

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 6 JUNE 2014 EDITION



IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

At yesterday's Budget & Finance Committee of the Whole meeting, we had a thoughtful and comprehensive conversation regarding the FY15 City budget. This year's proposed budget is more than \$313 million dollars.

In addition to our role as Lexington's legislative body, the Council works closely with the Mayor each year to develop and approve the city's annual budget. The Council's responsibilities related to Lexington's operating budget are broad, including giving the final approval to the budget prior to the start of the Fiscal Year on July 1 (the Adopted Budget). Lexington's fiscal year ends on June 30th and begins on July 1.

To ensure that the budget that is ultimately passed reflects Lexington's true needs and priorities, each year, the Council conducts an in-depth review of all City agencies and partner agencies, their policies, their programs and their expenses.

One of Council's most important challenges is to ensure that the City delivers services as efficiently as possible and that we manage our revenues as effectively as we can. You, as a taxpayer and citizen of this community deserve no less.

Lexington is the Commonwealth's second largest city of more than 300,000 residents and accordingly there are multiple programs and essential services that we must properly fund each year.

Government is about helping people and a core part of that focus is the attention to basic quality of life issues. This includes responding to citizen requests for everyday City services such as public safety, snow removal, and trash collection and ensuring that our City's streets and neighborhoods are clean, safe, and well-lit and our parks are well-maintained—efforts that often times go unnoticed. The City's budget must provide for all of these things—and much more.



Lexington will salute military personnel, veterans and first responders during this year's Fourth of July Festival in downtown Lexington. See story on page 5 for complete details.

As your 9th District Council representative, I am fortunate to have the ability, and honored to have the responsibility, to make a difference in the lives of our families and neighbors and residents on a daily basis.

This year as in years past, through the budget process, I remain committed to ensuring that Lexington maintains the highest level of basic city services possible.

Your input is key as we continue to set and review our priorities, allocate available resources, and set Lexington's policy agenda. I appreciate your ongoing telephone calls, letters, e-mails, and social media input. I believe you will agree that we live in a terrific community and a unique and especially appealing district with concerned and caring neighbors. Working together we can keep Lexington moving forward and building on the momentum we have gained over the past year.

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

CALENDAR:

June 7: Annual Stonewall Neighborhood Yard Sale.

June 7: Swingin' on Short Street Free Dance Lessons, 7 p.m. at Courthouse Plaza.

June 13: Golf Scramble to benefit Firefighter Joe Vissing; Connemara Golf Course. (See page 6.)

June 17: First reading of City Budget.

June 19: Second reading of City Budget.

June 23: Rupp Arena Project Financing Public Meeting, Council Chambers, City Hall, 6 p.m.

View the [City Calendar](#)



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“KIDS EAT HERE” INITIATIVE

Lexington is working to make sure that all kids have enough to eat this summer. Mayor Gray has announced the launch of “Kids Eat Here,” a new local initiative building on the federal Summer Food Service Program.

Partners in the Kids Eat Here program include Fayette County Public Schools, God’s Pantry Food Bank, Employment Solutions, Inc./Fresh Approach, and the LFUCG.

The Kids Eat Here program will fill 8,000 backpacks with nutritious, kid-friendly food provided by God’s Pantry Food Bank

and a flyer listing all the locations where children can eat breakfast and lunch this summer. The backpacks will be distributed by family resource officers throughout the school district.

More than 40 sites across the city will serve free meals to kids in June and July. The meals are available to any child regardless of family income level.

In addition to backpacks, the Kids Eat Here program will distribute 800 food boxes to needy families through local community centers. The boxes will assist families by supplying additional nutrition as they transition to summer break.



Los Niños Comen Gratis Aquí

During the summer, many children who typically receive free or reduced price meals through their school are left without this important source of meals.

Nearly 21,000 children in Fayette County Public Schools students receive free or reduced-cost meals during the school year.

The city is spending \$55,000 on the summer meals program this year. Backpacks will contain: 2 single serving cereals, 2 small milks, 2 cereal bars, 2 applesauce cups, 2 Chef Boyardee meals, 2 juice boxes, and 2 pudding cups.

Food boxes will contain: 4 Chef Boyardee meals, 2 juice boxes, 2 small & 1 large shelf stable milks, 1 pudding pack, 1 skillet meal, 1 jar of peanut butter, 1 can of chili, 1 bag of macaroni, 1 spaghetti sauce, 2 mac/cheese meals, 1 can green beans, 1 can applesauce, 1 can corn, 1 pancake mix, 1 box Kashi cereal, and 1 box of cereal bars. Fresh potatoes and frozen meat will be added where possible.

Meals are provided to all children without charge and are the same regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability; there is no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Parents can learn more about the Summer Food Service Program locations by calling the FCPS Child Nutrition office at (859) 381-3846 or by visiting www.fcps.net/food.

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COUNCIL CONFIRMS COMMISSIONER



Mayor Gray has named David Holmes, former city law commissioner, as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works.

Holmes is returning to city hall from a post as assistant city manager in Cincinnati where he managed similar city services.

Holmes notes that although he enjoyed working in Cincinnati, Lexington is home. He is a veteran and an attorney. He graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law and has worked in Lexington in private practice as an assistant county attorney and as a city attorney.

The Urban County Council confirmed Holmes appointment in May. He will begin work later this month.

NEW LOCAL FOOD COORDINATOR

Ashton Potter Wright began her job as Lexington’s first local food coordinator, a new position charged with improving connections between Central Kentucky farmers and consumers.

According to Mayor Gray, the goal is to grow the local agricultural economy while improving the health of local citizens by providing better access to healthy, locally grown foods. Councilmember Steve Kay worked to establish the position for three years.

He notes that Ashton will fill the gap between producers and consumers, improving connections at all levels, individual and businesses. While consumers will be concentrated in Lexington, Ashton will however work with farmers and buyers throughout Central Kentucky.

With the hiring of Wright, Lexington becomes the second city in the state with a Local Food Coordinator. Wright will be part of the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development.



The pilot position is funded through a combination of agriculture development funds, private grants and \$25,000 from the city.

Source: LFUCG Public Information Office

LEXINGTON'S DEM IMPROVES DISASTER PET CARE RESPONSE

AKC Pet Disaster Relief—a national program spearheaded by AKC Reunite and dedicated to keeping pets and their owners safe in the aftermath of tornadoes, floods, wildfires and other natural or civil disasters—has donated its first-ever trailer in the state of Kentucky.

Members of the Lexington Kennel Club presented the trailer to officials from Lexington's Division of Emergency Management and the Lexington Humane Society at the 17th annual Mutt Strut event.

The trailers help to create a safe, temporary home-base for at least 50 pets immediately after a disaster is declared and can house and deliver essential supplies such as fans, lighting and generators, cleaning supplies, maintenance items and animal care items including crates and carriers, as well as bowls, collars and leashes.

The purchase of the trailer was made possible by \$22,000 in donations and grants from the Lexington Kennel Club, American Spaniel Club, American Boxer Club, Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Spinone Club of America, Canaan Dog Club of America, Great Dane Club of America and AKC Reunite.

According to a DEM official, the new trailer will allow DEM to quickly and easily set up a temporary shelter for pets during future natural disasters and improve the agency's ability to care for our community's pets in times of an emergency.

Learn more about Lexington's Division of Emergency Management at BeReadyLexington.com.

Learn more about how to get involved in AKC Pet Disaster Relief at www.akcreunite.org/relief.



Lexington's new pet disaster relief trailer designed for use during community emergencies was made possible by donations and grants.

Source: John Bobel, LFUCG DEM

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY: "AGENCY OF THE YEAR"

Lexington's Division of Police is celebrating after beating out hundreds of other police agencies to win the National Citizens Police Academy Association "Agency of the Year Award for 2014."

This distinction is awarded to only one police agency nationwide, for outstanding efforts in conducting a Citizens Police Academy (CPA) program and promoting the CPA concept.

This is the first time the Lexington Division of Police has taken the "Agency of the Year" title. However, in years past, the Lexington Citizen's Police Academy (the group of citizens who have participated in the program) won best CPA in

the nation several times; most recently 2012 and 2013.

Citizens interested in taking part in Lexington's award winning program can get information about signing up by visiting the city's website: www.lexingtonky.gov/police.

The purpose of the Citizens Police Academy is to foster better communication between citizens and police through education.

Instruction consists of one 3-hour class held each week for a duration of twelve weeks. The instruction is comprehensive, covering a different area of the Division of Police each week.



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PARTNERS FOR YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM

Are you looking for a summer activity that will hold the interest of your teen-ager, middle-schooler or elementary school student? Pick one of 62 summer programs – many of them free – found on the Partners for Youth 2014 I DO Summer Program List.

The I DO initiative brings together community partners in different parts of Lexington to develop relationships and create partnerships to better serve the youth of the city.

The programs include a wide variety of sports, music, field trips, cooking, arts and crafts, com-

puter classes, exercise, character development and leadership programs aimed at giving youth positive summer experiences.

Programs are led by a variety of local organizations which include LFUCG's Parks & Recreation, the faith community, youth-serving non-profits and several grassroots organizations. You can view the summer program list at www.partners4youth.org and then clicking the I DO tab.

For more information, email or call Laura Hatfield at 258-3119 or lhathfield@lexingtonky.gov.





Speaking with Craig Cammack of the Lexington-Fayette County Human Rights Commission during the taping of a segment for a video commemorating the 15th anniversary of Lexington passing the 1999 Fairness Ordinance.



YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY HELD AT CITY HALL

A youth Mayor, Vice Mayor and youth Council members participated in the first Youth in Government Day on May 30 in the Urban County Council Chambers.

The Mayor's Youth Council hosted the Youth in Government Day, an event that provides an opportunity for youth to experience the process of local government. The project was part of the mission of the Mayor's Youth Council, which was formed to provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue among youth and community leaders.

The Mayor's Youth Council, which included high school youths from across Lexington, selected a youth Mayor, Vice Mayor, at-large Council members, district Council members and a clerk from members of the organization. The youth representatives held a youth Council meeting on the day where they debated student-created ordinances and resolutions.

"I think the Youth in Government Day is important because it allows the adults in our community to know that youth does have an opinion, that our opinion matters and that we can make a difference," said Susie Smith, an 11th grader from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, who

represented the 2nd District as youth Council member.

"A lot of youth these days don't actually know what goes on in government, what the government even does, how they run, or how they function. This event shows youth not only what is going on, but how we can be involved," said Jodi Kirkner, a 9th grader from Henry Clay High who was selected as youth Council Clerk.

Desmond Howard, an 11th grader from Bryan Station High School and the 6th District youth Councilmember, said, "It is our civic responsibility to be involved in government because when we grow up we are going to vote and be involved in our community. We are going to have to know what ordinances are being passed. It is really important to be involved as a young person."



Tony Sun from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School participated in the mock Council meeting, representing the 9th District.

Source: LFUCG Public Information Office

CLAYS MILL ROAD WIDENING UPDATE

Phase 2B of the Clays Mill Widening Project is nearing completion. The latest update I have been given from the City's Division of Engineering is that this phase of the project should be finished by the end of July. An extension has been granted to the contractor as there have been some changes in the scope of work. Dealing with such a major construction project is obviously frustrating and an inconvenience for those who live in the area. I certainly appreciate the patience and understanding of those who have been impacted by the project and share your desire to see the project completed. If there are changes in the project's completion date, I will pass that information along in the July newsletter.



CITY'S FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL WILL "CELEBRATE HEROES"

Veterans and members of Lexington's public safety divisions are encouraged to take part in Lexington's Fourth of July Festival activities. This year's Patriotic Concert will feature the 202nd Army Band of the Kentucky National Guard and the parade will include representatives from Police, Fire, and each branch of the military.

Organizations and bands interested in participating in the parade should contact Laura Farnsworth of the Downtown Lexington Corporation at 859-425-2593 or laura@downtownlex.com. Equine units, bands and veterans groups are exempt from parade entry fees.

The Fourth of July Festival is managed by the Downtown Lexington Corporation in conjunction with the city.

Festival activities:

Great American Pie Contest. The festivities kick off Wednesday, July 2 with the Great American Pie Contest and Ice Cream Social, presented by Alltech. Bakers will be competing to see who has the best pie in Lexington. Come enjoy a slice, along with some Chaney's Dairy Barn ice cream, at noon in the Fifth-Third Pavilion at Cheapside Park.

Patriotic Concert

The free Patriotic Concert always draws a big crowd to the lawn of Old Morrison at Transylvania University. This year's show features the 202nd Army Band of the Kentucky National Guard. The concert begins at 8 p.m., Thursday, July 3.

Bluegrass 10,000

This year marks the 38th year for Lexington's annual Independence Day race. The Crank Wheelchair Division starts at 7:20 a.m., the Wheelchair Division starts at 7:25 a.m., the 10K starts at 7:30 a.m., and the Fun

Run begins at 8:15 a.m.

New for the race this year are \$500 cash prizes for first place overall male and female winners in the 10k and Wheelchair Divisions. Entry forms are available at the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Downtown Lexington Corporation, and Race Headquarters, located at the Dunbar Community Center, 545 N. Upper St. Office hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., June 2-6, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m., June 9-July 1.

Street Festival

The streets of downtown Lexington will be filled with music, entertainment, arts and crafts vendors and food and beverage stands from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, July 4. With five entertainment sites, there will be plenty to see and do.

Entertainment sites:

- Upper Courthouse Plaza
- Billboard Parking Lot
- Phoenix Park
- Old Courthouse at Upper Street
- Fifth Third Bank Pavilion

Annual Parade

It wouldn't be a Fourth of July of festival without a parade! The parade will march down Main Street from Midland Avenue to Broadway beginning at 2 p.m.

Fireworks

Presented by Thorntons, fireworks will light up the sky over downtown Lexington beginning at 10 p.m. For more information on this year's festivities, visit www.downtownlex.com.

Source: LFUCG Public Information Office



SIGN-UP FOR FREE RAIDSONLINE.COM CRIME REPORTS

Lexington's Division of Police and BAIR Analytics Inc. recently partnered to provide a new way for the public to stay informed about crime in Lexington.

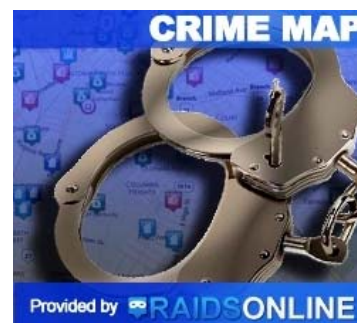
Lexington Police now have an online crime map called RAIDS Online that maps and analyzes crime data, alerts Lexington citizens about crimes in their area, and allows Lexington Police to quickly alert the public about criminal activity. Citizens can view a map and grid with all of the reported crimes in their area, sign up for neighborhood watch reports that automatically emails a breakdown of recent

crime activity, and submit an anonymous tip about a crime directly to Lexington's Division of Police.

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

For more information, or to sign up, visit:

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





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Follow on Social Media:

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OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...



Annual Mosquito Spraying. To help control mosquitoes, the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department conducts annual mosquito-spraying activities throughout the summer. For spraying to occur, the wind speed must be less than 10 mph and the temperature must be greater than 55 degrees and there can be no rain or dense fog. View the spraying schedule for June as well as maps of the various spray routes here:

<http://www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org/MosquitoCommunitySprayingProgram/tabid/181/Default.aspx>.

Free Kids Golf Clinic. Cricket Wireless and Lexington's Parks & Recreation are teaming up together June 10-13 to offer a free kids golf clinic for kids ages 6 to 14. Taught by PGA Professionals, this free clinic is designed to introduce golf fundamentals to beginners or help improve the game of more experienced golfers.

Click here for details: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=272#cricket>



PET ALERT STICKER

In the event of an emergency in your home, a pet rescue window decal alerts rescue personnel that pets are inside your home.

Get your free safety pack, including an ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center magnet by registering here:

<https://www.asPCA.org/form/free-pet-safety-pack>



SHOTGUN START 8:00 AM

REGISTER HERE:

<http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/25990-JoeVissingGolfBenefit>

FOR VOLUNTEER/SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

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WASTE DISPOSAL INTO STREAMS

A resident from Clays Mill Road has asked that I include a reminder in this newsletter that the improper disposal of yard waste, tree limbs, and other waste and litter (i.e. dumping things over fences and into streams) can create issues for our community and for your neighbors.

Yard waste left in the street, sidewalk, or driveway, or dumped, blown, or swept into the storm drain will eventually wash into nearby creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes during a storm or by water runoff from watering your lawn. Yard waste dumped into local waterways depletes the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life and can cause flooding for homes bordering the waterway.

Please help reduce this pollution by disposing of all waste properly. The clean up of clogged storm drains and streams filled with litter uses up tax dollars which means your tax dollars are being spent on avoidable problems. Report these issues or any others to 3-1-1.



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>