



2024 CANDIDATES FOR JEFFERSONTOWN CITY COUNCIL

Presented by:



Published October 2024



PREFACE

Introduction:

The Jeffersontown Chamber is proud to produce the inaugural printed edition of a Jtown City Council forum.

Since the Jeffersontown Chamber is focused on business and economic issues, this publication is meant to offer each candidate an opportunity to share their views on important topics that impact the Jeffersontown economy and its workforce.

Quick Overview of Process:

- There are 16 candidates running for Jtown's eight council seats including the current eight council members.
- All candidates were invited and had approximately 20 days to respond.
- The answers are published exactly as they were submitted in printed format. The only editing that has been done is as it relates to spacing and margins.
- On November 5, voters will choose from the list of 16 candidates and the eight candidates with the most votes win the election.
- Candidates are presented in this document in alphabetical order by last name

Jeffersontown's Government Structure:

- Jeffersontown has a mayor-council form of government.
- The mayor is elected every four years and may serve three terms.
- The mayor serves as the executive branch of government.
- City council members are elected every two years with no term limits.
- The city council serves as the legislative branch of government.
- The mayor and city council members receive a salary/benefits as do city employees per KRS 83A.070.
- The city council may enact ordinances; levy taxes; adopt a budget; and set compensation along with other duties and responsibilities.

*Source: Kentucky League of Cities

About the Jeffersontown Chamber:

The Jeffersontown Chamber is a membership organization recognizing 1,100 businesses, representing more than 30,000 employees across 15 industries. Programs and services of the Chamber offer professional development, networking opportunities, and build a community of business leaders positively impacting the economy.

Learn more about the Chamber at www.jtownchamber.com.

This document can be referenced at www.jtownchamber.com



WES BAIN:

Did Not Respond.



MARK BLUM:

Address: 10100 John Ashley Court, Jeffersontown, KY 40299

City Council Email: mblum@jeffersontownky.gov

Candidate Email: MarkBlumJtown@gmail.com

Facebook, X, & Instagram: @MarkBlumJtown

Current Occupation: Manager, CoverMyMeds

Current City Council: 2011 - present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- St. Edward Catholic Church
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana.

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

Since 2011, I have focused my time on the city council around four main pillars: government transparency, fiscal responsibility, advocacy for infrastructure improvements, & encouraging economic development. In regards to transparency, one of my first accomplishments was establishing the live-streaming, recording, and storage of the city council meetings for public viewing. I also actively keep the public informed and engaged about city events, topics, & issues. With fiscal responsibility, I routinely speak up during the budget process, and I am proud that the city has passed balanced budgets with strong city services, and we have done so without raising taxes. We have also improved the city's infrastructure through our streetscape projects, additional parking options along Watterson Trail & Taylorsville Road, additional sidewalks, renovations to Veterans Memorial Park, the new police department building and the upcoming amphitheater. I was also able to enhance our already business-friendly environment through the creation of the Jeffersontown Occupation Business Savings (J.O.B.S.) Program, by encouraging common sense rezoning, and my frequent support of the Jeffersontown Chamber. All of these efforts have played a role to help promote the growth you see in Jeffersontown today.

On a personal note, I love cooking each day for my family which includes my wife Kristen, our 3 awesome kids, and our pug Lucy.

What is your vision for our community?

I love Jeffersontown. It's where I was born and raised, and where my wife & I are raising our family. I am lucky to have grown up here. The city leaders that came before me were able to lay down the foundation and add to the great amenities our city has today. I am grateful for their work, and I too, am committed to building a strong and prosperous city, not just for my family, but for all Jeffersontown residents and future generations.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

When our new Mayor took office last year, she successfully prioritized the completion of the new police department building over the completion of the amphitheater project. In the fall of last year, I worked with her, her administration, and the other members of the city council to secure funds to allow for the amphitheater to open in 2025. An amphitheater project manager was added, and in the most recent project phase, we added penalties if certain completion deadlines aren't met. These additional enhancements will allow for this phase to have the facility ready for the 2025 Summer Season. As a council member, I will continue to monitor its progress by working with our mayor, her administration, and other members of the city council to ensure its timely completion.



MARK BLUM: cont'd

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

There are two ways to address increased traffic in Jeffersontown. The first way is to increase available routes through our city by connecting existing streets that allow traffic to get through our town and by improving existing alleys and extending corridors that allow easier access to different points of interest. The second way to help with this issue is to provide more options for parking, like the roughly 50 additional spots that will be available in our Gaslight District when the new police department building is complete, and by creating more off-street options like additional bike & pedestrian corridors that better connect our neighborhoods to our commerce areas.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

While some of our residents and businesses do benefit from TARC services, it's important to keep in mind that the City of Jeffersontown does not fund TARC or have oversight into their expenses. TARC receives a majority of their funding (roughly 60%) from the Mass Transit Fund, while 19% comes from the federal government, 15% from TARC riders, and 6% from a combination of state funding, special fares, advertising revenue and additional minor funding sources. The Mass Transit Fund is an earmark in Louisville Metro's occupational tax that anyone who works in Jefferson County pays. Therefore, J-town residents are already funding TARC through Louisville Metro's occupational tax, even if they don't use TARC's services. As a council member, it is important to be fiscally responsible with our taxpayers' money, and that's why I would oppose any attempt to add additional funds directly from our city government (the J-town tax payers) to TARC, especially since they have already announced route reductions for Jeffersontown. A more likely solution would be to increase Mass Transit Fund revenue while simultaneously cutting expenses within TARC. To increase Mass Transit Fund revenue, Louisville Metro's government can reconfigure the distribution rates within their occupational tax. The Mass Transit Fund can be changed from 0.2% to 0.4% and in order to not raise the overall occupational tax rate, Louisville Metro's distribution can be changed from 1.25% to 1.23%

I am focused on getting a positive outcome, so I have also made myself available to meet with Louisville Metro representatives about their distribution rates and with TARC representatives to help find a way to decrease their expenses.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

I see a future Historic Gaslight Square District that is even more vibrant and more bustling with people and commerce than there is today. I believe that I can help achieve this by advocating for continued infrastructure improvements, creating better connectivity between people and businesses, and growing a stronger partnership within the business community and with the city.

While serving on the city council, I have been able to actively participate in all of these areas. We have improved our infrastructure through our streetscape projects, the relocation of powerlines along Watterson Trail, & by creating additional parking options throughout the district. Roughly 50 more parking spots will become available after the new police department building is complete and we have also identified a few other locations within the district for parking options. While some connectivity improvements were made through the streetscape projects, I would like to see additional sidewalks or bike & pedestrian corridors along the curve of Billtown Road and along both sides of Ruckriegel Parkway. I think we should also connect roads, like Billtown Road to Eastview and Shelby Street to Taylorville Road, to allow traffic to flow more freely and ease congestion. Lastly, we need to build upon the synergy within the district by building on our partnership with the business community. Outside of continuing to host major city events within the district (Gaslight Festival, Pumpkinfest, & Christmas at Gaslight Square), we need to continue the smaller spotlight type events like the morning and evening farmers market & the trolley hop. I am also excited about the recent kick-off of Envision Jeffersontown. It is the formation of a group of business leaders within the Historic Gaslight Square District who work together to promote the area, strengthen the relationship between businesses, and build upon the partnership with the city. If I'm re-elected, I would like to continue working on these initiatives and see the district become a place that is a year-round destination location for the rest of Jefferson County.



MARK BLUM: cont'd

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

As mentioned in my bio, encouraging economic development is one of the four pillars that I have focused on during my time as city council member. I have a strong track record of supporting our employers and helping the J-town economy grow over the years. I was instrumental in creating the J.O.B.S. Program which provides economic incentives over a five-year period when a business creates 3 or more jobs that meet a new combined annual payroll requirement. We saved employers time by creating our own Board of Zoning Adjustment, which helps businesses streamline certain aspects within the zoning process by allowing them to work with the City of Jeffersontown instead of having to accommodate to Louisville Metro's schedule. I've always advocated for infrastructure improvements that are both functional and cosmetically pleasing, leading to business attraction and retention. Having strong public safety also helps our economy flourish and I'm proud of my record supporting our police department. I am especially excited to work with our mayor and her administration to lobby the Kentucky General Assembly to remove the stacking of occupational taxes (Metro's 2.2% + J-town's 1.0%) that are unfairly applied to all workers within our city limits. If re-elected, I will continue these types of activities which all lead to helping our J-town economy grow.



BOBBY BRIMMER

Address: Unavailable

Email: BobbyForJTown@gmail.com

Current Occupation: Inventory Manager for a large Distribution Center

Current City Council: N/A

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024): Did Not Respond.

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required): Did Not Respond.

What is your vision for our community?

Jeffersontown is a wonderful city and warm community whose government needs to reflect those qualities. Mismanaged projects and questionable business deals seem to be becoming the norm. The residents of Jeffersontown deserve a city council who remembers their first and foremost priority is to serve this community, not themselves. Let's bring Jeffersontown back to growing in the best way for our community.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

The current administration seems to be working very hard to hide the failures of this project from the public eye. The amphitheater needs transparency and new leadership to overcome the severe delays it has faced. The residents of Jeffersontown deserve to know how their tax dollars have been spent on this unfinished project.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

Jeffersontown, like all growing cities, should always look to bring new business and economic development to the area. However, we need to be smart about where we allow this economic development to happen in order to prevent straining our busiest roads with even more traffic. Jeffersontown needs to grow smartly and strategically in ways that reward the residents and businesses who already reside here.



BOBBY BRIMMER cont'd

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

As Jeffersontown has no authority over TARC, there is very little we can do to affect how the program operates. We can, however, look at ways to compliment the TARC system here in Jeffersontown for our residents—perhaps a shuttle or bus program centered in Jeffersontown in order to bridge the gaps left by a failing TARC system. Also, we should always strive to be more strategic with our economic development, we need to ensure that all businesses in Jeffersontown are encouraged to hire residents who live in Jeffersontown. Keeping the jobs local removes the strain of long-distance travel to find work.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

The Gaslight Square has seemed like an afterthought for many years now. If we truly want this to be our downtown and city center, we need to prioritize it. I would work with our local government to find ways to make our city center a place for all of the residents in our community to socialize and mingle. The best thing about Jeffersontown is our community. The more opportunities we have to get together and bond, the better.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

If we want to incentivize our local businesses, we need to do it smartly and in a way that benefits the residents of Jeffersontown. We should be promoting local businesses that provide high paying jobs to Jeffersontown residents and prioritize hiring local. When these businesses hire from outside of our city, it does very little to benefit our residents (in addition to driving more traffic into the area). Let's make decisions that are smart for Jeffersontown, not just to make businesses richer at our expense.



KEVIN CARMAN:

Address: 10916 Chenwood Court, Jeffersontown, Ky 40299

Email: jtowncatfan@yahoo.com

Current Occupation: Security Manager

Current City Council: 2023-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Served as an assistant HS Basketball coach (2014-2015)
- Served as a Head HS Golf Coach (2015-2021)
- Served my church as a Deacon (2014-2022);
- Have been involved with New Day Ministries "Prayer Walk" in Louisville's economically challenged areas

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

- Married to my wife Michelle for over 36yrs
- Resident of Jeffersontown for over 36yrs.
- Served for 20yrs as a member of the Jeffersontown Police Department before retiring in 2008
- Served for 11yrs as a member of the US Army Reserve, leaving with the rank of Captain

What is your vision for our community?

As a resident of Jeffersontown for over 36 years and having raised my family here, I want to give back to a community that has been such an important part of our lives. That is why I sought the vacant council position in May of 2023.



KEVIN CARMAN cont'd

My vision for Jeffersontown, since having been appointed to the council, has been one of working with Mayor Pike and my fellow council members to strengthen our community through economic growth. Bringing good paying jobs to our city will allow our residents to work closer to their homes and families. This will also create a tax base with which our residents can enjoy a great quality of life. This includes one of the lowest property tax rates in the commonwealth, great parks, garbage collection, a public works that responds to weather related issues and a professional police department to keep our city safe.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

In early September, I and other members of the city council approved a resolution allowing Mayor Pike to execute a contract involving phase two of this project. This contract, that was negotiated by Mayor Pike and her administration, sets timelines and penalties that will be enforced if the agreed upon timelines are not met.

I am excited for our citizens to see the progress at the amphitheater as the city works with a new company to bring about the phase two completion.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

I will work with our representatives on the state and local level since most of our congested roads are maintained by the state of Kentucky or Louisville Metro Government. This will include issues of turn lanes, traffic lights etc.

I will also work with fellow members of the city council to adopt and approve zoning that works towards preventing congested roads in our community.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

At this time, I would need to see TARC get its financial house in order before I would agree to future funding. The agency has been responsible for paying out millions of dollars in accident claims and harassment allegations against a former director along with other mismanagement.

I cannot see our taxpayers' hard-earned dollars going to fund an agency that has in the past not corrected problems they were aware of. I would be willing to look at working with TARC if they create a plan that addresses my, and citizens', concerns.

I would want guarantees that not only would past issues be corrected but also assurance that Jeffersontown would be getting the appropriate amount services that we pay for.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

I want to see a continuing growth of businesses making Gaslight Square their home. I will continue to work with fellow council members, Mayor Pike, and the Chamber of Commerce to recruit and support our local business owners.

My vision is to see more events that highlight our impressive Gaslight district and also work towards expanding access to parking in this area.



KEVIN CARMANcont'd

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

As a member of the council, I have made it my mission to listen to the concerns of our businesses. I believe showing them support by attending grand openings or ribbon cuttings when they are celebrating additions to their business is a great way to hear their concerns.

As a councilman I have supported efforts to help our employers with incentives that can help them to grow. I will continue to support Mayor Pike and her administration's efforts to obtain both state and federal grants. These grants will allow us to continue improving the areas of Jtown that are important to not only our citizens but also our employers. I will continue as a councilman to support improving our infrastructure (roads, lighting etc) since this is something that employers say is important when looking for a place to locate.

I will continue to support funding that keeps our police department the best in the state. Businesses want and deserve an environment where they feel safe.

I will continue to support funding that keeps our public works the best in the state. Keeping roads clear after weather related events is a way to support our businesses by allowing them to be open when other parts of Jefferson County is shut down.



TONY ERNSPIKER:

Address: 4801 Ferrer Way, Jeffersontown, Ky 40291

Email: tspike07@yahoo.com

Current Occupation: Business Owner

Current City Council: N/A

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Jeffersontown Board of Adjustment
- Kosair for Kids Golf Scramble Fundraisers
- Kosair for Kids Car Show Fundraisers

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

I am a life long Jeffersontown resident. I graduated from Jeffersontown High School and raised my family here. I coached youth and high school sports in J-town. I am a business owner in the area and a member of Jeffersontown Baptist Church.

What is your vision for our community?

My vision for Jeffersontown is to see the tax base and businesses grow but maintain the small town feel. I want to grow the family friendly atmosphere that I love about J-town.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

I have followed the amphitheater project from the beginning and feel it will be beneficial to providing revenue and entertainment to our city. As funds have been secured specifically for this project with a project manager assigned I will continue to work with the current administration to keep the amphitheater project on track and moving towards completion.



TONY ERNSPIKER: cont'd

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

Growth in Jeffersontown has had significant challenges with traffic in the city. As a council member I will work to ensure that more aid is available to help with traffic during busy times such as area school times and rush hour to ensure neighborhoods have a flow for residents to enter and exit their homes and get around the city in a timely manner. I will also look into additional changes to traffic patterns and lights to be regulated and adjusted to the flow of traffic to allow for residents to spend less time traveling to and from their homes, work and other activities.

TARC is currently ailing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

The changes to TARC services in the J-town area cause disruptions to families in our area. As a council member I will work with local businesses to offer an incentive if employers help employees with a carpool system. I will also be supporting the TARC rideshare option for the J-Town area.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

I want to see downtown Jeffersontown to be an enjoyable space for all residents. I want it to have more family oriented establishments (restaurants, boutique shops, etc.). I would like to see downtown Jeffersontown provide additional experiences to build a greater sense of community for all residents as well as increase revenue for businesses in J-town.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

As a councilperson I will continue to work with the current administration to facilitate a welcoming environment and an understanding in the needs of employers. I will also encourage other businesses and their employees to come to J-town to know what a great place it is to live and work.



RUTH GAO:

Address: 2607 Stony Brook Dr. Louisville, KY 40220

Email: ruthgao4jtown@gmail.com

Current Occupation: Learning & Development Specialists

Current City Council: N/A

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Board member: Neurospark Network (soon to be non-profit) 2024-present
- Ambassador: YPAL (Young Professionals Association of Louisville) 2023-present
- Volunteer (childcare, youth, event planning): various churches in Louisville

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

Ruth Gao came to Jeffersontown in 2017 when she and her husband bought their first house on Stony Brook Drive and moved in with their adorable cats. Ruth has a background in higher and adult education and earned a PhD in Educational Leadership in 2020. Ruth has worked everywhere from the education sector to Chick-fil-A as Director of Drive-Thru at two locations. One through-line throughout her career has been a dedication to service and community, which is why she is now running to support the families, communities, and local businesses in J-town.



RUTH GAO:cont'd

What is your vision for our community?

I am running for city council to support the amazing community we have in Jeffersontown and facilitate our growth into the future. With the growing number of young families making Jeffersontown home, I want to ensure they have a connection to the council and know how the city works so they can be actively involved. I already show up for Jeffersontown at community events and that will only continue when I am in office. I would also plan to host community meet-ups to hear directly from residents and be accessible to them as a councilwoman.

Part of what I love about Jeffersontown is that while we are a top 20 city in Kentucky in terms of population, and now part of Louisville Metro, we have maintained our sense of a community that knows and cares about each other. As we continue to grow, I want to ensure we maintain the small town energy that makes this community great and support new folks moving to Jeffersontown and joining this community. Connecting us with the advances in technology is an important way of how we do this. We already have council meetings streamed online, and I would work with the council to make it even easier for the community to know issues that are being discussed and provide input, because an engaged community is a connected community.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

Our Mayor has already done a great job of identifying issues and bringing in additional help to support this project. What I would do personally, if elected, is visit the site once a week or every two weeks to keep tabs on what is going on. I would interact with the project manager and those involved in completion to see where the project is and what, if any issues, are being encountered. If there are continued issues or delays, I would engage with the Mayor and the council on what we can do to help mitigate the challenges. I would also communicate about the progress of the amphitheater with the community as there might be people in our community who could serve as further assets to complete this quickly.

To ensure a successful launch of programming I would work with the Chamber and local businesses to ensure we have a great programming calendar. I believe that with the right events and marketing, we can make the amphitheater a destination for folks from across Jeffersontown as well as Louisville Metro. I would attend all the programming I could and encourage others in my network to go. While there have been several setbacks to the progress of the amphitheater, I would do everything in my power to make it a successful space for the city moving forward.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

If elected, two items that I would focus on are traffic lights and patterns. A continued review of potential improvements will help ensure we adjust as our city grows. Another way to address current issues is to work to encourage other modes of transportation, especially for folks who live in Jeffersontown. This would mean looking at our walkability and bikeability throughout the town. If someone is going somewhere for dinner, it would be great if they felt safe to bike or walk the distance instead of needing to take a car if they wanted. I would also partner with the Jeffersontown police and harness connections I have with Metro and state officials to address potential solutions that might extend beyond the purview of city council.

I will also be a voice to ensure that new developments have proper traffic consideration in their plans, and that results of all traffic studies are easily accessible to the public. We can guide development by ensuring that, especially for new multi unit developments, thought has been given to ingress and regress options and roads are capable of handling the new traffic. I would push to ensure there are good plans for a new development before voting to approve it. Growth is normally far from perfect, but we can learn from challenges and work to improve with each new step.



RUTH GAO:cont'd

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

Strengthening TARC in Jeffersontown goes hand in hand with addressing the traffic challenges we face. This critical service is used by thousands of folks living and working in Jeffersontown every day and is an important part of our economic development as a community. I already have good connections with several sitting Metro Council members, so on the council, I will work with my counterparts at Louisville Metro to explore increasing our city's contributions to the TARC fund and to explore other strategies to ensure routes are not further cut. This could look like prioritizing key routes that most directly impact those commuting for work.

Additionally, as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other recent federal legislation, there are hundreds of millions of dollars available for cities to modernize and build resiliency within transit systems. I would explore how Jeffersontown and/or Louisville Metro government could access these funds, as well as alternative funding sources to ensure continued TARC routes in Jeffersontown. I will also look into options for partnering with local businesses that are particularly dependent on TARC and explore creating a sponsorship for Jeffersontown businesses to support a shuttle from TARC stations to business hubs to help employees get to work.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

I love all the city and chamber are already doing to bring the community to downtown Jeffersontown. These events provide wonderful activities for families to form memories and connect with others throughout the community. I have heard from fellow residents as I've been talking to them that they feel nervous when downtown with their kids, especially on days such as the farmer's market because of traffic and being concerned about their kids running into traffic. I would look at options the council may already be considering to improve pedestrian safety downtown and create more bike parking spaces to encourage young people, families, and others to bike from their homes to downtown, park their bikes, and spend time walking around, shopping, and grabbing a bite to eat. I would also coordinate with the police department to address issues they have identified as well as solutions they may suggest.

I love the many local businesses we have downtown and I want to see more move into spaces as they are available. One of my favorite spots is the historic log cabin building downtown. I want to see what we can do to make it something people from across Louisville will visit. I think this is a great piece of our downtown that will feel unique and special if used well.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

I have already built relationships with many small businesses in Jeffersontown, including those located in the Bluegrass Commerce Park. When elected, I will send an email to each business in the Bluegrass Commerce Park, and all of Jeffersontown introducing myself and including my contact information. I would prioritize meeting with businesses as much as possible, and if they have issues that need to be resolved I would make sure to figure out how I could connect them with the Mayor and the council to find a solution. I may not know how to solve every issue businesses have, or even have the authority, but I'll be a connector and make sure our businesses get the resources and support they need.

As new businesses move to Jeffersontown, I will meet with them and ensure they have the support needed to make the move successfully. I would also work to ensure that we bring in businesses that better the community. One thing I would champion is helping people who live in Jeffersontown start businesses if they want to. Having people from the community own and run small businesses here will help us maintain our close-knit and connected community. One of my personal dreams is to own a small business and I would love nothing more than to help folks in Jeffersontown achieve that dream!



VINCE GRISANTI:

Address: 9603 Watterson Trail, Jeffersontown, Ky 40299

Email: vincentgrisanti@bellsouth.net

Current Occupation: City Council 2010-present; Funeral Auto Company- Assistant Manager Dispatcher

Current City Council: 2010-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Christmas on the Square
- Easter Fest
- Lunch for business employees during Gaslight Week
- Gaslight Festival Chamber tent
- Pumpkin Fest, etc.
- St. Edward Church in several activities such as fish fries, Summer church picnic
- Knights of Columbus which is a service organization

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

I was a manager and later co-owner of Ferd Grisanti Restaurant. The restaurant operated in Jeffersontown from 1973 – 2010. Jeffersontown resident since 1980. Married to Debbie Grisanti. Graduate of University of Kentucky and St. Xavier High School.

What is your vision for our community?

My vision is to help our city to continuously improve our services in all areas, especially the administration, police department and public works.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

Like a lot of projects caught in the Covid pandemic, as part of the city council we are continuing to work our way through this project as the funds become available. Parking and roads are up for bid presently.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

As projects come before us, traffic is always one of the top concerns. We work with the City of Louisville and the State of Kentucky since many of the roads are under their control. I listen to our constituents and their concerns and solve the problems as they are brought to our attention.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

TARC warned us that there might be cut backs in their service. Mayor Pike is in contact with them and will try to mitigate any downside plans, and work with TARC to keep as much service as we need.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

I have seen many new businesses open on Gaslight Square in the past 14 years. We have a vibrant farmers market, beer fest, Gaslight Festival and other events. New ideas are always welcome.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is the rock the City of Jeffersontown is built on. We try to provide the Commerce Park excellent police and fire protection. Public Works, under Jimmy Franconia, gives outstanding snow removal, (the rival of any in the area we are constantly told) plus other vital services including problem solving as the need arises.

Mayor Pike and her astute aides, Matt Meunier and Brian Abrams are always looking out for new opportunities to help and advance the Commerce Park.



TIM HALL:

Address: 9414 Jo Court, Jeffersontown, Ky 40299

Email: thall@jeffersontownky.gov

Current Occupation: Sales Director at Facilities Management Services

Current City Council: 2011 - 2019; 2020-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Crusade for Children
- St. Joseph Orphanage
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required): Did Not Respond.

What is your vision for our community?

I am seeking re-election because I want to continue serving and being involved in the community where my wife and I raise our kids. I have been an advocate for the citizens of Jeffersontown since 2011. I appreciate being part of this proud community, most recently displayed during three major storms that hit our city. J-town supports our Art Programs, Farmer's Markets, and Gaslight Festival and honors our veterans and 9/11 with memorials and soon our amphitheater, etc.... our community has much to offer. As Economic Development Chair, working with Mayor Carol Pike to attract and retain businesses in Jeffersontown is essential. I support strong goals that promote economic vitality for our Historic Gaslight Square District and the Bluegrass Commerce Park. I support annexation strategies that make sense to our community and promote good development. Growing a strong commerce center with policies to support job growth, business attraction, and retention. A robust city center with increased restaurants, shops, and points of interest.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays, extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

We, the Council and Mayor, have also been disappointed with the delays in this project. In the last few months, the Mayor has hired a consultant with experience constructing facilities like the amphitheater. With the last two phases, the awarded contractor has agreed to a completion date, or penalties will be paid to the City. We hope to develop a committee to help promote our parks, arts program events, and entertainment with our new amphitheater set to open in Summer 2025.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

People are seeing what a great community Jeffersontown is, which makes this a double-edged sword. Having more people a short distance from Gaslight Square will help with the foot traffic to our businesses and parks. We must keep public safety and security for all our residents and businesses. Most of our major arteries are maintained by the State or Metro, meaning we can only request traffic studies to yield results.

Last semester, a class from the University of Louisville used Jeffersontown's Historic Square for a project. The studies resulted in ideas to reopen back allies and connect Sprowl to Ruckriegel going behind Good Samaritan. This would help spread traffic to different entrance points to our main arteries.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

I would need to know more information about this before determining my position. I am familiar with the current pilot program going on that was introduced at the Chamber event at Papa Johns. The gentlemen from TARC who spoke during a Council meeting was asking for ideas and seemed very preliminary.



TIM HALL: cont'd

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

We are growing a strong city center with increased restaurants, shops, and boutiques while keeping safety and security for our businesses and residents. I see us as another Clifton area. With the addition of the new police headquarters, firehouse, 9/11 Remembrance Memorial, and Streetscape Project, we have provided some points of interest. We voted to reduce zoning requiring so many parking spots and allowing businesses to use public parking to meet requirements. We are also looking at other arrangements to provide more public parking. Now we need a few more crosswalks on Watterson Trail and slow the car traffic crossing Taylorsville Road down.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

You are correct; Bluegrass Commerce Park is more than vital to Jeffersontown. As I sat in the Chamber symposium of business leaders in J-Town, I noticed the City needs to promote some of the current incentive programs. We have the JOBS program, which is basically an occupational tax rebate on employee growth. We have a facade program that helps with beautification projects to the exterior of the facility. I have voted to reduce the building owner's J-town property tax rate 3 times since 2011. I recently voted to approve an innovative and strategic annexation necessary for our park's future growth.



ALLISON NEAL-HEAD:

Address: 3911 Bayonne Ct. Jeffersontown, KY 40299

Email: ahead@jeffersontownky.gov

Current Occupation: Realtor 1995 - present (currently with Mayer Realtors)

Current City Council: 2022-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Gaslight festival volunteer
- Fundraising for various charities (walks, cancer research, church)
- Food drives

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

Allison was born and raised in Jeffersontown. Allison and her husband Jeff, are both 1987 graduates of J-town. Together they have 5 grown children, 2 grand daughters, a grandson and a fur baby named Bud. She is one of 5 children born to Maxine and Donnie Neal. Neal was a business owner in J-town for over 50 years. Her Grandfather Shelton Neal, was a J-town councilman in the 1960s. Allison has been a realtor for almost 30 years and currently works at Mayer Realtors in Jtown.

What is your vision for our community?

I am seeking my 2nd term on council. I love Jtown and have never wanted to live anywhere else. I want my kids to stay in Jtown and raise their families here. My vision is to keep Jeffersontown a tight knit community with a small town feel. We need to continue to fund our police department and public works departments to keep our city at the highest bar possible. Continue to provide our citizens with the best parks, free activities, family events, farmers market, and all the other great things that the City of Jeffersontown supports.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

The city now has a project manager and a special committee that is overseeing the phases of the project. They are working diligently with the contractors ensuring that deadlines are met, work is moving along, and we stay on schedule. There will be penalties if work doesn't stay on track.



ALLISON NEAL-HEAD: cont'd

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

Work with city officials to look for safety measures that will address public safety as well. I will support any funding opportunities that can improve traffic/safety issues around Jeffersontown and its infrastructure.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

If re-elected, I plan to learn more about TARC and hope to work with TARC and city officials to determine what is needed to maintain transit service to Jeffersontown. I am also eager to explore and possibly support other ideas that the city can take to provide reliable transportation to all residents and businesses.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

My vision for the Gaslight Square is coming true with more businesses coming into the Gaslight district, along with the foot traffic that it brings. The Amphitheater is ramping up & all the buzz around town this summer/fall. The trolley hop which I supported, was a huge success the first year. The farmer's market is always a huge draw to Jtown, and the new night markets have brought in even more people. We have some great eateries downtown, and some great nightlife options too.



PAM HICKEY:

Address: 2205 Old Hickory Road, Louisville, Ky 40299

Email: pamthickey@gmail.com

Current Occupation: City Council

Current City Council: 2023-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Humane Society volunteer (10 Years)
- Past Vice President, Oldham County Humane Society

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required): Did Not Respond

What is your vision for our community?

- Creating an inclusive environment: I want to promote diversity and inclusion, ensuring that every resident feels represented and heard. This means actively engaging with different groups to understand their needs and perspectives.
- Economic development: Stimulating our local economy is crucial. I aim to support initiatives that attract businesses and create jobs, ensuring that our community thrives economically while providing opportunities for all residents.
- Community engagement: It's essential to engage our community to identify and address the issues we face. It can help us gather input and work collaboratively towards a solution.
- Safety and well-being: Prioritizing the safety and well-being of our residents is nonnegotiable. I will advocate for effective public safety measures and mental health resources, ensuring that our community remains a safe place to live and grow.
- Holistic improvement: Striving to better our community means considering the needs of everyone. From improving public spaces to enhancing recreational opportunities. Together we can create a vibrant, connected, and resilient Jeffersontown.

I believe that with collaboration and dedication, we can build a stronger community for all.



PAM HICKEY: cont'd

The development of the Amphitheatre has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the complication of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

The development of the amphitheater has unfortunately faced several delays, extending well beyond its original timeline. This has been a concern that I have voiced numerous times over the past two years, as the community eagerly awaits this space for events and gatherings.

However, I am pleased to say that the project is now back on track and moving towards completion. A new construction firm, Cornerstone Engineering, has been hired to take on phase two of the project. This firm brings the expertise needed to ensure the work progresses smoothly. The contract with Cornerstone is very detailed and includes strict deadlines, with penalties in place if the project is not completed on time or within budget. This accountability will be in maintaining the project's momentum.

Additionally, Dave Snowden, a long-time business owner and a dedicated advocate for Jeffersontown, has been brought on board by Mayor Carol Pike to oversee the project. His role includes providing periodic updates on the progress, ensuring there is transparency and clear communication with the community and stake holders. His experience and commitment will be instrumental in seeing the amphitheater completed.

Moving forward, I will continue to monitor the situation closely and work with the team to ensure that the amphitheater opens as soon as possible. Once completed, I will do what I can to help develop a vibrant slate of programming that will include concerts, community events, and cultural performances, helping to make the amphitheater a true asset for Jeffersontown.

My goal is to not only to expedite the completion of the amphitheater but to ensure its success as a venue that enhances the cultural and social fabric of our community.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mediate it?

Traffic congestion is indeed a significant issue in our community. Here are some strategies to address it:

- Restricting parking near busy intersections: Reducing parking in high traffic areas can improve visibility and allow for a smoother flow of vehicles and pedestrians.
- Encourage alternate routes: Promoting the use of less congested roads during peak hours can help distribute traffic more evenly.
- Traffic light management: Implementing Adaptive traffic signals that adjust based on real time traffic flow. Coordinating traffic lights along major routes can also create smoother flows.

By combining these strategies, Jeffersontown can be a more efficient transportation system that reduces congestion and improves overall mobility.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jeffersontown impact both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and or provide alternate transit in Jeffersontown?

The current financial challenges facing TARC pose a serious threat to essential transit services in Jeffersontown, and I understand how deeply this impacts both our residents and our local employers. Reliable transportation is critical, as it is often the deciding factor in someone keeping or losing their job. We need to take proactive steps to retain these services and explore viable alternatives.

We could explore partnerships with local businesses as many employers benefit from a robust transit system and may be open to collaborative funding models or sponsorship to support specific routes that serve their workforce.



PAM HICKEY: cont'd

In addition, we should look at alternative transit solutions such as rideshare programs, shuttle services, or even micro transit options like smaller buses or vans that could serve key areas during high-demand times.

Another avenue would be advocating for more state and federal funding to support sustainable transit options, especially for communities like ours where reliable public transportation plays such an integral role and the economic stability.

Ultimately, my goal is to ensure that Jeffersontown remains connected and accessible for all. A strong public transportation system is vital to our community's success, and I will be committed to exploring all avenues to protect and improve it.

Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic Center for gathering and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

My vision for downtown Jefferson Town is to create a vibrant and thriving Gaslight Square that continues to serve as a central hub for community gatherings and local commerce. I imagine regular public events that celebrate the town's unique charm, such as festivals that feature local merchants, life, music, and diverse food options from our outstanding local eateries. This year we've seen the success of new initiatives like the Trolley Hop, and the night market, which has drawn people together and added to the excitement downtown. I believe we can build on this momentum by offering even more activities and expanding downtown to include additional spaces for public events, arts, and culture. While making sure we preserve the small-town atmosphere that makes Jeffersontown so special.

The balance between growth and maintaining our town's character is key. I envision a future where Gaslight Square is a thriving, dynamic center that enhances both commerce and community, all while staying true to our local roots and fostering a sense of connection among residents and visitors alike.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jeffersontown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses, including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a council person, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jeffersontown economy?

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is not only a vital economic engine for Jeffersontown, but also one of the largest employment hubs in the region. As a council person, my priority will be to ensure that this part continues to thrive and grow, benefiting both large employers like Baptist Health and ADP, as well as many small businesses that call it home.

To support these businesses and foster economic growth, I will focus on the following key initiatives:

- **Business friendly policies:** I will advocate for policies that reduce unnecessary red tape, streamline permitting processes, and ensure that local regulations encourage business development rather than create obstacles. Providing a supportive, predictable environment is crucial for businesses to expand and new ones to locate here.
- **Workforce development:** I will work to promote vocational training, apprenticeship programs, and upskilling initiatives tailored to the specific industries within the Bluegrass Commerce Parkway.
- **Infrastructure investments:** I will advocate for infrastructure improvements, such as road maintenance and traffic management that make it easier for businesses to operate and employees to commute efficiently. Support public transportation solutions like TARC, and develop alternative transit options.
- **Initiatives for growth and innovation:** To attract new businesses and encourage the growth of existing ones we must explore targeted incentives such as tax abatements, grants, or low interest loans for companies looking to expand within Jeffersontown. I support programs that promote innovation, especially for small businesses and startups.
- **Community engagement:** Lastly, I want to strengthen the relationship between Bluegrass Commerce Park and the broader Jeffersontown community by encouraging collaboration between local government and employers. It will help ensure that business's needs are heard and addressed while fostering an inclusive environment for economic growth.

By supporting existing businesses and creating the conditions for new growth, I am committed to ensuring that Jeffersontown remains a thriving center of commerce, innovation, and opportunity for all.



ANDRE' LEMKE:

Address: 10109 Snively Ave, Jeffersontown, KY 40299

Email: andre4citycouncil@gmail.com

Current Occupation: General Superintendent

Current City Council: N/A

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- J-town High School JROTC Alumni Assn.
- President, Church Missions Building and Relief projects
- Jeffersontown High School Alumni activities
- Jeffersontown High School SBDM Parent Advisor
- Jeffersontown High School MCJROTC parent volunteer

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

- Graduate of Jeffersontown High School
- Former business owner – 15 years
- Founder and former President of Spencer Co. Sports Assn.- 8 years
- J-town Optimist Soccer coach – 8 years.
- Founding Coach of Spencer Co. High School Soccer Business Mentor
- Member of the Jeffersontown community since 1976.

What is your vision for our community?

As a resident and fellow voter, I began attending the meetings regularly four years ago. I have seen too much "going along with the group" when it comes to making Council decisions. I have felt the need to be part of solution to this "problem" and to challenge this mindset. Therefore, I am running to serve the best interests of our community. I will do my due diligence before making a decision that impacts our neighbors. This is necessary to continue to ensure Jeffersontown is a great place to live.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

There were many issues with this project from the outset. There was a great deal of missing or contradictory information in the plan-set and bid package. To move forward and to complete this project with clarity, it is necessary to first: combine the remaining phases of the project into one cohesive package. Address the questions from the plan set due to a lack of clarity or continuity. Then get pricing, a functional Schedule of Values, and vetting a contractor with the reputation of getting projects of this scope finished. Without taking this pathway, the project will continue to struggle and to cost us, the taxpayers, more money and to strain the City's budget.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

In my professional life, I have to navigate through issues similar to these. Due to the hierarchy of control, it is necessary to work with KTC to address or eliminate points of congestion that create problems regularly. In other areas that are under our control, I'd work with our Public Works team to address any areas that are solely our City's responsibility to alleviate growing problems.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

This question is, in my opinion, the most complex of all. It raises as many questions as it does potential solutions. The role of government is not to interject itself into the goings on of business. It is, instead, the responsibility to bring all stakeholders to the table to find solutions. It is in this mindset, that I would work to begin the conversation. Since this matter has a negative impact on many of our Jeffersontown businesses, the conversation and subsequent solutions needs to be one that they are involved in. What better opportunity that to get business owners and decision makers together to create what is lacking in partnership with our public transit authority. The role of the City Council, The Chamber of Commerce, and Business Development is to set the stage for this conversation. And to use it's contacts to move the needle forward for the families and businesses that will be negatively impacted if a solution is not found.



ANDRE' LEMKE: cont'd

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

Due to the work that our Business Development and the Chamber teams are and have been doing for many years. I'd work with these teams to create an area that is attractive to businesses that fit the vision of a family friendly hub. The current vision is one that will take all parties working in unison to accomplish. The vision Mayor Pike has been working toward is one that safeguards the residents and the business owners best interest. It is one that makes Gaslight Square attractive for people to walk to and through that is good for locally owned businesses and franchises equally. It also allows our Police to ensure the safety of everyone who would come to visit our city.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

I would be a firm supporter of business growth with our current businesses and would work to promote new business ventures to our area. I'd be engaged in any conversation that would be productive to bring in new business, retain current business, and encourage expansion and increased employment for workers in and around Jeffersontown. I would also use my professional contacts to point business investment to our city.



JEFF MAREAN:

Did Not Respond.



MIKE MASON:

Address: 8700 Villanova Court, Louisville, Ky 40220

Email: mike@thelawnpro.com

Current Occupation: President, CEO, The Lawn Pro

Current City Council: N/A

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required): Did Not Respond.

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Jeffersontown Board of Adjustments 2018 – Present
- Level one achievement in City Governance from KLC 2022
- Donating mowing services at the German Reformed Cemetery 2009 - Present
- Green Care / Snow Care for troops volunteer 2015 - Present
- Foundation Board of Directors (Treasurer) for the Snow and Ice Management Association (SIMA) 2020 - Present
- Past Board Member for SIMA 2008 – 2014

Other Service:

- President SIMA
- Going the Extra Mile Award City of Jeffersontown
- Louisville Community Service Project leader (NALP) National Association of Landscape Professionals
- Board Member (KTC) Kentucky Turfgrass Professionals
- Board Member (JAYBAS) Jeffersontown Area Youth Baseball and Softball. (Field Supervisor)
- Coach JAYBAS rec ball and competitive
- Coach J-town Football



MIKE MASON: cont'd

What is your vision for our community?

Like most candidates I was born and raised in this community. I have raised my family, built a business, and served the community in a variety of ways. I have grown increasingly more concerned with the direction our city is going. We were debt free just a few years ago and now have borrowed \$10 million dollars with the likelihood of going after another \$5 million in the next year. As a taxpayer, both personally and with my company I can't help but question where we are going to get the money to pay the debt back. We seem to be trending in the wrong direction, and I believe I have the necessary skills to change our current trajectory. As a business owner, I am forced every day to make difficult decisions, manage a budget and create solutions for all parties involved. Difficult decisions are going to have to be made soon, and I believe I have the wisdom, courage and integrity to do so. I am not burdened by needing the compensation, insurance or power that seems to drive so many. I simply love J-town and am properly equipped to move our great city forward!

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming.

The amphitheater is a real black eye on the community. It was underfunded from the very beginning and has been poorly managed throughout the entire construction process. This project needs to be scrutinized at all levels. This is another example of difficult decisions that may need to be made. The amphitheater is a phased project, meaning we don't have to complete every phase right now. Our community leaders need to look long and hard at what options we have to try to get this to some level of completion so that it can be used, while accepting that we may not be able to bring this to its full potential at this time. Our city needs to operate within the financial constraints that we have, and borrowing more money only hurts the taxpayers of our community.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help mitigate it?

Traffic flow in the greater metro area is a growing concern and J-town is no different. There are a hundred ways to get in and out of J-town, but none are good. The challenges we have are that most of the main arteries dissecting our community are state roads, meaning we have very little jurisdiction to make many changes without their help. I would reach out to our state legislators and start working with them to see what improvements can be made. I would push to widen Waterson Trail from Bluegrass Parkway to Blankenbaker Pkwy. This creates another avenue for commerce to flow in and out of our industrial park. The north side of Watterson Trail at Blankenbaker will soon be getting another development most likely residential. Improving this portion of the road will allow motorist and trucks to come off of Blankenbaker thus improving the traffic flow on both streets. Coupled with that I would push for traffic light studies, especially on Watterson Trail and Ruckriegel Parkway to see what timing and sequencing can be done to the traffic lights to improve the flow. This is also true for Taylorsville Rd from I265 to Blankenbaker Pkwy. We already lost one major employer because of traffic challenges. For J-town to be a desirable destination for business to grow this issue must be seriously addressed.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residential and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and / or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

TARC's situation is dire. None of the three concepts that they are researching will be good for the city of J-town. The growth concept has a nearly zero chance of being obtainable as there is no funding available and nor is there any appetite for increased taxes. The ridership concept doesn't provide any service into the Bluegrass Commerce Park and the Coverage Concept would take so long that it would be untenable for most passengers. This is going to be especially challenging for the many businesses in the Bluegrass Commerce Park as so many businesses are struggling to get workers. My solution would be to work with TARC as well as the business leaders in the community to see if we can find a potential hub that can be set up in the area. From there create a shuttle loop that circulates through the city helping folks reach their destination. The city owns two shuttle buses commonly used for the Senior Citizen Center, maybe these can be used. I know of at least one company in the park that owns their own van, maybe there can be partnerships with the businesses to work out some kind of hub and spoke system to get people moved around our community. We must get creative and collaborative to solve this challenge.



MIKE MASON: cont'd

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gathering and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

Gaslight Square is on a great path. I would continue to promote the growth of shops, boutiques and restaurants to attract consumers into downtown especially at lunch time, evenings, and on the weekends. However, we also need to focus on attracting larger and / or destination types of businesses. These businesses create a larger tax base, which creates revenue, which is the lifeblood of any organization or government entity. The downtown district has so many things going for it, Farmers Market, great restaurants, and cool and unique shops which help facilitate the vision of Live, Work and Play for the community. Like everything we need to strike a balance. If we don't have revenue to support the growth and ongoing needs the progress we have made will be for naught.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

As a business owner in the industrial park this is very important to me. These businesses are our golden goose. These businesses and their employees contribute mightily to the economy of our city. In fact, they do all the heavy lifting. But this sector is under attack in many ways. First, there are many other very viable options in the region to locate a large business. River Ridge, Riverport, and Eastpoint to name a few. These are newer and possibly more favorable locations to locate a business, so we need to get serious on how to help the current businesses in Bluegrass Commerce Park grow and thrive, as well as adding new businesses. We need to increase lighting and security to make the Park inviting for businesses and their employees to feel safe. Second, there is an attack on occupational tax. Many smaller communities are implementing occupational taxes on the workforce located in their community. The most recent example is Middletown. As these other communities work to enforce and grow their tax base, we are losing out on this revenue. The employees and businesses are educated and realize they don't have to pay the occupational tax if they weren't physically working within the various tax jurisdictions. We are already having to repay over half a million dollars back to these folks for taxes that shouldn't have been collected. We must work to shore this up, so this doesn't become a larger issue than it already has become



MARK RUSSELL:

Address: 504 Sycamore Shoals Trace, Jeffersontown, Ky 40223

Email: mrussell@iglou.com

Current Occupation: Retired

Current City Council: N/A

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Jeffersontown Economic Development Authority
- Jeffersontown Chamber of Commerce
- Jeffersontown Envision Main Street, First Tee Louisville
- Dare to Care
- Plainview Residents Homeowners Association

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

The Russell family has had the privilege of calling Jeffersontown home, where my wife and I have created cherished memories of watching our family grow. Over the years, we've witnessed this community flourish into the welcoming, warm-hearted, and beautiful place it is today. I'm now dedicated to helping carry forward the proud legacy of Jeffersontown, working to create even greater opportunities for families to thrive in the future.



MARK RUSSELL: cont'd

Professionally, I spent my 47-year career in the insurance industry, which a large portion was with Arthur J. Gallagher, located in Jeffersontown. I stayed in this industry because I wanted to help others and make sure people were protected and insured.

It has also always been important to me to get involved in my community. When my children were younger, I always volunteered to coach their athletic teams. As they got older, I started serving in more community-based roles. I currently serve as Chair of the Jeffersontown Economic Development Authority, the Plainview Residents Association, and the Envision Jeffersontown Steering Committee. Previously, I served on the Board of Directors for the Jeffersontown Chamber of Commerce and was the chair for two years. Outside of these organizations, I also enjoy volunteering with organizations such as Dare to Care and First Tee, among others.

What is your vision for our community?

I've lived in Jeffersontown for 32 years and have seen significant progress during that time. That said, we still have opportunities for growth—especially in fiscal responsibility and economic development, and I believe my experience can help. We have resources we could be investing back into other areas in our community. These are needed investments, like providing for our police and public works so they can recruit, retain and grow their workforce. We also need these resources to improve the infrastructure in our commerce park and the drainage systems in our neighborhoods.

Next, I want to ensure our commerce park is the leading destination for small businesses and entrepreneurs. We need to listen to business owners who are here and develop a plan together. A plan that makes the park attractive to those business owners and those we should target to join our community. This plan should include better green spaces, facades, and improved lighting for both crime prevention and curb appeal.

My roles in the community and throughout my career have fostered a deep appreciation for fiscal responsibility and economic development. I have cultivated a skill set that enables me to critically evaluate proposed initiatives, assess their potential impact on our community's progress, and make informed decisions that benefit us all.

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

I am committed to working with the mayor's office to support funding for the project. It's essential all phases are completed efficiently and responsibly so the park can become the vibrant community space it was meant to be. To achieve this, we need to take the following steps to ensure the amphitheater becomes an outstanding venue for our community:

- Hold regular updates and meetings to keep the public informed about upcoming phases and the timeline for their completion.
- Develop a clear plan to secure funding for the remaining phases and ensure their completion.
- Set clear deadlines and milestones to ensure the project stays on track.
- Promote events well in advance to build excitement and ensure a successful launch.

These steps will ensure that the amphitheater project is completed in a timely and effective manner, making it a valuable asset for Jeffersontown.

s housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

Jeffersontown's population density has grown to 2,900 people per square mile, compared to Louisville's 1,400 people per square mile. The increase, while beneficial, is putting pressure on major roads like Hurstbourne Lane, Taylorsville Road and Watterson Trail. To address this, we should take the following steps:



MARK RUSSELL: cont'd

- Require future developers to submit traffic impact plans for their projects.
- Partner with the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency (KIPDA), which is preparing a report on parking and transportation in the Historic Gaslight Square District. The city should carefully consider and implement its recommendations.
- Create an access management plan that improves how vehicles enter neighborhoods and businesses, including the potential for roundabouts.
- Prioritize infrastructure upgrades, such as widening roads and adding turn lanes at key intersections.

These measures will help manage traffic congestion while supporting growth and maintaining quality of life for residents.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

TARC is grappling with a financial crisis, with a projected \$30 million deficit by mid-2026. To address this, TARC is evaluating three options, one of which would enhance the transit system if additional funding were secured.

Without new funding, the other two options will involve significant service cuts. One option could eliminate TARC routes in Jeffersontown, while the other would reduce the frequency of already limited stops. Neither is ideal.

A key issue is TARC's primary funding source, an occupational tax that has remained unchanged since 1974.

Jeffersontown leaders must advocate for increased funding, work with other local leaders to secure additional revenue streams and promote a revision of the occupational tax structure that supports TARC.

If additional funding is not secured and critical routes in Jeffersontown are cut, we should explore financial partnerships with TARC and Louisville metro to maintain services.

TARC has already begun discussions on a long-term funding and service improvement strategy through its "TARC Tomorrow" initiative, which aims to identify new revenue sources and redesign the bus network to better meet community needs. It's crucial that our city officials actively participate in these discussions to ensure Jeffersontown's needs are addressed moving forward.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

Every year the Gaslight Festival brings in an estimated 170,000+ people to Downtown Jeffersontown. During this time our community is buzzing, businesses can bring in new customers and we are in the local spotlight. This type of energy can continue in the Gaslight District throughout the full calendar year. For our community to operate at the optimal level, we need Downtown Jeffersontown to be a vibrant hub. To make this happen we need to:

- Continue to invest in streetscape improvements to create a pedestrian-friendly environment.
- Improve connectivity between Gaslight Square and surrounding neighborhoods for easier access.
- Attract local and independent restaurants to cater to diverse tastes.
- Encourage unique retail shops to enhance the shopping experience. Host community events, festivals, and performances in Gaslight Square and the Amphitheatre to showcase local talent.
- Move the Jeffersontown Museum to the Historic district. Use an iconic building like the log cabin on Watterson Trail for new more visible location.

By focusing on these areas and collaborating with residents and businesses, downtown Jeffersontown can evolve into a vibrant, livable center that serves as a source of pride for the entire community.



MARK RUSSELL: cont'd

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

The Bluegrass Commerce Park plays a vital role in the economic stability of our community, serving as a gateway to well-paying jobs for many residents. To support these employers effectively, we must prioritize several key strategies:

- Jeffersontown provides various financial incentives, such as the Property Tax Reassessment Moratorium, which offers a five-year freeze on property assessments for improvements to older structures.
- Additionally, the Manufacturing Tax Moratorium allows for tax abatements for new or expanding manufacturing companies. We must continue to utilize these resources.
- The Metropolitan Business Development Corporation (METCO) offers loans for small businesses, including accessibility loans and façade improvement loans, which can help enhance local infrastructure and business visibility. This should continue being a priority.
- Collaborate with local educational institutions to provide training tailored to high-demand industries is essential. Programs like Kentuckian Works offer career training that aligns with local job needs. Expanding programs like Summerworks can create pathways for youth into the workforce, ensuring a skilled labor pool for local businesses.
- Build partnerships with community organizations that can enhance workforce readiness and provide resources for job seekers.
- Invest in marketing campaigns that highlight Jeffersontown's diverse business landscape to encourage residents to support local enterprises and foster community growth.

Focusing on these strategies, we can strengthen the economic foundation of Jeffersontown and ensure that our residents have access to meaningful employment opportunities.



TRENA SMITH:

Address: 10001 Belltower Ct., Jeffersontown, Ky 40299

Email: trenasmith@yahoo.com

Current Occupation: Realtor

Current City Council: 2022-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Member of Eagles Women Auxiliary

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required): Did Not Respond.

What is your vision for our community?

This is my first term on the council I'm hoping to be re-elected so I continue to help monitor the development of the amphitheater and get the job finished!

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

I have been the amphitheaters biggest supporter. It's going to be a incredible venue when it is finished. There were many issues with developers and contracts this has now all been corrected and we just approved phase 3 to finish parking and grass. Looking for a 2025 opening.



TRENA SMITH: cont'd

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?
J-Town is definitely growing as new developments begin to pop up we will have to evaluate building plans to insure proper roads and entrances are a top priority.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?
I do not feel like helping to fund TARC should fall on our community that is a state issue.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?
Growth!! new business, local owners, helping keep our community thriving while supporting your neighbor

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?
My job as a Councilwoman is to make sure any new businesses that interested in our community have any and all resources available to achieve their goals.



PAM WARE:

Address: 9803 Fairground Rd, Louisville, Ky 40291

Email: pware@jeffersontownky.gov

Current Occupation: Administrative Assistant with Atwood Accounting Solutions

Current City Council: 2009-present

Volunteer/Service Summary (2014-2024):

- Numerous organizations, Charity events
- Serving food at Wayside
- Fundraising for organizations

Any bio information you'd like to share (not required):

I have earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisville in 1989 and spent many years in sales and marketing. I also served on Jeffersontown's Ethics Commission, where I gained a valuable understanding of integrity and open honest communication.

I am a lifelong resident of Jeffersontown and the great granddaughter of E.G. Hewitt, who once owned a hardware store on the town square. I am married to Henry Ware, a home builder, and we are proud parents of a son and daughter. As a City Councilperson, I work hard to shape the future for the community by creating jobs, improving public safety, expanding the city's parks, and revitalizing historic downtown Jeffersontown. I take my position seriously, and I am proud to represent the citizens of Jeffersontown.

What is your vision for our community?

My vision for the community is to continue to maintain a safe, well-managed city. I want J-town to be a desired destination and for businesses to thrive. I want our citizens to feel pride in the community.



PAM WARE: cont'd

The development of the amphitheater has faced delays extending beyond the original intended timeline. How do you plan to expedite the completion of this project and ensure the successful launch of programming?

While there have been many delays, the project is slated to open early next year. The City is currently working hard to make sure the amphitheater is completed in a timely manner. The council does need regular reports regarding the ongoing work so that we can keep the public updated as well. Once the amphitheater is opened, rest assured, it will be an amazing asset to J-town.

As housing development grows in and around Jeffersontown, traffic in the area seems to be getting more congested. How will you address the growing traffic concerns and help to mitigate it?

The Council regularly discusses such matters and we work on solutions to ease traffic concerns as they arise. Some of these problems could require traffic studies, which we have discussed at our meetings.

TARC is currently facing a serious financial crisis which could threaten transit services in Jeffersontown. Changes to TARC services in Jtown impacts both residents and employers. Transportation is the number one reason someone loses a job. What steps will you take to help retain this bus service and/or provide alternative transit in Jeffersontown?

As I am not 100% sure that transportation is the number one reason someone loses their job, I do feel that transportation is VERY important and I hope we can keep something in place. TARC is currently launching TARC 2025, a planning process to address the current transit system. I feel we need to hear what their findings are before we commit to anything specific.

The Jeffersontown Gaslight Square is an iconic center for gatherings and commerce. What is your vision for downtown Jeffersontown?

I want Downtown J-town to keep moving on the current path. I want to embrace the history, the businesses, and create an atmosphere that brings the town together. We have a lot of great businesses along Watterson Trail and Taylorsville Road, and I hope to see more come to our great city. I love the sense of pride that our residents feel about our hometown, and I want to continue that.

The Bluegrass Commerce Park is a vital part of Jtown's economy. It is home to more than 1,000 businesses including Baptist Health, ADP, KCC, and many others (large and small). As a councilperson, what will you do to support employers and help grow the Jtown economy?

As a council woman, I have always supported businesses in the Bluegrass Commerce Park. I will continue to work with business owners regarding whatever they need and help get rid of the red tape to make it a better experience for them. I will continue to support our JOBS program which is an occupational tax incentive and the reimbursement program to improve the business exteriors. The council is currently in the process of annexing property to grow our economy even more.

