FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 7



JULY 2014 EDITION



View a map of the district here.

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

Lexington's **new City budget** took effect on July 1. As noted in the June edition of this newsletter, the FY 15 adopted budget includes significant additional investments in **public safety**—including 34 new public safety positions; 15 new police officers, 15 new corrections officers, new positions at the Fire department and new E-911 call takers. Additional police and fire positions

call takers. Additional police and fire positionare also planned in the future. Rest assured, public

in the future. Rest assured, public safety will remain my top priority for the new fiscal year. As the chart at right indicates, 55% of the new budget is devoted to providing proper public safety.

Highlights of the new budget, which was unanimously approved by the Council, includes funding

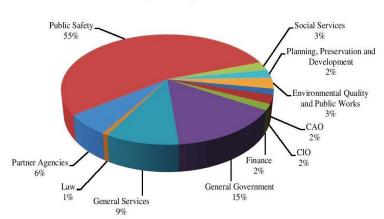
for everyday quality of life efforts such as cleaner streets, improved city park playgrounds, more bike lanes and installing new streetlights—to much larger projects such as \$5 million for street resurfacing, \$8 million for building a new Senior Center, \$3.5 million towards addressing the homelessness and affordable housing situation in Lexington, \$2.5 million to relocate and build a new Fire Station #2, and \$1 million for the ongoing focus of attracting new, better-paying jobs to the community. In addition, funding was provided for 58 social service partner agency programs.

\$150,000 was also included in the FY 15 budget to provide new benches, scoreboards and parking

at Shillito Parks' new multi-purpose fields.

Most important, I believe, is that this responsible and balanced budget reflects the priorities of the people of Lexington and continues to provide for essential city services, protects social services for people who need them most, and supports Lexington's continued economic recovery. We are making historic investments in affordable housing this year but the hard work is not yet done.

FY 2015 Adopted Budget



I look forward to working with my fellow Council members in the new fiscal year as we remain focused on meeting the demands of growing our city while we work constantly to hold the line on day-to-day operating expenses and ensure that Lexington remains one of the most inviting communities in the country in which to live, work, play and raise a family.

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

My best,

German

CALENDAR:

July 10-20: Lions Club Bluegrass Fair at Masterson Station Park.

July 19: Shillito Pool "Splash and Dash" - 7:30 am. (See p. 3)

July 31: Minority Business Expo; Lexington Center. For more info, visit: <u>www.lexingtonmbe.com</u>

Aug. 7: Southpoint Neighborhood Association Meeting; 7 pm, Pax Christi Church

Oct. 18: Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Drop-Off Event. Details TBA.

View the <u>City Calendar</u>







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Wellington Students Visit City Hall. ESL students from Wellington Elementary recently visited City Hall for a tour of the Government Center and to get a better understanding of local government. What a terrific group of young men and young women. They really seemed to enjoy their visit.

LEXINGTON SISTER CITIES WINS AWARD

Lexington Sister Cities has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 100,001 to 300,000.

The 2014 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2013 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement. Lexington has been part of Sister Cities since 1957.

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries.

In 2013, Lexington Sister Cities conducted a host a projects focusing on education, youth, municipal, arts and culture. A total of 71 students participated in 2013 high school exchange programs — 43 students from Lexington and 29 students from their sister cities.

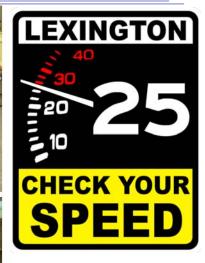
A delegation of 35 from Lexington visited County Kildare to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the



two cities' twinning. An exchange between arborists from Lexington and County Kildare was also carried out in September and October of 2013. Lexington Sister Cities also participated in local events including — the St. Patrick's Day Festival, Kentucky League of Cities Convention, One World Film Festival, and hosted the Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting.

In 2014, Lexington Sister Cities will continue to implement successful exchanges and will focus on youth, education, medicine, and culinary arts among other areas.

Source: Mayor's Office



NEW TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIRECTOR



Dowell Hoskins Squier has been chosen as the LFUCG's new Director of Traffic Engineering.

experience includes compretraffic hensive analysis, traffic impact studies, airport roadway wayfinding, ITS planning, and design and traffic signal design.



Prior to joining LFUCG, she was a Senior Associate Professional Engineer with Gresham, Smith and Partners in their transportation division in Nashville.

She began her new position on June 30.

Read more about Lexington's Division of Traffic Engineering here.

"SPLASH AND DASH" AT SHILLITO PARK

Lexington's first "Splash & Dash" will occur at Shillito Park at the Aquatic Center on July 19 at 7:30 a.m.

The goal of Splash & Dash, an aquathlon, is to encourage fitness and fun for our youth while introducing them to multi-sport triathlons/duathlons.

Every participant receives a USA Triathlon/ Scout strong patch, finisher dog tags, a race shirt and swim cap, and other fun related items.

The event is open to children ages 7-15 (age as of December 31, 2014). Youth 7-10 years will swim 100-meters at the Shillito Park Aquatic Center and then run a little over a half mile to

the finish line. Youth 11-15 swim 200-meters then run 1.2-miles. Please arrive at the pool by 7:30 a.m.

The swim begins at 8:30 a.m., and should be finished by 10:30 a.m.

To sign up, visit http://www.kidslegacytri.com/ and click on the Splash & Dash logo.

For more info, e-mail: samdick56@gmail.com.

Splash & Dash is brought to you by Lexington's Division of Parks & Recreation and McDonald's of Central and Southeastern Kentucky.





9TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SENIOR INTERN PROGRAM

Several 9th District residents joined their fellow citizens from other areas of Lexington in participating in the 2014 Senior Intern Program at City Hall in early June. It was the largest class of participants in the programs history.

LOCAL STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREERS IN THE HORSE INDUSTRY

About 150 students in the Summer Youth Employment Program in Lexington will get to observe the unique and varied careers associated with Kentucky's horse industry this summer, thanks to a public-private partnership.

Partners for Youth and Equestrian Events, Inc, organizers of the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, will sponsor Equine Career Days for the students on July 10 and July 17 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Half of the students will attend on July 10 from 1-3:30 p.m. and half on July 17 from 1-3:30 p.m.

The students will learn how horses are trained and cared for and visit the Hall of Champions, the Big Barn and Horses of the World at the horse park.

The Summer Youth Employment Program is sponsored by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. This year is it has helped 225 Lexington youth find summer jobs.





Recently I taped a news segment with Sean Moody of WKYT on the topic of ride-sharing companies such as Lyft and Uber operating in Lexington. Several related ride-sharing service issues are presently being reviewed by Council, including potential liability, safety, licensing, insurance and applicable regulation.



Photo:Lyft

The issue is on the agenda for further discussion and review at the next regularly scheduled Public Safety Committee meeting on September 16. If you have utilized either service, I would appreciate hearing about your experience. E-mail me at impossotti@lexingtonky.gov.

BRANNON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN JESSAMINE CO.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is presently exploring solutions for improving the safety of Brannon Road in nearby Jessamine County. Safety concerns for the current road stem from the increase in traffic volume and the large number of accidents that have occurred during the past 10 years. According to the Transportation Cabinet, narrow lanes, insufficient shoulders, and poor visibility due to numerous hills and

curves are contributing factors to many of the accidents. The improved road will need to accommodate traffic until 2040.

The Cabinet's current project schedule for the Brannon Road Improvement and Safety Project is as follows: Right of way phase: 2016. Utility phase: 2016. Construction phase: 2019.

Follow updates on Facebook at http://www.Facebook.com/BrannonRoad.



NEW FIRE APPARATUS ON ORDER

Lexington's Fire Station #8 will soon be getting a new fire engine, Engine No. 8, replacing the previous truck that flipped on I-64 in January of 2013 while responding to a crash during extreme wintry weather. More than 80 automobile accidents were reported in Lexington that day. The engine was deemed a total loss but thankfully, no one was injured in the accident.

Unlike simply replacing a standard automobile, a new fire truck must be built to spec, typically taking approx. 8-9 months. The cost for this particular engine is \$492,000 and that does not include any equipment. The city also has two additional engines, two ladder trucks, and five new ambulances on order. Four of the ambulances are replacement vehicles, including the ambulance "EC 9" that operates out of Station 15 at Shillito Park, which serves our 9th District.



A new Engine 8 will soon be on duty at Fire Station 8 on North Broadway, replacing the previous truck damaged in a rollover. Other new fire vehicles are also on order and expected soon. Photo courtesy of the Lexington Fire Dept.

COUNCIL ACCEPTS PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 24th, Council heard recommendations at our Work Session from an **affordable housing** stakeholders group on how we can expand safe, quality housing opportunities to low income families.

Council voted to accept and endorse the preliminary recommendations of the stakeholders group.

You can read and download the presentation that Council received here.

You can also now follow updates from the Homelessness Office on Facebook at <u>Lexington Homelessness Prevention & Intervention</u>; and on Twitter <u>@LexKyHomeless</u>.



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EMERALD ASH BORER TAKING TOLL ON CITY TREES

The city of Lexington recently began removing and replacing more than 40 ash trees, infested with the emerald ash borer (EAB), from two locations in town. The trees, which were either dead or dying, were removed from the median on Man O' War Boulevard near the Hamburg shopping center and from the median on Richmond Road. The trees will be replaced in the fall.

Lexington is now in its fourth year of the infestation.

"We are near the peak of the emerald ash borer outbreak," says John Saylor, a city arborist. "Ash trees that are showing signs of damage need to be removed in a timely manner because they can become brittle and unsafe."

The EAB is a small green insect that tunnels its way into the trunks of ash trees and feeds on the inner layers of the tree. The tunneling eventually cuts off the flow of water and other nutrients to the upper branches and canopy of the tree.

Adult insects breed during the late spring and summer. Females lay their eggs on an ash tree's bark. When the insects hatch 10 days later, the larvae tunnel under the bark and feed on the inner layers of the trees. The tunneling of larvae eventually cuts off the flow of water and other nutrients to the upper branches and canopy of the tree.

The larvae lay dormant during the winter and emerge from the trees in May.

The short-term results of the infestation are dieback of the upper canopy of the tree. There may be more woodpecker activity on infested trees. There may be wild, leafy shoots growing from the lower portion of the tree trunk. If pieces of tree bark split off of the infested tree, S-shaped tunnels will appear on the bare tree.

Left untreated, the entire tree dies within one to three years. Stressed trees will attract more adult beetles to infest nearby trees.

Early in an infestation it is possible to treat the tree. If left unchecked, it can become too late to protect the tree. Ash trees die very quickly, and limbs can break off within months of first being infested. In some cases, the entire tree can snap off near its base.

The city's goal is to remove these ash trees before they become a hazard to the public. The city will also be removing ash trees along other parts of Man o' War Boulevard later this summer.

If you have an ash tree, it is crucial to take action now. Uninfected ash trees must be treated to prevent EAB infestation. If your ash tree has branches that are noticeably dead or in the process of dying, it may be time to remove it. The potential for property damage will increase with time.

For more information on the EAB, check out www.lexingtonky.gov/eab or call LexCall at 3-1-1 or 425-2255.

Source: LFUCG Public Information Office





SHILLITO PARK PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL

Do you and your children or grandchildren visit Shillito Park playground?

We are fortunate to have such a wonderful standout park right here in our 9th District. Lexington's Division of Parks and Recreation is considering changes in the future to the current Shillito Park playground.

I want to ensure that Shillito Park remains an inviting example of park excellence, innovation and stewardship for current and future visitors and families across the community.

Please read this recent <u>article</u> that appeared in the <u>Lexington Herald-Leader</u> and let me know your thoughts and experiences about the Shillito Park Playground. E-mail: <u>imossotti@LexingtonKy.gov</u>. I appreciate your feedback.









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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMPLETES SIREN UPGRADES

Lexington's network of outdoor emergency sirens is now upgraded with newer, more reliable electronics and loudspeakers. The siren network is used to sound outdoor warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, chemical and other community emergencies.

According to an EM spokesperson, the sirens are located in many parks and golf courses throughout Fayette County and are designed to alert people who are outdoors to emergency situations like tornado watches and warnings. The sirens would also be used if there were a community emergency that required a park be evacuated.

With the upgrade of the sirens at Masterson Station, Garden Springs, Gainesway, Woodland and Kirklevington Parks, all 27 siren sites in Lexington are now using current warning technologies.

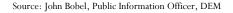
The Division of Emergency Management, along with police, fire and other public safety agencies are training on a new system that will trigger the sirens along with other warning systems that are available in Fayette County. This new system will also allow residents to receive emails, voice or text messages. An announcement about the new

system and how residents can sign up for Fayette County specific messages will come later this summer.

The most important warning system people should have in their homes and offices is a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio, notes Patricia Dugger, Director of the Division of Emergency Management. According to Director Dugger, these alert radios are the first line of warning when weather gets bad or there's another type of emergency in the community. The new system will give residents more options to get emergency alerts more quickly.

Additional information about the community siren system is available on the division's website: http://www.lexingtonky.gov/sirens.

More information about emergency preparedness is available from the Division of Emergency Management website: BeReadyLexington.com. Information from the division is also available through the DEM Facebook page: LexingtonKYEM and the DEM Twitter account: @lexkyem.





BEWARE OF DOOR-TO-DOOR SECURITY SALES SCAM

After a consumer complaint, the City's Division of Emergency Management is warning residents about door-to-door home security salespersons who claim to be part of the city's emergency management "team."

The salesperson claims that there are security issues in the resident's neighborhood and tries to sell them a home security system.

The Division of Emergency Management does not endorse any home security products nor do we have anyone on staff selling security systems door-to-door, notes Pat Dugger, Director of Lexington Emergency Management. Lexington Emergency Management advises residents who are approached by door-to-door security system salespersons to be very wary of anyone who claims to be endorsed by a city or state agency.

If you suspect the person is not a legitimate salesperson, contact Lexington Police at 258-3600. The Better Business Bureau of Central and Eastern Kentucky also has some good advice for anyone who is approached by a door-to-door salesman or contractor who wants to install a security system or do home repairs: Checking out a business with the BBB is a good start. Never sign a contract with-



PLEDGE TO PICK IT UP, LEXINGTON.



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LEXINGTON POLICE ISSUE WARNING

Lexington's Division of Police Financial Crimes Unit has issued an alert advising that it has recently received several complaints about home improvement scams. Not surprising, senior citizens tend to be targeted.

Police warn that citizens should be wary of unsolicited contractors going door to door saying the house needs repairs that the homeowner has never noticed before.

You should never agree to have work done on the spot. Scam contractors often claim to offer a "special deal" saying that they have materials left over from another job.

According to Police, these scammers often recommend work to roofs, gutters, chimneys and driveways.

Police recommend that homeowners always check references, get at least two written estimates and set up a payment schedule that includes final payment after the job is finished. Never pay in ad-

If you have been the victim of such a scam, or observe suspicious activity in your neighborhood, contact Lexington Police at 258-3600.

Let's help Police shut down these con artists!



CHAMBERS NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION

Brad Chambers began working for the city in June as the new Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

From 2000 to 2006, he headed parks departments in Georgia and Missouri, before launching a career as a consultant. He also gained additional management experience supervising a joint Navy Reserve organization of 190 Reservists at sites in Michigan and Ohio before retiring from the Navy in 2012.

His most recent job before coming to Lexington was as a partner in ReCreate Park Planning Group. One of his clients was Metro Parks of Louisville, where he trained parks staff.

As parks and recreation director he supervises 156 full-time employees, hundreds of seasonal em-

ployees and will oversee a \$21-million operating budget for fiscal year 2015.

Chambers said the Lexington parks division provides "phenomenal" services to the public. "We also have an amazingly solid parks system-Lexington citizens want a first-class parks system," and providing that is one of his goals.

Another goal, he says, is to challenge staff to examine the things they do and the way they do them. "I want people to quit thinking 'We've always done it that way."



Source: Public Information Office

ALBERT MILLER NAMED DIRECTOR OF STREETS & ROADS

years, has been named director of the division. He served as the acting director throughout this past winter. He had also served as deputy director of the division since 2006.

He will oversee a division with 77 authorized positions and an annual budget of \$27 million. The division is responsible for all resurfacing of local roads in Fayette County, snow removal operations as outlined in the City's snow removal plan, street striping on Urban County Government-maintained roads, street sweeping, pothole repair, manhole maintenance on city-maintained streets, maintenance of snow removal equipment, and leaf collection.

Miller began working for the Division of Streets and Roads in 1982 as an equipment operator.

Albert Miller, a Streets and Roads veteran for 32 Acknowledging he could retire at this point in his life, he notes, "I'm too young to retire and I have to work somewhere. I just really love streets and roads. It's very hectic but very rewarding."

> He is a native of Lexington, who graduated from Bryan Station High School. He has taken many courses on road building and maintenance at the University of Kentucky and is a "Roads Scholar" through UK.

> In addition to classroom experience, he can operate every piece of heavy equipment used by Streets and Roads - backhoes, graders, street sweepers and excavators.

> Albert and his wife Linda have been married for 39 years and have a son and a daughter. They have three grandchildren.



VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD REQUEST

In December 2013, the Vacant Property Review Commission began the process of identifying properties that are vacant and blighted in the community.

The mission of the Vacant Property Review Commission is to return these properties to their most productive use, utilizing all available tools, and leveraging both public and private resources.

As part of the process of identifying properties, the Commission is requesting that all stakeholders who are aware of vacant and blighted properties report them to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government utilizing the report form at www.lexingtonky.gov/vprc or by calling LexCall at 311 or 425-2255.

Properties reported to the city will be inspected and their status will be monitored.

Please report any other violations regarding occupied property to the appropriate agency by calling LexCall at 311 or 425-2255.

For more information, contact:

Jonathan Hollinger jhollinger@lexingtonky.gov 859-258-3430



NEW CITY PARKS POLICY COMING SOON

At the June 19 Council meeting, the Council voted unanimously to approve a new Division of Parks & Recreation barring policy that applies to each of the City's 105 public parks. The policy addresses growing concerns from citizens about the overall safety of our parks and is intended to give authorities more power to combat related criminal activity.

The new policy was developed by a task force of Council members, Parks & Recreation staff, police, and community members. Once enacted, people who chose to commit serious crimes in our parks could be banned from all city parks. The policy includes an appeals process for those who think they have been banned unfairly.

While these types of incidents are isolated, I strongly support the effort to help our police better maintain safety in our parks. As noted in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, under the policy, someone who is banned from a park and then

returns may be arrested for trespassing.

Currently, if someone commits a dangerous crime in a city park—such as fighting and assault, selling drugs or other serious offense—there is no way for the city to keep those persons out.

Police Chief Bastin and Fayette County Attorney Larry Roberts have also expressed their approval of the policy.

As noted in the newspaper, Parks and Recreation already has a policy on the books that allows the removal of people from sporting venues such as baseball diamonds for physical and verbal altercations.

Prior to policy taking affect, signs will be installed at each city park to warn visitors they could be banned for specific illegal behaviors. A start date for the policy had not yet been set but should occur this summer.



WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRADS!

Ten new Community Corrections officers graduated in June from recruit school and began their new duties. Three of the new officers received the top awards for the class. The Academic Achiever Award, given to the recruit who distinguished himself on weekly exams given to the officers, went to Officer Matthew Ritchey, who had a grade point average of 93.36 percent. The Sgt. Henry Blair 110% Award was presented to Officer Casey Brown. The award is given to the recruit that demonstrates a strong willingness to succeed and puts forth extra effort. The Award of Excellence goes to the recruit that consistently demonstrates a professional attitude, team spirit and is a leader among his peers. The award was presented to Officer Joshua Binion. Other new officers recognized were James Click, Theodore Fritz, Michael Fuehr, Bryce Lafavers, Randy Long, Grant Walker and Jonathan Whitaker.





Learn More >



Children die each year from heatstroke, after being left alone in a vehicle.

Even cool temperatures in the 60s can cause the temperature to rise well above 110° Fahrenheit inside your car. The inside temperature can rise almost 20 degrees within the first 10 minutes.

Some children die in hot cars after climbing into an unlocked vehicle without an adults' knowledge. Once in the vehicle, they may become confused by the door opening mechanism or trapped in the trunk, and unable to get out before heat-stroke occurs.

Children's bodies overheat easily, and Infants and children under four years of age are among those at greatest risk for heat-related illness. High body temperatures can cause permanent injury or even death.







FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI

Government Center, 200 East Main St., 5th Floor Lexington, KY 40507

http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?

Contact Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti:
Phone: 859-258-3215
E-mail: jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov



Legislative Aide: Rob Bolson Phone: 859-425-2564

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COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFERMOSSOTTI
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OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...



Women's Recognition Garden at Wellington Park Wins a "Lexington in Bloom" Award. The Lexington Women's Recognition Garden at Wellington Park on Wellington Way has won the Community Gardens category of the 2014 Lexington in Bloom contest, a biennial beautification competition sponsored by the Lexington Council Garden Clubs. The contest recognizes outstanding professional and amateur front gardens at residences and businesses throughout Lexington. If you have not visited the



and businesses throughout Lexington. If you have not visited the Women's Recognition Garden at Wellington Park, I invite you to check it out soon.

Touch A Truck Event for Kids. Touch A Truck, a fundraiser to benefit Child Development Center of the Bluegrass, offers a unique opportunity for the whole family to touch and explore a variety of construction, emergency, service, transportation, and other interesting vehicles. August 24, 1–5 pm at Keene Barn at Keeneland. Cost: \$15 per carload (7 passengers). For more information, visit http://www.cdcbg.org.





The 53rd annual Lexington Lions Club Bluegrass Fair is July 10-20 at Masterson Station Park. Visit <u>LionsClubBluegrassFair.com</u> or Bluegrass Fair on <u>Facebook</u> for details.

USEFUL 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

COMMUNITY ALERT: RABID BAT

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department received word in June that a bat in Lexington has tested positive for rabies. The bat was discovered in a home in the Henry Clay Boulevard and Carolyn Drive area. The health department posted signs in the area recently to notify residents of the discovery.

LFCHD officials continue to remind citizens to make certain their pets have a current rabies vaccination. Early symptoms of rabies include a change in behavior, chewing at the bite site, fever and loss of appetite.

If you find a deceased bat in your home and the possibility of human exposure cannot be ruled out, contact the Division of Environmental Health and Protection at (859) 231-9791 for assistance to have the animal collected and submitted for rabies testing.



Bats that are active during the day or are unable to fly might be suspect for having rabies.



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