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STIVERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS CELEBRATE BOONEVILLE REVITALIZATION

Nest Box is most recent addition to Booneville's growing downtown area



Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, joined Booneville Mayor Nelson Bobrowski and local business owners Thursday to celebrate the continued revitalization of downtown Booneville at the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of The Nest Box.

Owned by Andee and Lindsey Stevens, The Nest Box is a new farm-to-table café featuring food grown at the couple’s Happy Hens Homestead family farm and products from other local farms. The farm is rooted in generations of Lindsey’s family history in Owsley County.

“Downtowns are at their best when people have a reason to live, work, shop and start a business there,” Stivers said. “The Nest Box is a great example of local entrepreneurs seeing an opportunity and investing in their hometown. That kind of commitment is what creates jobs, strengthens communities and gives people a reason to stay close to home.”

Booneville leaders have made a concerted effort to revitalize the downtown area, creating opportunities for new businesses and local employment. Recent additions include Booneville Cycle, R&R Cutlery, Abdeil’s Barbershop and La Taqueria Cantina, a food truck operating on city-owned property with plans to explore a permanent location.

“Our goal has been to make downtown Booneville a place where people want to come, stay and invest,” said Bobrowski. “The Nest Box is exactly the kind of local business that brings new energy downtown while showcasing what makes our community special. We’re proud to welcome Andee and Lindsey and look forward to seeing their business grow.”

For Andee Stevens, opening the cafe’s doors was like opening arms to a friend. “We’re excited to open The Nest Box and share food from our farm and other local farms with our community,” said Andee Stevens. “Booneville has given us the opportunity to build something here at home, and we’re grateful to everyone who has supported us along the way.”

For Lindsey Stevens, The Nest Box is a dream come true for her deep Booneville and Owsley County roots. “This community and my family’s history here mean so much to me, so bringing our farm and business into downtown Booneville is especially meaningful,” said Lindsey Stevens. We hope The Nest Box becomes a place where people can gather, enjoy good food and experience what Owsley County has to offer.” *Photos via Southeast KY Economic Development Corp*

George Johnson of Booneville (41314) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Summer 2026 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

City of Booneville News for September

By Lisa Robinson: Booneville Sentinel

The Booneville Board of Commissioners (City Council) met in regular session on Wednesday, September 8, 2026. Mayor Nelson Bobrowski called the meeting to order. The mayor asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes from August 12, 2026 and August 31, 2026. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from both meetings. There were no public comments.

Paul Nesbitt from Nesbitt Engineering was present to give an update on the projects that they are helping the city with. “We are continuing to work on the Bates Block Phase 2. The Water Plant Rehab Project – it is in a funding phase. We (along with KRADD) have submitted a lot of funding applications with different places. The Telemetry Expansion Project – after months and months of working on the property, Attorney Brendon Miller from Breathitt County agreed to look and he issued a certificate for title. We have given it to the ADD District.

There are couple of other things that we need to take care of. We have already taken the lowest bid from bidder Billy Ball. By the end of next week, we should be able to award the contract and go on. Brendon Miller issued and Invoice and we have a Requisition #1 for legal fees for \$5,600.00. After you approve that, we can get Brendon paid for the work he did.” A motion was made and carried to approve paying Requisition #1. Paul continued, “the Sag Hollow Subdivision – we are waiting for funding on that. The Cabins at Sag – the AMLER Grant that we got – the construction is finished. We have Requisition #8 for you to approve. This includes a couple of Invoices for Billy Ball and one for Nesbitt Engineering.” Mayor Bobrowski said, “we think everything will be finished up there by the end of September.” A motion was made and carried to approve Requisition #8. “The Brewer Road Water Line Extension – we have been saying for a while now that procurement is needed on this project. KRADD sent emails this morning issuing the request for proposals from engineers on that. You will see proposals coming in and we will be sending one in as well. You will have to score each one and KRADD will lead you through that process. The Water Line Replacement Phase 3 – construction should start this month.

We have Requisition #1 for finishing out the payment on design,” said Paul. A motion was made and carried to approve the payment of Requisition #1. Paul went on, “the Saul AML Water Line – the mayor and I went to the Saul Community Center and met with the citizens of Saul. Senator Brandon Smith was there along with Representative Chris Fugate. We now have the construction permit and the D.O.T. Easements approved. There are a couple of houses on top of the ridge that we did not include because of the cost of service even though they are eligible. Perry County wants that to be revisited. We would have to put a pump up there to reach those customers. Once we revisit that, it won’t take long to get D.O.W. approval.

When all of that happens, we will submit it to AML. They will do their read on it which can take from 1 to 4 months. We are looking at early next year to bid it out. We should have it there by the end of next year.

The Sewer Force Main Redirect Project – we are waiting on them to release the funds. This will save the city a lot of money in operations. This will eliminate a lot of river crossings and will be a very effective way to rehab a system that kind of grew.” The mayor said, “this will save the city about \$1,000 a month on electricity and one of the pump stations.” Paul said, “we have to design and get approval. We are looking at bidding it early next year and getting it done next year.

The Fish Creek Kayak Launch is being planned for the South Fork on property that the city bought across from Spencer’s Dairy Bar. We are waiting for KRADD to tell us to go ahead on that. The Environmental and everything still needs to be done. We are continuing to assist with FEMA. We have some things to close out but we don’t have any new disasters. We will have people available if we have another disaster. The three D.O.T. Projects that we talked about before – the 708 Water Line Relocation, which is around a bridge, the highway said that they are going to bid that in October; the Improvement to Ky 3504 & Old 11 Intersection – that project is complete and the reconstruction of Ky 11 and 846 – they are bidding that this month.”

Tanielle from KRADD gave an update on what they are working on. “My stuff is going to piggyback off of the stuff that Paul had. I need the mayor’s signature on Requisition #8. I also have for Sag Hollow some reports of compliance that you will need to sign.” Ruth Hensley gave the CBWS Collections Report. Tammy Shouse, City Clerk, presented the Financials. “The Financials from June are in your packets. We still don’t have the July or August Financials yet from the CPA. I would like to go ahead and have the first reading of the Ordinance to Amend the budget to the actual for the O & M Fund, for the Special Revenue Fund and for the General Fund.”

A motion was made and carried to approve the June Financials. A motion was made and carried to pay the bills.

Booneville City Police Chief Claude Hudson gave his report. He listed several things that he has done since the last meeting including: executed an eviction notice, routine school patrol (on foot and in the cruiser), criminal trespassing complaints, harassing communications complaints, illegal parking, drug paraphernalia disposal, several alarm calls, multitude of traffic stops, several motorist assists, vehicle unlocks, security detail at the Farmer’s Market on Tuesdays and Saturdays, remove garbage from roadways, welfare checks on folks and school ballgames just to name a few. David Hall, Superintendent of CBWS, gave his monthly update.

“We had two leaks today and had a meeting with Jackson Energy. We finally got our valve in down at the river intake. They are still trying to get the filter valves at the plant to operate correctly. I have been meeting with Jackson Energy about the Nursing Home Sewer Lift Station Rehab. The FEMA Project. We have had several leaks and set several meters. We are trying to get ready for winter. We are having an issue with the chlorine system at the water plant. It’s nothing that is a problem right now.”

A motion was made and carried to go into executive session. A motion was made and carried to exit the executive session. There was some discussion on data centers and flock cameras. The mayor said that they need to do more research on both. Tammy did the second reading of the Tax Rates.

A motion was made and carried to approve keeping the rates the same as last year. The Fire Department sent their request for the donation that we give them every year. We usually give them \$2,500. A motion was made and carried to give them the donation.