

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 OCTOBER 2013

IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

Initial construction (staking and marking pavement) on the next phase of the **Clays Mill Road Widening Project**, Phase 2B, began this past Monday. Heavy equipment will begin to arrive on Monday. This phase of widening Clays Mill Road, from Higbee Mill to Twain Ridge, includes improvements such as wider sidewalks, bike lanes, new curbs and gutters, additional turn lanes at Man o' War, and another stone faced retaining wall on each side of Clays Mill from Man o' War to Twain Ridge.

Periodic lane closures can be expected from Man o' War to Twain Ridge Drive. Traffic will be limited to one lane in each direction during the construction of the retaining walls. Construction will occur throughout the winter and will continue until March 2014. The bridge over South Elkhorn Creek will also be widened during the winter months and the improvements to Man o' War will occur in the spring. Phase 2B construction is anticipated to be complete in July of 2014. *(A map of the construction area can be found below.)*

Don't miss the "flashback" photographs of Clays Mill Road during the initial widening phase, on page 2. Thank you to Ms. Mary Seelbach for providing these photos.

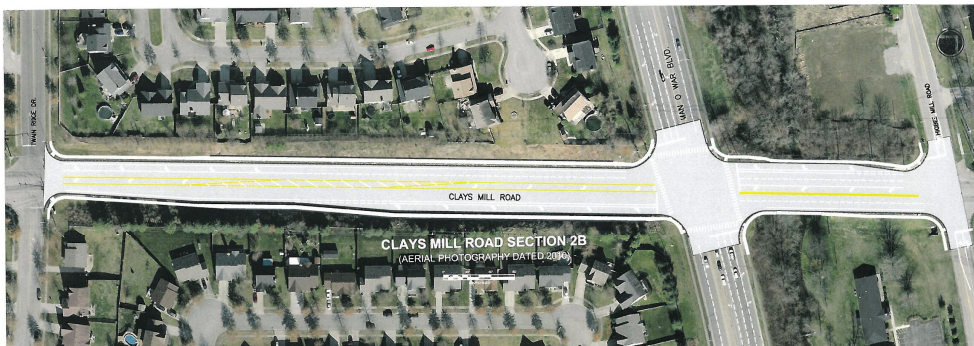
Reynolds Road Roundabout. At the October 10 Budget & Finance Committee of the

Whole meeting, Council tentatively approved \$26,000 to be utilized to enhance the caution signs approaching the Roundabout.

Solar-powered Advance Warning Flashing Beacons have been recommended by the LFUCG's Division of Traffic Engineering to aid in alerting motorists to reduce their speed as they approach the Roundabout. Traffic Engineering believes that additional emphasis on traveling at the proper speed when navigating the Roundabout will help to potentially reduce the numbers of accidents occurring there. Excessive speed and failure to yield have been determined to be the two most significant factors as to why accidents are occurring at a higher rate at the Roundabout. The funds must ultimately be approved in two readings of the docket before the Council later this month. Stay tuned for updates as they occur.

Feel free to e-mail me your feedback on these or other issues at jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov or call my office at (859) 258-3215.

As always, please forward this newsletter to anyone who may have an interest in receiving it.



CALENDAR:

Oct. 19: Free Household Waste Disposal Day (See page 3)

Oct. 20: Lexington Fire Prevention Festival & Parade (Rescheduled due to weather.) Activities begin at 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 26: Annual "Thriller Parade," downtown. Activities begin at 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 26: Southern Heights Family Festival and Donation Sale.

Oct. 31: Halloween; 6-8 p.m.

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month!

View the [City Calendar](#)

To have your upcoming event noted in a future newsletter, e-mail rbolson@lexingtonky.gov

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Congratulations to CDP Engineers of Lexington who was recently awarded the American Public Works Association (APWA) Kentucky Chapter's Project of the Year Award for their work on the Clays Mill Road widening project.

What's in your photo album?

Do you have vintage or historic photos of people, places, events or activities involving life in the past in the 9th District? Share them here.

Please feel free to e-mail a copy to me at jmossotti@LexingtonKY.gov for consideration for inclusion in a future 9th District newsletter. Let's share the history of our neighborhoods.

Don't forget to mention who is in the photo, when it was taken, what was happening, and who took the photo.

Photos should be personal photos that you own, no copyrighted or commercial images please.

CLAYS MILL ROAD WIDENING "FLASHBACK" PHOTOS

Photos courtesy of Mary Seelbach.



FREE HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL: OCT. 19.

Lexington residents can dispose of non-hazardous household waste for free on Oct. 19. This does not include appliances nor hazardous materials such as paint, pesticides and motor oil.

Residents can drop off a pickup truck load of bagged household waste and up to four off-the-rim tires for free between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the transfer station at 1505 Old Frankfort Pike. No tire rims will be accepted. It normally costs residents \$60.50/ton to dispose of household waste.

Paint will not be accepted. Please take latex paint to the ReStore Habitat for Humanity store at 451 Southland Drive. You should contact the ReStore at (859) 252-2224 before taking the paint to Habitat for Humanity.

Participants must have a valid Fayette County drivers' license. All loads must be level with the bed of the truck and must be covered by a tarp.

Household Appliances should be taken to Environmental Recycling, located at 3899 Winchester Rd.

Electronic devices (computers, printers, cell phones, microwave ovens, televisions,) should be taken to the E-waste recycling facility at 1306 Versailles Rd.

For more information on the free disposal day, call LexCall at 3-1-1 or 425-2255. For more information on recycling opportunities in Lexington visit www.Lexingtonky.gov/recycle



Lexington residents can dispose of non-hazardous household waste for free on Oct. 19 at the transfer station at 1505 Old Frankfort Pike.

FIRE PREVENTION EVENTS RESCHEDULED

The Lexington Fire Prevention Festival & Parade originally scheduled for October 6th but moved to October 20th due to inclement weather promises to be big and even better this year.

In addition to the usual parade, station floats, and other family-fun events, there will be a lot of entertainment for everyone to enjoy and free activities for the kids. This is a great family event that is fun and teaches fire safety and prevention. Other activities include the Pumper Pull at 4 p.m.

Mark your calendar:

Lexington Fire Prevention Festival & Parade

Sunday, October 20th - 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Courthouse Plaza, 120 North Limestone.

Here's a free "Kid Tik" coupon to print and present:



For more information, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/227901897363759>



FEMALE FIREFIGHTERS MAKE HISTORY

On Thursday, September 5th at 6:31 a.m., Lexington Fire Department Captain Maria Roberts and Lexington Firefighters Amanda Arbogast and Sarah McGill made Lexington Fire Department history.

They responded on Engine 1 from the East Third Street Station in downtown Lexington to a report of a brush fire on North Martin Luther King Blvd. They then proceeded to extinguish the fire.

What makes this particular run unique is that this is the first known incident of an all female crew manning a Lexington Fire truck on a response.

Although women have been serving on the Lexington Fire Department since 1985 and currently serve in ranks from Firefighter to Assistant Chief in Lexington, women constitute just 3.5% of professional firefighters nationwide.

Only the smallest handful of U.S. paid fire departments have made responses with an all female crew. Lexington now joins the ranks of those departments. What a remarkable milestone in Lexington's Public Safety history.

Way to go, ladies! Thank you for your service to our community.



Lexington Fire Captain Maria Roberts and Lexington Firefighters Amanda Arbogast and Sarah McGill recently made Lexington Fire Department history.

POLICE CRACK DOWN ON TEXTING AND DRIVING

Take note! Lexington Police have received a grant of \$20,000 to enhance their efforts to reduce the number of distracted driving accidents; a number which continues to rise. Police are looking for people using cell phones behind the wheel. In the past three months there have been more than 500 distracted-driving related crashes in Lexington according to a Police news release.

Lexington Police are among five Kentucky law enforcement agencies participating in the new pilot program to enforce the state's law against texting and driving.



If caught, motorists will receive a \$25 fine for breaking the law plus another \$146 in court costs. Lexington Police say this special initiative will end at year's end or perhaps sooner if the grant money runs out.

Kentucky's law, which went into effect in 2011, prohibits motorists from writing, sending, or reading text-based communications while driving. That includes text messages, instant messages and emails. Driver beware!



In the past three months there has been more than 500 distracted-driving related automobile crashes in Lexington. Keep our streets safe; texts can wait!

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

A recent series of events in the Robinwood neighborhood involving a suspected vicious dog illustrates the serious and sometimes deadly dangers of aggressive dogs being kept in our community.

As a result of this concern, a meeting was convened earlier this month with representatives of Lexington's Animal Care and Control (ACC), the County Attorney's Office, the LFUCG's Law Department, and the LFUCG's Public Safety Office to review current laws and ordinances and to explore additional potential enforcement efforts.

Unfortunately, there is no ready made solution wherein a citizen can call Animal Care and Control and have a perceived problem animal taken care of once and for all. The witnessing party; whether it be a witness or ACC has to abide by the process prescribed by the rules of law and by the courts. A complaint or citation has to be generated and the incident must be entered and reviewed by court,

which allows the animal's owner to be heard as well.

Clearly the consequences of dog attacks can scar lives both physically and emotionally. That's why it's critical for dog owners to actively work to avoid the possibility of their pet wreaking havoc on our community and endangering innocent lives.

When pet owners refuse to take proper pet responsibility, fear of harsh punishment, increased fines, and jail time may be needed to motivate careless dog owners to be more responsible.

In the name of public safety, pet owners must do everything within their power to ensure their household's best friend never becomes another's worst nightmare.

As further developments occur, I will keep you updated on what steps are being taken to successfully address the issue.



Pet owners must do everything within their power to ensure their household's best friend never becomes another's worst nightmare.

GreenHouse17 **Nurturing lives** harmed by intimate partner abuse.

October is **Domestic Violence Prevention Month**, a time for our community to come together and build awareness and a movement towards safe and healthy relationships for all individuals and families. Domestic violence touches every person in our community and society as a whole, and violates a person's dignity, safety, and basic human rights.

Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program has now become **GreenHouse17**. The same caring, compassionate advocates and counselors; the same social, legal, and housing services to help people move from a state of crisis to a life of self-sufficiency; the same educators spreading the message of prevention; the same healing haven on a peaceful Bluegrass farm. The only things that's new is how they're telling their story to the world and inviting the world to get involved. For more information, visit: <http://Greenhouse17.org>.



Photo courtesy of Robert Allen,

Clean-up Continues

Trustees from the Detention Center continue to assist with ongoing clean-up efforts across the community. The amount of trash they have removed is staggering.

The hard-working trustees have mowed bridges in the area of Stone, Clays Mill, and Waveland and picked up 4 bags of garbage, 9 signs, and 5 discarded tires in those areas. In addition, they also collected quite a bit of trash along Boston Road from Spring Run to Man o' War.

In the vicinity of Boston Road and Victoria Way they recently collected 20 bags of garbage and 3 signs from the right of way and starting at the airport and working to Boston Road they collected an amazing 38 bags of trash and 2 signs. They also picked up an illegal dump on Old Higbee Mill which contained another 16 bags of trash and 5 tires.

I certainly appreciate their continuing efforts to help keep the 9th District and all of Lexington beautiful.

If you observe anyone littering or dumping trash, report it to the Police (if in progress) at **258-3600** or call LexCall at **3-1-1** if you see an area that needs to be cleaned up.

HEROES DAY *at Keeneland*

Sunday, October 20

Keeneland recognizes the men and women who serve our community.

All military (active duty and veterans), first responders – police officers, firefighters, EMTs – and their families will receive free general admission and access to reserved grandstand seating.

Gates open at 11 - First race at 1:05 p.m.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

The LFUCG Planning Commission will hold its final public hearing on the draft 2013 Comprehensive Plan on **October 31** at 1:30 p.m. at the Government Center at 200 East Main Street at the 2nd Floor Council Chambers.

The meeting is open to the public and the public will be invited to address the Planning Commission about the draft plan. **This will be the last meeting where the Planning Commission will receive public comment before they consider adoption of the plan at a subsequent hearing.** The Planning Commission will consider adopting the Plan on November 14, but will only take comment through October 31.

If you wish to address the Planning Commission at this hearing, please sign up to speak during the hearing at the table where you pick up meeting agendas upon entering the Council Chambers.

If you are unable to attend, you may review the draft plan and submit written comments in advance at:

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/2013CompPlan>.





FROM THE OFFICE OF
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TWITTER: [@MOSSOTTI9TH](https://twitter.com/AMossotti9TH)

OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS OF NOTE...

- Livability recently ranked Lexington #27 on their list of "**Top 100 Best Places to Live for 2014.**" Livability examined issues related to livability such as walkability, cultural amenities, transportation, urban planning and sustainability. Lexington was the only Kentucky city to make the Top 100 list.
- Lexington also came in at #5 on the Motovo Real Estate's blog list of the "**10 Best Cities for Home Buyers.**" Motovo noted, "The Bluegrass State's second-largest city was propelled halfway up our ranking in part by its school quality (it scored a seven out of 10) and number of available homes per person (there's one for every 132 residents)."
- Congratulations to the Lexington Fire Department who were big winners at the Big Brown 2013 Special Olympics Truck Pull held on October 5. The LFD "Team Clair" won first place in the men's division. They raised \$1,607 (surpassing their team goal of \$1,500). Special team member and Special Olympic athlete Claire Mynear raised an additional \$200 for the event. For the second time, the Division of Community Corrections also won the co-ed division. The Corrections team raised a total of \$1,009 for the Special Olympics. Fifteen teams participated in the event which was held at the Texas Roadhouse at Beaumont Centre.
- The Urban County Government's Division of Traffic Engineering recently received an award for its illuminated street names signs. The award, Project of the Year Award, was presented by the American Public Works Association Kentucky Chapter at a recent conference in Lexington. The project placed 86 illuminated street name signs at 33 signalized intersections around Lexington.
- As part of a recent mortgage foreclosure settlement, more than \$750,000 will be provided to Lexington initiatives that help displaced families, prevent foreclosures and create affordable housing. To learn more, visit ag.ky.gov/mortgagesettlement. Source: LaneReport.com.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF NOTE

LexCall (City Hall)	311
Police (Non-emergency)	258-3600
Fire (Non-emergency)	231-5600
Animal Humane Society	225-9033
Senior Citizen Center	278-6072
Traffic Hotline	258-3830
Waste Collection	425-2255 or 311
Health Dept.	252-2371
Kentucky Utilities	255-0394
Ky. American Water	800-678-6301
Columbia Gas	800-432-9345
County Clerk	253-3344
Fayette County Sheriff	252-1771
Time Warner Cable	514-1400
Public Library	231-5500
Voter Registration	255-8683
United Way	211



The last two Lexington Police K-9 dogs will soon be getting life-saving bullet-proof vests thanks to generous donations and pledges from two Lexington companies.

Each vest costs \$850. Of the nine dogs in the K-9 unit, seven already have bullet-proof vests.

Most people are familiar with Lexington's K-9 unit but they may not know that it is the oldest K-9 unit in the state of Kentucky. It was established in 1962. The current canine unit has nine dogs – all German Shepherds except for Bo, a black Labrador.

Members of the K-9 unit do all the training for the dogs they handle. It takes about 6 weeks to train them for detection – sniffing out drugs or explosives – and about sixteen weeks to train them for patrol work, which includes finding suspects. All of the nine dogs are trained to do narcotics detection work and one dog is trained to sniff out explosives. The canines are fed regular dog food – nothing special – and train and exercise every night so they stay fit and trim. All of the dogs currently in the unit are males but a female dog will be joining the force in November. At that time, one of the dogs, Chaos, will be retired.

Do you know someone who might also enjoy reading this monthly newsletter? Please forward a copy to them! If you are not currently a subscriber, please e-mail rbolson@lexingtonky.gov to be added to the e-mail list.