

Edwards resigns due to comment backlash

COFFEYVILLE — A Coffeyville city commissioner has resigned following public outcry over a comment he made on a private social media page earlier in the week. Commissioner Don Edwards submitted his letter of resignation on Saturday morning to his fellow com-



Edwards

missioners and city attorney Paul Kritz. Edwards also forwarded a copy of his letter to the Montgomery

County Chronicle.

In addition to resigning from his commission seat immediately, Edwards said he will ask the Montgomery County Clerk to remove his name from the general election ballot in November. Earlier in the week, Edwards announced he planned to seek re-election.

Edwards' decision to leave his commission seat came after social media commenters went in a tirade over a post that Edwards made on his private Facebook page on Thursday.

In that post, Edwards wrote, "I ran to the aquatic center this evening to pop my head in and meet the new pool manager and tell her she's done a great job getting the place ready. As I was walking up, a couple of young boys were leaving and I asked them if the water was cold and one of them said, 'Yes! As soon as I jumped in, my nipples got hard' I asked them if that happened to the girls, too, and they just giggled and ran off."

After social media commenters accused Edwards of making sexually harassing comments about young women, Edwards returned to his social media page to apologize.

However, the social furor did not die down with his apology. Mayor Deborah Maples issued an official statement saying Edwards' comments did not reflect the values of the City of Coffeyville.

By Saturday morning, Edwards said the overall social media outcry was too great to overcome.

"I was not asked to resign," he told the Chronicle. "I'm doing this because I think it's the right thing to do for the City of Coffeyville."

In his resignation letter, Edwards again apologized for his comments.

"The comment in question has caused a lot of upset in our community and is distracting from the many positive things happening at the City of Coffeyville," he wrote. "I have nothing but love in my heart for my hometown of Coffeyville and want nothing but the best for



Keystone Lodge provides donation to Caney Wrestling Club

Members of Coffeyville's Keystone Masonic Lodge #102 gave a \$2,000 donation to the Caney Wrestling Club for the club's new home located in the former Hot Tub Club business location, south of Sixth Street on U.S. 75 highway. Lodge members presented the ceremonial check to the wrestling club members at a recent meeting.

COURTESY PHOTO

Ownership transfer planned for 1949 hospital building

BY ANDY TAYLOR
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COFFEYVILLE — Ownership of the Coffeyville Regional Medical Center's original 1949 building cleared a first hurdle on Tuesday.

Coffeyville city commissioners voted unanimously to transfer ownership of the 1949 property to the CRMC Inc., after the structure was vacated in the past month. Commissioners reflected their decision in the first reading of an ordinance. A second and final reading of the same ordinance will take place at the commission meeting on June 24.

The agreement that dates back to 1949 calls for the City of Coffeyville to maintain ownership of the original hospital structure and have it overseen by a CRMC Board of Trustees. Members are appointed by the Coffeyville City Commission.

The lease agreement comes with a nominal fee: a \$1 yearly payment from CRMC, Inc., to the City of Coffeyville.

Ben Brubaker, city manager, said the City of Coffeyville used its Home Rule Power to dissolve the governance of CRMC and transfer the ownership to CRMC Inc.

Coffeyville Regional Medical Center's business operations are not controlled by the City of Coffeyville. Instead, it is operated by the CRMC, Inc., which is a nonprofit organization.

Turning over governance of CRMC's 1949 facility will be controlled by the CRMC Board of Directors. That transfer will eliminate the need for the City-appointed Board of Trustees, Brubaker said.

The official transfer of the 1949 property will be triggered when a second reading of the ordinance is approved and an ordinance summary is printed in the Montgomery County Chronicle, which serves as the official legal notice newspaper for the City of Coffeyville.

CRMC officials have indi-

Pam Jones chosen to fill Edwards' post

COFFEYVILLE — A former Coffeyville city commissioner was appointed to fill the commission seat left vacant by the resignation of Don Edwards.

Vice Mayor Ann Marie Vannoster said the commission should choose someone with experience.

So, they appointed former commissioner Pam Jones to fill Edwards' vacant seat.

The decision was made at Tuesday's Coffeyville City Commission meeting.

Jones last served on the commission in 2023 when she finished the term of former commissioner Justin Doane, who resigned after moving to Oklahoma.

cated that the original 1949 structure will likely be demolished.

11 structures to be razed

Coffeyville's mayor expressed glee that 11 local eyesores — two of which are large-sized structures — will soon face the wrecking ball.

City commissioners agreed to accept a \$137,000 bid from Swindell Excavation for the demolition of 11 condemned structures. Two of the structures have been the subject of community concern for many years, including the former West Side School Gymnasium at 502 Fresno and the conglomeration of structures at 816 Illinois, said Matt Conger, director of facility services.

"I think you'll make a lot of people happy," noted Mayor Deborah Maples when talking about the eventual demolition of the problematic properties.

Other properties to be demolished include structures at 207 W. 2nd, 1312 Read Street, 1306-1308 Read Street, 1320 S. Maple, 1815 W. 6th, 507 E. 10th, 916 Minnesota and 507 Jasper.

Street project

An aspect of the upcoming street improvement project in the neighborhood of Coffeyville Regional Medical Center cleared a hurdle on Tuesday.

Commissioners agreed to sign a contract with Joplin, Mo.-based Allgeier Martin and Associates for construction inspection services for the roadway improvement project that involves multiple streets in the CRMC neighborhood. The streets include:

- 1st Street, from Poplar to Buckeye streets,
- 2nd Street, from Poplar to Buckeye streets,
- 3rd Street, from Poplar to Wilkie Way,
- 4th Street, from Sycamore Creek to Buckeye Street,.
- Poplar Street, from 1st to 4th streets, and
- Wilkie Way, from 1st to 4th streets.

Allgeier Martin and Associates will be paid \$295,000 for its construction engineering services.

Summer Celebration

Commissioners on Tuesday also received a report from Gail Smith and Mike Bradley representing the Coffeyville Summer Celebration, which is scheduled to take place at Walter Johnson Park on Saturday, July 12.

The two organizers said 88 vendors have signed up for the daylong festivities. Of those 88 vendors, 70 will be new to the festival.

The ninth annual event will include customary car show, 5K run and 1 mile walk run, water slides, face painting, kiddie car cruise, corn hole tournament, live music from the Retro Rockers and the Back Roads Band, and the biggest fireworks display in southeast Kansas at dusk.

Smith said support for the Summer Celebration continues to grow with monetary support from the cities of South Coffeyville and Dearing. Additionally, Bartlett Soybean Processing Plant contributed \$4,000 to the festival.

Smith also expressed his appreciation for the City of Coffeyville's continued support for the festival.

Other business

In other business transacted at Tuesday's meeting, city commissioners:

- heard a presentation from Melissa Johnson, executive director of the Montgom-

ery County Action Council, about economic development projects and prospects. Johnson is making a visit to city governing bodies in each of the four main cities of Montgomery County

- approved a \$331,641 construction contract with Environmental Process Equipment Company for upgrades to the ultraviolet system at Coffeyville's waste water treatment plant.

- gave approval to the Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce to allow alcohol at the chamber's annual "Hops Around Town Beer Festival" in downtown Coffeyville in October.

- agreed to proceed with a grant application with the Federal Aviation Administration for a mill overlay on runway 17-35 at the Coffeyville Airport. Commissioners agreed to have Lochner, an engineering firm that oversees projects at the airport, to perform the pre-engineering design work for the runway project.

The grant application would involve only the engineering work performed by Lochner. The engineering aspect of the project will cost \$150,000, with the FAA contributing 95 percent of the costs.

The total runway mill and overlay will reach a cost of about \$5 million, said Jarrod Powers, parks and airport director.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Democratic Party to meet June 19

INDEPENDENCE — The Montgomery County Democratic Party will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 19 at Dickey's Barbecue Pit meeting room, 204 N. Penn, in Independence.

Party members and guests are invited to attend.

EAA 980 to hold meeting Monday

INDEPENDENCE — The Experimental Aircraft Association 980 will meet Monday, June 16 in the EAA Building at the Independence Airport.

A potluck supper will begin at 6:15 p.m. with a meeting to follow.

Anyone interested in aviation is invited to attend.

Classic Car & Truck Show set

COFFEYVILLE — A Classic Car & Truck Show, sponsored by Carter Automotive and Cedar Bluff Camp, will be held on Saturday, June 14 at Cedar Bluff Camp north of Coffeyville.

Registration will be held from 10 a.m. to noon; awards will be given at 2 p.m.

Other events include a magic show, 50/50 pot, drinks and concessions, tomahawk axe throwing, live music and more.

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Montgomery County 4-H Fair Scrapbook Edition August 7, 2025

The Montgomery County 4-H Fair Scrapbook edition will be inserted into the Montgomery County Chronicle on Thursday, August 7. It will contain pictures of the winners in each category and the complete listing of results of the Montgomery County 4-H Fair.

The advertising rate is \$8.25 per column inch. Emalee Mikel, Taylor Newspapers Advertising Director, will be happy to help you design an ad that will promote your business.

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