

Team KY expands initiative to protect Kentuckians from scammers

Special to the News-Graphic

In celebration of National Consumer Protection Week (March 1-7), Gov. Beshear recently announced a new partnership between the Stop Scams Initiative and the Kentucky State Police (KSP) to share resources with law enforcement agencies across the state and protect more Kentuckians against scammers.

“Scams are cruel and cost Kentuckians money that could be going toward rent, groceries, retirement and more,” said Gov. Beshear. “Our law enforcement officers are committed to protecting our people, including by tracking down scammers and helping bring them to justice. This partnership will give Team Kentucky more tools to prevent scams and pro-

tect Kentuckians’ hard-earned dollars.”

According to the most recent FBI report on internet scams, Kentuckians are losing more than \$74 million dollars annually to cyber scammers. With the integration of technology in our everyday lives and the emergence of artificial intelligence, scams are on the rise and more sophisticated than ever. Education and awareness are the keys to protecting people from financial loss.

“The Stop Scams initiative grew from the work we were doing with the Department of Insurance and the Department of Financial Institutions fighting fraud, said Public Protection Cabinet Secretary Ray Perry. “We knew that we had to do more to educate people about scams too. This partnership will help in-

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Andy Beshear
Governor

crease awareness and teach more people how to protect their money.”

KSP is committed to making Kentucky communities safer, including tracking down scammers and helping bring them to justice. Stop Scams and KSP along with other program partners Better Business Bureau and AARP Kentucky are working together to quickly identify scams and teach more Kentuckians how to spot scams. The partners can also

provide resources for those who fall victim to scams.

“The Stop Scams partnership will provide our troopers with the latest information on scams to further protect Kentuckians,” says KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett, Jr. “By having access to reliable and timely information we can better inform the communities we are serving and protecting.”

Stop Scams was launched in Au-

gust 2025 to help Kentuckians spot, avoid, and recover from scams. The website StopScams.ky.gov shares the latest information on scams. Since the program launched more than 30,000 subscribers have started receiving text and email scam alerts and a monthly newsletter with the latest news on scams in Kentucky. The program has reached thousands more through educa-

tional public speaking events across the state.

Stop Scams helps Kentuckians identify and avoid scams by encouraging the Pause/Check/Protect method:

- Pause: Were you expecting a call, text or email from this person? Does the offer seem too good to be true? Don’t feel pressured to act if you feel unsure.

- Check: Research the offer. Discuss with family and friends, especially if you are considering financial investment.

- Protect: Keep your personal information safe and boost your digital security. Never share your social security number, bank information, or passwords.

Learn more about how to spot a scam and sign up for scam alerts at StopScams.ky.gov or follow Stop Scams on Facebook and Instagram.

SCFC: Scott County Detention Center seeking quotes for several inmate services

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duct a public hearing, and draft regulations.

In that time, Magistrates will potentially move forward with a siting ordinance, similar to what was used for the current Rumpke Transfer Station on Yusen Drive, Covington said.

“There was a potential transfer station that wanted to be sited at one time, not too long ago, and we did not have a proper siting ordinance to deal with those types of facilities,” he said.

“We navigated it, and it worked out very well, but I would rather have the time up front to do this right. I think we’re doing the right thing by giving ourselves this opportunity to navigate a siting

ordinance and take in all the considerations.”

Scott County Detention Center (SCDC) is officially seeking quotes for a wide range of inmate services, including an updated phone system, inmate tablets, and more. Jailer Derran Broyles received unanimous support to advertise a four-week request for proposal for the sought materials and programs.

The request stems from recent troubles with SCDC’s current phone company, Broyles said, which makes services like inmate visits more difficult.

“In the last several years, they (the current company) have really dropped the ball as far as service responsiveness,” he said. “They’ve actu-

ally brought equipment to the jail, installed it, and never came back to finish installing it. It’s a company-wide issue that they’re having.”

One of the proposal’s requests would include a “tablet program” for SCDC inmates, Broyles said.

“The tablet program would be where each inmate, unless they’re on some type of disciplinary restriction, would get a tablet,” he said. “You might think that that is something that they don’t need, and they don’t need it. But where it would help us out is in the population management of our facility.

“What it does for us is it gives us another tool in the toolbox that we can work with them on

their behavior in the facility, and what it does for them is it offers them educational programs, rehab programs, and entertainment, depending on how much entertainment I want to let in. They can download music, they can download shows or movies — and, me personally, that door is going to be very narrow, especially starting out. But that would help us out tremendously.”

Tablets would give inmates access to work training programs, digital mail services, and recreation, the latter of which is limited to weather-dependent outdoor activities and televisions that are often shared by as many as 17 inmates, according to

Broyles.

Contractors will have about four weeks, as of Friday, to submit proposals for such services.

IN OTHER NEWS:

—Magistrates elected to move forward with a four-person provisional recruit class hire at Scott County Fire Department, with several personnel becoming eligible for retirement over the coming months.

—Scott County Sheriff’s Office is moving forward with a \$21,995 Law Enforcement Protection Program grant through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. The grant would cover the total cost of 10 short-barreled rifles and ammunition.

—Scott County Road Department was approved for two new hires: Chris Burke joins full-time as an equipment operator at \$20.41 per hour, and Larry Brandenburg will be a temporary seasonal hire for lawn mowing services at \$19 per hour.

—University of Kentucky Law student Rylea Marcum and Georgetown College junior Natalia Esteva were approved for hire as summer interns at the Scott County Attorney’s office. Marcum, a Georgetown native, will focus on family law under Assistant County Attorney Vincent “Vinny” Morris, and Esteva comes with criminal justice experience. Both will start their internships around May at \$12 per hour.

GSCPC: Knight Hall has been closed to students for almost a decade, documents show

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on-campus housing total.

Knight Hall has been closed to students for about a decade, according to planning documents. If final approval is granted, the changes will introduce a student lounge, updated bedrooms, and a divider wall along the property’s north face, which neighbors multiple residential properties.

Also proposed is a reduction of the current parking lot at Knight Hall, from 137 existing spaces down to 102, documents read.

A waiver was granted for the parking space requirement, which would otherwise be over 300 spots, as only about 45 percent of enrolled undergraduate students at Georgetown College have registered vehicles with campus security, according to Planner Mark Carper. About 200 parking spots exist within 500 ft. of the dorm, he said, including street parking and spots at Georgetown Baptist Church.

Neighbors to the north and other surrounding properties requested that buffering requirements not be limited to a six-foot-tall fence. Some expressed a good relationship with the college,

and they enjoy the openness of their backyard view, including neighbor Audrey Carr.

“What I don’t want happening is having to look out, and now I’m boxed in with a fence that you can’t see through,” Carr said. “(Planner) Mark (Carper) explained to me that there is a requirement that you have a buffer, but it doesn’t have to be a privacy fence. It could be landscaping or whatever.”

Neighbor Lewis Wolfe also asked that the dorm’s dumpster, which currently sits on the property’s back parking lot, not be moved to a proposed location toward the east side of the building.

“My preference would be to leave it over here (behind the building) or put it down here (next to College Street) where it’s accessible to the campus, but it’s not next to our property and Mrs. Carr,” Wolfe said. “There are a whole lot of different things that come and go from dumpsters; I’d rather they be in — not my backyard.”

Applicants expressed a willingness to work with neighbors and the college on both matters. Commissioners amended the preliminary development plan to allow for

flexibility with both the residential buffering and dumpster location prior to approval.

IN OTHER NEWS:

—A preliminary development plan hearing for UK Federal Credit Union, a bank hoping to go on Braeburn Road, was not heard Thursday due to a lack of quorum. Chair Mary Singer recused herself from discussion due to a personal ongoing deal with developers An-

derson Properties, resulting in the lack of quorum.

—Commission officers were elected at Thursday’s Meeting: Mary Singer, Chair; Duwan Garrett, Vice Chair; Brad Green, Malissa Adair, and James Stone, Executive Committee.

—Planning and Zoning Director Holden Fleming received the OK of GSCPC to present a 7.5 percent budget increase request to Scott County Fiscal Court. An increased budget would

allow for staff raises and IT services improvements.

—Commissioners presented a resolution honor-

ing former commission chair Charlie Mifflin for his two-term tenure, which concluded in December 2025.

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EV: Funds raised go toward day-to-day operations

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ing shelter. Haley House can house 18-20 people, while the transitional house can host 10 women at a time, Brooker said.

As of press time, \$60,000 in funds had been raised by the Gala, with more still coming in, Brooker said. Funds raised go

toward day-to-day operations, Haley House, and the organization’s office on West Court Street in Georgetown.

One hundred people attended the Gala, which had a live jazz band, a paint by numbers community art project, and silent and live auctions.