

PLEAS FROM THE POUND



TIPSY
Some kittens hear the call of the wild louder in their souls than others. Tippy, who’s four months old, neutered and vaccinated, seems to be one of those. The shelter staff hasn’t been able to win his trust or real friendship. Tippy is happy to accept their gifts of food but only from a distance.
That means that Tippy is looking for a barn-type home. He’ll have all the requirements to be a pet, except for the personality. Tippy doesn’t want to cuddle, just comfortably co-exist. However, Tippy isn’t asking to be a freeloader. His wild streak should make him a great mouser.
That predatory ability was, after all, what brought cats and people together to begin with. And, maybe, with time, friendship will develop.

RIVER
Instinctively people look at sad-eyed puppies and feel sympathy. Yet, River, a big, sweet, grown-up, socially skilled gentleman, may deserve more sympathy than any animal in the shelter.



He’s the fellow who followed all the rules for five years, nearly half a lifetime, and still lost his home. And no one really told the Golden Retriever why.
River knows, with every ounce of his 110-pound being, that he loved his people and showed it every way possible. He followed the rules, even when he was alone for long periods, even when he would have liked to stretch his legs.
This aged-to-perfection fellow is like the human, who always did his job, let go because the company changed. Maybe someone, River hopes, understands how that feels.

SCOOBY
Mother Nature wisely makes dogs better and better. While breeders manipulate dogs, trying to create a look they can sell, Nature prefers to gift the world with what it needs. Scooby is a cross between a Beagle and a Brittany Spaniel. He’s two of the most loving, family-perfect dog breeds, wrapped in one 10-



month-old pup.
Scooby’s also fit. Poor pups bred strictly for looks and sales value may have bodies damaged in the process. Scooby may not be picture-pretty, but he’s cute, energetic, intelligent and eager to please. He’s ready and able to play with his own boy or girl.
And, because Scooby, who’s now neutered, grew up in a place full of dogs, cats and people, he can love any family who’ll love him.

PUFF BALL
In less-than-perfect English, Puff Ball is Scooby’s “brother from another mother.” The neutered, 10-month-old pups grew up in a home where several female dogs delivered puppies



about the same time. The chaos produced pups that are used to a multi-species family, one loaded with cats, dogs and kids. The result is uniquely well-adjusted, social, adaptable pups.
They’re also uniquely cute. Puff Ball is the scruffy one. He has the look of Tramp, from “Lady and the Tramp.” He has a funny, bearded face and a tail that never stops wagging. He also wears the same look of wisdom and intelligence that Tramp wore.
Like Scooby, Puff Ball had to be accepted by many different animals and people. He’s ready and able to do that again.

JAX
Jax promises to give his person evenings happier than any night



out. People may hesitate to adopt Jax, because of the cost. But the cost of being loved by Jax could be made up, with some trades.
For instance, someone could burn up gas, cursing traffic, to get to a movie, buy a ticket and unhealthy snacks. Or that person and Jax could take a healthy, happy walk. Then, Jax could contentedly, gratefully gaze at his best friend, while the person and pup watched an already-purchased Netflix movie.
Jax, who’s grown up in the Shelter, is a perfect 18-month-old, neutered pup. Shelter volunteers, who’ve come to love Jax, but have no space, can give him references. They know that Jax’s love is priceless, renewable forever.

AROUND THE COUNTY

- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**
· Fitness For Life Around Grant County, Google Meets Meetings at 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. For more information and to get the link, contact jodi.cesene@onkyhealth.org.
· A Nation Remembers, September 17 – 20 parade, celebration of veterans)
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**
· Williamstown Senior Center, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Ray at (859) 824-6415.
· Individuals with Disabilities Social Group, 318 North Main Street, Williamstown, 6:30 p.m. “Like minded individuals coming together in a safe place for socialization.” Open to all adults 17 and over, different themes each month, games activities and great fellowship.
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**
· Grant County Solid Waste (109) Board at 101 North Main Street, Williamstown at 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact (859) 824-3050.
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**
· Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 105 Barnes Road, Williamstown, at 8 a.m. For more information contact Jamie Baker at (859) 393-8390.
· Dry Ridge City Council, 31 Broadway, Dry Ridge at 6 p.m. For more information, call the City Office at (859) 824-3335.
· Williamstown Senior Center, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Ray at (859) 824-6415.
· Bullock Pen Water District and Grant County Sanitary Sewer District Board will meet Monday, Sept. 21, 2026, at 1 Farrell Drive, Crittenden. The water meeting be held at 1 p.m. EST/ Noon CST. The sewer meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. EST / 1:30 pm CST. For more information call (859) 428-2112.
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**
· Williamstown City Council, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown at 6 p.m.. For more information, contact the City Office at (859) 824-6351.
· Grant County Fiscal Court, 6 p.m. at the courthouse, 101 North Main Street, Williamstown. Contact the Fiscal Court Office at (859) 823-7561 for more information.
· Grant County Schools Town Hall, 6 p.m. at the GCHS auditorium. For more information contact the Board Office at (859) 824-3323.
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**
· Williamstown Kiwanis, LaRosa’s, 96 Blackburn Lane, Dry Ridge at noon. For more information, contact WilliamstownKyKiwanisClub@gmail.com
· Williamstown Senior Center, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Ray at (859) 824-6415.

Craft Clinic at Grant County Extension Office

There will be a Craft Clinic at the Grant County Extension Office on Saturday, Sept. 19. The cost is \$15 per class, and registration is required. Lunch is provided.

Session 1	- 10 a.m.–noon
Painting	
Fused Glass	
Lunch: Noon - 1 p.m.	

Session 2 - 1–3 p.m.
Recycled Tobacco Stick Wind Chimes
Clay Sculpture
Ceramics
For more information call (859) 824-3355. The Grant County Extension Office is located at 105 Baton Rouge Road, Williamstown.

ASHCRAFT

FROM PAGE A1

The award should have been a surprise for Ashcraft. However, he was puzzled when the checks sent to pay for the conference, parking and hotel were returned to him. He called to find out why and was told about the award.

So he spoiled his own surprise, but his pleasure at the recognition shone through as he posed with his family for a picture after the fiscal court meeting.

Ashcraft has served as the county's building inspector since being appointed by Judge/Executive Stephen Wood in July, 2018.

PARK

FROM PAGE A1

become a site for community events, and the new project would build on that. Instead of just being a spot for special events it would be a fully developed park that would welcome people every day.

Planned for the park are "a playground, a splash zone, a multi-use lawn, a viewing and sledding hill, picnic pavilion, restrooms, improved site facilities, additional parking and better pedestrian and ADA access throughout the site ... Land-Water funding would help the city turn this vision into a lasting community asset."

Sites was optimistic about the grant opportunity.

Two grants are involved, however, "and without one we don't get the other," Mayor David Henson said.

Stites explained the breakdown and why both grants are necessary. The total cost of all phases is \$1,505,520. The first resolution for the Land-Water grant involves a 50/50 match, meaning Williamstown would be responsible for half of the cost, or \$752,760.

A second resolution on the meeting agenda, Resolution 2026- 10 - Authorizing the Resolution for the completion and filing of a Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (G.R.A.N.T) grant funds with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Williamstown Park Project Development (Williamstown Amphitheater) deals with a grant that would significantly reduce Williamstown's portion.

Sites said the G.R.A.N.T. grant would decrease Williamstown's responsibility to 8% of their share, or \$60,221.

"We have done this very thoroughly in the process of getting ready for this grant because we knew it was a big ask," Sites assured.

She said they will apply Oct. 1 but cautioned it may be next September before an answer is received on the Land-Water grant. The answer on the G.R.A.N.T. grant should come much sooner, by the end of October, Sites said.

Both resolutions were approved by council.

- First Reading of Ordinance 2026-11 Lake Ordinance Amendment (Dock Permit Process) was conducted. Henson explained the ordinance is in response to many complaints received by neighbors who live on the lake regarding boat docks. The goal is to lay out "consistent and clear regulations."

- First Reading of Ordinance 2026-12 establishing single-family residential contextual compatibility standards was tabled.

- Henson discussed the proposed 2026 property tax rates.

The current property tax rate is .371 per \$100 for real property and .490 for personal property.

For 2026, Henson recommended adopting the compensating rate plus the 4% and expected revenue for a rate of .367 per \$100 for real property and .508 for personal property.

"Adopting the 4% option will give the city additional capacity to pursue the significant grant opportunities currently in our pipeline ... that require matching funds."

Despite the proposed real property tax rate being slightly lower than the current rate, expected revenue is higher due to the assessed value of real estate as well as new properties generating revenue.

Council approved the proposal for the tax rates.

There will be a public hearing on the city property tax rate Monday, Sept. 28, followed at 6 p.m. with a special meeting for the first reading of the ordinance to set the property tax rates.

The second reading will take place at a special meeting scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 5:30 p.m.

- City Council discussed using Triploid Grass Carp at Williamstown Lake. Tom Hutchins, representing the Lake Association, addressed the council, describing masses of native grasses and plants that have been "going gangbusters" this year. To be clear, the plants are not milfoil, which is invasive and has been a problem in the past; there is very little milfoil, Hutchins said.

In speaking with Dave Baker at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, he learned the problem of excessive plant growth this summer is region-wide and seems weather-related. No one knows say whether the problem will continue next year, but Baker suggested grass carp would be a possible solution.

He recommended "three or four of these [carp] per vegetated acre." Hutchins guessed 200 would be needed. The fish are sterile, so the population can be managed, he said.

Jones Lake Management agreed with the idea and provided a proposal for stocking eight-12 inch fish (introducing smaller fish would pose a risk of their being eaten).

Hutchins confirmed the Lake Association would foot the bill. Jones, KDFWR and the association would monitor the results, he said.

Councilmember Bob Perry, an avid fisherman, said Corinth Lake had a similar issue several years ago that was solved by adding grass carp.

Council approved the plan to introduce Triploid grass carp into Williamstown Lake.

Council then approved a motion to go into executive session. After voting to resume the open meeting, Henson asked for a motion to table agenda item nine, "City Council Authorization to enter a MOA with Williamstown Christian Church pursuant to the bid of purchase submitted for the property of 400 North Main Street (Maintenance Building)."

Mayor's update/Industrial Development Authority:

At the beginning of the meeting, Henson discussed Williamstown's participation in the Grant County Industrial Development Authority (IDA). Williamstown has been paying into the IDA and is up to date on their financial obligations to it, and he said he wants to make sure the city's "public funds are used effectively."

He noted the financial records he has seen indicate other local governments are behind in their obligations to the IDA. Beyond the issue of fairness, Henson asked, "What measurable benefit is Williamstown receiving from its continued investment?"

Henson said businesses interested in coming to Williamstown "generally come directly to City Hall ... Based on the evidence presently available to me, I have not seen sufficient evidence that the IDA is generating economic development opportunities for Williamstown that would not otherwise come to us directly."

He suggested the responsible course in terms of "sound public policy" would be dissolution of the IDA according to Kentucky law.

"There should be an open and informed conversation about whether the IDA continues to serve a necessary public purpose, whether it provides measurable value and whether its present structure remains the best way to support economic development in our community."

Towards the end of the meeting, Rick Skinner revisited the topic, saying, "I'm in 100% agreement."

Henson said he would be attending a meeting of the IDA board the next morning. A discussion ensued about the likelihood of the dissolution of the board and the future of the IDA's building, which also houses Grant County Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce. Also in question was how if/ moneys would be distributed among the local government entities funding the IDA.

Upcoming meetings:

-The next regular meeting of the Williamstown City Council will be Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 6 p.m. at the City Building, 400 North Main Street.

-Public hearing on the city property tax rate Monday, Sept. 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Building.

-A special meeting will take place at 6 p.m. for the first reading of the ordinance to set the property tax rates will take place.

-The second reading will take place at a special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 5:30 p.m.

-On Oct. 12 there will be a Town Hall meeting at the Williamstown Performing Arts Center from 6–8 p.m.

Grant County News

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