

# The Beattyville Enterprise

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## Durbin receives classroom grant from KEA And other LC School Board news



On Tuesday, March 10th, the Lee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting with all members in attendance.

For the celebrations portion of the agenda, Superintendent Shuler recognized the following:

- **Avis Thompson**, Board member and retired Lee Co. teacher who was recently featured in the KY School Advocate Magazine. The Kentucky School Advocate magazine shares education stories, news and insights. The print edition reaches nearly 2,000 readers with approximately 10 issues each year. Each issue is filled with public education news pertinent to board teams: district success stories, legislative developments, interviews, answers to frequently asked questions and updates on KSBA programming.
- Student athlete **Riley Hall** (Cross Country/Track) who recently placed 4th in the state this past season.
- Student athlete **Jared Lucas** (LCHS Senior, Basketball) who recently won't 1st in regionals at Bowling.
- Student athlete **Natalie Reed** (LCHS Sophomore, LadyKat) who achieved 1000 points this past season.
- Student athlete **Corey Flinchum** (LCHS Junior, Basketball), who was recently named as the Junior with most points per game in KY and averaged 36 points per game this past season.

**KEA Central District President Mike Davis was in attendance at the meeting to present LCE teacher Graham Durbin with a \$250 classroom grant (Pictured above).** Durbin stated he planned to use the money towards the school's after school guitar class he is currently teaching twice a week and stated he would like to see the program keep growing and become available to more students.

According to the finance report provided by finance officer Tina Lucas, revenue for the month of Feb. was approximately \$510k (+), and expenditures were approximately \$589k (+).

**LCHS Graduation date has been set as May 24th. The last day of school has been set as May 21st.**



- LCE Spring portraits
- March 25th
- Spring Break 3/30 - 4/3
- LCHS Prom "Under The Sea"
- May 2nd
- LCE Rising Stars 5th Grade
- Celebration May 8th 6pm-9pm
- Last Day of School May 21st
- LCHS Graduation May 24th



## LC Fiscal Court Notes & News for March 2026

On March 12th, the Lee County Fiscal Court held its regular monthly meeting with all magistrates in attendance.

Solid Waste Receipts for February were approximately \$56k (+).

**County Spring Clean Up has now been scheduled (See Page 2 for details). Tire clean up will be April 30th through May 2nd and will be located at the State Highway Garage of Lee Co.**

Noted for record that Magistrates and County Judge have received bank balances/financial reports as of Feb. 28, 2026 and a copy of claims adjustments from the Feb. 2026 meeting, and a list of claims for MARCH 2026.

Noted for record, Lee

Co Clerk has submitted excess fee payment of \$782.48 with amended 2025 annual report.

Noted for record that the next Fiscal Court meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026.

LC Ambulance had 90 billable runs for the month of February.

PRTC will be broadcasting Lee County election results via their Youtube page, Channel 9, and their Facebook page.

The court approved Park Maintenance Agreement between Lock 14 Hydro Partners, LLC and Lee County Fiscal Court.

The court approved KYTC Resolution - approving county roads as listed Appendix A that are a part of the county road system and Appendix B that are not a part of the county road system.

The court approved opening Seizure and Forfeiture Accts at Citizens Bank for Lee County Jailer Justin Shuler.

The court approved Lee County Sheriff Joe Lucas request for pay increase for Debbie Noble to \$11.77 hourly wage effective February 26th to be in consecutive with payroll.

The court approved Gregory Smallwood, Jr (Buddy) full time hire, Deputy Sheriff @ \$18.00 hourly wage effective 3/1/26 - 3 months probation.

The court approved Joshua Bailey full time hire, Advance EMT @ \$13.50 hourly wage. Effective 3/2/26 - 3 months probation.

The court approved to remove Bill Charles Cemetery road from the Lee County Road System.

## Now accepting ARC mini-grant applications from Lee County

The Center for Rural Development is accepting grant applications for the 2026 Kentucky Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) mini-grant program.

The mini-grant program (sometimes referred to as the Flex-E-Grant program) is open to qualified local units of government and non-profit entities in Lee County for capacity building planning and implementation projects.

The mini-grant program provides strategic investments in projects that build community capacity to mobilize local resources, gain leadership experience, and strengthen community institutions and networks.

Grants are subject to approval for up to \$10,000, require a 20 percent match of total project costs, and are to be completed within a six-month timeframe. Mini-grant funds are available on a reimbursement basis only.

For more information or to download a request for proposal, visit <https://centertech.com/arc-mini-grant-flex-e-grant/>.

All grant applications and supporting documents must be submitted to The Center for Rural Development by 5 PM (EDT) on April 10, 2026. Digital files are preferred and may be emailed to [arc@centertech.com](mailto:arc@centertech.com).

Counties within The Center for Rural Development's primary service area designated as economically distressed by ARC are eligible to apply for the mini-grant program. Eligible counties include Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe.

## Firefly Hills Unveils Blossom Hall to the Public with Ribbon-Cutting

Firefly Hills Kentucky is pleased to announce the grand opening of Blossom Hall, a new event space on the property designed to host a wide range of activities and community gatherings. The public is invited to attend the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, April 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to learn more about Blossom Hall, explore the Firefly Hills property, and discover the many experiences and offerings available at the destination. Blossom Hall is located at 2470 Pine Grove Road in Beattyville. During the event, guests can tour the new space, enjoy light refreshments from local vendors, socialize with fellow attendees, and explore the property. Visitors can also learn more about Firefly Hills' camping and short-term lodging options, as well as the variety of experiences and activities planned throughout the year. Blossom Hall will be available to host a wide range of events, including weddings, community gatherings, educational seminars, rallies, corporate meetings or retreats, and other special occasions.

"We are incredibly excited to unveil Blossom Hall and welcome our guests and the community to a beautiful space designed for gathering, celebrating, and creating lasting memories," said Tonja Lesmeister, owner of Firefly Hills Kentucky. "We're proud to offer a venue that highlights the natural beauty of Firefly Hills while bringing people together for meaningful connections and special events."

RSVPs are appreciated but not required. For more information or to RSVP, please call or text (606) 208-0993. Firefly Hills welcomes community members, visitors, and local partners to attend the ribbon-cutting and help celebrate the opening of this new gathering space.

