



## PULASKI COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

Contact:

John Alexander

Public Information Officer

Pulaski County Government

(606) 678-4853

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## COUNTY UPDATE

### Quality of Life in Pulaski County

*By Judge Executive Marshall Todd*

**Somerset, Ky. (May 31, 2024)** – With the Memorial Day Weekend now behind us, the summer season here in Pulaski County is in full swing. I spent a good deal of the day Monday responding to calls dealing with the storm damage we had on Sunday, but I was also able to reflect on what Memorial Day means and how it ties into one of our local community organizations. Connect Community Village on Pine Hill Road will be a community of tiny houses for the sole purpose of housing and providing resources for a growing population of homeless Veterans. We spend Memorial Day each and every year remembering those we've lost in service to our country. We also need to remember that we're losing Veterans even after their service to our country because of many of the things they've experienced. We ask them to defend this country against enemies foreign and domestic and then expect them to return to their lives as if nothing happened. That's where Connect Community Village comes in. They will help pick up the pieces and provide former soldiers resources and a place to live while they find their way back into life back home.

That's why I am very appreciative of our local delegation in Frankfort for providing the funding needed to get Connect Community Village off the ground and into eventual

operation. Senator Rick Girdler presented the good news at a fundraising dinner earlier this month that Connect Community Village and Bluegrass Veterans Ranch will be receiving \$3,000,000 over the next two years. That is big news for this area and a part of the solution for our local homelessness issues. This office is also appreciative of 85th District Representative Shane Baker for working with us and other local governments here in Pulaski County to help address the recent surge in our homeless population. HB 408, which eventually became SB 71, requires area recovery centers to make sure their clients that are brought in from outside of Pulaski County are taken back to their points of origin if they are released from the program. It was a simple ask and I believe area recovery centers have responded favorably to the request.

Another way I think we can address the local homelessness problem is to get as many people as we can back in the workforce. Our local jail population has an incredible opportunity to reintegrate into society by utilizing a program started by Jailor McCollum. The Pulaski County Detention Center Workforce and Re-Entry Center provides inmates with the hope that they won't always be stuck in an endless cycle of recidivism. The new center will give them real world training and skills and eventual job placement. When someone is gainfully employed, they have a sense of pride that translates not only to themselves but to their families. This goes a long way to break generational curses and the more local inmates we can put along a better path, the more prosperous Pulaski County will be. A lowered crime rate and more people at work helps with a better quality of life here locally.

When it comes to quality of life here in Pulaski County, I do want to remind you to utilize all of our local parks. Now that the kids are out of school, feel free to visit Pulaski County Park and all of our other beautiful parks throughout the county. Some of them have a "Readers to Leaders" storybook trail that you and your children or grandchildren can read along with as you walk and enjoy nature. We'll have some food trucks available throughout the summer as well, along with a new "No Wake Zone" down at PC Park that will hopefully make swimming and kayaking safer than ever.

Once we have the budget for the next fiscal year finalized, we'll talk about the details of that and some other initiatives we'll be working on in the coming months. I appreciate all the feedback you're providing this office and as always, if you need to reach us feel free to call the office at (606)678-4853 or you can email me at [mtodd@pcgovt.com](mailto:mtodd@pcgovt.com). I look forward to hearing from you and hope you have a great summer here in Pulaski County. God Bless You All and God Bless Pulaski County.

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