

KENTUCKY NEWS ROUNDUP

Fast-growing environmental movement arrives in Kentucky

Special to the News-Graphic

A growing environmental movement focused on protecting the night sky has arrived in Kentucky. DarkSky Kentucky has been established as an official chapter of DarkSky International, giving the state a new organization devoted to reducing light pollution and protecting the natural nighttime environment.

The timing comes as light pollution draws increasing attention. Communities are rethinking how they light public spaces, researchers are documenting growing impacts on wildlife and human health, and farmers are raising concerns about how artificial light affects crops. The issue has even reached the Kentucky Capitol, where lawmakers recently considered legislation to protect soybean crops from harm caused by highway lighting.

Light pollution, caused by excessive or poorly designed artificial light, harms nocturnal ecosystems, wastes energy, obscures the stars, and can

affect human health.

For most of Earth's history, electric light did not exist, and nighttime ecosystems evolved under natural cycles of light and darkness. Today, artificial light is disrupting those patterns, altering animal behavior, migration, feeding, and reproduction.

"Everyone deserves the chance to look up and see a sky full of stars, not just a few scattered lights," said Kelly Davenport of Louisville, who led the effort to launch DarkSky Kentucky. "When people experience a truly dark sky, it creates a sense of awe and connection that stays with them and inspires them to protect it."

Unlike many environmental problems, light pollution can be reduced immediately. Turn off an unnecessary light, and the pollution stops.

"It's a solvable problem," said Dan Price, a NASA Solar System Amba-

sador who helped launch DarkSky Kentucky. "We all have a chance to make a difference through both the choices we make as individuals and the unified action we take as a community."

In the months ahead, DarkSky Kentucky plans to take part in community events across the state, support star parties and other night-sky programs, and promote practical ways to improve outdoor lighting and protect the night sky.

Kentucky is already home to Mammoth Cave National Park, an International Dark Sky Park recognized by DarkSky International, where visitors can experience some of the darkest night skies in the region. Interest in astrotourism is also growing at Kentucky State Parks, with more nighttime programming taking shape.

Though a new group, DarkSky Kentucky is

already drawing interest from astronomers, environmental advocates, outdoor enthusiasts, and others across Kentucky, Davenport said.

"Looking up at a star-filled sky is a shared human experience," Davenport said. "It connects generations and cultures across Kentucky and around the world."

Anyone interested in learning more or getting involved with DarkSky Kentucky is welcome to email gocardskd@aol.com or visit the group's Facebook page.

Adams announces annual 'I Voted' sticker contest

Special to the News-Graphic

Secretary of State Michael Adams invites all Kentucky students to participate in the third annual "I Voted" sticker contest.

The contest is open to all Kentucky students from kindergarten to 12th grade. To enter, students need to send in their best

design for an "I Voted" sticker. The winning sticker design will be handed to voters in participating counties during the 2026 general election.

"Will the face of Kentucky voters be a big green monster? You decide," said Adams. "Our youngest Kentuckians are ready to step up with their creative ideas to make November's election a success."

Interested students can submit their design at <https://www.sos.ky.gov/civic-initiatives/Pages/i-voted-sticker-contest.aspx> by May 29 at 5 p.m. EST. Please include your student's name, school, address, and phone number with the submission.

To be considered, pictures must be original work and include the words "I Voted." Please upload the pictures in JPEG or PNG format.

The finalists will be chosen by the Secretary of State's Office to go on a ballot to be voted on during the 2026 Kentucky State Fair. The top vote getter's design will be printed on stickers and

sent to interested county clerks to provide to general election voters.

Medicare SHIP program helps guide fixed income living

Special to the News-Graphic

The cost of living keeps going up – which can be hard if you're an older adult living on a fixed income. Benefits can help ease the burden, and the Medicare SHIP Program is trained to guide you.

Located within Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, Medicare SHIP provides free and unbiased help with benefit programs such as Medicare. Medicare SHIP have partnered with the National Council on Aging to help Kentucky's older adults to apply for benefits that can lower the high costs of food, medicine, utilities, and other monthly expenses.

Give Medicare SHIP a call for a benefits screening at 1-866-516-3051. You can also visit our Benefits Check Up website at www.labg.benefitscheckup.org.

In the know

Anyone interested in learning more or getting involved with DarkSky Kentucky is welcome to email gocardskd@aol.com or visit the group's Facebook page @ [DarkSky KY](https://www.facebook.com/DarkSkyKY)

SCOTT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

The following is a listing of persons incarcerated in the Scott County Detention Center between April 9 and April 16, 2026.

April 9
—Neddy Joe Brown, 47, of Georgetown; failure to appear. \$10,000 bond.
—Tawny Lynne Crowe, 31, of Nicholasville; assault - 2nd degree (domestic violence). \$10,000 bond.
—Brandi Nicole Marcum, 42, of Mt. Sterling; serving warrant (for other police agency), 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).

April 10
—Jason Wayne Carpenter, 45, of Manchester; failure to appear - citation for misdemeanor.
—Hornanzo Cortez Early, 29, of Lexington; serving warrant (for other police agency) - x2 counts, operating on suspended/revoked operators license, no/expired registration plates, posses open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance - 1st offense. \$12,501 bond.
—Sean Patrick Harrington, 29, of Lexington; commitment order.
—Phillip Stephen Haynes, 36, of Killgore TX; license to be in possession, operating motor vehicle under the influence of a substance - 1st offense, drug paraphernalia - buy/possession.
—Donald Ryan-Edward Whitaker, 38, of Harrogate TN; serving warrant (for other police agency), alcohol intoxication in a public place - 1st and 2nd

offense. \$200 bond.
—Charles Wayne Whitlock, 40, of Georgetown; serving warrant (for other police agency). \$50 bond.
—James Lee Wilburn, 54, of Georgetown; failure to appear - citation for misdemeanor.
—Crystal Charlene Williams, 51, of Frankfort; serving warrant (for other police agency). \$150 bond.
—Stephanie Williams, 37, of Georgetown; careless driving, possession open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol - 2nd offense. \$500 bond.

April 11
—Kristie Michelle Geary, 40, of Georgetown; non payment of court costs fees, or fines. \$164 bond.
—Kristopher Wayne Howell, 34, of Cynthia; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/expired registration plates, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security - 1st offense, possession of a controlled substance - 1st degree - 1st offense (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana. \$5,000 bond.
—Juan Leonardo Ibarra, 27, of Lexington; reckless driving, failure to dim headlights, operating on suspended/revoked operators license, wanton endangerment - 2nd degree (police officer), possession of open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol - 1st offense. \$10,000 bond.
—David John Laurick, 68, of Georgetown; op-

erating on suspended/revoked operators license, failure to wear seat belts, operating motor vehicle under the influence of a substance - 1st offense, serving warrant (for other police agency), theft by unlawful taking or dispute - auto \$1,000 < \$10,000. \$17,500 bond.
—Kaylin Sierra Stallard, 31, of Richmond; serving warrant (for other police agency). \$178 bond.

April 12
—Delmar Ambrosia Ramos, 28, of Georgetown; no operators/moped license, operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol - 1st offense.
—Dennis Ray Moore Jr, 45, of Inez KY; probation violation (for felony offense) - x2 counts. \$20,000 bond.
—Bobbie-Jo Leigh Thomas, 29, of Georgetown; drug paraphernalia - buy/possession, possession of a controlled substance - 1st degree - 1st offense (drug unspecified), possession of a controlled substance - 1st degree - 1st offense (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana. \$5,000 bond.

April 13
—Courtney Leeann Bowling, 40, of Georgetown; 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).
—Logan Alexander Duncan, 31, of Cynthia; 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).
—Raymond Washington Gardner, 23, of Kentucky; 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).
—Corey Adams Hawkins, 50, of Georgetown; public intoxication

of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), possession of marijuana.
—Montana Cruz Hernandez, 19, of Georgetown; serving warrant (for other police agency). \$400 bond.
—Henry Earl Penn, 61, of Frankfort; 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).
—Paul Daniel Stokley, 35, of Lexington; 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).
—Rachel Elizabeth Wright, 45, of Georgetown; assault - 4th degree (domestic violence) minor injury. \$2,000 bond.
April 14
—Jefferson Ismael Bonilla-Giron, 29, of Lexington; serving warrant (for

other police agency) - x2 counts. \$552 bond.
—Christina Marie Cunningham, 37, of Lexington; serving warrant (for other police agency). \$250 bond.
—Chad Ryan Wilson, 45, of Georgetown; assault - 4th degree (domestic violence) minor injury. \$2,000 bond.

April 15
—Antonio Larpell Frye, 18, of Georgetown; 105 COTA (court order to appear - Scott County).
—Justin Shane Smith, 33, of Georgetown; public intoxication of controlled substance (excludes alcohol), drug paraphernalia - buy/possession, possession of a controlled substance - 1st degree - 1st

offense (drug unspecified), promoting contraband - 1st degree.
—Charles Benjamin Spurlock, 46, of Georgetown; serving warrant (for other police agency). \$250 bond.
—Teresa Evelyn Wethington, 54, of Georgetown; commitment order.

April 16
—Tony Ray Alexander, 55, of Georgetown; probation violation (for felony offense). \$10,000 bond.
—Dasan Joseph James Boone, 20, of Georgetown; contempt of court.
—Steven Allen Vicaro, 36, of Georgetown; alcohol intoxication in a public place - 1st and 2nd offense, unlawful camping - 1st offense.

Who cares about public notices?

YOU SHOULD

You have the right to know what's happening in your community.

Public notices – information local governments are obligated to provide citizens – are required to be published in local newspapers to provide a public record that's accessible to everyone.

Public notices keep you informed about your government.

But, in some states legislators are trying to keep public notices from appearing in local newspapers. This severely impacts government transparency and, in turn, limits the public's right to hold them accountable for their actions.

Let your state legislators know that you value being able to access notices in your newspaper and that they are worth the investment.

Protect public notices in newspapers and protect your right to know.

GEORGETOWN News-Graphic

newspapers.org/public-notices

America's Newspapers is a national association supporting journalism and healthy newspapers in our local communities. Find out more at www.newspapers.org or follow us on Twitter @newspapersorg or on Facebook @americasnewspapers.

Public Notice

SCOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Seeking bids from parties for telecommunications systems

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Scott County Fiscal Court is soliciting bids from parties interested in obtaining franchises to operate telecommunications systems within the confines of the County, pursuant to Ordinance No. 26-02. Franchise(s) awarded pursuant to this Request for Bids will be non-exclusive and will be for a term of ten (10) years. Bids must meet

all of the requirements of Ordinance No. 26-02.
Bid documents can be obtained at scottky.gov. Sealed bids must be received no later than 2:00 PM EST on April 29, 2026, at which time the bids will be opened in the County Courthouse, 101 East Main Street, Georgetown, KY 40324. Sealed, labeled bids can be mailed or hand-delivered to the office of

County Judge/Executive, 101 East Main Street #210, Georgetown, KY 40324.
Scott County reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject any and all bids, to waive any irregularities or informalities in awarding the franchise, and to accept what, in its opinion, is the lowest, most responsive, responsible and best bid which is in the best interest of the County.