

# SEBREE BANNER



NUMBER EIGHTY-EIGHT

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY APRIL 17, 2024

NUMBER TWELVE



**DOZENS OF LOCAL** parents and children attended the WC Cares kick-off last Wednesday at Webster County Middle School. The event marks the beginning of a volunteer organization whose goal is to help children who experience physical, mental and emotional abuse and to help families find the resources that can help them take care of their daily needs. During the kick-off event many agencies set up tables and provided information related to health, wellness and social needs of families. Children received a number of gifts while parents gathered contact information for the various agencies and the services they provide. Additional photos of volunteers and activities can be found in this week's paper.



## Sebree City Council Approves Ordinances; Hears Resident Concerns

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Jeremy Brown presiding and five council members present. Councilmember Perry Culberson was not in attendance.

Following approval of the minutes from the March meeting, the council heard a report from the code enforcement officer, passed the second reading of one ordinance and held first reading for four others, and listed to concerns from two citizens.

Code Enforcement Officer Deb Stull told the council there have been "several successes" in the community over the past month. She noted that most property owners in violation of the city's nuisance ordinance are making an effort to bring their properties into compliance.

Council members held second reading of an ordinance to regulate food trucks operating in the city. The lengthy ordinance was passed on a 5-0 vote.

At the March meeting, councilmember Megan Brown had asked the council to consider the establishment of a tourism committee for Sebree. On Monday night, City Attorney Wil Cox presented three ordinances that will have to be passed in order for that committee to be put in place.

The first of those ordinances calls for the appointment of a tourism and convention committee in the city. That committee would be comprised of seven individuals who would serve staggered terms. The second ordinance would establish a three percent transient room tax. Although the city does not

have any such businesses at this time, Cox told members the ordinance must be put in place per the Kentucky Revised Statutes. The third ordinance places a three percent tax on restaurant and other establishments which prepare food for sale.

In March, councilmember Jana Forker addressed the council concerning the monthly stipend for the mayor and council members. On Monday night, an ordinance was presented for first reading that would increase that pay. Ms. Forker offered separate motions that would increase the monthly pay for council members from \$100.00 per month to \$150.00 per month and the monthly pay for the mayor from \$300.00 per month to \$500.00 per month.

Ms. Brown asked if the city has the funds to accommodate an increase at this time. Ms. Forker responded, "To be fair, the council has no idea how much money the city has."

Those increases would go into effect for council members on January 1, 2025. For the mayor, the pay increase would take effect on January 1, 2027.

The motion for a pay increase for council members was passed on a 4-1 vote. Ms. Brown was the dissenting member. The motion for a pay increase for the mayor passed on a 3-2 vote. Ms. Brown and councilmember Jim Allen Williams voted no.

The second reading of that ordinance must be passed before May 6, according to the city attorney. As a result, the council will meet on Monday, April 22, 5:30 P.M., to discuss second reading and possible passage of

the ordinance.

City resident Terri Sutton addressed the council concerning dogs running at large in the city. She reported a person in her neighborhood had been bitten, and dogs are beginning to run in packs. The mayor told Ms. Sutton she should contact the county dog warden.

Ms. Forker told the council that on two recent weekends, 200 to 300 people had been at Sebree Elementary School for an apparent soccer tournament. She noted that two weeks ago, one individual who had attended the tournament was later arrested for wielding a machete at individuals in the city.

She said she had contacted an individual at the Webster County Board of Education but was told the school district had not authorized the use of school facilities. Ms. Forker told the council she felt steps should be taken to regulate the use of the athletic fields.

No action was taken on Monday night.

City resident Rob Brown asked about the use of golf carts and ATVs in the city. He reported that a friend had been stopped by law enforcement because the utility vehicle he was driving was apparently not in compliance. The city attorney told Brown he would be provided with a copy of the city's golf cart ordinance.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of Sebree City Council will be Monday, May 20, 5:30 P.M.

## WC Cares Kicks-Off New Support Group

A new support group for children WC Cares kicked-off its campaign on Wednesday, April 10, with an information session in the gym at Webster County Middle School where parents and children could gather information about various agencies. Lunch was provided and games/inflatables were set up for children.

Sixteen agencies/services were set up with multiple employees on hand to provide printed information about their services and to answer questions parents might have.

WC Cares began organizing in 2023, putting a coalition in place with people and agencies interested in helping local children. The group met monthly as they set up a 501C3 non-profit, according to Donna Bumpus, chairman of the group. She noted that their plans allowed them to host their kick-off campaign in April 2024 as part of Child Abuse Prevention/Neglect Month.

"Our goal," Bumpus said, "is to strengthen families, build protective factors for children and provide positive opportunities and positive relationships." Bumpus added that she expects the program to continue to evolve more as the group learns what the needs are and what they need to do to help.

WC Cares works with multiple agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of local children. They are aligned with family court, the Department of Community Based Services and will collaborate with multiple agencies such as ASAP and Drug Free Communities.

During Wednesday's kick-off, children received free books, pens, pencils, and many other goodies as they visited with representatives from APEX, Audubon Area Community Services, CASA, Children's Advocacy Center of Green River District Health Department, Department of Community Based Services, STAND, Health First Community Health Center, Matthew 25, Murray State University, River Valley Behavioral Health, Webster County Board of Education/Home Connect, Webster County Extension Service, Webster County ASAP/Drug Free Communities True Blue, Webster County Public Library and teen Challenge.

WC Cares will continue to grow and develop and raise awareness to the needs of children and families. Volunteers will work to ensure the health, safety, and emotional well-being of the county's children because in Webster County—Every Child Matters.

## WC Water District Board Holds Monthly Meeting

The Webster County Water District board met on Thursday, April 11 with chairman Tommy Robertson and all board members present.

Following approval of the minutes from the March meeting and the payment voucher, members heard the operations report and heard a short update concerning improvements at the water tank near Mt. Pleasant.

Interim water superintendent Trevor Baldwin presented the operations report for March. The district produced 31,416,000 gallons of water. The daily average production for the month was 1,013,419 gallons. The water plant operated an average of 10.5 hours per day during the month, and 5.3% of the water produced was used for backwashing.

Baldwin also told members the bids for mowing WCWD properties were to be opened on Friday, April 12. Water district employees are currently doing the mowing.

He also updated the board on BFD drivers which are being installed near Mt. Pleasant. Those variable speed drivers will allow for a smoother start up on pump motors.

No further business came before the board, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Webster County Water District board will be Thursday, May 9, 10:00 A.M.

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