



Marti Booth, Fifth District Magistrate

Franklin County, Kentucky

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Fifth District Magistrate
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To Congressman Barr concerning the sewer upgrade in southwestern Franklin County:

"Sewer in the Bathtub"

Elected as Magistrate in the County District in which I lived, it was my duty to receive and listen to constituent problems and complaints, and to do something about it. Thus I heard about the poor condition of the sewer systems employed by neighborhoods where houses were too close to have septic tanks. These "package plants" were built by developers who wanted to maximize profit from their land acquisition. There were a lot of these neighborhoods in southwestern Franklin County because of the natural beauty and plentiful creeks in the area. Several are positioned by creeks.

But it was the situation of one house owner who called about sewage backing up into his bathtub that brought home the seriousness of the problem.

And the Fiscal Court listened. Fortunately, the state government had just introduced a program to encourage sewer provision in rural areas through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. Thanks to a prescient former county judge who had done the necessary paperwork and petitions to create a sewer district, Franklin County was one of the few counties that could take advantage of this program right away.

County government used the money to develop the Farmdale Sewer District, and went as far as was possible. The undertaking was complicated with the enormity of the project. The chief problem was the additions to neighborhoods without upsizing the capacity of the "package plants" used by the neighborhoods. All needed to be demolished or replaced.

A possible solution to waste treatment was to install strong pump stations to send effluent to the city treatment plant in Frankfort. This has been accepted as the plan.

The county government budget has suffered during the last few years. I keep telling my complaining constituents to be patient, that the sewer system upgrade is still on the agenda but not funded as of yet.

I urge you to help.