

MIDWAY

MATTERS

Volume 3, Issue 1 • March 2010

CITY OF MIDWAY CONTACT INFORMATION

CITY HALL • 846-4413
101 East Main Street • P.O. Box 4275
Midway, Kentucky 40347
Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30
Phyllis Hudson • City Clerk
Diane Shepard • Assistant Clerk
Police • 873-3126
Fire • 873-5829



Mayor
Tom Bozarth
846-5067
Bozie6@windstream.net



Aaron Hamilton
Council Member
846-5133
info@midwayky.net



Diana Queen
Council Member
797-6568
dqmcc1@aol.com



Sandra Cooke
Council Member
846-4165
Sandra.Cooke@ky.gov



Sharon Turner
Council Member
846-4973
Sturner3@windstream.net



Doris Leigh
Council Member
846-4532



Charlann Wombles
Council Member
846-4455
charlannhw@aol.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1
• Contact Information • Mayor's Tidbits
- 2
• Midway Water
- 3
• KLC Night • Sewer System
- 4
• ITN Bluegrass
- 5
• Midway Renaissance • Summer Suppers are Back!
- 6
• Out On a Limb
- 7
• Chef Ouita Michel

MAYOR'S TIDBITS

Tom Bozarth

Last week we lost one of our dear citizens. Armon Portwood passed away at age 89. I will always remember that night at the Sweet Sixteen when the 1937 Midway High School Blue Jays were honored.

In this edition of Midway Matters is an article on Kentucky American Water request for a rate increase. The phone number for the Public Service Commission is in the article. As you know they had a rate increase last spring that increased our water rates.

The Midway Girl Scouts are providing Sunday suppers to our senior citizens. There are 4 suppers planned and they need our financial support. Please make a donation for this wonderful cause. You can contact Elaine Hagan at 846-4930 and she will be glad to pick up your donation.

I heard last Friday night there is a possibility that, because of the mounting financial challenges of operating a theater facility, the



Continued on Page 2

MAYOR'S TIDBITS CONT

Thoroughbred Theater might shut its doors. Jim and John McDaniel have put their heart and soul, not to mention considerable personal funds, to provide a place for entertainment and arts in Midway. They have let organizations, schools and community groups use the theater for free. Future plans such as a children's theater and arts education programs would be lost. I ask that our community come together and find some ways to donate and help fund raise to keep the Thoroughbred Community Theater open. Let's all put our thinking caps on.

MIDWAY WATER

By Sharon Turner

Did you know that the article below (from the Lexington Herald Leader) includes Midway water? If a rate increase is approved, then it increases the rate to the City of Midway – who must pass increase to our residents and customers.

Did you know that you can make a difference? Please call or email the Public Service Commission and say NO MORE INCREASES!!

Comments, questions or suggestions for the PSC? Contact our Consumer Services Division at psc.consumer.inquiry@ky.gov or contact the Consumer Services Division by phone at 1-800-772-4636

DEAL REACHED ON WATER RATE HIKE

By Andy Mead - amead@herald-leader.com

A tentative settlement has been reached in Kentucky American Water's request for a 30 percent rate increase, but no one involved is saying what it is.

It probably means that the water company won't get as much as it asked for.

In a document filed with the Public Service Commission Friday, the state attorney general's office said the agreement was reached "consequent to discussions held on 12 March."

The filing also said the attorney general and the utility have contacted other parties in the case and anticipate that an agreement will be presented to the PSC "in the next few days."

The PSC must approve any settlement. A hearing on the rate case tentatively had been scheduled for April 14. If there is an agreement, the commission would hear details on that day.

Representatives for both the water company and the attorney general declined to comment, as did the city of Lexington and the Community Action Council, which had intervened in the case.

Kentucky American's last rate increase request ended in a settlement with the state attorney general. The company has requested a 29 percent increase. The December 2007 settlement allowed a 17 percent increase. When the current increase request was filed, Kentucky American said it would bring in an additional \$18.5 million a year.

Nearly half of that, the company said, would be the first installment on a 20 million-gallon-a-day treatment plant and pipeline. The \$162 million project includes the plant on the Kentucky River north of Frankfort and a 31-mile underground pipeline to bring water to Lexington.

Gov. Beshear has appointed Charlann Hall Wombles to the State Archives and Records Commission to serve for a term expiring Sept. 21, 2013. Mrs. Wombles, of Midway, is a volunteer, and represents local government.

KLC NIGHT



KLC Director of Governmental Affairs J.D. Chaney, Representative Carl Rollins (D-Midway), Midway Councilmember Sharon Turner and Midway Mayor Tom Bozarth

**Join us for the
Midway College
Ruth Slack Roach Leadership/Scholarship Program
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 27, 2010**

**Please meet us in front of the Midway College
McManis Student Center at 10:00 a.m.
to enjoy the festivities.**

There will be an egg hunt (divided by age group) with over 1,200 eggs, games, face painting, prizes, a visit from the Easter Bunny, and more!

DON'T PUT THE SEWER SYSTEM IN A "FOG"

By Sandra Cooke

As we have become more aware of how we impact the earth, most of us have taken steps to become "greener". Many in Midway have started doing simple things—such as switching light bulbs to reduce energy consumption, toting groceries in reusable fabric bags, and diligently separating certain types of items for recycling—in order to be more environmentally friendly. Another easy and important we can have a positive impact on the environment is by properly disposing of fats, oil and grease, also known as FOG.

A byproduct of cooking, FOG comes from meat, fats, oils, lard, butter, shortening, margarine, sauces, food scraps, and dairy products. FOG can cause sewer system blockages, resulting in raw sewage spills that are hazardous to health, property, waterways, and wildlife habitats. Just as home plumbing can become clogged and sluggish from greasy debris, so can the city sewer system. Grease and solids washed down the drain cling to the top and sides of sewer pipes and build up over time. Eventually, the collecting grease becomes thick enough to restrict the flow of wastewater through the pipe. The result is sewer back-up that overflows into streets, yards and parks. Clean-up is expensive and unpleasant and may result in higher utility bills for everyone. Sewer overflow may also expose people, pets, and wildlife to dangerous, disease-causing organisms.

The good news is that by making a few simple changes in how we deal with FOG in our homes, we can contribute to a healthy sewer system.

- 1) FOG should never be poured down a drain or in a toilet. The fats should be collected in a used can and covered. Metal coffee cans, with caps, are a great choice and once full, the can may be cooled in the refrigerator or frozen until it can be placed in the trash.
- 2) Use small strainer screens in your sink to prevent food scraps from washing down through your pipes and into the sewer system. Because oils and fats cling to food particles, it is actually better if you don't push food scraps through a sink disposal. All of those bits of grease will impact the sewer

Continued on Page 4

DON'T PUT THE SEWER SYSTEM IN A "FOG" CONT

system, can cause blockages in your house pipes, and may even cause rancid smells from your sink. It is better to compost food scraps or throw them away in the trash.

- 3) Wipe greasy cookware pots and pans with a paper towel before placing them in a sink to wash in order to reduce the amount of oil in your drain water. Home use detergents don't really dissolve the oils, but cause them to travel further through the system to cause problems elsewhere.

By observing these few rules, and watching what you do with your left over fats and greases, you will contribute to a cleaner environment and have a positive impact on your community.

ITNBLUEGRASS

Join your neighbors and friends on Saturday, March 27, at 10:30 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments in the fellowship hall at Midway Baptist Church and hear about a new transportation service for seniors and visually-impaired adults that is making plans to expand to Midway! Hosted by the Midway Area Ministerial Association and endorsed by the Midway City Council, Mayor Bozarth and Midway Renaissance, this event will give residents a chance to learn what they can do to get ITNBluegrass (Independent Transportation Network) off the ground in Midway. Once it is fully Operational, the service will transport people within Midway, between Midway and Versailles and to and from Fayette County.

ITNBluegrass is a local affiliate of a national non-profit, ITNAmerica, whose mission is to provide 24/7 automobile transportation to people 60+ and visually-impaired adults anywhere in its service area for any reason. Since it began operations in September 2008, ITNBluegrass has delivered more than 4,200 rides in Fayette County! ITNBluegrass uses trained volunteer drivers to deliver most of its rides. Volunteers earn mileage reimbursement and/or mileage credits, the latter of which they can donate to the Community Rides account that will be up for Midway to subsidize rides provided by ITNBluegrass.

If you have an interest in elder transportation – as a potential rider, as an adult child or friend of a potential rider or as a volunteer driver – please join us on March 27. If you need a ride, please call Helen Rentch at 846-5065 or 221-6488 to arrange.

Governor Beshear has appointed
Lori Meadows, of Midway,
to the Kentucky Civil War
Sesquicentennial Commission.
Meadows, is the executive director
of the Kentucky Arts Council.

NorthRidge Homeowners
Association to Meet

The annual meeting of the
NorthRidge Homeowners
Association will be held in the
cafeteria of Northside Elementary
School on March 23, 2010 at 7:30
PM. All residents of NorthRidge
are encouraged to attend. Please
consider volunteering as a board
member for the upcoming term.

MIDWAY RENAISSANCE

FRANCISCO'S FARM ARTS FESTIVAL AMONG THE TOP 10 ART FAIRS IN THE COUNTRY AGAIN



AmericanStyle magazine listed Francisco's Farm Arts Festival among the Top 10 Art Fairs and Festivals for the fourth year in a row. Each year the magazine polls its readers, asking where they prefer to go to view and buy art and fine craft in a festival setting. The results are used to prepare the magazine's winners list, and its Essential Guide to Fairs & Festivals

Readers of *AmericanStyle* are art enthusiasts, art collectors and cultural tourists, who through the years of the poll have indicated a preference for shows offering a diversity of artistic styles and disciplines, high-quality craftsmanship, and an appealing setting for enjoying art. Often, the factor that sways the vote is local support for the arts. According to Wendy Rosen, publisher of *AmericanStyle*, "The winning festivals are typically events that attract a strong local following as well as a national following." Francisco's Farm first appeared on the national list in 2007 as a 'write-in favorite'.

"All of you should be proud of this show. I truly believe it is one of the very best," said exhibitor Jennifer Zingg. "The volunteers are the kindest people who really express their love and commitment to their community by the hard work they put forth every year. Francisco's is truly setting the bar and I think it shows. Artists from across the country are taking notice."

Francisco's Farm Arts Festival is a not-for-profit project of Midway Renaissance and is hosted by Midway College. The 2010 Festival will be held Saturday, June 26th from 10am to 6pm and Sunday, June 27th from 10am to 5pm. Admission is only \$5 per vehicle, and Saturday visitors may return free on Sunday. For more information, visit www.franciscosfarm.org.

SUNDAY SUPPERS ARE BACK!!!!!!

Midway Girl Scouts, Mary, Anne, and Maggie Hagan from Troop 1038 are working on their Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, respectively. They are currently offering three delicious homemade suppers for the seniors in the Midway area. Each Sunday supper will also include live local entertainment and fabulous door prizes! The dates for the meals are March 28th, April 25th and May 23rd. They will be held at the Midway Woman's Clubhouse on Gratz Street from 4:00-6:00 p.m. A free shuttle service will be available to those who need it. There are only thirty seats available at each supper, so please call the girls at 846-4930 to reserve your spot as soon as possible! Please leave your name, phone number, and whether or not you will need the shuttle service. The Scouts are offering these meals at no cost to the seniors and would greatly appreciate any community members who would be willing to donate to this wonderful event. Checks may be made out to Girl Scout Troop 1038, and mailed to P. O. Box 3707, Midway, KY 40347.

Midway will be recognizing Arbor Day on April 17th by planting a tree and then have a cleanup day at Walter Bradley Park and the Midway Cemeteries. Anyone wishing to volunteer please contact City Hall at 846-4413.

OUT ON A LIMB

Larry Hanks

RAIN GARDENS

"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain." - Longfellow

You might be surprised to learn how much water typically runs off a roof surface during one of our monsoon rains. The rooftop of a 1500 square foot home can collect almost 500 gallons from ½ inch of rain. But if the rainwater simply runs off of your property and down the street, you're not getting the full benefit of all that moisture.

Water harvesting is the term used to describe how rainwater is collected and channeled to catchment areas. A "catchment" is any large surface that can capture and/or carry water to where it can be used immediately or stored. Where are your catchment surfaces? Everybody has at least one catchment on their property, such as a roof, patio or driveway. You can direct water runoff from these surfaces to plants, trees or lawns by using dikes, berms, or contouring. Sloping hard surfaces such as driveways or granite areas can also direct water to landscaped areas. Using porous paving materials such as bricks and special asphalt can allow water to penetrate instead of draining off your property.

To increase water-holding capacity, simple depressions in the landscape can be created. These depressions can be shallow, but the more area they cover, the more water will be held. Also called swales, these depressions should be designed to hold several inches of water which will percolate into the soil for direct use by the trees, shrubs or groundcovers. Swales can be formed to look like a natural part of your landscape and native wildflowers can even be seeded in the bottom. Soil removed during construction of depressions can be used to create contouring mounds for visual interest.

Rainwater can also be contained in barrels or tanks. By placing gutters around the roof perimeter and connecting them to downspouts, large amounts of water can be directed where needed in the landscape. One advantage of collecting rainwater from the roof is that it can be saved for use in dry periods. Hose or piping can be connected to the storage container and funneled directly to the garden or landscape. No matter what type of container you use, be sure to cover it with a solid lid or fine mesh to keep leaf litter and mosquitoes out.

How Much Rain Can You Catch?

Here is an easy formula you can use figure how much water you can harvest from a roof in one year:

1. Calculate the area of your roof. (Example 40 feet wide x 50 feet long = 2000 sq. ft.).
2. Calculate the average yearly rainfall in feet [The average annual rainfall for central Kentucky is 43" per year]. Divide that amount by 12 inches to get 3.58 feet of annual rainfall.
3. Calculate the cubic feet of roof water. (Example - 2000 sq. ft. of roof area x .666 feet/year of rain = 1332 cubic feet/year of runoff).
4. Convert to gallons. (1 cubic ft. of water contains 7.5 gallons) (Example - 1332 cubic feet x 7.5 = 9,990 gallons).

What To Plant In My Rain Garden?

Native plants are ideal for landscaping for many reasons; they have adapted Kentucky's climate over millions of years, they don't need chemicals to help them grow, they can tolerate our cold winters and hot summers winter, they have very deep roots which allow them to be more drought resistant, they have developed defenses against harmful native insects, and can serve as habitats for native wildlife (consider planting for butterflies, hummingbirds, or songbirds!). The deep roots of native plants also makes them ideal for rain gardens because they create channels in the soil which allow water to soak in quickly.

Below find several resources for Rain Garden Plants and other information regarding Rain Gardens:

Shooting Star Nursery - Georgetown, Ky

www.shootingstarnursery.com

Continued on Page 7

OUT ON A LIMB CONT

Dropseed Nursery - Goshen, Ky
www.dropseednursery.com

Lexington -
<http://www.bluegrassraingardenalliance.org/>

Highland Moor - Midway, Ky
www.highlandmoor.com

Cincinnati - <http://www.millcreekwatershed.org/rain-gardens.html>

Habitats Native Plant Nursery, LLC - Silver Grove, Ky
www.habitatsnursery.org

Larry Hanks is an American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA) Registered Consulting Arborist and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist. Questions, suggestions or comments are welcomed at wlhanks@earthlink.net.

The Nursery at Griffith Woods - Harrison Co, Ky
www.friendsofgriffithwoods.org

Salato Native Plant Program - Frankfort, Ky

CHEF OUITA MICHEL

Edward Lee, owner-chef at 610 Magnolia, will lead a team of some of the state's top chefs who will cook a Bluegrass-inspired dinner at Manhattan's James Beard House on March 31.

Cooking alongside Lee will be Dean Corbett (Equus, Jack's Lounge and Corbett's: An American Place), Michael Paley (Proof on Main), Shawn Ward (Jack Fry's) and Ouita Michel (Holly Hill Inn in Midway, Ky.) Accompanying the cooks will be renowned cheese maker Judy Schad (Capriole Farmstead Goat Cheese in Greenville, Ind.) and bourbon baron Julian P. Van Winkle III (The Old Rip Van Winkle Distillery in Louisville, Ky.), who will speak at the dinner.

Tickets for the dinner range from \$125-\$165 per person—not a bad price at all for a mess o' grub from that gang. (If I could fund a trip to New York... I'd be there.)

A few years ago, Ward and Corbett teamed up with chefs Anoosh Shariat (Browning's Restaurant & Brewery) and Peng Looi (Asiatique and August Moon) for a Beard House visit. Both are excited about doing it again.

"When Edward was putting this together, Shawn texted me wondering if I was interested, and it was like, 'Are you kidding? Of course!'" Corbett said.

Ward called it an honor to go with the group, "especially with those guys. They're at the top in their field. But to get up there and represent Louisville in New York, that's an all-around incredible experience."

While cooking at the Beard House is a privilege, it's one that comes at a huge cost to the galley folk doing the work—between \$8,000 and \$10,000 dollars when a chef goes with his own crew of support staff, Corbett said. To divide that between five chefs and getting to work with competitive peers is just fun, said Lee, also a Beard House veteran.

"It's really a blast to cook alongside people of that caliber, people who are so committed to what they do," he said. "As a head chef, especially, you can fall into the trap of not learning new things because you're only in your kitchen. So it's great to get out and see what other chefs are doing."

And taste what they're cooking, according to Ward. The group will be gone four to five days, and when they're not preparing for the Beard dinner, they'll be eating out a lot.

"It's work, work, work when you're prepping," he began. "But once it's done and you can sit down and take a deep breath, then you start hitting all the restaurants. We want to see what everyone else is doing, so it'll be nothing to get to four restaurants a day. Doing that gives us fresh ideas to take back home."

Should you be so lucky to be in Manhattan on March 31 and would like to attend the dinner, call 212-627-2308 to reserve a spot. I would imagine this will be a meal not to be missed.