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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026



Deborah Lucas Angel

Crittenden City Clerk Shawn McHolland points out Phase 2 planning for the City's Nature Park. Sealed bids for the upgrades were opened at the March 10 Council meeting. Bid award will be announced at the March 24, 7 p.m. special meeting.

Spring brings bid openings to Crittenden

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

With all members present, Mayor Jim Purcell called the March 10 meeting of the Crittenden City Council to order. On the agenda were bid openings for road projects and the Nature Park as well as ordinance second reading.

Council conducted the second reading for Ordinance Number 351-2026: "Amendment of Penalty for Harboring Fowl." This ordinance addresses penalties for improper handling of chickens within the city limits, providing for a \$10.00 initial fine with increasing fines for subsequent violations, up to \$100. Each day a violation continues will be considered "a separate violation."

Bid Openings:
Purcell opened the bids for 2026 road resurfacing and the public parking lot at 103 South Main Street. This project entails multiple roads as well as a public parking area being developed.

Bids include "blacktop, preparation, base, etc." and will be reviewed by Logan Murphy, Principal and Senior Engineer, Hicks and Mann Consulting Engineers, Land Surveyors and Planners. Murphy, who is retained by the city as engineer support, will evaluate applications and report his recommendation to the City.

The following bids were

received:

- Domaschko Excavation Contractors, Walton:
Resurfacing: \$164,170
Parking Lot: \$99,365
- Reigler Blacktop, Florence:

- Resurfacing: \$141,047
Parking Lot: \$102,156
- Eaton Asphalt, Walton:
Resurfacing:

- \$155,964.50
Parking Lot: \$88,618
Crittenden Nature Park,

Phase Two
City Clerk Shawn McHolland explained Phase 2 increases the "footprint" of the park and includes walkways, a new "six spot parking lot," a second, smaller pavilion matching the existing larger one, a grassy "meadow" with natural grasses and wildflowers, benches, retaining walls for support and additional seating.

An irrigation system will be installed to pump water from the lake instead of purchasing water. Additional grading will be done. Also, cameras will be mounted on poles erected by the City.

The following bids were submitted:

- Showcase Landscaping, Crittenden: \$845,713
- DER Development, Milford, Ohio: \$1,290,525
- Evans Landscaping, Cincinnati, OH: \$1,092,746
- Reliable Outdoor Services, Morning View: \$834,133

Council and retained architect Rachel Robinson will review bids. Project will be awarded at the next meeting.

The next Crittenden City Council meeting will be a special meeting held Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at the City Building; 117 South Main Street, Crittenden. This meeting will be to award bids for the projects listed above.

The regular meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday, April 14, at 6 p.m. at the City Building.

For more information on the meetings or any City business, call (859) 428-2597.



Courtesy of Chris Hedges

The Williamstown 7-12 grade band prepares to hit the road. They performed at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Band Assessment on March 11.

Williamstown concert band earns distinguished at KMEA Band Assessment

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

The Williamstown Jr/Sr High 7-12 grade concert band performed at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Band Assessment on March 11, earning a distinguished rating and glowing compliments on their score sheets from adjudicators.

In addition to receiving the highest possible rating, the band's was chosen by the adjudicators as one of four Exemplary Performances to be so awarded.

Under the direction of Chris Hedges, the band performed two selections, "Black Forest Overture," by Michael Sweeney, and "Mad Dash," by Timothy Loest.

They were also required to sight read a piece of music they'd never seen, quite a challenge, especially for the young musicians in the group.

Words like outstanding, wonderful, fantastic, great and solid peppered the score sheets like scattered birdseed.

SEE BAND/PAGE A2

Mayor Henson shares vision with Williamstown business leaders

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

On Monday, March 9, business leaders, city superintendents and other local movers and shakers gathered at the Answers in Genesis Conference Center for the Williamstown Business Leaders Conference. The event was the second meeting with local businesspeople held by Mayor David Henson.

He enumerated accomplishments since his first meeting with business leaders, including signage at the interstate and the large sign pointing to downtown at the intersection of 36 and 25, work on Webb Park, the installation of downtown speakers and the addressing of speed limit concerns.

"We are no longer just talking about ideas, we are turning ideas into action," he said.

He then went on to share the strategic vision for downtown Williamstown.

"Our vision is simple; we want a downtown that people just don't pass through but one they stop, explore and experience."

Referring to a handout from Roger Brooks International detailing 20 qualities of an outstanding downtown area, he pointed out a few he said could benefit Williamstown.

Accessible public restrooms, curb appeal, a wayfinding system, outdoor



Betsy Smith

Mayor David Henson fields questions at the Williamstown Business Leaders Conference at the Ark Encounter on Monday, March 9.

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