

# Celebrating spring and stories in Kentucky this March

## KENTUCKY STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

In Kentucky in March, daffodils start popping up along creek banks and in places where old houses used to set.

We can get rain, wind, sun, snow, a lion and a lamb all in the same day.

Our fancy lightly turns to thoughts of flower beds and homegrown tomatoes.

We go a little mad over basketball. We emerge from our snow- and ice-covered abodes and start going out again, seeing people, talking, telling stories.

In Kentucky we are blessed with stories and storytellers. Whenever and wherever we get together, Kentuckians tell stories – short tales, tall tales, old, new, false, true, or all the above. Stories about our history, our families, our communities, about ghosts, mules, fishing trips, and about what happened once upon a time, long ago in a land far

away, or just down the road a piece, over the hill or in that curve.

Every month is storytelling month in Kentucky, but in March, it's official! In Kentucky in March, we celebrate Spring, re-awakenings, and Kentucky Storytelling Month.

So all this month, the Kentucky Storytelling Association, along with schools, libraries, and other organizations will be celebrating the art of storytelling. And all year round, there'll be storytelling festivals, workshops, or performances around the state. Watch for chances to enjoy storytelling events in your area.

Just as important, you can help keep Kentucky storytelling alive by passing on the stories you have heard and the stories you have lived; and by listening to the stories others tell, whether the tellers are professional storytellers or neighbors, elders, children, strangers, family or friends.

Here are a few examples of events in the works during Kentucky Storytelling Month. To learn more

about storytelling in Kentucky, visit the Kentucky Storytelling Association website: [www.kystory.org](http://www.kystory.org).

## HAPPY KENTUCKY STORYTELLING MONTH!

- March 12, Frankfort  
Story by Story: Valerie Tutson Storyteller Valerie Tutson will perform at the Paul Sawyer Public Library, 319 Wapping Street in Frankfort, Thursday, March 12, 6–7:30 p.m. Tutson tells carefully researched African American history, African American folktales, and stories from her own life.

Tutson's performance is part of "Story by Story," a monthly series for adults and teens featuring storytellers from around the country. For more information about this and future storytelling programs in the series, go to <https://www.pspl.org/storybystory>. Registration helps the library know how many chairs to set up.

- March 15, Lexington  
Lexington Raconteur Club

Timing is Everything is the March theme at this monthly event featuring four pre-selected storytellers plus open mic as time permits. Everyone is welcome at this free event; 7 p.m. in the Barrel Room at West Sixth Brewing, 501 W. 6th in Lexington.

- March 21, Wilmore  
Breaking Bread, Sharing Stories

The Kentucky Storytelling Association is hosting a potluck lunch and get-together for KSA members, non-members, and anyone who enjoys telling and/or listening to stories. The event is free, just bring a dish to share at the potluck. Saturday, March 21, 1–3:30 p.m., at the Municipal Center, 210 South Lexington Avenue in Wilmore.

- March 23, Online  
KSA Open Mic via Zoom

This monthly 4th Monday open mic starts at 8 p.m Eastern time. Both tellers and listeners are welcome. For details, visit <https://www.kystory.org/storytelling-events>

- March 31, Frankfort

Kentucky Storytelling Month Celebration

Celebrate Kentucky Storytelling Month enjoying stories told by tellers from the Kentucky Storytelling Association. And tell a tale yourself if you choose, during the evening's open mic time. This KSA-sponsored event is free and open to the public. Come tell or come listen! Tuesday, March 31, 6–7:30 p.m. at the Paul Sawyer Public Library, 319 Wapping Street in Frankfort. <https://www.pspl.org/event/ky-storytelling> Registration helps the library know how many chairs to set up.

- March 31, Louisville  
The Moth in Louisville StorySLAM

Fumbles and Fouls is the March theme of this monthly open mic event at Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road in Louisville. Doors open at 7:30; stories begin at 8 p.m. This is a ticketed event. For details go to <https://themoth.org/events/fumbles-and-fouls-louisville-2026>

# Spring peepers are in the air

## BY JENEEN WICHE IN MY GARDEN

Absolutely nothing says spring more than the distant chorus of spring peepers. There is a wooded stream just off Conner Station that is home to a cacophonous band of peepers all competing for as many females as they can lure with their peeping charm.

Just last week, on a warm evening, after plenty of rain, the spring peepers reminded me of how glorious rural life can be. Just by listening for a few minutes an entire other world can be imagined.

This year I heard the peepers after a rain in late February. Now they are really in full swing with the recent warm up and more rain. Male spring peepers are the noise makers. The louder and faster they peep the luckier they get on their quest to attract females.

As cocktail hour approaches the song to lure females begins, and if

you really listen you will hear a distinctive peep coming from tiny amphibians.

Spring peepers are tiny (no bigger than an inch in length) frogs that appear brown, tan, olive or reddish in color with a distinct X formation on their backs. If you are lucky enough to see one up close and personal, you can further identify the peeper by its big toes that are used for climbing.

Although they can climb, spring peepers prefer to nestle in debris in the forest floor; their preferred habitat is along wooded streams, moist lowlands, and ephemeral ponds (temporary pools that dry up later in the season are ideal to lay your eggs because there are no fish present to eat your babies!)

Breeding is a nocturnal affair and when the female makes her choice she does so based on the male's size (larger peepers are chosen over smaller)

and his song; mating takes place in the water where egg laying occurs shortly thereafter.

The female lays her eggs on a stick or leaf in the water, and the parent's job is done. Good luck, little tadpole, who hatches in a week or two after egg-laying.

The life of a peeper averages three years if you are not eaten by a snake, salamander, bird or big spider. Mating age is about three years old (remember the larger spring peepers are the preferred mate.)

So, if you are a younger peeper you nestle in debris during the day and then forage for flies, ants, small spiders and beetles for a meal and sing love songs at night hoping to get lucky during the spring mating season.

The chorus of singing also serves a purpose in protection because the louder the song the more difficult it is for a predator to pinpoint an individual

meal. In fact, I have heard of the decline of certain species of frogs near airports where the sound of jet engines disrupts the songs of the frogs just enough for the synchronized sound to be broken, allowing predators to home in on individuals more easily.

When the weather turns cold the spring peeper goes into hibernation in a frozen cryonic state. They find a log or loose bark to fare the winter and thaw out at about 28 degrees.

Hearing a strong spring peeper chorus is not just some luxury to enjoy from nature; it is a serious indication of the health of our environment. Amphibians are indicator species, meaning they are the first to mutate, decline or die if our waterways are polluted.

If the peepers go silent it is our fault! Be mindful of your lawn and garden practices, run-off issues from paved surfaces, your

use of chemicals in and around the home, manure management on farms and anything that may poten-

tially find its way into our local waterways.

A silent spring is, indeed, a warning!

## CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN, KENTUCKY ORDINANCE 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND ESTABLISHING FOR BID A NON-EXCLUSIVE NATURAL GAS FRANCHISE FOR THE PLACEMENT OF FACILITIES FOR THE TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF NATURAL GAS WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN FOR A TEN (10) YEAR DURATION, IMPOSING A FRANCHISE FEE IN (OF) THE SUM OF THREE PERCENT (3%) OF FRANCHISEE'S GROSS RECEIPTS FROM THE FRANCHISEE'S SALE OF NATURAL GAS TO GAS-CONSUMING ENTITIES INSIDE THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN' CORPORATE LIMITS; RESERVING THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE A FRANCHISE FEE IN OF THE SUM OF UP TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF FRANCHISEE'S GROSS RECEIPTS PER YEAR FROM THE FRANCHISEE'S SALE OF NATURAL GAS TO NATURAL GAS-CONSUMING ENTITIES INSIDE THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN'S CORPORATE LIMITS; REQUIRING THE FRANCHISEE TO PROVIDE A MAP OF THE SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN; AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT LAWS, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS; INDEMNIFICATION; INSURANCE; CANCELLATION OR TERMINATION; AND BID REQUIREMENTS; ALL EFFECTIVE ON DATE OF PASSAGE.

GRANT COUNTY SCHOOL BUS GARAGE  
3989 DIXIE HIGHWAY  
DRY RIDGE, KENTUCKY 41035  
859-824-3332

February 2nd, 2026

## INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received in the Grant County School Bus Garage, 3989 Dixie Highway, Dry Ridge, Kentucky until **March 20, 2026 @ 09:00 A.M.** for the following items:

1. CDL Physicals
2. Custodial Supplies
3. Employee Physicals
4. Maintenance Supplies
5. Motor Vehicle Fuel
6. Propane Fuel
7. Transportation Supplies
8. Trash/Waste Collection

Specifications can be procured at the Board of Education Office. Bids will be opened by the Board's designated agent on the above-mentioned date. *The bids will be awarded at the regular April Board meeting.* The Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and waive all informalities and/or technicalities where the best interest of the school system can be reserved. Contract period will be from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. All bidders will be notified by mail of the Board's action.

# Stage Right announces auditions for '9 to 5 the Musical'

Stage Right Musical Theatre Company will be holding auditions for their summer production of "9 to 5 the Musical" on March 28 and 29. All roles are paid; actors must be 18 years old or older

The show runs June 12 - 28 at the Williamstown Performing Arts Center with performances Thursday through Sunday.

March 28 auditions will take place from 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at First Love Community Fellowship (930 Curry Ln Dry Ridge, KY 41035)

On March 29, auditions run from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Footlighters Inc. (802 York St Newport, KY 41071).

To request an audition slot visit:

<https://www.stagerightmtc.org/auditions>

Rehearsal dates are May 11 - Jun 11 and include weeknight evening rehearsals and midday rehearsal on the weekend. As many actors come from out of town, Stage Right attempts to schedule people for rehearsal only when they are needed.

The musical comedy is based on the hit 1980 film "9 to 5" and features music and lyrics by the legendary Dolly Parton.

The plot follows three working women trying their best to navigate life, work, and a sexist, egotistical, lying,

hypocritical bigot of a boss.

For auditions: Please choose one of the following options:

For general auditions the following are required:

- A current resume and headshot

- A 30-40 bar cut from a musical song in the style of the show. Selections from the show are acceptable.

- Properly marked sheet music for accompaniment (A cappella auditions will not be considered.)

- A dance audition will take place following your audition. Please bring clothes and shoes you can move in.

- You may be asked to participate in cold readings from the script.

Actors wishing to be considered for the roles of Violet, Doralee, Judy, Franklin, and Roz should also be prepared to perform a 30-40 bar cut from the following:

- Violet: One of the Boys
- Doralee: Backwoods Barbie or Change it

- Judy: Get Out and Stay Out
- Franklin: Here for You
- Roz: Heart to Hart

(Sheet music access will be provided on the auditions page.)

Stage Right Musical Theatre Company welcomes and encourages people of backgrounds, identities, and ethnicities to audition.

Questions? Contact Casting@StageRightMTC.org

# Changes to note for Kentuckians this tax season

## OFFICE OF GOV. ANDY BESHEAR

Important changes will impact Kentuckians filing their taxes April 1-15, 2026. The deadline to file federal and state individual income taxes is Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

"Given these changes, we encourage Kentuckians to file early and electronically if they can, to help them get refunds faster and ensure their returns are logged as on time," said Gov. Andy Beshear.

## POSTMARK DELAYS

Due to federal changes at the United States Postal Service (USPS), postmarks may no longer reflect the date you drop off your mail at your local post office. The postmark date is used to determine timely filing in Kentucky, so a mailing delay could trigger penalties or interest.

What can taxpayers do to protect themselves?

File electronically to remove uncertainty

Request a manual postmark when dropping off items at the post office

Mail early, don't wait until the deadline

Use certified or registered mail for proof of mailing

For more details, see the USPS Release.

## DIRECT DEPOSIT REFUNDS

Beginning April 1, 2026, the Kentucky Department of Revenue is implementing enhanced national requirements for fraud prevention. To receive your refund by direct deposit, the name on your tax return or tax refund application must exactly match the name on your bank account. Otherwise, a paper check will be mailed.

Taxpayers and businesses should

review their name and bank account information prior to filing their returns to avoid delays.

## OTHER REMINDERS FOR KENTUCKY TAXPAYERS

Refund Status: Taxpayers may check the status of their refund online by entering their Social Security number and exact dollar amount of the expected Kentucky refund.

KY File: Kentucky offers KY File, a no-cost option to file Kentucky individual income tax returns.

Get Assistance: Taxpayers who have questions or require assistance may submit a general inquiry on the DOR website at "Get Help" or contact DOR taxpayer assistance at (502) 564-4581. Representatives are available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Kentuckians can also get assistance in person at one of the commonwealth's 10 Taxpayer Service Centers.



**Tri-State Land Company**  
Real Estate Development  
**859-485-1330**  
[www.tristatelandcompany.com](http://www.tristatelandcompany.com)

**9 Ac. Crittenden**, pasture, views, quiet country road, city water, electric available, \$146,900. Owner financing available.

**5 Ac. Williamstown area**, all pasture, single wide homes welcome, partially fenced, city water at street, \$85,900, \$3,000 down, \$844 per mo.

**27 Ac. Grant Co., near Mason**, ideal location for homesite, weekend get away, hunting, 7 miles off I-75, \$189,900, \$8,000 down.

**14 Ac. Grant County**, scattered cedar trees, small pond, blacktop dead-end road, city water, \$136,900, \$4,000 down, \$1,370 per mo.

**5 Ac. Grant Co, near Mt. Zion area**, restricted homesite, open pasture, rolling down into woods, Arnolds Creek frontage, city water, \$92,900, owner financing.

**8 Ac. Corinth, Bracht Road**, mostly pasture, double wides welcome, view, city water available, \$99,900, \$3,000 down, \$997 per mo.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE PROPERTIES**  
[www.tristatelandcompany.com](http://www.tristatelandcompany.com)