

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



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2015



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

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

Soon after we dug out from a record-breaking winter storm last month, the unimaginable happened. We found ourselves buried once again—under the largest 2-day snowfall in Lexington's history. A normal snowfall for the entire winter in Lexington is around 14". So in essence we experienced two winters' worth of snow in less than one month. Eighty-five million people were impacted by the second storm, from New Mexico to New Jersey.

Conditions were so severe the Weather Channel sent a reporter to Triangle Park to provide live updates. And I don't have to tell you these storms put the City's Snow Plan to the maximum test. We learned a great deal—some things good, some not so good. But I cannot speak highly enough about the effort put forth by our City crews who worked 12-hour rotating shifts for days on end, and of course, our first responders. I applaud them. Unquestionably, the overall plan needs tweaking and retooling. That process will begin in May when Council reviews an assessment report from the administration. Along the way, several pieces of equipment had to be taken out of service—some permanently. I look forward to the discussion and will keep you posted on what changes occur.

Minimum Wage. On March 17 at the Budget and Finance & Economic Development Committee meeting the Council began considering increasing

the local minimum wage. It was a robust debate on the merits and potential impact, and unfortunately, we simply ran out of time to hear everyone signed up to speak and continue the discussion at that meeting. The issue is very important to so many low income individuals and families in our community and I am eager to continue the discussion—with open minds—at the Council's earliest convenience. Thank you to everyone who contacted me—on both sides of the issue—to weigh-in and offer insight. I appreciate hearing from you.

Old Courthouse Update. Also on March 17, Jeff Fugate with the Downtown Development Authority presented information to the Council during a special workshop regarding the Old Courthouse. Engineers were recently retained to do a Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation Plan. In a nutshell, their proposed plan would take two years to complete and cost in the neighborhood of \$39 million dollars. I feel that it is important that we proceed cautiously and wisely, with full understanding of the overall plan before undertaking a vote to approve such a plan. As further details unfold, I will keep you posted.

Thankfully, spring has arrived—and not a moment too soon. My best always,

CALENDAR:

March 23 - April 6: Council Spring Recess.

April 11: Women's Law Enforcement Symposium. (See page 7.)

View the [City Calendar](#).

HOW IT WORKS.



[Click to play.](#)

How the legislative process works within the Urban County Government can be confusing. Check out [this video](#) for more information.

Follow on social media:



9TH DISTRICT NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH: ROBIN YOUNG

Robin Young, president of Robinwood Neighbors Association is the 9th District's March Neighbor of the Month. She and her family moved into Robinwood in 1992. She knew no one else in Robinwood. In January of 2011 she was talking to Robbie Clark of *Southsider* magazine and expressed her interest in seeing Robinwood form an official neighborhood association. Clark offered to publish her name and phone number for those who might also be interested in such an association. Robin points out that the late and beloved Deloris Taormina was her mentor. She appreciates the fact that Mayor Gray, myself and my office, and the Fayette County Neighborhood Council are always there for advice and guidance when requested.

Communication was the driving force to develop the neighborhood association. This proved to be beneficial when Robinwood was experiencing break-ins. Neighbors began to take notice of an unfamiliar face or a car that might be suspicious or casing the neighborhood. She points out that you don't know an unfamiliar face if you don't know your neighbors.

(Continued on page 2)



Robin and Peter Young.

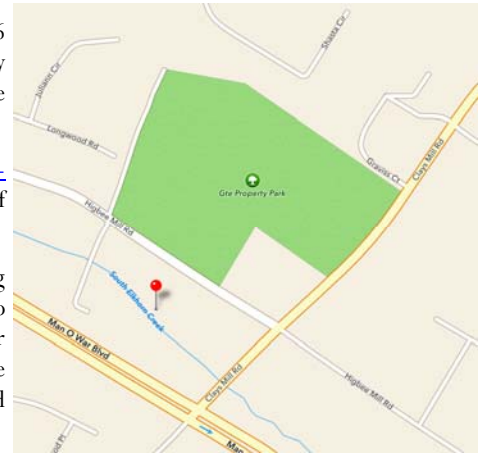
GARDEN SHOP PROPOSAL - 1400 HIGBEE MILL ROAD

The Board of Adjustment will hear a proposal regarding locating a garden center on the 3.6 acre property located at 1400 Higbee Mill Road on Friday, April 24 at 1:30 pm here at City Hall, 200 East Main Street, in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public and I encourage you to attend if you have an opinion on the proposal.

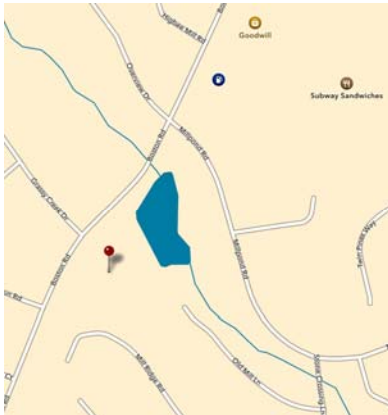
You can also express your feedback via e-mail to the Planning Division by e-mailing planning-mailbox@LexingtonKY.gov. They will print out your e-mail and share it with the Board of Adjustment Commissioners prior to the hearing. (Case CV-2015-16)

The proposal was originally filed for the March BOA hearing and notice letters to surrounding property owners went out accordingly. The applicant, however, postponed the request to address some of the issues and areas of concern that the City's Planning staff had during their initial review. New notice letters which were mailed out on Monday, March 16, notifying the surrounding property owners that a dimensional variance had been added to the request and the application has now been postponed to the April 24 Board of Adjustment hearing.

The Division of Planning will issue their official recommendation, which will be available to the Board, applicant, and the public on April 17, one week prior to the scheduled hearing. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, you can watch the proceedings on Time Warner Cable Channel 3, GTV, or watch it live streamed at <http://www.LexingtonKy.gov> (click on the GTV tab).



MILLPOND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL - 3900 BOSTON ROAD



The requested rezoning proposal for 3900 Boston Road is currently scheduled to be heard at the April 23 Planning Commission meeting here at City Hall at 200 East Main Street in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers.

The City's Division of Planning staff's report and recommendation will initially be presented to the Commission's Zoning Committee on April 2, at 1:30 in the Planning Division's conference room in the Phoenix Building at 101 East Vine Street. Citizens are welcome to attend the Committee meeting, and will be given an opportunity to speak, however brief comments (rather than full presentations) are more appropriate at that time.

Citizens may also use the Planning mailbox at planningmailbox@LexingtonKy.gov to submit comments regarding the proposal. The Planning staff will then in turn print each e-mail received and distribute them all to the Commission members at the start of the hearing for their review.

An overview of the proposed plan can be found/downloaded here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0aBvWAKyfxaLWpFYzdKRUstYIE/view>

NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH: ROBIN YOUNG (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 1: Robin strongly believes that a neighborhood that communicates is a healthy neighborhood. This past winter proved that. She points out that neighbors shoveled each other out, offered to buy groceries and picked up prescriptions. Respect is another important aspect. If you know your neighbor(s) you have a tendency to respect their peace.

Robin loves children and feels that nothing keeps a neighborhood more vibrant than children. Robin enjoys the fact that Robinwood is very walkable—with nice sidewalks on both sides of the street and has low traffic. The neighbors in Robinwood have beautiful homes and yards. "I love to see the wreaths on the doors and flowers in their yard," she said.

She has lots of interests that keep her busy. She and her husband Peter dance 2 nights a week. UK football and basketball are a priority and Randall Cobb! She also likes to sew and scrapbook and enjoys photography and journaling. A small camper allows her and Peter to travel more. When she is not busy with all of those activities, she takes computer classes in order to stay in touch with the times. She has 9 grandchildren and with so many irons in the fire, it is understandable that Robin has recently made the decision to step down as president of the neighborhood association. She has been terrific to work with and has given so much of her time to the neighborhood and the community. THANK YOU, Robin, for all that you have done! We wish you all the best and hope that you won't be a stranger.

ATTENTION ROBINWOOD NEIGHBORS: The neighborhood association needs you! If you might be willing to be an officer, please contact Robin at robin.young@TWC.com as soon as possible. I urge you to get involved and help make the neighborhood, the district, and our community an ever better place to live.

FIREFIGHTER PRIDE DAY RECOGNITION



At the Council meeting on March 19, I joined Mayor Gray and my Council colleagues in recognition of "Firefighter Pride Day" in Lexington.

Thank you to Lexington's Division of Fire's 3rd Platoon for attending with special thanks for your bravery and dedication in battling the recent house fire on Wallingford Court.

23 POLICE RECRUITS GRADUATE - HIT THE STREET

Congratulations to Police Recruit Class 072014 who graduated from the Lexington Police Training Academy on Friday morning, March 13! The class took the oath of office and prepared to start their shifts on Monday, March 16.

Congratulations on officially joining the ranks of Lexington's Division of Police.

As you have now successfully completed a rigorous and demanding professional training program, I am confident that you will be an outstanding member of the fine family of police officers that you are now a part of, and an asset to our city.

I deeply appreciate your commitment, your courage and your bravery, and I wish you all the best.



CHRIS FORD NAMED NEW COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES



Mayor Gray has named Chris Ford as the City's new Social Services commissioner. Ford, the 1st District Councilmember, was confirmed for his position by the Urban County Council on March 17. He has been a member of the Urban County Council since 2011, working to reduce violence across the city and especially in his district, and fighting for funding for affordable housing. Ford has also advocated for expanding local workforce and job training programs, and he currently chairs the Council's General Government and Social Services Committee.

He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Western Kentucky University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, where he also was a member of the varsity football team. He and his wife, Talesha, have four sons.

Ford replaces Beth Mills, who recently retired.

Mayor Gray said he will make an appointment soon to fill Ford's Council seat. The next election for the seat will occur this November.

It has been my pleasure and honor to work alongside Chris on the Council and have always found him to be thoughtful and compassionate and a tireless worker for the community. I consider him to be a trusted friend and wish him all the best in his new role.

2ND ANNUAL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY EVENT A SUCCESS

On March 11, the 2nd Annual Youth in Government Day was held here at City Hall. It was great to meet Emma Findley who is a senior from Lexington Christian Academy and served as the 9th District representative during the day's mock Council meeting. The Mayor's Youth Council hosted the event. The group includes high school youth from across Lexington.

The event, in which students, in essence, takeover the Council Chambers to enact the legislation of their choosing, helps get local students more involved in local government and helps to prepare them for the future. There is a designated mayor, vice mayor, and district council members just as there is in real life.

If this year's participants are examples of our next generation of leaders—and I believe that they are—then I am pleased to report that our community is in good hands going forward.



MAYOR SEEKS COMPANIES TO BOOST CITY'S INTERNET SPEEDS



Mayor Gray's plan to make Lexington a Gigabit City took another step forward today, as the City issued a Request for Information (RFI) to gather interest in constructing, operating and maintaining a fiber-optic network across Lexington.

A fiber-optic network that connects to homes and businesses would dramatically increase Internet speeds.

"Lexington must be connected to the rest of the world with Internet speeds that drive more business activity and economic development," Gray said. "Becoming a Gigabit City will keep our health, education, manufacturing, technology and research sectors at the forefront."

The RFI seeks responses from private entities interested in a public-private partnership with the City or a commercial-only solution. Objectives that must be met include:

- High-speed connectivity to business and residential customers on a highly reliable and available network
- Services and network performance that are a significant improvement over what is currently provided by existing networks
- Excellent customer service
- Competitive cost for customer services and flexible plans for price-sensitive customers
- Capability to extend the network as Lexington grows

Kentucky's average Internet speeds rank among the slowest in the country. And according to the Internet metrics company Ookla, Lexington's average speed of 16.2 megabits per second puts it 38th among towns and cities in the state.

"We already know that Lexington is an attractive city in which to build a fiber-optic network," Gray said. "Our population is relatively dense and geographically contained. But more than that, Lexington is a University City, with a highly educated workforce that can leverage greater bandwidth speeds to create new technologies, new ideas and new markets."

Over the past six months, the Mayor's Fiber Team has hired a project manager as well as a national consultant to help the City with its plan.

As part of that effort, Lexington is working to complete the Google Fiber City Checklist, a list of information and data cities can collect about themselves to assess capabilities and infrastructure.

The Checklist, originally created by Google Fiber, has now become a national standard for cities to follow as they prepare for a fiber-optic build-out, regardless of provider.

Interested entities can view the fiber-optic RFI online at: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=29688>

or at

<https://lfucg.economicengine.com>.

PARTNERS FOR YOUTH SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS

Partners for Youth works to empower the community to support our most vulnerable and valuable youth in Lexington. Their mission is “to promote positive youth development and to prevent juvenile delinquency through collaboration and capacity building.” They live out this mission in a variety of ways.

Whether it’s providing grant support through their Grassroots Allocation Program, distributing educational scholarships and empowerment through their Toyota Scholarship and Mayor’s Youth Council Programs, or building community collaborations that bring together community partners to support youth in meaningful ways, they are dedicated to improving the lives of our young people.

It’s through these efforts and more that they build relationships and make a difference.

Partners for Youth has compiled a list of the many opportunities going on in our city during the Fayette County Public Schools Spring Break (March 30–April 3).

To view and/or download the list in PDF form, click here:

<http://partners4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2015-Spring-Break-List.pdf>



POLICE DET. CHRIS RUSSELL RECOGNIZED AS A “TOP COP”



Congratulations to Lexington Police Detective Chris Russell who is being honored by the National Association of Police Organizations, as part of their TOP COPS Awards.

Each year the TOP COPS Awards pay tribute to outstanding law enforcement officers across the country for actions above and beyond the call of duty. Award recipients are nominated by their fellow officers for outstanding service during the preceding calendar year.

The TOP COPS are selected by an Awards Selection Committee comprised of national law enforcement representatives who choose one TOP COPS case from each state. There are also honorable mentions, for outstanding

service. Detective Chris Russell is one of this year’s honorable mentions.

He was nominated for his work involving a 2014 investigation in which handicapped, adult children were being abused and neglected by their parents. Detective Russell dedicated months to meticulous evidence collection and follow-up with the victims; to ensure they were connected with the services they needed to recover from the years of neglect.

His dedicated investigative work led to the successful prosecution of the case. In June 2014 the suspects pleaded guilty, and were sentenced to 50 years in prison.

Commonwealth’s Attorney Ray Larson said of Detective Russell’s work, “His remarkable intelligence and dogged persistence at finding collaborative evidence to prove these crimes is astounding; he always goes the extra mile.”

FIREFIIGHTERS TEACH “HANDS ONLY CPR” TO PUBLIC

Lexington firefighters are on a mission to teach the general public a simple form of CPR that can help save lives. Firefighters from the Community Services Division have been going to big retail stores and churches teaching “Hands Only CPR.” Many people are reluctant to take traditional CPR training, which includes mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, said Firefighter Kyle Branham. “But the American Heart Association has found through studies that good chest compressions are better than nothing at all,” Branham points out.

Lexington Division’s of Fire and has set up training sessions at local retail stores and some churches and have trained about 600 people in how to give CPR using only their hands. They practice on manikins, representing adult and infant patients. Look for firefighters this spring at different locations around Lexington, including Target, Wal-Mart and Fayette Mall.



With the recent double-whammy of winter storms, there are now a lot of potholes which now need to be patched across Lexington. City crews are out daily working to make the repairs but need your help in indentifying the locations where potholes exist.

When you see a pothole, please report it to LexCall at 3-1-1 (or 425-2255) or you can enter a service request here: <http://lexcall.lexingtonky.gov/Services/ServiceRequests/serviceRequest.aspx>

VOLUNTEER FOR A GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP EVENT

The snow is finally gone and spring has arrived so the time has come to start planning for Lexington's 2015 Great American Cleanup program. The Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission, which organizes volunteers to participate in making Lexington an even more beautiful place, invites you to take part in one or more events.

Last year, more than 2,000 of your neighbors participated in 63 organized cleanup events, contributing 4,791 volunteer hours. More than 11,600 pounds of litter and debris were collected. While impressive, the Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission wants this year's event, which runs through July 31, to be even better.

Neighborhood organizations, churches, schools, businesses and individuals are encouraged to register to pick up litter in your neighborhood, adopt parks, roadways, greenways, as well as streams for cleanups. The commission will provide cleanup supplies such as bags and gloves free of charge.

You can also check out a leaf blower, a trimmer, shovels, rakes, and buckets as needed.

If you, your neighborhood organization, church, business, school, or even just a group of friends are interested in participating, or if you have any questions, call Louise Caldwell-Edmonds at 425-2804 or e-mail her at louisec@lexingtonky.gov.



SUIT UP! CAREER EVENT



Jubilee Jobs of Lexington will be holding their third annual Suit Up! Career Event on Saturday, March 28th.

Jubilee Jobs of Lexington specializes in finding entry-level jobs for the unemployed and underemployed. Their job process is FREE to both applicants and employers.

Anyone looking for a job is welcome, however they are specifically targeting younger adults (18-25), a significantly higher unemployed group in our community.

But anyone looking for employment is welcome. Lunch will be provided. There will be give-a-ways throughout the day.

Their current plans are to give attendees either a 30-day bus pass or a gas card, depending upon their need.

In addition to several workshops and free credit reports, they will have mock interviews and real-time interviews scheduled with area employers. Last year, five people who attended this event were hired on the spot!

Registration is required by calling Jubilee Jobs at 859-977-0135 and they expect this event to fill up fast.

The event is being sponsored by BB&T, Ap-Prisen, Catholic Action Charities, Community Action Council and Jubilee Jobs.

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A DISCOUNT ON YOUR LEXSERVE BILL



Did you know that assistance is available for the LEXserv Sanitary Sewer and Water Quality Management fees? LEXserv is the city services billing program for Lexington. Your LEXserv bill covers the fees for city services for Sanitary Sewer, Landfill, and Water Quality.

The Water Quality Management Fee allows the city to build and maintain our stormwater system to safely and efficiently remove rainwater from our city and neighborhoods. These efforts improve water quality in our streams in Fayette County by reducing stormwater pollution.

Lexington residents who are 65 or older OR who are receiving social security disability benefits AND whose annual income is under \$25,000 can apply for a discount to these fees.

Contact Adult Services at 859-258-3810 for more information.

Visit the LEXserv web page here: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=3044>

PROFILE: POLICE CHIEF MARK BARNARD

Mark Barnard is a 28 year veteran of the Lexington Division of Police. He was appointed to serve as chief by Mayor Jim Gray, and was sworn in as the Chief of Police on January 12, 2015.

Throughout his nearly three decade career he has distinguished himself as a respected leader, skilled problem solver, and compassionate public servant.

Prior to becoming chief, Chief Barnard served in nearly every major section of the Division of Police. Each assignment enhanced his professional knowledge and administrative experience, and officers in each section benefitted from his sound guidance and significant expertise.

In addition to his varied management and leadership roles within the Division, Chief Barnard also had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of civic organizations and on several major community projects.

Chief Barnard is dedicated to enhancing the Division's ongoing commitment to quality community policing and will work tirelessly to ensure that the citizens of Lexington, as well as visitors to Fayette County, continue to enjoy a safe community in which to live, work and play.

Chief Barnard realizes that citizens expect and deserve their police officers to possess the utmost integrity, to be adaptable to evolving challenges, and to be committed to delivering exemplary public service to all members of the community.

He strives to consistently meet these expectations, as well as to advance the development of formal and informal leadership skills and heighten professionalism throughout the organization.

Chief Barnard is a proud alumnus of Eastern Kentucky University. He earned a Master's degree in 2008 and a Bachelor's degree in 1986. Chief Barnard has maintained a professional affiliation with ECU, sharing his knowledge with future members of the criminal justice profession as an adjunct professor at ECU's College of Justice and Safety.

He was honored by his alma mater in 2014 by being presented with the Eastern Kentucky University College of Justice and Safety Distinguished Alumnus award.

Chief Barnard has been married to his wife, Gaye, for 26 years. Gaye and he are also the proud parents of two talented daughters, both of whom are currently attending college. He enjoys volunteering with various youth programs throughout the community.



Profile courtesy of Officer Deborah Wagoner.

NEW U.K. ALZHEIMER'S STUDY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS



The University of Kentucky's [Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Center](#) is participating in a new study for people with Alzheimer's disease, the Chase study. The purpose of the research is to gather information on how safe the maximum tolerated dose of donepezil is when given with another FDA approved medication.

Researchers are looking for people who:

- Are between the ages of 50-89
- Have been taking Aricept (Donepezil) 10 mg daily for at least 12 weeks
- Have a partner available to attend clinic appointments and help with medication
- Are taking stable medications for at least four weeks prior to the screening
- Willing and able to undergo clinic assessments (for example – blood and urine lab tests, neuropsychological testing, ECG and bladder ultrasound).

For more information, contact Sarah D. Tarrant at (859) 323-1331 or at sarah.tarrant@uky.edu

LEXINGTON DIVISION OF POLICE



Women's Law Enforcement Symposium

Saturday, April 11, 2015 • 9 am to 2 pm

Cost is free with registration • Light buffet breakfast and lunch provided

Hosted at the Lexington Police Training Academy

500 Newtown Pike (BCTC Megowan Building) • Lexington, KY 40508

You, your family and friends are invited to attend the symposium! This event will provide you with viable information to help you better understand the law enforcement profession and the opportunities for women to serve at the Lexington Division of Police.

- Meet female officers that will explain the challenges, rewards, security, and prestige of becoming a police officer.
- A comfortable environment will provide you with an opportunity to speak and interact directly with female officers about the police profession openly.
- If you are studying or working in a field other than criminal justice, learn how law enforcement can be a viable career option.
- If interested, the written test will be available following the symposium.

Please feel free to contact us about the event:

OFC Varinka Ensminger or OFC Jervis Middleton

(859) 425-2325 or 1-800-755-6939 • Email: joinlexpd@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov



Join LexPD

Register by April 6 at: <https://surveymonkey.com/s/5CNBQ5F>





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SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LEXINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT

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INSTAGRAM: [COUNCILMEMBERMOSSOTTI](https://www.instagram.com/COUNCILMEMBERMOSSOTTI)



OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...



Lexington's Division of Police has acquired a second helicopter to be dubbed, "Air Two."

The helicopter was acquired in 2007 through a military surplus program.

The helicopter has been refurbished and is now ready to fly. It will be used for traffic matters, search and rescue, and other operations.

"SPRING FLING" IN ROBINWOOD

On Saturday, April 4 from 12 noon until 2 pm, Southern Heights will be hosting a "Spring Fling" for the children of the neighborhood. There will be bouncy houses, games, refreshments and a giant Easter Egg Hunt.

Optional: Also from 10 am until 2 pm there will be a "Journey to the Cross" walk for those interested in the real reason for Easter.

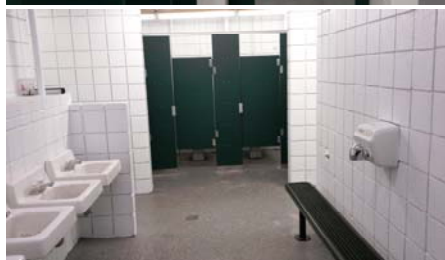
Contact Robin Young at robin.young@TWC.com for further details.



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

SHILLITO PARK POOL IMPROVEMENTS



A big tip of the hat to the City personnel from the Division of Parks & Recreation who recently provided a little "Spring Cleaning" to the restrooms at Shillito Park pool just in time for pool season—including a power washing from floor to ceiling, a complete paint job from ceiling to floor, installing new bathroom stall partitions, applying a new epoxy coating on floor surface, and installing new benches. Maintaining the more than one-hundred City parks requires a year-round effort from Parks & Recreation staff. Thank you for sprucing up the Shillito Park facilities and for all that you do!

Good luck to the University of Kentucky Wildcats in the NCAA Tournament!

Please celebrate safely.



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> Miss an issue, miss a lot!