

Diesel Car Era Ending

By: Frank Friday,
Government Relations

Diesel engines in big trucks and locomotives have been around since the 1920s, but only in the late 70s did they become accepted in light trucks and automobiles. The ruggedness, fuel economy, and simplicity was paid for by the extra weight and poor acceleration. Typical pre-1980s diesel cars were strange, slow imports from Europe that belched black smoke, smelled, and weren't for anybody in a hurry. Still, the technology had massive potential in the auto industry, and automakers around the world spent years funneling billions into developing cleaner, faster, more powerful diesel engines.

Mercedes introduced the most successful diesel of that era, the 1978 North American 300 SD, based on the full-size S-Class sedan. The SDs were pure luxury, with fuel economy in the mid-20s, and with diesel cheaper than gas, a popular choice for the well-heeled in the waning days of the gas crisis. The Mercedes diesels of that era were so well-built that 40 years later, thousands of them are still on the roads.

Not so well built was the 1979 Oldsmobile Diesel, that returned 30 mpg, excellent for a full-size sedan - but at the cost of a 20 second zero to 60 time, 90 horsepower, and clouds of black smoke. GM rushed the model into production without fully testing the engine for the extremely high compression of diesel. Thousands of blown engines and a massive class-

action lawsuit left diesel cars with a generally bad reputation in the 1980s.

However, electronic controls and turbo-charging eventually made small diesels viable for more cars and the engine became increasingly popular in the demanding large SUV segment.

Still, with increasing emissions controls regulations, and the problem of soot particulates, diesel cars were never big sellers in this country. In Europe, looser

emissions laws and expensive fuel made small diesel cars largely popular. In 2004, the US implemented a much tougher standard for diesel fuels, and the big car makers thought this was the opening they needed to bring in their diesel car models.

Most of these diesels use a urea-injection system to clean their exhaust. Mercedes calls this BlueTec. Volkswagen elected to go with an innovative exhaust recycle design, similar to the Navistar

A Message from the Jefferson County Clerk

Summer is the time to plan quality family outings or get-togethers with friends. If you are traveling or enjoying our local parks and attractions, take extra precautions to ensure the safety of your family.

It continues to be my goal to provide warm, friendly, VIP service throughout every area of the Jefferson County Clerk's Office. For those who patronize our Westport Motor Vehicle Branch, I hope you find the recent renovations pleasant and the service to be a more efficient flow. We are continuing to freshening up other areas within the Clerk's Office. Look for changes in our Deed Room and Professional License areas.

You may want to save yourself a trip to one of our Motor Vehicle branches and consider the convenience of renewing your motor vehicle registration by phone or online. If you have any questions or suggestions as to how the Clerk's Office can better assist you, please contact us. We look forward to serving you.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Bobbie

Bobbie Holsclaw
Jefferson County Clerk

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truck diesel. However, in 2009, both proved to be failures. To make things worse, VW was caught cheating on its government test results, and the carmaker had to pay over \$15 billion in buy-backs and penalties just in the United States.

Since then, car sales of diesels have declined dramatically in the US.

Volkswagen is selling off its remaining inventory of retested 2015 models and is expected to fully exit the North American diesel market. Even worse news is coming from Europe, as tougher emissions controls may end the diesel's reign there, as well. One leading industry analyst predicted, "Diesel car sales will plummet to 9 percent of the European market in 2030 from

52 percent today...with the decline accelerating after 2020."

The big automakers in America, Asia, and Europe have all seen the future, and it looks electric. Diesels may still be offered in America as an option in large pick-up trucks and SUVs, but its era in cars seems to have passed forever, gone with the Oldsmobile.



The Coffea Plant

By: Angela Davis Clark,
HR Director

I had a meeting earlier this week, after a three (3) day weekend which included an extra vacation day. On my first day back to work, Microsoft Outlook reminded me that I had a 9:00 AM meeting. It is my usual routine to get a cup of coffee shortly after reporting to work. But, on this morning, I was so focused on getting a few things done prior to the meeting, I ended up grabbing a cup right before the meeting. As I sipped on the (hot) cup of coffee while conducting the meeting, I could feel my energy level rising with every sip. What I didn't know was that my low energy level was noticeable to the participants of the meeting, who commented that I was more "perky" toward the end of the meeting compared to the beginning. I attributed it to my cup of coffee.

As I thought about what to write for this edition, I wondered how many other employees depend on that cup of "java" to give them a "lift" or "boost" in the morning. I don't know whether it's the aroma or the caffeine that attracts me the most to this particular beverage. It's obvious that I need the caffeine in the morning, but I think the aroma is a strong attraction as well. The smell of coffee always arouses my nostrils. One cup usually gives me the boost that I need to make it through the day; and, on exceptional days, two cups is usually the maximum.

Coffee comes from the seeds of berries from the Coffea plant. The genus coffea is native to tropical Africa, and Madagascar, the Comoros, Mauritius, and Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Once ripe, the coffee berries are picked, processed, and dried. Dried coffee

seeds, referred to as beans, are roasted to varying degrees, depending on the desired flavor. Coffee is one of the most valuable commodities exported by developing countries. It is one of the most consumed beverages in the world. Americans consume 400 million cups of coffee per day, equivalent to 146 billion cups of coffee per year, making the United States the leading consumer of coffee in the world. Coffee represents 75 percent of all caffeine consumed in the United States.



Even that small cup of coffee can make a difference at the office. Nearly half the U.S. workforce agrees, with 46 percent noting that they are less productive at work if they go without coffee. The caffeine in coffee stops the main compound in your brain that makes you sleepy, called adenosine. Adenosine builds up throughout the day and lowers the body's energy levels, which in turn causes sleepiness. The caffeine in coffee blocks those adenosine receptors.

There are work productivity advantages associated with drinking coffee; it is said to "fuel the brain." The caffeine also ramps up your brain's energy levels. The fuel gives you more energy and helps your brain to learn faster and improves

retention. More energy equals enhanced memory, an ability to focus, an ability to solve problems, and improved cognitive functions, which are all functions that need to be exercised daily at the JCCO. When you add a touch of cocoa to your coffee it gives it a chocolate creamy taste, which helps to boost your mood.

There may be health benefits associated with drinking coffee. Some findings are contradictory as to whether coffee has specific benefits. It is recommended that we consume no more than 400

milligrams of caffeine a day. An 8-ounce cup of coffee usually equates to 100 milligrams of caffeine. There are side effects to drinking coffee (or any caffeinated drink) if you intake more than the daily average. The Mayor Clinic notes that side effects from drinking too much coffee include irritability, upset stomach, rapid heartbeat, muscle tremors, and restlessness.

There is something special about a coffee break. Coffee breaks are a way to get to know your colleagues better and bond

with them. Coffee breaks also allow employees to relieve tension, step away from the computer screen and stretch their legs, and move around which helps blood flow. A coffee break may help an employee to de-stress and rejuvenate. It almost sounds like you can't go wrong with a small cup of coffee in the morning.

Frisch, Suzy (June 5, 2015), 3 Scientific Links Between Coffee And Productivity at Work, <https://redbooth.com/blog/coffee-and-productivity-at-work>, retrieved 06/06/2017.

Baptiste, Denise (October 10, 2015), 7 Benefits of Coffee Break At Work, <http://www.boldsky.com/insync/pulse/2014/seven-benefits-of-coffee-break-at-work>, retrieved 06/06/2017.

Wikipedia, Coffee, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coffee>, retrieved 06/06/2017.

JCCO AS/400 Platform Consolidation

By: David Summerfield,
Director of IT

Back in the early 1980's the IBM computer manufacturing plant in Rochester, Minnesota was in trouble. IBM's mid-range computers that were made at the plant, the System/36 and the System/38, weren't selling. Over five thousand people would lose their jobs if the plant closed, and the economy of the southeastern Minnesota city would be devastated for decades to come. To

make matters worse "Project Fort Knox", a very public effort designed to replace IBM's aging System/36 and System/38 product lines and calm the nerves of shareholders, was years behind schedule and millions-of-dollars over-budget. Things looked grim.

But, in early 1985 IBM's chief computer scientist, Dr. Frank Soltis, came to his corporate bosses with an idea for a new product line. The idea was to create a unique type of business computer that would use the latest processing chip technology, and a brand-new operating system, to combine the computing horsepower of IBM's successful mainframe machines with the low cost and ease-of-operation of its struggling mid-range products. The project was code-named "Silver Lake" and was based at IBM Rochester.

After a two-year development cycle, on June 21, 1988, IBM introduced the first AS/400 computer. The new computers were a big hit, especially with financial institutions and government agencies. Over the years the IBM marketing gurus have tried to re-brand the successful system under several names designed to



boost sales: eSeries, iSeries and currently IBM Power Systems. But, the systems people who have worked with the reliable machine over the last three decades still fondly refer to it as an "AS/400".

The AS/400 has been a big hit at the Jefferson County Clerk's Office, too. According to Shawn Merrick, Information Systems Manager at the Elections Center, the JCCO acquired its first AS/400 in June of 1992. Back then the powerful computer was primarily used to run the JCCO's land records operations in the Deed Room. But, in the years that followed the AS/400's role at the Clerk's Office expanded to include document imaging, marriage licenses, and accounting operations. Back when the Election Center was the Jefferson County Board of Elections, that agency acquired its own AS/400 that ran voter registration and other administrative functions.

But time marches on, technology rapidly evolves and the role of the AS/400 at the JCCO is changing. The organizational merging of the Board of Elections into the JCCO resulted in our Office having two AS/400

computers to pay for and maintain. The JCCO's recent move of its land records system and marriage license application to a hosted solution by Business Integration Systems means that there are fewer critical functions of the Clerk's Office running on an AS/400. Operating a computer platform cost money. Sometimes a lot of money. And, we can no longer justify the

operational expense of maintaining two separate AS/400 computers.

Over this coming summer, members of the JCCO Information Technology Staff will be working with our IBM business partner, Systems Integration Services, on a project to merge the two JCCO AS/400s into one. A brand-new AS/400 computer dedicated to the project has already been delivered and is up-and-running in the Election Center computer room. Over the next few weeks Shawn Merrick, Dennis Durham and Rick Renfrow will be working to move the applications from our two "old" AS/400s to the "new" AS/400. Once the systems are combined on the "new" AS/400, the two older machines will be retired.

Users of JCCO AS/400-based applications will be glad to know that they will be able to keep using the same systems that they use now. They shouldn't notice any difference. The consolidation of our existing AS/400s will reduce operating expenses while keeping the legacy of AS/400 use at the JCCO alive for the foreseeable future.

Mobile Homes Don't Stay Put

By: Frank Friday,
Government Relations

Back in 2000, the Kentucky legislature created something popularly called “an affidavit of conversion to real estate”. This allowed a mobile home owner to surrender the title to the County Clerk if it had no outstanding liens, effectively making the structure part of an existing piece of real estate like any other home.

A certificate from an attorney must also be included, stating- “As of the date of the titling of the severance, there are no security interests or liens in the manufactured home that have not been released by the secured party and that the title to the real estate marketable, free, and clear of liens, or certification

industry developed a reputation for poor quality, using cheap insulation, too-small electrical cabinets, and moisture soaking siding. Some lenders and park owners were also accused of underhanded practices.

HUD estimates a typical mobile home will last only 35-50 years, but you get



This was done primarily to allow mortgage lenders to maximize the collateral value of such properties on their books. A few decades later, however, some banks are having second thoughts, finding they may be better off simply selling mobile homes as pieces of property in a financial recovery operation.

Consequently, HB 270 was passed this year to create an “affidavit of severance” to undo the conversion of real estate. This new document will require reference to the previous conversion and a legal description of the real property where it sits.

of any holder of a security interest in the manufactured home of: 1. The amount of any existing security interest; and 2. The secured party's consent to the issuance of a title.”

The Clerk is also asked to provide copies to the Property Valuation Assessment and the Transportation Cabinet.

Mobile homes themselves are facing a bit of an existential crisis. Most new ones are sold in the rural South and West. West Virginia saw the most in 2015, while Kentucky was the fifth-best market. This is a big change from a generation ago, when home parks were everywhere, especially California. The

what you pay for. The average price of a new mobile home last year was \$67,800, compared to \$380,000 for a site-built home.

Over the years, many private builders and architects have experimented with mobile home designs to bring low-cost housing to inner city sites. Unfortunately, such projects have never shown to be successful as inherent construction costs and unfavorable zoning regulations have always proven insurmountable.

For now, though, mobile homes will keep popping up in more rural parts of Kentucky and thanks to HB 270, they may never be pinned down in one place.

Support Our Vets In A Visible Way

By: Jordan Kelch,
Public Relations

Proper care for our veterans has been a national talking-point as of late, and for good reason. Who deserves more support, dignity, and respect than those who committed their lives to keeping our country safe?

As of 2015, there were close to 19 million veterans living in the United States (the actual number is 18,931,395). Of them, 17,339,174 are male and 1,592,221 are female.

find work, how to file a benefit claim, and how to maintain a residence. The agency also operates three veteran nursing home facilities (one in Wilmore, one in Hazard, and the last in Hanson, KY) and three cemeteries (Hopkinsville, Radcliff and Williamstown, KY). On top of that, there are 17 field offices throughout the state.

There is never a bad time to show pride in the men and women who keep this

ensuring their good work will be around for years to come. Again, this plate is available to veterans as well as civilians, and proceeds go directly to the KDVA.

To order the "I Support Veterans" license plate, visit a county clerk location near you. The plates are available in all counties; the initial cost is \$31.00 with an annual renewal fee of \$26.00. Any owner of a non-commercial motor vehicle is eligible for purchase. \$10.00 of the initial fee and \$5.00 of the renewal goes to the KDVA. For more information, visit <http://veterans.ky.gov>. This plate is available for personalization with an additional \$25.00 fee annually; personalization is limited to a maximum of 5 characters.

According to the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs (or KDVA), roughly 331,000 of those veterans reside here in the Commonwealth.

Speaking of the KDVA, this agency was created by Governor Paul Patton in 1998, and for the last 19 years, its mission has remained the same – to ensure all of Kentucky's vets receive the benefits and services for which they are entitled.

A variety of programs are also offered through the KDVA, including classes and workshops that detail how to

country safe. With that in mind, consider displaying your support in a visible way by ordering the specialty "I Support Veterans" license plate. While giving the everyday civilian the opportunity to celebrate veterans, this plate also assists in funding the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs,



Big Changes In Local Option Elections

By: Frank Friday
Esquire Director

One of the most “lobbied-for” bills in recent decades, the reform of Kentucky’s local option elections for liquor sales, finally passed in 2017.

Kentucky, like 36 other states, allows local option elections for counties, cities, and precincts, to decide whether and to what extent liquor may be sold, leaving a bewildering patchwork of “wet”, “dry” and “moist” territories across the Commonwealth. To confuse things further, Kentucky issues over 70 different types of liquor licenses.

HB 319 specifies that local option elections be held on “The day fixed by law for holding a primary, the petition shall be filed not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the day on which the primary is to be held and not later than the last Tuesday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary.”

Or, for the local option election to be held on “the day fixed by law for a regular election, the petition shall be filed not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for holding the regular election.”

Before this, all local option elections had to be held 30 days preceding or

following a primary or general election. Turnout was typically very light for such elections as little publicity attended them and just a few voters could decide the issue, tempting petitioners for such elections to try as often as they could. (The minimum petition requirement for such an election is still 25% of all votes cast at the last previous general election in whatever territory is voting on liquor sales.) Having such separate

Court to cover all costs of the election within five (5) days after the signed petition is filed. The cost of the election shall be established by the county judge/executive to determine the bond amount. All costs of such an election are borne by the petitioner. So, from here on, there will be a significant incentive to keep these local option elections on regular election days.

The major objection in the past to doing such a reform has come from members of the General Assembly who did not want such measures on the ballots when they were running as well, and so supported a separate day for holding them. However, given the small turnouts these elections have and the very large number of offices our Kentucky ballots typically carry, it is unlikely candidates for office will have their own elections influenced by these factors.

As always, such elections may not be held more

than once every three years, and most likely we will see few if any, of them on special days in the future. There’s something to which we can all raise a glass of cheer.

elections on a special day was also a great expense and inconvenience in many counties.

Now, if a party wants to hold such an option election on any day but the primary or general day of an election, they must post a bond with the Circuit



Milestones

Retirement

March 2, 2017 to June 15, 2017

Kent Hall	Executive Director	Administration
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Promotions

March 2, 2017 to June 15, 2017

Yen Ngo	CSA	Fairdale Branch
Stephanie Campbell	Co-Director	Election Center
Rebecca Ison	Administrator	Election Center
Yvette Kemp	CSA	Dixie Branch
Emily Richardson	CSA	Fairdale Branch
Melissa Catron	Finance Specialist	Finance Department
Jennifer Schicker	Co-Manager	MV Call/Proc. Ctr.
Jeffrey Pellman	Administrator	Election Center
Jenna Oliver	CSA	Highview Branch

New Hires

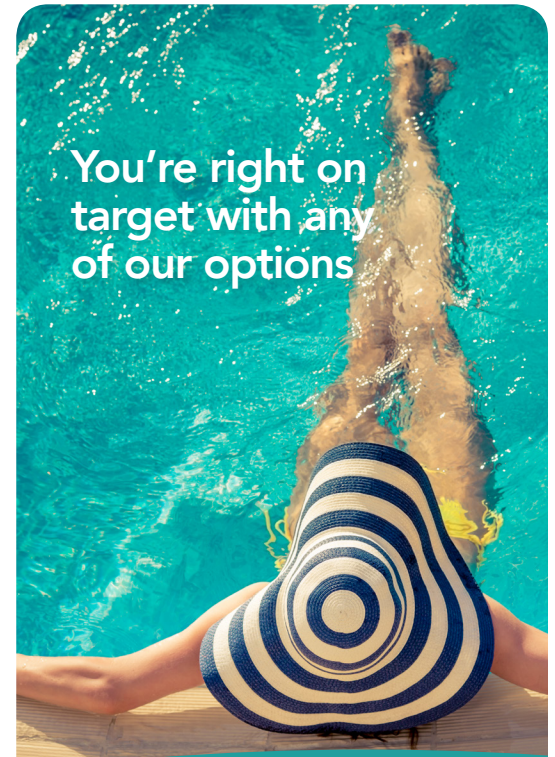
March 2, 2017 to June 15, 2017

Brittany Davis	CSR	Dixie Branch
Jasmine Johnson	CSR	Dealers Department
Samantha Lane	CSR	Election Warehouse
Shannon Bransfield	CSR	Highview Branch
Mary Humston	CSR	Westport Branch
Keyaira Thomas	CSR	Downtown Branch
Eurika Allen	CSR	Downtown Branch
Sherry Franklin-Berry	CSR	Downtown Branch
Yolanda Logan	CSR	Recording Department
Olexus Porter	CSR	West Branch
Tracy Willham	CSR	Jeffersontown Branch
Katie Lamphier	CSR	Indexing Department

Anniversaries

March 2, 2017 to June 15, 2017

Sam Gish	IT Department	5 Years
Dawn Wittry	Fairdale Branch	5 Years
Ashley Vincent	Finance Department	5 Years
Nore Ghibaudy	Public Affairs	10 Years
Janet Beattie	Dealers Department	10 Years
Etta Bald	East Branch	10 Years
Robert Snipp	Election Warehouse	10 Years
Angela Clark	Human Resources	10 Years
Tina Bentley	IT Department	10 Years
Ina Metts	Dixie Branch	15 Years
Robert Dunn	Duplication	15 Years
Elva Martinez	Highview Branch	15 Years
Laura Pinchbeck	MV Call/Proc. Center	15 Years
Tamelia Jones	West Branch	15 Years
Deborah Lunn	Election Center	25 Years
Donna Gahlinger	Finance Department	25 Years
Krista Cole	MV Administration	10 Years
Nancy Nelson	Dealers/Specials	15 Years
Tink Brown	Indexing Department	20 Years
Sue Tobin	Lien Department	20 Years
John Clark	MV Administration	20 Years
Angela Wilson	Co-Director	20 Years
Channa Roberts	Call/Proc. Center	20 Years



You're right on target with any of our options

3 OPTIONS TO RENEW YOUR CAR TAGS

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569-3300

Mail-In ReNew
P.O. Box 33033
Louisville, KY 40232-3033

Open 24 hours a day at JeffersonCountyClerk.org

