From the Office of Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti Serving the People of Lexington's 9th District



9th District News & Notes Newsletter

VOLUME III, ISSUE 11



NOVEMBER 2015



View a **map** of the 9th district here.

Dear 9th District Neighbor,

In an effort to reduce the confusion that many drivers experience while using the **Reynolds Road Roundabout**, the City's Division of Traffic Engineering recently instituted a striping change at the Roundabout. The change won't drastically alter the operations of the Roundabout, but it should give much better delineation and instruction to the drivers who travel through it. Have you traveled through the Roundabout since the change? E-mail me and let me know what you think. I will share your feedback with Traffic Engineering.

Rainy Day Fund. The Council voted late last month to add \$2.3 million into the City's Rainy Day Fund. With the addition of the \$2.3 million, the Rainy Day Fund now totals \$30.1 million, representing 9.3% of the General Fund. The money comes from a \$19.5 million surplus left remaining from the 2015 budget year, which ended June 30. Lexington's overall General Fund balance is a healthy \$83 million. The City established the Rainy Day Fund in the 1990s. Funds have never been withdrawn from it.

Street Resurfacing. The Division of Streets and Roads has notified my office that street resurfacing for the 9th district will occur next spring once the asphalt plants have reopened. A portion of the city was resurfaced this fall and the remaining portion will be resurfaced beginning tentatively around late April or early May once the weather permits.

Snow Plan Revised. New for this coming winter season, the City will supplement snow removal operations through the use of private contractors. Private contractors will be utilized along five major thoroughfares: Man o' War Blvd., Polo Club Blvd., Citation Blvd., Coldstream Research Campus, and Alumni Drive



Striping changes have recently been instituted at the Reynolds Road Roundabout.

(Tates Creek to Buckhorn Drive). This additional support will allow up to five LFUCG trucks to run two 12-hour shifts, enabling plowing on more residential streets. Earlier this fall I met with Commissioner Holmes and reviewed the plan as it pertains to the 9th District. As a result, fourteen additional streets were added to the overall plan. I will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the effort and work with the Division of Streets and Roads as necessary. You can read/download the 2015-2016 Snow and Ice Control Plan here once it is available online, which is anticipated to be soon after Thanksgiving.

Corridors Neighborhood Enhancement Match Grant Program. The Corridors Commission's Corridors Neighborhood Enhancement Match Grant Program will open on December 1st. Visit http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=2467 for information on the program guidelines and to access the application. Applications must be received by February 1st, 2016.

Clays Mill Widening Update: The Division of Engineering now anticipates that the Clays Mill Widening Project work from New Circle to Keithshire Way will be complete in early December.

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar:

Open through Jan. 10: Triangle Park Ice Rink

Click here: What's Open and What's Closed during Thanksgiving week.

Nov. 27: Tree Lighting Ceremony at Triangle Park, 6:30 pm. (See page 9.)

Dec. 1: Christmas Parade, Main St., 7:00 pm.

Dec. 9: Council Winter Recess begins.

Nov. 26-27 and Dec. 24-25: LFUCG Offices closed.

View the City Calendar.

Follow on Social Media:







Councilmember Mossotti represents the 9th Council District of Lexington, which is comprised of a portion of Clemons Heights/Clemons Grove, and Copper Run, Copperfield, Higbee Mill, Magnolia Run, Monticello, Pickway Corner, Plantation, Robinwood, Southpoint, Stonewall Community, Stonewall Equestrian, Wellington, Willow Bend, Willow Oak, Wyndham Downs, Wyndham Meadows, and Wyndham Ridge neighborhoods. She and her husband Ron have resided in the 9th District for the past 35 years.



Continued from page one:

Wellington Park. Recently there was a report of automobile break-ins at Wellington Dog Park. I have asked Police to provide extra patrol there. If you were at the park within the past week and observed anything suspicious, please report it to the non-emergency Police number at 859-258-3600. Your information or description may aid Police in apprehending the suspect(s).

Minimum Wage. At the November 19 Council meeting, the Council voted 9-6 to raise the minimum wage in Lexington to \$10.10 an hour by 2018. Agriculture workers and employees to who receive tips are excluded. The current minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Lexington will become the second city in Kentucky to raise the minimum wage above the state and federal level. The minimum wage will increase to \$8.20 an hour on July 1, 2016 with an additional increase to \$9.15 an hour on

July 1, 2017, and then increase to \$10.10 an hour on July 1, 2018. The ordinance also includes a provision for a formal review of the impact by the Council which must occur in the form of a public meeting prior to July 1, 2018.

Blasting update for the new Wynndale Subdivision. Tutt, Inc. has informed my office that weather permitting, their blasting work at the construction site at the end of Kings Glen Park should be complete by Friday, December 4th.

Happy Thanksgiving. Most city offices will be closed November 26-27. My best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Lexington Police to Utilize Body Cameras on Patrol

Lexington Police has notified the Council that they are on track to have patrol officers equipped with body cameras by June of 2016. Speaking at the most recent Planning and Public Safety Committee which I chair, Assistant Chief Dwayne Holman noted that the department plans to issue a request for bids for body cameras and storage for videos in early 2016.

The Council authorized \$600,000 in the latest city budget for the purchase of such cameras.

As the <u>Lexington Herald-Leader</u> recently reported, interest in police body cameras has increased dramatically nationwide in the wake of several widely publicized incidents of violent confrontations between police and members of the public.



Lexington Police feel that it is important to move cautiously in the planning and research for the implementation of this major expenditure as the related technology is changing rapidly. A decision on specifically how many cameras to purchase has not been made. Future budgeting for related storage costs, and departmental policies on the usage of such cameras, is still being worked out.

Neighbor-of-the-Month: Mary Hughes



Nominate a deserving neighbor!

E-mail your nomination to:

imossotti@LexingtonKy.gov

Our 9th District resident Susan Harbour has nominated **Mary Hughes** from the Stonewall neighborhood as this month's 9th District "Neighbor-of-the-Month." Susan and Mary met several years ago through the Women's Neighborly Organization (WNO), which operated preschools in Lexington's inner city and also entertained residents of inner city nursing homes. Mary was the last president of the organization before it eventually disbanded.

Susan notes that Mary has served on the Stonewall Neighborhood Association board and is currently a volunteer on the staff of "Best Friends"—an adult day program for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Best Friends Day Center is central Kentucky's only adult day center specializing in dementia care. The program provides individuals with memory loss with a safe, creative environment rich with therapeutic activities. In addition, they provide respite and peace of mind for caregivers.

For all of Mary's great work in the community over the years, Susan said, "Actually, I should be nominating her for sainthood!"

Congratulations Mary, on being Neighbor-of-the-Month. Thank you for all that you do!

How to Recycle your Thanksgiving Cooking Oil



Are you frying your Thanksgiving turkey this year? Recycle your used cooking oil in a safe, environmentally-friendly manner at the Gobble Grease Toss, sponsored by the City of Lexington, Sayre School, the University of Kentucky's Center for Applied Energy Research and Bluegrass Greensource. The Gobble Grease Toss will be held Friday, Nov. 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sayre School, 194 N. Limestone. UK's Center for Applied Energy Research will work with Sayre Middle School students to convert the used cooking oil into biofuel.

Because it can cause problems in the sanitary sewer, cooking oil and grease should never be poured down sink drains. It can solidify in pipes and clog sewer lines in your home or the city's sewer lines. Clogs in the City's sewer lines can lead to sanitary sewer overflows—the discharge of untreated sewage into streets, yards and creeks. Though used cooking oil can be hardened in the refrigerator and disposed in your green trash cart, the Gobble Grease Toss is an opportunity to recycle your used cooking oil to keep it out of the landfill and the sanitary sewer system.

The Gobble Grease Toss is a free opportunity offered to Fayette County residents (no businesses, please). Citizens should bring the oil in a sealed container to help prevent spills.

For more information on the Gobble Grease Toss, call LexCall at 311 or 425-2255 or visit www.livegreenlexington.com.

Lexington Firefighters Kickoff Toy Drive

Lexington's Fraternal Order of Firefighters (FOF) is asking citizens to help make the holidays brighter for thousands of Lexington kids by donating to its 84th Annual Toy Drive.

The Toy Drive gave toys to more than 3,000 children last year. Firefighters hope to serve just as many this year, but they need help. Donations from the community keep the program running.

If you would like to participate, donations are being accepted at all Lexington fire stations. They need a variety of toys for boys and girls ages 0-12 including: dolls, bikes, balls, action figures and more. They ask that any gift be unwrapped.

If you know, or have, an eligible child who could benefit from receiving a toy from the drive, you can sign them up provided the criteria listed below is met. All applications must be completed and turned in at 2245 Frankfort Court during the following times:

Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

FIREFIGURERS PROCESSION

Application requirements:

- The applicant must be the legal guardian or parent of the child.
- The applicant must have a valid and current ID. The ID must have the same address as the application address.
- The applicant must have proof of residence in the form of a lease or bill. (Note: food stamp information, insurance bills, and social security information *cannot* be used as proof of residence.)
- The applicant must have the child's birth certificate or a letter of attendance from a Fayette County school.
- The child must be between the ages of birth to 12 years old.

For more information, contact the FOF at 859-523-9576 or visit www.lfdfof.org.

VOLUME III, ISSUE 11

City Leaf Collection Program

Lexington's 2015 vacuum leaf collection program began earlier this month and will continue through Friday, December 18.

The vacuum pickup is offered for city-served, single-family homes once a year. You can find your scheduled vacuum dates using the interactive map on www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves.

Residents who receive city waste collection services should rake their leaves into the area between the sidewalk and the street the Sunday before their scheduled vacuum collection. If your sidewalk abuts the curb or if you have no sidewalk, place the leaves on the edge of your lawn closest to the street.

Never rake leaves into the street as they can cause traffic hazards and clog storm drains. Piles should contain only leaves. Other objects, such as tree limbs and rocks, can injure crew members or damage equipment.

Residents with city waste services can also dispose of their leaves on regular collection days throughout the year using their gray yard cart or yard waste bags. Coupons for free yard waste bags can be obtained by calling LexCall at 311.

Adverse weather can affect scheduled dates. When this happens the interactive map will be updated. Daily updates will be posted online listing what streets have been serviced.

New this year, the city is offering text notifications about the leaf vacuum program. If you sign up, you will receive a text message when there are vacuum updates for your neighborhood. It is a good way to know when to rake your leaves to the edge of your lawn.

To sign up for notifications, visit www.citygram.org/lexington and click on the leaf collection button. Then enter your address and cell phone number.



The service is free, but normal text rates from your cell phone provider may apply. You can also opt to get a weekly email notification.

All city residents have the following options for disposing of leaves year-round at no cost:

- Haley Pike composting facility located at 4216 Hedger Lane (two free loads per month)
- Using a mulching mower
- Composting

For more information, visit www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves.

Lexington Fire Battalion Chief Honored



Lexington Fire Department Battalion Chief Gregg Bayer has been awarded the Fire Intelligence Liaison Officer of the Year by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security's Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC). Inspired by the Department of Homeland Security's "If you see something, say something" campaign, Bayer developed a suspicious activity reporting page within the fire department's intranet system.

Sworn employees are able to report if something they see seems suspicious, no matter how minor. It came into play when an employee reported some suspicious activities before First Lady Michelle Obama's visit to Eastern Kentucky University in 2013. Law enforcement was able to check out and clear the report.

"We know there are people who intend to do us harm. Our folks may be able to combat that," he said.

The role of the KIFC is to compile, blend, analyze and disseminate criminal intelligence and other information, and to anticipate, identify, prevent and monitor criminal activity that may pose a threat to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the nation.

Urban Tree Canopy Report Card Released

A study of Lexington's tree canopy shows that trees cover almost 25 percent of the city's Urban Service Area and provide residents with more than \$50 million in benefits. This canopy coverage earned the city a B for its efforts to reach the overall short-term goal of 30 percent tree coverage.

An urban tree canopy is the amount of land that is covered by trees when examined from an aerial view.

The study evaluated the Urban Service Area by council districts. Only three districts—the Fourth, the Fifth and the Eleventh—reached or exceeded the five-to-ten year tree canopy goal of 30 percent. The long-term goal is 40 percent. The percentage of tree canopy coverage in the Urban Service Area for the 9th District is 27 percent.

Caring for our existing canopy and planting new trees are key to reaching the 30 percent coverage goal. Getting private property owners involved in these activities is necessary. Volunteer efforts to plant new trees on public property, like the annual Reforest the Bluegrass event, are also extremely important.

Other canopy criteria evaluated in the report card, on a City and Council district level, include:

- · Achieving maximum possible canopy
- Ability to prevent flooding and water pollution
- · Avoiding heat stress
- · Overall canopy benefits

Accounting for all criteria, Lexington's overall grade was a C-.

The full report is available online at www.lexingtonky.gov/forestry.

Learn more about street streets: http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=2883

Parks Harvests Spruce for Downtown Christmas Tree

Landscaping crews from Parks and Recreation have recently been working to harvest and place Christmas trees at Triangle Park and the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden downtown.

Notification went out in October that the city was looking for tree donations. Some of the trees offered were deemed too short. Others had double trunks. One tree was too close to utility lines for crews to safely cut down.

Martha Griffin and her husband Joey Haynes donated a 45foot spruce tree that has now been placed at Triangle Park because it didn't fit in with their long-term plans for their front yard.

Parks crews will spend the next few days decorating the trees.

A tree lighting ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m., on Friday, November 27, as part of Luminate Lexington.



Parks and Recreation landscaping crews, with the help of KU, transport a donated tree from Martha Griffin and Joey Hayes' yard from the Montclair neighborhood to be the Christmas tree for Triangle Park.

Recreational ZOTA Workshop

At the request of the Council, The City's Division of Planning recently conducted a Recreational ZOTA (Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment) workshop for Council to provide Councilmembers with a better understanding of the various aspects related to evaluating the potential legislation recommended by the Planning Commission, regarding potential recreational opportunities in Fayette County.



Interest Expressed in Monticello Neighborhood Assoc.



A resident of the Monticello neighborhood has contacted me to express interest in forming a new neighborhood association.

If you live in the Monticello neighborhood and would be interested in discussing or helping to form a new neighborhood association, please e-mail me at jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov or by telephone at 258-3215 and I will be happy to pass along the organizer's contact information.

Neighborhood associations play a vital role in representing the interests of residents and enhancing the local community. A well-organized association can have a significant impact on the quality of life in a neighborhood.

I firmly believe that increasing citizen participation benefits the whole community by creating a positive environment of shared responsibility and collaboration

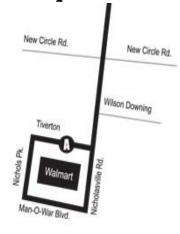
LexTran Route 23: Nicholasville Road Express

It was recently reported in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* that LexTran intends to discontinue its <u>Route 23 Express</u> service effective next spring, which serves stops along Nicholasville Road, including Wal-Mart at Nichols Park, Central Baptist Hospital, Kentucky Clinic and Good Samaritan Hospital.

This move would not apparently affect riders traveling to/from Fayette Mall on Route 5. This route also serves Wal-Mart at Nichols Park.

If you presently ride the Route 23 Express route, I would appreciate your feedback on how discontinuation of this route would affect you.

Please e-mail me at jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov or call my office at 258-3215.



Parking Authority Conducts "Food for Fines" Program



The Lexington Parking Authority has announced that its LEXPARK program will once again run the "Food for Fines" canned food drive from Nov. 16 through Dec. 18.

Customers who bring in 10 cans of food will receive \$15 off any parking citation issued by LEXPARK or the Lexington Police Department. Customers with multiple citations may bring in 10 cans per citation to receive the discount and past due citations are eligible.

The LEXPARK office is located at 122 North Broadway.

All canned food donations received by LEXPARK will be donated to God's Pantry Food Bank. Canned fruits and vegetables, proteins, shelf stable milk and peanut butter that are at least 14-15 oz. 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.

Office of Homeless Prevention & Intervention Update

The Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention (HPI) has completed its first 18 months of operation with some significant progress.

The **Housing First Pilot Project**, a three-year, \$750,000 (\$250,000 each year) grant to Hope Center to provide Permanent Housing utilizing a Housing First model, is nearing the close of its first year of operation. During that time, the project has:

- Housed 22 of Lexington's most long-term, medically vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals. Only 4 of those have left the program—3 due to death and one due to incarceration. Three additional individuals are in the process of leasing apartments for a total of 25 people served over the course of the year and 21 currently.
- Housing First has seen a surge in applications over the
 past two months. Since October 1 Hope Center has had
 25 people qualify by score (incoming clients are assessed
 using a research-based tool and given a vulnerability
 score). That puts the waitlist at 62 people currently. Most
 new referrals come from street outreach or word of
 mouth from existing clients.
- The University of Kentucky Center for Business and Economic Research is conducting a Return on Investment evaluation of this project and will be available to make an initial report on Year 1 in early 2016.

Over the next few months HPI plans to tackle two major

issues—street outreach and medical respite. First, the Homelessness Prevention & Intervention Board has already allocated funding for a street outreach program to improve assertive efforts that reach people on the streets and offer them shelter, housing, and other forms of assistance. This rapid response team would be designed to enter camps or approach individuals within 24 hours of identification to ensure they are offered appropriate interventions.

In January, HPI plans to host a summit on medical respite and the need for a program/facility to serve those who are well enough to leave a hospital but still need more care than a homeless shelter is able to provide.

This is a significant need identified in the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness Report but could require a major financial investment and warrants closer study regarding the size and scope of the project to ensure whatever is started is able to address Lexington's needs.

Additionally, HPI is working with several partners to develop and make available a training for employees of downtown businesses and churches that educates them on how best to respond when encountering someone who may be experiencing homelessness.

This training would cover when to call police/when not to call; how to recognize mental illness and find help; referrals to housing; how to recognize domestic violence and how to help; etc. The training, once developed, would be offered at least twice annually.

SBA Seeks Nominations for Small Business Awards

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Kentucky District Office is accepting U.S. Small Business Administration nominations for its 2016 National Small Business Week Awards, including the prestigious Small Business Person of the Year award. The 2015 Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year was Scott Shinn, President/CEO of Sustainment Solutions. Inc., a veteran-owned small business located in Lancaster.

In addition to Small Business Person of the Year, SBA is seeking nominations for Small Business Exporter of the Year, contracting, disaster recovery, SBA resource partner awards and more. The Kentucky District Office also has 2016 small business awards, including Home Based, Minority, Veteran, Woman Small Business and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, as well as Advocate of the Year in Financial Services, Small Business and Media.

The Kentucky Small Business Person and Small Business Exporter of the Year will compete nationally and be recognized in May 2016 during National Small Business Week in Washington, DC.

Award details, including eligibility, information requirements and evaluation criteria, as well as nomination procedures, can be found at on the SBA Kentucky District Office website, https://www.sba.gov/ky or at http://awards.sba.gov. Small business owners or advocates can self-nominate.

The deadline to receive nomination packages is 3:00 p.m. Monday, January 11, 2016.

Nominations should be submitted online at http://awards.sba.gov or delivered directly to the Kentucky District Office, depending on the award.

Postmarked or hand-delivered packages should be sent to SBA Kentucky District Office, Attn: Small Business Week Awards Committee, 600 Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Place, Room 188, Louisville, KY 40202.





2016 Spirit Award Nominations Now Open

Do you know someone in our community that makes a difference in the lives of others? If so, Lexington Forum wants to hear about them.



Each year the Lexington Forum recognizes an individual that has made a meaningful change in the Bluegrass by giving back to the community through volunteerism. The criteria of this award are based solely on the Nominee's caring contributions to the community.

You do not need to be a Lexington Forum member to nominate, or be nominated. Please take a few minutes and think about who you know that deserves to be acknowledged for their service to others. The deadline to nominate is the close of business on December 11.

The chosen recipient will be honored at the 2016 State of the Merged Government Address on January 19, 2016.



Recent recipients include: Roszalyn Akins, 2015 Gale Reece, 2014 Smiley Pete Publishing (Good Giving), 2013 Alan Štein, 2012 Cornelia "Neal" Vaughn, 2011 Ginny Ramsey, 2010 Dr. David Stephens, 2009 Isabel Yates, 2008

Register here: http://lexingtonforum.org/upcoming-events/spirit-award/





From the Office of Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti

Government Center, 200 East Main St., 5th Floor Lexington, KY 40507 http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=364

To contact **Councilmember Mossotti**: City Hall office phone: 859-258-3215 E-mail: jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov

Legislative Aide: **Rob Bolson** <u>rbolson@lexingtonky.gov</u> City Hall phone: 859-425-2564 E-mail: <u>rbolson@lexingtonky.gov</u>

Follow on Social Media:

Facebook: <u>CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti</u> Twitter: <u>@Mossotti9th</u> Instagram: <u>CouncilmemberMossotti</u>



Other News of Note...



New recruit class. The City's Division of Community Corrections held a recruit graduation ceremony on November 6. Welcome to each of the new recruits. Thank you for your service to our community.

Lexington will usher in the holiday season with **Luminate Lexington** presented by Kentucky Utilities on Friday, November 27th. Triangle Park will be filled with the sights and sounds of holiday entertainment, singing, seasonal food/beverage offerings, arts and craft vendors and the official Tree Lighting ceremony. Festivities begin at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 6:30 p.m. when Santa Claus and Mayor Gray turn the "magic key" to light up downtown with thousands of lights!



1900s Horse Patrol

Lexington's history with horses can be traced back to the early 1900s when City Police utilized horse-drawn wagons to carry-out their law enforcement duties. Such wagons began fading from the scene when LPD purchased their first police automobile, a Kissell, around 1906. Source: Lexington Division of Police.

Telephone Numbers:

LexCall (City Hall) 311 258-3600 **Police** (Non-emergency) **Fire** (Non-emergency) 231-5600 **City Garbage Collection** 425-2255 or 311 Columbia Gas of KY 800-432-9345 **Fayette County Clerk** 253-3344 **Fayette County Sheriff** 252-1771 Health Dept. 252-2371 **Humane Society** 255-9033 Ky. Utilities 255-0394 Ky. American Water 800-678-6301

Senior Citizen Center 278-6072 Time-Warner Cable 514-1400 Traffic Hotline 258-3830

Report a Pothole

Veterans Affairs Hotline 800-273-TALK (8255)

800-728-2448 or 311

Voter Registration 255-8683 United Way 211

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE Residents and businesses with curbside city waste collection on Thursday or Friday will be serviced on the WEDNESDAY before the holiday. Put your carts out Tuesday after 4 p.m. in order to receive service those holiday weeks. HOLIDAY SERVICE DATE Thanksgiving Wed. Nov. 25, 2015 Day After Thanksgiving Wed. Nov. 25, 2015 Christmas Eve Wed. Dec. 23, 2015 Wed. Dec. 23, 2015 Christmas Day Wed. Dec. 30, 2015 New Year's Day *There will be regular service on New Year's Eve THANK YOU LEXINGTON

Give a Deserving Neighbor a Nod!

Recognize that special neighbor whose efforts have made a positive impact on our district and community.

Nominate a neighbor or resident for 9th District "Neighbor of the Month," (see page 2) by e-mailing your nomination details to: jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov.



Do you know someone who might enjoy reading this monthly newsletter?

Please forward a copy to them. If you are not currently a subscriber, e-mail rbolson@lexingtonky.gov to be added to the list.