



# 9th District News & Notes Newsletter

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

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 1

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[LEXINGTONKY.GOV](http://LEXINGTONKY.GOV)

View a map of the 9th District [here](#).

## Mayor gives “State of the City”



Dear 9th District Neighbor,

I want to share with you an overview of Mayor Gray's State of the City Address that he gave this past week at the Lexington Convention Center.

Here are a few of the highlights from the address, which you can also [watch here](#):

- Unemployment is historically low: 3.6%. Reduced by more than half since 2011. Lexington has 22,500 more people working today than were working here at the low point of the Great Recession and average pay per job is up 13-1/2%.
- Business starts are up as well and we're creating about a third of the new businesses in Kentucky. Home sales are up 22% 2015 over 2014. Foreclosures are down 18%.
- 2015 was a record year for new commercial construction, up almost 20% over 2014.
- Lexington is growing, investment is up. Over the past year about \$2 billion has been invested in commercial and residential real estate, healthcare and educational institutions, and infrastructure in our City.
- We are making investments in our community to improve quality of life which in turn are attracting new jobs and new economic growth making new investments again possible. It's a continuing cycle that has brought economic opportunity and growth to Lexington.
- Lexington has established a Jobs Fund with incentives designed to give our community a leg up when competing with other cities. And it's working. Since 2014 nine local companies have employed these incentives to expand. The incentives have helped attract three new companies.



Mayor Gray's annual "State of the City" Address on Tuesday, January 19th at Bluegrass Ballroom in downtown Lexington.

These companies are bringing 223 new jobs, together representing over \$11 million in payroll, or an average of nearly \$50,000 per job.

- Lexington is working closely with the State and Commerce Lexington to attract new companies and to keep existing ones and help them grow.
- Mayor Gray highlighted a recent announcement by Clark Material Handling. Clark is expanding its operation in Lexington with 30 good jobs, and an almost \$5 million investment to expand its facilities. Clark's headquarters have been located in Lexington since 1985 and Clark is moving jobs from Mexico to Lexington.
- Next in terms of creating jobs, Lexington recognizes an important 21st Century step for us to encourage economic growth is becoming a gigabit City and the City has a team actively working a broadband project.

(Continued on next page: See State of the City Address)

Councilmember Jennifer 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 lived in the 9th District for the past 35 years. For more information, visit: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=364>

**Do you offer snow shoveling service? Please e-mail me your name, e-mail and telephone number so that I can pass that information along to neighbors who may be interested in your service this winter for their sidewalk or driveway. E-mail: [jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov](mailto:jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov)**

# State of the City Address Recap (Continued from p. 1)

- We are determining what kind of system will work here and today we are ready to ask companies to bid on providing our broadband service. And the exciting news: The state has offered to build fiber dedicated to the City at a very low cost.
- Like health insurance reforms, cost savings are just one of the benefits of the changes made to the City's pension fund. The 2013 pension change, made with the cooperation and support of police officers and firefighters, is the most significant agreement in Lexington's history, and is producing the results sought.
- At a time when cities and states nationwide are struggling with underfunded pensions and rising costs, Lexington's pension is now 78% funded, ensuring the pension is secure for Lexington's police officers and firefighters for decades to come.
- Lexington has more than doubled its Rainy Day Fund since 2011. It now stands at \$32.2 million, and we will soon be at our goal of 10% of our General Fund Revenue.
- Since 2011, Lexington has invested almost \$1½ billion in public safety, a 22% increase over five years. That means new police officers and firefighters and new equipment, and we will do more.
- Lexington continues to invest in parks all over the City. In 2015 that meant almost \$2 million in construction projects, like the popular pickleball courts at Kirklevington, and dugouts at Constitution and Southland Parks. And we're making plans for the future, examining the City's aquatic needs and developing a master plan for parks. Great cities have great parks.
- Another investment has been our new Senior Citizens Center, which will be opening this summer. The City's current Seniors facility is out of date, out of space, and out of step with today's seniors. The new center has more space and is surrounded by

improvements in Idle Hour Park.

- In another win for the City, Lexington will soon open a new Public Safety Operations Center. With community emergencies striking cities across the country, we need a state-of-the-art center. By re-using an existing, City-owned building rather than buying a new site and building from scratch Lexington saved \$28 million.
- We're investing another \$12-1/2 million in street resurfacing this year. So far crews have paved 31 miles of City streets and paving will begin here in the 9th district in the spring. And we've continued to improve our decision-making. Lexington is now using a first-ever, high tech assessment of road conditions, so Councilmembers are able to better set paving priorities.
- In addition, since 2012, Lexington has doubled funding for social service agencies that reach out to people who need the basic: food, shelter, and health services. The Office of Homelessness, working in partnership with many local agencies, is making clear progress. And since the City pledged in 2014 to end veteran homelessness, we have moved 420 homeless veterans to permanent housing and built a system where veterans have direct access to permanent housing and opportunities to rebuild their lives.

These are significant accomplishments that we as a City can certainly all be proud of, but there is definitely much more work to be done in order to build on these important achievements.

I will keep you posted as we continue to move forward.

All my best,

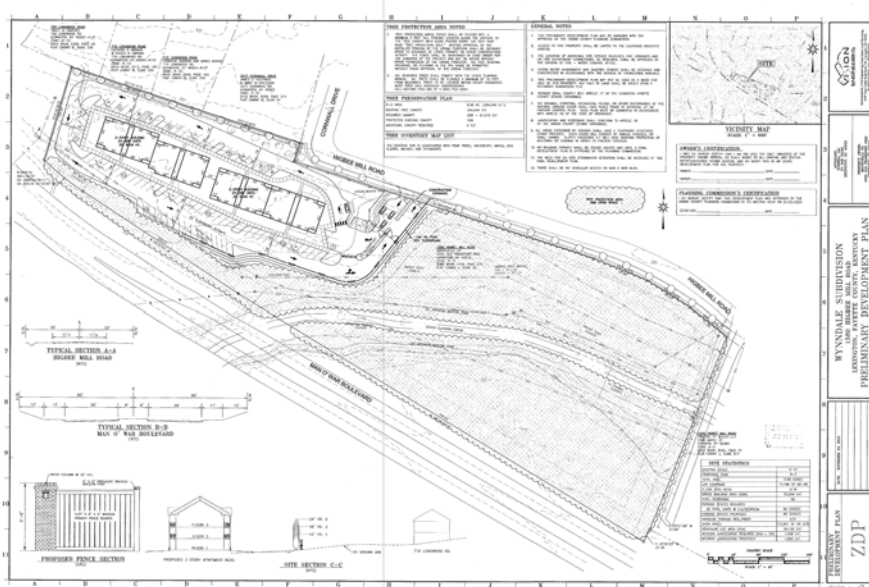


## Zone Change

The zone change request filed for the property at 1580 Higbee Mill Road will go before the City's Planning Commission on Thursday, January 28th here at City Hall, 200 East Main Street, in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers at 1:30 pm.

The revised plat filed by the developer is shown at left and may be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

I encourage all concerned parties to attend this meeting and express your concerns to the members of the Planning Commission who will most likely vote on the matter at the same meeting.



## Revised Snow Plan Receives Cheers and Complaints

This past weekend, a winter storm dropped an estimated ten inches of snow on Lexington and thus tested the City's revised Snow and Ice plan. The reviews can be deemed a mixed bag: Some neighborhoods in the district reported a distinct improvement over the past winter, while others reported problems that impacted normal activity.

By this past Sunday afternoon, LexCall had received almost 1,500 requests for snow plowing and I appreciate the feedback that I received, both positive and negative, as your input is invaluable in identifying trouble spots as the Council works with the administration to address the complaints. Clearing the streets in a City the size of Lexington is obviously a challenge but rest assured, we will continue to work to resolve the problems that arise because we are all truly "in this together."

Snow and ice removal in Lexington is a combined effort of the City's Department of Environmental Quality & Public Works and the Kentucky Department of Highways. Public Works is responsible for snow and ice removal from more than 1,246 lane miles of City and county roads. The state is responsible for plowing more than 500 miles of roadways in Fayette County.



Snow removal is based on a priority plan developed to identify a basic system of roads essential to keep traffic moving while taking into consideration the equipment and personnel available. Factors used include identifying the City's busiest routes, access to public transportation, access to emergency services, and access to Fayette County Public Schools.

All totaled, Lexington has 4,245 streets and in most cases, only Priority 1-4 streets and roads will be plowed under normal snow conditions. In the event of a major snowfall such as this past weekend, an enhanced effort is made to clear as many streets as possible. But it does take time, which is understandably frustrating when it's your street that has not been plowed. Accordingly, there is an ongoing effort by the Council and administration to continually review what is working and what is not.

Our City crews work extremely hard to keep the roads as safe and clear as possible during winter storms and with your ongoing feedback and regular reviews of the snow plan, we will all continue to benefit. City crews average 22 mobilizations per year for snow and ice removal across Lexington.

The City also hires private contractors to assist as needed for major winter storms and hired even more private contractors to be on-call as needed this winter. It was "all hands on deck" this past weekend and will continue to be so when the weather dictates.

Route Ware is presently being deployed on all City snow removal vehicles, which will allow for eventual GPS capabilities similar to those used for leaf collection this past year. The goal is to enable enhanced communication with both constituents and City staff.

## Lexington Police Promotions

Congratulations to the newest Commanders and Sergeants at the Division of Police.

Earlier this week, Chief Mark Barnard promoted (left-right): Commander Rodney Sherrod, Commander Mike Wright, Sgt. Jervis Middleton, Sgt. Wayne Terry and Sgt. Jason Orth.

Best wishes in your new roles.



Source: Division of Police

## Ken Armstrong Named Director of Code Enforcement

Ken Armstrong, a resident of the 9th District for more than 12 years, was recently named the new Director of the City's Division of Code Enforcement.

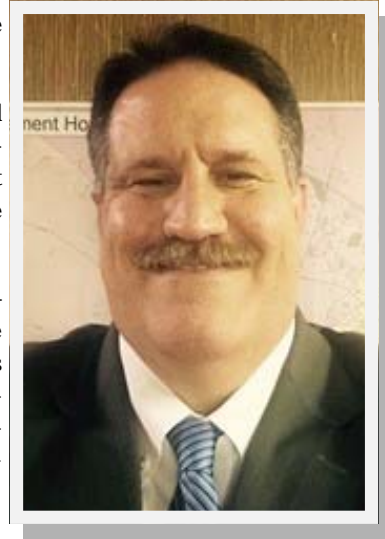
The Division of Code Enforcement is the governmental unit which deals with properties and property owners on a day-to-day basis to ensure that minimum maintenance and repair standards for all existing structures throughout the community are met. Division staff ensure that residential and commercial structures are maintained to the minimum standards set forth in the International Property Maintenance Code.

Division activities are organized into two programs—**Comprehensive Inspections**—Structures in neighborhoods throughout the community are surveyed by the staff to determine the need for maintenance and repair. These surveys are used to designate specific structures that could benefit from comprehensive inspection. After inspection, a notice is sent to the owner. The notice points out the repairs that need to be made and sets a time frame for those repairs. The property is re-inspected to monitor the progress of the repairs and eventually to determine that the property is again in compliance with minimum standards.

**Complaint Inspections:** Complaints originating from tenants, neighbors and/or other concerned parties are received by division staff who inspect the properties and note violations. A notice is sent informing property owners of the required repairs and time limitations for those repairs. Properties are reinspected for compliance with the notice at designated times during this process. If the owner does not cooperate in making the required repairs to a property, Lexington's Code of Ordinances provides avenues for civil penalties and/or court prosecution.

**Other Property Laws:** Code Enforcement provides information and insures compliance with other laws regarding private property, such as bushes obstructing sidewalks, junked vehicles, litter and weeds. Failure by an owner to correct violations concerning junk cars, weeds or trash and debris can result in the government contracting to have the work performed or vehicle towed and placement of a lien against the property.

Ken lives with his wife of 17 years, (Donna), and his daughters, Becca (14) and Ashley (10). They are all members of Calvary Baptist Church and are very active in community and school related events. Ken was appointed Director for the Division of Code Enforcement on November 30th and came to the position after retiring as an Assistant Chief with the Lexington Police Department where he served for 25 years. Welcome to your new role, Ken!



## Neighborhood Safety Watch Seeks Participants



Thank you to everyone who came out in the cold to attend the recent Robinwood/Monticello/Stone Creek Neighborhood Safety Watch meeting at Southern Heights Baptist Church. There was great discussion.

If you are interested in more information on becoming a Safety Watch Block Captain in any of these three neighborhoods, please let me know.

A special thank you to Officer Bige Towery from the Division of Police for his invaluable information and insight, and to Robin Young, President of Robinwood Neighbors Association, and to Kathleen Donovan for her tenacious organization in working to set up the new program, and to Pastor Bill Boldt for allowing us to utilize Southern Heights Baptist Church to hold the meeting.



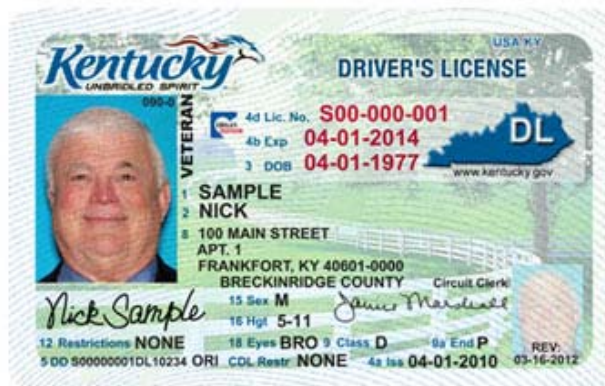
Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make our community safer.

## Driver's License Office Relocated to 9th District

There are two locations in Lexington where you can renew your Kentucky drivers license: 1591 Winchester Road at New Circle Road, and now at 3301 Keithshire Way, Suite 125, off Clays Mill Road, here in the 9th District. The Keithshire location is for **renewals only** according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's website.

The former downtown location, which was at the County Clerks office, and the former satellite previously located on Regency Road have both been closed.

For more information, visit: <http://transportation.ky.gov>.



## Yard Waste Winter Collection Protocol Begins



Lexington's Division of Waste Management will begin its winter collection protocol on Monday, February 1st. Yard waste containers, yard waste bundles and yard waste bags will not be collected by City crews as part of the regular weekly service. All other pickups will continue as normal. Weekly yard waste collection will resume in late March to coincide with the spring season.

Yard waste collection is available to residents with City waste service on an as-needed basis throughout the winter. Residents can place a collection request through LexCall by calling 311 or (859) 425-2255. Service requests can also be made online, [www.lexcall.lexingtonky.gov](http://www.lexcall.lexingtonky.gov), or using the LexCall phone app.

The Haley Pike Waste Management Facility will remain open. Residents of Fayette County may drop off yard waste at the facility up to two times per month at no charge. Residents can dispose of one pickup truckload of material per visit and must show proof of residence (such as a driver's license). The facility is located at 4216 Hedger Lane in Lexington. Facility hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month; the facility is closed on Wednesdays, Sundays and remaining Saturdays.

## Please Watch Out for City workers

Please watch out for City workers as they perform their normal duties across the community.

Thank you for slowing down and using extra caution when workers are present.



# **PARKS & RECREATION LEXINGTON, KY**

# **FEBRUARY 2016 AT A GLANCE**

## **Adult Spring Softball Signups**

Monday, February 1 – Friday, February 5 *Returning Teams*

Monday, February 8 – Friday, March 7 *New Teams*

For more information or to register: 288-2917

Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration fee is \$325 plus \$25 for 2016 NSA Sanction Fee.

## **Outdoor Skills Class**

Saturday, February 13, 9 - 10 a.m., McConnell Springs

For more information or to register: 225-4073

Learn skills related to outdoor activities including camping, hiking, knots, orienteering, paddling and backpacking. Pre-registration is required.

## **Salamander Search**

Saturday, February 13, 1 p.m., Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

For more information: 272-6105

Raven Run is home to several different salamanders. During late winter is a great time to try to find the stream-side salamander in the creeks at the park. Join us as we walk Raven Run creek in search of the stream-side salamander. Be sure to wear waterproof boots for this 90 minute program/hike. This program is weather dependent so call the park beforehand.

## **Presidents' Day Holiday Closings**

Monday, February 15

Lexington Parks & Recreation administrative offices; all community centers; Bell House Therapeutic Recreation & Senior adult programs are closed

*McConnell Springs, Raven Run Nature Sanctuary and city golf courses are open.*

## **Therapeutic Recreation cooking classes**

Wednesdays, February 17 – March 23 Distribution Center 1306 Versailles Road

3-4:30 p.m. or 5-6:30 p.m.

For more information or to register: 288-2928

Participants 13 and older will learn to create delicious meals from healthy recipes. Pre-registration and prepayment is required by February 8. Cost is \$30 plus \$40 cash for groceries.

## **Therapeutic Recreation Friday outing to the ECU Planetarium**

Friday, February 19

For more information or to register: 288-2928

Join Parks & Recreation Therapeutic Recreation on a day trip to the ECU Planetarium in Richmond. Cost is \$5 for the planetarium; participants should bring money for lunch. Call to register for this trip.

## **Junior Naturalists “Invaders”**

Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m., McConnell Springs  
For more information or to register: 225-4073

Youth K–5th grade are invited to come out to McConnell Springs for their Junior Naturalist program. Participants will learn about plants and animals from other parts of the world that are invading our park and maybe even your own backyard. Call McConnell Springs to register for this free program.

## **Salamander Search**

Saturday, February 20, 1 p.m., Raven Run Nature Sanctuary  
For more information: 272-6105

Raven Run is home to several different salamanders. During late winter is a great time to try to find the stream-side salamander in the creeks at the park. Join us as we walk Raven Run Creek in search of the stream-side salamander. Be sure to wear waterproof boots for this 90 minute program/hike. This program is weather dependent so call the park beforehand.

## **Bell House temporary closure**

Monday, February 22 – Sunday, March 6  
For more information: 233-0986

The Bell House will be closed for routine refurbishment. There will be no Senior adult or Therapeutic Recreation programs during this time.

## **Community Centers celebrate Black History Month**

Thursday, February 25, 6 p.m., Dunbar Community Center 288-2941  
Thursday, February 25, 6 p.m., Kenwick Community Center 266-6405  
Friday, February 26, 6 p.m., William Wells Brown Community Center 389-6678

Celebrate Black History with Soul Food (Dunbar), Arts & Crafts and a presentation (William Wells Brown), Arts & Crafts and a Movie (Kenwick).

## **Weekend Workout**

Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m., McConnell Springs  
For more information or to register: 225-4073

Volunteers are needed to help assist with park maintenance activities such as cleanup of park grounds, trail upkeep and removal of weeds. Be sure to dress appropriately – clothes that can get dirty, layers for changing weather conditions, etc.

Lexington Parks & Recreation  
545 N. Upper Street  
Lexington, KY 40508  
859-288-2900  
[www.lexingtonky.gov/parks](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/parks)  
[www.facebook.com/lexkyparks](https://www.facebook.com/lexkyparks)

## In Case of Emergency...



Do you own or recently received a smartphone for Christmas or perhaps your birthday?

When you update the contacts, make sure you create an ICE contact — That's In Case of Emergency (ICE).

First responders may look for an ICE contact on your phone if you can't respond during an accident or emergency. You can also put an ICE # on your smartphone lock screen.

Read more here:

<http://bereadylexington.com/one-thing-wednesday-ice-contacts>

Source: Division of Emergency Management

## Health Department Offers Free Radon Test Kits



Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas and is the second leading cause of lung cancer. The Surgeon General and the EPA recommend testing for radon and reducing radon in homes that have high levels.

Since it is difficult to identify any immediate symptoms related to radon exposure, it may take years before health problems appear. Whether in the workplace, in homes, or in schools, understanding radon is important. This includes learning how radon gets into buildings, its health effects, and ways to reduce its levels.

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department currently provides free short-term radon test kits to any individual upon request. To request a kit, visit the Environmental Health Office at 650 Newtown Pike.

Further questions or requests for information can be directed to: Barrett C. Schoeck at (859) 231-9791 ext. 4236, or [BarrettC.Schoeck@ky.gov](mailto:BarrettC.Schoeck@ky.gov).

For more information, [click here](#).

Source: LFCHD

## Entries Sought for Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



The Alltech St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival committee is accepting entries for Lexington's 37th annual parade and vendors for the Irish festival to be held Saturday, March 12th, 2016, on Main Street in downtown Lexington.

The parade and festival are part of an all-day celebration that begins at 8 a.m. with the 10th annual Shamrock Shuffle to benefit Lexington Habitat for Humanity. At 11 a.m., the annual "Blessing of the Keg" at the Alltech tents in Cheapside Park kicks off the free Irish festival. The parade begins at 1 p.m.

The applications for parade participants and vendors can be found online at <http://www.lexingtonstpatparade.org/> and are due by March 1st.

In addition to the website, the planning committee is launching three new social media sites this year — @LexStPatsParade on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Parade participants and attendees are encouraged to share their photos online, tag @LexStPatsParade and use #LexStPats2016.



## Recognize A Deserving Neighbor

Do you know someone on your street or in the neighborhood or 9th District whose service to the community deserves to be recognized?

We have so many special, caring, helpful neighbors here in the district, and I would appreciate your assistance in helping to recognize their contribution.

Perhaps they volunteer their time or perform other good deeds that have an impact on our community? Maybe they shoveled the recent snow from your driveway or sidewalk? This is your opportunity to recognize and say thank you to someone who is helping to create a stronger, safer, better place to live, work, and play.

Give a deserving neighbor a nod. Nominate them for 9th District Neighbor of the Month.

E-mail me your nomination to [jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov](mailto:jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov).



## Quick Reference:

### How to reach Councilmember Mossotti:



#### By mail:

Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti  
c/o Lexington Government Center  
200 East Main St., 5th Floor  
Lexington, KY 40507

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=364>

#### By telephone:

859-258-3215

#### By e-mail:

[jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov)

#### By Social Media:

Facebook: [CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti)

Twitter: [@Mossotti9th](https://twitter.com/Mossotti9th)

Instagram: [CouncilmemberMossotti](https://www.instagram.com/CouncilmemberMossotti)

#### Legislative Aide:

Rob Bolson

E-mail: [rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov)

Telephone: 859-425-2564

LFUCG Website: [www.LexingtonKy.gov](http://www.LexingtonKy.gov)

### Useful Telephone Numbers:

<b>LexCall</b> (City Hall)	311 (or 425-2255)
<b>Police</b> (Non-emergency)	258-3600
<b>Fire</b> (Non-emergency)	231-5600
Before You Dig	811
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
Report a Pothole	800-728-2448 or 311
Senior Citizen Center	278-6072
Time-Warner Cable	514-1400
Traffic Hotline	258-3830
Veterans Affairs Hotline	800-273-TALK (8255)
Voter Registration	255-8683
United Way	211



Instagram



Use **LexCall** to request a service, offer a suggestion, ask a question, share your opinion, register a complaint or even pass on a compliment relating to City services and events. When you call LexCall at 3-1-1 during regular office hours (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.) you can speak to a friendly, knowledgeable person. LexCall is your one call to reach City Hall. There is also a handy smartphone App you can use. Learn more about LexCall here: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=3441>.

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