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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

Planning Commission approves site plan for another hotel in Dry Ridge

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

At the March 23 regular session of the Grant County Planning Commission (Commission), all members were present as they considered two map amendments and a site plan.

Site Plan - Everhome Suites, Dry Ridge

Logan Murphy, principal and senior engineer for Hicks and Mann Consulting Engineers, Land Surveyors and Planners, presented a site plan of Everhome Suites in

Dry Ridge; requested by Huffman Real Estate Investments, LLC of Covington.

According to Murphy, the plan is a restart of plans from 2007 that, at that time, were for a Kubota Dealership which was never realized.

These plans are for a 120-room "motel or hotel" on a "six-acre" plot located off Blackburn Road with additional road frontage on McCoy Road.

Murphy said the main entrance will be off Blackburn with a service entrance off of McCoy. The plans for the property reserves 1.5 acres

"for future use."

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

- If not started within two years after approval granted reapplication will be required.

- Signage must be approved by the City of Dry Ridge as per Article 14 of their zoning requirements.

Additionally, via letter to the Commission, the City of Dry Ridge approved the application.

With recommended exceptions,

the site plan was unanimously approved.

Map amendments

- Tony Ashcraft requested a map amendment to allow to transfer 2.7 acres of his property on Warsaw Road to an already existing 2.9 acres belonging to his daughter. This will bring the property to the minimum 5 acres for separation from a larger area as required by current R-1 (residential one) zoning.

The property is located within the unincorporated county.

The property has a shared driveway, Ashcraft is in the process

of getting state approval to construct a second driveway to the property as contingency of the property with the current driveway selling.

No comments were made during the public hearing portion of the request.

The request was approved unanimously.

- Jenny Brantley addressed the Commission to "subdivide one acre and house" from the existing farmland on Sherman Mt. Zion Road. During the public hearing, Marvin

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Supporters of skate park turn out to make Vans video

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

Josh Altman is on a mission to get some TLC for the 20-year-old skate park in Dry Ridge. He and fellow skate park lovers approached the City Council about needed upgrades on March 16, noting that the plan was to hopefully find support independently of taxpayer money.

At the meeting, Altman related the dangers of overcrowding and safety issues like cracks in the park's concrete surface and accumulated sand. His arm in a cast bore witness to the hazards. Altman broke his wrist thanks to sand that had built up.

A couple of days after the the city council meeting, Altman revealed in a Facebook post that he'd heard back from one of the skate-related businesses he'd approached for financial support. Vans, a footwear company popular among skate boarders, was "officially interested."

Not wasting any time, Altman put out a call for supporters to show up at the park Sunday afternoon, March 22, to raise awareness and make a video for Vans.

"We're going to stand together and ask Vans to help us rebuild something better for our town. A safer park. A place for beginners. A place our community can be proud of. This only works if we show up strong," he posted.

And show up they did. The park was full of lovers of all



Betsy Smith

Young skaters often need a little help learning the ropes.

thing that roll, from skateboards to inline skates to bikes to razor scooters. There were preschool boys, elementary-aged kids, teens and skaters in their 30s and 40s.

The energy was palpable.

Music played; seasoned skaters practiced skills; dads helped little ones just getting their feet wet in the sport. The vibe was one of a giant family reunion on wheels.

Altman grew up in

Louisville, where he fell in love with skateboarding. "It kept a lot of us off the street," he said—and out of trouble.

"We were all too busy at the park trying to learn how to do a heelflip or a kickflip. And that takes so much time. And then also, the other thing is it kept us in shape."

Altman's timing wasn't the best, sadly. Shortly after moving away from Louisville when he was a teen, the city opened up the biggest skate park in North America.

Louisville Mayor Dave Armstrong embraced "the skateboarding community, because before that, we had nothing, and skaters were getting chased by Louisville Metro Police. We were getting ran out of everywhere, and he came in and he said, 'You know what? I don't understand skateboarding, but I'm willing to listen.'"

"And he took all of our everyone's input, all the skaters around Louisville, and built the most awesome big skate park out there."

Altman came to Grant County when he was 15 and

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Betsy Smith

Mayor Greg Brockman—a fan of all things with wheels—watches skaters at Piddle Park on March 22. He showed up with \$100 to donate as a grand prize.



Betsy Smith

Cody Crawford's skating ability earned him the \$100 grand prize at the skate park March 22.



Courtesy of Patti Jackson-Horton

Riding her mom's horse Rosie, Abigail Horton, with a beautiful smile, was having a great time at the Reds Annual Opening Day Parade on March 26 in Cincinnati.

Horton rides with the Young Guns in Reds Opening Day Parade

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

On March 26, the Young Guns, the award-winning Boone County 4-H Equestrian Drill Team, traveled to Cincinnati to ride in the 2026 Reds Baseball Opening

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Senior Social Connection ticket sale deadline is April 8

The annual Senior Social Connection is coming up fast. This year's event takes place Thursday, April 23, from 3:30–6:30 p.m., at Sherman Church of Christ. The event includes a hot meal, entertainment and door prizes. Doors open at 3:15.

The event features comedic ventriloquist Denny Baker and speaker Sam Craddock, co-host of 'Aging Untold,' a television talk show focusing on the issues of growing older.

Craddock's show premiered in several television markets around the south last month.

The event is sponsored by Interact for Health, Grant County Parks & Recreation, and Williamstown Senior Center.

Tickets for Grant County seniors 60 and older are \$7; tickets for seniors outside the county are \$8.

Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 8. Register by calling Williamstown Senior Center at (859) 824-6415.

Sherman Church of Christ is located at 1055 Sherman Mount Zion, Dry Ridge.

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