



www.jessaminechamber.com Vol. 3 • No. 4

# JESSAMINE CHAMBER CONNECTION

[THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009]



## County leaders travel to Indiana

**T**hirty-two residents of Jessamine County traveled to Richmond, Ind., Nov. 5-6 to learn how that community dealt with such issues as school drop-out, tourism, economic development and how they won the All-American Cities Award for 2009.

Participants included elected officials and leaders from Nicholasville and Wilmore who have an interest in guiding our community as it grows and changes.

The two-day trip has become an annual event for the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce. Ideas and new approaches to problems in other communities have led Jessamine County to develop the first county wide comprehensive plan and take a fresh view on parks and recreation, economic development and educational possibilities in the county.



**D**uring the holiday season, more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to our members and friends who have made our progress possible. And, in this spirit we say: "Thank you and best wishes for the holiday season and have a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year."

— Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce

## COMMERCE CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2010

**Wednesday, Jan. 6:** Granny Ruby's Daycare Ribbon Cutting will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 3401 Elizabeth St.

**Thursday, Jan. 14:** The Jessamine Business Women will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. at the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20:** The Chamber of Commerce will host the Biz to Biz Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

### FEBRUARY 2010

**Saturday, Feb. 13:** The Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Central Bank. Reservations required.



# Counseling can prevent the dreaded foreclosure

**F**oreclosure advice is an unfortunate but critical commodity these days.

Homeowners who receive foreclosure counseling are 60 percent more likely to avoid losing their homes than those who do not, according to the findings of the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling (NFMC) program. The program was created by Congress to address the nationwide foreclosure crisis.

A recent NFMC report analyzed NFMC program activity during its first year (January 1-December 31, 2008) and found that program clients were more likely to receive a loan modification than homeowners who did not receive counseling, and NFMC program clients who received loan modifications lowered their mortgage payments significantly more than homeowners who received loan modifications without NFMC program counseling.

In this area, the Community Ventures

■ A recent NFMC report analyzed NFMC program activity during its first year and found that program clients were more likely to receive a loan modification than homeowners who did not receive counseling, and NFMC program clients who received loan modifications lowered their mortgage payments significantly more than homeowners who received loan modifications without NFMC program counseling.

Corporation in Lexington is serving as a grantee of the program and is offering counseling services. Information is available online at [nw.org/nfmc](http://nw.org/nfmc) or by contacting Keysha Cuyler by e-mail at [kcuyler@cvcy.org](mailto:kcuyler@cvcy.org) or by phone at 859-231-0054 or 1-800-299-0267.

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## Saddle up

Jessamine County Judge-Executive Neal Cassity, Jerilyn Duncan, owner of Bits, Bridle and More, and Nicholasville Mayor Russ Meyer posed during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the store's new location on South Main Street on Dec. 1.



## Jessamine Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Stone, Executive Director • Myrna Spratt, Administrative Assistant

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**The Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce**  
508 North Main Street  
Suite A  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
859-887-4351  
[www.jessaminechamber.com](http://www.jessaminechamber.com)



*Merry Christmas*  
FROM ASBURY COLLEGE



## Chirp, chirp

Cricket Wireless was among the businesses that held ribbon cutting ceremonies during December. Bits, Bridles & More held its ribbon cutting on Dec. 1 and Frishka's held its ribbon cutting on Dec. 2. Cricket held its ribbon cutting on Dec. 4.

# Good news for schools

Some recent data on our local school system caught the attention of the Jessamine Chamber of Commerce. This information will help explain why the Jessamine County School system is considered one of the outstanding educational programs in the region and state.

- Jessamine CATS Index has risen from 67.2 in 1999 to 81.6 in 2008

- Jessamine Post-CATS Transition Index has risen from 84 in 2007 to 88 in 2009
- Jessamine NCLB Reading percent P/D has risen from 54.16 in 2005 to 70.2 in 2009
- Jessamine NCLB Math percent P/D rose from 38.95 in 2005 to 67.08 in 2009
- Jessamine Advanced Placement Enrollment has risen from 204 students in 2006 to 386 students in 2009



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Pictured are Jody Wassamer, president of KCCE, and Nancy Stone, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, following the 2009 Kentucky Executive Chamber Director of the Year award ceremonies.

## Stone honored by KCC

Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Nancy Stone was named the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives award winner of the 2009 Kentucky Executive of the Year during the fall KCCE conference in Bloomington, Ind., Oct. 1-2. She was singled out for the award because of her work with the I-75 connector to Jessamine County and because of her advocacy for regional cooperation in the Bluegrass.

A 17-year veteran of chamber work, she served as executive director of the Simpson County Chamber before beginning work in Jessamine County in 2000. During the period as local director, the chamber office has relocated to a larger facility at 508 North Main

Street; membership enrollment has increased to over 550 members and the chamber has initiated a Leader's Trip to learn how other communities face issues similar to our communities. The Chamber has initiated several programs to help businesses, including forming a partnership with the Small Business Development Center and launching a plan for potential cost saving on health insurance and has also become active in advocating for important business issues for the Bluegrass Region.

More information on the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce is available by call the Chamber office at 859-887-4351 or at the Web site, [www.jessaminechamber.com](http://www.jessaminechamber.com).



## Road update

Chamber of Commerce members received a road project update from the Transportation Cabinet during the November luncheon. Bob Nunley, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Dist. 7, spoke at the November Chamber Luncheon and discussed road projects in the county, and specifically the I-75 connector.

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# Adult Day Training center opens in Brannon Crossing

Close to 100 people gathered outside a Brannon Crossing storefront Dec. 16 to celebrate the opening of Lord's Legacy Life Ministries' new Adult Day Training center.

The ministry is a program that provides services to adults with various forms of disabilities. It was created by Jeanene Mader, a Jessamine County resident, in 2007, and it currently serves 25 residents of Fayette and Jessamine counties. And on the day of a grand opening in Jessamine County, the speakers at the ceremony emphasized reaching across county lines to work together.

Nicholasville Russ Meyer, state Rep. Bob Damron, Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce President Christopher Horne and Commerce Lexington President Bob Quick were all on hand to witness the ribbon-cutting and to speak to visitors, clients of the program and clients' families.

"It just shows how both of these communities come together, work together and have a vision for the future," Meyer said. "We're awfully proud to see that continuing on with us here today."

Mader, the founder, said the new location was a key in helping people on both sides of the county line.

"Our back door is Fayette County, and our front door is Jessamine County," she said. "I think it's very important because there are a lot of opportunities in both counties for us all to team up and, as our pastor says, 'lock arms' and get out there and serve the people."

The ceremony was capped by a touching tribute to Mader by two clients. Dawn Marie Cooper and Jeremy Thompson sang "Amazing Grace" in honor of Mader after Mader told the

■ The new center is an educational facility where disabled adults can spend time learning life skills and relaxing. Some activities planned for the center are health and wellness clinics, music and art therapy and outings to educational destinations.

crowd that she has been surprised by clients' interest in music.

The Adult Day Training program is only one part of LLLM. The ministry also offers other services like community living support and respite care. Mader said Saturday all-day respite care is something that no other program in Jessamine or Fayette county offers.

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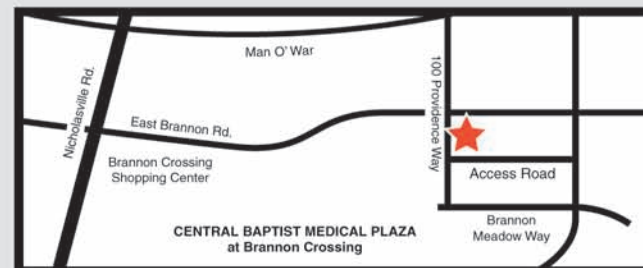
Mader said the program's direction in the future would be dictated by necessities of clients.

"It's wherever that need is," she said. "When we identify that need, if there's not someone else out there who can provide it, then we usually create it."

Although the main beneficiaries of the ministry may be the clients, Damron said the effects of LLLM's services reached beyond the center into the county and state.

"The efforts that you all do here really save the state a tremendous amount of cost and effort as you bring the adults into a level of improving their working skills and their living skills and independence," Damron said.

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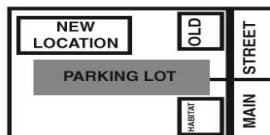


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# Rock-Tenn food drive was a success

A large number of volunteers gathered at Rock-Tenn to resort and package donated canned foods for the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce Helping Hands program Dec. 10. The canned goods came from a drive in Jessamine County schools and resulted in enough to make boxes of food for 250 families.

Dec. 11, Helping Hands volunteers gathered at Rock-Tenn to distribute the canned goods and other perishables that had been purchased in the fund raiser of Chamber members. Funds this year got off to a slow start, but ultimately totaled the most ever collected during the annual drive.

Rob Garrison, Chamber board member, coordinated the event that is held each December. For the first time, the Chamber worked with the Salvation Army in the drive. All money collected is earmarked for the Helping Hands program, with excess dollars going to purchase food for future needs at the new Salvation Army food bank in Nicholasville.



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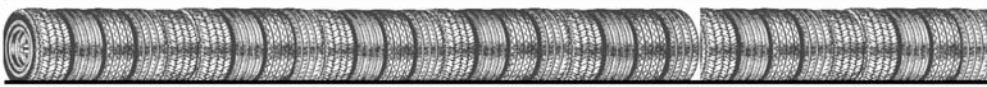
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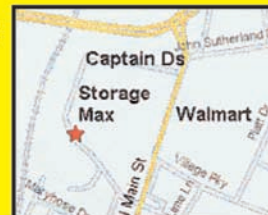
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# Wait continues for bypass, connector

Road projects in Jessamine County are plodding along, according to Bob Nunley, branch manager for Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 7.

Nunley gave an update to 54 people at last Thursday's Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon.

## Eastern N'ville Bypass

Nunley first addressed the Eastern Nicholasville Bypass project, which runs from U.S. 27 to Ky. 39.

"We advertised this project for Phase 2 design, that's the final design for us, Nov. 10," he said. "We're hoping to get a notice to proceed with the consultant selected for that work in March 2010. We then can start spending money on that section."

The next step would be acquiring right-of-way.

"We anticipate the right-of-way plans being submitted the fall of 2011, and if funding is there, construction to begin in the spring, of possibly 2013," Nunley said. "A lot of right-of-way is required in that area. We anticipate it will take two years to get that done, as well as

any utilities that need to be relocated."

## I-75 Connector

Nunley said the goal for the I-75 connector initial design is spring 2010.

"My full attention is advertising the project in January for Phase I and environmental (study)," he said. "Once it leaves my hand, it's up to others to decide if we have the money to spend on that initial design. We currently show \$16 million in the six-year plan for that project's design phase. We don't need that to start the design on it ... we just need a small portion of it."

Nunley said it will take about five years to get through Phase I and the environmental study.

"As you all know, it's a big project, and if we don't start, we're not going to get anything done out there," he told the group. "I'll also mention the 627 interchange and the I-75 Connector in Madison County ties right into this project. We're looking at the interchange, the connector and the bypass all together here."

When completed, the I-75 Connector will connect to the Eastern Nicholasville Bypass.

The connector will be broken down into four sections, and it will most likely be a toll road, Nunley said.

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