

Kentucky Arts Council receives grant

The Kentucky Arts Council has been provided a \$51,000 grant by USDA Rural Development to integrate art into two farmers markets. Farmers markets throughout Kentucky provide opportunities for rural communities to improve their economies.

"We are honored that Ohio County is one of just two counties in the state to receive this USDA grant so that local artists can use their talents to showcase Ohio County's family farms. This effort will help Ohio County's farmers' markets expand beyond our borders," said Representative Tommy Thompson.

"This grant to the Kentucky Arts Council will

provide technical assistance to artists with enormous talent," Kentucky Rural Development State Director Thomas G. Fern said. "Supporting residents of Ohio and Owsley counties ensures they are equipped with the knowledge required to sell their work at farmers markets, and potentially expand their sales outside the local community.

"Farmers markets embody the spirit of local entrepreneurship and ingenuity. It makes sense to pair local artists, entrepreneurs in their own right, with farmers markets to broaden the reach of those essential community gatherings," said Lori Meadows, Kentucky Arts

Council executive director. "We look forward to working with the USDA to create a blueprint for how communities across the Commonwealth can benefit from our partnerships in Owsley and Ohio counties."

According to a news release from the USDA, the grant money will provide technical assistance and an assessment of the diverse skills and assets of the community. "Discovering unique skill sets inside these counties, and determining how those skills can be used, provides the potential to generate revenue from sales," said Meadows. "Artists will receive training on how to effectively market and price

their work, ensuring grant money is utilized to price products competitively and available for consumers."

Artists will be paired with produce vendors at the farmers market, providing assistance in areas the sellers may need help with to showcase their goods. Examples include designing labels for products or enhancing signage for booths. Artists can create a unique theme and brand for sellers, creating an innovative look to attract more buyers to the product. "Musicians attract crowds, so integrating live music into farmers markets may draw in larger groups, increasing sales potential," said Fern. "With local music

being such an important part of the culture in Kentucky, this provides an opportunity for communities to join together at farmers markets and share the day with families and friends."

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development has invested \$11 billion to start or expand 103,000 rural businesses; helped 1.1 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 7,000 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; financed 185,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines; and helped bring high-speed Internet access to nearly 6 million rural residents and businesses.

Rockport to have wet/dry vote

Rockport will have a wet/dry vote. A petition was filed on July 19 in the Ohio County Clerk's Office, pursuant to KRS 242.020, requesting that a local option election be held in the city of Rockport. Ohio County Judge Executive David Johnston verified that the petition contained the required amount of signatures, which is 25% of the votes cast in the city of Rockport in the last preceding general election.

The vote will take place on Tuesday, October 4. The conduct of the election will be governed by all applicable statutes, rules and regulations.

The referendum on the election ballot will ask, "Are you in favor of the sale of alcoholic beverages in Rockport, Kentucky?"

Beaver Dam man arrested

Ryan Duvall, 27, of Hartford, was arrested on July 26 after stealing a vehicle from Beaver Dam.

According to a KSP press release, the stolen vehicle was seen by the owner in the Hartford area, and he contacted law enforcement. Troopers, along with the Ohio County Sheriff's Office and Beaver Dam Police, located the vehicle a short time later at the intersection of Reynolds Street and South Lafayette Street in Beaver Dam.

Duvall was lodged in the Ohio County Detention Center on charges of

theft of an auto, wanton endangerment, criminal mischief, failure to render aid, assault, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, and persistent felony offender.

The Kentucky State Police were assisted by the Ohio County Sheriff's Office, Beaver Dam Police and Hartford Police Department.

The investigation is still ongoing, and more arrests are expected to come regarding the case.

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222-5555. Citizens can call to confidentially report impaired drivers or any criminal activity.

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Source: Advertising and Media Use in Kentucky (June 2010, American Opinion Research)