

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



## 9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 12



DECEMBER 2014



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

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

Due in large part to continued vigilant spending practices, good financial management, and an improving economy, an unreserved fund balance—the difference between assets and liabilities in the government's budget—of more than \$2 million resulted at the end of the fiscal year which ended on June 30. Subsequently, Council recently conducted extensive discussions to determine how best to allocate the available fund balance.

Among the more noteworthy expenditures approved by Council was just over a quarter-million dollars for several near “shovel-ready” projects for Parks and Recreation improvements, and \$150,000 in funding for a long-over due study of Parks' aquatic programs and facilities. \$100,000 was approved for strategic overtime for Police to continue crime prevention and investigative initiatives. Additional traffic signal improvements for the community were also approved, along with \$253,000 to complete the city's agreement with the YMCA to enable the construction of a new Y facility in the Hamburg area.

Funding was also approved in the amount of \$150,000 for county road maintenance, tree removal, and corridors clean-up projects.

Many of these items had previously been put on hold until the economy and overall financial picture improved. We are now, in a sense, in “catch up” mode. But most importantly, we are making pro-

gress and can now build on our momentum.

In preparation for next year's Breeders' Cup event, \$100,000 was also approved for corridors beautification to make a great impression our visitors and national/international media. An independent third-party study for a “Strategic Fire Station Location Analysis” was also approved for \$69,850.

Here in our 9th District, I am pleased to report that several improvement projects were funded, including \$150,000 for a new sidewalk for the western side of Clays Mill Road between Twain Ridge and Copper Ridge to enhance pedestrian connectivity.

Long overdue maintenance of the tennis and basketball courts at Waverly Park will also now occur as they will be repaired and recoated in the new year—similar work will also occur at Shillito Park. Wellington Park will receive \$50,000 for a 20' x 20' shade shelter to be installed next year, which will vastly improve and facilitate events occurring there and offer welcome relief from the summer sun and inclement weather.

I look forward to working with the new Council in 2015 to build on the significant progress we have made these past two years. I continue to welcome your feedback and input along the way.

Happy Holidays!

## TWO 9TH DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOODS RECEIVE NAMP GRANTS FROM CITY

Congratulations to the Copperfield Neighborhood Association and to Wyndam Downs Homeowners Association who will receive funding for sidewalk and other repairs, tree maintenance, and other improvement projects to occur in 2015. Since 1986, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has funded the [Neighborhood Action Match Program](#) each year to support neighborhood associations in carrying out development activities and improvements using the cooperative efforts and voluntary contributions of neighborhood individuals, businesses, schools and other organizations. Copperfield will receive \$5,000, Wyndam Downs will receive \$4,375. Each neighborhood association must match all funds it receives with an equal amount through cash contributions or donated materials, service or labor. Twelve neighborhoods in all across Lexington were approved for funding that totaled \$65,000.

### CALENDAR:

**Dec. 10 - Jan. 12:** Council Winter Break.

View the [City Calendar](#).



*Help feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Make a donation today to Lexington's Salvation Army at [www.onlineredkettle.org/centralky](http://www.onlineredkettle.org/centralky).*



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*Season's Greetings*

## WELLINGTON AMONG SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED FOR RECYCLING

Students from eighteen Fayette County public and private schools, including Wellington Elementary, collected more than 131,000 aluminum cans for recycling during this year's Recycle-Bowl. Participating schools were recognized for their efforts by the Mayor and Council during the December 4th Council meeting.

The competition, now in its ninth year, challenged schools in Fayette County to collect and recycle as many aluminum beverage cans as possible from October 20 through November 15.

Central Kentucky Fiber, the Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission, Wise Recycling and the LFUCG's Division of Waste Management contributed monetary prizes to reward the schools. Additionally, schools were paid by the pound for the cans they recycled through Wise Recycling and Baker Iron and Metal.

Wellington Elementary received \$300 in prize money. Way to go!



*Wellington Elementary was recognized at the December 4th Council meeting.*

## FIRE STATION 20 LIGHT SHOW IS A POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT



Don't miss the ninth annual light show at Fire Station 20 at Arrowhead and Harrodsburg Road. Holiday music accompanies tens of thousands of festive flashing lights beginning at 6 p.m. each night.

The sound track is available on the radio at 91.1 FM for about a one-block radius. For the Station 20 firefighters, it's a very popular "thank-you" to the community for supporting the annual Fraternal Order of Firefighters toy drive.

Be sure to stop by and check it out.

## WHERE TO GO FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT CITY HALL



The following government offices may be of help when you have questions:

**Division of Planning** (258-3160). Information on zoning, the Comprehensive Plan, subdivision plats, transportation plans, mapped information and much more. A good place to start for basic information on any property.

**Division of Engineering** (425-2255). Information on new subdivision construction, flooding issues, and inspection of stormwater, waste water, and roadway facilities.

**Division of Traffic Engineering** (425-2255). Information on traffic operations, street lighting, and other street or traffic related questions.

**Division of Environmental Quality & Public Works** (258-3400). Information about water quality, waste management, streets and roads, urban forestry, energy conservation, and sanitary sewers.

When in doubt, call LexCall at 3-1-1 or 425-2255. They are ready to route you to the right office.



## LEXCALL REQUESTS FOR CITY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

In the 18 working days of the month of November, LexCall answered 14,418 calls and initiated 5,164 service requests for citizens in Lexington. The number one service request was "illegal material" with 296 requests. Illegal material refers to unacceptable material placed in any LFUCG collection container. (Example: Tires, motor oil, florescent bulbs, ammunition, etc.)

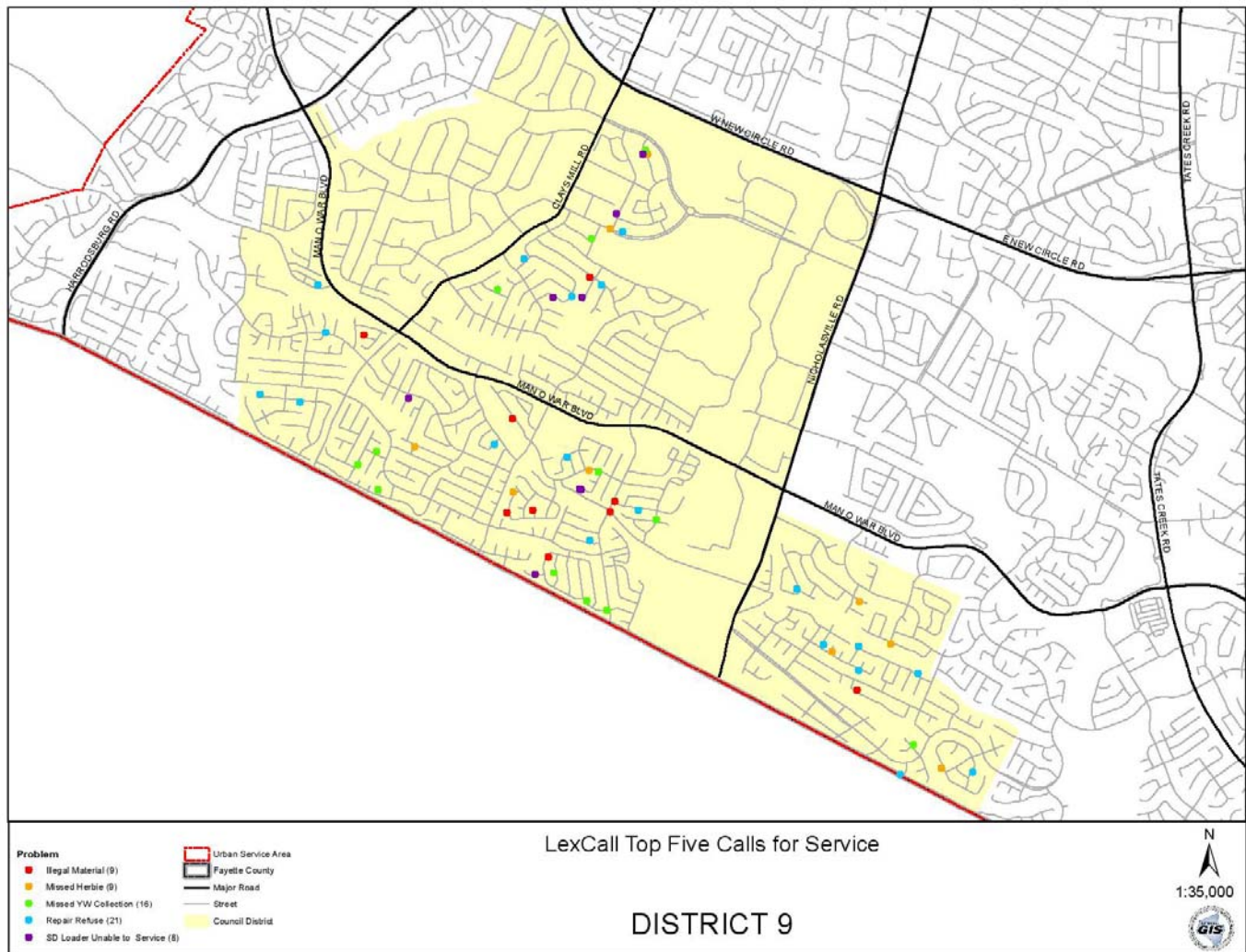
The top five divisions that generated the most service requests for November were as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
1. Waste Management	4,120	4,151
2. Code Enforcement	203	227
3. Streets & Roads	242	509
4. Water Quality	267	309
5. Traffic Engineering	150	144



[Watch this video to learn more about LexCall.](#)

LexCall logged 259 requests for service from the 9th District in November. Problems reported included complaints about trash and debris, junk vehicles, missing Herbie, Lenny, and Rosie recycling carts, street tree inspection, streetlight out, dead animal, grass and leaf complaints, emergency sewer back-up, storm sewer check, street cleaning, guardrail maintenance, traffic signal bulb out, signal timing, and signal malfunction. To submit a service request, dial 3-1-1 or visit: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=3441>





Police Chief Ronnie Bastin was confirmed by Council as Lexington's new Public Safety Commissioner on Dec. 4. File photo.

## BASTIN NAMED CITY'S NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER

Mayor Gray has promoted Police Chief Ronnie Bastin to Public Safety Commissioner and announced a search process for a new chief.

Bastin's appointment was approved by the Council at a confirmation hearing on Dec. 4. Bastin was named Chief on Jan. 7, 2008, by then Mayor Jim Newberry.

He joined the force in 1984 and worked his way up through the ranks.

Bastin replaces Clay Mason, who is pursuing business opportunities through a private consulting company.

## LEXINGTON HAS FIRST CONFIRMED FLU CASES OF THE SEASON



The first confirmed flu cases of the season have already occurred. The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department recommends a seasonal flu shot for all people ages 6 months and older. Last year, Lexington had 109 confirmed cases of the flu. The health department provided more than 3,100 flu vaccinations throughout the season.

The health department offers flu shots 9 a.m.-3 p.m., however the clinic will be closed Dec. 10-16 while moving to its new location at 650 Newtown Pike. Flu shots will be available again starting Dec. 18.

No appointment is necessary. The cost for a flu shot is \$30. Medicaid/Medicare, cash, checks, credit cards and some insurance policies are accepted. Flu symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, muscle/body aches, headaches and tiredness. For more information, visit the Fayette County Health Department's website:

<http://www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org> or <http://www.lexflucrew.com>.

## MIDLAND AVENUE TIF DISCUSSION

On December 4, Council held a workshop to vet a proposed development district and tax increment financing (TIF) for properties in the area of Midland Avenue in downtown Lexington. T

IF districts allow developers to use new tax dollars generated from a specific project to pay for infrastructure and other related costs.

Council voted unanimously at the Dec. 10 Council meeting to approve the new district—the first development district on the east side of downtown.



## 2015 "PLAY GOLF" CARDS NOW AVAILABLE



The 2015 Play Golf Lexington loyalty and range cards are now available at all city-owned golf courses except Meadowbrook which is currently closed for the season.

The loyalty card costs \$100 and allows golfers to receive \$5 off the following rates: Daily, senior, UK, Transylvania, military, LFUCG, twilight and 9-hole.

The range card costs \$150 and allows patrons unlimited range balls to hit at either Lakeside or Kearney Hill Golf Links during normal business hours.

Get one today for yourself or for the golfer in your life. They make great gifts.

For more information, visit <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=263> for details on city golf courses, tournaments, schools and camps, or call 288-2968.



## SCAM WARNING

Lexington Police are asking citizens to use caution when buying and selling goods from unknown individuals after two victims reported being robbed by individuals they had hoped to buy merchandise from. The robbery suspect(s) advertised an iPhone for sale on **Craigslist**. The suspects arranged a meeting place and time with each victim. When the victims arrived at the meeting place they were approached by an armed suspect. In each case, the suspect stole money from the victims and then fled the scene. In order to lower your chances of becoming a victim, police recommend that you:

Get information about a seller or buyer as you can upfront. Deal with local buyers and ask for cash and accept cash. Meet in a public place with people around. Never meet at your home or theirs. Avoid open areas like parks or parking lots. Bring a friend or family member if you can and take a cell phone with you as an extra precaution.

## CHECK YOUR SPEED. DRIVE SLOWER. DON'T GET PULLED OVER!



Speeding is the number one complaint my office receives year round. Accordingly, my office is continuing to work with Lexington Police to implement targeted enforcement for aggressive driving behavior in the district.

In Fayette County, fines for speeding range from \$20-\$100—and most related offenses result in points assessed against your license for up to three years which can increase your auto insurance rates. Court costs on speeding tickets are an additional \$146. One ticket could cost you hundreds of dollars—not to mention the potential risk of a related accident and injury.

Check your speed often and give it a “brake” in our neighborhoods. And please, don’t text and drive. Distracted driving poses a significant danger. Good driving habits benefit everyone! Report speeders to Lexington Police at 9-1-1 or after the fact at 258-3600.

## JAIL RE-ENTRY PROGRAM GRADUATES 14 PARTICIPANTS

On December 19, there will be a special graduation at the Fayette County Detention Center when nine male inmates and five female inmates complete a program to help them re-enter the Lexington community.

The program was offered to help them develop many life skills – such as anger management, effecting behavior changes, job readiness, money management, relationships, social skills and victim awareness.

The training is called OMAC – Operation Making a Change – and teaches self-worth, encouragement and motivation. The response

from inmates has reportedly been very encouraging. Right now, the program is limited to males but organizers hope to soon start a group for females.



The re-entry group is also celebrating the success of an inmate who is the first inmate to pass GED exams since a GED testing center was located at the detention center.

OMAC is just one of many courses eligible inmates take in the program, which

includes 25-30 hours of classes a week for several months.

## CITY DIVISION GETS NAME CHANGE/NEW RESPONSIBILITIES



On November 13, Council approved new duties for the City’s Division of Environmental Policy, as well as a name change. The newly-named and expanded division will focus on providing environmental services to City staff and the citizens of Fayette County in a more holistic fashion, encompassing both administrative and operational aspects of the work.

The division will continue its current duties, which include environmental outreach and education, energy management, brownfield initiatives, environmental compliance, urban forestry administration, and green infrastructure maintenance. Newly-added responsibilities include forestry operations and mowing and landscape maintenance to provide a coordinated approach to taking care of vegetation and naturalized areas on city-owned properties. Equipment and staff will be added for a year-round tree crew for greater focus on tree maintenance and increasing the size and quality of our urban tree canopy.

One of the first big projects for the expanded division will be to lead the efforts to beautify Lexington’s main corridors for the 2015 Breeder’s Cup. The Breeder’s Cup will be held next October at Keeneland and will bring thousands of visitors to Lexington.



FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI  
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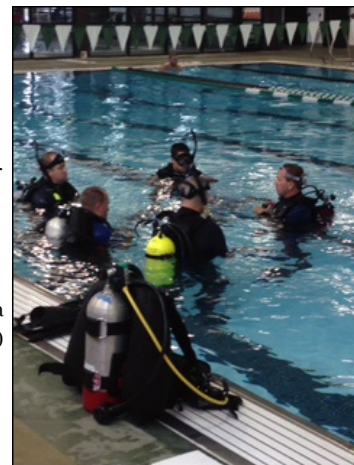


## OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...



**Fire Dive Team Certified to Train other Fire-fighters as Divers.** Lexington's Division of Fire's dive team has been certified as a training institution and is now able to train other firefighters to serve on the dive team. According to Battalion Chief Gregg Bayer this means we no longer have to bring in vendors to train our divers. We can do it in-house—which will mean substantial savings for the fire department and the city in general.

The dive team was started about four years ago through a Homeland Security grant and there are approximately 30 firefighters who have been through the training and are public safety divers. Nine of those firefighters are now certified instructors.



## SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PLAN INFO

Stay weather alert as the weather conditions change over the next several weeks and months and be sure to always allow extra time for your morning and evening commute in case of severe weather.

Learn more about the City's **Snow and Ice Plan** here: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=537>.



[Watch a video about the Snow and Ice Plan here.](#)

## 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

## CITY SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTORY

To better communicate with the public, the City of Lexington utilizes social media to spread the word about all it has to offer.

You can find a directory of all of the current City social media pages here:

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=3138>

Check it out.



## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

With the charitable-giving season in full swing, individual charitable giving is reportedly lagging behind on some fronts compared to previous years. Thank you for supporting your favorite local charity this holiday season either financially or by donating your time! So many area charitable organizations rely on community generosity to continue their valued work year round. For charitable giving tips or to research a charity, visit [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).



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