

# SPOOKS: 'He gives each of them names and is even thinking about creating backstories for all of them'

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His love for the holiday started young, after a trip out to Happy Jack's Pumpkin Farm on Hickman Hill Road, but he really got interested in amping up his seasonal decor in 2022, after visiting Wicked World Scaregrounds in Nicholasville, a three-in-one scare attraction where the actors interact with the guests.

"He was interested before but it really took off after going to haunted houses," Brendan's mother, Amy Smith said. "He has a great imagination and wanted to recreate something in his yard to spark the spooky, scary joy of Halloween."

Brendan Smith is into scary stuff and Halloween is a holiday devoted to all things scary.

"Plus it's fun to decorate," he said, "and it's fun to see other people decorate too."

"We've started seeing some of the neighbors putting out some decorations," Amy noted. "That's exciting. It gives a sense of community."

Brendan Smith's first animatronic Halloween decoration was a zombie that appears to crawl out of the ground. Each year he gets a few new pieces to add to the growing collection.

"He takes great care of them," Amy stated. "He gives each of them names and is even thinking about creating backstories for all of them. He loves when people ... ask about their backstories."

The first animatronic he placed outside was the Teddy Bear Clown from Lowe's, which he renamed Theodore Roosevelt, shortened to "Ted." The clown holds a small teddy bear and Brendan renamed the clown in honor of the president for whom the stuffed toy was named.

Next was the Clowning Around animatronic from Spirit Halloween, a terri-



**HALLOWEEN:** Brendan Smith poses in costume to hand out candy on Halloween in 2023.

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fying looking character that already had an equally disturbing name — Uncle Boo Boo.

Those two are joined by Halloween Costumes.com's Funzo the Clown animatronic, and Home Depot's Trickster Trio, three smaller clowns that can be set up stacked on top of one another or standing separately. Brendan Smith named the trio of clowns Terror, Menace

and Antic.

He likes to incorporate multiple character themes in his decorations. This year, his yard showcases the clown, zombies and several skeletons, including the rather dapper gentleman skeleton he named Daniel Graves.

The front porch is also occupied by a golden father and son skeleton duo, and a casually dressed skeleton named Wil-

liam, with his skeleton dog, Duke.

In clear view of the road, at the side of the house stands Reginald Rattleson, a 10-foot skeleton that lights up at night and the 48-inch head and shoulders of the Groundbreaking Skeleton from Tractor Supply, named Grundy.

The large tree in the middle of the front yard is also decorated with large, fuzzy spiders, a skeleton graveyard and multiple hanging creatures, as well as a creepy zombie squirrel.

The backyard is also decorated. One of the trees in the backyard hosts a hanging demon in a red cloak, named Damien, and another tree is home to a hanging scarecrow and a ghost. Amy Smith's shade garden has been converted to a small cemetery where a zombie appears to be trying to climb the fence with one missing arm, and on the back porch are four more hanging decorations — a clown, a zombie, a ghost and a gargoyle.

Brendan Smith maps out what he wants to do each year and starts decorating the last week in August. He puts out a few of his decorations each weekend through September and expects to have all of his decorations set up by the end of the month.

The Smiths say the garage full of decorations can testify to the fact that they decorate for other holidays as well, especially Christmas, but Halloween is Brendan Smith's favorite.

Brendan Smith was one of six students to graduate Frankfort High School with an associate degree through Frankfort Independent Schools' partnership with Kentucky State University. He is a freshman at Georgetown College this year and plans to join the engineering program to study robotics once he finishes his required general education courses.

# CITY: Wilkerson made motion to name Derrick Napier as Frankfort police chief; motion passed in a 5-0 vote

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have a public hearing and we're going to have to put it in the paper too," she explained. "So if you just simply want to get around the same amount of revenue we did last year, just stick with the compensating rate, if that's the will of the board."

Thompson responded that his goal was not to raise taxes at all. He added that he wished the city was in a position to lower taxes.

"Commissioner Thompson, if you drop it to 19.6, you are in fact lowering the taxes on what people would have paid last year as long as their assessments didn't change," Boyd replied, saying that additional assessments were completed this year.

Mayor Layne Wilkerson asked Boyd whether the 19.7 rate would increase revenue. She confirmed it would slightly.

"But people also need to remember that if you're in the old city you're paying city school taxes and their rate did change so your tax bill is going to go up but it would not be because of the city," Boyd noted.

Frankfort Independent Schools approved a 4% revenue tax rate of 107.5 cents per \$100 of real property and tangible property. The motor vehicle rate remained at 47.4 cents.

According to Boyd, the city collected roughly 97% of its tax bills last year.

If OK'd at the next meeting, the rate of taxation for motor vehicles will be 22.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

## NEW POLICE CHIEF

During unfinished business, Wilkerson made a motion to name Derrick Napier as Frankfort police chief "conditioned upon his acceptance and conditioned upon staff's negotiating of the terms of the contract."

The motion passed in a 5-0 vote.

"This is a good decision. I think that he interviewed very well. He's shown so much growth as an assistant captain over the years. He's been a team player. Out of

everyone we interviewed, it was just common sense and I appreciate your hard work, your dedication and continuing to come back to want to lead this police department," Commissioner Katrisha Waldrige stated.

"I am thrilled to be supportive and to see you as our next chief and I just feel really good about this," Commissioner Leesa Unger added.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY FARMERS MARKET MOVE

Once a sublease agreement is executed with the city, the Franklin County Farmers Market will be moving.

The Board of Commissioners approved the terms of a lease with the state for the new location at 169 and 203 Holmes St. The properties, which are owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Finance & Administration Cabinet, are adjacent to each other.

The lease agreement was removed from the agenda at August's voting meeting and contains eight noteworthy provisions:

- ▶ The city will use the property solely for the farmers market and a parking lot.
- ▶ Kentucky State Police will retain use of the property for drivers testing Monday through Friday, except for those Tuesdays when it is used by the farmers market.
- ▶ Construction and improvements to the property require prior approval of the state.
- ▶ Subleasing the property requires prior approval of the state.
- ▶ The lease term is for one year with indefinite automatic one-year renewals unless either party provides at least 30 days written notice to the other party of the intention not to renew.
- ▶ The compensation for each lease term is \$1.
- ▶ If the lease is terminated, the state will give the city reasonable time to remove any structures, etc. and shall be responsible for related removal and repair costs, if any.
- ▶ The city will maintain the lot.

The lease agreement includes a sketch of the property, which would include parking as well as a proposed 9,450-square-foot pavilion — measuring 210 feet by 45 feet.

Currently, the farmers market is located in River View Park at 404 Wilkinson Blvd. The state donated the land, which sits on what is known as Parcel A in the Downtown Master Plan, to the city last fall. Plans are to develop the property.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT

The Board of Commissioners also OK'd a new service contract with the Franklin County Humane Society.

The humane society had been serving the city on a month-to-month basis while a new agreement was being ironed out.

"After receiving all documentation from the humane society regarding the actual cost of providing the city's shelter needs and researching and speaking with other communities and facilities, staff believes the increase is warranted," City Attorney Laura Milam wrote in a memo to elected leaders. "However, the increase is being phased in to the contract and CPI (Consumer Price Index) increases will not start until 2026."

According to the new agreement, the city will pay an annual service fee of \$110,000 in four quarterly payments of \$27,500. Starting in fiscal year 2026-27, the amount will increase annually by the CPI.

For the three remaining payments of 2024-25, the city will pay \$23,000.

The contract will automatically renew each year on July 1 unless either party provides 60 days notice to the other party of cancellation.

Additionally, the emergency provisions for intake of large numbers of animals simultaneously in emergency situations has been extended to cats as well as dogs within the city's jurisdiction.

## ETHAN BRANSCUM ORDINANCE

A local 11-year-old student, who pushed for an ordinance prohibiting the sale of cats and dogs in the city, was awarded for his efforts with a measure bearing his name.

The Ethan Branscum ordinance prevents cats and dogs from being sold at retail shops, such as pet stores and public places, but would not affect rescue facilities or qualified breeders. The measure also establishes a \$500 fine for each separate violation.

Ethan Branscum is the founder of Ethan's Rescue Pet Project and was recognized as a Human Advocate by the American Humane Society.

In other business, the Board of Commissioners:

- ▶ Approved the traffic calming policy and order.
- ▶ Reappointed Stephen Mason to the Frankfort Plant Board.
- ▶ OK'd the appointments of Kenneth Lawson to public works tech in the solid waste department and Shaun Caldwell to risk manager in the city manager's office.
- ▶ Approved the transfer of Simion Alvarado from public works technician to sewer tech in the solid waste department and Sam Collins from public works tech in the solid waste department to public works tech in the street department.
- ▶ OK'd the termination of Chris McKinney from the solid waste department, Travon Byers from E911 and Ed Cox from Frankfort Transit.

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