LIVINGSTON COUNTY **Fiscal Court**

New lights, pickleball part of park plans in Livingston County

STAFF REPORT

Livingston Fiscal Court approved a $3.63 million budget amendment and agreed to help finance recreational improvements in Grand Rivers during its October meeting. The court also discussed a proposed $1.7 million lighting project at county ball fields and parks, expansion of recycling services and improvements at the county transfer station.

Judge-Executive Michael Williams said the budget amendment totaled $3,633,270, including $2 million in state appropriations designated for the Smithland-Ledbetter wastewater regionalization project. The remaining funds included carryover money from the previous fiscal year and additional revenue not anticipated in the original budget.

The court also held a public hearing on a proposed Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to help finance a $1.7 million lighting upgrade at Roy Ringstaff Ballpark at Smithland. The project would replace aging wooden light poles with metal poles and install energy-efficient LED lighting in place of older fixtures believed to date to the mid-1980s.

Williams said the grant application was due by the end of October, with a funding decision expected in April or May 2027. If the grant is unsuccessful, the county may consider upgrading one field at a time. Several coaches and residents attended the hearing in support of the project.

In other business, magistrates approved contributing up to $14,000 toward resurfacing a deteriorating basketball court at a Grand Rivers city park. The city plans to convert the area into a multipurpose basketball and pickleball court. The overall project is estimated to cost about $25,000.

Magistrates awarded a contract to Jennings Fencing of Salem, the lowest bidder, to replace deteriorating fencing at the county transfer station. The work will accommodate a planned gate and designated brush disposal area.

Williams reported that more than 55 dumpsters of waste were hauled away during the county's recent three-day free disposal event.

KENTUCKY
2026–27 MEN'S BASKETBALL
ALL TIMES CENTRAL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (CT)	TV/STREAM
Oct. 16	Little Rock (EXH)	6 p.m.	SECN+
Oct. 23	Texas Tech (EXH)	6 p.m.	SECN+
Oct. 28	UCF (EXH)	5 p.m.	SECN
Nov. 3	Manhattan	6 p.m.	SECN+
Nov. 6	James Madison	6 p.m.	SECN
Nov. 10	vs. Kansas	8:30 p.m.	ESPN
Nov. 13	Northern Arizona	6 p.m.	SECN+
Nov. 16	Grambling State	6 p.m.	SECN+
Nov. 20	vs. Indiana	7 p.m.	CBS
Nov. 27	Wichita State	8 p.m.	ESPN2
Dec. 2	at Virginia	6:15 p.m.	ESPN
Dec. 5	Appalachian State	Noon	SECN+
Dec. 8	Bryant	6:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Dec. 12	Louisville	3 p.m.	ABC
Dec. 19	vs. North Carolina	1:30 p.m.	CBS
Dec. 22	Sacred Heart	Noon	SECN
Dec. 28	Gardner-Webb	6 p.m.	SECN
Jan. 2	at Oklahoma*	11 a.m.	ESPN/2
Jan. 5	Ole Miss*	6 p.m.	ESPN/2
Jan. 9	at Missouri*	3 p.m.	ESPN2
Jan. 13	LSU*	6 p.m.	SECN
Jan. 16	Vanderbilt*	3 p.m.	ESPN/2
Jan. 20	at Mississippi State*	7:30 p.m.	SECN
Jan. 23	Tennessee*	1 p.m.	ESPN/2/U
Jan. 30	at Texas*	11 a.m.	ESPN/2
Feb. 2	at Ole Miss*	8 p.m.	ESPN/2
Feb. 6	Alabama*	1 p.m.	ESPN/2
Feb. 10	South Carolina*	7 p.m.	SECN
Feb. 13	at Tennessee*	3 p.m.	ESPN
Feb. 16	at Georgia*	6 p.m.	ESPN/2
Feb. 20	Arkansas*	5 or 5:30 p.m.	ESPN
Feb. 23	at Vanderbiit*	8 p.m.	ESPN/2
Feb. 27	Auburn*	3 or 3:30 p.m.	ESPN/2
Mar. 3	Texas A&M*	6 p.m.	ESPN2/U
Mar. 6	at Florida*	3 or 3:30 p.m.	ESPN
Mar. 10–14	SEC Tournament	TBA	TBA

*** SEC game • EXH:** exhibition • Unmarked games at Rupp Arena.
Neutral sites: Kansas—Chicago; Indiana—Indianapolis; North Carolina—New York.
SEC Tournament: Nashville. SECN: SEC Network; SECN+: streaming.
ESPN/2: ESPN or ESPN2; U: ESPNU. Final assignments pending.
Dates, times and networks subject to change. Source: UK Athletics, Oct. 7, 2026.

SPAR

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ronment is very good. The agencies are very receptive and helpful," he explained.

He also added, however, that like any business venture, paperwork just takes time.

Seeing mining operations in full force is still a good way off, Miller says. It could be the end of next year before the company is producing ore, and two years before the company is at full production. Much of what they are doing in Phase 1 of the plan concerns drill rigs, modeling with a mining engineer and developing mining plans.

Miller says that Phase 2 will identify even further reserves. The company hopes to develop additional mining plans to produce both metallurgical spar and acid-grade spar. Each type is used in various critical industries like advanced manufacturing, uranium development and microchip production.

Miller also explains that his business plan would include "creation of good, safe jobs for the community."

He indicated that these jobs would have starting salaries around $75,000 to $80,000.

"We will provide safety certifications and equipment," Miller explained. He noted that many local people would qualify and be given on-the-job training.

"We are super excited," Miller said about the ongoing work of his company.

The company will be locally based, and he has no intention of moving it to a big city once it begins to grow.

"We plan to be here for decades," he noted.

Miller said that local hospitality has made positive impressions on both him and his family.

"We love western Kentucky," he added.

Ferry likely to stay idle into early 2027

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom says that recent state-level discussions about reopening the Cave-in-Rock Ferry have produced no agreement, with additional Kentucky funding hinging on legislative action when lawmakers convene in January.

Illinois state Rep. Patrick Windhorst recently told KFVS-TV Channel 12 that Kentucky officials have indicated they cannot increase their offer until the legislature returns to Frankfort early next year.

The ferry closed June 30 after its previous funding agreement expired amid a dispute over operating costs.

Newcom said a petition drive is being developed by a local individual, which would be circulated in Kentucky and Illinois. That effort could be beneficial, he said.

"Anything would be good that could express how this is affecting livelihoods and daily needs on both sides of the river," the judge said.

Some local businesses have told the judge that the ferry closure has caused them to lose as much as half of their ordinary receipts. It's affecting Amish businesses, too, the judge said. Ben Clement Mineral Museum has seen a big drop off in its traffic, according to museum operators.

Kentucky and Illinois share the cost of subsidizing the privately operated ferry service, which connects Crittenden County with Hardin County, Ill. The closure continues to force commuters, businesses and other travelers to use longer alternate routes across the Ohio River.

This is the longest the ferry has been closed since 1994, when it shut down for about five months after the previous owner stopped the service, which was then paid for by travelers. It was reopened in the fall of 1994 by new operator Lonnie Lewis, who has been the owner-operator since that time.



