

Strategic plan moves ahead

Projects Demonstrate Progress
Over one hundred citizens gathered in March, 2002, to initiate the Rockcastle County Strategic Planning process. Since then six task forces have taken on community improvements projects. The projects have formed the core of the planning process. In the weeks ahead, the task forces will be refining strategies for the strategic plan. They are seeking public input into this process. Below is a brief summary of the work to date and the strategies identified for the plan.

Community Clean Up
The Beautification Task Force led by Corey Craig, has initiated "Operation Clean the Rock and Keep It Clean." Teams of volunteers have picked up litter along several roadways and in August sponsored a major clean up of the St. Clair house and the surrounding property in Mt.

Vernon. Additional strategies will address:
• City and County welcome signs
• Mandatory garbage pick-up
• Planning for land use and growth

Welcome to Mt. Vernon
The Tourism Task Force, led by Judy Diersen, has taken on clean up and beautification of the area at the junction of Highway 25 and the 461 Bypass, where people turn to enter the city of Mt. Vernon. This project will include adding topsoil, landscaping and constructing a welcome sign. Additional strategies will address:
• Driving tours, walking tours and bike trails
• Strengthening the Mt. Vernon-Rockcastle County Tourism Commission
• Identifying natural sites (caves, waterfalls, etc.) as tourist attractions
• Coordinating all tourism activities

ties county wide
• Marketing initiatives for tourism attractions
• A public golf course
• Strengthening local festivals
• Identifying and preserving historic buildings

• Clean up of Lake Linville and improvements to Lake Linville Park
• A civic center/conference center at Renfro Valley
• Creation of a large, new park with facilities for local families and visitors

New Business and Industry Council

The Workforce Development Task Force, led by Bigge Towery, is primarily focused on the creation and expansion of good jobs in Rockcastle County. Its short-term project was to establish a local business/industry council. In July, task force members met with representatives of local industry and the Cabinet for Economic Development to begin the process. Additional strategies will address:
• Expansion of industrial/business park space
• Natural gas service to industrial parks
• Job training opportunities, through schools and on-the-job
• Housing needs assessment
• Utilities needs assessment

A Leadership Development Program
The Leadership Task Force, led by John Clontz, identified leadership as a key to success and the driving component of the entire community development process. The task force is designing a leadership development program for Rockcastle County

to be conducted annually. Additional strategies will address:

• Local citizens trained to conduct the leadership development program
• Local participation in state and regional leadership programs
• Identifying "best practices" to include in the local leadership program
• Special leadership enhancement opportunities for local officials

A New Vocational/Technical Center

The Educational Task Force, led by Shelby Reynolds, identified the need for a new tech center as being the number one priority to address. The task force is developing a plan to leverage funding for a new facility to be built next to the Rockcastle County High School. Additional strategies will address:

• Interaction between business and industry and the educational system
• Communication among providers of literacy and adult education services

• Access to literacy and educational programs for people in remote areas of the county
• Post-secondary educational opportunities
• Family childcare for working people

A Community Health/Recreation Facility

The Community Healthcare Task Force, led by Dr. Tony Arvin, has begun to research a health and recreation facility. The task force envisions a "community health center without walls" which would consist of existing facilities, such as schools, as well as new facilities with exercise equipment and an indoor pool for year round use. Additional strategies will address:

• Hospital expansion
• New and enhanced medical services
• Public health services

The strategic planning process is sponsored by the Rockcastle County Development Board. Public input is welcome. Please plan to attend the community meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m., September 19, at the high school. If you cannot attend, please send written comments to: Rockcastle County Development Board, PO Box 592, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

Housing loans available

USDA Rural Development offers 100% financing, with no down payment for the purchase of a home, to low and very low income families in Rockcastle County. These loans can be used for the purchase of a new or existing single family dwelling, up to \$86,317.
• Adjusted Income Limit - maximum of \$29,050 for a family of four in Rockcastle County.
• Monthly payments are reduced to as low as 1.0% (based on family's income).

Eligibility guidelines:
• acceptable credit history
• dependable source of income
• repayment ability
A representative from the USDA Rural Development Richmond Office will be at the Farm Service Agency office in Rockcastle on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Constitution Awareness Week

Tuesday, September 17, begins the national celebration of Constitution Week. The weeklong commemoration of America's most important document is one of our country's least known official observances. Our Constitution stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties and freedom and to ensure those unalienable rights to every American.

The tradition of celebrating the Constitution was started many years ago by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In 1955 the Daughters petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into Public Law #915 on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The aims of the celebration are to (1) emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, preserving it for posterity; (2) inform the people that the Constitution is the basis of America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life; and (3) encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

The United States of America functions as a Republic under the Constitution, which is the oldest document still in active use that outlines the self-government of a people.

This landmark idea that men had the inalienable right as individuals to be free and live their lives under their own governance was the impetus of the American Revolution. Today, the Constitution stands as an icon of freedom for people around the world.

The DAR encourages all citizens to reflect on our heritage of freedom. "Now more than ever, on the anniversary of September 11, we must value our revolutionary ancestors and the sacrifices they made for the freedoms we enjoy today," states DAR President General, Linda Tinker Watkins.

DAR has served America for 112 years, as its foremost cheerleader. In 1928 the Daughters began work on a building as a memorial to the Constitution. John Russell Pope, architect of the Jefferson Memorial, was commissioned to design the performing arts center, known as Constitution Hall. Today, Constitution Hall is the only structure erected in tribute to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Known as the largest women's patriotic organization in the world, DAR has over 170,000 members with chapters in all 50 states and 11 foreign countries. The DAR has long promoted patriotism through commemorative celebrations, memorials, scholarships and activities for children and programs for new immigrants. For more information about DAR and its programs visit www.dar.org or call (202) 628-1776.

Annual
Summer Clearance SALE
Thurs., Fri., Sat. - Sept. 5th, 6th & 7th
25¢ Sale
On all Ticketed Items
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The Rockcastle County Strategic Planning Committee

NEEDS YOUR INPUT

A summary of the draft plan is included in the newspaper.

Please attend a
COMMUNITY MEETING
at
Rockcastle County High School Auditorium
September 19, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Everyone who is interested in planning the future of Rockcastle County is welcome to attend.

Comments may be sent to the:

Rockcastle County Development Board
PO Box 592
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

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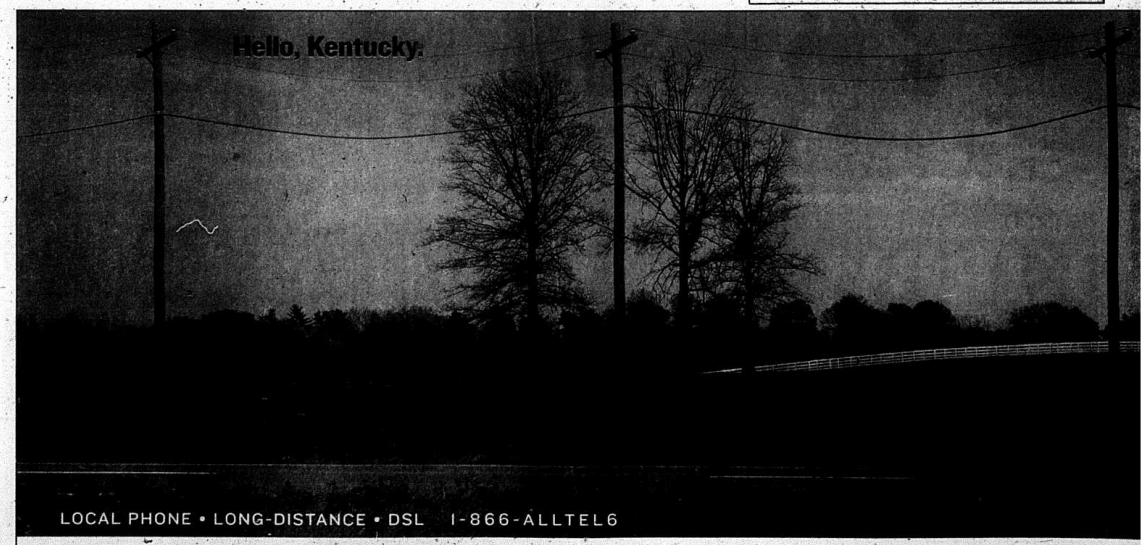
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Berea, KY 40403
(859) 986-6000
Call Suzi Watson or Daphne Turner

"What Saith the Scriptures"

We have been discussing the name of Jesus. We have shown that biblical names often have a meaning, signifying the character, nature of the person. In Is 9:6 we read, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Notice that it says *his name*, not "names". All 5 of these phrases signify qualities about the coming Messiah, Jesus. He is called Wonderful, because he is marvelous and unique like a miracle. He is called Counsellor, because he directs, advises, determines the guidelines for our life. Then He is called the mighty God, which signifies his divinity. Our witness friends who deny his divinity, point out it does not say "Almighty". True, but Notice Is 1:20-21, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again say upon him that smote them; but shall say upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God." Thus Jehovah is called "the mighty God," so they do err in their reasoning in this text.

Providence church of Christ
• Dan McKibben-758-9316 E-mail: Dan.McKibben@juno.com
Web Site: www.WhatSaithTheScriptures.com
Time of Services: Sunday 10am Bible Study, Worship 10:40 & 7:00pm, Wednesday 7:30pm Radio program, Sunday 8am, 1460 AM

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