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# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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## Carlisle gets special honors at Kentucky League of Cities

**By Josh Shepherd**  
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY

LEXINGTON — The City of Carlisle took its bows alongside representatives of Lexington, Louisville, as one of the outstanding cities in Kentucky Saturday night at the annual League of Cities convention in Heritage Hall.

Carlisle Mayor Frankie Hughes, City Clerk Mary Tapp, and co-directors of Carlisle Tourism Inc., Gladys Shroat and Julie Metzger, graciously accepted the League of Cities Presidential Award of Excellence in the category of Community Development for cities with a population under 8,000 based, in part, on its outstanding efforts to promote tourism in the local community.

The awards program, in its second year as part of the League of Cities convention, is designed to recognize Kentucky towns that have excelled in a variety of different areas, including Community Development, Public Safety, and Economic and Industrial Development.

Citing Carlisle's participation in the Kentucky Central Railroad-tours, Danville Mayor and current League of Cities President, John Bowling, noted that Carlisle Tourism volunteers entertained a total of about 4,000 people in the few years that the historic Railroad attraction has been in operation.

Of the various depot stops on the antique railway route, Carlisle has made the most of an opportunity to bolster its image and economy as much as possible with the train tours.

To celebrate the honor, Carlisle brought with them over 30 city representatives, including members of the city council and government and active volunteers in the Carlisle Tourism program, making it one of the largest contingents to attend the League of Cities' convention finale.

To further promote Carlisle's Tourism program, most of the Carlisle contingent arrived in period costume which made the contingent the center of attention for other Kentucky city representatives.

Carlisle, the smallest populated city to receive special League recognition, is one among a handful of Kentucky towns and cities to be honored in the two-year-old awards program. Its community development award was the first Carlisle ever received from the League of Cities, succeeding over an estimated total of 80 Kentucky cities competing for all League awards.

The awards program, though relatively new, is very important in community promotions, City Clerk Mary Tapp said. The award is a very strong and positive way



Above: Tourism Inc.'s Gladys Shroat and Julie Metzger, City Clerk Mary Tapp and Carlisle Mayor Frankie Hughes accept the League of Cities Presidential award for excellence for Community Development in a city under 8,000 population. Below: Brenda, Rusty, and daughter Mary Ann Lawrence were, as many others, pleased for the occasion when Carlisle received its award based on its success in Tourism promotion.



## Division of parks makes preliminary visit to Forest Retreat

**By Josh Shepherd**  
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY

FOREST RETREAT — The mansion and grounds of Forest Retreat were evaluated last Wednesday by the historic sites branch of the division of parks and the evaluation, first step in a possibly long process to name the area a new state park, was very positive.

Ed Henson, director of the historic sites branch of the division of parks and staff members Brooks Howard and Ron Langdon, were greeted by former state governor Thomas Metcalfe, and his wife, portrayed by Carlisle residents D.C. Myers and Esther Myers, on the grounds of Forest Retreat last Wednesday as part of a historic presentation of the area.

Inside the mansion, the park staff met with several Carlisle people, including Nicholas County Judge-Executive Reese Smoot, Carlisle Mayor Frankie Hughes, and State Representative Adrian Arnold, who formerly was representative of the area.

According to Henson, the purpose of the initial visit by himself and the staff is to make a preliminary evaluation of the historic significance of the Forest Retreat grounds.

"My staff and I are basically here on a fact-finding mission, a preliminary visit to see if the area's historical significance is suitable for establishing a state park," Henson said.

To facilitate their work, Tourism Inc.'s co-director Gladys Shroat as well as members of the Tourism Inc. Board accompanied the three on an extended tour of the grounds, noting in particular its relation to Kentucky history.

Henson and staff were particularly interested in the way in which Forest Retreat was historically significant state wide, Henson said.

"There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of places in the state which date back into Kentucky's history. Henson

said, but to be considered as a state park, it must have state wide significance.

"It must have state impact. Officially, the state park's department has no opinion on Forest Retreat. We are here to learn what we can of Forest Retreat's historic background and to report our findings and recommendation to the department after we return to Frankfort," Henson said.

Working in favor of Forest Retreat is the fact that there is no state park with a former governor's home located in the premises, Henson said.

The fact that a former Kentucky Derby winner and an eminent Kentucky writer inhabited the area, and that it has a direct connection to former Kentucky statesman Henry Clay, are additional incentives for them to return with a positive report.

Henson, however, was quick to add that this initial visit did not necessarily mean the state had given the go-ahead on the Forest Retreat project, nor were they in any way designated to appraise the monetary value of the property.

"We are gathering and reporting data about the property. It is likely there will be further visits from other visitors to Forest Retreat in which information about facilities, such as plumbing, electric, and traffic as well as condition of the site as concerns the handicapped, will be assessed," Henson said.

Acquisition of the Forest Retreat property, provided all preliminary and secondary reports are satisfactory to warrant establishment of a

state park, could occur in a number of different ways, Henson said. In a number of examples, Henson demonstrated how much of the state park property has been acquired through donations and separate funding sources outside of Legislative appropriations.

"As far as our report goes, I believe it will be quite favorable. We were impressed by the way things look here and the enthusiasm of the people who greeted us. But a recommendation from us is just the first step in a fairly involved process," Henson said.

Rep. Adrian Arnold voiced his support during his visit at Forest Retreat, but could not

## Mynear charges includes safe deposit box marijuana

**By Josh Shepherd**  
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY

CARLISLE — A jury trial has been set to address marijuana possession and trafficking charges against Carlisle resident, William R. Mynear, one charge of which is in connection with marijuana state police seized in a First National Bank safety deposit box.

Mynear, 31, was arraigned in Nicholas Circuit Court last Wednesday before Circuit Judge Robert McGinnis on four separate charges, marijuana cultivation, possession of drug paraphernalia, and wanton endangerment stemming from an arrest last June.

The fourth charge, Trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school building, was added to the list of charges against Mynear by Kentucky State Detective Jeff Jett.

Jett was the investigating officer in a related case in which 10 cellophane bags filled with marijuana was discovered in a safety deposit box at the First National Bank a week following Mynear's first arrest.

According to Jett and to official records, state police obtained a search warrant for Safety Deposit Box #318 which was, at the time, being rented by Mynear.

The proximity of the bank to the Nicholas County School campus led to the charge which, if convicted, carries a

comment on the disposition of the legislature toward the project so early.

"I came in response to the letters I have received concerning the project," Arnold said.

Response from Carlisle in the letter writing campaign for Forest Retreat, according to Gladys Shroat, has reportedly been of great help in generating interest in the project. There is, she said, good reason to be optimistic at this point in the project.

"We have heard that many letters on Forest Retreat have been received. We need the letters to continue being sent to help our position and not let it get stale," Shroat said.

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The Carlisle Mansion (Josh Shepherd Photo) Ed Henson, second from right, confers with several Nicholas County people interested in seeing Forest Retreat named a state park. Henson, director of the Park Division's Historic Branch, assessed Forest Retreat's significance as an historic site and appeared pleased at the reception he and his staff received during the visit. They are on the back patio of the Forest Retreat mansion.