



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014 EDITION



IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

There was certainly a lot going on in February. On the public safety front, Fire Dept. command staff presented an update to the Council on their plan to add three new fire stations across the community over the next five years to keep up with Lexington's growth and the goal of a 4-minute response time. Council will ultimately vote on the initial funding proposal later this year during the budget process. The proposed new locations are Masterson Station, Polo Club Blvd., and Hays Blvd. The last new fire stations to open in Lexington were on Briar Hill Road and Clearwater Way, both in 2005.

In addition, the city's administration is currently discussing reinstating the Home Fleet Program for the Division of Police with the Fraternal Order of Police Bluegrass Lodge No. 4. Officers agreed to reductions in their personal use of city-owned cruisers during collective bargaining contract negotiations in July of 2012 as a cost-savings measure. The purpose of Lexington's Police home-fleet program, implemented in the 1970s, is to increase the visibility of officers and to have more officers available to respond to emergency calls in the community. I will update you if a new agreement is reached.

Earlier this month, the Council voted to extend the city's new Food Truck Pilot Program originally enacted this past June, through Dec. 31. In 2013, Lexington was named the seventh-best city in which to run a food truck.

A recap of the workshop that was held for the Council earlier this month on the Time-Warner Cable Franchise Agreement for Lexington can be found on page 3. LFUCG administers the franchise for cable television within Fayette County. That includes enforcing provisions of the cable company's agreement such as customer service, assisting in the resolution of billing disputes and



Photo courtesy of Lexington Fire Department.

Fire Station #22 on Clearwater Way, opened in 2005, is the most recent new fire station in Lexington. With Council approval, LFD plans to open three new stations in Lexington.

complaints, regulating the company's use of the public right-of-way, and provision of the public, education, and government access channels. By Federal Law, LFUCG is unable to address complaints regarding lack of competition or channel line-ups. Additionally, Lexington has no legal authority over TWC's Internet and phone service but can assist in resolving problems with those services.

In other news, Dr. David Crowe, Chief Economist for the Home Builders Association, was in town recently for a housing market review and outlook and presented a workshop to Council on housing and the local market. In short, Dr. Crowe believes that 2014 "is going to be a good year." See page 2 for a recap of his presentation.

Be sure to "Like" my Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti for various updates between newsletter editions and follow on Twitter at [@Mossotti9th](https://twitter.com/Mossotti9th).

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

My best,

CALENDAR:

March 1-31: Parks and Recreation Tee Ball & Youth Baseball and Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Sign-Ups Registration.

March 3: Deadline to submit 2014 Neighborhood Sustainability Grant applications.

March 8: Spring Equestrian Lessons Sign-Ups; McConnell Springs.

March 15: St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival, downtown Lexington.

March 17: 9th District Neighborhood and HOA Leaders Meeting.

March 19-23: KHSAA Boys' Sweet 16 Basketball Championship at Rupp Arena.

View the [City Calendar](#)



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YOUR INSIDER'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT

February topic: What is the Consent Decree?

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Kentucky filed a lawsuit against Lexington for violations of the Clean Water Act. The consent decree agreement, which was finalized in January, 2011, requires the study, design and implementation of numerous construction projects to repair sewer pipes and to improve our stormwater system. The agreement also requires Lexington to make operational and managerial changes to prevent future problems.

The EPA Consent Decree is a legal document that was approved by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council in a settlement agreement with state and federal governments that requires Lexington to fix problems with its storm and sanitary sewer systems over the next several years.

How did this come about? Over the years, Lexington had failed to properly maintain both the sanitary and storm water sewer systems. Age, changing regulations and equipment failures related to deferred maintenance created an assortment of operational problems. The end result of those problems has been that during significant rainfall, Lexington sewage has been discharging sewage into our streams in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Consequently, the city has begun the process of improving our sewer systems and has seen a reduction in sanitary sewer overflows. One of the most significant achievements so far is the new South Elkhorn pump station and force main, the construction of which eliminated Lexington's most severe sanitary sewer overflow site.

[Remedial Measures Plans](#) have been developed for each of Lexington's seven urban watersheds. By using information collected from the [Sanitary Sewer Assessments](#) and evaluating our needs as a city, the Remedial Measures Plans have become a blueprint for fixing Lexington's sanitary sewer system.

[Click here](#) to enter your address and find out if work is currently underway in your watershed.



LEXINGTON HOUSING MARKET FORECAST

Dr. David Crowe, Chief Economist for the National Association of Home Builders, was in town recently for a housing market review and outlook and he presented a workshop to the Council on housing and the local market.

Dr. Crowe is responsible for NAHB's forecast of housing and economic trends, survey research and analysis of the home building industry and consumer preferences as well as microeconomic analysis of government policies that affect housing.

In short, Dr. Crowe believes that 2014 "is going to be a good year" for Lexington and the overall housing market and that there is growing demand for new construction. He cited that there is real GDP Growth—and it is picking up speed. In addition, analysis indicates that motor vehicles and home furnishing sales and other durable sectors are rising steadily.

Dr. Crowe noted, "When you build more houses, you get more households." That translates to a significant local economic impact.

According to Dr. Crowe, 800 new homes were built in Lexington last year and Lexington's population growth exceeds national average. Housing prices have returned to near-normal, affordability remains high—it is an affordable housing market—and seriously delinquent rates have peaked nationally.

There is also more residential remodeling occurring, existing and new home sales are on the rise, but single-family housing starts in Lexington are about a year behind the rest of the country.

Dr. Crowe also noted that the rate of young adults living at home has nearly doubled from 11.1% in 2001 to 19.3% in 2012. This rise has significantly impacted the overall number of people purchasing new homes.

For more information on the housing market, visit: www.eyconhousing.org and www.housingeconomics.com.



TIME-WARNER CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL UPDATE

On Feb. 13, a workshop was held for the Council regarding renewing the Time-Warner Cable Franchise for Lexington. The City received more than 300 complaints from June through December 2013 regarding TWC service.

The public comments gathered over the past several months revealed that TWC may not be in compliance with the consumer service standards or the complaint procedure section of the current franchise for Lexington.

In light of the questions that have arisen regarding TWC's service in Lexington, the city is reviewing its rights and examining how best to proceed.

The hard reality is that by Federal Law, cable rates, Internet broadband, and related telephone service cannot be discussed during franchise negotiations. Federal law prohibits the LFUCG from regulating cable rates. That will come as disappointing news to many in the community. Simply put, our options at this point are limited to service-oriented aspects of the current agreement.

As most of you are aware, to further impact the situation, Comcast has recently announced that Comcast and TWC have approved an agreement for a forthcoming merger.

If the merger is ultimately approved at the federal level, TWC must seek approval of a transfer of control for service in Lexington from the LFUCG. Prior to approving a transfer of control, LFUCG can require that TWC come into compliance with the consumer service standards in the franchise. City officials are currently exploring that option.

The city's priority will be to address the cable franchise issues with TWC and to ensure it is in compliant before approval of the transfer of control.

There is growing interest in high-speed internet access for Lexington and all options are on the table and all ideas are welcome. The potential for economic growth has ignited interest from all levels of government and we are working hard to find the best way to utilize this movement to the benefit of Lexington.



Photo courtesy of Marketplace.org

GET INVOLVED! JOIN A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood and Homeowners' associations build a sense of community among neighbors and they also empower residents to work together in improving their respective neighborhood. Here's an overview of some of the great associations within the 9th District:

In 2011 Robin Young decided it was time to organize a neighborhood association in **Robinwood** so neighbors would feel comfortable walking, jogging or biking on unfamiliar streets in their own neighborhood. Every home is welcomed to any meeting or activity (paying member or not). There is also a Neighborhood Watch Program, an annual meeting in March at Southern Heights Baptist Church, and a picnic in September at Shillito Park. For more information, visit: www.RobinwoodNeighborhood.com.

Copperfield Neighborhood Association was established in 1989 and consists of 430 homes. The facilities available to residents consist of the clubhouse, private pool, tennis courts and playground where families congregate year round for activities ranging from Easter Egg Hunts to Cookies with Santa. The Copperfield Crocs Swim Team competes in the Man O' War conference and has won seven championships. For more information, visit: www.copperfieldlex.org or Nextdoor.com.

Stonewall Community Association serves nearly 1,000 homes. Established in the late 1980s, it is one of the largest and most historical of all neighborhood associations in Lexington. Meetings of the general membership are annual, on March 31 this year at Southern Heights Baptist Church. Social events include a June neighborhood garage sale, a July 4 parade for kids, and an August ice cream social. Stonewall also participates in Safety Watch

and the association emails safety alerts and lost/found pet information to residents. SCA works to maintain and improve both of its parks (Stonewall and Higbee Mill) through the Great American Cleanup and other programs. Its web site (www.stonewallinfo.com) is under redevelopment. For more information, contact Janet Cabaniss at jcabaniss@gmail.com.

The **Willow Oak Homeowners Association** was established in 1989 and meets twice a year either outside in the park or at Anchor Baptist Church, 3601 Winthrop Drive. Events include an annual picnic, Easter egg hunt, and Halloween party for the kids. Willow Oak also participates in the Great American Cleanup program in April. Willow Oak also partners with the Bluegrass Marlins who own and operate the pool in the neighborhood. This allows for very reasonable pool membership rates and many fun pool events. The Association maintains a page on Nextdoor.com. For more information, contact Stacy Smith at ssmit7@uky.edu or 859-296-6392.

Wyndham Meadows Neighborhood Association was established in 1996 and consists of 130 homes. Events include a neighborhood yard sale in the spring and fall and a annual 4th of July Children's Parade. Wyndham Meadows is also a participant in the Neighborhood Watch Program. For more information, contact Tommy Kidd at kidd2lex@gmail.com or call 859-219-8414.

These terrific associations welcome new members and those interested in serving on their respective boards. If you do not reside in these particular neighborhoods but are interested in forming a new neighborhood association in the 9th District, please contact my office for further information and assistance.

DOWNTOWN PARKING MADE EASIER

According to Gary Means, Executive Director of the Lexington Parking Authority (LPA), "There is a general perception that there is not enough parking downtown and that it is a hassle to find available parking spaces."

As a solution, LPA is taking its parking data and putting it in the palm of your hand. A smartphone app is currently being tested to alert drivers to open spaces in any of the LPA-owned garages. No more driving around and guessing, this app will give downtown Lexington visitors certainty about where to park. To use the application, customers will log in to ParkMe's mobile app or online through [LPA's website](#) and view pricing rates and occupancy levels for all LPA parking in Lexington.

After the launch of the app, the LPA and their partners will be looking at including real-time data from on the street parking as well. For more information, visit: <http://www.lexpark.org/>.

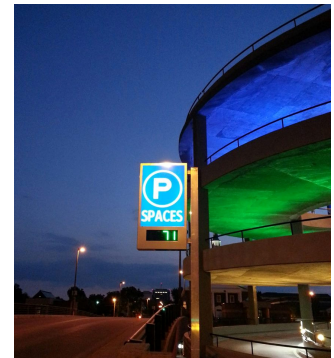


Photo courtesy of LPA.

2014 GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP MEETING

In 2013, more than 2,000 of your neighbors participated in 70 cleanup events across Lexington, contributing more than 3,000 volunteer hours. The Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission (KLB) organizes the Great American Cleanup in Lexington including beautification efforts, such as plantings on main corridors and neighborhood entrances as well as cleanups in neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and streets.

Keep Lexington Beautiful engages citizens to protect and improve Lexington's environment through personal responsibility.

KLB is looking to engage even more citizens this year and is focusing on mobilizing volunteers to participate. The KLB can provide cleanup supplies such as free bags and gloves. They also have a leaf blower and trimmer donated by

Troy-Bilt, as well as shovels, rakes and buckets available for check-out.

KLB is inviting all interested groups, including neighborhood associations, churches and schools, to their annual Great American Cleanup planning meeting on Monday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant at 301 Lisle Industrial Avenue.

For more information on the Great American Cleanup and Keep Lexington Beautiful, visit:

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



The 2014 Great American Cleanup planning meeting is Monday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant at 301 Lisle Industrial Avenue.

CITY CREWS COMBAT OL' MAN WINTER

With Lexington getting twice as much snow as usual and snow falling on more than 40 days since October, the long winter has taken its toll and taxed the abilities of the City's Streets and Roads, Water Quality, Police, Fire, Fleet Services, Waste Management and Parks and Recreation divisions to respond.

Several of the storms occurred on weekends, requiring extra work for some divisions, who worked 12-hour shifts for days in a row to clear streets, maintain equipment and clean up tree limbs and storm debris—and winter is not yet quite over.

Acting Streets and Roads Director Albert Miller notes that during one particular period this year, crews were dealing with an ice storm

and treating streets, dealing with water calls, downed trees, storm sewers and potholes.

Lexington has a snow plan that is used to provide clearing of its main arterials and connector streets. The city treated 500 lane miles of streets and roads in 1986, but today it treats about 1,400 lane miles. The city has purchased 15,000 tons of salt so far this winter and has about 5,000 tons remaining. The bill for that has been close to \$1 million.

When crews are not working on snow or ice removal, they are picking up limbs and debris from the ice storms and filling the potholes left when the snow and ice melts.

Crews have filled approx. 1,000 potholes across Lexington since February 1.



To request any city service, including salt for streets, storm debris cleanup, and pothole repair, call LexCall at 3-1-1.

REINVENTION OF RUPP ARENA PROPOSAL

Governor Steve Beshear and Lexington Mayor Jim Gray recently revealed a design for a reinvented Rupp Arena. The decision to renovate Rupp (rather than build a new arena) came from a 50-member Citizens Task Force. The total cost of the arena and a new convention center is estimated at \$310 million. Part of the plan is the resurrection of Town Branch, the water source around which the city was founded in 1775. The Board of Lexington Center hired international architects NBBJ and, locally, EOP to reinvent Rupp. Landscape architecture firm SCAPE is designing the proposed Town Branch Park.

The administration is currently working on a detailed financial plan that will involve several partners including a long-term lease with UK, the state legislature, and the Kentucky High School Athletics Association. For more information, visit www.RuppDistrict.com.

What are your thoughts on the plan to reinvent Rupp? E-mail me: jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov.



Illustration courtesy of RuppDistrict.com.

Watch related video here:

<http://vimeo.com/86305092>

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

The Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP) is a coalition, led by United Way of the Bluegrass, that partners with the IRS to provide free tax preparation to low-income families, raise awareness about the Earned Income Tax Credit and help families build their assets and save money.

Each year, millions of dollars are lost by hard-working families in the Bluegrass who do not file for their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) during tax time.

That money is lost to them and the local economy. The IRS estimates that approximately 20 to 25 percent of those eligible for the credit do not claim it because they don't know they are eligible for it, they don't know how to claim it, or they don't know where to go for assistance.

CKEEP's goal is to make eligible households aware of the credit and help them claim it without having to pay for tax preparation and related income tax filing services.

The free tax preparation provided by CKEEP and its volunteer tax preparers offers immediate savings to Central Kentuckians. This year, CKEEP is hosting 19 tax sites across the Central Kentucky region. Appointments are required, which can be scheduled by going to www.uwbg.org/ckeepp or dialing 2-1-1.



2014 LEXINGTON IN BLOOM CONTEST

Sponsored by The Lexington Council Garden Clubs, "Lexington in Bloom" recognizes distinctive and outstanding gardens and plantings in Fayette County. The goal of this biennial contest is to instill a spirit of community, to increase civic pride, and to improve the visual appeal of the area through the imaginative use of flowers, plants and trees.

Winners will be selected in five categories (all must be visible from the street): Residence, front yard, amateur gardener; Residence, front yard, professionally landscaped; Business, large garden or planting; Business, small garden or planting; and Miscellaneous: a) vegetable/community gardens; b) container gardens, mail-

boxes, window boxes; c) schools, neighborhood association entrances, non-profit entities; d) "other". Rain gardens, native plantings, monarch butterfly waystations can fit into any number of the above categories.

Entry forms will be available in March. Judging will be in two rounds in early June.

There will be a reception for winners at the UK Arboretum Visitors Center on June 22.

For more information, please contact Liz Patten-gill at (859) 223-4362, or email lexingtoninbloom@gmail.com and visit the website at www.lexgardenclubs.org.





FROM THE OFFICE OF
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OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...

- The annual **Lexington St. Patrick's Irish Festival** is being moved to Cheapside Park and the Fifth/Third Pavilion on Main Street in downtown Lexington this year. The Alltech Lexington St. Patrick's Parade and Festival will be held on Saturday, March 15. The festival begins at 11 a.m. Irish entertainment continues until 7 p.m., with a break at 1 p.m. for the 35th Annual St. Patrick's Parade on Main Street. The entire Cheapside Park will be under heated tents so the weather will not be a factor. Short Street will be lined with a diverse group of food vendors and all kinds of Irish goods and crafts will be available. There will also be a variety of activities for children, including face painting, arts and crafts, a photo booth and more. More information is available at www.LexingtonStPatsParade.org
- Grab your rod and reel and head out to Jacobson Park lake. The Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife has recently stocked the lake with 4,000 trout.
- The Kentucky Division of Forestry has tree seedlings available and says the time to plant for the best chance of success is by the end of April. Kentucky landowners may purchase single trees for \$5 each, \$30 for a bundle of 10 or \$38 for a bundle of 100. The agency says its foresters are available to help with technical assistance. To find an office near you, call (800) 866-0555. Order forms are available online at <http://forestry.ky.gov> and at local cooperative extension, Farm Services Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service offices.
- The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference (GAP)** will take place on Thursday, March 20 at the Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike. Workshop sessions will focus on topics for relatives who have assumed primary care of children. The fee is \$5 for grandparents, relatives or caregivers. For conference information, including registration, click [here](http://www.gapofky.org/). The deadline to register is March 7, or sooner if all spots are filled. For more information, visit: <http://www.gapofky.org/>

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

REPORT POTHOLES.



It is officially pothole season in Lexington. Warmer temperatures after weeks of below freezing temperatures are the cause of loosening asphalt that creates potholes on our city streets. Report potholes online at the LexCall website at:

<http://lexcall.lexingtonky.gov/>

or call 3-1-1.

Local Option Sales Tax Update.

House Bill 399 proposes to amend section 181 of Kentucky's Constitution that would allow citizens of Kentucky counties to vote for an optional one percent sales tax to be spent on a specific project. This 1% additional sales tax would be a dedicated revenue source for a specific project. Once the project is completed/paid off, then the additional sales tax would cease. Any new project and reinstitution of the sales tax would require a new referendum vote. The bill is currently in committee.



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>