

May 11, 2023

Hi Hardin County,

I wanted to take a few minutes to update you about my first few months in office. It has been an intense and exciting stretch. While overwhelming at times, the staff here at Hardin County Government are motivated to serving their community, and that has been a blessing. I was able to bring on new staff to fill the vacant positions. These vacancies created some extra strain on the departments. So, it was one of the priorities initially that consumed a lot of time, team interviewing and transitioning new people into their roles to help serve our customers, all of you. A big thanks to Megan McDougal, now our PR Officer, for her role in successfully transitioning us. There are many that I could mention here, but I must acknowledge, special honors to our county attorney, Jenny Oldham, and our Treasurer, Lisa Pearman. I don't think I could have survived without them and their teams.

There are a lot of things left to learn, but I am confident with this committed team there will be many successes. We have already had great committee meetings with our mostly new group of magistrates leading the way and thankful for a couple of seasoned magistrates providing foundation and helping train. There have also been some incredible people from the community and various organizations as guest speakers helping to educate us in different spaces like CASA, the Health Department, and the Library.

Our team, including me, have tried to attend as many events, meetings and celebrations in our great community as possible to see you and to listen. There's been so much encouragement and great recommendations for improvement.

We have had four proclamations to honor two teachers: Tori Lynn and Susan Duvall for being awarded the ExCEL Award, Elias Carter, a young man who has shown incredible tenacity for life, and Gilbert Woodson, for his long-standing support and mentorship to those in Glendale.

Excitement around the massive Blue Oval SK project continues to drive us toward future planning to provide needed infrastructure and emergency services improvements. Your new Deputy J/E, Vicki Meredith, has been instrumental in driving this important initiative with help from many other people and organizations firming up partnerships with BOSK, KY Economic Development and Transportation cabinets, Industrial Foundation, Fire and EMS leaders, our state legislators, etc.

I know that there's never enough money to improve all of the county roads, approaching 600 miles of it. But our Road Department, led by Dwight Morgan, with his team are utilizing millions of dollars, mostly a onetime grant, to repair and repave many roads that rose to the top of the priority list. In February and March there were as many as 4 crews at a time repaving roads all over the county.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge our new EM Director and "old" Deputy Director, Joey Scott and Richard DeWitt, and all of the other first responders, E911, EMS, deputies, police, fire departments, road department to name a few, that quickly and professionally handled the terrible wind event and the train derailment in Glendale. THANK YOU!

We have the desire to be community-centered and citizen focused. We want to have increasing transparency and communication and build relationships inside and outside of this building as we strive to provide excellent services and make choices that will positively impact all of our citizens now and into the future. Please join us if you want to be a part of helping this great county. Participate, have a voice, and make an impact. We are all in this together.

#TeamHardin

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Taul", written in a cursive style.

Keith L. Taul
Hardin County Judge/Executive

