

Proposed park improvements high on Dry Ridge's March agenda

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With all members present and a full house, Mayor Greg Brockman, called the March 16 Dry Ridge City Council meeting to order. On the agenda were lighting, amphitheater/sponsorship and skate park proposals for Piddle Park as well as requests for proposals for road work.

POTENTIAL PIDDLE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

• Skatepark: Josh Altman addressed the Council concerning potential upgrades to the current skate park, saying it needs attention.

Noting safety issues, Altman noted he had broken his arm recently due to "cracks and sand" at the skate park.

He said he is looking for funding for the needed park repairs and improvements.

Braden and Landon Chamberlain, Mason Corinth ElemeBntary School fifth and third graders, respectively also addressed the Council, asking that they approve the upgrades "to fix our skatepark so kids in Grant County have a safe place to ride and have fun outside."

Brockman said the Council would take the information into consideration, and if Altman could "get some numbers" they would "go from there."

• Piddle Park lighting upgrade: Nicholas Ernst, of Musco Lighting of Muscatine, Iowa, addressed the Council with a first proposal for lighting of Piddle Park.

He said the current lights, which have been in use 40 years, are "just a little tired."

Council unanimously agreed to develop specs and request for proposals (RFPs) for replacement lighting.

• Amphitheater: Local businessman Joe Dupuy suggested a new pavilion as an entertainment venue.

Zach Hambrick, of Lowry Rigging and Millwright Services, Inc. of Walton, addressed the Council with a proposal to build an amphitheater with a stage at Piddle Park.

Sponsors would be sought to pay for the building. Hambrick's company has indicated it will construct the building at no charge for the work. Building supplies would be purchased by the City.

Council unanimously agreed to accept the proposal

and will seek funding.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

• Fire Department: According to Fire Chief Allen Cammack, the Dry Ridge Fire Department (DRFD) responded to 33 calls, 14 within City Limits and 19 outside.

Emergency Management Services (EMS) made 192 runs. The Fleet Maintenance Report shows 7,736 miles in January for EMS with \$2,092 in fuel charges for the month, bringing the yearly total to \$78,512.

DRFD drove 521 miles with \$3,256 in fuel costs for the month and \$7,043 YTD for fuel.

Cammack also noted the "ISO rating, which is insurance rating" will be using zip code addressing for charges. He also discussed National Fire Prevention Association truck and equipment requirements.

• Police Department: Officer Matt Hicks said the department's reaccreditation was finished and submitted, and they are waiting on final official approval.

Hicks said along with Dry Ridge, Mobile Data Computers (MDC) have been installed in Williamstown Police, Emergency Management, 911 and Sheriff's Office vehicles. These are new computers and stands which were furnished by 911 District.

• Maintenance Department: Council unanimously approved RFPs for:

-Resurfacing portions of Brentwood Drive and including some of Redwood Drive needing attention

-Resurfacing portions of Hogans Mill

-Resurfacing portions of Meeks Road

• County Planning Commission: according to City Administrator Ken Little, the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting has been rescheduled for 90 days to June. He said the "truck wash by Walmart" needs more time to prepare their application.

• Code Enforcement: Little said it will be busy soon with the warming weather.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 20, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the Dry Ridge City Building, 31 Broadway. For questions or more information, contact the City at (859) 824-3335.

EASY

FROM PAGE A7

PAY ATTENTION TO DEHYDRATION

Symptoms of dehydration include dizziness, lack of energy, memory trouble, headaches and muscle cramps. If you experience these symptoms, drink water and prioritize foods high in water and electrolytes, like fresh fruits and vegetables. If symptoms like confusion, rapid heartbeat, or fainting occur, seek medical care immediately.

MORE ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

Many sports drinks and electrolyte mixes have large amounts of minerals like sodium. Too much sodium is a risk factor for high blood pressure and heart disease.

Sports drinks are often high in added sugar, too. If you buy a sports drink with higher amounts of added sugar or sodium, dilute it with water or drink half of the serving instead of the entire beverage.

Let your healthcare provider and pharmacist know if you use electrolyte-replacement

products often. Since they have high amounts of minerals, they could interact or interfere with other medications or health conditions.

No matter what, staying hydrated should be a priority. Most people can meet their electrolyte needs with a balanced diet and regular water intake.

Contact the Grant County Extension office for more information.

Williamstown approves solar energy ordinances

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

The Williamstown City Council held a brief special meeting March 10 to approve three ordinances.

- The second reading of Ordinance 2026-02 was conducted. The ordinance amends the city's official zoning ordinance to change a 102.97-acre parcel at 1060 Barnes Road on the west side of I-75 from Agricultural-One to Highway Commercial. The property is owned by Williamstown Farms, LLC.

The ordinance was

approved with all voting in the affirmative with the exception of Gina Austin Smith who abstained due to conflict of interest.

- The second reading of Ordinance 2026-03 was conducted. The ordinance is a text amendment to Article XV of Williamstown's Official Zoning Ordinance, adding a section that includes regulations for solar energy systems.

The ordinance was unanimously approved.

- The second reading of Ordinance 2026-04 was conducted. This ordinance

is also a text amendment to Article X of Williamstown's Official Zoning Ordinance regarding solar energy systems.

The ordinance was unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

- Mayor David Henson reported the city received bids for work on Webb Park. However, they were more than \$100,000 over budget, so they were rejected, he said. Another bid packet will be sent out broken into smaller parts.

- Henson announced Williamstown's new fire truck

was finally delivered.

- Henson reported a purchase agreement was entered into with Roberta Poole for purchase of the building at 121 North Main Street. The City plans to turn the property into a welcome center with public restrooms.

Henson announced in a meeting with local business leaders March 9 that the goal is to have the welcome center open by June 1.

The next meeting of the Williamstown City Council will be April 6 at 6 p.m., 400 North Main Street, Williamstown



Deborah Lucas Angel

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place for the future Shell Convenience Store on Mercedes Drive in Williamstown on March 19.

New Shell station coming to Barnes Road exit this fall

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Coming in September, 2026, a new Grand Mart Shell Station will open on Mercedes Drive, off Barnes Road, in Williamstown.

The new station, according to Ryan Plummer, President and CEO of Integ Construction, will be 6,000 square feet and will be a convenience store including food, groceries and liquor sales. As well, it will have a smaller lease space that could be rented by another entity.

Owner Dipendra Adhikari also owns Shell stations across the Northern Ken-

tucky/Greater Cincinnati area as well as ones in Corbin and Falmouth. At one time, he owned the station off I-75 exit 159 in Dry Ridge, though he sold that station a few years back.

William Kersey, wholesaler business development with H.T. Hackney of Nicholasville, said his company has been partnered with Adhikari for 14 years and is one of the biggest wholesalers nationwide.

Adhikari admitted it is hard to make money from convenience stores, but said he likes the area and there was a need for a station here.



By Deborah Lucas Angel

A groundbreaking ceremony on Mercedes Drive, Williamstown marked the start of construction for a new 6,000 square foot Shell Convenience Store near the Barnes Road exit. From left: Michael Gadlage, Project Manager; Ryan Plummer, President CEO Integ Construction; Dipendra Adhikari, Shell Station owner; and AJ KC, Shell Station operations manager.

GRANT

FROM PAGE A1

comfortable on the sidelines than in the spotlight," Neidigh was long content with "telling other people's stories."

A recent milestone birthday, however, sparked a re-evaluation.

"I realized I wanted more. I wanted to meet people in my own community. I wanted to hear their stories firsthand. And I knew I needed to push past the limits I had quietly placed on myself over the years."

Out of that epiphany, the "We Are Grant County" podcast was born.

"Right as I was getting ready to launch, my partner, Katie Jimenez, stepped in to join me as co-host—and I'm so glad she did. What started as a personal challenge quickly became something we could build together.

"From the very first episode, we've had the chance to sit down with people from all across Grant County—business owners, community leaders, and everyday residents—sharing real conversations and real stories."

At brief episode dropped July 18 and featured an introduction to Neidigh. On July 26, right before the Grant County Fair, the first official episode featuring an hour-long chat with fair board member Shawn Littleton was posted.

Since then Neidigh has talked with Patriots Landing founder Joe Montgomery, Williamstown Mayor David Henson, Mona Lazarus and Rachele Morse of DREAM Grant County and the Kentucky Y'all Icebox and more—almost a dozen episodes in all.

"As the podcast grew, I kept asking myself: what else would be helpful for our

community? What could we create that people would actually use?"

The 21st century answer? An app.

"At first, it was simple—a place where people could easily find local events. Something useful. Something easy."

It did indeed prove to be a good idea, and it grew.

"Today, the We Are Grant County app has grown into a full community platform. You can find events, businesses, organizations, churches, healthcare services, and more—all in one place. It's designed to help both residents and visitors stay connected to everything happening in Grant County."

The app turned into a sort of one-stop shop for all things Grant County.

"Inside the app, you can listen to the podcast, read the magazine, explore local listings, and stay up to date with what's happening across

the community—all in one place."

After the podcast, the next step to rounding out the vision for Toad Talk Media, LLC was creating the soon-to-launch "We Are Grant County Magazine."

Beginning April 1, you can find the magazine available inside the app. We Are Grant County Magazine promises stories and great photography, highlighting events, organizations and people throughout the community.

If you haven't gotten the app yet or listened to the We Are Grant County podcast, visit www.wearegrantcounty.com and check it out.

"What started as one step outside my comfort zone has turned into something bigger than I ever expected. And the best part is—it's not just mine anymore; it belongs to the community," Neidigh said.

"This is Grant County. These are our stories."

NEW CUSTOM HOME ON 2 ACRES



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- 2 Car Garage
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- Ultra Primary Bath & Walk-in Closet

6 Hwy 455
Warsaw

PARKER REAL ESTATE GROUP

HUFF REALTY

Contact Mike Parker
859-486-3300

CHILD FIND FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Williamstown Independent School District
707 KAR 1:002 - 707 KAR 1:380 (ages 3-21)

**Preschool Partnership
Head Start/Preschool Registration
For the 2026-2027 school year**

CALL TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT

The Williamstown Independent School District's Head Start/Preschool partnership program provides comprehensive services to all qualifying children in Grant County. The child must be 3 or 4 years old by August 1, 2026. The Head Start/Preschool program will be hosting a county wide universal screening. The school district provides this service in accordance with state law and no fee is attached. The Head Start/Preschool program is income based with spots available for all children due to developmental concerns or disabilities.

Children enrolled in the program are eligible in one of three ways:

- Children whose family meets the federal and/or state income guidelines.
- Children with an identified disability/delay that meets the federal and/or state guidelines.
- Children with at-risk circumstances may be accepted as over-income.

Income eligible three year olds and over-income applicants are considered for placement as space is available. Secure a spot for your child now! The new age cut off is August 1st.

**Options for both Full Day and Partial Day!
Limited Bus Transportation Available**

Please call for a registration appointment at 859-824-4174.
Please leave a message if we are not in the office, we will return calls as soon as possible.

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