

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

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IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

Recent criminal activity is cause for concern for our neighbors in the Cromwell Way and Clays Mill Road areas—and reason for all of us, as always, to be on alert for any suspicious activity that we may observe. [See page 5 for details.]

Robinwood Neighborhood Association recently took a proactive approach towards neighborhood involvement and formed a Neighborhood Safety Watch Program. Robin Young, Robinwood's president, has done a terrific job of creating and building the Robinwood Neighborhood Association. With the assistance of Lexington Police Officer Bige Towery, Robinwood resident Rick Hawthorne has stepped up to coordinate Robinwood's new Safety Watch program and Rick is currently seeking participants to volunteer to be a "block captain" and help pass along pertinent information when circumstances warrant.

When neighbors work together everyone benefits. Officer Towery works in the Police Department's Community Services Office and has spoken at several 9th District neighborhood

association meetings this past year, sharing his invaluable crime prevention tips and other useful information.

Neighborhood Watch is a series of programs designed to promote neighborhood safety in response to the growth of residential areas and the crime rate increase that results from such growth. The main focus of Neighborhood Watch is crime prevention at the neighborhood level. However, traffic problems, street/yard cleanup, noise control and unwanted solicitation, are other issues dealt with through Neighborhood Watch. In conjunction with these programs, the police are relying on you to do your part in the protection of yourself, your family, and your property.

A new way to stay informed about crime is the free service RAIDS Online, which automatically syncs with local police records systems to keep crime information updated. To sign up and receive updates via e-mail, visit the RAIDS Online website at <http://www.raidsonline.com>.

My best,



Speaking to Robinwood neighbors earlier this month (above). Rick Hawthorne and Officer Towery (left). Robin Young (right).

CALENDAR:

March 31: Stonewall Community Association Annual Meeting; Southern Heights Baptist Church, 7 pm.

March 31–April 4: Fayette County Public Schools Spring Break.

April 12: Kite Fest at Jacobson Park; Noon-4 pm.

April 12: Reforest the Bluegrass.

April 12 and 19: Free Mulch Give-away; Old Landfill, 1631 Old Frankfort Pike, 8am-Noon.

April 19: Free Household Waste Disposal Day; Transfer Station, 1505 Old Frankfort Pike, 6am-2pm.

View the [City Calendar](#)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE	2
MEET MATT AND GARVEY	3
BE SAFE AROUND CITY VEHICLES	4
PARTNER AGENCY FUNDING UPDATE	5
2014 FUN GAME AVAILABLE	6
ROUNDAABOUT UPDATE	6
TELEPHONE NUMBERS	6

YOUR INSIDER'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT

March Topic: What You Should Know When Buying a Home

Whether it is your first or your fourth home, buying a house can be exciting. After looking and looking, you find the “right” house in a nice neighborhood. It has a guest bedroom, a room for your home office, a modern kitchen, plenty of storage, and a perfect spot for a flower garden. “Sold!”

But wait... there are some other important issues you should consider before making the largest purchase most of us will ever make. Almost every day, the Urban County Government hears from citizens who have problems or questions about the property they have purchased. Before you sign on the dotted line, you should contact LexCall at 3-1-1 to obtain the important information available to prospective homebuyers. It's free and could save you future homeowner headaches. Here is a handy homebuyer's checklist:

- *I know how this property and surrounding property is zoned.*
- *I have a copy of the subdivision plat.*
- *I know where the easements are and I know the actual property lines.*
- *I've learned about storm drainage and floodplain issues connected with the property.*
- *I've checked on the sanitary sewer service and I know who provides streetlights, street sweeping, and garbage and recycling collection.*
- *I understand any private deed restrictions and I understand the long-range plans for this neighborhood.*
- *I understand that I will be responsible for maintaining street trees, waterways, and drainage easements on the property.*



AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND UPDATE

At the March 18 meeting of the Urban County Council Budget & Finance Committee, the Committee voted 9-to-1 to earmark \$3.5 million for affordable housing and homeless initiatives in Lexington.

As proposed, \$3 million will be set aside for affordable housing and \$500,000 will be allocated for future homeless initiatives. The move was part of a larger proposal by the administration to allocate \$10 million of the current year projected surplus.

The projected surplus occurred in part based on

\$5 million in cost savings by the City and another \$5 million in additional revenue according to Bill O'Mara, the City's Commissioner of Finance.

None of the money will be spent until the proposed program's complete guidelines and policies are ultimately approved by the full Council. A detailed plan on how the program will work is to be presented by Derek Paulsen, the City's Planning Commissioner, in the coming months. Any subsequent year funding of the program from a dedicated source will still need to be determined and approved.



“OUR KIDS CAN'T WAIT!”



Speaking at Wellington Elementary School earlier this month at the Ky Education Action Team's “Our Kids Can't Wait!” rally in support of adequate funding for K-12 school children in Kentucky.

EPA CONSENT DECREE UPDATE



Taping a new GTV “Council Comment” segment earlier this month at Picadome Golf Course on the EPA Consent Decree with Charles Martin, Acting Commissioner of LFUCG’s Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works.

The EPA Consent Decree agreement involves 82 separate sewer-related construction projects which will take approximately 12 years to complete at an estimated cost of nearly \$600,000,000.

For more information on the agreement, see the article in the February edition of this newsletter.

I will share an online link to the Council Comment video just as soon as it is available.

GARVEY IS DOGGONE GOOD AT HIS JOB.

Firefighter Matt Howard and his partner “Garvey” are together 24-7. Both work for the Lexington Fire Department’s Investigations Bureau—and also work for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) when they are needed.

Garvey is a seven-year-old black Labrador known around the department as an “arson-sniffing dog” and has been on the job since September of 2009. He has just three more years to work before he retires to live out his days with Matt and his family.

Garvey was provided to the Fire Investigations Unit by the ATF and is the only ATF dog in Kentucky and only one of only 50 in the entire country. The dog and his training were paid for by the ATF. The Urban County Government pays the cost of his food and veterinarian expenses and keeping him certified.

He is trained to sniff out and identify hydrocarbons at fire sites and is good at his job. He literally must work to eat. Garvey doesn’t get a bowl of food at dinnertime like most canines. He has certain exercises he must perform in order to get each piece of food, according to Howard. It’s all part of his training.

“He is rewarded methodically with food,” Howard notes. “He has



to work for every kibble he gets. We set up training scenarios for him to get his daily food allotment.”

For all that, Garvey is just a big loveable mutt. “You couldn’t ask for a better breed. You’d never know he was anything special until he goes to work.”

During 2013, Garvey was called out on investigation eleven times in Fayette County. He has also been to Louisville and Western Kentucky on several high-profile cases.

Because he was given to Lexington by the ATF, he is subject to being called out to work anywhere in the United States, according to Howard. “That was the tradeoff for providing the dog and the training.”

Howard has been with the Division of Fire for 12 years and has been Garvey’s handler for six years. He took special training to learn to guide the dog in his work. Garvey is the fourth “arson-sniffing dog” the department has had.

Thank you to Matt and to Garvey for your service to our community!

Lexington is fortunate to have such dedicated professionals on the job.

Source: LFUCG Public Information

PREVENTING BRUSH, GRASS, AND MULCH FIRES

On Friday March 22, Lexington's Fire Department extinguished 12 brush, grass or mulch fires. This is an unusually high number for a 24-hour period. Carelessly discarded cigarettes seem to have been the main culprit. When conditions are dry, even a small mulch fire can spread rapidly to a building if it is unnoticed. Please be mindful of the following:

- Ensure that smoking materials are completely extinguished and discarded in a safe manner. Never discard lit cigarettes, especially from cars or in areas with vegetation.
- Avoid recreational or open cooking fires in dry, windy weather. Use a grill with a cover instead.
- Never leave any grill, recreational or cooking fire unattended for any reason.
- Ensure that cooking fires and grills are put out by dousing them with water before you go inside, or leave the picnic or camping area.
- Regardless of the season, ensure that children know not to play with matches and lighters. Make sure children know what to do in the event of a fire.



BE SAFE AROUND CITY WASTE MANAGEMENT VEHICLES

In an effort to keep its crews safe on their routes, Lexington's Division of Waste Management (DWM) is encouraging Fayette County drivers to "Slow Down to Get Around" when they encounter collection vehicles on roadways.

With over 200,000 service points collected each week, city crews must make frequent stops, occasionally delaying traffic.

Following the advice of the National Waste and Recycling Association, motorists are urged to "Slow Down to Get Around" DWM vehicles on Lexington's roads. This means drivers should remain as patient as possible and pass trucks only when it is safe to do so.

Richard Boone, DWM's Program Manager Senior for Collections, says taking the extra time to be cautious can save a life. "The Division of

Waste Management strives to provide a safe environment for all of its employees. When drivers in the community are not cautious around our trucks they put our workers, all of whom are someone's son, daughter, husband, wife, father or mother, at risk."

For more information on the Division of Waste Management, click here:

www.lexingtonky.gov/wastemanagement

To view a video on the importance of safe driving around collection vehicles, visit Live-GreenLexington's YouTube page.



Lexington's Division of Waste Management (DWM) is encouraging Fayette County drivers to "Slow Down to Get Around" when they encounter collection vehicles on roadways.

GREENHOUSE17 DAY PROCLAMATION



At the March 18 Council Work Session, Mayor Gray and the Urban County Council recognized Greenhouse17 for their recent regional and national awards, and for the agency's service to our community and ongoing efforts to help those in Central Kentucky affected by intimate partner abuse.

Darlene Thomas, Executive Director of Greenhouse17, displays the official proclamation that designated March 18 as Greenhouse17 Day in Lexington.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Lexington Police are investigating a series of criminal mischief incidents in the 600 block of Cromwell Way in Robinwood that occurred this past Sunday night. An unknown subject (or perhaps subjects) spray-painted several homes, cars, walls, fences, and mailboxes in that block and at the nearby Unitarian Universalist Church with various childish messages (some vulgar) and crude drawings.

After examining the situation first-hand while speaking with an officer on the scene on Monday, it appears to me to be most likely an isolated act of random vandalism and senseless defacing of private and public property. Police took several reports in the area Monday morning and are continuing their investigation. If you saw any suspicious people or vehicles in that area, please notify police at 258-3600.

Also in the same general area, there was an attempted burglary on Sunday in the 3400 block of Clays Mill Road. A male person attempted to enter the rear door of the home while another male remained in the car. The homeowner was home and the would-be burglar was apparently frightened off. The only available description of the suspects is two black males dressed in black clothing, in a small blue compact car, possibly a Toyota. A police report has been filed.

Not far away, there was also a successful burglary

on Weber Way at Clays Mill this past weekend. The only suspect description given for that incident was a black male. Again, if you saw anything in these areas that may be related to these crimes, you should notify the police department.

This type of activity, which could have occurred in any neighborhood in Lexington, is a reminder to be ever-vigilant and aware of our surroundings—and to not hesitate to call the police if something seems suspicious or unusual. If we all keep an eye on our neighbors and our neighborhoods, the likelihood of bringing these criminals to justice is greatly increased.

The good news is, according to police, overall, serious crime fell 8 percent in Lexington in 2013.

Should you be the victim of any type of criminal activity, please report it to the police so that they can make a report and also be aware of what is occurring in the area. Your information just might help solve past crimes or prevent other future crimes.



Photo courtesy of WKYT.

Lexington Police are currently investigating multiple acts of vandalism to homes, cars, walls, fences, and mailboxes that occurred on Cromwell Way.

PARTNER AGENCY FUNDING

In late February, Beth Mills, Commissioner of the City's Social Services Division, presented an update to the Council's Social Services Committee on proposed partner agency funding for the City's FY 2015 budget.

This year, 73 applications were received from 50 different partner agencies with a total request of \$6.3 million—which is \$3.8 million more than what was distributed in FY 2014.

Individual agency funding recommendations were presented on March 18. That was the first step in a process adopted by Council that becomes final when the budget is approved in June.

In light of the recommendations, which would mean some partner agencies would not receive funding in the next budget, many of those affected agencies have contacted Council

members expressing their disappointment and concern.

All partner agencies that applied for funds from the City will have the opportunity to be heard by the Finance and Social Services LINK Committee upon their request. The hearings will occur on April 28 and May 5. A schedule will be sent out after the Mayor's Proposed FY 2015 Budget Address occurs on April 8.

Partner agencies seeking to be heard should contact Council Aide Willy Fogle at 425-2287 or e-mail wfogle@lexingtonky.gov.

Once the Council receives the Mayor's proposed budget early next month, the Council then begins its own examination and analysis of the full budget. Each year, the Council must approve the City's budget by June 30 so that it can go into effect on July 1.





FROM THE OFFICE OF
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Be sure to "Like" on Facebook:
[CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti)



Follow on Twitter: [@Mossotti9th](https://twitter.com/Mossotti9th)



OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...

- If you utilize **Instagram**, you can also now follow my updates at www.instagram.com/councilmembermossotti
- Macy's shoppers at Fayette Mall can donate to **Shillito Park** and have the department store match their donation in a special program called "Heart Your Park." Macy's is partnering with the National Recreation and Park Association and the Lexington's Parks and Recreation on a donation program supporting local parks. Customers will be able to make donations of \$1 or more when making a purchase. Macy's will match the first \$250,000 raised nationwide, dollar for dollar. The program ends March 31.
- Lexington's **Parks & Recreation 2014 Fun Guide** is now available online. The booklet contains a listing for a wide variety of athletic programs, special events, summer camps and more. The complete booklet can be found at the link below. Printed copies will be available later next week. View and download a PDF of the guide here: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=10796>
- The Lexington Downtown Development Authority, Downtown Lexington Corporation, and Lexington Parking Authority are conducting an online survey in an effort to get a sampling from the community to better understand perceptions, likes, dislikes and desires for downtown. If you choose to provide your email after completing the survey you will be entered for a chance to win one of twelve \$25 gift cards to various downtown businesses. To offer your input and take the anonymous survey, click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/downtownlexington>
- Fayette Alliance is accepting applications for **The Citizen's Planning Academy**, a free 8-week course that educates citizens on the importance of land-use planning and its relationship to economic development, the environment, and quality-of-life issues in our community. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information, visit: <http://fayettealliance.com/events/citizens-planning-academy-2/>

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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

ROUNDAABOUT

You may have noticed the new flashing warning signs now in place at the Reynolds Road Roundabout. At my request, in an effort to reduce traffic accidents at the Roundabout, Traffic Engineering has installed the high-visibility caution signs to alert motorists to observe the posted recommended speed limit at the intersection.



RUNNING TO RAISE AWARENESS



Attending the run launch event with Mayor Gray for former UK athlete Josh Nadzam at Fifth Third Pavilion in downtown Lexington. Josh, ran from Lexington to Frankfort earlier this month to raise awareness and support for proposed legislation to protect victims of intimate partner abuse in dating relationships.

Share the news! 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. Did you miss an edition? View previous editions of the 9th District Newsletter here: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=364>

GOOD LUCK TO THE U.K. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS THIS WEEKEND IN NCAA PLAY! GO CATS!