



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
**RIGHT: Shannon Hill approves of items he has to give away. ABOVE: Some trees available from the Ashland Area Tool Library.**



# Tool library a giveaway center for holiday decor

BY LEE WARD  
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

**ASHLAND** Shannon Hill really enjoys freebies. Giving them, that is.

The founder of the Ashland Area Tool Library is in his third year of offering “Free Stuff Days” preceding Christmas.

This year’s first giveaway day was before Thanksgiving, when 20 Christmas trees and more than five tables full of holiday decorations were dis-

tributed. The next giveaway will be Saturday.

“This year, my wife bought a few things to give to kids and she’s making up a few gift bags,” he said.

The giveaways are an extension of the tool library, which started when Hill was injured and could no longer work building houses.

“I just had a bunch of tools and people would ask to borrow them from time to time,” he said. “Everybody said I was crazy. ‘You’ll lose it all

and I said, ‘If I do, I’ll stop.’”

Occasionally, he did giveaways and was able to place items with those who needed them. He also takes donations of things others would like to get rid of, such as furniture, ceiling fans and curtains. He and his wife donated their used washer and dryer.

When they decided to replace their old Christmas tree, it became a hot item in the world of freebies.

“Everybody was contacting

## TO GIVE, TO RECEIVE

Shannon Hill’s Ashland Area Tool Library is at 1604 Spring Park. To donate or for more information about the giveaway days, message the library on Facebook.

me wanting trees,” he said. “That year, I ended up getting a few more donated and gave away about eight. Last year, we gave away 42. So far this year, I think I have given away 15 or 16 or more. I’m hoping for another dozen or so. I’d

like to go over 50.”

He said he will accept donations any time and year-round; donors can drop off items at his house, even if he’s not there. He takes various holiday decor, not just trees, but trees seem to be in demand.

“It keeps trees out of the landfill and gives trees to those who need them,” he said.

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# Ky. Democrat Booker to run again for U.S. Senate seat

BY MCKENNA HORSLEY  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Kentucky Democrat Charles Booker, who unsuccessfully ran for U.S. Senate twice before, is once again campaigning for the office.

After leaving a position in Gov. Andy Beshear’s administration in September, Booker announced Wednesday morning that he would run for Kentucky’s open U.S. Senate seat. In a campaign video, Booker emphasized that his platform includes supporting initiatives for Medicare, affordable housing, better wages, lowering utility bills and universal childcare.

“What story would we write if we let ourselves dream again?” Booker says in the video. “The story I’d write is one where everyone in the commonwealth can prosper, one where government shows up for us instead of stomping on us.”



TOM EBLEN PHOTO  
**Former Democratic state lawmaker and U.S. Senate candidate Charles Booker addressed the “No Kings” rally in Lexington Oct. 18.**

Booker has run for the chance to represent Kentucky in the U.S. Senate twice before. In 2020, Booker lost the Democratic nomination

to former Marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath, who later failed to unseat longtime Republican U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell. Booker then ran

against Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul in 2022 and lost.

McConnell announced earlier this year that he would not seek reelection

to the U.S. Senate seat he’s held since 1984, paving the way for politicians on both sides of the aisle to jockey for the open seat.

McGrath launched her 2026 campaign for the seat in October. Other Democrats in the race include racehorse trainer Dale Romans, former Secret Service agent Logan Forsythe, former CIA officer Joel Willett and Kentucky House Democratic Floor Leader Pamela Stevenson.

Republicans are also facing a crowded primary. GOP candidates in the race U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, former state Attorney General Daniel Cameron and businessman Nate Morris have campaigned for months, often facing each other at Republican and campaign events.

Booker previously represented the 43rd District in the Kentucky House of Representatives, which includes parts of Louisville. Rumors swirled that Booker might run for the upcoming Louisville mayoral race, but he said in October he would not seek that office.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
There will be a board meeting for Sanitation District #4 on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10 am. It will be held at the main office at 239 W Little Garner Rd.  
Published: December 4, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Boyd County Fiscal Court will be receiving proposals from qualified companies to provide demolition services to the County. For more information, and a full copy of the bid requirements, please visit <https://boydcountky.gov>.  
Published: December 4, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Greenup County School District is currently accepting applications for District 1 and District 4 School Board Vacancies. Applications can be accessed through the Greenup County Schools Website under the career opportunities tab.  
Published: November 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 & December 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order in Case No. 2025-00257 scheduling a public comment meeting to be held on December 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, at the Perry County Courthouse, 481 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Hazard, Kentucky 41701, for the purpose of hearing public comments on Kentucky Power Company’s application for adjustment of its electric rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments in Case No. 2025-00257. An additional public meeting in Ashland will be held in January 2026, and will be noticed separately in advance of that meeting.



# 85%

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\*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures