



A homecoming with heart

Couple returns to Marion and breathes new life into familiar home

BY ALLISON EVANS

When Brenda and Stuart Whitt left Michigan last summer, they didn't just bring back boxes and memories — they brought vision and a desire to be closer to family. Now, after months of renovation, the couple has settled into their newly remodeled home in Marion's Town & Country Subdivision.

The couple grew up in Marion but work took them to Michigan. However, when Stuart retired in May 2024, they packed after 11 years and moved in with Stuart's mom Anna Lou until they could find a house.

"At first, we didn't think we'd come back to Marion," Brenda said. "But the closer Stuart got to retirement, the more we felt the pull. We just wanted to come home."

Following the closure of Whirlpool's Evansville, Ind., facility, Stuart had transferred to Coloma, Mich., where they spent over a decade. Downsizing in Michigan made sense at the time, but as retirement loomed, so did the idea of returning to a slower, familiar pace of life — with more land to enjoy.

"After losing our son Addam, there wasn't much keeping us there," Brenda said. "We were ready for a new chapter... and to be closer to our grandkids," who happen to have their own room in their grandparents' house.

The Whitts purchased



the home from Gary and Belinda Middleton. It was originally built in 1959 by the late Charles and Hazel Talley. Over the decades, it passed to Willard and Martha Patmor, who expanded it significantly — most notably the kitchen and dining area.

"It's the kind of place that's grown with each owner," said Stuart. "We saw that and knew we could make it ours."

Set on a three-acre lot corner lot, the one-level layout was a big selling point.

"We loved the land, loved the layout, and

right away Stuart said, 'we're digging a pond,'" Brenda laughed.

True to his word, one of their first projects was creating a pond, complete with a fountain and fish — a feature that quickly became a centerpiece to passersby — especially springtime traffic pass-

ing their house en route to Marion's City-County Park.

The renovation — managed by local craftsmen David Perryman, Larry Duvall, and Matt Belt — took six months, starting in October and wrapping up just last week. From reroofing to repainting

every wall and ceiling, nearly every surface of the home saw transformation. Nearly every piece for the project was purchased locally — most where Stuart is working these days, at H&H Home and Hardware — and keeping it local makes the Whitts proud.

Highlights of the remodel include a relocated front door, custom wood shutters, painted siding, a brightened up kitchen, extended and modernized bathrooms, a closed-in carport and creation of a spacious three-car garage and shop. A new BBQ shack under construction out back will be perfect for family gatherings.

The home still holds onto its charm, preserving original hardwood floors and classic interior archways.

"Everyone's been so welcoming," said Stuart. "We've gotten lots of good comments. People are glad to see investment in the area, and so are we."

And while renovating a home from top to bottom could be daunting, the couple says it came together naturally. "Everything fell into place," Brenda said. "It really did."

Now that the dust has settled and the paint has dried, the couple is ready to enjoy the fruits of their labor in a home that's both fresh and familiar.

"It feels good to be back," Stuart said. "Really good."

The benefits of lighting up your landscape

Homeowners know there's no shortage of ways to tweak a property. Some homeowners may lament that the work associated with home ownership is never done, but owning a house also provide endless opportunities to upgrade the spaces people call home.

Landscape lighting has become increasingly popular in recent years. That popularity is undoubtedly due to a number of variables, and each highlights a benefit of installing landscape lighting around a property.

- **Affordability:** Some may think of big budget projects like kitchen remodels or room additions when pondering home renovations. Such projects can have a dramatic impact on the look and feel of a home, but landscape lighting can be equally transformative at a fraction of the cost of larger undertakings. The home renovation experts at Angi.com estimate the average landscape lighting project costs around \$4,000, making affordability a notable benefit of the project.



- **Appearance:** There's no denying the aesthetic appeal of a well-lit landscape at night. Landscape lighting can be utilized to draw attention to awe-inspiring components of a landscape, whether it's natural features like gardens and foliage or manmade components like architectural features. Improved appearance can increase curb appeal, which is often associated with how a home looks during daylight hours. But photographs of a well-lit nighttime landscape can impress buyers as well.
- **Cost savings:** Landscape lighting might help homeowners reduce the cost of their homeowners

ers insurance. Researchers at PolicyGenius.com found that insurance companies typically offer a discount of 2 to 5 percent to homeowners who install a home security system. Insurance providers may offer additional savings to homeowners who pair such systems with landscape lighting, which can be a deterrent to burglars who prefer to operate under a cloak of darkness.

- **Safety:** Insurance firms may discount premiums because of landscape lighting because they view it as a deterrent to potential criminals. But landscape lighting also makes moving around a prop-

erty at night safer for residents and guests. Lighting can be used to illuminate walkways, outdoor living rooms, patios around pools, and other areas where residents and guests will be walking at night, which can reduce the risk of falls and injuries that may result from such spills.

- **ROI:** Savvy homeowners consider a renovation's return on investment before deciding to go forward with a project. Studies vary, but the National Association of Realtors indicates landscape lighting can recoup as much as 70 percent of homeowners' investment in the project at resale. When viewed through the lens of ROI, the cost of installing landscape lighting is even less.

Landscape lighting adds notable aesthetic appeal to a home at a fraction of the cost of other renovation projects. The benefits such lighting provides make the project one every homeowner can consider.



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According to the renovation experts at Angi.com, the average cost of a landscape lighting project is \$4,000.

Did you know?

Landscape lighting has become increasingly popular in recent years. Such lighting can extend living spaces, and many homeowners report that a well-lit landscape helps them feel more safe at home. Though the final cost to light up a home's exterior will depend on the size of a property, landscape lighting is among the more budget-friendly home renovations homeowners can consider. According to the renovation experts at Angi.com, the average cost of a landscape lighting project is \$4,000. Considering how much landscape lighting transforms the look of a property at night, that's a lot of bang for homeowners' bucks. Solar lights are popular, but homeowners may want to consider electrical wiring that ensures lights maintain their awe-inspiring glow throughout the night. Electrical work requires additional labor, and thus a higher price tag. However, Angi notes that modern LED bulbs consume just 25 percent of the energy used by incandescent alternatives, which can make them a more reliable option than self-installed solar lights.



Décor ideas may inspire homeowners to give their homes an entirely new look this spring.

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Decor ideas give homes a fresh look

Spring is a season of re-
novation, and that spirit
of renewal can take hold
inside a home.

Warm weather and longer
hours of daylight make
spring a perfect time to
imagine a home's interior
design in a new light. The
following are a handful of
decor ideas that may in-
spire homeowners to give
their homes an entirely
new look this spring.

- Wallpaper: Wallpaper
fell out of favor years ago,
but new styles that aren't
so heavily patterned can
make for wonderful
additions to any room.
Large-scale prints can
give a room a whole new
feel without giving home-
- owners or their guests the
impression that they have
stepped back in time. A
simple, mural-style floral
wallpaper on the walls
surrounding a table in a
breakfast nook can bring
nature inside.
- Pastel colors: Nothing
embodies the spring quite
like pastel colors. If color-
ful, bright flowers dot the
garden in the backyard,
homeowners can bring
those uplifting pastels in-
side by painting an accent
wall or even adding some
brightly colored accent
furniture to rooms that
could use a lift.
- Declutter: Clutter is
often conquered during
spring cleaning sessions,

but homeowners who want
to create more free-flowing
interior spaces can down-
size their furniture and/or
look for multipurpose fea-
tures that make it hard for
clutter to take over a room.
Create more open space
in entertaining areas by
mounting the television
and getting rid of a bulky
entertainment center. Cre-
ate even more space by
replacing rarely used end
tables with a storage ot-
toman where books and
magazines can be stored to
give a room a fresh, clean
look.

- Accent features: Some-
times the smallest changes
to an interior space make
the biggest impression.

Replace dated accents
like vases and table lamps
with newer items that re-
flect the latest styles and
trends. Such adjustments
won't break the bank,
and they can give rooms a
whole new feel.

Spring is a great time to
reconsider home interiors.
This spring homeowners
can embrace various strat-
egies, both big and small,
to give their homes a whole
new feel.

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Know signs of pest presence

As any seasoned party host knows, guests can sometimes overstay their welcome. But what about guests that were never welcome in the first place? Pests can wreak havoc on a home, contributing to significant and costly damage and potentially exposing residents, particularly pets, to harmful illnesses.

Pest infestation can occur any time of year, but homeowners may be most likely to see signs of infestation during spring cleaning sessions in areas of the home where they didn't spend much time in the previous months, such as attics and garages. As spring cleaning season kicks off, individuals can keep an eye open for the following signs of pest infestation.

- Nesting materials: Pests may drag certain nesting materials from outdoor areas into a home. Leaves and grass clippings as well as twigs may be used to construct a warm nest in interior spaces. Pests also transport nesting materials that are inside a home to other areas of a home that are more secluded. Fabric, paper products, including chewed cardboard, and insulation seen in unusual spaces may be left behind by pests nesting in other areas. If there's a trail of such materials, follow it to see if you can find a nest.

- Pets behaving strangely: Pets can't tell their owners if there's pests in a home, but they may exhibit signs suggesting an infestation. Pets may start scratching at walls and doors with their paws or sniffing around areas where they can smell pests.

- Unexplained odors: Foul odors are not necessarily indicative of a pest infestation, as such aromas could indicate a range of issues. But pest feces can produce a foul odor, and some pest infestations can lead to mold growth that also produces unpleasant smells.

- Destroyed items: Certain pests may gnaw or chew on items, including electrical wires, home furnishings and food packaging. Homeowners who keep a stocked pantry of dry goods and notice packages have been damaged or chewed through likely have a pest infestation.

- Droppings: Of course, droppings are a telltale



indicator of a pest infestation. Rodent droppings are small, black and shaped like a grain of rice. Pests such as termites might leave pellet-shaped droppings in their wake.

Signs of pest infestation may be discovered during spring cleaning

sessions. If homeowners suspect pest infestations in their home, they can examine out-of-the-way spaces with a flashlight and contact a pest control specialist to identify and address any issues they uncover.

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Signs a home exterior needs updating

Renovations are a great way for homeowners to re-shape their homes. Some may aspire to renovate so their home is more reflective of their personal taste, while others may do so in an effort to make their homes better align with modern styles and sensibilities. Regardless of why a homeowner chooses to renovate, the need to do so is often evident to the naked eye, especially when the time comes to update home exteriors.

Curb appeal is often discussed in regard to the effects it can have when selling a home. But curb appeal is equally important for homeowners who aren't putting their homes on the market. A well-maintained, aesthetically appealing home is a source of pride, while a home with fading curb appeal can make homeowners feel a little sheepish. Homeowners who want their homes to maintain their curb appeal can look for signs that it's time to update their home exteriors.

- Curling shingles: The roof may not be the first thing people think of when pondering curb appeal, but a damaged roof can contribute to problems that ultimately affect the exterior and interior of the home. Multiple curling shingles indicate it's time to replace the roof. The sight of curling shingles is not pretty, but the larger issue in such instances is the potential for costly water damage when water gets in through the affected shingles.
- Dated entry door: Many home improvement experts insist they can de-

termine when a home was built or most recently renovated simply by looking at the front door. Steel and glass doors are popular in modern homes, so homeowners with front doors with ornate designs and oval glass inserts can likely benefit from an upgrade to their entryway. A modern front door can make a statement and real estate experts note how popular updated front doors are among buyers.


- Unsightly landscaping: It's not only the physical components of the home that may suggest an update is necessary. Homeowners without a green thumb may have exterior landscaping that

has seen better days. If a spring or summer day spent tending to your landscaping is not your ideal weekend pastime, then consider replacing unsightly landscaping with low-maintenance plants or hardscaping. These alternatives to more needy plants can create curb appeal without requiring any extra work for homeowners.

- Cracked driveways/walkways: If the driveway

looks like a busy road at the end of snow plowing season, chances are that's adversely affecting the impression people have of your home. In addition, cracked walkways indicate a need for renovations, as these areas are front and center when welcoming guests.

Updating a home's exterior can restore curb appeal and help homeowners feel better about their properties.



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Accommodate modern living by upgrading your home

Remodeling projects allow homeowners to put their personal stamps on a property. In addition to choosing a color and design scheme that fits a particular aesthetic, homeowners may want to outfit their homes with various features that can make them more accommodating to modern living. Homeowners can use these ideas as a springboard for remodeling projects designed to modernize their homes.

- Open floor plans: Open floor plans remain coveted characteristics of modern home architecture. An open layout enables occupants to feel like they are enjoying spaces together without having to be on top of one another. Since sightlines are not obstructed in open floor plans, homeowners can enjoy a cohesive design style across each level of the home.
- Eco-friendly features: Eco-friendly features modernize homes and may even earn homeowners rebates from the government. From positioning rooms to take advantage of natural sunlight to using environmentally responsible materials throughout a home, modern homes can function with a much smaller carbon footprint than older structures.
- Smart home technology: A smart home is equipped with appliances and other devices



that can be controlled remotely, typically from a phone or computer connected to the internet. Investopedia notes that smart home technology offers homeowners convenience and cost savings. Smart home technology is available across a wide range of budgets, ranging from thousands of dollars for a complete home automation to roughly \$100 for a small change like a smart thermostat.

- Accessibility features: A home that can grow with its residents is advantageous. When choosing renovations, features like slip-resistant flooring, stylish grab bars and low-threshold or barrier-free showers can enable homeowners to age in place more comfortably.
- Dual owner's suites: Dual owner's suites can be an asset for couples who choose to sleep separately. The Sleep Foundation says individuals choose to sleep in different rooms for a variety of reasons, notably reduced sleep interruptions and

improved sleep quality. Plus, an extra bedroom can come in handy when one person is ill or in the event a partner snores. Rather than one person in the relationship getting the "lesser" space, certain homebuilders now offer plans for dual owner's suites so both people get the features they desire in a bedroom.

- Three-season room: Many homeowners aspire to bridge the gap between the indoors and outside. Three-season rooms help transition from the yard to the interior of a home, and offer a touch of nature without the bugs or unpleasant elements.

A number of home improvements can bring homes up to the standards of modern living.

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Earthy colors dominate 2025

Change is in the air when a new year arrives. People often use the turn of the calendar as an opportunity to redecorate living spaces or revamp their wardrobes. As individuals narrow down their projects, they may want to incorporate a fresh and trendy palette of colors. For 2025, the options are decidedly warm, cozy and earthy. Industry color experts routinely recommend hues that can elevate homes, offices and other spaces. The following is a selection of shades that insiders predict will color the world for the coming year.

Quietude
Sherwin-Williams has named Quietude its color of the year. This soft sage color exudes serenity and understated luxury. Grayish-green with a touch of blue, Quietude is a soothing color of tranquility. Sherwin-Williams also offers a Color Collection of the Year that includes Convivial Yellow, Spiced Cider, and Nomadic Desert, among others.

Mocha Mousse
The title of Pantone® Color of the Year 2025 belongs to Mocha Mousse. Just as the name implies, this rich, warm brown suggests the intoxicating qualities of coffee and chocolate. It can create a feeling of comfort in any space, or even serve as the basis of a chocolate wardrobe color palette. According to Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, Mocha Mousse is “sophisticated and lush, yet at the same time an unpretentious classic.”

Purple Basil
Glidden’s 2025 color of the year title belongs to Purple Basil, a dusty, neutral violet purple hue with mauve undertones. It embraces rich, warm energy, and is



equally at home in a bedroom as it is in a dining room.

Cinnamon Slate
Cinnamon Slate is moody and introspective. This Benjamin Moore color blends rich plum and chocolate brown that the company calls “adaptable, yet distinct.” In fact, it is quite similar to Glidden’s color of the year, but a tad more brown in nature.

Caramelized
Homeowners may want to consider Caramelized, an earthy terracotta brown that is Dunn-Edwards’ 2025 Color of the Year. Caramelized is versatile and elegant, and it complements both modern and vintage interiors.

Elderton
Paula Taylor, Graham & Brown’s head stylist and trend specialist, calls Elderton “a chameleon color

that can be sophisticated yet cozy.” This medium brown is contemporary with a huge amount of depth. It may work in a rustic living room or a cozy library. The new year arrives with a warm, saturated color palette that can revitalize spaces with cozy appeal.

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for sale

ANTIQUES for sale: Walnut dresser with mirror, glove boxes, marble insert, \$300; Large spinning wheel with cotton wheel and cotton cards (from Crittenden Co.), \$350; Tennessee Pie Safe, walnut, 12 tulip design with original tin, on legs, \$2,500. All in good condition, Sturgis area. (270) 333-4638. (1t-18-p)

Husqvarna lawn mower, positraction rear end, 28 hp, industrial Briggs & Stratton engine, 48" fabricated deck, 200 hours (like new), \$2,000 or make an offer; Frigidaire upright freezer, auto defrost, owners guide, excellent condition, \$400. Sturgis area. (270) 333-4638. (1t-18-p)

Grinder on stand; miter saw; teeter back machine; large drafting table; jack for motor-cycles; air compressor; tanning bed; log splitter; 3 trailers, 1 hauls (1) 4-wheeler, 1 hauls (2) 4-wheelers and 1 hauls (3) 4-wheelers; wagon and hydraulic lift (used to dump corn). Call or text for pictures (270) 704-2599. (4t-20-p)

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Hay, cut & bale in fields, 20-25 acres. Shady Grove area. Ezra McDowell. (270) 667-2542. (2t-18-p)

sales

Yard sale, Thursday-Saturday, May 8, 9 and 10 at 46 Penn Dr. Men and women clothes, home décor, jewelry, bedding, decorative pillows, lamps, wreaths, begins 8 a.m. (1t-18-p)

Yard sale, Thursday-Saturday, May 8, 9 and 10 at 5925 Mott City Rd., next to Rite Temp. Lots of bargains. (1t-18-p)

First-ever Crittenden County Hwy. 641 Community Yard Sale for homes between 1380-1980 U.S. 641 including Norman Road, Penn Drive, Coleman Road and Higgins Road. Will begin at 8 a.m. each day, May 9-10. (5t-18-c)

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notice

Donations for the upkeep of Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery may be sent to: Old Mt. Zion Cemetery, % Colleen Harbour, 246 Cotton Patch



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Rd., Marion, KY 42064. (1t-18-p)

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legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on April 30, 2025 Amanda Oliver of 7426 Blandville Rd., Kevil, KY 42053 and Levi Oliver of 221 Harmon Dr., Marion, KY 42064 were appointed co-executors of Brent Shannon Oliver, deceased, whose address was 221 Harmon Dr., Marion, KY 42064. Hon. Cobie Evans, P.O. Box 439, Marion, KY 42064, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the co-executors before the 30th day of October, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.

public notice

Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578), citizens are afforded the opportunity to express their views concerning the recreational needs of their community. To provide a forum for discussion, the Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be hosting an open meeting on: at 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 20 at Fohs Hall located at 201 North Walker St., Marion KY 42064. The specific purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Fohs Hall Rotunda Project, under application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant assistance. Fohs Hall Inc., a community non-profit, is seeking funding to construct a new pavilion as part of a larger planned outdoor event and recreation space on a vacant 3-acre lot at 130 N. Walker St. in Marion, directly across from the historic Fohs Hall, a National Register-listed community event center. The pavilion will provide shelter for outdoor events and daily use by the community at large. Preliminary design is complete, with construction set to begin immediately upon the availability of grant funding, anticipated near the start of FY 2026-27. Outdoor event/recreation and public park space are currently limited in Marion's immediate downtown area. The development of this site will provide community members with easy, walkable access to outdoor recreation,

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greenspace and will offer a new outdoor venue for community-oriented events. To accomplish these improvements, the county is applying for up to \$250,000 in Land and Water Conservation Fund grant assistance, representing 50 percent of the total estimated project cost of \$500,000. The public is invited to review and voice their opinion on the proposed activities and potential impacts of the project. Anyone wishing to support or oppose the proposed project can also submit written comments to Crittenden County Fiscal Court, 200 Industrial Drive, Suite A, Marion KY 42064, by 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 26, 2025. (2t-19-c) (CC)

bid notices

The Crittenden County Board of Education is accepting sealed bids for the following lots:



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The Crittenden County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 12 through May 27, 2025. Under the supervision of the property valuation administrator (PVA) or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2025, assessment on which state, county, and school taxes for 2025 will be due about September 15, 2025.

The tax roll is in the office of the property valuation administrator located in the Crittenden County Office Complex and may be inspected between the hours 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday and Saturday May 17 and May 24 between the hours 10:00 am and 12:00 pm.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required. However, you will be instructed on the best method of submitting your documentation after contacting our office regarding your request to have a conference.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals.

The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one workday following the conclusion of the inspection period. Please contact the county clerk's office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall **not** be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator.

- (1) Taxpayer must list under protest (for certification) what they believe to be the fair cash value of their property.
- (2) Taxpayer must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Todd Perryman
Property Valuation Administrator

Crittenden County

Lot 1: 5 tables with sewing grid on top from Family Consumer Science Class -5.5 feet x 3.4 feet;

Lot 2: 2 tables from Family Consumer Science Class with metal legs – 5.5 feet x 3.4 feet;

Lot 3: Dewalt 12' Sliding Compound Miter Saw Model: DW708 (handle cracked)

Sealed bids must be submitted to CBOE at 601 West Elm Street, Marion, Kentucky

NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 25-O-003: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 12-005 RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL AND OTHER COMPENSATION AND NET PROFITS TAX BY PERSONS AND BUSINESS ENTITIES CONDUCTING BUSINESSES, OCCUPATIONS, AND PROFESSIONS WITHIN CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.


Notice is hereby given that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County Kentucky, at a special called meeting held on April 29, 2025, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Ordinances of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at its regular meeting of the Fiscal Court held on April 17, 2025, at 6:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance amends the rate to One and One-half percent (1 ½%) on occupation and net profits in Crittenden County. Further, the license fee is amended to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk in the County Courthouse, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 364
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-4600
April 30, 2025

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