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MESSENGER-INQUIRER

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Owensboro, Ky. • \$1

Gateway Commons scope has grown

Project to cost \$335M

BY STEVE VIED
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The city of Owensboro has scheduled the next step in its quest to establish a state and local tax increment financing (TIF) district to assist in the development of the Gateway Commons commercial-residential-public use project off Kentucky 54, now set to potentially cost \$335.3 million.

A public hearing on the TIF development plan conducted by the City Commission is scheduled for 3 p.m. May 5 at City Hall to receive public com-

ment on the plan. The city and its consultant, Commonwealth Economics, have produced more than 50 pages of documents related to the Gateway Commons development. The development was originally described as a \$200 million development on nearly 200 acres between Kentucky 54 and Pleasant Valley Road, with a new road running through the development and connecting those two roads.

But Commonwealth Economics' just-finished analysis of the entire project shows total construction costs now expected

to potentially be \$335.3 million. That number is made up of \$163 million in private costs excluding retail more than 20,000 square feet in size, \$110 million for retail stores more than 20,000 square feet in size and \$62.1 million to pay for the construction of public infrastructure. That puts total private and public construction costs eligible for a TIF district at \$225 million, with 20,000-square-foot or greater stores excluded.

Gateway Commons is expected to include about 835,600 square feet of retail



Ed Ray



Ron Payne

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Collignon in line to be city engineer

BY STEVE VIED
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Pending City Commission approval May 5, Kevin L. Collignon will be Owensboro's new city engineer.

Collignon, currently assistant city engineer, will replace Joe Schepers, who departed the city engineer position several weeks ago to become executive director of the Regional Water Resource Agency.

City Manager Bill Parrish said Monday he intends to recommend to the City Commission that Collignon be hired as city engineer, based on a recommendation he received from a city engineer selection committee made up of Assistant City Manager and City Attorney Ed Ray, Public Works Director Wayne Shelton and Ted Lolley, a local structural and civil

engineer who has worked on many major city projects as an outside coordinator.

Collignon, 31, is a 2002 graduate of Daviess County High School who graduated from Western Kentucky University in December 2006. He worked in the Owensboro office of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet before being hired as assistant city engineer of Owensboro in 2013.



Kevin Collignon

Collignon said he was drawn to the field of engineering out of his desire to learn about heavy construction and engineering.

"I took basic construction classes in high school and enjoyed them, and my dad worked in construction as well," Collignon said. "To date it has made for a rewarding

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Women's guild will host luncheon

BY STEPHANIE SALMONS
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Women's Guild of Owensboro will host its upcoming annual spring luncheon May 13 and 14 at the home of Jeanne and Greg Clark.

The luncheon is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days at the 320 Maple Ave. residence, otherwise known as the Medley Home.

Tickets are \$20 a person and include a tour of the home "as well as a delightful Southern lunch," guild Vice President Joyce Edwards said.

"It's just a great event, and people so look forward to it," she said.

The lunch, which also includes cheese wafers, desserts and homemade rolls, is especially known for its chicken salad and sweet tea, Edwards said.

"You can't get much more Southern than that."

According to Edwards, the guild, now in its 76th year, began as a hospital guild. When it started, "all money went to the hospital at that time."

The guild began in 1939 with 25 charter members. They raised money to help upgrade the local hospital's equipment, and in the first three years, provided 22 beds.

Even today, Edwards said the money the organization raises goes to health-related nonprofits.

"The women's guild is an organization full of rich history and compassionate women who have provided a Southern luncheon in efforts to raise money for health and wellness in our community," event chairwoman Joy Carroll said.

Edwards, who was the 2014 luncheon chairwoman, said

SEE GUILD/PAGE A2

Bringing down the house



Photo by Jenny Sevcik, Messenger-Inquirer/jsevcik@messenger-inquirer.com, 270.691.7294

Billy Joe Gaddis uses an excavator to tear down a house owned by First Christian Church on Monday on the Daviess Street side of the church's property. Stuart Gant, chairman of the Exploring Team, which is a group of church members heading up efforts to rebuild the facility, said the house sits on an area that will be part of the parking lot for the new building. First Christian was struck by lightning and burned down on March 18, 2013. Bids for the new building are due by May 4, Gant said, and he hopes construction will begin "within the first 15 days of June." Gant said the church has owned the house that was being torn down for about 30 years. It had been used for various purposes, including a meeting spot for Girls Inc. girls, and as a day care, Gant said.

Pennsylvania man dies in 1-car accident

BY JOY CAMPBELL
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

A 59-year-old man from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, who was living in Owensboro temporarily while working construction, was killed in an early Monday morning traffic accident just south of the William H. Natcher Bridge.

The one-vehicle wreck occurred about 6:07 a.m. Monday.

Michael Miley was driv-

ing north on U.S. 231 when his 2002 Ford Taurus left the west side of the road and traveled into the median, where it struck two guardrails, according to the Daviess County Sheriff's Department accident report. The vehicle reentered the travel lanes, but it again left the west side, went into the median and struck a third guardrail.

The vehicle overturned several times before coming

to rest on its top in the median.

Miley was wearing a seat belt. He was transported to Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, where he died.

The early accident report stated that alcohol was not believed to be a factor and that a medical condition was believed to have caused the collision.

Daviess County Coroner Jeff Jones said Monday after-

noon that Miley "had previously been to the hospital complaining of chest pains and that is a possible consideration of what may have happened to have him run off the road."

Jones said Miley was working on a construction project at a power plant in Indiana.

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