Lexington
Kevin Atkins
Jon Larson

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Huston Wells
Mayor Bill May, Frankfort
Craig Blanton
Linda Magee

**GARRARD COUNTY**
Judge/Executive John Wilson
Mayor Chris Davis, Lancaster
Donna Powell
Glen Ross

**HARRISON COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Alex Barnett
Mayor Steve Moses, Cynthiana
Dwayne Florence
Gary Brunker

**JESSAMINE COUNTY**
Judge/Executive David West
Mayor Pete Sutherland, Nicholasville
Peter Beaty
Ben Brown

**LINCOLN COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Jim Adams
Mayor Eddie Carter, Stanford
Brad Smith
Bill Payne

**MADISON COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Reagan Taylor
Mayor Jim Barnes, Richmond
Mayor Steven Connelly, Berea
David Mauck
Skip Daughtery

**MERCER COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Milward Dedman
Mayor Eddie Long, Harrodsburg
Mike Sanford
Phil Crump

**NICHOLAS COUNTY**
Judge/Executive Mike Pryor
Mayor Larry Jolly, Carlisle
Luann Ellington Kelly
Tracy Pratt-Savage

**POWELL COUNTY**
Judge/Executive James Anderson
Mayor Dale Allen, Stanton
James Caudill, Clay City
Josie Hollon

**SCOTT COUNTY**
Judge/Executive George Lusby
Mayor Tom Prather, Georgetown
Jeff Shropshire
Michael Hennigan

**WOODFORD COUNTY**
Judge/Executive John Coyle
Mayor Brian Traugott, Versailles
Floyd Greene
Mike Coleman

**AT-LARGE**
Mike Williams
Mike Childress
Rev. Raymond Smith

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“All Mayors, State Representatives, Presidents of Universities and Colleges, Chairs of Local Chambers of Commerce and properly seated Director Emeritus positions in the Area not elected to the Board of Directors, shall serve as Ex-Officio members without the right to vote or hold office on the Board.”

-- Paragraph G. of Article II, Section 1 of By-laws
Jimmie Caudill orders a cheeseburger with onion rings and a diet Ale-8 at Bruen’s Restaurant in Stanton. Before he takes his seat, he visits for a few minutes a couple tables down the way. One of the folks in his community needs a little extra help and Caudill’s on a mission to find out what he can do to offer direction. His wife, Diana, waits back at the table and exchanges pleasantries with another patron who has just come in the door.

When the food arrives, Caudill makes his way back to the table. They bow their heads and he blesses the meal, the servers and the company. This isn’t a show, this is just the way they do things. They’ve been married for close to 50 years and they’ve settled into a comfortable routine of leadership through service to one another and to their community.

Caudill is the mayor of Clay City, a small town of about 1,200 people just five miles down the road from Stanton in Powell County. He was born in 1947 in the house that belonged to his grandparents.

“That was back when the doctor actually came to the house,” he says. “Now, we’re just a small community that’s changed a lot over the years.”

A Lifetime of Change

Caudill graduated in 1965 from high school and went straight to Eastern Kentucky University. His dream was to become an industrial arts teacher, but Caudill was soon to learn that even the best dreams were the ones that took some time to come to life. When Caudill’s first child was born, he took a break from school to teach second grade, then went back to school and finished his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education in 1970. Before the end of that year, he was drafted into the US Army, where he was eventually sent to Korea to serve out his time in the DMZ.

By June of 1972, Caudill was involved in Project Transition, a ‘cranking down’ of the war effort. It was just in time for the new school year to begin back home, and within two years, Caudill’s dream of teaching Industrial Arts at the high school was finally realized.

Yet again, change was in the air and Caudill secured a position with Rockwell International, the company which had also been responsible for building the space shuttle. Caudill moved from apprentice to journeyman in the tool and die industry, then moved into yet another position with the US Postal Service doing maintenance at the main post office in Lexington, as well as traveling all across the eastern part of the state working on maintenance issues for local post offices.

“We worked on anything from electrical to heating and air conditioning, sewage, whatever. We were the ones responsible,” he says. “It was a challenging job and we did something different every day.”

Caudill rose to the maintenance challenge from 1984 until 2008, all the while commuting from his home in Clay City to whichever worksite needed him. It was during that time that Caudill entered into public service through politics.

Called to Serve

“Of course, the political thing,” he says, then he spreads his hands wide and grins. “I never did, and still don’t, consider myself a politician. My wife is a much better politician than I am. She talks to everyone.”

Caudill ran for and won a seat on the city council from 1993 to 1996. He served a three-year term in accordance with a statewide effort to align election years. Caudill said he just felt like the city needed more conscientious, responsible people to step up and partici-
pate in government. After his term on the council was up, Caudill put in his hat for mayor of the small town. He ran with no opposition and began his elected term as mayor in January of 1999.

True to his quiet mannerisms, Caudill never approached or decided a matter without giving it full measure of thought. It was a habit that would serve him well for his first four years in office.

Caudill began his term by dismissing the police chief. In addition, he discovered that the city’s general fund had dwindled to under $10,000 and that the city had taken on at least $150,000 in new debt by building a fire station and purchasing police cruisers.

“I didn’t do anything lightly. My first four years were a definite struggle,” he says. “I wasn’t part of the machine or the inner circle. Fortunately, we survived and we tried to institute policies and procedures that were more businesslike. We just tried to treat everyone the same and do what was best for our community and the city.”

At the end of his first four years, he lost a bid to re-election, but within 18 months, was asked to come back on as mayor when his opposition resigned from the position. Caudill rose to yet another challenge and accepted the mayoral appointment.

For Community and County

Since Caudill was appointed Clay City mayor again in 2005, he and the city council have worked diligently to keep the small community alive and well. In addition to paying off immense debt and making improvements on the city office building, they have also just extended a three-year contract for garbage collection at the same price, a move that Caudill says is critical for those who live on fixed incomes.

And, with help from the Bluegrass Area Development District, Clay City, Stanton, and all of Powell County have become the ‘poster children’ for regional cooperation on projects that benefit nearly all the citizens. A little over a year ago, with monies from different departments, the county received around $13 million to form Red River Wastewater Authority. The authority has representatives from both cities and the county and handles all the sewer and wastewater needs in the area. It’s a project that Caudill says might not have happened without the support of BGADD.

“Most people don’t think about our infrastructure. Our pipes and our equipment that have been in the ground for who knows how many years, are one day older and one day more tired due to wear and tear,” he explains. “One thing I’ve learned, in political life especially, the things you anticipate will really cause you problems sometimes do, but it is the things you don’t anticipate that really cause you problems.”

This is one of the reasons why Caudill remains involved with the BGADD. At the annual meeting in January, Caudill received the chairperson reins from Linda Magee, the former two-term chairwoman who helped move the ADD through a difficult transition. Caudill applauds the new sense of transparency and forward movement of the BGADD.

And he gets involved because he believes there is strength in numbers, and there is wisdom to be gleaned from learning where others have been, how they triumphed or failed, and how each community can work together to help the whole.

“You have to be mindful of what is going on, try to determine what your options are and try to choose the correct option. I lean heavily on counsel and I pray,” he says. “You have to believe that if you try to do your best to do what is right, what is best for your community, it will work out.”
LOCAL, LOCAL, LOCAL.

A Salute to Our Mayors: These local elected officials help govern and guide the Bluegrass ADD and its work.

**Anderson County**
- Mayor Sandy Goodlett – Lawrenceburg
- Chair, Tourism, Recreation & Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

**Bourbon County**
- Mayor Michael Thornton – Paris
- Mayor Sam Chanslor – Millersburg
- Mayor Jeff McFarland – North Middletown

**Boyle County**
- Mayor Mike Perros – Danville
- Mayor Jim Douglas – Junction City
- Mayor Anne Sleet - Perryville

**Clark County**
- Mayor Ed Burtner – Winchester
- BGADD Executive Board
- BGADD Audit Committee

**Estill County**
- Mayor Walter Joe Noland
- Mayor Estine Tipton - Ravenna

**Fayette County**
- Mayor Jim Gray – Lexington
- Co-CLEO Workforce

**Franklin County**
- Mayor Bill May - Frankfort

**Garrard County**
- Mayor Chris David – Lancaster

**Harrison County**
- Mayor James Smith – Cynthiana
- BGADD Executive Board
- BGADD Audit Committee
- Mayor Kenneth Abner - Berry

**Jessamine County**
- Mayor Pete Sutherland – Nicholasville
- Mayor Rainwater – Wilmore

**Lincoln County**
- Mayor Eddie Carter – Stanford
- Mayor David Payton – Hustonville
- Mayor Billy Shelton – Crab Orchard
- Mayor Frey Todd - Eubank

**Madison County**
- Mayor Jim Barnes – Richmond
- Mayor Steven Connelly – Berea

**Mercer County**
- Mayor Eddie Long – Harrodsburg
- Mayor George Hensley - Burgin

**Nicholas County**
- Mayor Larry Jolly - Carlisle

**Powell County**
- Mayor Dale Allen – Stanton
- Mayor James Caudill – Clay City
- BGADD Officer - Chair
- BGADD Executive Board
- Chair, Area Agency on Aging & Independent Living Council

**Scott County**
- Mayor Tom Prather – Georgetown
- Mayor Claude Christensen - Sadieville
- Chair, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee
- Mayor Kayla Jones – Stamping Ground

**Woodford County**
- Mayor Brian Traugott – Versailles
- BGADD Officer - Secretary
- BGADD Executive Board
- Chair, Development Advisory Committee
- Mayor Grayson Vandergrift - Midway
Services that we provide for you

Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living
Contact Celeste Collins ccollins@bgadd.org

Aging and Disability Resource Center:
This is the first stop for anyone seeking information or help. The ADRC staff provide screening and referral to get the caller connected to the support they need.

In Home Support

Medicaid Waiver-all ages
Homecare-age 60 and over
Home Delivered Meals-age 60 and over
National Family Caregiver Support Program-Caregiver Relief
Kentucky Caregiver Support Program-Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren Support

Community Support

Congregate Meals
Transportation
Health Promotion Activities
Education
Legal Assistance
Socialization
Telephone Reassurance
Friendly Visiting
Nursing Home Ombudsman Program—Advocacy supports in Long-Term Care Nursing Facilities and Family Care Homes
State Health Insurance Program (SHIP)—Support with Medicare and Medicaid Insurance Programs
Evidenced Based Health Promotion Courses—Provided throughout the 17 counties in various locations. Coordinated by BGAAAIL staff.
BGAAAIL—Outreach, Advocacy and Planning.

Department for Community Planning
Contact Shane New shanen@bgadd.org

Grant Writing & Administration (There’s no cost to you for this service)
Community Development
Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Solid Waste Management Planning
Water/Wastewater Planning
Emergency Response Planning
Homeland Security
Historic Preservation
Secure, protected networks for public departments & agencies
E-mail account establishment & maintenance
Virus protection & network security
Network storage & backup solutions
Computer upgrades
Computer / Network assessment & recommendations
Computer helpdesk and on-site support
Document formatting
Brochure, poster & logo design
Webpage design & maintenance
Website hosting
Video production & editing
Photography for events, staff photos/id
Video depositions

Land Use Planning

Draft Comprehensive Plan
Review development proposals
Site planning
Review subdivisions
Update codes and ordinances
Review Signage proposals
Attend City/County planning public hearings
Provide staff level support
    Technical Assistances with existing Staff, or
    Act as and/or manage your community’s Staff – Planning Director/Administrator

Economic Development

Help attract business to the region
Help retain current businesses/industries
Our Services: Local Works

Assistance with Site Location and Evaluation
Assistance with Local and State Permitting
Assist with local and state incentive applications
Provide technical assistance to Economic/Industrial Development Authorities
Provide professional staffing to Economic/Industrial Development Authority
Grant writing for EDA and HUD
Inventory available properties
Assist in identifying and securing funding for bicycle/pedestrian, trails and greenways and blueway trails

Workforce
Contact Mable Duke mduke@bgadd.org

Services for Job Seekers

Job Search Assistance
Job Referrals
Career Guidance
Resume Building
Interviewing Skills
Application Assistance
Short-term Training
Job Fairs
Training Scholarship
Employer Contacts
Labor Market Information
Employability Workshops

Services for Employers

Assessments
Application Administration
Customized Training
Labor Market Information
On-the-Job Training
Posting Job Openings
Retention Services
Tailored Recruitment

Services for Youth

Tutoring and Study Skills Training
Alternative Secondary School Services
Paid/Unpaid Work Experience
Leadership Development Activities
Supportive Services (food, transportation)
Training Assistance
Adult Mentoring
Career Guidance
Employability Workshops
Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling

Public Management

Research
Budget Preparation
Technical resources for various areas of administration
Project Development

Personnel and Human Resource Assistance

Provide HR presence in absence of HR Director
Update/Re-write HR personnel policies
Management/Supervisor training
Reasonable suspicion training
Other training tailored to participants needs
Assist with interview and sections process

Transportation Planning

Add County projects to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s project database.
Assist in the ranking of County transportation projects to determine how state funds will be distributed.
Inventory County’s transportation assets
Provide inventory of city sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities
Assist in the transportation element of County and City comprehensive plans
Host the Regional Transportation Committee
Commercial and industrial development analysis generating traffic counts
Creating area plans with estimated traffic impacts
Assist with or draft bicycle/pedestrian master plans, trails and/or greenways plans, and blueway plans
Provide program and planning education for bicycle/pedestrian, trails and greenways, and blueway trails

The POWER of Local...
Two years in making, family-owned More Than a Bakery to locate in Versailles, hire 310, invest $57.1m

Gov. Matt Bevin announced that More Than A Bakery, LLC, an extension of a century-old family business based in Indiana, plans to build a $57.1 million facility in Versailles.

More Than A Bakery, affiliated with Richmond Baking Co., would employ 310 people and produce cookies, crackers and other items by contract for major food brands and retailers.

“We celebrate the news that More Than A Bakery plans to make a significant economic impact in Woodford County and create a substantial number of jobs with its investment in a state-of-the-art facility,” Bevin said. “I have a special appreciation for multi-generation family companies like Richmond Baking that built themselves from modest beginnings.”

More Than A Bakery shared its plans for a 250,000- to 300,000-square-foot building in Versailles with construction expected to start this summer and the facility operational by the end of 2017.

The facility would be located on more than 100 acres to allow for future expansion. More Than A Bakery would represent Richmond Baking’s third world-class bakery and distribution operation.

“The company has needed this kind of additional space for some time now,” said Bill Quigg, president and member of the fourth generation of family ownership. “The Richmond plant is bursting at the seams and isn’t easily adapted for current production methods, and the Georgia facility has had 200 percent growth in two years. We want this new facility and our new employees to help us create a unique culture that will help everyone succeed both personally and professionally.”

From neighborhood bakery to expansion

The Quigg family purchased a neighborhood bakery in Richmond, Ind. in 1902 which produced cookies, breads and cakes. The bakery traces its beginnings back to 1855 with the opening of David Hoerner’s bakery. The Quiggs grew the company nationally adding operations in Richmond, Ind. and Alma, Ga. employing nearly 350 workers.

Throughout the decades, the company gained expertise in breading systems, dessert crumbs, ice cream inclusions, contract baking and packaging services. Richmond Baking’s customers include Fortune 100 food brands, grocery and convenience store chains, school cafeterias and national food-service companies.

“We have been working for a while to get these jobs into Versailles, and I am certainly pleased that we have reached this point, because this company has a great reputation of being family and community friendly,” said Versailles Mayor Brian Traugott. “I am committed to doing all I can to move this project forward and hope we can announce a groundbreaking soon.”

The project is still pending planning and zoning approval, expected on March 10.

Jobs to Woodford County

“We are delighted to be working with More Than A Bakery, LLC which wants to bring many jobs to Woodford County,” said Woodford County Judge-Executive John Coyle. “This project’s been over two years in the making and we believe Woodford County is the perfect location for their operations and families.”

A long time in the works, the project will replace many jobs lost in Woodford County.

“We worked on this project for over two years,” said
Craig McAnelly of Bluegrass Area Development District, the Executive Director on contract who facilitated the project. “It replaces many of the jobs lost through the closing of Texas Instruments and Kulman manufacturing over the past ten years.”

McAnelly pointed out that the former Texas Instruments is now home to KCTCS and Kulman is the new home of an expansion of Ruggles Sign Company.

He says that the BGADD was instrumental in locating those businesses, this new company will make “and enormous impact on the Versailles community.”

On its website, More Than A Bakery says its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility will be between 250,000-300,000 square feet and will be located on 100+ acres to allow for future expansion. Products to be manufactured include cookies, crackers, crumbs and inclusions with customers ranging from Fortune 100 companies to smaller, regional businesses.

Target for summer construction

“The company is designing a work experience that’s attractive as a place to live, work, and spend a career. Life needs balance and the company strives to ensure that people enjoy their careers. We are committed to providing the people who work at More Than A Bakery with a living wage and an environment where careers can grow and thrive,” the website says.

Construction on the More Than A Bakery facility is targeted to begin this summer, with manufacturing likely to get underway by the end of 2017. Within a few years of completion, More Than a Bakery is expected to create more than 300 jobs that will include a comprehensive benefits package and the opportunity to work in a facility unlike any other in the industry.

To encourage the investment and job growth in the community, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) preliminarily approved the company for tax incentives up to $8 million through the Kentucky Business Investment program. The performance-based incentive allows a company to keep a portion of its investment over the agreement term through corporate income tax credits and wage assessments by meeting job and investment targets.

Additionally, More Than A Bakery was preliminarily approved by KEDFA for $700,000 in tax incentives through the Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act (KEIA). KEIA allows approved companies to recoup Kentucky sales and use tax on construction costs, building fixtures, equipment used in research and development and electronic processing.

More Than A Bakery also is eligible to receive resources from the Kentucky Skills Network which will provide recruitment and job placement services as well as reduced-cost customized training and job-training incentives.
Mayor James Smith Models Character, Faith and Community Commitment

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Webber Davis and Jim Swinford had a lot to do with how Cynthiana Mayor James Smith lives his life.

Davis was Harrison County Sheriff in the seventies and claimed Smith as his grandson.

“He knew everybody, therefore everybody knew me. I was never able to get away with anything, which was a good thing,” Smith says. “Small towns are still that way.”

Swinford was the leader of the Boy Scout Troop 60, the troop where Smith earned the highest Boy Scout rank of Eagle Scout.

“The Boy Scout Law, which talks about trustworthiness and loyalty, those are the values that I saw in Jim. Seeing those laws lived out is more powerful than saying them a thousand times,” Smith says “I try to do that now.”

Smith has been Cynthiana’s mayor for a year and is the current minister at Cornerstone Christian Church. His childhood heroes, like his grandfather and his scout master, still inform his present-day choices. And his commitment to his community is evident in both his words and his deeds.

Home Town Boy

Smith grew up in both the city and the county, spending most of his formative years in town. He says he probably rode his bike on nearly every street and walked to and from school.

After he graduated in 1987, Smith continued his studies at the University of Kentucky in History and Political Science. He graduated in 1991, and then served four years in the U.S. Army. While he was stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Smith earned his Master’s Degree in Education from the University of South Carolina.

He went straight into a corporate trainer position with the USC where he taught soft skills like time management, leadership, supervision and teamwork skills at the USC business school.

It was his corporate trainer experience which eventually brought him back to Kentucky as a trainer in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. He worked for the cabinet for five years before he heard a different type of call altogether in 2008.

Changing of the Job and the Guard

Between graduating from UK and returning to his home state to work at the KYTC, Smith had been gone for ten years.

“It was almost not the same community. We were in the midst of a great recession. Tobacco had been king in the 80s and it was no longer a driving force in the community. We got a Walmart and those tend to decimate downtowns, so we had a downtown that was in decline,” Smith recalls. “Small towns got hit really hard and drugs had come into the community. I don’t remember drugs being that big of a problem before. These drugs, they could kill you.”

Smith turned to his faith and, seeking to help others find a similar hope, he answered a full-time call into the ministry. At around the same time, the community theater, The Rohs Opera House, had shown its final flick and had closed its final curtain.

“That was very symbolic of the death of small town, downtown America. It was the place the community gathered, where kids went and had their first dates and it was the center of community life,” Smith says.
He took some hope from the pulpit, some good character from his sheriff grandfather, some trustworthiness and honor from the scout master and combined all those to build his next step of faith. Smith and his long-time friends purchased and re-opened the theater and embarked on a type of save-the-town campaign.

After a rough start, they created their own niche and brought live theater performances to the stage, hosted concerts, and started a Ghost Walk Tour.

“We got very creative in facing obstacles and challenges that we had. One of the things we saw was that people started coming back downtown again. A lot of these empty buildings around our theater, businesses started going back in them. We had a rebirth,” he says.

It was not only a rebirth in business, but a rebirth of trust.

**Courage to Run**

In 2014, Smith entered the race for Cynthiana’s mayor. When all the votes were tallied, Smith had won the election by a large margin of twenty percent. In a government system where the leadership had been historically made up of older citizens, Smith was the first of his generation to hold the office of mayor.

Cynthiana City Government works in a commission form, the role of mayor, Smith says, “is more of a role of leadership and inspiring people.”

Again, Smith rose to the occasion. In just his second day of office, he received a complaint against a commissioner and had to have a hearing. Within three months of taking office, Smith dealt with two historical snowfalls and the fifth highest flood in Cynthiana history. After his trial by flake and flood, Smith helped the commission to set goals and to work toward their completion.

“We came up with a 100-day action plan of 14 goals we wanted to accomplish,” Smith explains.

The goals included tasks like local park development, beginning a downtown beautification project, establishment of a long-range planning committee, becoming a Work Ready Certified Community, reducing empty storefronts and instituting an employee evaluation process. Within the allotted 100 days, the city government had accomplished thirteen out of fourteen goals. Within the last year, there was a 65 percent reduction in empty storefronts in the downtown area. Smith says that in this city of 6,354, a few people started cleaning up dilapidated buildings and it just had a snowball effect.

“I think, for our people, their hopefulness came back. The community wasn’t as depressed as it was before,” he says. “That’s what I ran on. I ran on a very opti-
mistic and hopeful future. I ran on the idea that we weren’t done yet and it might be cliché, but we had shown with the revival of the theater that we could take something that looked like it was dead and gone and bring it back to life.”

Know Where To Go

Within a month of Smith’s taking office in 2015, he was asked to consider serving on the Bluegrass Area Development District’s Executive Board.

“It has taken me six to nine months just to figure out all the ADD does. For small towns like Cynthiana, they offer a lot of services we just can’t do on our own, like grant writing and some workforce development,” Smith says.

“For me, also, it allows me to be in contact with other mayors and County Judges outside of Cynthiana, so that I know that the problems we have are not just our problems. We can draw encouragement from the success of another town.”

In the meantime, Smith continues to preach part time, work five to seven hours a day in the mayor’s office, and still have time to devote to his wife and children.

Like the men who came before him, this is Smith’s opportunity to model trustworthiness, honor and respect – sound building materials for a town and a people of any size.

For Mayor Ed Burtner it’s all about making things better

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Just about every time the Central Kentucky Bloodmobile rolls into Winchester, Mayor Ed Burtner is there with his fellow citizens, ready to roll up his sleeves to help others.

“I do it because not everybody can do it, and it’s important,” Burtner says.

He made his 117th donation this February and, while donors can only give blood once every 60 days, Burtner says his donations don’t even come close to the number of times his fellow citizens have donated. In Winchester alone, there are over a dozen citizens who have donated over a hundred times each.

“We had one fellow who had donated over two hundred times,” Burtner says. “It’s not something that we typically talk about, but trust me, if you’re a person who is willing to have someone stick a needle in your arm that many times, you are making a contribution to your community.”

It’s that kind of commitment and community-minded citizenry that Burtner wants to continue to be a part of.

Several years ago, he and his team held a reception during a blood drive for the donors who had high donation rates. The donors were awarded certificates and the entire community was able to show their appreciation. Donating blood is not the most pleasant experience, Burtner admits, but since the number of folks who are eligible to donate seems to be growing smaller, he has an enormous respect for those who are willing to give, even to the point of enduring pain.

Mr. & Mrs. Burtner
According to the Central Kentucky Blood Center, a single, one-pint donation can save the lives of three adults, or the lives of six children, depending on how the donation is divided. This life-saving donation crosses city and county lines, and impacts the region and the state as a whole.

For Burtner, giving to others in response to a need is natural. It’s a giving that he has modeled his entire career.

**A life of service**

A native of Augusta County, Virginia, Burtner enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps four days after his high school graduation. He served from 1969 to 1971 in active duty and was honorably discharged from service with the rank of Sergeant in 1975. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1974, and his Master’s of Public Administration in 1976. He earned both degrees from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Equipped with degrees, a head of knowledge, and a heart for serving people, Burtner began work for the East Tennessee Development District. Shortly afterward, he made the transition northward into Kentucky where he worked initially for the Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg, then as the City Administrator for Harlan, and on to the Central Appalachia Development Project in Pikeville.

In 1981, Burtner and his family moved even farther north to accept the City Manager position in Winchester. For 25 years, Burtner acted as supervisor for the Winchester police and fire departments, Central Communications, EMS, Planning & Community Development, Streets and Public Works, and the Finance and Administration department. In 2005, he retired from the manager position, but he wasn’t quite finished serving.

He ran for and won the position of Mayor in 2006 and began his first of three elected, consecutive terms in January of 2007.

“By statute, it is supposed to be a part-time position, but I can tell you this part-time position requires me to devote 50 to 60 hours a week to the job simply because people think of the mayor as being the head of city government,” Burtner says. “If they have a concern, or a question or a complaint, I am the person they will more often express that to.”

On any given day, Burtner can and most likely will be stopped on the street, at the grocery, or right before he goes in to teach Sunday School at the First United Methodist Church.

“As an elected official at the local level, you are expected to be asked about something, or you’re expected to attend public events. You are expected to do things above and beyond. That’s just the way it is,” he says.

While his elected position has also become a persona of sorts that other people see, Burtner wants folks to see another valuable aspect that should be a part of everyone’s life.

**Service without boundaries**

When Burtner’s boys were little, he got into coach-
ing and was named a Lifetime Certified Coach by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association. While Burtner is no longer an active coach, being involved was a crucial component in the life of the community.

“It’s a way to help the community and the only way that you have little league programs and soccer programs and all those kinds of activities, you have to have people who are willing to volunteer and assist,” he says. “If you don’t have people at the local level who are willing to get involved and volunteer, you will lose those critical functions within a community.”

Burtner takes special care to make sure his actions are moving in the same direction as his words. Burtner is still a member on the Fort Boonesborough Association, still on the Kentucky League of Cities Board of Directors, he is a Board member on the Clark County Extension Council, still teaches his Sunday School class at church and is still commandant of the Marine Corps League in Winchester, a veterans organization Burtner is a charter member of. In addition, he still takes the time to teach classes for Junior Achievement.

Burtner doesn’t participate in any of these activities so that he will gain attention or fame. He serves because he feels it is the right thing to do. He serves so that others may see that they also can experience the joy of service to others.

“It takes a lot of people to put things together,” Burtner says. “You have to have people who are willing to work and give up their time.”

**Regional perspective**

Putting words to practice in terms of working together, giving time, and dedication to service, Burtner has been fully engaged in the work of the Bluegrass Area Development District.

Like all mayors in the 17-County Bluegrass Area Development District, he serves on the board of directors for the BGADD.

Beyond obligatory service, Burtner has taken a leadership role there as well. He is the highest-ranking local elected official on the board.

Working together, Burtner, fellow regional local elected officials and the BGADD have pursued grants to benefit the region and local communities — and have learned from each other.

“ADDs are important to a community and a region because they allow communities to solve problems on a regional basis. Problems in cities or counties don’t stop at the city limits or the county lines. They are regional in focus,” Burtner says, citing issues like the “influence of drugs, recycling, sewer and transportation planning, grant writing and grant administration.”

He is an advocate for regional cooperation. It’s part of his broad definition of “service.”

“There are a host of reasons that it’s better to do things on a regional basis. What we do in Winchester and Clark County in terms of roads and infrastructure has an impact on our surrounding counties. It makes more sense to do this on a collective basis.”

Bringing common sense to public service is a Burtner trademark.
Mayor Rainwater, the longest serving mayor in Kentucky

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Wilmore Mayor Harold Rainwater sits in his truck intently watching the tree line where the gravel road is. It’s a cold morning, but Rainwater has the warmth of his coffee, his faithful canine companion Atlas and the knowledge that his waiting will produce good things.

Rainwater is the director of the Asbury University Equine Center. After 45 years with the university, he has scaled back somewhat. He now teaches two classes – Riding Instruction Certification and Training – in addition to managing the daily operations of the center.

“I have 86 horses, seven staff and 343 acres. I have 125 students, and we have projects going on all the time. That’s part of my job, to make sure it goes all together,” he says.

On this chilly morning, the horses await their morning feed. To his right is the barn, which houses classrooms, a fully equipped tack room, stalls, and an indoor arena.

When the first of four dump trucks rumble across the drive, Rainwater smiles. The trucks are the fruit of work he started last fall.

“We helped with the Breeder’s Cup and had 25 students who worked that event. They were hosts and drove golf carts around and our kids did a great job,” he explains. “What Keeneland saw was a focused group of kids doing good things.”

On a whim, Rainwater asked a question of Keeneland: Would they consider donating the polytrack they had just taken up from the racecourse to Asbury University’s Equine Program?

Keeneland’s answer was yes and when the weather was fine enough to do the transport, the trucks filled with donated polytrack came rolling in.

“It’s a big deal. That’s the entrepreneurial part of it I enjoy. Putting something together,” he says.

The biggest deal, however, is the investment Rainwater makes on a daily basis. Through his actions and his words, he invests in the people and in the places he loves. And it’s making a huge difference in this Jessamine County town of 6,000 people.

An investment in people

“I tell folks here,” he says, indicating the equine complex around him, “What is important is God, people and horses—in that order. In life, it’s God, family, other people, and then your job.”

With so many hats to wear – mayor, teacher, husband, sibling, Christian, director, board member, citizen — keeping that perspective is difficult at times. But Rainwater makes the investment in people an intentional act.

“I’m blessed with pretty good energy and pretty good health and good coffee. Grateful for that,” he says and lifts the still steaming cup to his lips. “So, I have the ability to get a 12-hour day if I need to. I know that there are certain things that take precedence. My classes are important and unless there is an emergency, I will be in class when I am supposed to. When I need to be in city hall, I will be in city hall. And when I need to be with family, I will be with family.”

It’s not unusual for Rainwater to drive an hour to spend time with his son and his grandchildren, then drive an hour back to Wilmore. For the past 30 years, he has met with which of four Rainwater brothers is in
town on Friday nights in the back corner of McDonald’s. When his mother and mother-in-law were living, he and his wife Sherry, dedicated a year to honoring their mothers with service and care.

“We have no regrets for what we did. We did what we had to do,” Rainwater explains.

Doing what they felt they needed to do didn’t just happen by accident. It happened because Rainwater’s own family modeled this godly behavior.

“I would love to be considered equal to my dad if I could be that good a man. He only went to the eighth grade but he was the smartest man I ever knew,” he says. “He made each of us boys think we were the most important person on this earth.”

Rainwater tells how his mother used to have at least 20 framed pictures of each of the brothers that she placed on the mantle. When one brother visited, he would remove all the pictures of his other brothers, so there would be 20 pictures of only one son up there.

“That was a joke, but it made us love each other and value each other,” Rainwater says. “We were as diverse as four brothers could be by what we do, but that family passion that Dad and Mom created for us is what I think he wanted for us. To be salt and light of the earth. You can’t salt the whole earth, but you are responsible for where you are. You invest in what you can.”

Rainwater has learned over the last 40 years as Wilmore’s Mayor that the investment goes beyond familial ties. He invests in those who live and work right around him every day.

At each council meeting, Rainwater intentionally spotlights employees who have done something well, putting their pictures on the proverbial mantle.

“We don’t want to catch you doing something wrong. We want to catch you doing something right that becomes a model for someone else,” he explains. “And we have found that the other employees, who we also want to keep around, want to be spotlighted.”

In addition to this intentional spotlight, Rainwater makes certain all employees are trained at the same level as those in the larger cities around Jessamine County. That means he also has to pay them according to their value so they will stay in Wilmore.

“It goes back to investment. How you invest in people is that you pay them,” he says.

**The riches of Wilmore**

In the early seventies, Wilmore was home to a club of men between the ages of 21 to 35. This club, the Jaycees, was intended to help make men become men, Rainwater says. When he was in his early twenties, he joined the Jaycees who assigned him a community project.

“We had a little park in Wilmore and my job was to raise a thousand dollars and improve the park,” he says.

“The guy that was head of the Jaycees, he ran for the city council. That was his community project, to get involved with city government. I thought, now, that’s interesting.

Even though he knew very little about what a city council was, he knew they cared about the town. He ran and got in.

Over time, Rainwater advanced his political position
when then-mayor, Dr. Joe Thacker, developed health problems.

He learned by doing, and he valued his town. Over the past forty years, Rainwater has steered Wilmore through constructing new water and sewer systems, building a certified, accredited police department, lowering the fire rating, investing in fire trucks and men and women for training and hiring a full-time parks and recreation director. The police department is now a staff of nine, including the chief. The fire department is all volunteer with a chief and an assistant paid a monthly stipend.

“We’ve tried to do everything that we did award-winning. Not for the sake of a plaque on the wall, but doing it as well as we could,” he explains. “We’ve added all the components that make a town a town. We have 31 full time employees, a volunteer fire department, a police chief and an assistant chief. I know somebody is taking care of city hall. I know we are safe in this community.”

In order to maintain the city he helped to build, Rainwater also finds the time to serve on multiple boards and councils that impact his family, his town, and the state. He serves on the board of directors for the Kentucky League of Cities and serves on the Kentucky River Authority. In addition, because of his status of mayor in the Bluegrass Area Development District, he has a position on the board there.

“To be a good board member, you need to do more than go to the meetings. You need to be willing to go out and look at the locks and the dams and so forth, and the park and the center,” he says. “The ADD is one of the best things that has ever happened to regional planning. I personally believe in the leadership, I believe in the mayors and the judges that are in Central Kentucky. I’d say 99 percent of them are only interested in their communities being better.”

As Rainwater continues to watch the trucks unload their polytrack, he knows that every investment he makes – including the time he’s taking right this minute – is worth it.

Inventors Council inspires, connects and encourages ‘entre-inventors’

Kara Mays opened the car door and sighed. She had done this a hundred times and it hadn’t gotten any easier. Even though she and her husband, Adam, adored their new role as parents, they were just beginning to realize how complicated life had become.

Every trip out of the house required Herculean effort. Kara and Adam despaired of ever seeing that ‘quick trip to the store’ again. They soon began to contemplate the true meaning of necessities when they went out with their infant son, Baylor. The list included only the essentials – pacifier, wallet, keys, phone.

At first, Kara tried to make those quick trips while carrying Baylor in the infant car seat carrier along with the fully stocked diaper bag. She soon found that throwing her wallet, keys, phone and Baylor’s pacifier into the car seat seemed to be a quick fix.

Until Baylor learned how to soak the phone with slobbers and slime the key ring.

There had to be a better way, so Kara and Adam went to work to find it. They searched diligently for a product that would fit their needs, to no avail. Then, it hit them – why couldn’t they make their own product? And why couldn’t they share it with the world so that other parents could have a simpler, better life?
Together, Adam and Kara designed a product that would work: a pouch for only those essentials. A Mommy Pouch. It needed to be handy. It needed to be sturdy. It needed to be needed.

The Mays were going to need a little help from their friends.

Invention in motion

In the mid-90s, Mohammed Nasser and Don West drove north to be part of the Dayton Ohio Inventors Council. These men had ideas; they had the means to work out those ideas; they just needed a place to maximize the potential of their inventions.

West, who has over 50 patents to his name, was the inventor of the inkjet printer, developed a better way to scan products for purchase, and even invented the little round ball of type on older models of IBM typewriters. Since no such place for inventors existed in Central Kentucky in the 90s, Nasser and West traveled three hours north, then three hours back for each meeting.

Being inventors, they decided there had to be a better solution, so they made one with the help of Craig McAnelly with Bluegrass Area Development District.

McAnelly is the current Assistant Executive Director and the Director for Industrial and Business Development at BGADD. His job is to work with business and industry for the betterment of Kentucky. In the earlier days, part of his job was writing on-the-job training contracts.

“I would meet with business and industry and do an assessment of the jobs they were hiring for and I brought job descriptions up and cross referenced them with federal job classifications and determined how much training they could get, how much reimbursement for the training,” McAnelly said. “In doing that, you learn the manufacturing process and you learn who they are doing business with and you learn what needs they might have. When you carry that around with you, from plant to plant, you run into a guy who is having a problem with his machinery and you can say, ‘I know a guy who can fix that because he just fixed his.’ It’s networking.”

That was exactly what Nasser and West needed.

McAnelly ran the meetings for about three years. He helped Nasser and West recruit people who were inventors, entrepreneurs, machinists and tool and die guys. The BGADD also provided the group a place to meet, offering them use of a conference room and audio visual equipment.

At first, the group worked as a chapter of the Dayton Ohio Inventors Council, but as the interest grew and the needs of the group changed somewhat, they decided a local organization would be even more fitting. After a few name changes, the present-day group is called the Inventors Council Central Kentucky, and it operates under the umbrella of the Inventors Network Kentucky, a 501c3 non-profit group. The current president is Don Skaggs, a local inventor who happens to know a little bit about how to make things work.

Invention in meeting

On the first and second Tuesday of each month, inventors will find Don Skaggs at the head of the BGADD conference room. He adjusts his trademark suspenders before he introduces the speaker for the night.

“I always wish, when people ask me what I do for a living, that I had one of those really simple answers like an accountant, or an attorney, or a plumber,” he says. “For a lot of inventors and entrepreneurs, it is hard to explain what all we do.”

While Skaggs has several patents to his name, he admits his inventions are “really boring.” He started a company in 1991 that made specialty products for the pathology laboratory industry. One of those inventions
was a material that would neutralize waste formaldehyde solutions and change it irreversibly to a non-toxic material in about 15 minutes. His company, located in Lexington, developed about 30 different specialty products before he sold it to a larger company out of Texas.

Now, he says, his passion is to help other inventors follow their passions.

“There are always new ideas out there. It’s great for economic development; it’s great for the economy. Moreover, with the independent inventor, the entrepreneur, it’s very good for their personal economy,” Skaggs says. “A lot of people will build a new life and a legacy for themselves and their family.”

In order to help folks, Skaggs says the Inventors Council Central Kentucky offers two meetings a month. The first Tuesday of each month is a Free Open meeting and it is just as it sounds – free and open to all. It is at this meeting where speakers address topics like legal issues, product development, prototyping, marketing.

“We try to make it educational and interesting. We learn a lot, we network, we have a lot of fun, but it you have an idea and it’s not protected and you want to talk about it, that’s not the meeting for that,” Skaggs says.

The second Tuesday of each month is “a very different animal” of a meeting. This meeting is for members only — those who have paid their annual $40 dues, and those who have signed a non-disclosure agreement that is strictly followed by group members.

“At the second meeting, all the members show up, we go around the room and introduce ourselves in case there is someone new there, and then we go around the room again and everyone has a chance to talk about their idea, their invention, their business or where they need help,” Skaggs explains. “Instead of just getting one person’s opinion, they get a whole room full of people with different skill sets and expertise and points they might not have ever seen for their invention. You almost have to experience it to really understand it, but think of it as a brainstorming session on steroids.”

The group was just what Adam and Kara Mays needed.

The rise of entre-inventors

We’ve all seen them. They are the commercials on television that promise fame and fortune. Have an idea? Come up with an invention? For a measly price of $10,000, this company can do all the work for you. The only problem, of course, is that the investment of $10,000 doesn’t bring fame or fortune. It does, however, bring a lesson learned the hard way.

It’s this lesson that Skaggs wants all inventors to avoid.

It’s the lesson that Adam and Kara Mays wanted to avoid as well.

Adam, who has his MBA from the University of Kentucky, knows enough about the business world to be successful. It was the part where idea turns into prototype turns into product that was a little fuzzy.

Enter the Inventors Council Central Kentucky. The Mays started going to open meetings about a year and a half ago. It didn’t take them long to figure out they needed to become full members, so they signed on and were admitted to the ‘meetings on steroids.’

“Overall, they help you. Sometimes, when you just verbalize what you’re trying to do, they will ask ques-
tions about things we have or haven’t done. Not really directives, just getting you thinking about the path you need to go down,” Adam says. “Some inventors spend their life in a bubble and they spend ten years on a product that nobody really wants.”

The Mays enlisted a seamstress relative to make a prototype Mommy Pouch. They used one and gave Mommy Pouches to other mothers for feedback on the product.

The Mays knew they wanted to support local, Kentucky business, so they found a manufacturer in Liberty, Kentucky called Snapdolls, that could make the product.

Aided with an entrepreneurial drive and the innovative spirit of invention, along with the help of Inventors Council Central Kentucky, the Mays officially became entre-inventors and the Mommy Pouch became a success.

“We aren’t selling out of the back of our car anymore. We’ve sold several hundreds of these and we are successful in the local market,” Adam says.

“Larger stores and other regions are next.”

Kara agrees about the success part. An added bonus, she says, is that the moms who used the Mommy Pouch are now buying them to give as gifts at baby showers.

It’s this kind of success story that keeps driving McAnelly, Skaggs and the rest of the council.

“If you build it they will come only works in Kevin Costner movies,” Skaggs says. “A lot of inventors are inherently tinkerers, inherently engineers. They have some fantastic talents.”

Together, folks like the Mays, organizations like the BGADD, and groups like the Inventors Council Central Kentucky are making life easier, one invention at a time.

She didn’t say ‘not my job’ — but followed her heart to help

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Some people call it fate. Some call it chance or a stroke of luck. Some call it serendipity. Some even go so far as to call it a divine appointment.

No matter what name anyone ascribes to it, when one person in need meets another who can fill that need, it is always the perfect time for giving.

How it all began

Loretta Henderson was just doing her job on that fateful day. Henderson is a National Family Caregiver Support Coordinator at the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living (BGAAAIL), a department of the Bluegrass Area Development District.

Her job that day was to lead the first of four mental health classes at a Section 8 independent living complex for seniors in Richmond.

As she wrapped up the meeting, she made her usual announcement: “If there is anything anyone needs to talk with me about privately, I’ll be here.”

Henderson was packing up her things when a resident approached her.

“This lady needs to talk to you. This lady needs things for her kitchen,” the resident said.

Knowing she didn’t normally work on procurement of kitchen items, Henderson moved to speak to the woman in the wheelchair anyway.

Miss Zelma (not her real name) started her list of items. She needed forks and pans and dishes. She didn’t even have a cup. If she could just get a little help with those things, she would be fine.

“I told her I would send out an email and get her some
stuff and that I would return the next Wednesday,” Henderson recalls.

And that’s exactly what she did.

Henderson returned to the Bluegrass Area Development District headquarters in Lexington the next day. As promised, she sent out an email. Within days, her co-workers at BGAAAIL had filled a few boxes of household items.

That night, Henderson returned to Richmond to lead the second of her four classes. When she ventured to Miss Zelma’s apartment, equipped with her two boxes of donated goods, Henderson realized that things were not as they had first seemed to be.

Shifting paradigms

A paradigm shift occurs when one set of ideas is completely replaced by another set of ideas, usually based on new evidence or facts.

Loretta Henderson experienced a paradigm shift she never saw coming.

“When we went in, her apartment was empty except for a recliner couch she was sleeping on and two milk crates with a television on it that didn’t work,” Henderson said.

“After I saw that, I asked if we could put her things away in the kitchen. She had one plastic spoon that you could tell was her only usable spoon. The drawers were empty. Her cabinets were empty. I took the bath towels to the bathroom and it, also, was completely empty.”

Miss Zelma’s apartment is a studio apartment, designed in such a way to be the most efficient use of space. The bathroom is a separate room, but the remainder of the apartment is open. The beige walls are concrete block.

“It hit me to my core,” Henderson admitted. “It bothered me so bad.”

Returning to her office, Henderson had a conversation with Celeste Collins, director of the BGAAAIL. Collins advised her to learn as much about Miss Zelma as possible. They would then share the story with not just their department, but the rest of the BGADD.

“We don’t have a written policy regarding this. Anytime staff comes across someone in an extreme situation, we simply reach out to our staff,” Collins explained. “Any donation or contribution is left up to each individual and the kindness of their hearts. People in this organization always step up to help people in extreme need.”

It wasn’t until Henderson made a third visit to Miss Zelma that she learned the depth of that need.

Answering the call

When we are children, our lives seem simple. We carry the traditions and the beliefs of our families. When
we grow older, we often make our own traditions and beliefs. We become independent. We make our choices and live with the results. Sometimes, our families don’t like what we’ve chosen.

This was the case with Miss Zelma who walked away from her family’s strict religious convictions. She and her family had been estranged for nearly 30 years.

Earlier this year, Miss Zelma went into UK hospital for a 23-day stay. Even though it was a lengthy stay, it rescued her from an abusive and dangerous situation. That also meant she had nowhere to call home.

This forced her into contact with a family member who would speak to her — a brother who lived in Ohio. Because she had wound care and needed help, her brother took her in for a few weeks. When an apartment opened up, he moved her to Richmond.

He set her up with the reclining couch, the clothes on her back, some frozen dinners and pot pies and some cans of soup.

Then, he left.

Loretta Henderson could empathize to a point. There was a time in her life when she had been in need and when someone else had come to stand in the gap for her.

There was, however, one major difference.

“As poor as we were and as much as we didn’t have, we always had family,” Henderson said. “This lady doesn’t have family.”

“Literally, from Wednesday through Friday, we had her stocked.”

The response didn’t surprise Collins. She said that everyone at the BGADD is there because they have hearts and hands willing to help others. Their service extends well beyond the walls of their offices.

“We have wonderful staff in our entire organization. I am often amazed at the situations our staff are faced with and they never hesitate to find resources and support for the people in need,” Collins said.

The impact of an open hand

On that first encounter several months ago, Miss Zelma had come to the Community Room looking to see if anyone had left any coffee in the coffee pots.
She was dirty. Her hair was oily. The feelings of worthlessness and abandonment had worn on her. Just before she had worked up the courage to seek out coffee no one else wanted, she had prayed, “God, help me.”

When help arrived, Miss Zelma was simultaneously grateful and sad and guilty. She was grateful for nice things and sad that she needed them.

She felt guilty because she had been raised never to ask God for material items.

Henderson sat down with the elderly woman and, together, they cried. She assured Miss Zelma that the worldly goods were just an answer to her prayer for help.

“Everything we gave you, it was coming with love,” Henderson told her.

No matter what folks call it — chance, luck, divine appointment — a time of giving in the name of love can irrevocably change those who are needful as well as those who give.

Now, Miss Zelma can open her cans of soup with her very own can opener. She can use a real spoon instead of a disposable one. She can wash her body and fold her own blankets and touch the demonstrations of love that surround her every day. She now can raise her head and make new friends.

Even though Henderson is careful to maintain her professional integrity, this encounter changed her, too — giving is a gift.

“You don’t even know you have so many things until you don’t have them. We took in a shower curtain and forgot about the curtain rings. We took in a coffee pot, but forgot about the filter papers,” she said.

“All these little things that we don’t really think about . . . I just felt extremely blessed she was put in my path.”

By the Book: Versailles Mayor Brian Traugott

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Versailles Mayor Brian Traugott turns the last page, reads the conclusion, and then closes the book and sighs. The book he’s just finished reading is a marketing textbook. The other textbooks he has recently read include economics, political science and administration. The subjects fall in line with his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Kentucky and his Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Louisville.

Traugott is no longer in school. This Central Kentucky mayor reads textbooks because he sincerely likes them.

He fills the position of mayor because he sincerely loves his town.

“I spend a lot of time thinking about the city. I take the job very seriously,” Traugott admits.

He and his wife of 12 years, Laini, plan on being in Versailles for a long time.

“I’m going to live here. I want this community to be great for 50 years because I want to be here for 50 years. I want the place I live to be good. I want the place I raise my kids to be good.”

Traugott, who was born and raised in Woodford County, ran for and won a position on the Versailles City Council in 2012. On July 1, 2013, then-mayor Fred Siegelman, resigned to take a job in state government. Traugott had just turned 34 and was voted into the mayoral position. He ran unopposed in 2014 and kept the position.
“It was a blessing and a curse. I was prepared financially and organizationally for an opponent,” Traugott says. “Not having to spend money is not a bad thing, but I think the debate of ideas is a good thing and would have been helpful to the process and to me. I really enjoy civic involvement and the good thing is that you get ideas you aren’t exposed to, or different input from the council.”

The cycle of civic discourse is one that has appealed to Traugott since the early 90s, when he first felt the pull into political life.

The process of debate

In late fall of 1992, the eyes of the American public were glued to the screen as a series of presidential debates were aired on television. Ross Perot spoke of a world where Congress listened to the people and had the ability to stop the country’s financial bleed. Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton spoke of people on Medicare making decisions between buying food or buying medicine and taxing the rich more and the middle class less. Then-President George H. Bush spoke about holding the line on Social Security and putting a cap on the growth of mandatory programs.

Back in Woodford County, Traugott was spellbound as he watched the debates among the rest of his eighth grade social studies class.

“Watching those debates inspired me to service. It sounds cheesy, but it’s true and it made me a Democrat in eighth grade,” Traugott says. “Governor Clinton was well spoken and seemed so sincere. From that point on, that’s all I wanted to do. Not necessarily run for office, but be in government.”

Just four years after graduating from high school, Traugott earned his place in Frankfort. He worked as legislative aide for House Majority Whip Joe Barrows, then as chief of staff under both House Majority Whip Rob Wilkey and Majority Caucus Chair Bob Damron. That led to his current position as senior policy advisor for House Speaker Greg Stumbo.

When the opportunity came to devote part of his time as Versailles Mayor, Traugott took the position seriously enough to request part-time work in Frankfort. Speaker Stumbo agreed, allowing Traugott more time to manage the city’s $17 million budget and to oversee daily operations as well as the city’s 90 employees.

Management of that importance requires a non-partisan approach, filtered with wisdom. After 14 years working in Frankfort, Traugott felt he had just the right skills needed to make his town the best town possible.

“Show some backbone, take a position, defend your position and do what you think is right. Don’t worry about the polls. Don’t worry about what the editorials are saying,” Traugott advises. “Just do what you’re supposed to do. To me, good policy is good politics.”

Sometimes, however, good policy means making hard decisions, even when others don’t agree.

In the face of opposition

Traugott knows that Woodford is one of the wealthiest counties in the state. Not so the city of Versailles. Recent growth opportunities for the city have required a delicate balance between resources and space and meeting the needs of residents who have been there for years.

Traugott is leading the city, which operates on a coun-
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cil-mayor form of government, through 60 written goals. Some of those are simple, like forming a youth council, administering a sidewalk maintenance program and re-erecting the Happy Chandler sign.

Other issues, however, are difficult and require that civic — and civil — discourse Traugott loves and respects.

For example, the city must determine the best course of action to solve storm water issues, work together to begin, and then complete, downtown revitalization and beautification efforts. Then there are the drug abuse issues, not too different from what the rest of the state is enduring.

“You not only have to be able to process the information, weigh the good and weigh the bad, you’ve got to be willing to make the decision — and that’s where a lot of elected officials fall short. Decisions are going to make people mad and you’ve got to be willing to do it,” Traugott says.

“What helps is being involved in civic engagement. Traugott serves on the Kentucky League of Cities Executive Board. He also serves on the Bluegrass Area Development District Executive Board where he chairs the development advisory committee.

“Regionalism is something that you need an organization like BGADD to do because we all have natural propensities to compete with each other,” Traugott says.

“It’s also the great equalizer between the Lexingttons and the Versailles. The BGADD gives me the same seat at the table that Mayor Gray has and that means a lot to small towns. It’s invaluable to me.”

While regionalism helps, Traugott still enjoys working through the day-to-day operations.

“Democracy is a funny thing. It’s easy to do what people want you to do. It’s hard to do what you want to do. I’m accountable to people. Government isn’t us versus them. Government is us, period,” Traugott says.

“Hopefully, people respect [my decisions] and if they don’t respect and like the decision, they respect where it comes from. That’s all I can ask, really.”

Mayor Brian Traugott
Bluegrass ADD board resolute against sanctions that ‘plow up old ground’ about issues already resolved

By Judy Clabes
KyForward editor

In a specially called meeting, the Bluegrass Area Development District executive committee voted unanimously Wednesday to appeal the state’s order to repay $898,000 in “disallowed” costs for federal workforce programs from 2010-13.

After hearing reports from attorneys John Gay and Jeff Walther about options related to next steps, the board also authorized BGADD’s attorneys to hire outside financial experts to re-examine the questioned costs to help state officials new to the process to understand the complexities of the issue.

The board remained firm that under new leadership and responsible governance, BGADD had corrected all the issues that were cited by former state auditor Adam Edelen’s examination released in 2014 that found a number of issues at the agency that occurred under previous leadership, including misallocation and duplication of travel costs and improper bookkeeping related to credit card payments.

The board had requested Edelen’s examination and had begun to put accountability procedures in place even before the final report was issued. The eight corrective actions recommended by Edelen were implemented, and he attended a special meeting of the board in 2014 to praise the ADD for its swift action in resolving all findings. At that meeting he said, “It is difficult to adequately describe a home run, but that is exactly what the taxpayers got when the ADD completed their corrective action plan.”

Originally, the state cited some $2.5 million in questioned costs but closer examination reduced that number to $898,000, and the BGADD board questions even that conclusion. The costs objected to include rent payments to the Bluegrass Industrial Foundation, travel costs, questioned credit card payments, one-time “bonuses” for employees and monies paid for a prison re-entry program.

As the appeal moves forward, BGADD will secure the $898,000 in a way acceptable to the state, which attorney Gay said, could be through a line of credit or a mortgage on their office building on which there is currently no mortgage.

David Duttlinger, BGADD executive director, said the agency has the cash to repay but that could cause cash flow issues because of the timing of state payments for federal workforce development work. But Duttlinger was firm in his view that the cost allocations were legitimate and allowable.

“The state just wants to keep bringing up old plowed ground,” said Edwinnna Baker, citizen member from Anderson County. “We have resolved these issues.”

The board agreed and expressed frustration with a process that doesn’t allow the issues to be put to rest.

Mayor Gray suggested a “mediation” approach and the hiring of an outside financial expert to help focus on the remaining issues so the “misunderstanding” could be cleared up once and for all.

The latest 31-page determination letter dated March 31 was issued by the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and signed by new Secretary Hal Heiner. The board was generally most offended by a reference in the 41-page letter that the BGADD lacked “fiscal integrity.”

“The board agreed that the EWDC’s ‘final determi-
nation’ letter lacks the necessary evidence that the remaining $898,000 is owed,” Duttlinger said.

“We hope additional examination by another outside expert will convince the state that the changes we have made to our accounting processes really do reflect the ‘fiscal integrity’ they wrongly claim is lacking.”

The final determination was also questioned by the board as to whether it was referring to unresolved issues from the EWDC imposed corrective action plan or the state auditor’s corrective action plan. Based on previous comments from Edelen, the APA Examination seemed to be resolved and by EWDC’s own report their corrective action plan was reported as final.

“We believe the state should stop making these serious decisions based on old information that is just cut-and-pasted into their reports. We simply want a fair and honest review that includes the breadth of reforms that new leadership — including a new, engaged board — has put into place,” said Duttlinger.

Duttlinger pointed out that two top CPA firms, Blue and Company and Dean, Dorton Allen and Ford have given the organization clean audits over the past several years. In addition new accounting software has been put into place, making cost allocations more transparent.

He also pointed out that the dollars in question would not revert to the state but would be returned to the federal government, which has not asked for re-embursement.

The board also appointed a new Audit Committee made up of Burtner, Gray, Bourbon County Judge Mike Williams and citizen board member Skip Daugherty of Madison County.

At the close of the meeting Nicholas County Judge Executive Mike Pryor made an impassioned plea that reason prevail and that recognition be given to the important work the BGADD does across the region.

“We are a small county,” he said. “We would not have the resources to pay for the work the Bluegrass ADD does for us. We wouldn’t have our new sewer system — We wouldn’t have the expertise or the resources to make that happen. We need the BGADD and we need everyone to understand the hard work the board and the ADD’s leadership have done to move forward from the problems of the past.”
Lancaster Mayor Chris Davis:
It’s all about Quality of Life

By Kristi Robinson Horine

In 2006, Chris Davis walked into Images Modeling Agency in Lexington dressed in his usual attire: Wrangler jeans, dusty boots and his cowboy hat.

“I had to go in there and say I was interested in being a model,” Davis says.

Davis had made – and lost – a bet. As out of place as he felt that day, he knew he had to go through with it. He was raised to be a man of his word.

What started as a 15 minute initial interview, turned into a modeling contract that took him to Los Angeles, California.

The trip to Los Angeles turned into an eye opening experience that he says has helped him be the best Lancaster mayor he can be.

“I can remember the first time I went to Los Angeles. There were so many buildings, so many people, and everything was completely a 180 from the way it is here,” Davis says. “What I learned is that it makes me appreciate my home and my small community so much more. That was a turning point for me.”

While life’s adventures took him westward to the bright lights of the City of Angels, his humble beginnings were right in the heart of Garrard County. And as far as he can tell, that’s where he wants to stay.

Deep roots in his place

In its 220 years, Garrard County has produced some notable figures, from Kentucky governors to state and federal politicians, to a brigadier general back in the 1860s.

Chris and his fiancé are to be married in June

It was into this small town in 1983 that Davis was born. His mother was an elementary school principal. His father was a police officer, a member of the local fire department, a business-owner and a county magistrate.

Davis and his older brother, Anthony, learned the value of hard work, caring for their neighbors, and the importance of civic involvement.

Davis’ family lived in town, but he frequented his grandfather’s farm out on Highway 39, three miles out.

“I learned to drive a tractor when I was four and my great-granddad had a lawnmower that he built a wooden bench to go across. We could sit three deep on that bench,” Davis recalls.

“I bought a lawnmower when I was fourteen and drove it on the sidewalk to get a haircut and drove it to the stockyards after school. I’m definitely a redneck kid.”

Davis and his brother mowed lawns and worked cattle. During the school year, Davis played basketball and golf and, after he graduated from Garrard County High School in 2002, he went on to Union College with a sports scholarship.

“I love sports, I always have, but I wanted to go into agriculture,” Davis says. “They didn’t have ag at Union, so I transferred to Eastern and got an agribusiness degree.”

It was during his last year of college that he lost the
bet and had to walk into the modeling agency. That was also the year he started going to city council meetings.

“I’ve always been interested in what was going on, what was changing, what was not,” Davis says. “I followed the council for a few months and then one Sunday morning before church started, I said I was going to pick up the papers at the courthouse the next morning and I was going to file for city council.”

Davis was 22 years old, attended every council meeting in 2006, and was elected to serve his first council term beginning in January 2007.

While all this was happening, Davis was preparing to take a step into a field he had known about, but had never seriously considered before.

**Standing in a new field**

Sometimes, life seems like a series of interruptions. We start on a journey in one direction, then along comes an invitation to step off the original path. When we are young, the invitation into the unknown can be an adventure that changes everything.

In 2007, Davis seemed to be on a sure path. He held a seat on the Lancaster City Council. He was flying back and forth between Kentucky and California to fulfill his modeling contracts.

He had just completed his requirements for an agribusiness degree from EKU. He and his brother were mowing yards and farming cattle.

One day, out of the blue, the Garrard County School System called on Davis, asking if he would be interested in a rather special position.

“They asked me if I wanted to be a special education teacher,” he says.

In order to take that position, Davis would be required to go back to school for his Master’s Degree and he would have to turn down two other simultaneous job offers – one in sales and the other in banking.

For Davis, who bleeds Garrard County Golden Lions like UK fans bleed blue, the choice was a step in the right direction.

“I love helping others and I always have. I grew up in a family that served their community and served and helped others. I thought I could do it,” he says.

And so he did.

Davis was a full-time teacher by day, a student driving three nights a week down to Union College in Barbourville for his master’s coursework, and a city council member. From November 2007 to July 2015, the busyness of his life was rewarded in the classroom and out.

“My first two years of teaching. I taught kids with severe disabilities. It’s so touching to see how kids can improve, how they really work hard to become as independent as possible,” Davis says. “The kids would give me a hug every morning and a hug every afternoon.”

Five years into his teaching career, Lancaster city government hit a rough patch and Davis stepped in as interim mayor. It was then that he discovered yet
another field was waiting to be explored.

For the love of Lancaster

In 2014, Davis filed to run for mayor and won the position, taking office in January 2015. After being so close to the inner workings for eight years, Davis knew all his co-workers and they all knew him. In order to strengthen already established relationships, Davis made some deliberate choices.

“We have a phenomenal city team and a leadership team, which is the department heads. I trust each and every one of our employees and I trust each and every one of our department heads. It’s all ‘we’,” Davis explains.

He works to ensure that his team has the freedom to manage each department, and also works to ensure that the commitment to care and communicate is more than just lip service.

Davis and his commissioners supply a privately funded quarterly meal for the city employees.

He meets one-on-one with each department head, and he encourages congregating with one another as much as possible.

In addition, he and his team are working to implement a strategic plan for the city. With help from the Kentucky League of Cities, Lancaster has developed a written plan that outlines the city’s vision and the goals to see that vision become a reality.

Davis keeps a copy of the strategic plan manual on his desk at work, one at city hall, one on his desk at home, one on his iPad and one on his iPhone.

And, being a member of the board for the Bluegrass Area Development District, Davis knows that when the time comes to call on help from the BGADD, help will be available.

“The ADD is a great resource tool. I’ve used them twice since I’ve been here, once with a grant and once with a new revenue study,” Davis says.

“David Duttlinger has been tremendous. When we were discussing the water plant about five years ago, he came to every meeting and we appreciate his expertise and his wisdom.”

The collaborations and the work have paid off and the difference is evident.

Over 60 citizens filled 140 trash bags during one of the community cleanup days. A new summer concert series has brought downtown to life.

A Fourth of July festival honored Vietnam Veterans and hosted 500 people. Blighted properties have been demolished to make way for something beautiful, something new.

“All of this points to three words: Quality of Life. We want to create a better overall environment,” Davis says.

“We have a commitment to a positive attitude in our community. We can do this. We can be who we want to be.”
Kentucky Career Center Regional Career Fair Offers More Than Just a Job

By Kristi Robinson Horine

The third annual Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass Regional Career Fair will be held Thursday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Megowan Building on the Bluegrass Community & Technical College Newtown Pike Campus.

The fair will showcase over 50 employers offering a range of positions. It is free and open to the public.

For veterans and their families, there will be priority entry from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The career fair has a four-sector focus which includes advanced manufacturing, healthcare, information technology and transportation distribution and logistics. These are the state-identified sectors which are most likely to grow and employ people in the 17-county Bluegrass Area Development District.

Employers are not limited to just these four sectors and might also offer positions in temp, hospitality, culinary, sales, etc.

Three years ago, the Kentucky Career Center’s staff started hearing that employers in the region were having difficulty filling some jobs.

“There were several employers who just couldn’t find the employees they were looking for. It was the idea of the employers and the Business Service staff at that time to try to expedite the process by putting all the employers in one place and providing them with a number of candidates at one time,” explains Staci May, BGADD Communications and Marketing Specialist.

That first year there were over 60 employers and nearly 350 job seekers. The second year, there was still a high number of employers looking for qualified candidates but about half as many job seekers. This year, May hopes to increase that number and connect more job seekers to fulfilling jobs.

To that end, May and her co-worker, Jesse Moyers, BGADD’s Business Services Manager, have some strategic advice for fair-goers.

Strategic preparation

“You can’t over prepare for a career fair,” Moyers says. “There is nothing more important than a first impression. Not only are you wanting to find a good match on the job side, but it’s imperative for job seekers to look at this as an opportunity to sell themselves as a professional, as an individual who adds value to an employer. That’s what employers are looking for.”

While unemployment numbers have continued to decrease, Moyers hears from employers that are still having a difficult time finding employees who have both hard skills and soft skills sets.

Hard skills, he explains, are those areas where an employee performs a certain function with a certain skill, like a certified forklift operator, or experience on a CNC machine, or medical or clerical skills. Hard skills are acquired over time with experience and training.

Soft skills, on the other hand, are more focused on interpersonal relationships.

“We are living in a technology driven world, but there is no substitute in the job realm for soft skills and human interaction,” Moyers says.
Being prepared helps job seekers with that critical first impression.

The first step to preparation is registration with an online state job seeker website, www.focuscareer.ky.gov. Registration can take 15 to 30 minutes and is free. During the registration, job seekers are prompted to either upload or build a resume, which they can then print out and use at the job fair. May suggests that job seekers bring 15 to 20 resume copies to the fair.

The second step to preparation is to visit one of the five career centers in the BGADD.

Kentucky Career Centers are located in Lexington, Frankfort, Georgetown, Winchester, Richmond and Danville. Job seekers can receive help with tips and tricks from the Workforce Specialists in any of the career centers at no cost. Career center specialists help with mock interview questions, resume preparation, professional dress, protocol for follow up after an interview, and even interpersonal relationships after a job seeker has secured a position.

Another useful class offered by the BGADD is called ACCESS (Academy for Continuing Careers, Employment & Soft Skills). It was developed through a collaborative effort between May and her team at the BGADD and professionals from the companies in the 17-county region.

“ACCESS is a three-day, three-tier training,” May explains. “It teaches job seekers how to find the job, how to get the job and how to keep the job.”

An added benefit of job seekers completing the ACCESS training is that they are able to measure their practical skills through WorkKeys assessment. After a job seeker takes the assessment, they receive a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) which shows a potential employer the work-readiness of the participant.

While this training was offered at the end of April in preparation for this month’s fair, the Kentucky Career Centers periodically offer the classes.

A third step to preparation is doing research on the companies attending the career fair. A complete list of companies can be found at the website www.ckycareers.com. Moyers and May encourage job seekers to look up each of the companies to see which jobs they are currently hiring for or which positions they typically fill. Just because a job is not listed as available, it might be worth the job seeker’s time to ask the business to keep the resume on file, just in case a position opens up.

While the job seeker is doing research, Moyers says it is also a good idea to check out the company’s News or Media page. Knowing something about the company’s recent activities will help the job seeker to have a relevant talking point to break the ice.

A fourth preparation step is to bring a calendar. May says there will likely be some on-the-spot interviews, but Human Resources professionals will also schedule interviews in the days and weeks after the career fair. Making sure not to double book an interview, or making sure to get the right time and day is essential to continuing that good first impression, May says.

A fifth step to preparation is practice, practice, practice.

“It could be practicing with family members in a mock interview,” Moyers says. “It might even be standing in front of the bathroom mirror and practicing a conversation.”

Moyers says that even if a job seeker has done their homework on which companies they want to target, it might be helpful to begin a warm-up conversation at the career fair with any of the employers they might not be interested in, then work their way up to the employers they really want to work for. He assures job seekers that the professionals at each table are open to folks walking up and talking to them. Even if the conversation doesn’t lead to a job, the interactions can
help to work the kinks – and some nerves – out. One of the final preparations is to consider what to wear. May cautions job seekers against inappropriate dress.

“Do not show up in a tank top with your undergarments showing. Do not show up in pajamas,” May says. “Dress professionally. Khakis and a nice button down is more than enough to impress employers. Nice, clean clothes that are well fitting and kept are appropriate. Dress for the job you want.”

After the career fair is over, Moyers and May stress that the work of the job seeker is not necessarily finished.

“I still think there is something to be said for follow up. There are a lot of emails these days, but I think job seekers should realize the importance of a handwritten note,” Moyers advises.

“You might have had a really positive discussion with someone, you have their business card and you want to set yourself apart from the others. Draft a thank you note to express gratitude for learning more about their company and about being open to speaking with them in the future.”

Moyers says this shows initiative on the job seeker’s part and also puts the job seeker’s name right back in front of that prospective employer.

And one more thing, Moyers adds, is quiet time for reflection after the flurry of the career fair is over.

“The reflection is thinking about what went well, what they struggled with, what they want to work on,” he says. “Maybe think about a question asked by several employers that wasn’t answered well. Always think about how to better prepare for the next career fair and how to make yourself more marketable.”

May is Older Americans Month. This is one of several stories celebrating Older Americans of the Bluegrass region.

Howard Smith stands in the brightly lit resale room at the Franklin County Senior Center. A customer has just entered the store and is looking for a pair of shoes.

Smith blinks his eyes and points to the shoe area. Within a few minutes, the customer has found just what she’s looking for.

In this room, the tile floors are clean and free of clutter. The clothes hang neatly, spaced just so on the racks. Sweaters left over from winter are folded neatly in a small cubby. Shoes and other accessories are lined up in a smart fashion.

Smith has been in here today since 8:30. It’s his normal routine, Monday through Friday. He arrives at the center, says hello to his friends in the Adult Day room, then makes his way through a common area, down a hallway, into the resale room.

“They wanted a volunteer so I thought I would help them out. When people come in and want to buy something, I sell it to them and make sure nobody packs nothing out without paying,” he explains.

The senior center’s resale room is open to the public and all the sale proceeds go back into the center. This room, as well as the craft room across the hall, do double-duty. They both bring small profits, and they both allow seniors to continue being active.

Everyone needs to feel useful, after all, and Smith is no stranger to work.

When the store is empty of customers, he eases his slight frame into a chair and he shares his story.
Humble Beginnings

Howard Smith was born on March 17, 1926 in a small, northeastern Franklin County community called Bald Knob. He was the fourth child, and only boy, born into a rural farming family. He attended Bagdad School up until the eighth grade, then dropped out to work with his father.

“We raised tobacco and corn and had a garden,” he recalls. “We had cows and horses and everything. My part was the tobacco. I set it, topped it, chopped it. Everything. I just took that part and I don’t know why, but I liked it and I did it.”

Little did he know that the work ethic and work knowledge gained on his family farm would help him in the years to come.

One Saturday afternoon, sometime in 1947, Smith decided to take a 30-mile cruise up to Owenton.

“I saw this girl walking up the street and I thought, ‘She’s not bad looking,’ and I just pulled over to the curb and started talking to her,” Smith says. He pauses a minute and stares hard at the memory, then blinks his dark blue eyes a few times.

“I told her I’d take her home and she said her mother wouldn’t like that.”

Being a gentleman, Smith didn’t push the issue. Instead, he and the girl, Pauline, stood at the curb and talked a while longer.

“Finally, she said she’d let me take her home. She introduced me to her mother and her mother didn’t know me from Adam because I was from Frankfort,” Smith chuckles at the memory and slaps his weathered hand on his knee. “When I got ready to leave I asked if it would be okay if I came down the next weekend and take her out to eat. It went from there.”

For three months, Smith made the 30-mile trip every weekend from Bald Knob to Owenton to court Pauline. At the end of those three months, she consented to marrying him. He was 21. She was 13.

Two years after they married, Smith went to a farm sale with no intention of buying the place. The 173 and a half-acre parcel was out Devil Hollow Road and belonged to an elderly widow.

“When I got there, the horse weeds was as tall as this ceiling here and the widow had a path cut into her back door,” Smith says.

He explains he had his eye on a nice barn up on the hill.

Some of the Goins family, who ran the local dairy, punched Smith in the side and kept telling him to buy it.

“I told them I can’t buy that, I ain’t got the money for it, and they said yes, I could, that they’d let me have it,” Smith says. “Well, it didn’t bring but $3000. I bought that place and they gave me the money to pay for it. I paid it back my first year there in tobacco.”

Smith’s reminiscence is interrupted by a man named Paul who pushes his walker into the store and turns it around to perch on a little fold-down seat. Paul is the resident puzzle master, he says. He leans in close, elbows on the grips of the walker, his hands clasped in front of him.
“You know what my favorite thing about Howard is?” he asks, then answers his own question without pause. “His chicken dance!”

Paul and Smith share a laugh before Paul rises from the fold-down seat and wheels himself out into the hallways.

Smith smiles and ducks his head, suddenly overcome with shyness.

“I like music. I like to dance,” he says, then resumes his story.

He farmed the land on Devil Hollow for two years, then he and Pauline sold the place to rent a small country home. Instead of farming the land, Smith found himself a job in the Heel Department at the Genesco Shoe Factory on Barrett Street.

The year was 1951. Smith says he worked a machine that rolled hot glue on the heels and then it was his job to attach the heel to the rest of the shoe.

“It was hard work. I didn’t really like it, but I stayed there. There wasn’t no other jobs you could get right then,” he says.

In 1977, after Smith had worked there for 25 years, Genesco Shoe Factory closed its doors. Smith worked on for a time as night watchman, but knew his days at the factory were numbered. He went to his superintendent, a 53-year veteran of the factory, George Hocker, who promised Smith a different position with the state.

Keeping Promises

Smith grew up in an era where, if a man gave his word, he kept it. He had given his word to his wife that if he could make it, she wouldn’t ever have to work. Determined to keep his promise to his beloved Pauline, he pushed Hocker to keep his promise.

Within a short time, Hocker told Smith to head to the Capital Plaza Tower on Mero Street.

“It was 24 stories high and I worked in the tip top of it,” Smith says. “I started as a janitor and retired 15 years later as foreman.”

Smith retired in the early 90s. During his last few years at the Plaza, Pauline was diagnosed with breast cancer. She only lived five years after her diagnosis.

“I miss her,” Smith says, then looks away. “I sure miss her.”

When his shift is up, Smith and Barbara Harrod turn over the resale room to the next volunteer.

“Howard is a kind, quiet, pleasant fellow,” Harrod says. “He’s here every single day and he never says an unkind word to anyone.”

Harrod is the assistant director of the Franklin County Senior Center’s Adult Day program. A separate arm of the center, Adult Day offers aide to participants. Some need help with mobility, as their bodies decline with the natural aging process. Some have Alzheimer’s or dementia. Smith isn’t in either of those categories.
Instead, he often helps Harrod and the other aides in the program.

At the doorway, Smith takes a sharp left. He wears a red t-shirt and charcoal gray sweater. He doesn’t shuffle his feet, but takes quick, short steps to his destination.

When he walks, he leans forward, as if bent on being a winner.

“I think you need to keep busy and keep moving. I believe that helps you,” he says as he quick-steps down the hall.

“Without this place, I’m not sure I’d keep going. Coming here, doing things –“

Smith cuts off his sentence as loud chords from an electric guitar fill the air. As often as possible, the senior center has live music in the common room.

“There’s one thing I like to do,” Smith says as he smiles and nods to the center of the room. “Dance!”

He crosses the floor and holds open the door that leads to the Adult Day room. It is a long, carpeted room, split in the middle with overstuffed recliners.

Participants work on puzzles at round tables. Once in the room, Adult Day aides take over where Smith’s sudden shyness leaves off.

Harrod says that Smith has been there a long time at seven years. Jewel, a white haired small-ish woman, has been coming for eight years and diligently works a child’s puzzle of a cat.

At a separate table Adult Day aide Judy Barnes helps another participant.

“We switched from making beads into bracelets to puzzles,” she explains.

Frances, her current charge, shows off her bracelet and necklace, then moves her concentration back to the hard cardboard pieces in front of her.

Barnes tells of having morning chats with Smith everyday. She’s thankful for the good weather because it means they get to ‘set out,’ something Smith loves to do.

“We have learned things from every one of them who comes in. Howard cheers us up because he always has something funny to say,” Barnes says.

Stories about his courtship to Pauline, something that would be unheard of today.

Or, stories of the near-miraculous way they bought their farm and paid it off with the first tobacco crop.

Or, stories of raising three boys, then settling down too live out his final years with the only surviving child, Kenneth.

Or, stories of learning the most important thing after 25 years of shoe factory work was “to get away from it.”

Or, how he would sometimes fish for days on Lake 60 out Louisville Road after he retired because he didn’t quite know what to do with himself.

Or, something funny that Kenneth said the night before.

At the end of his day, he walks to the door and a sudden twinkle lights up eyes that are faded from so many years.

“Here’s how we do the chicken dance,” he says.

His body is animated now, his hands open and close like a chicken’s beak. He tucks his hands into his armpits and flaps his elbows like wings. He does his best to twist his hips to the music that plays in his head.

He laughs out loud and it is a sound that only the very wise have learned to cherish.
Around the world to mayor of Sadieville

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Nearly 15 years ago, Claude Christensen circled the globe in 21 days.

He started in Washington, D.C. and during the course of his travels he stopped in London, Azerbaijan off the Black Sea, Kyrgyzstan, Kathmandu, New Dehli, Bangkok, Tokyo, and Detroit.

His travels brought him right back to our nation’s capital where he worked for five years with the Peace Corps as the Deputy Chief Information Officer and the Chief Information Architect. His job was to manage the organization’s global conversion from a hodge-podge of technology into a standardized Microsoft-based technology environment.

“Part of this trip, I would do what I was supposed to do, but I made it my mission to make sure I went out and visited some of the volunteers. These are the people who have to live with the technology. These are the people who have to live with the decisions we are making in Washington and I wanted to know what it was like out there and how we could do what we were doing to support them better,” he explains.

Christensen, a Utah native, visited a young man in Nepal who was teaching high school science, and a former Wall Street mover and shaker who had volunteered to teach micro-economics in a little mountain town in Romania.

“It was amazing, the places I saw, the people I met, the things I ate,” Christensen says. He pauses and leans back in his chair, spreads his hands wide, as if to hold the world in the open space. “I was sitting in an upstairs balcony café one night eating water buffalo in Kathmandu, Nepal and I was thinking, ‘This is a long way from Utah.’ That was a framing moment.”

Christensen currently serves as Sadieville’s mayor. That framing moment in Nepal is but one of the many life experiences that led him to the small Northern Scott County city of 328 people.

Growing up good

Christensen is one of six siblings who grew up on a Tremonton, Utah ranch and farm where his family raised dry crops like barley, wheat and hay on about 600 acres. The ranch side covered several thousand range acres with several hundred head of cattle.

“I think it really made its mark on all of us kids. Everyone one of us knew how to work by the time we got through,” Christensen says. “Everybody pitched in and had their thing that they did. I think it taught a lot of great life lessons and it paid off for all of us in our lives.”

When Christensen graduated, the U.S. was deeply involved in the Vietnam War. His older sister had joined the Air Force, and he liked the idea of having more control in where and how he served.

“I figured I could fly over hills for four years, or I would walk over hills for two years. That’s the simple view of it,” he says. He joined the Air Force in 1968
and served for six years, nine months and 15 days. At the end of his basic training, he had a chance to choose his positions. From a long list, he chose air traffic controller as his number one, security police as his number three.

For his number two slot, though, he chose the job with the longest name: photogrammetric cartographic analyst.

“That’s what I got. Turns out, that was a critical field, making maps,” he says. “I back into stuff a lot, but putting a bookmark in that one line changed my whole life. It got me into a really cool job, great training, and it’s paid off big time for me.”

In July of 1975, Christensen and his wife Sandi, along with their three children, were ready to leave the Air Force life behind and move back to Utah where Christensen would enroll at Utah State and find a job to make ends meet. The day before they left, he received a letter in the mail offering him a job with the Bureau of Land Management as a cartographer in Denver.

“I figured I could go to school in Denver just as well as in Utah,” Christensen says.

He ended up with a degree in geology and another degree in land use. In addition, the Department of the Interior had a program that offered participants the equivalent of a Master’s in Public Administration which he completed later on.

Over the next two and a half decades, Christensen worked himself up as far as he could go within the Department of the Interior. In 1999, the IT opportunity with the Peace Corps opened up and Christensen took it. After five years with the Peace Corps, Christensen was ready to retire.

“One good thing about working for the government is that they offer you lots of resources. One was retirement classes where you get help thinking about what you are going to do next because there is always a next,” he says.

In 2004, with a contract on their Maryland house, they realized they had to do something. They bought a house in the northern part of Scott County, not knowing what they were getting themselves into.

**New Kentucky home**

When Christensen and his wife Sandi bought the house just off of KY 32, they never even visited the small town they saw on the next hill, but within a year, Christensen started to attend the city commission meetings. In 2005, when a commissioner stepped down, Christensen took on the role, overseeing Public Works for Sadieville.

At about the same time, the city’s sewer system had reached a critical point in operations. Given his background in public service, his extensive knowledge of all kinds of systems, and the luxury of time in his retirement, Christensen set to work to come up with a plan to get things moving.

The sewer plant leaked and was obsolete, service lines were leaking all around town, and the town was “bleeding money” since the utility was not financially viable. The project would mean a complete rebuild top to bottom.
Regionalization of Sadieville’s sewer system seemed logical and had been kicked around as an idea by several possible partners. They could connect to the line that would run along US 25 that was necessary to fix the leaching problem at the landfill just two and a half miles south of Sadieville.

“In regionalizing, we found favor with a lot of people. The county was willing to give us half a million. The state gave us two different grants a little over 3.2 million. That was to redo everything, get rid of the plant, run the lines, annex some ground and extend the sewer service out to the interchange to spur some economic development.”

Under Christensen, the Mayor, the commission’s leadership and the Bluegrass Area Development District, the city gained enough financial backing through county and state resources to complete the project and then some.

“Economically, this opened a lot of doors because we didn’t have to levy anything new, we didn’t have to raise taxes or rates. We had 100 percent grant funding and the fact that we were now a regionalization project, we could use that to get grants from the state,” he explains.

David Duttlinger, executive director of BGADD, recalls the remarkable network of partners involved in bringing the regional project to fruition.

“We wrote and administered both grants, said Duttlinger. “It took bringing together several partners – Georgetown, Scott County, Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service, State Division of Water, State Division of Waste Management and, of course, Sadieville.

“It actually was a very unique and special project, because it not only brought regionalization, removed a failing sewer system but also prevents leachate from a landfill from entering a precious groundwater source – the Royal Spring Aquifer.”

The project also had ripple effects. Sadieville was able to leverage funding for additional but related projects. Main Street was resurfaced with grant monies because the new sewer system went under it.

A new bridge was built on Vine Street and there was money available to clean and fix and rebuild in connection with the project. The city also annexed a commercial block near I-75, bringing with it the potential for more growth.

In 2010, Christensen was sworn in as Mayor and has now spent nearly 50 years of his life in public service.

At one point in the last decade, he held positions on 23 different committees around the state, including President of the Chamber of Commerce, first vice president of the Kentucky League of Cities, and Scott County United Board.

In addition, he serves as Chairman of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Committee, Vice Chair of the Regional Transportation Committee and on the Water Management Board at the Bluegrass Area Development District.

Mayor Christensen rosenwaldHe’s involved because he cares. He’s involved because he knows that’s how things get done.

“I don’t work well from the bench. I kind of need to play and it’s just easier to fix things from the inside if fixing things needs to be done,” he says.

“In Sadieville we can do very little on our own, we have few staff and a little budget, but if we can partner, we can prosper.”
Following the path her mother made: If you have, then you owe

By Kristy Robinson Horine

Barbara and Jack Welsch pull up in front of the house. He puts the car in park, then nods to his wife. Together, they unload a box from the trunk and make their way toward the front door.

The box is full of commodities like a bag of potatoes, juice, peanut butter, pasta and cheese.

Each month, God’s Pantry Food Bank makes a commodities delivery to the Lexington Senior Center. Volunteers then pick up the food and deliver it to those who are unable to come to the center to pick up their monthly allotment. For a few years now, the Welschs have delivered to seven or eight households each month.

To the recipient, it is practical nourishment. For Barbara and her husband, it is so much more.

“Over time, they’ve become friends. Our newest grandbaby is a year old and they waited with us for the little guy to show up. It’s a relationship,” Barbara says. Then she adds with a straight face. “Besides, I make Jack do it. It’s his only shot of getting into heaven.”

She holds that face for as long as she can, then cracks a grin that soon turns into full-on laughter. It’s a sound that says she has learned which parts of life to take seriously and which to wrap in laughter.

For Barbara, though, all parts give back. It’s a lesson her mother taught her decades ago.

Set on a path

Barbara was born and raised in Ohio, then moved to Illinois when she was 13. During her growing up years, she spent a good deal of time with her mother who made a generous path for Barbara to follow.

“She volunteered a lot and she taught me that if we were blessed, then we gave back,” Barbara says. “And we were blessed. I never was hungry. I never was cold. I never lacked food. We weren’t rich, but we were happy. If you have, then you owe.”

It is her mother’s influence that she remembers when she and Jack make their deliveries each month.

The simple act of serving in the Central Kentucky area has been over 30 years in the making.

In the early 80s, Jack moved his family to Lexington when he got a job with IBM. He was involved with the inventory and supply portion for the Selectric Typewriter. Their children integrated into school in Lexington — Cathie as a sophomore, John in elementary school — and Barbara settled into keeping a good home life.

“When my daughter went to college, I thought, well, I have to do something now,” Barbara says. “If I go to therapy, it is going to cost me money, so I’ll go get a job and they’ll pay me money. That’s much better.”

Barbara laughs again, then launches into a description of the next few decades. While in her 40s, she found a job as a branch office manager in the insurance business, even though she knew nothing about the insurance business.

“You can learn, it’s not that complicated,” she says. “I
The POWER of Local...

Over the next two decades, Barbara dove into the business, learning all she could about life, health, worker’s compensation, property, casualty and liability insurances.

While she never put off learning as much as she could with the insurance business, there was a portion of her life that she did put off — Retirement.

“I think that fear is in the back of our minds. I don’t care who you are and what you have done, you want to feel useful,” Barbara says. “When you get to a certain age, right or wrong, I think our society says that if you are being paid, you are useful, but if you aren’t being paid, then you aren’t so useful.”

It didn’t take her long to figure out that way of thinking was “total garbage.” The shift came when she decided to blaze a new trail in her life with the old principle her mother passed on: If you have, then you owe.

Blazing a new trail

Barbara walks through the hallway at the Lexington Senior Center. She passes the reception desk, passes the sitting area full of shelves of books, reads a poster on the wall and greets everyone she meets along the way.

She doesn’t spend every day at the center, but it’s pretty close to every day. She loves bingo twice a week, participates in a Zumba class, and takes on a game of Bridge from time to time. She might meet all the requirements of a senior citizen, yet she is anything but typical.

“You know, you start on this path and you wander this way and you wander that way and you’d be surprised at the territory you cover not even realizing that you are. It just kind of happens,” Barbara says as she weaves her hands through the air. “There is an opportunity every day and that is why I get up every day.

I have been very blessed and the Lord has been very kind to me. And, I do owe.”

It wasn’t long after she retired in 2010, that she discovered OLLI, the Osher Life Long Learning Institute, at the University of Kentucky. OLLI, so named in the early 2000s, actually began in the mid-sixties at UK. The institute is designed to offer educational and enrichment opportunities for older adults. Today, the program offers nearly a hundred classes a year on topics such as history, humanities, foreign languages, contemporary world events, and visual arts, among others.

During her walk down the OLLI path, Barbara found the entrance to another path — the Donovan Forums.

The Donovan Forums, also at UK, are a series of free weekly lectures offered at the Lexington Senior Center. Barbara started out as a volunteer on the forum committee, then stepped up as chairman in January 2013. She will rotate off that position this summer.

Her service on the Donovan Forum Committee allowed her and her fellow committee members the opportunity to choose topics for the weekly lecture series and experts who can best present to those topics.

Because she volunteered as chairman of the Donovan Forum Committee, she automatically earned a spot on the OLLI advisory board, which addresses periodic issues like the cost of OLLI classes, or the membership fees, or even making sure there are appropriate venues for each of the classes with plenty of parking.

“This has never been a job to me, this has always been a joy,” Barbara says.

Since her chairmanship of the Donovan Forum Committee will be up this summer, so will her term on the OLLI Advisory board. But Barbara isn’t one to sit around and wait for the next thing to open up, she’s already filled that spot with other opportunities to give back to her community.

She has recently started working with Christina Espinosa on the Livable Lexington initiative, in addition to
joining the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council with the Bluegrass ADD.

Barbara is also filling the two-year term as president of the Lexington Senior Center and she’s teaching others the value of giving back in meaningful ways. For example, each year the Senior Center has a program for veterans.

“We would always give them a flag pin or something like that. They’re always grateful, don’t misunderstand, but the simple fact is it goes in a drawer and it never sees the light of day again,” Barbara explains. “I suggested that this time, we could make a contribution to a veteran cause in their honor.”

Thanks to wise fiscal management and the generosity of the Lexington Senior Center, they donated $100 to Wilmore’s Thomson-Hood Veterans Center and $100 to the Camp Nelson Honor Guard. They also hosted a Valentine’s Day party at Ashland Terrace, a women’s only facility that houses about 35 residents.

“We have a Christmas party, and everybody shows up at Christmas time, but you know, they are still around in February,” she says.

Thanks to the path set by her mother, and the trail Barbara is fearless enough to blaze for others, she and the councils she volunteers with have made a lasting impact on folks around her.

“If you get people to quit worrying about themselves and thinking about other people, they feel better. Life isn’t so gray or so bad as they may have thought it,” Barbara smiles as she talks.

“If you get a couple of people together that are like minded, you’d be amazed what you can do. It’s absolutely phenomenal what you can get done.”

No matter what age, and no matter what path, the trail Barbara Welsch blazes is a sure-footed way to give the best of what life has to offer.

Listen to the 590 WVLK-AM interview with with David Duttlinger at: bgadd.org/590-wvlkam-interview-with-david-duttlinger
In The News

MRCK16: Bluegrass ADD distributes regional public service resources with local control

From Lane Report

Political scientists usually classify the core functions of government as policing, judicial and regulation. From an economist’s point of view, governments exist to correct market failures. The market “failure” that the Bluegrass Area Development District, as a unit of local government, corrects is the equitable distribution of public services – primarily for Aging, Workforce, and Community Planning.

No one disagrees these services need to exist. The only question to resolve is how they should be distributed and who should control that distribution. The Bluegrass ADD was constituted 45 years ago under the ideology of regional governance with a voice and a vote from every locally elected official in the 17-county region.

From Market Review Central Kentucky 2016-17

Why? One very simply reason: People prefer to live in a society based on a democratic government rooted at the local level. How does the saying go – all politics are local? And why? Because local governments are both responsive and responsible to the local citizens.

The Bluegrass ADD is part of a system that gives society a high return on investment on tax dollars collected from our hard-working citizens. Without this shared regional concept, local governments would not have access to the types of professional staff housed at the Bluegrass ADD – planners, public administrators, grant writers, social workers, engineers, economists, human resource planners, workforce development, information technology, youth service specialists, transportation planners … the list goes on and on. There are 98 employees covering 60 unique position descriptions.

Throughout its 45-year history, the Bluegrass ADD has saved millions of public funds dollars by finding ways to consolidate and regionalize water and wastewater systems. In the past nine years, the organization has regionalized wastewater systems in Estill, Powell, Lincoln, Mercer and Harrison counties. We helped create economies of scale where nothing but inefficiency and disrepair existed; we have brought utilities back from consent decrees from the EPA and have made them safe again.

Current infrastructure costs demand regionalization of utility services to make them affordable. The evidence is quite literally concrete. But that same regionally shared concept must be extended to other crucial services or communities and people will be left behind. It would be great to have a Career Center in every county, to have an elderly case manager in every Senior Center and to have a land use planner in every city. Resource limitations, on every level, make this impossible.

But the beauty of regional governance is that we can share these assets. These much needed and valued assets can be shared through one ADD, controlled at the local level. One ADD that is responsive and responsible to the needs of the citizens. One ADD for today and for tomorrow continually working to make our Bluegrass region great.
Our history: It took good people to make it happen

Governor Louie Nunn signed the Executive Order (No. 71-1267) on November 16, 1971 that recognized the Bluegrass Area Development District as the official comprehensive planning and development agency for a 17-county region in Central Kentucky.

Elected officials and community leaders from Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, and Woodford counties had formally organized on October 23 and registered as a non-profit corporation with the Secretary of State on November 9.

Gov. Nunn’s order also designated the BGADD as the Regional Clearinghouse for review of applications for Federal grants affecting the non-metropolitan counties outside of Fayette, in accordance with Office for Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-95.

BGADD opened offices in Lexington in February 1972.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recognized the BLUEGRASS ADD as one of its Local Development Districts and began funding operations.

On April 20, 1972, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified the Bluegrass ADD as the Areawide Planning Organization for the 16 non-metropolitan counties.

Here are some highlights:

1973-1979

U.S. Office of Management and Budget added 5 counties—Bourbon, Clark, Jessamine, Scott, and Woodford—to the Lexington Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA).

BGADD begins conducting a three-year regional transportation program for the Kentucky Department of Transportation.

State starts providing funding to the BGADD to assist local communities with the preparation of HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications which has provided hundreds of millions of assistance to the region.

BGADD reaches a major milestone with a designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as one of its Economic Development Districts, qualifying all 17 counties to receive EDA grants and loans and the ADD itself to receive funds for economic development planning and technical assistance.

1980-1989

Presidential Executive Order 12372 replaces the A-95 process with the Kentucky Intergovernmental Review Process (KIRP). The State Clearinghouse in Frankfort is designated as the Single Point of Contact, providing state and local input to the relevant federal agency.

The BGADD, along with the other 14 Area Development Districts, is designated as a Regional Review Agency and continues to review grant applications and providing comments to the state.

The BGADD began direct administration of the JTPA Summer Youth Employment Program which was replaced in 1998 by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

The ADD is designated as a “Workforce Investment Act Area” for employment and training programs in Central Kentucky.

1990-1999

The BGADD plays an important part in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program, a federally mandated program to educate, train and employ
The POWER of Local...

History

recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

The BGADD assisted the Department for Social Insurance with developing and maintaining local JOBS plans and with obtaining education and training services for participants through contracts and agreements with providers for their services.

JOBS was replaced with Transitional Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in 1996.

The BGADD begins coordinating the Title VII Elder Abuse Prevention program in 1997.

2001-2010

The BGADD implements the National Caregiver Support program, followed by the Kentucky Caregiver Support Program, both of which continue today.

The BGADD administers the Consumer Directed Option (CDO) Program which allows eligible Medicaid waiver members to choose their own providers for non-medical in-home services.

Over the years, the ADD’s Transportation Planning Services has evolved and grown. Transportation Planners at the BGADD continue to provide planning support for activities associated with the State-wide Transportation Planning Program.

The BGADD’s Regional Transportation Committee reviews, evaluates and prioritizes highway, bikeway and pedestrian needs at the local and regional level for the 15 BGADD counties outside of the Lexington Area MPO of Fayette and Jessamine counties.

Additional transportation activities include Intermediate Planning Studies, Environmental Justice Reports, corridor planning and building efforts, and assistance to local governments on competitive funding opportunities provided by the Federal Highway Administration, such as the Transportation Enhancement program and Safe Routes to Schools.

TODAY

BGADD’s focus is on three core missions:

Community Planning
Aging Services
Workforce Development

Our vision for the future is that the BGADD will be known as an honest, ethical broker whose collaborative leadership sets the standard for efficient and effective delivery of government services to the counties of the Bluegrass Region.
July 2015

The fiscal year began with issues from the past, while continuing to focus on the future.

Four issues related to questioned costs from both the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EWDC) and the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) were: 1. Building rent payments, 2. Workforce Re-entry Program eligibility, 3. Past travel expenditures, and 4. One time-adjustments.

While dealing with these issues from 2010-2013, the Bluegrass ADD redefined its Vision to be recognized as an honest, ethical broker whose collaborative leadership is the catalyst for efficient and effective delivery of government services to the citizens of the Bluegrass 17-county region, BGADD will exceed in:

- Connected elected officials and citizens to the region;
- Providing trusted stewardship of resources entrusted to us;
- Building sustainable communities;
- Stimulating economic vitality;
- Consensus building;
- Transparency and openness;
- Seeking a coordinated solution to problems;
- Serving the citizens of the region;
- Empowering communities;
- Filling voids in expertise and services;
- Helping identify issues and opportunities;
- Being the trusted convenor.

Update on the FY15 Homeland Security Grant Program: There were 16 applications requested this year totaling $504,000.00. In 2014 there were six submitted and four were awarded for the amount of $184,925. Homeland Security is not going to be pay-

August 2015

BGADD Board members, Linda Magee, Mayor Traugott, Judge Pryor and Mayor Burtner attended the Internal Joint Committee on Local Government.

Concerns were raised regarding the implementation of the Ashwood Computer accounting software.

Duttlinger informed the Board that two staff will be attending Federal Grants Management Training and another accountant will be attending training in the future. The ADD will have two licensed CPA’s on staff.

An update was also provided on the One-Stop Certification. Kentucky Career Center Certification requires a completed application, along with six key documents that include: Memorandum of Understanding; Business Services Functional Organizational Chart; Standard Operating Procedure; Career Center Functional...
2016 Board Meeting Summary

Organizational Chart; ADA Compliance Letter and Career Center Staff Development Plan. The Richmond Career Center was recognized by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board for the Kentucky Career Center Certification on Thursday, August 20. We now have five more centers to get certified by June 30, 2016. Georgetown, Danville, Lexington, Frankfort (an Affiliate Center), and Winchester.

Duttlinger informed the board that the Bluegrass ADD had received three innovation awards and asked for approval to send a representative from the department to accept the award at the National Association of Development Organization Conference in October.

September 2015

Celeste Collins gave an update on the state’s Minimum Wage proposal: The Governor signed an “Executive Order” in June that says if you have a contract with the state, your employees must be paid $10.10 per hour. This is the new minimum wage rate. All the ADDs have contract extensions through the end of September with agencies and providers. The ADDs are trying for a permanent extension for “Aging” agencies and have not been successful to this point. The ADD Directors and the Department of Aging are working together to keep the “Aging” agencies exempt.

In September, Polly Mullins-Bentley, Deputy Executive Director, State IT Coordinator, Kentucky Office of Health Benefit and Health Information Exchange. She also serves as Co-lead for the State SIM’s (State Innovation Model) Project. She provided an overview of the Kentucky Health Information Exchange and current directions for assisting the improvement of health of Kentuckians and Kentucky’s communities.

Duttlinger informed the board that he had received a thank you note from Councilmember Amanda Bledsoe and Josh Switzer, Executive Director, Economic Development Authority in Liberty for our Sponsorship of the Kentucky Institute of Economic Development.

The Bluegrass ADD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2015 Resolution was next on the District Staff Report. It was recommended to the Full Board for approval.

October 2015

The Bluegrass ADD dashboard, which can be found on the website: Duttlinger discussed the process of projects being done in Workforce, Community Planning, Aging, and the Administration and Finance.

Duttlinger talked about ACCESS Program: Academy for Continuing Careers, Employment, & Soft Skills, a soft skills training program addressing the needs of employers. The program is scheduled for November 10-20 at the BCTC Newtown Pike Campus. It is a weeklong training, where three days are dedicated to finding the job, getting the job and keeping the job through workshops in resume writing, interviewing, effective communication, time management, and other skills for employment. Fourth day is devoted to administering the Work Keys Assessment, so individuals could be eligible to obtain a National Career Readiness Certificate. The last day will be a mini job fair for individuals who completed the whole week of training. Employers will interview the candidates and will provide preference for positions that are available for individuals completing the course.

Duttlinger introduced guest speaker, Matt Erwin, LIFT - Local Investments for Transformation. LIFT, also known as the local option, is about the right to vote. It would allow voters to decide whether they want to pay for new community projects by giving them the right to vote on projects and their costs. Thirty-seven other states allow local citizens to vote for or against projects, paid for by a temporary local-option sales tax, but Kentucky doesn’t have that option. Recent statewide polls show that more than 60 percent of Kentuckians favor this local approach. Erwin told the board LIFT Kentucky will be the top priority, House Bill 1, in the upcoming session of the General Assembly. The initiative has support of over 42 groups from across the commonwealth.
Mayor Caudill gave the Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living Council report. Mayor Christensen reported on the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Advisory Committee. Judge Roberts reported on the Regional Planning Council and Judge Branham on the Regional Transportation Committee.

**November 2015: A special Executive Committee meeting**

Chair Magee gave an update and possible action on status of initial questioned and disallowed cost determinations from the Department of Aging and Independent Living and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Magee directed the board to the copy of the settlement agreement (passed out to them) between Bluegrass Area Development District and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). The agreement would be for Bluegrass ADD to reimburse DAIL the amount for federal $117,273 and the state portion for $75,000.

After discussion the board felt that there is not enough documentation to back up the questioned cost. A motion made by Judge Pryor and seconded by Judge McKinney authorized Chair Magee to continue her negotiations with DAIL and OET and to report back to the Executive Board and also for the Executive Director to continue requesting back- up documentation for the questioned cost. The motion carried.

**December 2015**

Duttlinger informed the board about two grant opportunities currently open: Land and Water Conservation Fund (deadline to apply is April 20, 2016); and, the Recreational Trails Program (due by March 20, 2016). He told the board to contact Shane New with any questions.

Grant updates: Bluegrass ADD submitted eight CDBG applications, four Community Projects and four Public Facilities community Projects. All were awarded, except Lawrenceburg Alton Vacuum Sewer System Replacement Phase 4. Statewide there was $11.7m available in Community Projects and Public Facilities. We received $4.424m of all funds available, or 38%.

Chris Chaney was successful in getting Woodford County Fiscal Court awarded a $466,555 Transportation Alternatives reimbursement grant for a sidewalk project championed by local magistrate Mary Ann Gill with support from Bluegrass ADD.

With the work from Craig McAnelly and George Leamon BGADD had three major announcements:

- $13.1 million, American Howa Kentucky, Midway, adding 54 jobs
- $2.5 million expansion for General Cables, Lawrenceburg, 50 jobs
- $25.2 million expansion for Florida Tile, Inc., Lawrenceburg, 61 jobs

The following pending announcements were also shared:

- Sylvania Expansion, Versailles - $10 million, 50 jobs
- Quad Graphics, Versailles - $3 million, 20 jobs
- Altegra Health, Lincoln County - 250 jobs
- Four Roses, $34 million, Anderson County - 15 jobs

Duttlinger informed the board about training for staff in October and November: Kentucky Human Resources Training, Harmony Conference, REST (respite education and support tools for the aging), and the 2015 National Association of Development Organization Conference.
Next, Jon Gay gave a brief update on the Local Elected Official Executive Committee:

The Committee met December 18 and discussed the request for proposals. and the recommendation was made to have the Bluegrass Area Development District serve as the grant sub-recipient in this region. Next step will be for the governing board to meet in January 2016.

Duttlinger introduced Simon Keemer and Erica Fritsch, with Dean Dorton Allen Ford, to present the Bluegrass ADD audit.

The board had discussion about the pension plan and government accounting standards Board GASB No.68. Bluegrass ADD was required to adopt GASB No.68, a new governmental accounting standard related to the accounting pension plans. The board did not agree with this and will be looking into this further.

January 2016

David Duttlinger State of the Region:

The Board is constituted in our Bylaws and enacting by our enabling legislation, KRS 147A from 1972. This is our 45th year of operation. The BGADD Board is comprised of 72 individuals – 17 County Judges, 18 Mayors – one from each of the county seats, plus one extra in Madison County because the city of Berea has a population is greater than 10,000. Then you have two citizen members from each county, for a total of 34-citizen members. Additionally, there are three “At-Large” citizen members. This gives us a total voting Board membership of 17 + 18 + 34 + 3 = 72. It takes 37 members to make a quorum.

This Board grants broad governing power to the Executive Committee for the day-to-day operation of the ADD. This Executive Committee shall have a minimum of nine elected officials and two citizen members. The officers are selected by the nominating committee, as was presented by Mayor Burtner. Each of the officers automatically serves on the Executive Committee. The remaining 13 members are selected by the Chair and ratified by a majority vote of the Full Board.

I’m not trying to make your heads spin with numbers but I’m explaining this so that it is understood how the business decisions of the ADD are made. The purpose of tonight’s meeting, and the purpose of each quarterly board meeting is statutorily driven by KRS 147A.

It is the designed intent of the Board that the social gathering, and meal would be used as an opportunity to convene and collaborate with elected officials and concerned citizens from the region. These elected officials and citizens typically serve on advisory committees outside of any Board meeting, where problems and policy solutions are discussed.

So what is our story…

Shellie Hamilton, KACo’s Director of Governmental Relations, has met with the Council of ADDs this past year and individually with each ADD Director. Her message to us each and every time is very consistent – You Must Tell Your Story.

So I would like to begin the Executive Director’s Report tonight with a short video to introduce you to our story.

When you signed in today, you received a copy of our story –our Annual Report. Included in the inside cover is a copy of an article that was recently released by the Lane Report. It too tells our story from the State Perspective.

So let me provide you with my version of our story – because it is important that we can all understand it.

Story begins with the elected officials.

Local Unit of Government

Cannot sever us from the relationship we have with you being on our Board with any of the services – workforce, aging, or community planning.
But bear in mind that there is no conflict of interest if there is no pecuniary interest in the matter.

We are a department within their organization, and as such a part of your staff.

Our mission statement says:

We are to enhance the economy of our communities through

Planning – maximize resources,
Projects – to promote development, and
Programs – to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the region.

We provide a high return on investment, because without this regional, shared concept, your local staff would not have all of the various types of professional staff that are housed at the ADD – planners, public administrators, grant writers, social workers, engineers, economists, human resource planners, workforce development, information technology, youth service specialists, transportation planners….the list goes on and on – 98 employees covering 60 unique position descriptions.

So with that mission comes a vision. A vision to create economic development opportunities through the synergistic fusion of Community Planning, Aging Services and Workforce Development.

Everything we do is centered on Planning. Land use planning, regional land use planning, comprehensive land use, zoning, compatible use. And even if this service is provided at the local level, it must be interconnected from community to community. Because without the regional connection you have fragmentation, a disparate use of resources and ultimately chaos.

Proper land use planning leads to industrial recruitment -- and the creation of jobs. But planning requires so much more than industrial recruitment. You must consider the Livability, services for the elderly, transportation, pedestrian routes and recreation. And it must include the proper recruitment and training of a qualified workforce.

Workforce is the one grant in our portfolio of some 230 grants that we manage where there is no chance to make anything. So by definition there is nothing lucrative about it. It is a cost reimbursement base grant, which means that we typically cash flow the expenses for at least a month. But after reimbursement, the receivables must exactly equal the expenses. So why do we do it?

The answer is because workforce is an essential part of our overall regional mission – Economic Development. It is not a social program, or a money-making business venture, it is a tool for economic development.

Highlights from each of your departments can be found in the annual report. Some of the highlights of our annual report were announced at last month’s Executive Committee meeting and worth repeating here tonight.

Last year we submitted 8 CDBG Applications: 4 Community Projects & 4 Public Facilities

**Community Projects:**

1) Nicholas County Fire Station Renovation - $500,000

2) Berea Fire and Municipal Center Renovation - $500,000

3) Hustonville Fire & EMS Station - $500,000

4) Sphar Building Rehabilitation - $500,000

**Public Facilities:**

5) Harrison County: Northend Sewer Extension and Cedarbrook Replacement Project - $1,000,000

6) Wilmore Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - $1,000,000
2016 Board Meeting Summary

7) Mercer County Kennedy Bridge Road Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project - $424,000

8) Lawrenceburg Alton Vacuum Sewer System Replacement Phase 4 - $1,000,000

Seven of these grants were approved for a total of $4,424,000.

We now have approved or active CDBG’s in 14 of our 17 counties.

We also assisted Woodford County Fiscal Court in their receipt of a $466,555 Transportation Alternatives grant.

But more impressive than this was the success of economic development and workforce.

In the past month we have had three major announcements, each of which was brought into existence because of the contract staff service we are providing:

$13.1m, 60,000-sf plant in Midway that will bring 54-jobs from American Howa Kentucky (automotive plant)

$2.5m expansion for General Cables in Lawrenceburg, adding 50+jobs.

$25.2m expansion for Florida Tile, Inc. in Lawrenceburg adding 61 jobs in a 215,200 sf distribution center

And there is more good news on the way:

Pending Announcements:

Sylvania Expansion in Versailles - $10M, 50 jobs

Quad Graphics, Versailles - $3M, 20 jobs

Altegra Health, Lincoln County, 250 New Jobs

$34 Million Four Roses, Anderson County, 15 jobs

These are all jobs that will pay an average of $24.25 per hour!

And along with the industrial expansions come retail, hotels, multi-use, hospitals, and recreation – all possibilities.

Workforce staff reported the following recruitment and training in the month of December alone: 356 job openings.

21c Hotel (Lexington); 120 openings:
Color Point (Paris); 25 openings
Columbia Gas (Lexington); 15 openings
G4Solutions (Lexington); 40 openings
General Cable (Lawrenceburg); 25+ openings
Kelley Services (Georgetown); 20 openings
Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa (Lexington); 13 openings
Model Construction (Lexington); 3 openings
Neat Companies (Dunnville); 15 positions
People Plus (Georgetown); 25 openings
True Blue/Labor Ready (Lexington, Versailles, Frankfort); 35 openings
Wausau Paper (Harrodsburg); 20 openings

We received a thank-you note from the HR Manager of Hotel 21C for providing them with 100+ fantastic candidates.

My vision for 2016 is to show the Board a more integrated staff with services being provided jointly by more than one department - synergistically together. For example, we will stand up a grant writing committee that will consist of members from Community Planning, Aging and Workforce for the purpose of providing resource leveling and exploring new areas to pursue grants.

We will bring together the business service manager of Workforce with the Economic Developers in Community Planning to show potential industries not just
where they locate their business, but also who will recruit and train their new hires. One of the major initiatives of the new workforce act is employment of the disabled. We must capitalize on fulfilling that requirement while simultaneously meeting the obligations of the Department of Aging and Independent Living. And that is my vision – three departments, Community Planning, Aging Services and Workforce Development, working together to enhance the economies of the communities we work for at the local level.

The following Employees of the Quarter were introduced:

1. First Quarter – Jennifer Hays, Workforce Specialist for Diligence.


3. Third Quarter – Leann Lacy, Community Development Specialist, Community Planning Department, for Dependability.

4. Fourth Quarter – Charlotte Garnett, Administrative Assistant, Aging Department, for being a Compassionate Provider.

The Bluegrass ADD Employee of the Year was Emi Midkiff, for Diligence - investing her time and energy to complete each task assigned to her – while serving as a Consumer Directed Option Financial Supervisor, Administrative Department, Bluegrass Area Development District.

February 2016

Chair Mayor Caudill asked Karyn Leverenz to report on the Area Water Management Council. The Council met January 15 at the Bluegrass ADD office.

Guest speaker, Roger Recktenwald with the Kentucky Association of Counties, presented on the Purpose and Role of Water Management Councils. Recktenwald briefed the Council on House Bill 261 with regard to the Public Service Commission – KRS 278.

Chris Chaney gave the Regional Transportation Committee report. The Committee met January 11 at the Bluegrass ADD office when Chaney led the group in a discussion concerning proposed legislation related to transportation before the General Assembly in 2016.

Chair Mayor Caudill asked Leann Lacy to give the Tourism, Historic Preservation and Recreation Advisory Committee report. The Committee met January 12 at the Ripy House in Lawrenceburg. George Geoghegan III, a great great grandson of the family, conducted a tour of the Ripy House. The Queen Anne style house, having ties to the Bourbon Industry, was completed in 1888.

David Duttlinger started his report by asking for approval for two Area Development Fund applications:

**Lincoln County Fiscal Court** This grant is being requested as a match for the Hustonville Fire and EMS Station project to better serve the Hustonville area of Lincoln County. Amount requested is $10,000. Total project cost $850,950.

**Madison County Fiscal Court** Purchase tractor and bush hog for County Road Department. Amount requested is $31,194.80. Total project cost $52,000.

The Committee then held a teleconference with John Chamberlain. The board asked questions to help them understand next steps in resolving the questioned cost from the Cabinet. The following questions were discussed:

**What is the next step** for the Bluegrass ADD after the management decision is released?

**Where would the money go** for the disallowed cost?
Is there any way the Bluegrass ADD is under investigation?

What is Ed Donahue’s role with the Workforce Cabinet?

Has the ADD received any response from the response the ADD had sent?

March 2016

George Lemon gave the Development Advisory Committee: The Committee met February 16 at the Lawrenceburg Campus of Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Lawrenceburg.

Bill Cooper reported on the Human Services Advisory Committee: The Committee met February 11 at the ADD Office.

Guest speaker, Polly Lloyd-Ruddick, Director of the 2-1-1 Development and Operations, United Way of the Bluegrass. The 2-1-1 operation is a function of the United Way of the Bluegrass.


Legislative Update: KCADD Executive Director Darrell Link has worked with Representative Susan Westrom on House Bill 438 and the bill did pass and will move to the Senate. Duttlinger reported the Bluegrass ADD now has a Transparency Tab on the website.

At the last Executive Board meeting John Chamberlain was on teleconference and one of the questions asked was could the BGADD be under investigation. Chamberlain thought the ADD would have been contacted by an agent. Hours after the meeting, Bluegrass ADD Assistant CFO was contacted by an agent representing the Department of Health and Human Services at her home. Jon Gay contacted the agent, a Mr. Dunkle, and he said he was conducting a federal investigation in reference to the APA report.

March 11, 2016 the Bluegrass ADD received a letter from Commission Anderson that they had been informed by the office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services that the Bluegrass ADD is currently under federal investigation, so the Department of Aging and Independent Living will be doing weekly contacts to review the Bluegrass ADD.

April 2016

David Duttlinger reported on Rep. Susan Westrum’s Area Development Transparency Bill: The Bluegrass ADD, the Council of ADDs, and all 14-other ADDs in the State supported this measure.

In the last day of the General Assembly, Westrum’s Bill, HB 348, was added to a Senate Bill that included oversight and reform of the pension system and was made in what was called the “Super Transparancy Bill.” This bill passed out of the Senate, was sent back to the House, but was never called to be voted on.

Despite the outcome of HB348, Bluegrass ADD remains committed to meet or exceed every provision of this proposed bill. And we have. At the direction and leadership of the Executive Committee we have:

Implemented a modern pay scale that is based on market data and strives to achieve internal and external equity.

We are in full compliance with all federal and state model procurement laws and adopted the state model procurement code over three years ago.

Every single Board member and staff member has been trained on and has signed acknowledgement of conflicts of interest policies.
We conduct regular CPA Audits based on Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures and during the past three years we have received clean audits from both Blue & Co. and Dean Dorton Allen and Ford. Each of these highly respected CPA firms have conducted detailed financial audits of the Bluegrass ADD following industry-driven audit standards, and the findings and management decisions have consistently listed Bluegrass ADD as a low risk auditee.

We supported the ADD transparency bill and if anything believed the transparency bill did not go far enough.

We believe in equal opportunity transparency and think it should include not only Area Development Districts but also any non-profit, local chamber, or any entity that handles or is supported by taxpayer dollars.

The effect on the Bluegrass ADD has been a series of negative articles from January to March, which continue to marginalize the good works that we do and cling to condemning an organization from 2013 that no longer exists.

Duttlinger recapped the sequence of events going back to 2013:

**In March of 2013** – Executive Board calls the State Auditor

**July 1, 2013** – Demarcation
ADD Board takes charge and immediately starts making changes

- New Bylaws
- Retention and execution of authority by the Executive Committee
- New Travel Policies
- New Procurement Policies

- New Conflict of Interest Policy
- New Whistle Blower Policy
- New Accounting Software
- Even a new Mission and Vision Statement

**APA Report was released in March of 2014**

- Eight findings
- Corrective Action Plan Implemented
- Approved in July 2014
- We received ownership of our building, adding $2.3 M to our books.

All can be found on the BGADD transparency tab of our website.

**The APA Report** was sent to the Attorney general, State Police, and Inspector General at the Federal Level for each Agency we receive funds from

**Several Board members** were interviewed by the FBI – with no findings.

**Additional monitorings** were performed

**The Education and Workforce Cabinet** implemented a 91-point Corrective Action Plan which we responded to for 21-months

**Both Workforce Cabinet and the Aging Cabinet** hired external forensic accountants to take additional looks at the Bluegrass ADD. In December 2014, the Education Cabinet’s auditor, a retired DOL employee who is nationally recognized, completed his report. We asked for a copy of that report then, but were denied on the grounds that it was a working copy.

**Nine months later** the Education Cabinet released their initial determination of questioned costs. The amount was $2.56 million.

**We responded** with a detailed and thoroughly
documented account of each area cost classification that was questioned – re-entry program, one-time adjustments, rent payments and travel. We eventually did get a copy of their own internal audit and found that their contractor’s own report had said that all the cost categories were allowable, with the exception of portions of the travel, which would require additional testing.

November to December 2015 we went through an administration change (new Governor).

Throughout the course of the General Assembly session, while waiting on a response from the Workforce Cabinet, we have continued to be the subject of negative articles, in what appears by all practical measures to be a smear campaign.

On February 24, the Executive Committee’s guest speaker was John Chamberlin, a national workforce expert, participating via teleconference. During that meeting, he was asked what the chances were that we could be under a federal investigation and not know it. He did not see how that would be possible.

Then that very night, at around 8 p.m. a Special Agent of the Inspector General for Health and Human Services, shows up at Jacqueline Vaught’s house, unannounced, with no warrant, no subpoena and no prior notification. Jacqueline answered all his questions.

The next day, our attorney followed up with this Agent who stated he had been looking into the Bluegrass ADD since 2014. A formal meeting was set up at Jon Gay’s office so the Finance Department could answer any questions and provide him with any documents. We have twice followed up and eagerly await his report.

On March 11, the Cabinet for Health and Human Services sent out a letter – to all the Board – to indicate that the Bluegrass ADD is under federal criminal investigation.

On March 31, Bluegrass ADD received the final determination from Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. You would think there would be a headline in the Herald Leader that says, “Disallowed Costs Assessed to the Bluegrass ADD are Reduced by $1.67m.” Instead the headline said, “Embattled Bluegrass ADD Owes $898 thousand”

A special called meeting of the Executive Committee met on April 13 to discuss the next steps. It was voted unanimously to appeal the state’s decision which in itself left many unanswered questions.

The report stated that the Cabinet’s 91-point Corrective Action Plan was complete. Yet it took issue with six of the eight findings from the 2014 APA Corrective Action, the same actions Auditor Edelen had publicly praised as being complete and final in July 2014.

It was discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting on the 13th to pay the $898,000 without further objection. Without a doubt, that would be the path of least resistance. But that would also be the loss of $898,000 in services to the Bluegrass Area, a tangible penalty to the citizens of our region. To put it in terms of unit costs that would equal:

- **12 unwritten** Comprehensive plans
- **36 less** Grant applications
- **111 career** fairs
- **189 fewer** OJT contract recipients
- **48 months** of Senior Centers Operating Costs
- **113,520 unserved** home delivered meals.

We have no choice but to continue to fight for answers and to keep these much needed services in the Bluegrass.

There is a cost however in these appeals. $27,000 of legal fees was needed to bring about this nearly $1.67m in reduced findings – that’s a Return on Investment of 62:1.

But I am confident in this. The old Bluegrass ADD may have taken the path of least resistance and paid
requests without proper documentation. But the new Bluegrass ADD will not. But when the facts are undisputed, when the ROI of fighting to understand diminishes to less than one, and all administrative proceedings are exhausted and an impartial fair hearing is provided – then the Bluegrass ADD will pay.

One week following that special called meeting, the LFUCG Council passed a resolution asking the Inspector General of the Department of Labor to inspect the Bluegrass ADD. That action led to another round of three negative BGADD stories in the Herald Leader. Who knows, maybe that was the point?

Let me be as clear as possible: the doors at the Bluegrass ADD are always open to any level of inspection or investigation. We have three straight years of clean and uncontested CPA Audits, an APA examination, Cabinet contracted audits, inquiries from the FBI and Inspector general, and 51 program and project monitoring visits.

To quote our Treasurer, “I cannot imagine any group being more exhaustively examined in the past three years than has the BGADD. And yet there have been no findings that we have not corrected.”

Bluegrass ADD is pleased to see that the Lexington Fayette-Urban County Government is taking an active and interested role in the governance of their regional economic development agency. Cooperation and participation among all 17 counties and 33 cities in the Bluegrass Region is imperative for the productive formulation of policies and plans that will make our region great and ensure that the economic prosperity of our region is equitably shared among all units of government.

John Chamberlin has clearly articulated our problem: We are not dealing with a legal problem, we are dealing with a political problem. This problem is manifested in the root desire to control the workforce program. It should be clear to all interested parties, that there is no money in the workforce program. So I guess the real concern is over control.

Invitations have been extended and still exist for us to explain to any Chamber of Commerce or anyone willing to listen what the federal requirements are associated with this program. Chris Turley has done a masterful job communicating with the Local Workforce Board and taking the services to the region -- for the people. He has listened to the needs of the private sector and entrepreneurs of the region and is willing to accommodate any reasonable request – as long as it is permissible within the new Federal Guidelines.

I had the opportunity to meet with Dave Atkinson at the state Chamber at a meeting with all the ADD Directors. We discussed the role of the chamber, and he mentioned Toyota. We would love to help Toyota, but they use Temp agencies. Atkinson was not aware of this condition in the Federal Grant. Chris Turley did a business outreach to Toyota on Tuesday. Continual conversations like this will lead to a clear understanding of what can be done with workforce dollars – and how to best use them.

Let me end on a positive note, by recognizing two individuals that have provided tremendous services in the past quarter.

- First most of you are probably aware of the tremendous success that Craig McAnelly has had serving the Woodford County EDA. In the past quarter, Craig has announced over $60m in investment and over 500 jobs. We are already collaborating among the three departments to ensure that this is not just an Economic Development success story, but that it includes a package deal of assisting in the training of the workforce for those 500-new jobs and focusing on community planning to ensure the community achieves the highest livability index possible. Craig will turning his attention to completing Economic Development Assessments for counties so that they can establish the plan necessary through the efforts of their chambers and EDA to create similar type results.
June 2016

George Leamon reported on the Development Advisory Committee report which met May 17 at the Neal Welcome Center in Carlisle.

Duttlinger asked for approval for an Area Development Fund for Madison County Fiscal Court for purchasing a tractor and bush hog in the amount of $31,194.80.

Duttlinger informed the Board that Mary Schmidt, Celeste Collins and Lydia Jacobs had attended the N4A Conference in Washington, DC. N4A announced the Older Americans Act was finally authorized. Jacobs developed a flyer with AAA information and received requests for the template to be sent out to each state.

Chris Turley and some of his staff presented a presentation on the BGADD Workforce at the Cynthiana Lion’s Club. Gary Brunker and Judge Barnett complimented the staff on their work. Chris Turley’s staff was also awarded the first OET contract in Nicholas County.

Jon Gay reported in open session that his firm received a letter from the Governor dated May 25, 2016. Judge McKinney made a motion to authorize our attorneys to research our rights and responsibility and to report back to the Board. Second motion was made by Edwinna Baker. The motion carried.

Next, Jon Gay asked for authorization for David Duttlinger of up to $30,000 to settle the Ashwood Computer litigation. A motion was made by Skip Daugherty and seconded by Judge Adams. The motion carried.

Duttlinger asked for approval to secure the letter of credit with Citizen Commerce in the amount of $9,500. Collateral will be the BGADD building. A motion was made by Judge Wells and seconded by Judge Dedman. The motion carried.

Duttlinger informed the Board they had made an attempt this month to enter a settlement with the Department of Aging and Independent Living. Terms and conditions were drafted by Jon Gay. The Cabinet did not except the terms.
Shirie Hawkins, Center Director of the Bluegrass Small Business Development Center (SBDC), gave an informative presentation on the importance of rural entrepreneurialism.

Leamon distributed copies of goals and objectives from the BGADD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) publishes and submits a new comprehensive economic development strategy to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) every five (5) years.

Betsy Laski reported on the Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee meeting May 18.

Gene Thomas, Environmental Director with the Wedco Health Department, talked about extending sanitary sewer service to the southern portion of Scott County from south Georgetown to the Scott County/Fayette County line along the US25 corridor.

Joshua Cook reported on the Regional Planning Council meeting May 17 at the Bluegrass ADD office.

Annemarie Cason from Kentucky’s Division of Water gave her presentation.

Betsy Laski reported on the Tourism, Recreation and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee meeting May 10 at the Bluegrass ADD office.

Guest speaker was KY River Authority Executive Director Jerry Graves.

Duttlinger reported that staff performances had been conducted. After discussion, he informed the Board he would table raises and not ask for increase in salaries.

Discussion on Cabinet for Health and Family Services letter dated June 15, 2016, a notice that the Cabinet’s Department of Aging & Independent Living does not intend to renew its contract with the Bluegrass ADD. Duttlinger discussed the issue and asked for approval to ensure employment providing non-grant funds to keep all staff employees of the Bluegrass ADD through the end of July.

Duttlinger updated the Board on the Workforce disallowed costs. On the final determination letter the rent to BIF was taken off in the amount of $77,000. Travel was $23,000 and has been reduced to $7,000. The onetime adjustments were $180,000. After discussion, staff recommendation was that the Board exercise its 13B Appeal Rights and appeal this matter just like they did with the Workforce.

A motion was made by Judge Lyons and seconded by Judge Pryor to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

Gay and Janet Landry met with Citizen Commerce Bank regarding the letter of credit for up to $1.1m to provide assurances that both Health and Family Services obligations and Workforce would be paid when it’s a non-appealable order. This would be secured by a mortgage on the Bluegrass ADD building.

Landry made a staff recommendation to file the FY17 budget with Department for Local Government and prepare an amended budget due to Aging and Workforce.

Jon Gay informed the Board he had just received an e-mail from Commissioner Anderson stating the Triple AAA designation has been revoked.

After discussion, Daugherty made a motion to authorize attorneys to take any and all steps to protect Bluegrass ADD’s property rights and Triple AAA designation.
The Department of Community Planning (DCP) focuses on nine (9) main areas of service. These service areas include grant application and administration, planning department assistance, public management assistance, program administration, economic development, graphic arts and web development, videography, geographic information services (mapping), and information technology. A brief description of each focus and specific services provided are also found within this document.

Services with each of these main focus areas directly benefit each community and are paid for by Federal, State and Local funds as described below. The Joint Funding Administration (JFA) primarily funds the services of DCP, an agency that coordinates project scopes, funding, administration, and accounting of multiple federal and State agencies through a single program. Current Federal participants in the JFA program are the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, a subsidiary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These agencies allocate their funding to Kentucky’s Department for Local Government (DLG), which then distributes it to Kentucky’s Area Development Districts (ADDs).

In addition to the above, the DCP has other regular sources of annual funding as a result of various mandated State and Federal partnerships with organizations such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA). Further funding comes through administration of various grants, which commonly include compensation for time and effort as a portion of the award amount. In addition, the DCP engages in service contracts with local governments for a wide variety of services, including personnel and administrative code revision, professional planning and zoning staffing, geography information data collection and mapping, video and audio work, web and graphic design, and local EDA administration.

Public and private sector grants are often required to supplement tight local budgets and provide funding for public projects of all kinds. The BGADD DCP department administers several grant and loan programs to help create and foster economic development within our 17 Counties. Among these are Community Development Block Grants, the Revolving Loan Fund, and the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund. BGADD is helping to build strong communities through projects that have social, as well as economic benefits.

Numerous federal and state grants have helped fund everything from improved drinking water and first time sewer service to senior citizens centers to upgraded playground equipment and new walking trails.

Completing applications and administering complex projects can be difficult and time-consuming for those with limited experience. The environmental process for many funding sources alone can be burdensome. As trained and certified CDBG Grant Administrators, the DCP staff has been instrumental in writing and administering millions of dollars in grant funding on behalf of Bluegrass communities. Participating communities can take comfort in knowing that staff provided guidance in navigating the process successfully. One major goal of the DCP department is to obtain as much grant money for as many of our communities as possible.

Through the grant writing DCP professionals efforts, many BGADD cities and counties have received funding from many additional sources, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Agriculture, the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Emergency Telecommunications Board (CMRS) and the Department of Homeland Security.

The BGADD writes these grants and submits them for review generally at no cost (with few exceptions) to the local community regardless of application success. Further, when the grant is awarded the BGADD generally does not levy any charges for the grant’s administration for many of the grant programs.
Public Management Assistance

The Department for Community Planning staff includes experienced public sector professionals available to assist the region’s cities and counties with a variety of governance issues. Staff members provide communities with general assistance on topics including statutory compliance, financial services such as budget and audit issues, procurement procedures, and human resources support regarding personnel policies, performance, pay plans and job descriptions and training in a variety of topics. In addition, Department for Community Planning staff members can serve as interim professional staff, such as a city manager or Human Resources Director, when a temporary vacancy occurs at the local level.

Program Administration

As a result of its designation as a Joint Funding Agency (JFA) fund recipient, the Department for Community Planning has numerous reporting and other administrative obligations to the Department for Local Government and other JFA partner agencies. These include quarterly and annual reporting of BGADD efforts in support of economic development, project development and, project administration and public administration throughout the Bluegrass region.

The Department for Community Planning staff also support ongoing operations of the BGADD Board, direct its advisory committees and councils and administer the Kentucky Intergovernmental Review Process (KIRP), which reviews grant funding proposals for the region’s communities.

Economic Development

DCP staff includes economic development professionals with years of training and experience in all aspects of economic and workforce development on both the local and regional levels. As BGADD staff members, they can efficiently coordinate efforts between local governments and State and Federal agencies to attain grant funding to leverage conventional and secondary market financing. They assist both private business and government entities in research, development and presentation of economic development analysis and strategies.

In addition, BGADD economic development specialists serve as directors of Economic Development Authorities (EDA) across the region, assisting local EDA members in ongoing economic development planning and marketing for their communities. Other available services include brownfield remediation and redevelopment, entrepreneurship and small-business assistance, and industrial park planning and development.

One of the most vital functions of DCP economic development staff is producing a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the EDA, an agency of the US Department of Commerce.

DCP produces the strategy document every five years as part of the requirements of JFA funding, along with annual performance reports to the EDA describing plan implementation and private sector participation. Economic development staff facilitate regional economic development meetings through BGADD’s Development Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC meetings provide a vital link between the economic developers within the Region.

Planning Services

DCP provides current, long range, and transportation planning assistance to communities and jurisdictions within our region. This includes review and analysis of proposed developments, filling vacant positions temporarily until a community can hire fulltime staff, writing and update comprehensive plans, small areas studies, strategic plans, downtown master plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and various other planning related documents needed by our communities and required by the State.

All of the above tasks are completed by professional planners, accredited by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
**Transportation Services**

With funding from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), DCP staff are actively involved in providing regional transportation planning as part of the Cabinet’s state-wide planning process. To this end, the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) reviews, evaluates and prioritizes regional highway, bikeway and pedestrian needs at the local and regional level. Regional Transportation Studies coordinate transportation and land use issues including governance, mobility, access to employment and public transportation alternatives. Additional services include environmental justice reporting, corridor planning, public outreach and intermediate planning studies.

**GPS/GIS Services**

BGADD Staff provides ongoing maintenance and updates to the GPS (Global Positioning System) road centerline data for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Centerline data is useful for management of emergency services, school bus routing and roadway maintenance. It is also valuable in mapping vehicular crash sites and helping local officials and regional planners identify problematic stretches of road.

The BGADD GIS staff is currently working closely with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) to GPS new and existing water and sewer lines, meters, valves, and manholes just to name a few. ADD staff continues to improve the integrity of the data. This allows ADD staff the opportunity to provide quality maps to assist the systems in their daily operations. GIS staff also continues to assist local 911 Dispatch Centers with maintenance and updates of GIS structure data and required submissions to the Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) Board. The updated 911 Map Books identify all addresses within a county and are convenient for use in emergency vehicles.

Residential structure data collection continues in Jessamine, Bourbon, Boyle, Anderson and Mercer, Nicholas Counties. ADD staff also continues to support the day-to-day efforts of local GIS staffs in Boyle and Jessamine Counties.

The BGADD also has a cloud mapping system that uses a free ArcReader program. ArcReader files are easily updated through cloud technology. ArcReader provides real-time map updates and the adaptability to accommodate a wide variety of specific needs allowing any county personnel the ability to view and print GIS data.

The BGADD has recently developed web-pages that can track vehicles in real-time. This technology was originally created to track snowplows during inclement weather. This can be released to the public allowing them to know when their road was last treated. We can also install this hardware/software on any county or City vehicles.

A GPS Community Base Station, located at BGADD offices in Lexington and covering a 120-mile radius, provides the information necessary for continuous updates of GPS data. The ADD also has a survey grade GPS, allowing data to be collected with incredible accuracy.

**Computer System Support**

The ADD’s Information Technology team continued to provide service to District counties and cities throughout the year. IT services were provided to Boyle, Jessamine, Mercer Nicholas and Scott Counties. Ongoing network restructuring, security and optimization continue to improve the quality of service throughout the Bluegrass region. The ADD looks to assist more of our Counties and Cities, with their IT needs in the upcoming year.

**Graphic Design**

BGADD employs a graphic designer on staff to produce brochures and other publications, banners, logos and websites and branding. Some local ADD communities and groups have taken advantage of
these services to attract visitors through professionally produced tourism materials.

**Web Design & Development**

The ADD has the capability to create, host and maintain public websites for local governments, public entities and non-profit organizations throughout the region. City and county websites are a valuable means of communicating with local constituents regarding government services, promoting community events and other outreach efforts. This service can also be valuable for economic development and tourism purposes, serving as a digital brochure and source of information for anyone worldwide with an internet connection.

An online mapping service developed by the ADD can provide a source for GIS data for local communities through an internet browser hosted by BGADD. In addition to serving as a simple alternative to a paper map, it can tie valuable facts to an address search, allowing users to get information such as the voting precinct, school district and utility provider for any given address. This system can be customized to meet the needs of every community using any digital data available to the ADD.

Throughout 2015, the ADD continued to host websites for several ADD counties, Bourbonky.com, Boyleky.com, Clarkcoky.com, Jessamineco.com, Estillky.com, Lincolnky.com, and Scottky.com.

**Video/AUDIO Production**

The BGADD maintains a library of videos for educational, training and advocacy purposes which are produced not only for BGADD departments but for communities within the Bluegrass district. This library of videos is housed online at www.bluegrasswebtv.com. At this time, several Bluegrass communities use this site to archive videos of public meetings, including Nicholasville City Commission meetings which are recorded by BGADD staff and permanently housed on www.bluegrasswebtv.com.

Professional videography and photography services are available for communities and public entities in the Bluegrass region. These services can be utilized by Officials to produce videos and photos for a magnitude of topics including staff training, official/staff badges, public education and communication, tourism and economic development as well as advocacy efforts. As interest in podcasting as a communication tool continues to increase, BGADD has fully developed its capabilities to offer this service. This service, which has been actively used by the BGADD Aging Department for 3 years, could be providing enormous potential to your public and local community sectors.

BGADD staff also oversees KRCC Television. KRCC is available for public viewing at Time Warner Cable Channel 306. Additionally, the station can also be accessed online via its own website, www.krcc-tv.com. The goals of this government access channel are to inform residents of government operations and activities in their communities and enhance access to public meetings through professional-quality programming. KRCC-TV runs round-the-clock with local programming, city commission meetings, and fiscal court meetings. Local sporting events are also broadcast as well as parades and other community events.

Additionally, BGADD staff can assist city and counties in setting up and/or operating multi-camera systems in court rooms or wherever public meetings take place. BGADD staff can also offer assistance in video surveillance camera and equipment.
Careful strategic planning for natural or man-made disasters no accident

There’s a very important reason for a region – like the 17-county Bluegrass Area Development region – to have a strategic disaster preparedness plan. Without one, FEMA aid will not be forthcoming.

Enter three Bluegrass Area Development District staff persons – Leann Lacy, community development specialist, Austin Bates, a GIS Specialist, and Joshua Cook, a Senior Planner. Together they, along with other staff persons, worked intensively on the “Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.”

The “Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan” must be updated every five years in order for any governmental jurisdiction in the 17-county region to qualify for potential ‘declared disaster’ funds from FEMA. The 505-page preliminary plan that Lacy and her colleagues have submitted for FEMA review is the result of a nearly 18-month process that involved hundreds of people and the governing bodies of 16 counties within the Bluegrass Area Development District. Lexington-Fayette Urban County government made the decision to write their own independent plan.

It awaits FEMA’s feedback which may require some more documentation and then a final regional meeting before final adoption.

The process started when Lacy secured a $142,000 grant from FEMA to finalize the required plan on behalf of the 16-counties. The grant request itself was 32 pages.

“We offer expertise in grant-writing that our small communities just couldn’t afford,” Lacy said.

From the initial kickoff meeting in April 2015 which all stakeholders – public officials, emergency management representatives, Homeland Security Council members, private entities, the public and more – in the 17-county region were invited, to the submission of the draft plan to FEMA, there were more than 80 public meetings across the region.

The local subcommittees had to review every local ‘hazard sheet,’ local goals and objectives related to disasters, possible projects, updating critical facilities inventories and maps, and every possible measurement for dealing with potential hazards.

These hazards include, but are not limited to flooding, earthquakes, landslides, winter storms, drought and severe storms which could affect “critical facilities” like hospitals, power plants and schools.

The final document includes important maps and local demographics critical to first-responders and a more user friendly layout than previous plans, to aide in the usefulness of the document for local responders.

This plan allowed local officials, EMs and first responders to sit down and make goals such as assisting the elderly and at-risk populations during a snow storm or to make sure they have adequately equipped first responders.
Craig McAnelly: The real power of local

By Judy Clabes

He’s a soft-spoken, patient guy, loves “handshake” deals and working with good people, hates being the center of attention – and has under his belt at least eight industrial parks, millions of dollars in new businesses and no telling how many good-paying jobs for central Kentucky workers.

To him, it’s just “public service” – the kind that “makes a difference in people’s lives.”

He is the perfect example of the power of local.

“I take my work seriously – and take it to heart,” he says.

D. Craig McAnelly is associate executive director and director, Industrial & Business Development for Bluegrass Area Development District. He also fulfills the role as Woodford Economic Development Association’s Authority Executive Director under a professional service contact with BGADD.

A native of Casey County, the son of lawyer David F. and Renee McAnelly of Liberty, McAnelly has more than 28 years experience in regional planning and industrial development.

It all started with a love of geography, which he studied at the University of Kentucky, under the mentorship of Wil Bladen – “If you are from Liberty, geography is the world,” McAnelly says. He got his bachelors in planning and political science.

His first job out of college was with the Kentucky Association of Counties where he worked on a bond issue to help create the insurance program used today by many of Kentucky’s county governments. At 22, he was also a licensed insurance agent in property and casualty and used those skills to perform risk management for KACo. He was intrigued by demographics – how far are people willing to travel for goods and services, why does a business work here but not there?

He was also captivated by a young education major, Kate Shadoan of Wickliffe. They were soon married and made their home in Lexington, raising two children, Elizabeth Anne and David Lewis. Kate worked for several years as the Principal of Beaumont Middle School before recently accepting a position with the Fayette County School Board. Elizabeth, a recent Western Kentucky University graduate, followed in her mother’s footsteps and now teaches in Bowling Green. David graduated from Henry Clay High School in May 2016, and is now enrolled in Transylvania University on an academic scholarship and plays baseball. The McAnellys are members of Centenary Methodist Church and active with various civic and community organizations. He volunteers with Boy Scouts of America and coached Little League baseball for several years.

Craig joined the Bluegrass ADD in 1989. A Certified Community Development Block Grant Administrator, he has written and administered numerous federal or state development grants for local governments. He has coordinated several bond issues, and he has been instrumental in the planning, funding and development of eight industrial parks in central Kentucky.

“Craig McAnelly is the catalyst to make things happen,” says David Duttlinger, executive director of the BGADD. “He puts the power into local governance.”

In the beginning for the ADD, he worked under contract for Bourbon County, giving “mouth-to-mouth” resuscitation to its economic development efforts, creating cooperative relationships, and helping new
industry find its way there. Taking stock of inventory, accessing availability and best use, balancing aesthetics, history, horses, jobs, and politics, McAnelly looked at possibilities.

There McAnelly built one industrial park, filled it with industrial clients and built a second expansion which is being marketed today. Over 1,000 jobs were created in that park at its capacity.

In 2004 Texas Instruments (TI) decided to close operations – and eliminate 500 jobs – in Versailles, so McAnelly found himself in Woodford County working on long-range planning with a short-range objective. KCTCS ultimately moved its headquarters into the TI space, and McAnelly started planting the seeds that would turn an anti-growth mentality into a geographic advantage for economic development. Later Nisshin Automotive Tubing was located to another smaller manufacturing building, creating some 60 new jobs.

McAnelly will say: “Economic development is always paid in arrears. You reap what you sow.”

One of McAnelly’s favorite quotes is one from Thomas Edison who said: “Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. – Seeming to do is not doing.”

It is his mantra for staying focused and productive.

Since McAnelly took the reins as Executive Director at Woodford EDA, notable projects include:

- More than a Bakery, a $57M investment – an effort that was 18 months in the making.
- Howa Kentucky, 54 jobs and an investment of more than $13.1M in a new 60,000-sq-ft. manufacturing facility for interior products for Toyota’s Camry in Midway.
- Lakeshore Logistics, a $44M investment, 262 jobs and a $8.8M annual payroll.
- BF Warehouses, 1M barrels a year, returning $2.30 per barrel to local government; 70% to schools.
- Frontier Nursing, locating in the old Methodist Home in Versailles.
- Quad Graphics, two expansions.
- Kroger, $32M and 428 jobs – 253 new ones; the state’s largest Kroger.
- Woodford Reserve expansion.

There are more, these are but examples – a dedication to local, local, local, put to work for the betterment of a region. Add real estate sold and commissions made. Add new schools and revenues. Add groceries purchased and dollars turned over.

“A giver not a taker,” McAnelly loves his quiet – but effective – role, the work behind the scenes making things happen.

Whether it’s creating livable communities, on-the-job training programs, or something like The Inventor’s Council, another of his inventions, McAnelly could be adding things up and making a good accounting for himself.

But he’ll take a pass. He’s too busy, and he’s focused. The penultimate team player, he keeps skillfully moving all the pieces into place.

The power of local, well played.
Aging services

Through its Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living (AAAIL), BGADD administers funding and programs benefiting the region’s aging and disabled residents.

On contract with the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), a division of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the AAAIL receives state and federal funds allocated to each county based on its aging population, low-income minority population and rural population aged 60 years and older.

Some services and programs offered through AAAIL are administered in-house while others are contracted to private and public service providers through a bid process. Many are offered through the region’s Senior Centers which also receive additional financial support directly from city and county governments.

The AAAIL is a result of the Older Americans Act (OAA), signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. Across the country, these organizations manage, coordinate and provide federally-funded services for older Americans and their families on a regional level.

In the Bluegrass Region, these services include:

- Title III-B: Supportive services such as advocacy, recreation, legal aid, counseling, information and assistance, transportation, home management and personal care assistance, provided through county Senior Centers.

- Title III-C1/C2: Nutrition services providing home-delivered meals as well as hot meals in Senior Centers.

- Title III-D: Evidence-based health promotion programs with proven results.

- Title III-E: Support, counseling and access to services for family caregivers of persons 60 years and older.

- Title VII: An ombudsman program focusing on elder abuse prevention in nursing facilities and personal/family care homes.

Kentucky’s DAIL requires the AAAIL to develop an Area Plan, including a needs assessment, that summarizes the capabilities of existing public and private agencies and organizations that provide services to the aging.

This Plan is also used by the Aging Advisory Council (AAC) to advise the AAAIL on available resources and unmet needs in the Bluegrass Region.

DAIL contracts with the AAAIL to administer additional programs including:

**HOMECARE PROGRAM**

A nursing home diversion program providing assessment, case management and assistance to help the elderly continue to live at home.

**KENTUCKY FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM**

Financial and community service support specifically geared toward grandparents raising their grandchildren.
STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SHIP)

This program educates participants on health insurance coverage, benefits and consumer rights, helping them to make more informed health care decisions. The program serves aging and disabled individuals, their family members and caregivers through printed materials, one-on-one counseling, presentations and referrals.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

The ADRC provides information and assistance to individuals who need public or private resources, professionals seeking assistance for their clients, and individuals planning for their future long-term care needs.

The ADRC also serves as the entry point for many public long-term care supports, including those funded under Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, and state-funded programs.

Aging Services

Other Services and Programs offered through the BGAAAIL include:

KENTUCKY MEDICAID WAIVER PROVIDER FOR CONSUMER DIRECTED OPTIONS (CDO) AND PARTICIPANT DIRECTED SERVICES (PDS)

A program allowing qualified Medicaid waiver recipients to choose their own caregiver/provider for non-medical in-home and community-based services.

BGAAAIL provides Support Broker/Case Management support for the Home and Community Based Waiver, Michelle P Waiver, Money Follows the Person Program, and Supports for Community Living.

TRANSITIONAL CARE

BGAAAIL secured a contract extension with Baptist Health of Lexington to not just continue the transitional care program, but to expand it to an additional floor in the hospital.

Lydia Jacobs brings a monthly Podcast, Aging Adventures, on all kinds of aging issues. Hear the monthly audio at bgadd.org.
Workforce

The Bluegrass Workforce Area is part of a nationwide customer-focused workforce system created by the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA). The system is intended to help Americans access the tools they need to manage their careers through information and high quality services and to help employers find skilled workers.

The Bluegrass Workforce Area is overseen by the Bluegrass Workforce Innovation Board (BGWIB) which is comprised primarily of members from private sector businesses. Members of the board are selected from the private sector business community by their counties’ Local Elected Officials (LEOs).

The BGWIB is responsible for overseeing workforce and economic development initiatives in partnership with the LEOs. The BGWIB is also responsible for assessing the workforce needs of the local area and for providing proactive solutions to best meet the needs of local businesses and job seekers. It sets policies for the workforce system within the local area to increase employment, retention, earnings, and occupational skills within the local workforce, with the goal of improving workforce quality, increasing self-sufficiency, and enhancing productivity and competitiveness.

Kentucky Career Centers - Bluegrass

There are Kentucky Career Centers located throughout the Commonwealth, designed to provide comprehensive seamless workforce services to both job seekers and employers. In the Bluegrass Region, there are six (6) Kentucky Career Centers, which are located in Danville, Frankfort, Georgetown, Lexington, Richmond, and Winchester.

The Kentucky Career Center’s Brand Promise states, “As a team of experts, we are dedicated to providing Kentucky employers with a qualified, skilled workforce and the people of Kentucky with career, job training, and educational opportunities.

“With the unique ability to connect employees and employers through the combined efforts of State and local partners, we will become a valuable, competitive, and best-in-class asset in the growth of our regional and national economy.

“By guiding, empowering and inspiring our customers, we will continue our mission to create success stories across the Commonwealth.”

NEG (KCCGO)

The Kentucky Career Center Get Opportunity (KCCGO) Initiative was a National Emergency Grant (NEG) designed to assist long-term unemployed individuals enter a new career through assistance with their individual employment needs. Individuals who participated in KCCGO received assistance with resume, job search, and training in a high demand field.

Business Services

The Bluegrass Business Services team is made up of five (5) Business Services Specialists who cover the 17-county region. Each Business Services Specialist works specifically with businesses within their identified counties, giving them the opportunity to better understand the needs of the businesses and demographics they serve. Business Services staff assist employers one-on-one to develop services unique to their needs.

The goal of all business services provided is to help businesses reduce time and money spent recruiting and training employees.

Although the team strives to find solutions to meet businesses’ unique needs, some of the most utilized services include posting jobs, screening applications, providing computerized assessments to applicants, On-the-Job Training (OJT) contracts, job fairs and hiring events, and Rapid Response.

In an effort to connect job seekers to employers, the Kentucky Career Center - Bluegrass offers the ability for employers to post job openings directly. These
Leggett & Platt – Knowing the Value of Investment in Clark County

By Staci May

Leggett & Platt may not be a name you hear very often, but you are most certainly familiar with their product. Chances are, at least part of the bed you sleep in or chair you sit in started out in a Leggett & Platt facility. Being in business for over 130 years, they understand the value of the communities they touch. They also understand the importance of working within those communities to raise the quality of their workforce through partnerships with schools, other businesses, and local organizations like the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass.

Stephen Day, Human Resource Manager at Leggett & Platt, spoke about his company’s relationship with the career center and their community involvement, saying “We have used the career center for more than just On-the-Job Training (OJT); they have helped us with job fairs, application screening, and when other businesses go out of business, we will go out with the career center and see if there are people who are getting laid-off that would be a good fit for us, and we hire them. We also help those that are uniquely challenged when it comes to their employability in the workforce.”

A real family-oriented company, they believe in hiring locally and promoting from within. This belief in investing in their own staff is part of what makes Leggett & Platt a real success. While I was there, I had the opportunity to speak to some of their staff, and one young man stood out in particular. This young man was hired on through an OJT and, according to Day, is one of their hardest workers. What makes this young man so unique is that no one else would give him a chance. He had been looking for work for a long time and because he was terminally shy and required a little extra time to learn new things, it prevented him from employment with other businesses. Leggett & Platt took a chance on this man, and they are very happy they did.

Leggett & Platt’s partnership with the career center and the people of Clark County doesn’t end there. They are also part of a pilot program with George Rogers Clark High School, working with sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are not interested in attending college and would like to enter the workforce directly after graduation. The company offers these youth up to 30 hours a week of employment, providing them with regular evaluations on their progress to build their professional profile. When they have completed their training, staff from the career center step in and assist them in turning that real life experience into an eye-catching resume—all before they graduate high school.

When a company, like Leggett & Platt, invests in its community and partners with the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass to utilize its services in promoting that investment, it’s a win for everyone involved.
postings are made available to job seekers at all career centers and online at Career One Stop.

Our Business Services Team can also assist businesses with job postings, conduct searches for qualified resumes, and recruit full-time, part-time, and even seasonal workers – ranging from entry level to highly skilled professionals.

The application screening process continues to be a success with companies throughout the 17 county region.

To date, the Kentucky Career Center - Bluegrass screens each applicant for necessary qualifications based on criteria set by each company.

This allows the businesses to concentrate on interviewing only those candidates that were given a referral in an effort to lower their cost of hiring and save a tremendous amount of time.

Another popular service utilized by the businesses in the Bluegrass Region is computerized assessments. Hundreds of assessments are available to companies in order for candidates to document their knowledge and skills.

The Business Services Specialists work with businesses in the region to set up the assessments as a screening tool. These assessments ensure that only the qualified and quantified candidates get through to the next step.

On-the-Job Training (OJT) contracts are an innovative way to reduce hiring costs while contributing to the regional economy by increasing the quality of our workforce. OJT's can be used to hire for new positions or to promote current workers. With an OJT, we pay up to $8,500 (or 50% of the worker’s salary whichever is less) following an agreed upon “training period” to cover costs associated with training a new employee on skills necessary to be successful in the position. At the end of the training period, the business gets a skilled employee, trained their way.

The Business Services Team can also help businesses by hosting job fairs, customizing recruiting efforts, writing job descriptions, and providing virtual interviewing capabilities.

The team can host community career fair events in an effort to connect job seekers to multiple employers, or company specific job fairs at the request of a single employer.

Our Business Services Team work with employers to customize the event to each company’s needs.

Finally, Rapid Response Services are another way the Bluegrass Area’s Business Services staff can help employers and employees. Rapid Response is an early intervention service available to employers and employees affected by layoffs and plant closures.

With the main goal of acting quickly to minimize the impact of job loss, our Business Services Team responds swiftly to educate those affected about the services available, as well as to provide resources to assist them as they transition into new employment.

The Business Services Team works to help employers overcome their unique challenges in order to continue providing quality services to employers and businesses throughout the Bluegrass Region. Success in today’s
John Mayfield: Changing course

By Staci May

If you had asked John Mayfield a few years ago where he pictured himself today, you would have gotten a very different vision from the reality of his life in 2016.

Just two short years ago, John was working as an assistant therapist for mentally and emotionally challenged youth. He had worked at that job for 14.5 years and loved it. He loved the company, his co-workers, and his clients, but due to a change in regulations, the business restructured and he lost his position. Remaining opportunities available with his company after the forced restructuring simply didn’t pay enough to support his family – his wife and three children.

With a family to support, John entered a scary time in his life. He had three small children, a wife, and no job. He started his job search for another position in therapy but lacked the credentials to find employment that would meet his previous income level. John spent several months looking for work but found nothing.

His wife eventually suggested pursuing a career as a truck driver. John never pictured himself as a truck driver and never thought he would enjoy it, but it would pay the bills. It was a high demand field, so he would have employment opportunities; the training was short; and it paid well enough to take care of his family. After six months of being unemployed, John decided to look for assistance through the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass. He visited the Georgetown location and met with Tiffanie Reeves, The Kentucky Career Center Get Opportunity or "KC-CGO!" Workforce Specialist, to discuss his training options. John, luckily, qualified for short-term training through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act’s KCCGO!’s Dislocated Worker program.

Tiffanie worked closely with John, assisting him in getting enrolled in Dr. Bodine’s Truck Driving Academy. Training to enter his new career, thanks to WIOA, cost John and his family absolutely nothing out-of-pocket. In just a couple of months, he had successfully acquired his Commercial Driver’s License and was employed with US Express.

For more than seven months, John had been driving for US Express, delivering merchandise to Dollar General Stores all over the east coast. Though the job kept him gone overnight a few nights a week, he really enjoyed traveling, and the income was great. He quickly began earning more than he was making in his previous job.

When I contacted John for this interview he was in the middle of another change. John had decided to accept a new truck driving job. This new position as a team driver will provide even more income, more than $1,200 a week - significantly more than his career prior to the training. John is excited to be entering this stage in his life and is very thankful for the help provided by the WIOA program, which allowed him to begin a successful career and continue to care for his family.
The challenges of youth across the Bluegrass Area’s 17 counties varies, so providing them with assistance directly in their community is the best way to address those challenges.

Therefore, selected service provider(s) must provide accessible services on a year-round basis, and they must be targeted to youth ages 16-24. Providers must demonstrate links with businesses, vocational training, post-secondary institutions, faith and community-based organizations, chambers of commerce, and industrial foundations.

Programs are awarded funding based on program design and accessibility to youth in the region.

The Bluegrass Business Services Team is here to help!

Youth Services

Each year, the Bluegrass Workforce Innovation Board sends out requests for proposals to fund innovative and performance based initiatives that prepare youth for the workforce by empowering them with the social, work readiness, and occupational skills that enable them to obtain and maintain self-sufficient employment.

Regional Career Fair – Connecting Employers and Job Seekers

By Staci May

For the last few years, the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass, in partnership with the Bluegrass Area Development District and Bluegrass Community and Technical College has hosted a regional career fair in Lexington, Kentucky. The event has continued to grow each year and with very satisfying results. The career fair boasts dozens of employers, with a variety of open positions to fill, and hundreds of area job seekers, some of them traveling from as far away as Ohio to take part in the event.

The most recent Regional Career Fair was no different. Held in June of 2016, the fair assisted in connecting 63 employers and approximately 250 job seekers from throughout Central Kentucky. Employers attending the event had the opportunity to speak about their company, gather resumes, and interview any potential job seekers on the spot. In addition to meeting potential job candidates, companies used the day as an opportunity to network with other local employers.

Job seekers also appreciated the additional support provided for their job search. The Kentucky Career Center - Bluegrass provided resume and interview preparation leading up the event, so job seekers could meet prospective employers with confidence.

When employers were approached after the career fair for their opinion on the event, many of them reported that 10 or more applicants had been scheduled for interviews and dozens more collected resumes or directed promising candidates to their company’s website to complete an application. One individual was actually hired on the spot to begin working the following week.

The Regional Career Fair has connected local employers with the talented workforce in the community. It is an expanding event in which the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass takes great pride and is excited to see continue to grow in the future.
Advanced Green Component: Forging a Future with the Citizens of Clark County

By Staci May

Advanced Green Components (AGC) began as a joint venture between Showa Sako and Sanyo Companies in 2013, but the company and many of its people extend much further back. They have deep roots in Clark County and a solid history of investing in the people there. When they began their $15 million joint venture, they purchased new equipment and a new building, but they also needed to expand their workforce from around 80 to over 100. Fast forward three years, and they are 101 people strong in their Winchester facility.

The increase in their workforce didn’t happen overnight. It has been an ongoing struggle to secure a qualified workforce. They reached out to the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass with this need, and Business Services Specialist Rolando “Roly” Thacker stepped up to the challenge. Sitting down with Velma Hall and Dolly Holland at AGC, they immediately began to talk business with their Kentucky Career Center contact, mentioning their open positions and needs they’re expecting to have in the near future. The genuine partnership was obvious, as they easily chatted between HR matters and football scores. Roly was like an extension of their own HR Department.

“We’re still hiring,” said Velva. Without skipping a beat, Roly quickly jotted down the information, telling her he had someone he could send over that he thought would fit her need. It was a smooth conversation which flowed right back to Velva explaining that AGC has utilized the Kentucky Career Center team to fill positions of CNC Operator, Reduction Gear Operator, Material Handlers, and Quality Inspectors.

“There are people working here at all levels that started out in the career center,” Velva added. Without counting, she estimated that approximately 25 of their 101 employees started with an OJT. A real benefit, Velva pointed out, is that working with the Kentucky Career Center has broadened their applicant pool and given them more access to hire veterans, who receive a preference in their hiring process.

Velva said of working with Roly and the staff of the Kentucky Career Center, “AGC has been very happy with the service from the Kentucky Career Center, both with the quality and quantity of the referrals we have received, as well as the level of professional staff we work with, and we expect that to continue.”

AGC has invested in the people of Clark County and, with the help of the Kentucky Career Center – Bluegrass and the Business Services Team at the Winchester office, they will keep that investment growing for many more years.
**WHAT CAN KENTUCKY CAREER CENTERS DO FOR YOU?**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Job Seekers</th>
<th>For Employers</th>
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<tr>
<td>One-on-one assistance to explore career training options with job seekers</td>
<td>Application administration and screening based on customized criteria set by the employer</td>
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<td>Extensive list of employers to identify those currently hiring them with job seekers</td>
<td>Candidate assessments to identify candidates with documented knowledge and skills</td>
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<td>Assistance with resumes, cover letters, applications and interviewing skills by qualified staff at each location</td>
<td>Customized training to ensure candidates who have the increasingly specific skills employers need</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly social media updates through Twitter and Facebook to reach job seekers with job opportunities and application information</td>
<td>Labor market information on the local, state, and national levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to help job seekers get specialist training for work in the region’s most important industry sectors</td>
<td>On-the-Job (OJT) training to reduce employers’ training costs and enhance overall workforce quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Career Readiness Certification to provide job seekers with this nationally-recognized employment credential</td>
<td>Job posting and marketing to connect employers and employees state-wide through websites and social media. Rapid Response Services to help employers and employees affected by layoffs and closures Job fairs and specialized recruiting, as well as, job description development, virtual interviewing capabilities and other support from the Business Services Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workforce Investment Board

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

Woods Adams, Director of Business Services
First Southern Bank
Stanford

Steve Sigg, President/CEO
Software Information Systems (SIS)
Lexington

Dolly Hollan,
Plant Support Assoc./Human Resource Specialist
Advanced Green Components
Lexington

Brian Leary, Chief Operating Officer
Sargent & Greenleaf
Nicholasville

Kim Menke (Chair)
Manager, Community/Govt. Relations
Toyota
Georgetown

John Philipps (Secretary), Dir. of Human Resources
Montaplast
Frankfort

Kenneth R. Troske,
Senior Assoc. Dean for Admin., Faculty & Research
University of Kentucky
Lexington

Bill Sisson, Chief Executive Officer
Baptist Health
Lexington

WORKFORCE REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Akin, Director
Laborers Employers Cooperative & Education Trust
Lawrenceburg

David Gray, District 4 Representative
International Union of Operating Engineers
Lexington

Jon Dougherty, License Manager/Education Director
Amteck
Lexington

David Boggs (Treasurer), President
Opportunity for Work & Learning
Lexington

EDUCATION & TRAINING REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Augusta Julian, President
Bluegrass Community & Technical College
Lexington

Lisa Farmer, Program Director
Bourbon County Adult Education
Paris

GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Regina Oney, Regional Program Manager
KY Office of Employment & Training
Lexington

Ryan Henson, Regional Program Manager
KY Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Florence

Jody Lassiter, President/CEO
Danville/Boyle County Economic Development
Danville
Mable Duke brings a wealth of experience, unique understanding

Mable Duke brings a wealth of experience in workforce development to her job as Workforce Development manager for the Bluegrass ADD — as well as a deep understanding of the particular issues facing Kentucky.

With a B.A. in social welfare from Morehead State University, she developed specialities in workforce system design and policy, solution-based management, program startup initiatives, work readiness training, curriculum development, grant writing, legislative analysis, and agency advocacy.

“I am excited to have someone of Ms. Dukes’ caliber and capability join the Bluegrass ADD,” said David Duttlinger, Director of the Bluegrass Area Development District.

“She brings unmatched level of expertise to the workforce area with a proven track record to grow and develop nationally recognized workforce systems. She possesses the willingness to work with and cohesively join disparate points of view. I’m eager to see the results that will happen under her leadership.”

Before joining the Bluegrass Area Development District, Duke provided strategies and solutions on many levels to contractors in all facets of workforce development with a focus on program start-up initiatives, legislative analysis, and soft-skills curriculum writing, development and delivery.

She has spent the last eight years as an Independent Workforce Development Consultant. Prior to 2008, Ms. Duke had been employed by Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program for 23 years in positions ranging from Assistant Public Service Employment Director to Executive Director.

As Executive Director of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc., (EKCEP)— a 23-county local workforce investment area — in March of 1996, she led an organization that gained recognition as a national model.

The Wall Street Journal featured the successes of EKCEP’s JobSight one-stop workforce centers on its front page in 2003; the Department of Labor awarded the National Recognition of Excellence Award in 2007 for outstanding leveraging of resources from multiple systems; the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) cited EKCEP’s JobSight as a best practice under WIA for a GAO report and Senate testimony. And when EKCEP’s Business Solutions initiative was chosen as one of only nine nationwide to be studied for the 2004 report “Business as Partner and Customer Under WIA: A Study of Innovative Practices,” prepared by Social Policy Research Associates.

Additionally, EKCEP received a tribute in the Congressional Record in 2007 and two commendations from the Kentucky General Assembly in 2007.

In 2008 Duke became an independent workforce consultant bringing all her skills and experience to bear creating solutions through innovative design, logical implementation and effective advocacy.

Although Duke left EKCEP after 11 years in the agency’s top post, she spent her entire post-college career—minus an eight-year childrearing sabbatical—serving in various capacities at the agency.

Duke’s years of service to the Hazard-based workforce agency were marked by innovation, achievement, and repeated statewide and national recognition for EKCEP, which administers federal and state workforce development services for employers and job seekers in 23 eastern Kentucky counties.
At the time of her retirement from EKCEP, she said: “Over the years, I’ve pulled together a staff of some of the brightest, most capable professionals in the workforce business today, and I created an environment at EKCEP where these individuals work together as a team and complement one another.”

“Every single person in a management position at EKCEP was hand-picked by me, and I’d put them up against any local Workforce Investment Area staff in the country and they wouldn’t feel any heat.

“We’ve always worked together as a team and encouraged each other’s growth and success, and the results have been pretty amazing.”

Duke’s career with EKCEP began in 1977 shortly after she earned a bachelor’s degree in social welfare from Morehead State University.

In the years that followed, Duke continued to move into positions of greater and wider responsibility at EKCEP. These moves culminated in her being named the agency’s deputy director in 1995, and a year later, executive director. She held that position until her retirement on Dec. 31, 2007.

Today, she is still an advocate for teamwork — and success.

“When approached with the possibility of doing that very thing with the BGADD I had to take a hard look at the current status of workforce development in the region. I decided that while the challenges were great, the opportunities to really make a difference were far greater.

“I strongly feel that the 17 counties of Central Kentucky deserve no less than the best effort from each workforce individual, whether they be staff or volunteers, to provide services that best meet the needs of both employers and jobseekers.”
BGADD staff provide professional and administrative support to the Board of Directors and the ADD organization. Finance professionals conduct some aspect of financial management for every BGADD department, including daily management of payables, receivables and financial monitoring of contractors and subcontractors directly responsible for the execution of programs and projects. The department is also responsible for producing monthly, quarterly and annual financial and compliance reports for multiple state and federal funding agencies and for producing the annual BGADD audit and budget. Other administrative staff supervise day-to-day operations, manage BGADD personnel and carry out meeting, travel and event planning.

ADMINISTRATION

David Duttlinger Executive Director
 Lynne Harris Executive Assistant
 Janet Landry Chief Financial Officer
 Jacqueline Vaught Asst. Chief Financial Officer
 Kimberly Fry Human Resources Director
 Clinton Colliver Financial Officer
 Charles Colwell CDO Financial Manager
 Caroline Frazier CDO Accounting Officer
 Michael Horton CDO Accounting Officer
 Michelle Jaime CDO Financial Specialist
 Bonnie Johns CDO Financial Specialist
 Rachel Stanfield CDO Financial Specialist
 Nancy Sears CDO Financial Specialist
 Mary Ann Fegley Administrative Assistant
 Jaime Ballard Receptionist
 Samantha Osborne GIS Specialist
 Jeff Luoma Systems Administrator
 George Leamon Industrial and Business Development Specialist
 Joshua Cook Sr. Regional Planner
 Chris Chaney Regional Landuse Planner
 Pete Wearstler Transportation Planner
 Leann Lacy Community Development Specialist
 Karyn Leverenz Infrastructure Development Coordinator

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Craig McAnelly Assistant Executive Director
 Shane New Community Planning Director
 Robert Casher Sr. Pub. Admin. Specialist
 James Whisenhunt GIS Manager
 Chip Clark Graphic Artist/Web Designer/IT Manager
 Tab Patterson Electronic Media Manager/Building Superintendent
 Austin Bates GIS Specialist
 Rick Hernandez GIS Specialist

CELESTE COLLINS

Director of the Area Agency on Aging

Mary Schmidt Asstistant Director, Area Agency on Aging

Lydia Jacobs Aging Program Coordinator
 April Ash CDO Coordinator
 Jamie Ash CDO Eligibility Coordinator
 Robin Stewart SCL Case Manager
 Amanda Collins Enrollment Coordinator
 Holly Tussey Aging Program Advisor
 Ashley Twardy CDO Quality Assurance Specialist
 Lindsey Basler CDO Support Broker
 Chasity Bowlin CDO Support Broker
 Kristy Brandenburg CDO Support Broker
Ashley Bryant  
Linda Cunningham  
Amanda Davis  
Kelli Foster  
Regina Goodman  
Mary Milford  
Casey Miller  
Kristin Pumphrey  
Andrea Richardson  
Jayme Stidham  
Heather Walter  
Sarah Eldridge  
Randy Lockhart  
Alice Salyers  
Margaret Stults  
Lauren Vien  
Lindsey Johnson  
Caitlin Deaton  
Molly Newman  

CDO Support Broker  
CDO Support Broker  
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CDO Support Broker  
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CDO Support Broker  
CDO Support Broker  
CDO Support Broker  
CDO Support Broker  
Social Services Assistant

DANVILLE CAREER CENTER

Erica Sluder  
Aimee Neal  
Bill Pianovski  

Business Services Specialist  
Workforce Specialist  
Youth Track Coordinator

DEPARTMENT FOR HUMAN SERVICES/WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Mable Duke  
Amy Glasscock  
Shawn Jones  
Ethan Linville  
Staci May  
Angie Williams  
Ashley Gipson  

Director of Workforce Services  
Workforce Manager  
Youth Services Manager  
Business Services Manager  
Comm. Marketing Specialist  
Quality Control Specialist  
Office Support Specialist

RICHMOND CAREER CENTER

Jennifer Hayes  
William Luxon  

Workforce Specialist  
Business Services Specialist

LEXINGTON CAREER CENTER

Randy Johnson  
Rita Conner  
Geri Harrison  
Celina Benites  
Diane Salyers  

Business Services Specialist  
Workforce Specialist  
Workforce Specialist  
Customer Service Specialist  
Customer Service Specialist

WINCHESTER CAREER CENTER

Rolando Thacker  

Business Services Specialist
At Bluegrass ADD, we understand the POWER of LOCAL. We understand, as Matthew Kelly wrote in the book titled “Dream Manager,” that each of us has the power to become the best of ourselves. We know that sharing our personal dreams – big and small, great and modest – and connecting our dreams to the jobs we do can be magic.

Work is salary, recognition, and environment – but also morale, performance, motivation and results seen everyday in the faces of those we serve.
Each quarter at an all staff meeting we share with each other our personal accomplishments – represented by this collection of pictures – so these accomplishments can be celebrated and enjoyed by our colleagues.

Each employee aims to be the best version of themselves – and in that process, the company they work for, the Bluegrass ADD, will become the best-version-of-itself. And that is the dream of the Bluegrass Area Development District.

The best version of ourselves is very LOCAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each ADD County is represented on the Board by its Judge/Executive and the Mayor of its county seat. In counties with a first, second or third class city, the Mayor of the county’s second largest city is also a Board member. (These currently include Jessamine County (Wilmore), Madison County (Berea), Boyle County (Junction City) and Bourbon County (Millersburg).) These elected officials make up a majority of the Board membership, as required by state law.

In addition, the Board includes two citizen members from each county, as well as three additional at-large citizen members from throughout the region, all appointed by the Board’s elected officials for three-year terms.

The Board is led by four officers -- Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer – who are elected from the Board membership from four different counties within the District. They serve one-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms.

The full 75-member BGADD Board of Directors meets quarterly, with an Annual Meeting in January and additional quarterly meetings in April, July and October. The Board serves the District by determining overall strategies, policies and programs, conducting the District’s affairs in an orderly manner, coordinating the work of Advisory Committees and representing the District with State and Federal agencies.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The BGADD Executive Committee is elected from Board membership to manage ADD activities and oversee its business operations. The 17-member Committee is composed of nine elected officials, including the four elected Board officers, and eight citizen members. The Committee meets every month when a full Board of Directors quarterly meeting is not held.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

The BGADD Board of Directors has established advisory councils and committees to advise on policies and projects within specialized areas of expertise. They exist to aid the Board in determining priorities and suggest policy guidelines, formulate development strategies, projects and other specific plans, and identify problems, needs and opportunities throughout the region.

These groups also provide input regarding the Kentucky Intergovernmental Review Process (KIRP). KIRP was established by the Department for Local Government (DLG) as a means of providing local and State level input to Federal agencies regarding the use of federal funds, such as loans and grants, for local projects.

Four of these groups have been established to assist the Board in fulfilling specific administrative and contractual requirements on the Federal and State levels:

DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC)

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NREPC)

TOURISM, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (THRAC)

The volunteer members of these four groups are directly appointed by the Board from among its membership and interested ADD residents. Each is chaired by a member of the BGADD Board of Directors and includes one representative from each Bluegrass County. In order to incorporate the widest possible...
cross-section of opinions and viewpoints, up to ten at-large voting members may also be included. While each Council sets its own bylaws for membership and organization, all are committed to encouraging participation throughout the Bluegrass Region.

Additional ad hoc Committees and Councils have also been created to serve the Board with regards to other issues facing the region, each with its own bylaws, membership guidelines and organizational structure.

**AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)**

This Council, mandated by the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA) and KAR 1:220, advises the AAAIL on all community policies, programs and actions affecting older persons throughout the region. The Council also reviews and advises the AAAIL on its annual Area Plan, a report and needs assessment of services and assistance throughout the region required by Kentucky’s Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). At least half of the Council is composed of Bluegrass residents 60 years and older, including minority individuals, who participate in or are eligible for OAA Title III programs such as general support services, nutrition programs and caregiver support. Remaining Council membership includes representatives of healthcare and support service providers, local officials and other interested individuals. This group is directed by the AAAIL.

**AREA WATER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (409 COUNCIL)**

Established by KRS 151 and KRS 2241, the 409 Council exists to coordinate water and wastewater systems development state-wide. Members include all county judge/executives, the mayors of any city with a municipal water or wastewater system and representatives of each local health department within the Bluegrass Region. Leaders of KRS 74 water districts and KRS 273 water associations, as well as representatives of for-profit utilities, are also voting members.

Quarterly meetings give members the opportunity to coordinate plans and projects to avoid duplication of service, ensure consistency with local and regional land use plans and promote cost-effectiveness. The 409 Council is directed by the DCP.

**DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC)**

This Committee is concerned with the promotion of economic activity throughout the region through the creation of working relationships among local businesses and industries, Chambers of Commerce, financial institutions, trade and tourism organizations, and government agencies and officials. DAC topics of discussion include labor supply, vocational training, labor recruitment and related legislation as well as suitable sites for commercial, industrial, tourism and related development. This Committee was created to fulfill requirements of the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) is administered by the DCP.

**BLUEGRASS REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL (BRHSC)**

This Council is designed as a forum for elected officials and first responders such as public health officials, law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency services personnel. The Council works to encourage cooperation among various groups and agencies, assist local agencies in prevention and response activities, seek funding for local and regional projects related to homeland security and aid local jurisdictions in protecting local economies in the case of terrorist acts and other emergencies. The Council is involved in the periodic update of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as required by Federal regulation, and oversees hazard mitigation projects. This Council is administered by the DCP.

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC)**

This Committee serves as a planning body for lo-
How we work

cal-level human service needs, meeting bi-monthly to review and comment on grant applications for Bluegrass region projects in the areas of income, health and nutrition assistance, housing, employment, youth, equal rights and education. The membership may also consider areas of special concern to other existing ADD committees and councils - such as transportation, energy, land use and child advocacy - when they affect human resources within the ADD. The Committee consists of one representative from each ADD county as well as other individuals and stakeholders interested in human service issues as at-large members. It is specifically encouraged to be a group with a wide range of interests and representation in order to meet all human service needs of ADD residents. The HSAC is directed by the Bluegrass Region Workforce Investment Agency (WIA).

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NREPAC)

A wide variety of public projects, including water, sewer and housing, carry with them potentially negative environmental effects. The purpose of this Committee is to promote and assist in the protection, maintenance and development of natural resources, and to protect and enhance the region’s environment. The Committee also advises the Board on issues related to water and wastewater, air quality, solid waste, land and soil, forest, agricultural, mineral and other resources. The group is directed by the DCP.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (RPC)

This organization serves as an advisory board on land use planning issues within the region’s communities. With a membership including planning commissioners and professional planning staff representing every jurisdiction throughout the Bluegrass, the Council monitors and reviews comprehensive, transportation, infrastructure and land use plans at the local, county and regional levels. The Council also supports professionalism in planning by sponsoring training and continuing education opportunities, both as part of its regular meetings and through special events. Attendance at regular meetings can be counted toward state–required continuing education (CEU) training for planning commissioners, Board of Adjustment members, Zoning Administrators and planning professionals and their staff. The RPC was established through State legislation (KRS 147A.175) and is directed by the DCP.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (RTC)

The goal of this Committee is to promote the development of a safe, cost-efficient, accessible and balanced transportation and communication system throughout the ADD. The Committee is a cooperative forum for local leaders and a regional advocate for producing solutions to regional transportation problems. One of the most important tasks of the RTC is its partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) in its State-wide Transportation Planning Program. RTC members create a prioritized list of highway, bikeway, pedestrian and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects, based on regional impact, which the KYTC uses to develop its state-level transportation plans. The RTC also works with county governments throughout the ADD to create prioritized project lists at the local level and to administer the KYTC regional transportation program. This Committee was established to fulfill contractual obligations with KYTC and is directed by the DCP.

TOURISM, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (THRAC)

Development of recreational opportunities, promoting tourist attractions and preserving the historic heritage of the Bluegrass Region are the primary goals of THRAC. The Committee works with and advises the ADD Board and other agencies on development and dissemination of information about transportation options, facilities, programs and policies as they pertain to parks and recreation, tourism and historic preservation. THRAC is directed by the DCP.
BLUEGRASS AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
for the year ended June 30, 2016

OPERATING REVENUES

Federal $ 8,262,942
Commonwealth of Kentucky 19,361,159
Local revenue - service fees 712,704
Local revenue - matching funds 347,081
Local revenue - contributions 131,152
Local revenue - rents 74,102

Total operating revenues 28,889,140

OPERATING EXPENSES

Direct salaries 3,262,947
Direct fringe 2,245,014
Direct contract/program services 21,153,451
Direct expenses - other, net of depreciation 1,043,248
Indirect expenses - net of depreciation 1,437,211
Depreciation 137,587

Total operating expenses 29,279,458

OPERATING INCOME

(390,318)

NON-OPERATING INCOME

Bank interest 12,458
Settlement costs (91,856)

Change in net position (469,716)

Net position, beginning of year (31,819)

NET POSITION, END OF YEAR $ (501,535)
Our Alphabet Soup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAIL</td>
<td>Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACL</td>
<td>Administration on Community Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD</td>
<td>Area Development District</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADF</td>
<td>Area Development Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADRC</td>
<td>Aging and Disability Resource Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>AICP</td>
<td>American Institute of Certified Planners</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA</td>
<td>American Planning Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Appalachian Regional Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA</td>
<td>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASA</td>
<td>American Society on Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>BACCC</td>
<td>Bluegrass Area Citizen Corps Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAHSC</td>
<td>Bluegrass Area Homeland Security Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGAA</td>
<td>Bluegrass Global Affairs Association</td>
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<td>BGAAAIL</td>
<td>Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging &amp; Independent Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGADD</td>
<td>Bluegrass Area Development District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIF</td>
<td>Bluegrass Industrial Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>By Learning U Earn (program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWIA</td>
<td>Bluegrass Workforce Investment Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWIB</td>
<td>Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWSC</td>
<td>Bluegrass Water Supply Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBSA</td>
<td>Core Based Statistical Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDS</td>
<td>Comprehensive Economic Dev. Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBG</td>
<td>Community Development Block Grant (HUD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDO</td>
<td>Consumer Directed Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKCC</td>
<td>Central Kentucky Career Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMSA</td>
<td>Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area</td>
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<td>CMRS</td>
<td>Commercial Mobile Radio Service Emergency Telecommunications Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Customized Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAC</td>
<td>Development Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAIL</td>
<td>(Ky) Dept. of Aging and Independent Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAQ</td>
<td>(Kentucky) Division of Air Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCBS</td>
<td>(Ky) Dept. for Community Based Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS</td>
<td>(Ky) Department of Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEP</td>
<td>(Ky) Department for Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>Department for Homeland Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLG</td>
<td>(Ky) Department for Local Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>(Ky) Department for Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOC</td>
<td>(US) Department of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>(US) Department of Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOI</td>
<td>(US) Department of Interior</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOJ</td>
<td>(US) Department of Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOL</td>
<td>(US) Department of Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOT</td>
<td>(US) Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOW</td>
<td>(Kentucky) Division of Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMR</td>
<td>Discharge Monitoring Report (on wastewater treatment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWM</td>
<td>(Ky) Division of Waste Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDA</td>
<td>Economic Development Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEC</td>
<td>(Ky) Energy and Environment Cabinet</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEO</td>
<td>Equal Employment Opportunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>(U. S.) Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>Employment and Training Administration (U.S. Department of Labor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAA</td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td>Federal Emergency Management Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHA</td>
<td>Federal Housing Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHWA</td>
<td>Federal Highway Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSA</td>
<td>Farm Services Agency (part of USDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTA</td>
<td>Federal Transit Administration (formerly UMTA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUND A</td>
<td>KIA Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUND F</td>
<td>KIA Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>GO KY</td>
<td>Global Opportunities for Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>(U.S.) Dept. of Health and Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>(U.S.) Dept. of Housing and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFA</td>
<td>Joint Funding Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4A</td>
<td>Ky Association of Area Agencies on Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAAD</td>
<td>Ky Association of Adult Day (Care)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KACO</td>
<td>Ky Association of Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAED</td>
<td>Ky Assn. for Econ. Devt (formerly KIDC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAG</td>
<td>Ky Association for Gerontology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guide to Acronyms

KAWC: Ky American Water Company
KEDFA: Ky Economic Dev. Finance Authority
KFCP: Ky Family Caregiver Program
KIA: Ky Infrastructure Authority
KIDA: Ky Industrial Development Act
KIRA: Ky Industrial Revenue Act
KIRP: Ky Intergovernmental Review Process
KHC: Ky Housing Corporation
KLC: Ky League of Cities
KOHS: Ky Office of Homeland Security
KPA: Ky Chapter of American Planning Association
KRCC: Ky Regional Cable Commission
KREDA: Ky Rural Econ. Dev. Authority
KTC: Ky Transportation Center (at UK)
KWIB: Ky Workforce Investment Board
KYTC: Ky Transportation Cabinet
LRC: Legislative Research Commission (Ky)
LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund
MJC: Mobile Job Center
MPO: Metropolitan Planning Org. (Transportation)
MOR: Monthly Operating Report (on drinking water)
MSA: Metropolitan Statistical Area
N4A: National Assn. of Area Agencies on Aging
NADO: National Assn. of Dev. Organizations
NACO: National Association of Counties
NARC: National Assn. of Regional Councils
NAWB: National Assn. of Workforce Boards
NCOA: National Council on Aging
NEG: National Emergency Grant
NFCS: National Family Caregiver Support Program
NISC: National Institute of Senior Centers
NLC: National League of Cities
NOV: Notice of Violation (of environmental regs.)
NPC: (Ky) Nature Preserves Commission
NPS: National Parks Service
NR&EPAC: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Advisory Committee
NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSIP: Nutrition Screening Incentive Program
OAA: Older Americans Act
ODP: Office for Domestic Preparedness
OET: Office of Employment and Training

OJT: On-the-Job Training
POTW: Publicly Owned (Wastewater) Treatment Works
PSAP: Public Safety Answering Point
RD: Rural Development
RLF: Revolving Loan Fund
RPC: Bluegrass Regional Planning Council
RTC: Regional Transportation Committee
RTP: Recreational Trails Program
SAFETEA-LU: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SBA: (U. S.) Small Business Administration
SCSEP: Senior Comm. Service Employment Program
SE4A: Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging
SETA: Southeastern Employment and Training Association
SHIP: State Health Insurance Assistance Program
SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office
SRTS: Safe Routes to School (grant program)
TA: Technical Assistance
T/E: Transportation Enhancement Program
THRAC: Tourism, Historic Preservation and Recreation Advisory Committee
USACE: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
The 2016 annual report

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The Staff at the Bluegrass Area Development District would like to express their deep appreciation to you, our Local Elected Officials, Business Leaders and Board Members, for the guidance, support and unwavering dedication that each of you have provided throughout the last year.

True teamwork is able to accomplish many things and the BGADD staff will continue to work as a team creating economic development opportunities on the local level through our planning, aging, and workforce departments. This coming year, each Staff member will work efficiently and effectively for you and all of the residents of our Bluegrass region communities.

Thank You for all you do to support the Bluegrass Area Development District. May 2017 be bright for the Bluegrass Area Development District as well as each of us individually.
Kentucky Area Development Districts