

New KY 30 Still Incomplete

According to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 10, we have had a number of questions about when the new alignment of KY 30 in Owsley and Jackson counties (between Travellers Rest and Tyner) will be open. Our neighbors in District 11 (the Manchester office) are overseeing this project. Currently, the major construction issue remaining is guard-rail installation. If that work is completed by Christmas, the road will be opened then. If not, it will not open until sometime next spring. After the road opens, some minor work will remain to be done, with final completion expected next June.

Drivers are asked to be patient and remember that the road is not officially open to traffic, so the contractor has requested law enforcement to patrol the highway and cite violators.



Pictured The unfinished part of the new KY 30 addition from Jackson County to Owsley County, which has work in progress at this time.

Yards to Paradise Fall and Winter Home Curb Appeal Landscaping Column by Max Phelps

Missing tree leaves, browning lawn grasses, weeping tree limbs, and butchered perennials and shrubbery, or even trees, can give your home a sad look between now and springtime. Stained driveways, mildewed or molded or cracked siding, missing shingles and numerous other problems or imperfections are more easily observed in fall and winter. Leafless weeping trees can make a place look even more forelorn.

So, how can you take a few simple measures and improve the appearance of your home? (This is all the more important if you're considering selling your place—have it looking it's best.)

Taking a day off and renting a pressure washer is a quick chore that gives quick results. Green or black stains on siding, decks, patios, etc., can look sharper for a day of effort and maybe \$100 equipment rental.

Cut or remove broken, dead, limbs on shrubs and trees. But, be slow to give the flowers and grasses and shrubs the annual haircut—much better done in late winter for several reasons, including the appearance that isn't going to grow back for several months during the cold season. Berries and seed heads are better for birds than a feeder.

Dead grasses loaded down with snow are attractive features. Not to mention rots can get into tree limbs cut in the fall, whereas they would heal quickly if cut in spring.

Droopy willows, cherries, apples, and the like can make a bleak colorless yard appear even sadder. Try to avoid these, especially near the front door of a home.

Repair the broken step, railing or missing shingle. Perhaps paint a drab door or trim. And if you've not cleaned the gutters since you bought your place, get a ladder or call an expert before you forget it. It may be out of mind when spring comes and leaves and flowers are getting our attention, so it can help to fix things in fall or winter.

Greenery typically makes a place look good. So, a wreath on the door or any other number of decorations can elevate the look of your place. But, long term, planting trees and shrubs that are easy to care for and stay green all year is a smart course of action to take. And fall is a wonderful time to plant trees and larger shrubs.

New fencing, some new seating, a firepit, and any number of small accessories can brighten a home's appeal in the leafless season. (I don't recommend extensive seasonal decorations—and if you feel you must, then at least remove them in a timely way following the special occasion.)

Boulders, logs, large stumps can be used as assets in the yard if you can't or chose not to haul them away. A haphazard pile in the front yard isn't attractive, but you might get away with it out back.

Raised planting areas, or installing edging and adding some dirt and fresh mulch to the flower/shrub beds and foundation plantings can be a quick procedure to get your place looking sharper.

Adding some storage, a greenhouse, planting some trees, these are just a start in listing things that might give your place some fresh appeal in a hurry.

Hoping you found an idea or two to implement and make your place look a bit more chipper.

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Gov. Beshear, Congressman Rogers Award More Than \$9 Million in Grants to Support Economic Development Projects in Eastern Kentucky

Funding supports projects in 10 Eastern Kentucky counties

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 15, 2021) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear and U.S. Rep. Harold “Hal” Rogers (KY-05) announced \$9.18 million in Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program funds for economic development projects in 10 Eastern Kentucky counties.

“When completed, these projects will help support local communities and spur economic growth in Martin, Letcher, Floyd, Leslie, Knox, Knott, Owsley, Boyd, Pike and Perry counties,” said Gov. Beshear. “This program has a proven record of creating jobs in Eastern Kentucky, and these grants are another solid building block to help us build a better Kentucky for all of our families.”

Congressman Rogers, along with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, has championed \$665 million in federal funding for the AMLER Program since 2016, of which \$140 million has been awarded to Kentucky.

“This grant program is creating jobs, advancing vital community projects and restoring hope in Eastern Kentucky. I am proud of what we have accomplished through these grants thus far and the ongoing work to meet the needs of our people,” said Congressman Rogers. “This program is a great example of how federal, state and local governments can work together to invest in projects that greatly benefit our communities across Southern and Eastern Kentucky.”

Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman selected the projects for initial vetting by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). More than 70 applications for funding in 2021 were received by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet’s (EEC) Division of Abandoned Mine Lands.

The projects selected for funding include:

- Cold Storage LLC was awarded \$2.5 million for construction of an agriculture cold storage facility in Martin County in which an underutilized existing spec building will be converted into a refrigerated commercial facility allowing apples to be stored up to a year after picking.
- Cowan Community Action Group Inc. was awarded \$1 million to equip the Farmers Market Pavilion with cold storage, commercial equipment, restrooms, an office and stage, and to expand the Cowan food service kitchen as well as equip a food truck.
- Appalachian Regional Healthcare was awarded \$750,000 to equip the Highlands ARH Medical Center in Prestonsburg with a diagnostic CT scanner and mammogram equipment.
- Leslie County Fiscal Court was awarded \$1 million to expand the Leslie County Recreational Facility by constructing a camping complex with 114 picnic tables, stationary grills and fire pit rings. Almost 70 RV pads will be constructed, as well as a 40,000-square-foot entertainment pavilion that will include an event stage, roadway and parking.
- The City of Booneville was awarded \$600,000 for construction of cabins to allow for overnight accommodations at the Sag Hollow Golf Club.
- KCEOC Community Action Partnership Inc. was awarded \$750,000 to purchase an existing 20,000-square-foot building on 10 acres in Knox County for a diesel mechanics shop and CDL test site. KCEOC will lease the facility to Southern Kentucky Community and Technical College, which will operate the training facility.
- The City of Ashland was awarded \$1 million to engineer and design a parking garage and convention center in downtown Ashland.
- Pike County Fiscal Court was awarded \$700,000 to install 3,000 feet of electric lines at the Wolfpit Industrial & Technology Park.
- The Knott County Water District was awarded \$600,000 for the purchase of two backup generators for the system that produces water for three counties, servicing 7,000 citizens.
- Hazard Community & Technical College was awarded \$280,000 for equipment purchases for the expansion of its successful lineman training program.

“These grants are highly sought after and are providing the kind of job growth and economic stimulus that we hoped this funding program would produce,” Secretary Goodman said. “We are excited to have helped launch these projects.”

Since the AMLER program’s inception in 2016, 63 projects in 23 counties have been selected for the funding. The program has generated 143 jobs so far, including 83 new positions at the Dajcor aluminum extrusion project in Perry County and more than 258 workers trained at the East Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (eKAMI) and at Hazard Community and Technical College. In addition, officials report a good volume of reservations being made at Impact Outdoors and the Prestonsburg-to-David Rails to Trails projects. Once completed, these 63 grantees are projected to have created more than 2,800 new jobs.

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