

# County updates road system list

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

At the June 2 Grant County Fiscal Court meeting, all members were present with Roger Humphrey attending via Zoom. Agenda items included a resolution, pre-approved standing order, two proclamations and departmental reports as well as an annual Public Properties Corporation meeting.

## RESOLUTION

Court unanimously approved Resolution 2026-04, "County Roads System." Judge/Executive Chuck Dills said he worked with Grant County Human Resources/Administrative Assistant Melissa Moss for corrections and verification of accuracy of the list of roads in the county.

This updated list will be used by the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD). NKADD serves as the

"clearing house for transportation" grants and other services for the county.

Dills said with the rains abating, the road department is moving into mowing and cleaning roadways and ditch lines around the county.

Grant County Sheriff Dennis Switzer provided the monthly department report: received 1028 calls for service; opened 33 criminal investigations; made 18 arrests; investigated 18 collisions; issued 108 citations; served 194 civil/criminal summons; completed 290 auto inspections; traveled 2,594 miles on fugitive transports and worked 63 hours of court security.

Two court security officers have been hired.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Standing Order of "pre-approved recurring expenses to wit: Payroll, Utilities, Insurance Premiums, Payments to Election Officers, Election Commissioners, County Clerk Storage Fees, and

Training Meals." These are the approvals that are covered at the beginning of each meeting with the motion of "approval of claims on the general fund, road fund, and jail fund along with all transfers presented dated..." for the current date of the meeting.

The order relates "Pursuant to KRS (Kentucky Revised Statutes) 68.275(3), 'The Fiscal Court may adopt an order, to pre-approve the payments of monthly payroll and utility expenses. No other expenses shall be pre-approved pursuant to this subsection without the written consent of the State Local Finance Officer...'" The order then lists all applicable items of the jail, general and road funds.

Budget Update: The 2026-2027 Fiscal Budget approval process is ongoing. The document is in the approval phase at the Department of Local Government. Dills noted it should be received for approval in the next scheduled

meeting of the court.

Dills issued two proclamations: - June is Homeownership Month, intended to recognize "the benefits of owning a home" to "plant roots in a community, build equity, and pass down generational wealth."

It further states "the Grant County Fiscal Court recognizes the importance of the American Dream of homeownership; and the ability to provide fair and equal housing opportunity for all" and to ensure "all have access to a safe home aligned within their income level, needs, in the community of their choice."

June 15 - 21 was proclaimed Men's Health Week, "part of an ongoing international effort to educate men, boys, and their families about the importance of preventative health screenings, early detection and healthy lifestyles ... Men have a life expectancy that is approximately six years shorter than that of women, higher rates

of chronic disease, including diabetes, obesity, cancer, heart disease, and premature mortality."

When a question arose, it was clarified there is a corresponding Women's Health Month and Week in May.

Immediately following the adjournment of the court meeting, members called to order the Public Properties Corporation of the county. This is a non-profit corporation of the county.

The sole item on the agenda was to approve "payment of the Annual Filing fee of the Corporation" with the Secretary of State of Kentucky. The \$407.20 fee was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting of the Grant County Fiscal Court will be a special meeting June 23, instead of June 16, at the Courthouse, 101 North Main Street Williamstown. For more information on the meeting, call

## P&Z approval sought for new developments

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the meeting of the Grant County Planning Commission

(Commission) met Monday June 1. The commission considered two map amendments, a preliminary plat and an improvement plat.

### MAP AMENDMENTS

• Mama Bhanja Holdings LLC - Corinth

Engineer Steve Burling, of Burling Engineers, addressed the commission concerning a 10-acre plot on Highway 330, Owenton Road. The concept plan concerns a truck stop, gas station, a "couple of fast food" restaurants as well as a "strip center," which is a type of retail property with multiple stores or outlets in a single row, often under one continuous roof and providing easy entry and exit.

Jeremiah True, who lives across the road from the property, addressed the commission during the public hearing portion of the address asking who owns Mama Bhanja Holdings.

Burling said he had not personally met the owners but has worked with the con-

struction company in the past. (Note, this company is apparently owned by Dipendra Adhikari who is also developing the Grant Shell station on Mercedes Drive in Williamstown.)

True also asked if the property if in the City of Corinth.

Burling said it is.

True asked whether water/sewer is available and whether Corinth's can handle the additional load.

The plans call for a sewage treatment plant that can be self-sufficient or can tap into Corinth's. Not only Corinth Water is available but Kentucky American Water Supply is also near to the development.

• PFLP - Humes Ridge Road, Williamstown

Logan Murphy, Engineer with Hicks and Mann Consulting Engineers, Land Surveyors and Planners, addressed the commission concerning development of a "proposed eight-unit apartment building" on property belonging to Naturepro, LLC. This is a "mirror image" to an existing unit on the property.

The request includes a zone change for "0.34 acre" to Highway Commercial.

Plans from the existing unit

will be used for the new construction, he said.

Commission subcommittee had met on the application and found no issues.

No one from the public spoke for/against during the public hearing.

Commission unanimously approved the map amendment.

• Preliminary Plat - Saddle Ridge, Williamstown

Murphy addressed the commission concerning land on Conrad Lane intended to be rezoned to Residential Three (R-3) to allow for development of 54 lots with two entrances. He said there is existing water and sewer available. As well there is a waiver for the retention area as it drains to south fork of Grassy Creek.

Davis Point and Parkway are already in the area with the R-3 zoning with the same waiver.

Apparently, Williamstown has already approved the action.

The request was approved unanimously with stipulations of beginning construction within two years or restart process and that 8.1E of Grant County Zoning Requirements be followed as well as the stated waiver to be obtained.

• Improvement Plat - Derby Run, Williamstown

Burling addressed the group concerning changing property on Humes Ridge Road from Highway Commercial to Residential 3. This development has received preliminary approval and owners are now seeking to improve "road, water main and storm drains."

This will provide for 19 additional lots to be added to the north and south sides of the existing Thoroughbred Run Subdivision along with two new entrances.

Burling said the homes will have a Home Owners Association (HOA) to care for properties. As well there are planned trails/paths for the development and existing properties.

Commission approved with stipulations of building to begin within two years or reapply and that Williamstown Zoning Codes are to be followed.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, June 29, or at the call of the chair, at the Courthouse, 101 North Main Street Williamstown. For information contact County Planning Administrator Becky Ruhoff at (859) 250-3753.

## Next Generation 911

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR  
ANDY BESHEAR

Gov. Beshear announced that Team Kentucky is upgrading public safety technology with the statewide transition to Next Generation 911. This will modernize how emergency calls are handled, improving speed, accuracy and inter-agency collaboration across the 117 call centers in Kentucky. Benefits include allowing voice, text, photos and video calls from any compatible device; leveraging mapping technologies to route calls based on the precise physical location of the caller's device; and allowing hearing- and speech-impaired individuals to have live text conversations and share media directly with dispatchers.

Team Kentucky has

already successfully implemented this new technology at 19 call centers. Full implementation across all Kentucky counties is expected by the end of 2027. Amy Hess, executive director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, joined the Governor for the announcement.

"This project's mission is to improve the speed and accuracy of our emergency response for all Kentuckians and, in turn, save more lives," said Hess. "Call centers that have already migrated to Next Generation 911 are already reporting benefits, including fewer spoofed calls, better location accuracy, higher call quality and faster data delivery. These efforts are all aimed at our ultimate priority, which is to keep Kentucky families safe."



Mark Lennihan/AP Photo

The "60 Minutes" team, from left, Andy Rooney, Morley Safer, Steve Kroft, Mike Wallace, executive producer Don Hewitt, Lesley Stahl, and Ed Bradley pose at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York celebrating their 25th anniversary on Nov. 10, 1993.

## '60 Minutes' correspondents say they are staying put

BY JOCELYN NOVECK  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK — Saying "We don't want to see '60 Minutes' die," the three remaining correspondents at the turmoil-plagued CBS News program have decided to stay, for now.

A memo from Lesley Stahl, Jon Wertheim and Bill Whitaker to fellow staffers expressed anger — and grief — over the recent firings at the show, and said the three had had "a hard time" deciding whether to remain.

"Here's why we are staying: We don't want to see '60 Minutes' die," the three wrote in the joint memo obtained by The Associated Press on Friday.

They expressed their regret over the recent firings of colleagues implemented by Bari Weiss, the new CBS News editor-in-chief, and the executive producer she installed last week, Nick Bilton. He replaced Tanya Simon, who was let go after a 30-plus year tenure with the show. Also dismissed were correspondents Sharyn Alfonsi and Cecilia Vega, among other top staffers. Scott Pelley was then fired this week after a tense confrontation with CBS News bosses.

"We want to express how sorry we are that these principled, fair and honest journalists

were treated so shabbily, with such indecency," the three correspondents said in their memo. But they said they were "working to build trust" with Bilton, their new boss, and left open the possibility that they could leave later, if need be.

"If we can continue doing the work that made this show what it is — committing acts of independent, fearless journalism and storytelling — we're here for it," the three wrote. "If not, we leave."

"Here's to Season 59!" the note ended.

Persuading the three to remain was a crucial step in Bilton's task of getting the show back on track for the next season, which launches in September.

The show is suddenly down four correspondents. In addition to the three dismissed, Anderson Cooper — whose primary job is on-air work for CNN — said earlier this year he was leaving of his own accord after two decades.

Turmoil had been evident at "60 Minutes" for more than a year. Much of it came after President Donald Trump sued the show over its editing of a 2024 interview with then-Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

## Legislators receive an update on work zone enforcement cameras

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
COMMISSION

Members of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation received an update Tuesday on a pilot program that uses automated cameras to reduce speeding in highway work zones across Kentucky.

John Moore, deputy state highway engineer for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, presented preliminary results from the Camera Assisted Speed Enforcement (CASE) pilot program, which was deployed in work zones in Shelby, Lawrence, Whitley, Martin and Fayette counties during fall 2025.

The program was authorized through House Bill 664, passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2025. The law allows police officers to issue citations when automated cameras detect vehicles traveling at least 10 mph above the posted speed limit in active work zones.

Unlike similar programs in some states, Kentucky's system does not issue

citations by mail. Instead, encrypted data collected by the cameras is transmitted to a law enforcement officer stationed near the work zone.

"The law officer is required to pull you over and cite you on the side of the road," Moore said.

According to Moore, the cabinet worked with the Kentucky State Police and the Association of Highway Contractors to implement the pilot program and identify technology that would meet Kentucky's needs. Transportation officials from 20 states provided feedback during the planning process, helping the cabinet narrow its search to five potential vendors.

The solar-powered camera units are mounted approximately 13 feet above the roadway and can monitor multiple lanes simultaneously. Warning signs alert motorists that speed cameras are in use, and beacons indicate when workers are present in the construction zone.

"No personal information is gathered or retained within the system. Only a picture

of the vehicle and the license plate is sent downstream to the officer," Moore said.

Currently, Kentucky State Police is the only law enforcement agency participating in the program, although several local police departments have expressed interest in joining in the future.

Moore said data collected during the past nine months indicates drivers are slowing down in monitored work zones. In Shelby, Whitley and Martin counties, officials recorded a 20% decrease in the number of vehicles traveling more than 10 mph over the speed limit.

Data was unavailable for Lawrence County because cameras had not yet been installed, while construction activity in Fayette County was nearing completion during the data collection period.

Rep. John Blanton, R-Salyersville, the lead sponsor of House Bill 664, said the early results demonstrate the program's potential safety benefits.

"When we're reducing those speeds — which obviously it's doing in those

zones — we know for a fact it's going to reduce accidents. We know for a fact that will reduce injuries. We know for a fact that will reduce fatalities," Blanton said.

Moore cautioned that less than a year of safety data has been collected and that meaningful crash analysis likely will not be available until June 2027.

Blanton encouraged officials to compare accident, injury and fatality rates in work zones equipped with cameras against those without the technology as additional data becomes available.

Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, praised the program and its potential impact on highway safety.

"No doubt this piece of legislation will save lives, and I commend Chairman Blanton for his work," Higdon said.

The transportation cabinet is expanding the program and is in the process of adding 12 additional camera units, with the possibility of increasing the total number to 24 during the life of the current contract, Moore said.

## The electric guitar spawned garage bands, rock-god dreams — and generations of popular music

BY RAVI NESSMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — What is more American than taking a musical instrument with ancient roots and zapping it with electricity? That new creation, the electric guitar, has launched the dreams of millions of teenagers.

It turned garages into impromptu

rehearsal spaces for would-be rock stars across the American suburbs. For those who couldn't play, couldn't try to play or couldn't get some friends with instruments together, there was always the air guitar. (Does anyone ever play an acoustic air guitar?)

Nearly 100 years ago, Americans' love of tinkering, music and just making things louder combined when George

Beauchamp created and Adolph Rickenbacker produced the first commercially successful electric guitar. That was "the Frying Pan."

The tinkering continued. Musician and inventor Les Paul put strings and pickups on a block of wood called "the Log" and made it one of the first solid body electric guitars. And now we're talking.