

FALL 2024



RADIO EYE

Kentucky's **EYE** on the written world

RADIO READER

Radio Eye Finds a New Home

What an eventful year our little organization has had! In the last year, Radio Eye has named a new Executive Director, added a new Office Manager, merged two broadcast streams together, finagled multiple papers closing, dealt with the Herald-Leader ceasing to print a daily paper, and, on top of all of that, we lost the place our studios have called home for the last 15 years.

If you haven't heard – the Lexington Public Library has asked us to vacate our lease. That means Radio Eye needed to find a new office for its broadcast and operations. This news was shocking (and a little terrifying, to be honest) but overall has given us a push to make some much-needed changes and updates to our systems. We explored every option possible, from finding a new partnership, to operating totally remote, to even just shutting down! After several months of hard work, we finally found a location that will match our needs in a new and updated way. We are excited to present to the community a refreshed brand that they have known and trusted for over 30 years!

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Our new space will give us the opportunity to upgrade our recording equipment and provide an even better audio experience for our listeners. We hope to expand from having four booths (sound pods) to five – including one that is specifically ADA. We are also excited to refresh scripts for volunteers, add new reading materials, and update furniture and chairs for the office!

In the next few weeks, we will be announcing our official moving schedule and the plan for our tentative studio shut-down. We will need some time to move our broadcasting equipment from our current office to our new one! Don't worry – this will not cause interruptions for our listeners. They will still be able to access our 24/7 broadcast on the device of their choosing! In fact, you'll be able to listen on a new device soon, but more on that later.

Something that sticks out to me during all of this is the admiration I have for our volunteers. Every day they show up with smiles, ready to record, catch up on chitchat, and remind us how we've stayed on air for almost 35 years. Since announcing the move, we have felt nothing but support from our community and it is truly humbling. We are excited for the future and for the next 35 years!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Listener Survey

Radio Eye's listener survey is ongoing!

If you have not taken it and would like to, please call the staff at 859-422-6390.

We would be happy to assist you.

The listener survey helps us decide our programming for each year.

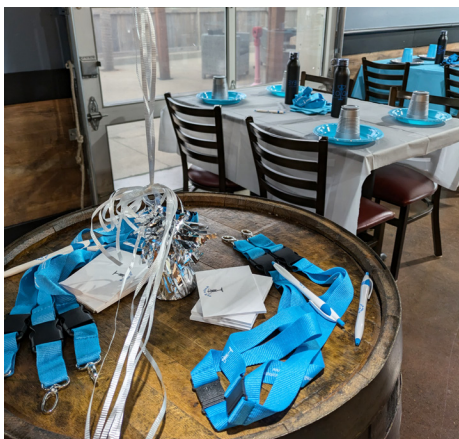
Kroger Rewards Program

Kroger Community Rewards® makes fund-raising for Radio Eye easy - all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card as usual, then Radio Eye will get 4% of the total sale!

You register your card by going to www.kroger.com/communityrewards and using code **12103**

If you'd like assistance registering your card, bring it by our studio office and we will be happy to help.

Malibu Jack's a Crowd Favorite



Radio Eye's annual Lexington volunteer appreciation party was held on Tuesday, October 1 at Jack's Social at Malibu Jack's. Complete with a taco bar by Malibu Jack's, dessert charcuterie from Just Graze, cupcakes from Babycakes, and as many rides on the attractions as folks wanted, the evening was considered a success all around.

More than forty volunteers attended, bringing their partners and children or grandchildren, resulting in an attendance of over 100. Nearly 150 volunteers gave us hours between Oct. 1, 2023 and Sep. 30, 2024, twenty-five of whom volunteered for more than one hundred hours during that time.

Executive Director Lucy Stone delivered updates on Radio Eye's new space and Program Director Bill Sallee honored this year's top ten volunteers by hours of reading contributed. The staff's favorite part of the evening, however, was seeing everyone enjoy themselves. From young children to octogenarians, quiet conversations with cocktails to palpable excitement over rollercoasters, we watched you all have a great time with the Radio Eye community.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being such wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do this without you, but more than that - you bring so much joy to our organization and lives. Thank you.

Top Ten Volunteers

(by hours volunteered)

1. Rod Brotherton (298.5)
2. Cindy Frazer (226)
3. Blanca Ward (176)
4. Richard Metzger (150)
5. Bill VanArsdall (149)
6. Mary Luken (132)
7. Paul Darryl Stith (126)
8. Mary Fullington (105)
9. Howard Kleiman (103)
10. Bruce Camenisch (102)



Long-time Listener in Winchester

Richard Muncie, a resident of Winchester in Clark County, first noticed a diminution in his vision beginning when he was six or seven years old, causing difficulty seeing the teacher's chalkboard writings in his elementary school classroom. "Vision loss runs in the family," he told Radio Eye. He and his family loved reading the *Citizen's Voice & Times* newspaper, formerly published in nearby Irvine, Kentucky.

Richard learned of Radio Eye about a decade ago when he and his wife purchased a computer specially outfitted for users with visual impairment. They received a brochure about Radio Eye with their purchase and reached out to our office soon after. Since then, Ricard has received an FM-radio, an internet radio, and, most recently, an Amazon Alexa to listen to our broadcasts and podcast recordings.

Richard estimates that he listens to Radio Eye for an average of 1.5 hours each day. His favorite programs are the Lexington Herald-Leader as well as the new broadcasts of the Washington Post, which began this summer after the Herald-Leader cut back to only three print editions per week. He also enjoys the Country Weekly and Mystery Mix-Up programs, and makes a point to listen to the Winchester Sun newspaper, broadcast early on Saturday afternoon each week.

"Radio Eye has a lot of really good programming," Richard said, "and they broadcast a lot of good books during the holidays at Thanksgiving and Christmas!"

Having impaired vision means Richard has never held a driver's license and has limited mobility. He enjoys walking in downtown Winchester and supporting some of the local businesses near his home on North Main Street. When at home, he also enjoys listening to music and keeps informed about local, state, and national news on commercial FM radio stations in addition to Radio Eye.



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Thank you, Faith!

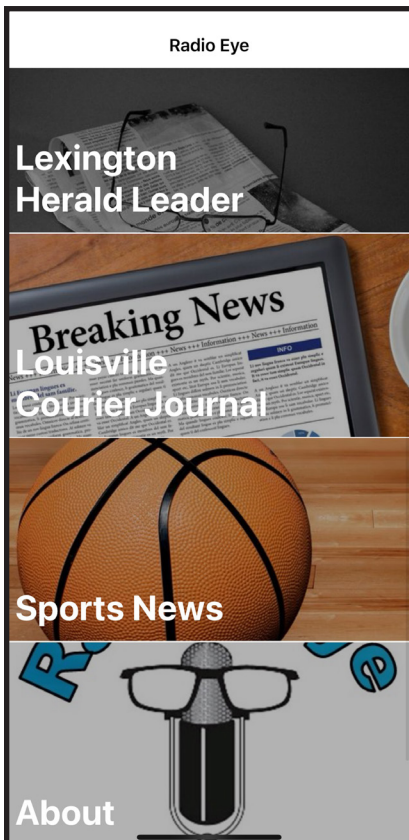
Radio Eye was grateful to have Faith Steffey, a December 2025 Transylvania University graduate, as our student intern over the summer. While taking classes and working full time in the kitchen at 33 Staves, Faith put in one hundred hours with Radio Eye, organizing our file library and helping us establish a database for our book recordings. Faith said that the highlights of the Radio Eye internship were the sense of community and refining of audio production skill sets.

Faith will be graduating with a music technology and psychology double major as well as a minor in business with the intention to build a music production business.



APP UPDATE

A New Way to Listen



Radio Eye is contracting with Louis Callaway from Clear Lake, Iowa to create a Radio Eye phone application that will allow listeners to listen to our Lexington livestream and select podcasted programs from their smart devices. It will be available from both the Google Play Store and Apple Stores (so both Android and iPhone) and will be free for listeners.

Louis got his start creating a custom app for IRIS, Iowa's reading service, while he was still in college. Since then, he has created similar apps for Sun Sounds of Arizona and Mind's Eye in Central Illinois. The interface is simple to navigate, easy to read (both visually and for assistive readers), and user-friendly. On the left is a screenshot of the beta version of our app, which will soon have expanded programming.

We hope to have the app available to all listeners in Spring 2025. If you're interested in beta-testing the app for us and providing feedback this winter, please contact Greta at info@radioeye.org.

Funding our New Booths

Radio Eye would like to thank two very generous donors who have stepped up to fund the first two recording booths for our new location! As we revealed in our announcement video, most of Radio Eye's recording booths in our new space will be individual sound-proof recording "pods." Although sound-proof booths have long been used for recording, their popularity in office spaces has surged in the last few years, giving rise to new styles and increased availability. Using pods like this will give Radio Eye more flexibility in future and simplify the move by reducing the amount of build-out that we need to do.

Bluegrass Career Services, a division of Employment Solutions, is a first-time donor to Radio Eye funding one of our new recording booths. The Lexington-based group helps folks with disabilities or barriers to employment to find and maintain jobs through workshops, one-on-one coaching, transitional support, working with employers, educational access, and more. Thank you so much for choosing to support us!

Second, the Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation was kind enough to sponsor one of the sound booths for our new location in addition to their generous annual grant. Although their focus is on the Kentucky School for the Blind in Louisville, KSBCF's broader mission is to support access to assistive technologies and other vital supports in the blind and visually impaired community. KSBCF has now given nearly \$175,000 to Radio Eye over the past 17 years.

Radio Eye staff and volunteers attended KSBCF's annual fundraiser dinner in September, which was "Cheeseburger in Paradise" themed and included a grill-out style menu, margaritas, and flower necklaces for every attendee! Kentucky School for the Blind alum TaMyah Jordan was the keynote speaker, discussing her experiences and work as a student at UK and highlighting the role that KSBCF scholarships have played in the opportunities that she has had to further her education and serve her community.

On the right: Lucy Stone (Executive Director), Bill Sallee (Program Director), Greta Biedermann (Office Manager), and Ken McQueen (Mr. Lucy) attending the KSBCF fundraiser. We had a great time!



Our Eye on Country Music

Radio Eye has been fortunate to have several volunteers with professional radio experience over the years, and volunteer Ken Dawkins has been a rock for us for the past five. While enjoying his retirement with his wife Tracy in Richmond, Ken has been giving back to the community through offering his vocal talents to Radio Eye.

Ken began volunteering with us just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, throughout which he read the Grocery Show and several local newspapers, filling in on Country Weekly when needed. Eventually he took over the program, continuing a fifteen year tradition which began with Larry Hurt, a long time volunteer and former Radio Eye board member. The two met for the first time at our Fall 2023 volunteer appreciation at RD-1 Distillery's Lexington tasting room and spent the evening sharing stories of preparing and recording this program for us over the years. Ken has developed a great appreciation for what Larry began, taking considerable time to research the topics, record, edit, and mix the program from his home recording studio each week.

"Thinking about the listener, first and foremost," is Ken's mantra in producing Country Weekly, which airs early every Friday afternoon and outlines news and information about all things

related to country music, such as artists, concerts, awards, and events. Ken's many talents shine in producing this weekly program, and as he puts it, "entertainment is a break to the (hard) news" aired before and after his program. He begins each program with some jazzy intro music, which he discovered, and which echoes his true love of music as "a jazz enthusiast!"



Ken was raised on Long Island – "I'm not from the South, but I got here as soon as I could!" he says – with classical music, learning to play the flute and saxophone in his youth. His professional career began behind the microphone in radio stations in Berlin, NH and Federalsburg, MD, and after a few years he advanced into sales. From there, he became a high-level manager at the Black & Decker national headquarters in the northeast. Ken moved to Central

Kentucky in 2000 as the vice president of North American sales for Thiel Audio, then worked with the Quantrell Auto Group for the decade before his retirement in 2019.

Radio Eye is so fortunate to have Ken as a long-term volunteer. Even if you don't follow or listen to Country Music, consider tuning in to his program every Friday at 12:30 PM or 5:30 PM ET to enjoy one of our listener's favorite programs!



1733 Russell Cave Rd.
Lexington, KY 40505
859-422-6390
www.radioeye.org

How to Listen to Radio Eye

Radio Eye provides special FM side-band radios, internet radios, Amazon Echo, or large-button telephones to qualified individuals at no cost. To receive a listening device, call 859-422-6390 or 800-238-5193 ext. 0, email info@radioeye.org, or visit www.radioeye.org for a listener application.

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