

*FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LEXINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT*



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 10



OCTOBER 2014



View a [map](#) of the district [here](#).

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

One of my favorite activities as a Councilmember is the opportunity to meet with neighborhood leaders from the district and discuss timely topics of interest. On September 29, I met with representatives from several 9th District neighborhood and homeowner associations to talk about street trees, City grants that are available to neighborhoods, the ongoing need for people to volunteer to serve on neighborhood association boards, and the website NextDoor.com.

It was nearly 2 hours of informative dialogue and very useful networking. Thank you to everyone who participated. I also wish to extend a special thank you to Tim Queary, the City's arborist, and to Cyndra Brown from the City's Division of Grants and Special Programs for also attending the meeting and offering valuable insight and information.

I am continually impressed with just how hard these dedicated volunteer leaders work for the benefit of their respective associations. They frequently donate their time to ensure things get done—sometimes with minimal help. They are not required to serve, they want to. That speaks volumes about their character and willingness to make the sacrifice for the betterment of their neighborhood, the district, and our community. I

can't thank them enough for all that they do. If you are a member of one of these associations, I encourage you to support them wholeheartedly and let them know you too appreciate their efforts. We all benefit when neighbors step up to help neighbors.

Additional volunteers are always welcome to serve on boards and spearhead special projects. Even if you can only donate a couple of hours per month, your help would certainly be appreciated. These associations give a neighborhood a more powerful, organized, collective voice and offer you an excellent opportunity to get to know your neighbors a little better.

Many of these associations are now utilizing the increasingly popular website [NextDoor.com](#)—a private social network for individual neighborhoods. It is an easy way to keep up with what is going on in your neighborhood—and it is only open to you and your neighbors.

I welcome your feedback at any time. Have a great weekend.

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



Leaders from many of the 9th District's neighborhood and homeowner associations discussed several topics at a meeting on September 29, including street trees, available grants, the ever-present need for volunteers to serve on neighborhood boards, and the popular website NextDoor.com.

CALENDAR:

- Oct. 5:** Fire Prevention Festivities and Parade; Robert Stephens Courthouse
- Oct. 11:** LFUCG Household Waste Disposal (Non-Hazardous Waste)
- Oct. 15:** Deadline to submit Neighborhood Action Match Grant Applications
- Oct. 18:** LFUCG Household **Hazardous Waste** Disposal Drop-Off Event
- Oct. 18:** Little Goblins Galore
- Oct. 26:** Annual "Thriller" Parade
- Nov. 7:** Triangle Park Ice Rink Opens

View the [City Calendar](#).

All Council committees, Work Sessions and Council Meetings are cablecast live on GTV-3 on Time-Warner Cable and available at www.LexingtonKy.gov.



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NEW FIRE EQUIPMENT UNVEILED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Mayor Gray, Commissioner Mason, and Fire Chief Keith Jackson recently held a news conference at Fire Station 1 to unveil the new fire equipment that the Mayor and Council have recently invested in to make Lexington safer--an unprecedented investment. The inventory of new apparatus includes 5 ambulances, 5 engines and 2 ladder trucks.

Over the past two budget years, the Council has made a total investment of more than \$5.3 million in new ambulances, ladder trucks and fire engines.

As I noted in a recent newsletter, it takes approximately a year to order and receive this type of equipment and it is now beginning to arrive in Lexington and hit the streets.



This new equipment will be used at 10 of Lexington's twenty-three fire stations across the City, including the replacement of four of our ten ambulances.

In addition, the City is commissioning an additional new ambulance company which will include the purchase of a fifth new ambulance and the hiring of a new crew. The new crew is now in training and is expected to graduate in November.

As the Mayor stated at the press conference, we've made a significant investment in police and fire with budget surpluses over the past two years.

Public safety remains my number one priority in serving on the Council.

I appreciate the excellent job that Chief Jackson and the dedicated men and women of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services does around the clock for our community.

NEW LOCAL FOOD COORDINATOR HAS A LOT ON HER PLATE



This past month I spent a working lunch meeting with Ashton Potter Wright, the City's new Local Food Coordinator. She has really hitting the ground running and already working on some truly exciting initiatives and local food opportunities. Further details will be available soon. You can read her recent PowerPoint presentation to the Council [here](#).

She has also established a new Facebook page, 'Bluegrass Farm to Table.' Be sure to "like" the page to keep up on developments: <http://www.facebook.com/bluegrassfarmtotable>. Bluegrass Farm to Table will serve as a mechanism to increase coordination and collaboration among stakeholders at all levels of our local food system--from production to consumption--and to support food-related agricultural development and improvement of nutritional health in the region. To reach Ashton, e-mail: awright@lexingtonky.gov or call (859) 258-3131.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ON RELOCATING FIRE STATION #2

The Council conducted a workshop on August 28 on the need to relocate Fire Station #2 on New Circle Road. As the current station was built in 1952, the increasing cost of maintaining a 62-year-old building, in addition to insufficient space has lead the Fire Department to pursue the construction of a new fire station to be located on city-owned property at Murray and Eastland Drives. The proposed new station would include vehicle and equipment storage, as well as sleeping and living quarters for up to eighteen staff. The new station will be designed and constructed to last 100 years. Two designs are presently under consideration and the respective cost/funding will need to be determined later this fall.



CITIZEN RECOGNIZED FOR AIDING LEXINGTON POLICE OFFICER



Mr. Joshua Davis was recently recognized for his assistance in the arrest of a robbery suspect in Lexington.

At the September 11 Council meeting, Mayor Gray presented Mr. Joshua Davis with a proclamation proclaiming the day as 'Joshua Davis Day in Lexington.' Mr. Davis recently assisted off-duty Lexington Police Officer Derek Wallace who was physically struggling with a very large robbery suspect he was attempting to arrest at a Lexington gas station.

Mr. Davis was able to help Officer Wallace subdue the violent suspect who was eventually arrested and charged with assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, and robbery.

Those attending the meeting along with the Council gave Mr. Davis a standing ovation for his actions and I personally thanked Mr. Davis after the presentation for his willingness to come to the aid of Officer Wallace. As the mother of a police officer, I especially appreciate what Mr. Davis did under the circumstances. Without his assistance, the outcome could have been much different.

Mr. Davis' family was also in attendance at the meeting and they were clearly so proud of him---and rightfully so. Job well done, Mr. Davis!

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Thank you to the board of Wyndham Downs Homeowners Association for the invitation to meet recently and talk about how my office can assist in taking advantage of various City programs and other services.

And thank you the Copperfield Neighborhood Association for the invitation to attend your annual residents meeting—a big turnout every year.

We have so many wonderful neighborhood associations and HOAs in the district and I always look forward to meeting with everyone at these get-togethers.

It's so nice to see so many of our friends, families, and neighbors concerned about making their respective neighborhood and our community the best it can possibly be.



CLAYS MILL ROAD WIDENING PROJECT RIBBON-CUTTING



Construction on Phase 2B of the Clays Mill Road Widening Project has now come to an end. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held yesterday, Thursday, with state and local officials commemorating the completion of the second phase of the multimillion dollar project. There will be four phases in all with the widening project eventually extending northbound all the way to Harrodsburg Road.

The \$3.7 million dollar Phase 2B project, which focused on improvements at the intersection of Clays Mill Road and Man o' War, began in September 2013 and took just under one year to complete. Final touches will be added soon including planting trees and the installation of street lights. The next phase of construction, [Phase 2C](#), will be from Keithshire Way to Waco Drive and construction is planned to begin in the spring of 2015. The success of the project was made possible in large part due to the invaluable input from area neighbors, churches, schools and retailers. It is truly a community effort and accomplishment of which we can all be proud.

MEET ALEXANDRA BROWN, LEXINGTON'S JUNIOR FIRE CHIEF



Alexandra "Alex" Brown is this year's Junior Fire Chief. She will be the Parade Grand Marshall of Lexington's Fire Prevention Parade this weekend.

October is fire safety awareness month and the Lexington Fire Dept. will be kicking off Fire Prevention Week (October 5–11) with a festival and parade which will take place on Sunday at the Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza. The festival will run from 3 to 6 p.m. with the parade at 6:45 p.m.

Alexandra is a student at Clays Mill Elementary.

Congratulations!

Her winning essay appears at right.

How Smoke Alarms Save Lives

By: Alexandra Brown

Did you know that an estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms?

A properly installed smoke alarm is the first thing in your home that can alert you and your family from a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Fire sprinklers could also help you and your family, but are a few seconds slower than smoke alarms are.

According to the National Fire Protection Association almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires because of non-working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm could save your life from a home fire.

The two basic smoke alarms are the Ionization smoke alarm and the Photoelectric smoke alarm. These two different smoke alarms search for different types of fires.

So if you don't have a smoke alarm, I suggest that you get one!

PROGRAM ENABLES SENIORS TO BUY NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD

Kentucky Farm Bureau's latest Marketbasket Survey reported that grocery prices have increased nearly 2 percent so far this year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts that food prices could rise as much as 3.5 percent before the year is over.

No one is feeling the pinch in the pocketbook more than Kentucky's senior citizens.

To help Kentuckians age 60 and over, many of whom live on fixed incomes, the 2014 Farm Bill appropriated a \$297,388 USDA grant this year for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) to distribute through the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

The KDA recently announced that more than 10,000 Kentucky seniors in 69 counties each received vouchers totaling \$28 to use at 106 farmers' markets in the Commonwealth. The program is also helping the bottom lines of 700 Kentucky farmer vendors who can cash

the vouchers just like a check.

The KDA issues the vouchers each June which can be used through October to purchase fresh, unprocessed, locally-grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey at any state-approved farmers' market in Kentucky.

To be eligible to receive vouchers, participants must provide proof that they are at least 60 years old at the day of issuance and provide proof that their income is less than or equal to 130 percent of the poverty level.

Products not grown in Kentucky, medicinal herbs, home-processed products, meats, eggs, cheese, and other foods are not eligible for purchase with the vouchers.

For more information on the program and to see a complete list of eligible and ineligible products, go to <http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/senior-farmer-market.html>.

Source: Kentucky Agricultural News



Photo courtesy of Chris Aldridge.



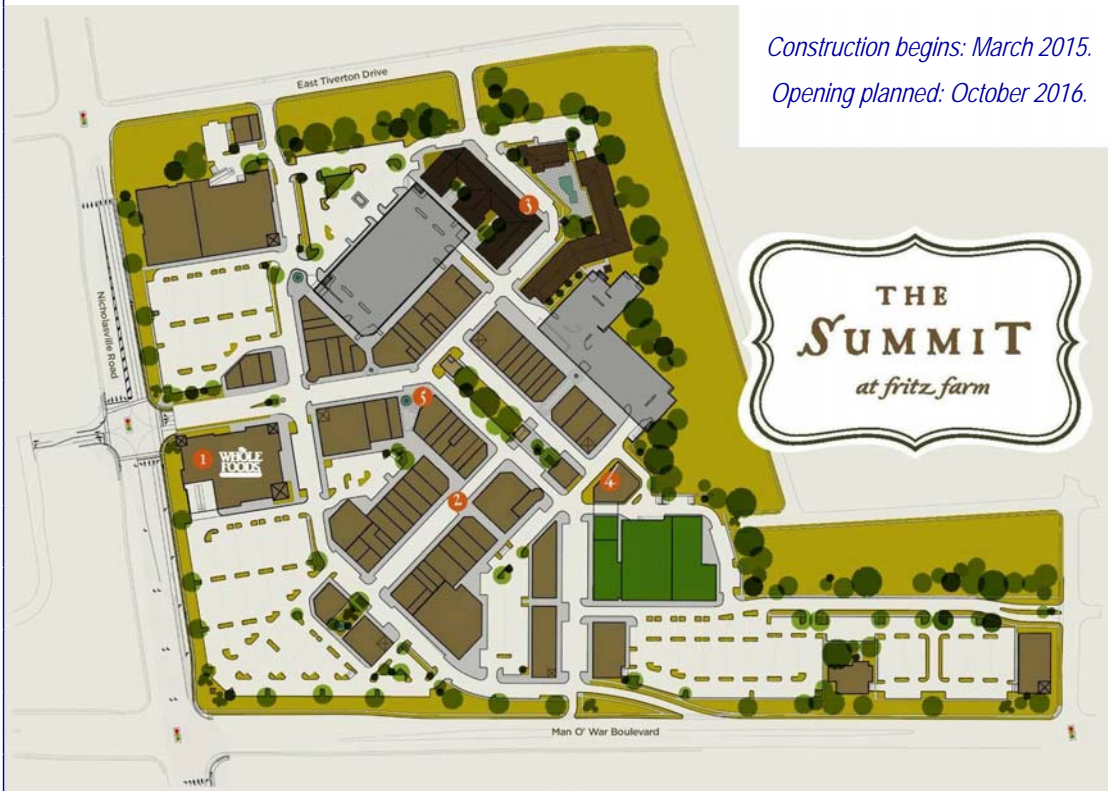
Click [here](#) to subscribe to the free Kentucky Agriculture newsletter.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

On Thursday, September 11, the Council voted 12-0 to allocate a minimum of \$2,000,000 per fiscal year to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and a minimum of \$750,000 each fiscal year to the Homelessness Fund. It is a significant commitment by the Council towards addressing Lexington's affordable housing and homelessness concerns. I will continue to update you as future developments occur.



CONSTRUCTION FOR THE SUMMIT TO BEGIN SPRING OF 2015



Construction begins: March 2015.

Opening planned: October 2016.

It has been announced that construction on The Summit at Fritz Farm—a new retail, dining and housing development to be located adjacent to the 9th District at Man o' War and Nicholasville Road—will begin in March of 2015.

The planned opening is slated for October 2016. A 100-150 room boutique hotel and office space is also planned.

The developer should announce the stores and restaurants that will locate there before the end of the year.

Whole Foods will move from its current spot in Lexington Green to The Summit in 2016.

CITY SEEKING DONATIONS OF FOUR COMMUNITY TREES

WANTED: Three perfectly shaped evergreen trees, 40 to 50-feet high, 20 to 25-feet wide, to bring holiday cheer to the community and to many visitors. Trees can be Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce or Douglas Fir. The City will remove the tree(s) at no cost to the owner(s).

If your tree is chosen, the City and Kentucky Utilities will remove it at no cost on either November 17, 18, or 19. Stump grinding will be provided after removal. The trees will be placed in Triangle Park at Main Street and Broadway; Isaac Murphy Park at Third Street and Midland Avenue; and in front of the KU Building on Quality Street. They will be decorated by the City and lit beginning Friday, November 29.

Property owners should call LexCall 3-1-1 before October 30 if they want to donate a tree. If a tree is chosen, property owners will be contacted with details of the removal.



PROCLAMATION

At the September 9 Council Work Session, Mayor Gray and the Council presented a proclamation recognizing Bluegrass Ovarian Cancer Support and Ovarian Cancer Awareness month.

To learn more about the facts and symptoms of Ovarian Cancer, visit: www.bgovca.org.

If your group or organization would like to recognize a special event or occasion, please contact my office at (859) 258-3215 or e-mail me at jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov.

NEW FOOD TRUCK FINDER APP

As reported recently on Kentucky.com, there is a new smartphone app available for the iPhone to help you find active food trucks and other mobile vendors in Lexington.

'Follow That Food Truck!' uses GPS to display the location of nearby food trucks and more than a dozen food trucks have already signed up already, with more on the way. Look for it in the App Store.



IN THE DISTRICT: IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In an earlier newsletter, I put out a call to artists residing in the 9th District to contact me if they would be interested in displaying their work at City Hall. This month, the spotlight is on photographer Joe Carwile. Several of his nature photos are now on loan and display outside of my Council office for visitors and employees to enjoy. The display is already meeting with rave reviews!

Joe, who lives in the Copper Trace neighborhood, is a graduate of Western Kentucky University's award-winning photojournalism program. His work has appeared in numerous publications across the country including the *Troy Daily News*; the *South Bend Tribune*; the *Flint Journal*; the *Louisville Courier-Journal*; the *News-Times*; and the *Courant*. Check out: www.JoeCarwilePhoto.com.



If you know of someone in the district that you would like to see featured "In the Spotlight" in an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail me the information at jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov. Let's showcase the volunteers, teachers, artists, neighborhood leaders, small business owners and other extraordinary residents that are our neighbors!

The work of photographer Joe Carwile (lower left) is on display at City Hall.

CITY INSPECTOR, THERAPY DOG APPEAR ON NATIONAL TV

Alvaro Polanco's dog "Pete" has visited nursing homes, hospitals, and libraries, and recently he even appeared on national television. Pete is a therapy dog. Alvaro, a City building inspector, is his owner/handler. They volunteer together through Central Kentucky Love on a Leash, a non-profit organization of volunteers who own therapy dogs.

One of the programs for which they volunteer is PAWS to READ. The program allows children to read to dogs, reducing the pressure and insecurities they feel when they read to people. Through the program they improve their reading skills, all the while giving and receiving love from their canine reading buddies.

Alvaro was contacted by the national television network UNIVISION, which recently came to Lexington to do some stories on education. They spent a day following Alvaro and Pete, for a story on PAWS TO READ.

A Labrador-mix, Pete started life as a stray. He met Alvaro and Alvaro's wife Yolanda Pinilla, when he was two years old at the Lexington Humane Society where they adopted him in 2010.

Pete is certified by the American Kennel Club as a "Canine Good Citizen" and Alvaro and Pete are certified as a team through Love on a Leash. Each year Pete has to be recertified and brought up-to-date on his shots. To read more about the Central Kentucky Love on a Leash or to join log on to www.loalcky.com.



"Pete" enjoys working with children and spends one Saturday a month working with children at the Woodford County Public Library in Versailles. He is also trained to go to nursing homes and hospitals. His owner works for the City's Division of Building Inspection, whose wife Yolanda works for the Division of Youth Services.

TAPING COUNCIL COMMENT VIDEO

Last week I taped a Council Comment segment with Lexington's new director of traffic engineering, Dowell Hoskins Squier. Dowell, a native-Lexingtonian, returned to Lexington from Nashville in June where she was working in the private sector as an engineering consultant. She is Lexington's first female director of traffic engineering.

She and I discussed the unique traffic challenges in Lexington and in the 9th District, including the hectic and sometimes harrowing corridor of Nicholasville Road. The segment is currently being edited by the staff of GTV-3 and I will let you know when it is ready for viewing and uploaded online. Tune in to hear what Dowell has to say about Lexington's traffic management system.



HUNGER ACTION ELECTED OFFICIALS DAY OF SERVICE



In recognition of September being Hunger Action Month, I recently joined Mayor Gray, fellow Councilmember Peggy Henson, God's Pantry Food Bank CEO Marian Guinn, and other community officials in visiting the after school snack program at the Village Branch Library as part of the Hunger Action Month Elected Officials Hunger Action Day of Service.

It was a delight to help serve healthy snacks to neighborhood children as part of God's Pantry Food Bank's after school snack program. This is a relatively new program at the Village Branch Library location. After the children receive a healthy after school snack, volunteers are available to assist them with their homework. More than 80 area children are currently in the program.

I appreciate the invitation to participate in such a worthwhile community program and the opportunity to help create a movement throughout the month of September that has a real and lasting impact on God's Pantry's mission to help end hunger in Central and Eastern Kentucky.



Participating in the After School Snack Program at the Village Branch Library.

“SHOP WITH A FIREFIGHTER” PROGRAM SERVES 54 CHILDREN

Lexington firefighters Jimmy Praria and Max Bradford recently spent a Saturday morning at Wal-mart, shopping for kids' winter clothes. They were among about three dozen firefighters helping youngsters pick out apparel as part of the annual “Shop with a Firefighter” program.

The firefighters went along as approximately 54 children from low-income families from all over Fayette County who were taken on a \$100 shopping spree for clothing items such as a winter coat.

Firefighters Praria and Bradford went with Alecia Pantoja and her four children to help guide their choices. She has three sons and a daughter to outfit and none of them had winter coats.

The first items selected were coats – down jackets for the winter. Then came jeans and a top, running suits, running shoes, underwear and socks, and hats and gloves. Each child was allowed to spend up to \$100 tax-free. Wal-mart picks up the cost of the taxes. The youngsters reportedly seemed excited about their purchases as they waited in the checkout line.

The Shop with a Firefighter program has been underway for seven years and is funded through donations from private entities and individual firefighters and fire stations.



Lexington Firefighter Jimmy Praria helps a mother and her children pick out clothing during a recent “Shop with a Firefighter” event at Lexington's Hamburg Wal-mart.

FIRE PREVENTION FESTIVAL AND PARADE





**Working Smoke Alarms
Save Lives**

Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014

WHEN

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5th

WHERE

ROBERT F. STEPHENS COURTHOUSE PLAZA

TIMES

FESTIVAL 3PM-6PM

PARADE 6:45PM



**COME HELP US KICK OFF FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK**

Jay Alexander from 107.9 The Beat will be Master of Ceremony



**FREE
ACTIVITIES FOR THE
KIDS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LFD COMMUNITY SERVICES AT (859) 231-5668 OR
LFD-COMMUNITYSERVICES@LEXINGTONKY.GOV
LEXFIRE-EDUCATION@LEXINGTONKY.GOV

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LEXINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT

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OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...



Police monitoring for speeders in Southpoint: Due to a recent complaint received, the Division of Police has been monitoring for speeders on Southpoint Drive. In addition, Lexington's Division of Traffic Engineering recently conducted a study of motorists driving in the area. Average speeds were in the 28 to 34 mph range. In half of the cases, most drivers drove in the 25 – 30 mph range and in the other half, most drivers drove in the 30 – 35 mph range. Based on the data collected, Traffic Engineering will soon be installing specialty speed limit signage (see illustration at right) to remind drivers that the posted speed limit is 25 mph on Southpoint Drive. Please observe the posted speed limits.



Track Traffic Issues. Call the Traffic Hotline through the City's Traffic Management Center at 258-3611 to hear traffic updates or check local road conditions and get information on accidents, lane blockages, snow and ice trouble spots, and road closures through Twitter at [@lexwrecks](#) or through the Crosstown Traffic Show broadcast live from 6:30-8:30 a.m. weekday mornings on TWC at cable GTV-3.



BEFORE you start your car or truck, send the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet your #UKseatbeltselfie for a chance to win a VIP UK football experience. Post the photo on Twitter at [@KyHighwaySafety](#) or on Facebook at [KY Highway Safety](#).

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

LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK IS OCT. 18

Light The Night Walk is a fundraising campaign of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) which brings together families and communities to honor blood cancer survivors, as well as those lost to the diseases, and shine a light on the importance of finding cures and providing access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

The funds raised by Light The Night participants will help advance more breakthrough therapies for blood cancer patients like targeted therapies that zero in on cancer cells and kill them and immunotherapies that use a patients' own immune system to kill cancer.

The event will occur on Saturday, October 18 at Whitaker Bank Ballpark. Festivities start at 5 pm and the walk begins at 7:30 pm.

For more information on the walk or to register online, visit www.lightthenight.org/ky or call (859) 226-0764.



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>