



Retiring Williamstown Cable Department Superintendent Roy Osborne, right, chats with Councilmember Bob Perry at last Thursday's luncheon.

Williamstown throws two-for-one retirement celebration

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

On Thursday, Feb. 26, the City of Williamstown said "sayonara" to two longtime employees, Roy Osborne and Kevin "Hoot" Gibson. Grant County natives both, they spent their careers serving their community.

The Williamstown Senior Center was bursting at the seams with family, friends and colleagues who wanted to celebrate Osborne and Gibson. In the absence of Williamstown Mayor David Henson, Grant County Judge/Executive Chuck Dills welcomed everyone and congratulated the retirees.

Osborne leaves behind a career of slightly more than 30 years. He started as a seasonal employee but was hired on full-time at the Williamstown Cable Department in 1995. He became the department's superintendent in 2017 and has served in that position ever since.

Osborne played a major role in boosting Williamstown's telecommunications infrastructure into the 21st century. The City credits him with helping Williamstown get high-speed internet and making sure businesses and residents had reliable connectivity. Last year he shepherded through the adoption of the X-Stream television streaming app.

Gibson joined the ranks



Kevin 'Hoot' Gibson, left, is congratulated on his retirement by Grant County Judge/Executive Chuck Dills on Thursday, Feb. 26.

of the City of Williamstown first as a water plant operator in 2001 and has served additionally in positions with the sewer and street departments. His most recent position as water meter reader saw him connecting/disconnecting service and keeping water

meters throughout Williamstown in good repair. Through the years, no matter the job, Gibson's dedication and work ethic left their mark on his community and his colleagues.

The last day with the City for Osborne and Gibson was Friday.

Betsy Smith

Helpful information on upcoming May 19 primary election

BY J. COLTON SIMPSON
GRANT COUNTY CLERK AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE GRANT COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

With the May 19, 2026, primary election just under three months away, I wanted to share a few election updates and provide pertinent information for the benefit of the public. Though the 2026 election cycle will consist of a large variety of local, city, county, state and federal elections, the upcoming primary election will only consist of candidates running in partisan races.

Furthermore, it is important to note that candidates who are running unopposed, meaning that there is only one person running for a particular office, will not be placed on the Primary Election Ballot, but will appear on the ballot in the general election.

Important Dates and Items of Note:

A complete list of candidates who have filed in our office can be found at grantcountyclerk.ky.gov.

The deadline to register to vote in the May 19, 2026 primary election is April 20 at 4 p.m. Please note that this only applies to NEW VOTERS. If one were to change their party between now and the primary election, they would be ineligible to vote in either party's primary.

May 6-8, 11-13, 2026: Excused, in-person absentee voting (Grant County Clerk's Office).

May 14-16, 2026: In person, no-excuse early voting (Grant County Public Library).

May 19, 2026: Primary Election Day

June 2, 2026 at 4 p.m. is the deadline to file for candidates who will be running in non-partisan races in the general election.

Oct. 5, 2026 at 4 p.m. is the deadline to register to vote or

make voter registration changes for the general election.

Nov. 3, 2026: General Election Day

Updates and important reminders will continue to be shared on our website and social media presence.

For a full 2026 Election Calendar, please visit elect.ky.gov.

To view current election maps, please visit grantcountyclerk.ky.gov/elections

ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS:
Grant County Public Library
Williamstown
Independent School
Grant County High School
Mason-Corinth Elementary
Crittenden Mt. Zion Elementary
Registered voters can vote in any of these five locations on Election Day.

Problem properties still an issue in Corinth

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With all members present, Mayor Dalaney Bishop called the Feb. 23 meeting of the City of Corinth to order. Problem properties were again high on the agenda.

PROBLEM PROPERTIES

Three properties have continued to be issues for the City for quite some time. City Clerk Tara Wright has met, called and emailed with City Attorney Pete Whaley numerous times to discuss steps to take in regard to all problem properties within the City Limits.

In addition, the City has contacted the health department concerning sewage issues for the property on Main Street,

yet that entity has yet to respond.

While the County had gotten involved in the Main Street property issue and had taken it to court, Councilmember Darren Billiter said he has been told that action has "been dismissed."

Billiter has talked with the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) to determine what, if anything more, the City can do about these issues. It appears while all actions to date have been civil in nature, the City may be able to move to a criminal matter. If this is done, the Grant County Sheriff's Office would become involved, and it may be possible to move the matter forward.

Council decided to do more research on how to move the matter to a criminal action and,

if necessary, hold a special meeting in order to do so.

MISCELLANEOUS
Councilmember Jessica Beach noted questions about the Christmas wreaths needing to be taken down.

The City has contacted Kentucky Utilities to do so as they have a bucket truck to reach the wreaths. Wright said the company has said this has been an issue around the area they serve partially due to weather issues.

She reported representative said the wreaths should be down "within two weeks."

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Corinth City Council will be March 23, at 5 p.m. at 215 Thomas Lane, Corinth. For more information, call (859) 824-5922.

Planning Commission approves boutique hotel addition site plan

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Meeting in regular session on Feb. 23, the Grant County Planning Commission (Commission) considered the single zoning item of a Williamstown site plan.

Logan Murphy, Principal and Senior Engineer, Hicks and Mann Consulting Engineers, Land Surveyors and Planners presented a site plan for PFLP, LLC for a boutique hotel addition in Williamstown. This will be the new hotel to be built on the site of the old Donald Hotel, according to Murphy. The Donald burned several years ago.

The hotel is planned to have "four stories including [a] basement."

According to Venture Retreats, this type facility is

a "small, design-led, independently run hotel (often 10-100 rooms) with a strong sense of place and personalized service."

Erpenbeck Engineering, the Planning Commission's retained firm, had reviewed the application and recommended approval with the following stipulations:

· Must be started within two years after approval granted, if not must be reapplied

· Signage must be approved by the City of Williamstown as per Article 14 of their zoning requirements.

Members of the Commission questioned if there were enough parking spaces. Murphy assured them with the spaces behind the site and the City parking lots, there are "more than adequate" parking spaces available.

With recommended exceptions, the site plan was unanimously approved.

The Commission approved the minutes of the Feb. 17 special meeting during which the body approved a preliminary plat of the Mann Estate in Williamstown, the Pendleton Map amendment in the County and the Fiscal Court solar farms text amendment. These minutes will be distributed to the respective governmental entities for further action as necessary.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026 or at the call of the chair. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse, 101 North Main Street Williamstown. For information contact County Planning Administrator Becky Ruhoff at (859) 250-3753.

Rom-coms enjoy revival from 'Heated Rivalry' to Broadway

BY MARK KENNEDY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK — He's British. She's American. He's a wide-eyed optimist. She's world-weary. He loves Christmas songs. She loathes them. Naturally, they're perfect for each other.

That classic opposites-attract setup is the basis for the new Broadway musical "Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)." It's one of a clutch of popular new romantic comedies warming hearts this winter across various media.

There's the HBO Max hockey show and word-of-mouth sensation "Heated Rivalry" and the Netflix agnostic-falls-for-a-rabbi series "Nobody Wants This," while the see-you-next-year movie "People We Meet on Vacation" has become a huge Netflix hit.

There's also "My Oxford Year," the upcoming "Reminders of Him" and the dependable "Bridgerton," now in Season 4. "Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)" lands on Broadway beside the Tony-winning android rom-com "Maybe Happy Ending."

"They're all the same story, really," says Kit Buchan, who with Jim Barne wrote the

"Two Strangers" musical. "How do two people inextricably drawn together but separated by an overwhelming obstacle melt into one another?"

'THERE ARE WAVES'
Paul Eastwick, a psychology professor at the University of California, Davis, and author of "Bonded by Evolution," studies romantic attraction and says the burst in rom-coms is welcome.

"I definitely get the sense that there are waves and this is the time of year when we get usually one or two surprise, probably streaming, hits in this genre," says Eastwick, who also co-hosts "Love Factually," a podcast that uses science to explore the biggest rom-coms.

He says the genre no longer gets the respect it should, recalling that rom-coms used to be big movie events that garnered awards — like "Ghost," the highest-grossing film of 1990, which earned five Oscar nominations and won two.

"It feels a little marginalized these days in the critic spaces and in the box-office spaces," he says. "I hope that people don't stop making these because people clearly want them."

Some in the bumper crop

of rom-coms this winter take the formula and twist it slightly. "Heated Rivalry," which had an average of 10.6 million viewers per episode in the

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