

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



## 9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 11



NOVEMBER 2014



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

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

As reported in news on Friday, the City has reached a 10-year franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable. Council initially moved to deny the transfer of the franchise agreement to Comcast and Charter in order to fix the customer service issues with Time Warner.

The City's top priority in the negotiations was improved customer service. We heard from hundreds of citizens that Time Warner's retail location was not open enough hours and there were long lines. We also heard about numerous equipment problems.

Time Warner has now agreed to better customer service—including offering more hours at their Palumbo Drive center, a mail-in option on equipment to avoid waiting in line, and stronger penalties if they violate these provisions—and accordingly, Council feels it can now permit the transfer.

By Federal control, we are limited in what we can regulate. Pricing, channel selection, and Internet speed, for example, are off limits.

Charter also agreed to do something they've never done before – introduce a low-cost Internet plan for those with low incomes. This is something the Mayor and the Council really pressed for as a way of closing the digital di-

vide—and in the end Charter agreed to do it.

The customer-service requirements will not change even as Time Warner is expected to be sold to Comcast and then the Lexington part of the business is anticipated to be quickly sold to Charter.

The requirements will remain in place regardless of ownership. That's something the Mayor and Council fought hard for in negotiations. For that reason, it is likely that Council will approve the transfer of the franchise from Time Warner to Comcast, and from Comcast to Charter.

If the acquisition is approved by the FCC and the Department of Justice, Charter will be the dominant cable provider in Lexington.

The Council must still approve many other aspects of the overall deal, however, customers may see the changes in customer service by the first of the new year. Not a moment too soon.

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

My best,



*Thank you to Mike Henderson, Heather Justice, Carol Clark, and Tom Turner from the **Plantation Neighborhood Association** for the invitation to attend and speak at their recent annual membership meeting. Plantation's board is working diligently to revitalize their association and become more active and I applaud their efforts and look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.*

### CALENDAR:

**Dec. 2:** Annual Lexington Christmas Parade, downtown, 7 pm.

**Dec. 7:** Henry Clay Estate Tree Lighting on the Lawn; 5:30 pm.

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](http://www.LexingtonKy.gov).

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*



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## LEXINGTON RECOGNIZED WITH “FOUR BLOOM RATING.”

Lexington landscaping—including the Women’s Garden in Wellington Park—was recently declared among the best in the nation at the 2014 America in Bloom national awards program held in Philadelphia. The city received a prestigious “four bloom rating” and a special award for the best commercial streetscape. Lexington also received a special mention for its landscaped areas.

Click here to [read the judges evaluation form](#).

In their evaluation of Lexington America in Bloom judges stated, “Lexington’s economy is an interesting mix of horses, health care, high tech, bourbon, the University of Kentucky, and tourism. During the descent of our flight into the airport, we were astounded to see lovely farms with lush green pastures, trees, fences and horses,” “City vision is responsible for creating an area where you can still take a Sunday drive starting from the heart of the city and be in the country in 20 minutes.”

Lexington’s public spaces were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral design. Since the founding of America in Bloom in 2001, more than 250 cities in 45 states have participated in the program. Cities report the evaluation process can lead to increased community involvement, civic pride and decreased vandalism.

In addition, the Women’s Garden at Wellington Park was also recently recognized as part of the 44th Annual Environmental Commission Awards which spotlights individuals, organizations, and businesses that have contributed significantly to the improvement of the local environment over the past two years.

*“Wellington Park’s Lexington Women’s Garden is a bright spot of color with a good cause...”*



44th Annual Environmental Commission Awards.



Women’s Garden. File photo.

## BUTLER ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPLY EXPANDS IN LEXINGTON



Butler Animal Health Supply, a subsidiary of Henry Schein Animal Health, held their Grand Opening Celebration on November 5 for their new facility in the University of Kentucky’s Coldstream Research Campus.

The operation will serve as a distribution and warehousing operation for veterinary health products.

Butler Animal Health Supply will also use this facility to rent and sell industry-related equipment. They will create 31 new jobs and have invested over \$2.6 million in this expansion project.

## CITY PARKING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES “FOOD FOR FINES”

Lexington Parking Authority (LPA) has announced that its LEXPARK program will run a “Food for Fines” canned food drive from November 17th through December 19.

Bring in 10 cans of food to the LEXPARK office located at 122 North Broadway to pay for any [meter citation](#). Customers with multiple meter citations may bring in 10 cans for each one – including those that are past due.

All canned food donations received by LEXPARK will be donated to God’s Pantry Food Bank. Canned vegetables which are at least 14-15 ounces large are suggested.

Expired, damaged or opened food donations will not be accepted.

The goal of the Parking Authority, which was created by the Urban County Council in 2006, is to provide, maintain and operate adequate, high-quality, customer-focused public parking and encourage economic growth.





## How Are Your Tax Dollars Stretched?



Fayette County 2014-2015 Tax Rates							
(in dollars per \$100 of assessed value)							
Tax Description	District						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122
County/General Service	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
School	0.719	0.719	0.719	0.719	0.719	0.719	0.719
Extension Services	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034
Soil & Water Conservation	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005
Health Department	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028
Lextran	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Full Service	0.1738						
Refuse			0.1431				
Street Lights				0.0210			
Refuse & Street Lights					0.1641		
Street Lights & Street Cleaning						0.0307	
Refuse & Street Cleaning							0.1528
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.1867</b>	<b>1.0129</b>	<b>1.1560</b>	<b>1.0339</b>	<b>1.1770</b>	<b>1.0436</b>	<b>1.1657</b>

Percentages were derived using the District 1 tax rate which includes the most taxpayers in Fayette County.

The tax rate varies across the county based on services provided. The rate is per \$100 of assessed value on the property, Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. These rates are subject to change each year and are determined by various taxing districts.

Thank you to David O'Neill, Fayette County Property Valuation Administrator, for the above information. A wealth of useful information, including your specific tax district info, is available on the PVA's popular website, [www.FayettePVA.com](http://www.FayettePVA.com). Check it out.

## TAKE THE “LIVABLE LEXINGTON” SURVEY

Lexington's Senior Services Commission is spearheading the “Livable Lexington” project, with support from the AARP and the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living.

The survey asks what Lexington can do to become more livable and age friendly.

Kristy Stambaugh, the city's aging services and disabilities support administrator, notes that the results of the survey will lead the city toward the creation of a plan for Livable Lexington.

The survey gauges Lexington's livability focusing on eight areas that have the most impact on

the health and quality of life for older adults, according to AARP and the World Health Organization. Those areas are: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; housing; social participation; respect and social inclusion; civic participation and employment; communication and information; and community support.

For more information about the Livable Lexington survey project call 859-258-3806.

To take the survey online, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/livablelexington>.



## C.A.S.A. OF LEXINGTON NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Lexington is a local nonprofit in need of volunteers to help give children a voice within the family court system.

CASA advocates for children who have been neglected or abused and are the one constant factor in many of these children's lives.

In 2013, CASA volunteers worked with 171 children, advocating in their best interest, but an overwhelming 1,140 more children could have greatly benefited from their services.

With additional volunteers, CASA can continue to grow and reach more children, giving them a chance at a safe, permanent home.

An upcoming advocate training class will be held beginning in January. Classes will be held on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings.

If you would like to consider being a CASA volunteer and help give a voice to a child in need, visit [www.lexingtoncasa.org](http://www.lexingtoncasa.org).



## LEXINGTON FIRE DEPT. TOY DRIVE NOW UNDERWAY

The Lexington Fire Dept. is seeking toy donations for their Firefighter Toy Program. Toys should be new, appropriate for ages birth to 10 years and should be unwrapped.

Individual donations can be dropped off at any Lexington fire station now through December 9.

The Firefighter Toy Program is open to Fayette County residents who need assistance providing toys for their children, ages 12 years old and younger.

They could also use donations for food for their volunteers on toy distribution day, as well as boxes and gift wrap.

For more info. contact the Fraternal Order of Firefighters at 859-523-9576.





## CITY LEAF COLLECTION

The city of Lexington offers a once-a-year vacuum leaf program to residential properties who receive city waste collection services.

Residents who have private collection or other services for trash collection do not qualify for this program.

In addition to being a service to citizens, the program reduces the hazard of leaves collecting in the street and clogging storm drains.

The program is expected to begin on Monday, November 10 and run through Friday, December 19. Adverse weather may delay the program.

You can check your scheduled collection date by using the City's online interactive map at [www.LexingtonKy.Gov/leaves](http://www.LexingtonKy.Gov/leaves).

The online interactive map and online progress reports will be updated throughout the collection schedule.

If you will be receiving leaf collection, leaves should be raked to the curb but not into the

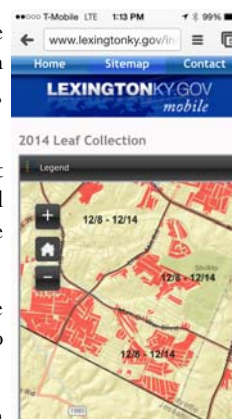
street. You should rake leaves to the curb the weekend before your scheduled collection week. If there are no sidewalks on your street, rake the leaves to the edge of your yard.

If your sidewalk goes to the edge of the street (such as on Versailles Road for example) and there is no curb, leaves should be raked to the edge of your yard, but not onto the sidewalk.

Leaves can not be picked up when vehicles are parked in front of leaves and blocking access to them.

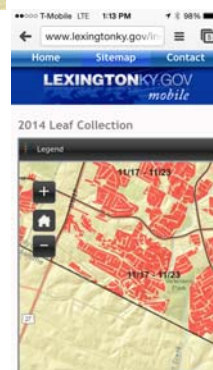
While the vacuum leaf collection program is an annual service, residents have other options for disposing of fallen leaves year-round and at no cost, including utilizing the gray "Lenny" yard waste container; paper yard waste bags (free with coupons from the City); and the [Haley Pike composting facility](#) located at 4216 Hedger Lane.

Residents should place their Lenny and yard waste bags at the curb the same day as their regular waste and recycling pickup.



*The area of the 9th District east of Nicholasville Road, including Southpoint subdivision, eligible to receive City leaf collection are scheduled for collection between Nov. 17 and Nov. 23. (Subject to adverse weather.)*

*The majority of the 9th District eligible to receive City leaf collection are scheduled for collection between Dec. 8 and Dec. 14. (Subject to adverse weather.)*



## PENSION REFORMS CONTINUE TO SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

Pension reforms negotiated in 2013 by Mayor Gray and police and fire representatives continue to save taxpayers millions and improve the health of the fund, according to a recent press release from the Mayor's office.

Todd Green, a representative of Cavanaugh and Macdonald, an actuarial firm that works with governmental pensions across the country, released an evaluation of the Lexington Police and Fire pension fund today, saying Lexington has "the most effective pension reform in the country."

The reforms decreased the amount the city has to pay into the fund each year by about one-third. "Next budget year, instead of paying approximately \$36 million we will pay \$21 million," Gray notes. "That's a win for taxpayers."

Because of the reform, unfunded liability in the fund – the difference between what the pension fund will be required to pay out to retirees over the next 30 years, and the cash it is expected to have – has dropped by more than \$115 million.

Improvement in the funded ratio has also im-

proved. The fund is now 76% funded. Last year it was 72% funded. Pre-reform, the fund was 63.9% funded, which is considered dangerously low.

Strong market performance has also improved the health of the fund.

For firefighters and police officers, pension reform has put the pension on sound footing, ensuring that it will continue to support the retirements of Lexington's police officers and firefighters for decades to come, Gray points out.

Source: Mayors office.



## REMINDER



With a cold weather upon us, remember these important heating related safety tips from the Lexington Fire Department: 1) Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional once a year. 2) Do not use an extension cord when using a space heater. 3) Keep anything that can burn at least 3 ft. away from space heater (ie. bedding, curtains, walls, furniture, books, etc.) 4) Turn space heaters off when leaving the room. 5) Always use the right kind of fuel specified by the manufacturer for fuel burning space heaters. 6) Never use your oven to heat your home. 7) Check the batteries in all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

## THIRTY-SEVEN NEW FIREFIGHTERS SWORN IN



Recruit Firefighter Class 59 was sworn in on November 1.

On Saturday, November 1, thirty-seven recruits were sworn in as Lexington firefighters, including two female firefighters sworn in on the force.

Recruit Firefighter Class 59 was the largest class in about 10 years, according to Training Chief Christopher Sweat. It was so large the fire academy staff had to take on an additional training officer. Many of the recruits had no previous experience as firefighters.

Fire Chief Keith Jackson welcomed the graduating recruits to the family that includes firefighters and their families, retired firefighters and their families, and the young recruits and their families.

The class included four African-Americans and two women.

## POLICE DEPT. PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS RECOGNIZED

On November 5, city and police officials wished 37 civilian and sworn personnel well upon their respective retirements. Police Chief Ronnie Bastin assured the retirees that "you made a tremendous difference in the quality of life for our community." Mayor Jim Gray said the 37 retirees represented more than 600 years of combined service to the city of Lexington.

Retirees and their years of service included Lieutenant Fred Lisanby, 36 years; Detective Michael Sweeney, 31 years; Assistant Chief Robert Stack, 27 years; Lieutenant James Lombardi, 27 years; Officer William Goldey, 26 years; Sergeant Joseph Famularo, 24 years; Officer Steven Florence, 24 years; Officer Jeffrey Jacobs, 23 years; Officer David Johnson, 23 years; Safety Officer Lela Durman, 23 years; Sergeant Brian Wallace, 23 years; Commander Kelli Edwards, 22 years; Ms. Sheila Murray, telecommunicator, 21 years; Sergeant April Brown, 20 years; Lieutenant Edward Hart, 20 years; Sergeant Allen Dobson, 20 years; Officer Earl Rayford, 19 years; Lieutenant Robert Stowers, 18 years; Detective Robert Sarrantonio, 18 years; Officer James Root, 18 years; Officer Christopher Woodyard, 18 years; Ms. Sharon Curd, staff assistant senior, 17 years; Officer William Federspiel, 16 years; Officer Cole Evans, 16 years; Charles Sallee, computer systems manager, 13 years; Jewel Klusek, staff assistant senior, 13 years; Officer Grace Asher, 12 years; Sergeant Darrin Larrabee, 10 years; Officer Dennis Smith, 9 years; Officer Michelle Bean, 9 years; Officer Matthew Maynard, 8 years; Officer Jarrod Jones, 8 years; and Charles O'Connell, telecommunicator, 7 years.



## F.O.F NEEDS BUILDING FOR ANNUAL TOY PROGRAM



The Lexington Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Firefighters needs a large building to use for the 2014 Firefighter Toy Program. This will be the 83rd year the F.O.F has sponsored the toy drive for children in Fayette County. On average, the program provides toys for over 3,000 Fayette County kids who might not otherwise have toys for the holidays.

This year, the Lexington Firefighter Toy Program will begin accepting applications on November 11, and the application process will end on November 26. The toy giveaway will be on December 13.

The F.O.F relies on the generosity of Lexington citizens and businesses to provide this program. The program's greatest need this year is the use of a building around 10,000 square feet in size, with a parking lot. The F.O.F would need the building through December 31.

The F.O.F is asking anyone who has a building to loan, or knows of one that might fit the need, to please call 859-523-9576.

## MINORITY CONTRACTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Minority- and women-owned businesses are invited to apply for the Lexington Minority and Women Contractor Training Program.

Now in its 5th year, the 10-week program covers a wide range of topics from business planning, estimating and bidding, contracts and legal issues to project safety.

The classes are open to minority- or women-owned firms with a minimum of 51 percent ownership in a construction or construction-related business.

The deadline to apply is December 1. The program starts Tuesday, January 6. The cost is \$100.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the training room at the Blue Grass Airport.

The class application and brochure are available here: [www.lexingtonky.gov/MWBE](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/MWBE).

For more information, contact Marilyn Clark at [mclark@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:mclark@lexingtonky.gov) or 859-258-3323.



## SRC TO BRING MORE HIGH-PAYING JOBS TO LEXINGTON

More high-paying jobs are coming to Lexington. Gov. Steve Beshear and Mayor Jim Gray recently announced that SRC of Lexington Inc. plans to expand its operations.

A remanufacturer of engines, drive engine components and hydraulics for industrial equipment, SRC is expected to create up to 50 new jobs and invest nearly \$1.9 million into the project.

In addition to the new jobs, SRC plans to renovate and expand its current facility on Eastland Drive. The 12,000-square-foot expansion will include more production space, a remodel of its current office facilities, and the purchase of additional equipment to accommodate new business and meet growing customer demand.

SRC opened its Lexington facility in 2009. The company has experienced significant growth in its first five years, and revenues are projected to double by 2019. They currently have 100 employees.

The company is a leader in core logistics, disassembly, cleaning, machining, assembly and testing everything from fuel injectors to large off-highway transmissions.

To encourage the investment and job growth in Fayette County, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority preliminarily approved the company for tax incentives up to \$600,000 through the Kentucky Business Investment program.



Source: Public Information Office

## FAYETTE MALL CEREMONY

Thank you to Mr. Myron Worley, Fayette Mall, and CBL Properties for the invitation and opportunity to participate in their November 7 ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of Fayette Mall's new middle wing.

It was a pleasure to help kick-off the opening of the new wing and to welcome the assortment of exciting new retailers and eateries that officially opened in the mall.

Since its opening in 1971, Fayette Mall has been a fantastic community partner and terrific shopping destination. I am delighted that Fayette Mall is such an integral part of the 9th District and our community.







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

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## OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...



**Calling all fall fishing enthusiasts.** The first round of trout for the winter has arrived at Jacobson Park. Four-thousand rainbow trout have been stocked at Jacobson Park Lake. It should make for some good cool weather fishing the rest of the fall and into the winter months. Jacobson Park stocking is the continued efforts of the FINS program presented by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.



**E-Cigarettes.** Due to health and safety concerns, Council voted unanimously on November 13 to amend the current city smoking ban to also forbid the smoking of e-cigarettes in public buildings and most work places.

The first reading of the Ordinance was approved by Council in late October. The ban is effective immediately.

The Triangle Park Ice Rink is now open for the season.

Price: Admission and skate rental fee of \$10 for 90 minutes on the ice. Hours of operation are M-F 4-9 pm, Sat., 10-10 pm and Sunday 1-10 pm.

The rink will remain open through January 11, 2015.



## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

<b>LexCall</b> (City Hall)	311
<b>Police</b> (Non-emergency)	258-3600
<b>Fire</b> (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

## WINTERIZE YOUR PIPES

Implementing the following winterization tips from Kentucky American Water Company now can help you avoid potential frozen pipe headaches later: <http://bit.ly/1E1INCy>.

Kentucky American Water urges you to take cold weather precautions now, and make sure your water pipes are ready for "old man winter."



"Max" and "August" are reported missing in Copperfield Neighborhood. Please e-mail [president@copperfieldlex.org](mailto:president@copperfieldlex.org) if you have seen either of these missing cats.

*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](mailto: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>*