So, we didn't get to have Tri-Fest. 4.24.20 Day was scaled way, way down. The performing arts season at The Preston is on hold. Handy Fest, Porch Fest and who knows what else is either canceled or postponed for 2020.

But in the middle of it all, in blew a breath of fresh air. Henderson County received news that it is a finalist in 19 categories of Kentucky Living Magazine’s “Best In Kentucky” annual poll. (Last year was a benchmark at 10 finalists.)

The magazine is doing things slightly differently this year. It has placed the finalists that received the most votes in a particular category in a second voting period to determine the first-, second- and third-place rankings. Voting starts on May 1. Winners are scheduled to be announced live at the Kentucky State Fair on Aug. 27 and published in the magazine's September edition.

Log in and vote at kentuckyliving.com/news/vote-for-2020-best-in-kentucky. We owe it to our local nominees who have worked hard to persevere during the pandemic.

Here's what we have to be proud of: Farm Tourist Attraction, Cates Farm; Kid-Friendly Attraction, Blue Moon Stables; Long Weekend Getaway, Farmer & Frenchman Winery & Café; Winery, Farmer & Frenchman Winery & Café; Craft Beer, Henderson Brewing Co.; Down-Home Restaurant, Hometown Roots; Barbecue, J&B BBQ; Pizza, Rockhouse on the River; Hamburger, Metzger’s Tavern; Sweet Spot, Bliss Artisan; Event or Festival, W.C. Handy Blues & Barbecue Festival; Museum, Audubon Museum and Nature Center; Place For Live Music, On Deck Riverside Bar & Grill; Place for Adventure, John James Audubon State Park; Camping Spot, John James Audubon State Park; Golf Course, The Bridges Golf Course of Henderson; Arts & Crafts Fair, Lions Arts & Crafts Festival at Audubon; Farmers Market, Henderson Farmers Market; and Made-in-Kentucky Product, Lucia Soaps Etc.

We didn’t anticipate the “Year of Social Distancing” when we envisioned 4.24.20 Day and a calendar filled with festive events to celebrate our Zip Code Day. But that doesn’t mean you can’t celebrate in your very own “distanced” way on April 24, finding something wonderful to love about where you live. And next year? Maybe 4.24.20 Day Plus 1 ...

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: City of Henderson Municipal Center and all other administrative offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, for the Memorial Day holiday. For details of your holiday week trash collection schedule, visit and scroll to the schedule link: www.cityofhendersonky.org/224//Sanitation-Collection.

News Highlights

School’s (almost) out  It could go down as the strangest school year in recent history. The Henderson County Board of Education approved May 4 as the last day for students for the 2019-20 school year at its board meeting on April 20. May 18 had been the original last day for students, back when things were “normal.” Henderson County Schools will reach 1,062 student hours on May 4 and will have completed 30 non-traditional instruction days. On April 20, Gov. Andy Beshear recommended that all public schools cease in-class instruction for the remainder of the school year due to COVID-10.

Curtain came down early  Henderson Area Arts Alliance was forced to postpone the final two events in its 26th performance season (Dance Kaleidoscope’s “Music Men” and the Broadway musical “The Color Purple.”) HAAA is still discussing how to possibly present those shows at a later date, all while planning and booking the next performance season to hopefully begin in the fall. The local organization is not alone. Broadway (and performance halls across the nation) went dark in mid-March.

No Handy this year  It was to have been the 30th anniversary edition of the W.C. Handy Blues & Barbecue Festival in 2020. The Henderson Music Preservation Society had just released its milestone-year lineup a couple of weeks before the world shifted. So, the organization has made the decision to cancel this year’s June festival. But in the “good news” department, so far all but two bands have rebooked for the 2021 festival. Mark your calendar for a blow-out Handy 30th festival.

So what about Songfest?  Organizers for the Sandy Lee Watkins Songwriters Festival will wait until early May to decide the fate of their late-July event. That very popular event features three venues for songwriters performing “in the round” and telling their stories behind the songs they’ve written.

ALSO ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK: Memorial Day Ceremony and cross display in Central Park.
Providing Service

BEFORE SELF

Rotary Club of Henderson has announced $32,500 in grants to 15 community organizations.

A majority of the grant money, $20,000, is in support of nonprofits that are assisting individuals who have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. These grants include a $10,000 grant to the Henderson Employee Relief Fund (HERF), $5,000 to Henderson Christian Community Outreach, and $5,000 to the Salvation Army Food Kitchen.

“The Rotary Club of Henderson, through our Foundation, is privileged to support those individuals who have been impacted by this pandemic,” said Rotary President Dawn S. Kelsey, “Henderson Rotarians are dedicated to continuing the long tradition of Rotary serving our community through difficult circumstances and living up to our motto “service above self.”

In addition to the grants for pandemic relief, the Rotary Club has also announced its annual grants supporting projects created by arts, leadership, health education and community service organizations.

Projects among the 13 funded by Rotary include everything from program support for Henderson County School System’s literacy programs to support for Matthew 25’s Zack Kitchen Food Pantry Delivery Program.

Due to the pandemic, these organizations will receive their checks now, and a formal recognition program will occur at a Rotary Program in the future.

The successful grant recipients are:
—Henderson Area Arts Alliance, $3,000 to sponsor the 2020-2021 season
—Salvation Army, $1,750 to support the Kitchen Renovation Project
—Matthew 25 AIDS Services, $1,000 to support the expansion of Zach’s Kitchen Food Pantry Delivery Program
—HLI, $1,000 to sponsor the 13th class of the Henderson Leadership Initiative
—Volunteer & Info Center, $1,000 to support Clothing for Confidence program to clothe school children
—Henderson Music Preservation Society, $1,000 to sponsor the 30th W.C. Handy Blues & Barbecue Festival
—Ohio Valley Art League, $750 to sponsor an award at the 2020 Kentucky National Wildlife Art Exhibit
—Father Bradley Shelter for Women & Children, $500 to support Shelter services
—Boys & Girls Club, $500 to help fund programming
—Henderson County Schools, $500 to support the Literacy Project
—Healing Reins Therapeutic Riding Inc., $500 for equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs
—Holy Name School, $500 to help fund the Student Mural Project
—HC Diabetes Coalition, $500 for the Diabetes Support Group Program

HERF, POW! lend a helping hand

The Henderson Employees Relief Fund was established in early April with seed money from the Henderson Men’s Bourbon Society and The Community Foundation of Henderson. Other charitable foundations, businesses, civic organizations and individual donors fell into line to help HERF achieve its goal of $500,000 to assist displaced workers with utilities, rent/mortgage payments and other monthly expenses. Christian Community Outreach is administering.

Partnership of Women (POW!) set up a special grant program for non-profits to help them with money they would have raised from canceled fundraising events.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN JAMES AUDUBON! April 26, 2020, marks the 235th birthday of the noted ornithologist, naturalist and painter who was a businessman for a time in 1842-43. His finest work, “The Birds of America,” is considered one of the finest ornithological works ever completed.
GREEN CLEANING

Extension teaching new skills

We’ve had more time to learn new skills while we’ve been staying “healthy at home.”

Gardening is trending. Home chefs have been doing more cooking as they’ve found the time to devote to it.

The Henderson County Cooperative Extension has been assisting by providing “kit bags” that can be picked up outside the office on Zion Road.

A recent “kit bag” was created on the topic of “Green Cleaning.”

Why not? It’s spring cleaning season, people have had time to get their homes organized and the virus has, no doubt, created a greater need for cleanliness.

Here’s a “green cleaning” recipe:

**All-Purpose Cleaner**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 tablespoons borax
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 2 cups hot water

**Directions:**
Combine the borax and vinegar with the water in a spray bottle. Use as you would any commercial all-purpose cleaner.

**SOME THINGS DON’T MIX**

Many effective cleaning products get rid of dirt, grime and germs. Although these products claim to work, and if used properly they should work, some of us feel the need to give our cleaners a “boost” by adding other ingredients to increase cleaning power.

This can be a problem because, often, mixing cleaners and chemicals produces toxic fumes or vapors.

Here is a list of chemical you should NOT mix nor add to other products. Most importantly, bleach should only be mixed with water.

- **Bleach + Ammonia = TOXIC Vapors**
- **Bleach + Rubbing Alcohol = Chloroform**
- **Bleach + Toilet Bowl Cleaners = TOXIC Fumes**
- **Bleach + Vinegar = TOXIC Vapors**
- **Hydrogen Peroxide + Vinegar = Corrosive Irritant**
- **2 Different Types of Drain Cleaners = Explosive Chlorine Gas**

**Primary Election delayed**

Kentucky’s Primary Election, which would have taken place in May, has been postponed to Tuesday, June 23. Gov. Andy Beshear made the executive order in mid-March in agreement with Secretary of State Michael Adams.

**NEW FACES IN KEY SPOTS.** The COVID-19 pandemic era was probably not the ideal time to take the reins of a new organization or under changed circumstances, but it happened. Congratulations to:
- **Missy Vanderpool**, executive director of Henderson Economic Development.
- **Ellen Redding**, president of Henderson Chamber of Commerce.
- **Natalie Singer**, executive director of Henderson Area Arts Alliance.
- **Bryan Russelburg**, association executive, Henderson-Audubon Board of Realtors.
- **Alex Caudill**, Western Kentucky field representative for Gov. Andy Beshear, Department of Local Government.

**YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Sports complex project**
The City of Henderson hosted a public hearing on March 10 to accept comment on a proposed project to create a community sports complex. The City is in the process of applying for a state grant with the assistance of Green River Area Development District that would be used for property acquisition. The outcome of the grant application should be decided before the end of 2020.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Telecommunicators Week

The 911 Center and the Emergency Communications Department were honored in April for National Telecommunicators Week. The week-long observance included special food days, games and prize-giveaways that were intended for recognition and team-building.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

World Changers not coming

With our current COVID-19 situation coupled with continued safety mandates from Gov. Andy Beshear, it has been announced that World Changers will not be coming this June to do exterior home renovation projects for qualified recipients through the Community Development program. It is expected that they will return in June 2021.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

Tree planted for Arbor Day

Though the Arbor Day Ceremony and Elementary School Coloring Contest was canceled for 2020, the City of Henderson Parks & Recreation Department still planted their Arbor Day tree. The tree, a Fat Albert Colorado Spruce, was planted in Central Park in downtown Henderson. The City of Henderson received its 25th consecutive “Tree City USA” designation. Arbor Day was recognized with a proclamation at the April 14 Board of Commissioners meeting.

**KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Legislative review set

YOUR GOVERNMENT

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
MEETINGS
2nd and 4th Tuesdays • 5:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center
222 First St., Henderson, Ky. 42420

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
3rd Tuesdays, as needed • 5:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD
MEETINGS
4th Mondays • 5:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

CITY BOARD of ZONING
ADJUSTMENT MEETINGS
2nd Wednesday • 5 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

HENDERSON CITY-COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION
1st Tuesdays • 6 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

View meetings:
• Live on Spectrum Cable Channel 200.
• Live stream at www.cityofhendersonky.org
• Video archived at www.cityofhendersonky.org

HENDERSON COUNTY
FISCAL COURT MEETINGS
2nd and 4th Tuesdays • 9:30 a.m.
HC Fiscal Courtroom,
Henderson County Courthouse

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Sign up for:
- Code Enforcement Final Orders
- Website updates
- Bid postings
- Employment opportunities
- News items
- Meeting notices
- Meeting agendas

STAYING INFORMED

4.2420-Mile Scavenger Hunt in
OUR HOMETOWN

Downtown Henderson Partnership mapped out a 4.2420-mile Run-Walk Challenge for 4.24.20 Day. Can you find these items along the route that stops and starts at The Perch?

1. ____________________
   ____________________
   ____________________

2. ____________________
3. ____________________

4. ____________________
5. ____________________

6. ____________________

7. ____________________
8. ____________________

9. ____________________
10. ____________________

City of Henderson
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Henderson, KY 42420
270-831-1200

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