

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



## 9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER



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### IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

The Council is on Summer Recess until early August but I wanted to update you on recent news. At our July 9th Council meeting, the Council committed to building at least one free-standing, City-operated Senior Citizens Center. There is however, still a possibility of their being satellite centers run cooperatively with a private partner such as the YMCA.

According to the YMCA, such a partnership could mean an annual savings of up to \$500,000 for the City while incorporating various YMCA programs which encourage active lifestyles, education and intergenerational relationships.

There has been much discussion and debate as to what is in the best interest of our community.

\$5 million has been budgeted for this fiscal year for Senior Citizen Center site selection and design. Two potential sites that have been discussed include the former Kroger Store in Beaumont Centre and the former Turfland Mall location.

The former Springs Motel property was under consideration early in the process but has since-

been eliminated from consideration.

According to our Social Services Department, one new 46,000-square-foot center would cost an estimated \$15 million.

What is your opinion? Do you use the current center? I would appreciate hearing from you. E-mail me at [jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov) or call my office at (859) 258-3215.



*I am proud to be a member of the Lexington Lions Club.*

*Here I am working a ticket booth at Bluegrass Fair at Masterson Station Park. The Fair continues through July 21.*

### LEXINGTON AREA MINORITY BUSINESS EXPO

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lexington Area Minority Business Expo will occur August 1-2. The event offers women and minority business owners a chance to exhibit goods and services, to network, and to hear speakers discuss how they beat the odds to reach success.

The event kicks off at 4 pm on August 1 with the One-on-One Opportunity Ex-

change. The event matches small business owners with larger corporations seeking their services. A public reception and trade show follows from 5:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, August 1. The reception is open to the public. The Expo follows on Friday, August 2 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. All events will be at the Lexington Convention Center.

### CALENDAR:

**Sept. 14:** Annual Firefighter Memorial Challenge.

View the [City Calendar](#)

To have your upcoming event noted in a future newsletter, e-mail the information to:

[rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov)

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## VOLUNTEER FOR OPERATION UPSTREAM

Many people do not know that storm drains lead directly to our waterways. Everything that enters a storm drain or storm inlet is washed into nearby streams, lakes, and rivers without going through a treatment plant. Only rain-water should go down the drain.

Stenciling storm drains educates citizens so that everyone knows that pollutants don't belong in storm drains.

Many people mistakenly believe that storm drains empty into the same sewer system that carries wastewater from toilets and sinks, however this is not true. Storm drains lead into a

separate system that empties directly into our streams, rivers, and lakes.

This project is great for Scouts, youth groups, neighborhood associations and others who are looking for a way to make a difference in an afternoon.

If you would like to form a group to stencil storm drains in the community, you should contact Jennifer at (859) 425-2807 or [jmyatt@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jmyatt@lexingtonky.gov).



*Stenciling storm drains educates citizens so that everyone knows that pollutants don't belong in storm drains.*

## HEROIN TASK FORCE FORMED

Lexington is battling a surge in heroin abuse with community-wide partnerships focused on enforcement, education and treatment.

Mayor Jim Gray recently joined Commissioner of Public Safety Clay Mason and several agency representatives in announcing progress made since the formation of Lexington's Heroin Task Force.

The task force includes:

- Lexington Division of Police
- Lexington Division of Fire & Emergency Services
- Office of Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney
- Fayette County Attorney's Office
- Fayette County Sheriff's Office
- Lexington Division of Community Corrections
- Fayette County Coroner's office
- Lexington-Fayette County Health Department
- Mayor's Alliance on Substance Abuse

As illegal prescription pain pills become more difficult to obtain, drug addicts have been turning to heroin, said law enforcement officials.

Officials began noticing an increased number of heroin drug sales in Lexington and overdose deaths from heroin last fall.

According to Police, so far in 2013, Lexington's Narcotics Enforcement Unit has made more heroin-related arrests than the previous two years combined.

**Overdose deaths in 2013: 40**

**Heroin-related deaths in 2013: 28**

**Total heroin-related arrests in 2013: 160**

**2012 arrests: 102**

**2011 arrests: 8**

The Division of Police has reassigned some personnel to focus on the heroin problem. Since launching "Operation Pandora" in March, officers have seized 1,180 grams of heroin with an estimated street value of \$235,900.20.

The Mayor's Alliance on Substance Abuse recently expanded its online database of treatment options and resources at [DrugFreeLex.com](http://DrugFreeLex.com).



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## ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

Seniors in our area now have an alternative to driving that both preserves their independence ensures the safety of our roads and the health of our communities.

ITN (Independent Transportation Network) Bluegrass, a non-profit service, provides safe, dignified, "door-through-door" automobile transportation for seniors and adults in Fayette and northern Jessamine Counties with visual impairments who want to preserve their mobility and independence. The service is membership-based and requires an annual membership fee.

The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for any type of ride within the service area, with no limitations on ride purpose.

Rides are provided in private automobiles by trained

drivers for people 60 years and older and adults with visual impairment.

Rides may be booked at any time and discounts are applied for shared rides and advance notice.



## POCKET MUSEUMS ANNOUNCED

The forced closure of the old Fayette County Courthouse has left the Lexington History Museum temporarily closed. However, museum officials have come up with a way to keep displaying exhibits that tell Lexington's story.

The Lexington History Museum has announced the creation of "pocket museums" at six downtown locations. Every few months you will be able to view new displays at the six pocket museums located at the Bluegrass Corporate Center, Triangle Center, Central Bank Building, the Government Center, Central Library and Victorian Square.

There are also plans to hang large canvas photos throughout downtown depicting Lexington's early years. Those will be showcased at the Fifth Third Pavilion. The History Museum hopes to make the Old Courthouse their permanent home again once renovations are completed.



## FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB

Lexington's Fraternal Order of Firefighters will host their annual Firefighter Memorial Stair Climb on Sat., Sept. 14th at the Fifth Third Bank Building in downtown Lexington.

Space is limited to 350 participants as firefighters and civilians climb to remember those 343 firefighters that lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001

and another 7 spots remembering those who served the Lexington Fire Department and gave their all in the line of duty.

Firefighters will be covering 110 flights of stairs and civilians will climb 29 flights of stairs.

Registration is \$40 per firefighter and \$40 per civilian.

Each participant will receive a commemorative t-shirt.

Proceeds will support the FOF Monument to the Fallen in Phoenix Park. For more on the FOF Monument to the Fallen, visit [www.lfdfof.org](http://www.lfdfof.org).



*Fifth Third Bank will be the site for annual Firefighters Memorial Stair Climb on Sept. 14.*





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## FREE HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL



Fayette County residents can dispose of household waste for free on Saturday, July 20. This is for non-hazardous household waste and does not include 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 located at 1505 Old Frankfort Pike. No tire rims will be accepted.

It normally costs residents \$60.50 per ton to dispose of household waste. Electronic devices, such as computers, printers, cell phones, microwave ovens and televisions should be taken to the E-waste recycling facility at 1306 Versailles Road. For more information visit:

<http://www.livegreenlexington.com>



*Do you know of 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](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov) to be added to the e-mail list.*