

A monthly publication from the office of Lexington, Kentucky  
Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti.

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## Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti's 9th District News & Notes Newsletter

May 2013 Edition

Volume I, Issue 4

### In this issue: News You Can Use and Some Helpful Crime Prevention Tips

In recent meetings with 9th District neighborhood and homeowner associations, a common theme came up again and again: How to prevent crimes, safety tips, and what can be done to reduce the chances of becoming the victim of a crime.

Several neighborhood associations are creating or stepping up their "neighborhood watch" programs. That's great news! Our local law enforcement authorities cannot be everywhere night and day. So when our neighbors and neighborhood associations become active in helping to prevent crimes, our entire community benefits.

One of the most important things to remember is, "If you see something, say something!" Contact the Lexington Police at 258-3600 (or 9-1-1 during an emergency) and let them check out any activity that seems suspicious. Don't think you're bothering them. That's what they are there for--night or day.

I hope you find the information in the May issue to be useful and as always, I welcome your comments and feedback at any time regarding any issue facing our community.



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#### Upcoming Events:

**June 1:** City Olympic and neighborhood pools open for the season at noon: Picadome, Douglass and Shillito pools.



*Councilmember Mossotti sawing a windshield during a rescue exercise at Lexington's Fire Training Center during Council Field Day.*

## Council Field Day Offers a Hands-On Experience

Lexington's Division of Fire & Emergency Services recently conducted a hands-on "Council Field Day" for Council Members and Council Staff at the Fire Training Center on Old Frankfort Pike. It was an enlightening and exhausting day.



*Councilmember Scutchfield, Vice Mayor Gorton, Councilmember Mossotti, and Councilmember Henson were among the group of Council Members who participated in the Council Field Day.*

Thank you to Chief Jackson and his command staff and each of the firefighters who made the event possible. I appreciate the dedication and professionalism of our firefighters who provide such topnotch public safety to our community.

If you are interested in experiencing the challenges of being a firefighter, visit the Division of Fire & Emergency Services website for more information about upcoming

**June 5:** Traffic Movement and Revitalization Study Public Meeting regarding Two-Way Street Proposal for downtown, Lexington Traditional Magnet School, 350 N. Limestone St., 5 p.m.

**July 11:** Wellington Homeowners Association Quarterly Meeting. 7 pm at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church.

***Be sure to "LIKE" Councilmember Mossotti's Facebook page "Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti" for updates and announcements.***

To have your upcoming event added to a future newsletter, e-mail the information to

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

services website for more information about upcoming classes for the [Citizen's Fire Academy](#).

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## **Spring Clean-Up Efforts across the Community and in the 9th District**

City employees from Streets and Roads are currently utilizing manpower from the Fayette County Detention Center to help clean-up trash and debris along Lexington's main corridors, including several areas of the 9th District.

Recently Detention Center trustees picked up four bags of trash on Old Higbee Mill end to end and picked up trash on Man o' War from Nicholasville Road to Clays Mill, collecting 8 bags that need to be picked up. In addition,

brush was cut back that was growing over the sidewalk in three places near Boston Road.

Another bag of trash was picked-up while workers were mowing near the guardrail at Old Higbee Mill and Harrodsburg

Road and honeysuckle and trees partially blocking the sidewalk at the bridge on Clemens Drive was also removed.

If you see an area that needs attention, please call LexCall at 3-1-1. Please help keep Lexington clean!

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## **New in the 9th District: Bluegrass Farmers Market to open second location in Lexington in June at**

### **Stonewall Shopping Center**

According to a report from Southsider Magazine, Stonewall Center at 3101 Clays Mill Road will become home to the second location for Bluegrass Farmers Market beginning June 15.

The Bluegrass Farmers Market notes that their offering is "100% locally grown vegetables, flowers, fruit, and more." Some of the available advertised items will include a wide assortment of vegetables, flowers, herbs, and fruit, and farm-fresh eggs, grass-fed beef, lamb, goat, free-range chicken, rabbit, local honey, jams,

soaps, rubs, and bedding plants.

Each of Bluegrass Farmers Markets' vendors are members of the Kentucky Proud program.

What a great addition to the 9th District! Welcome!

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## In the neighborhood...

*Speaking at the Higbee Mill Neighborhood Association meeting at the Saint Andrew Orthodox Church.*

Thank you to Wanda Delaplane of Higbee Woods Neighborhood Association and to the Higbee Mill Neighborhood Board for the opportunity to attend and speak at their recent membership meeting. Representatives from the Division of Police Community Services Department, LexCall 3-1-1, Engineering, and the Division of Fire & Emergency Services also at the meeting.

If you are not currently a member of a neighborhood association, I urge you to look into joining in order to take advantage of the many benefits membership offers.

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## Two-Way Street Proposal Discussion Planned for June 5th

A public meeting for the North Area of the Downtown Lexington Traffic Movement and Revitalization Study will be held on Wednesday, June 5th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Lexington Traditional Magnet School, located at 350 North Limestone Street.

The meeting will focus on the evaluation of conversion of one-way streets to two-way traffic flow for the North Area of the study, which extends from Main Street to Fourth Street and from Newtown Pike to Midland Avenue.

The meeting will include:


- A presentation on the study purpose and objectives, along with summary of the North Area conversion analyses
- A survey to obtain public input on issues, perceived benefits and concerns about two-way street conversion
- A question-and-answer session

I invite all interested parties to attend to offer their input and for more information.



## Stormwater Grant Opportunity for businesses, schools, churches, and other institutions

The Stormwater Incentive Grant Program is once again open for infrastructure projects for businesses, schools, churches,



projects for businesses, schools, churches and other institutions. These grants, funded by the Water Quality Management Fee (WQMF), provide financial assistance for projects that reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality and educate citizens about these issues.

Currently, Class B Infrastructure Grants are open for applications. Grants for educational projects and neighborhoods were due earlier this spring and are in the process of being evaluated.

Class B Infrastructure Grants are available for non-farm commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-family residential facilities that pay the WQMF. In the past, these grants have funded a variety of stormwater projects, including stream restoration, constructed wetlands, bio-retention, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting and pervious pavement installation.

Construction-only projects, along with design and construction projects, have a maximum grant award of \$350,000 with a 10% cost share for design phase costs. Feasibility-only projects have a maximum grant award of \$50,000 with a 10% cost share.

Class B Infrastructure Grants are due on Friday, August 2, 2013. Grant selection for Class B Infrastructure Grants will occur in the fall with the anticipation that grant funds will be awarded by the Urban County Council in February, 2014.

Grant application packets and other information are available at [www.lexingtonky.gov/incentives](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/incentives).

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## A word of caution from the Lexington Fire Department

In the last few months the Lexington Fire Department has received several complaints. Apparently, a male subject has



been approaching citizens, asking for financial assistance, claiming his home burned down "over off Harrodsburg Road around midnight." The Fire Department has found that all of these claims are false.



The Lexington Fire Department would also like you to know that this set of circumstances would be unlikely. The Fire Department coordinates with the local Red Cross and several other charitable agencies when someone's home is damaged by fire. These organizations provide food, clothing and housing for the victims for several days after the event, allowing them to get their affairs in order. The Red Cross attends to these issues while the Fire Department is still on scene extinguishing the blaze. There simply would be no need to begin asking for help a few hours after a home was destroyed or damaged by fire.

If you feel that someone is in need because of a fire in their home, you may call Lexington Fire Department Community Services at 859-231-5668 or 859-231-5600 after hours.

If you wish to report suspicious activity, please call the Lexington Police at 859-258-3600.

As always, to report an Emergency to either Police or Fire, please call 9-1-1.







## Back on Track

Have you worked hard your whole life and dreamed of owning your own home? Do you want to go back to school and get your degree, but think it's financially out of reach? Or do you have the drive and passion to start your own business, but need a little help getting started?

If you answered yes to any of these, United Way's Back On Track program might be for you.

Back On Track is designed to help hardworking individuals succeed by matching their savings through Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). If you save \$2,000 to use toward buying your first home, you could receive an additional \$4,000. If you save \$1,000 toward furthering your education or starting your own business, you could also receive an additional \$4,000! It's not a loan - it is YOUR money.

As you save, Back on Track works with you to build your assets through free tax preparation and filing, financial literacy classes, access to financial assistance programs, and much more.

To qualify for Back on Track, you must live in Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott, or Woodford county.

To learn more, see if you qualify or to get started today, dial 2-1-1.

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## Sign-up for Crime Alerts

BAIR's public crime map, RAIDS Online, connects law enforcement with the community to reduce crime and improve public safety. Crime mapping helps you get a better idea of the crime activity in your area so you can make more informed decisions about how to stay safe.

RAIDS Online goes beyond crime mapping by automatically alerting you about recent crime activity and by improving communication between the public and law enforcement through anonymous tips.

RAIDS Online empowers you to make better decisions about crime by putting the same technology used by law enforcement to analyze and interpret crime activity into your hands.

To sign-up for crime alerts or for more information, visit:

<http://www.raidsonline.com/>





## Home Security

According to the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition, many burglars spend less than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. For a small amount of time and money, you can make your home more secure and reduce your chances of being a victim.

### *Prevention tips:*

- Check the doors. Doors should be made of a solid wood or metal, contain a well-installed dead bolt lock, have a wide angle door viewer, and be well lighted.
- Never leave a garage door opener in an unlocked vehicle nor in plain view where would-be thieves can see it.
- Check the locks. Always keep doors and windows locked. Properly secure sliding glass door locks and place a broom or dowel in the door track for additional security. Be sure to change all exterior door locks when you move into a new residence.
- Check the outside. Keep all outside lights bright and turned on all evening. Keep shrubbery and trees trimmed to eliminate potential hiding spots for would-be criminals.
- Consider an alarm. Check with multiple companies before purchasing any alarm system.
- Take a stand. Join a neighborhood watch group. If your neighborhood doesn't have an active group, contact the Lexington Police Department and consider starting one.

Remember, effective home security starts with you!

## New Street Signs Help to Light Up the Night

You may have noticed the new signs going up all around Lexington designed to help drivers find their way better at night.

Lexington's Traffic Engineers are in the process of installing new light-up street signs across the community. According to a news report by WKYT, the city will put up 86 new street signs at about 33 intersections.

The border of the sign and the name of the street will light up. The signs were funded by a federal grant and are scheduled to be up and running by the end of May.



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## Grilling Safety Tips from the Lexington Fire Department

Summertime, holidays, and warmer temperatures mean more outdoor activities, backyard get-togethers, and grilling out.

Be sure to use safe grilling practices as the peak months for grilling fires approach — June and July. Gas grills constitute a higher risk, having been involved in an annual average of 7,100 home fires in 2006-2010, while charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in an annual average of 1,200 home fires.



Facts & figures from the NFPA:

- In 2006-2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,600 home and outside fires. These 8,600 fires caused an annual average of 10 civilian deaths, 140 civilian injuries and \$75 million in direct property damage.
- More than one-quarter (28%) of the home structure fires involving grills started on a courtyard, terrace or patio, 28% started on an exterior balcony or open porch, and 6% started in the kitchen

- and 9% started in the kitchen.
- Flammable or combustible gas or liquid was the item first ignited in almost half of home outdoor grill fires. In almost half (46%) of the home outdoor fires in which grills were involved, 53% of the outside gas grills, and 26% of gas grill structure fires, the fire started when a flammable or combustible gas or liquid caught fire.

Follow these tips from Lexington's Division of Fire and Emergency Services and help prevent potential grilling fires. To view the Grilling Safety Tip Sheet, [click here](#).

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## Radon Awareness: Free Radon Test Kits Available Upon Request

Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas, and is the second leading cause of lung cancer. The Surgeon General and the EPA recommend testing for radon and reducing radon in homes that have high levels. Since it is difficult to identify any immediate symptoms related to radon exposure, it may take years before health problems appear. So, whether in the workplace, in homes, or in schools, understanding radon is important. This includes learning how radon gets into buildings, its health effects, and ways to reduce its levels.

Radon is a gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown—or the radioactive decay—of uranium. Rocks, soil, and in some cases groundwater can all contain uranium. Because radon comes from so many sources, people are easily exposed to it. Exposure can occur through breathing outdoor air, in buildings and homes, and by eating or drinking (ingestion). Radon gas can seep through cracks in buildings and expose people to the radiation, which can lead to severe health problems.

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department currently provides free short-term radon test kits to any individual upon request. To request a kit, visit their Environmental Health Office at 804 Newtown Circle, Suite A.

Further questions or requests for information can be directed to: Barrett C. Schoeck at (552) 884-8704 ext. 4222 or [Barrett.Schoeck@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:Barrett.Schoeck@lexingtonky.gov).





## Recycling Saves The City Money and Benefits our Community

The Lexington Recycling Center processed over 33,000 tons of recyclable materials in 2012 (CY) and that material had a revenue of over \$2.8 million dollars, which is used to cover the expenses of running the Center.

The City also saved money in landfill disposal fees, by recycling this material, diverting it from the landfill.

The material that is received the most by the Recycling Center is newspaper, but the material that generates the most revenue for the City is aluminum cans.

The more you recycle, the more our community benefits.

If you don't currently have recycling containers, there are drop-off containers on site at the Recycling Center at 350 Thompson Road for glass, metals, aluminum, steel cans, cardboard, paper, phone books, magazines, and plastic bottles.

If you would like to receive a recycling container or you or your group would like to tour the Recycling Center, contact LexCall at 3-1-1.

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## Scammers asking customers to pay their bills over the phone. Don't fall for it!

Kentucky Utilities Company is alerting customers of a recent telephone scam asking customers to pay their bills over



the phone.

The caller claims to be a utility employee and asks for immediate bill payment by credit card or pre-paid money card. If the targeted customer does not cooperate, the caller threatens to disconnect the person's electric service.

KU has alerted authorities and offers the following SAFE advice to residential and business customers:

- **Secure your personal information:** KU will never call and ask for credit or debit card numbers or other personal information.
- **Always remember you have bill payment options:** KU offers customers a variety of official payment options. A complete list can be found at [www.lge-ku.com/ways\\_to\\_pay.asp](http://www.lge-ku.com/ways_to_pay.asp).
- **First check with KU if you're suspicious:** Customers who receive a suspicious live phone call, an email or letter should call KU, who will always verify official communication. KU customers should call 1-800-981-0600.
- **Elect to speak to a KU representative:** As a courtesy, KU does make computer-generated calls to remind customers if their payment is late and the call includes an option for customers to select if they want to make their payment by phone.

Customers who have been impacted by this scam should report it to the police department at 258-3600.

Although the latest scam targets customers by phone, KU encourages customers to always obtain positive identification in the event someone appears at their door stating they are there on the company's behalf.

Authentic KU ID badges – whether issued to an employee or a contractor – show the companies' logos. An employee ID card always has the employees name and color photograph on the front as well.

Sometimes there are legitimate service-related reasons the utility may need access to a customer's home, but in-person contact at a customer's home never involves collecting payment for a monthly bill.



## Join the 4th of July Parade in downtown Lexington

If you love a parade, this is your opportunity to join one of Lexington's largest, the annual 4th of July Parade.

Organizers are looking for groups or individuals with creative ideas to enter floats in this year's parade, which will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 4. Entries can range from musical or marching units to equestrian entries or colorful floats.

A float contest with prizes will be held for all eligible floats.

You have until Friday, June 21, to submit a completed entry form and pay an entry fee to the Downtown Lexington Corporation, which is in charge of the parade and the 4th of July Festival.

The parade will line up on Midland Avenue, between Third and Main streets, and travel down Main Street to Broadway. It is one of the highlights of a day-long festival that begins with the Bluegrass 10,000 foot race, includes a large street fair, and ends with a fireworks display at 10 p.m.

This year's 4th of July Festival is brought to you by the Downtown Lexington Corporation and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

To submit a parade entry, log on to [www.downtownlex.com](http://www.downtownlex.com) and look under events for the 2013 4th of July Festival and click on the parade application.

For more information, contact:

Laura Farnsworth  
at [laura@downtownlex.com](mailto:laura@downtownlex.com).  
You can also call 859-425-2593.

Source: Public Information Office

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## Health department releases mosquito-



## spraying schedule

To help control mosquitoes, the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department will conduct mosquito-spraying activities throughout the summer. Spraying will start in the evening hours when mosquitoes are most active.

To view the schedule for June, [click here](#).



Follow Councilmember Mossotti on Facebook, [click here](#).



## Useful Telephone Numbers

Police/Fire/Ambulance Emergency.....9-1-1  
Police Non-Emergency.....258-3600  
Fire Non-Emergency.....231-5600

LexCall/City Hall.....3-1-1 or 425-2255  
Animal Control/Humane Society..... 255-9033  
Better Business Bureau.....259-1008  
County Clerk.....253-3344  
Crime Stoppers .....253-2020  
Senior Citizen Center.....278-6072  
Family Services .....288-4040  
Waste Collection.....3-1-1 or 425-2255  
Fayette Co. Health Dept.....252-2371

Fayette Co. Sheriff.....252-1771  
Public Library.....231-5500  
Social Security Administration..1-866-530-7754  
Kentucky State Government Info..502-564-3130  
Kentucky Utilities.....255-0394  
Insight Cable.....514-1400  
Kentucky-American Water Co.....800-678-6301  
Columbia Gas Co.....800-432-9345  
Voter Registration.....255-8683

United Way 2-1-1.....2-1-1  
*Available 24/7 in a multitude of languages, 211 connects callers with available resources so people can find food, housing, health care*



people can find food, housing, health care, senior services, child care, legal aid, volunteer opportunities, and much more.

## Did you miss recent editions of the 9th District News & Notes Newsletter?

*Miss a month, miss a lot!*

To read/download the April 2013 edition, [click here](#).

To read/download the March 2013 edition, [click here](#).

To read/download the February 2013 edition, [click here](#).



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[jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov](mailto:jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov)

Council workshops and Council meetings occur at 200 East Main Street at the Government Center and are open to the public. You may also watch the proceedings on local Cable Channel 3, GTV3 or online at [www.LexingtonKY.gov](http://www.LexingtonKY.gov).



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