

# 9th District News & Notes Newsletter

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

**VOLUME IV, ISSUE 11** 

**NOVEMBER 2016** 



**LEXINGTONKY.GOV** 

View a map of the 9th District here.

# Zone Change Request; Roundabout

Dear 9th District Neighbor,



Lex Properties LLC has requested a zone change for property located at **3455 Saybrook Road**.

The City's Division of Planning will present their report based upon their committee reviews regarding this request at the November 17th Planning Commission Public Hearing at 1:30 pm in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Government Center, 200 East Main Street.

The meeting is open to the public and public comment is available at the meeting.

A copy of the Planning staff report is available by contacting the Division of Planning at <u>planningmaibox@LexingtonKy.gov</u> or by phone at (859) 258-3160 or by <u>contacting my aide</u>.

If you cannot attend the aforementioned meeting, you may also submit your feedback to the same e-mail address so that your input will become a part of the public record.

For further information on this zone change, contact the City's Division of Planning by calling (859) 258-3160 or visit their website at <a href="https://www.LexingtonKy.gov/planning">www.LexingtonKy.gov/planning</a>.

- CONTO

**Roundabout Update**. As part of my ongoing review of the Reynolds Road Roundabout, and after the City's Division of Traffic Engineering made adjustments to the lane markings in an effort to improve the overall safety of the intersection, I recently requested a statistical analysis of the collision data for the Reynolds Road Roundabout for the last 12 months as well as the previous 12 months for comparison.

Good news! Comparing the two years' data, collisions at the Roundabout have dropped by 69.8%. For 2014/2015, there was a total of 53 accidents. For 2015/2016, there was a total of 16 accidents—a difference of 37 fewer accidents. I will continue to monitor the data and work with Traffic Engineering as war-



Recognizing <u>GreenHouse17</u> along with Mayor Jim Gray at the October 13th Council meeting for their service to the community.

rented as the need exists. As you may have noticed the Roundabout and a large portion of East Reynolds Road has recently been resurfaced and I think you will agree it looks great. In addition, Cornwall Drive was also resurfaced. I am pleased to report that the paving projects for the 9th District were completed underbudget by \$124,979. Those funds will be rolled over for next Spring and combined with paving budget for FY 2017 which is \$577,240. My office reviews street conditions in the district on an ongoing basis and also maintains a list of constituent requests. If you are aware of a street that is in deteriorating condition, e-mail me at <a href="mailto:jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov">jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov</a>. Potholes can be reported yearround to LexCall at 3-1-1 (425-2255).

**Election Results**. I am humbled by and extremely appreciative of the 10,502 votes that I received in this past Tuesday's election. While I was unopposed this election year, it means a great deal to me that so many of you cast your vote for me. I am truly honored to serve this terrific district and great community as your representative. Thank you for your support.

**9th District Presidents Meeting**. On October 18, I met with association leaders from across the 9th District to discuss planning items, public safety concerns, and grants available from the City and the their related application process. Thank you to the neighborhood presidents who were able to attend the meeting and a special thank you to the evening's speakers, Tom Martin from the Division of Planning, Lt. Jackie Newman and Sergeant Jason Rothermund from the Division of Police, and Suzie Loveday from the Division of Grants and Special Programs. (Continued on p. 2)

Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti represents the 9th Council District of Lexington which is comprised of a portion of Clemens Heights/Clemens Grove, and Copper Run, Copperfield, Higbee Mill, Magnolia Run, Monticello, Pickway Corner, Pinnacle, 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 info, visit: <a href="https://www.lexingtonky.gov/council-district-9">https://www.lexingtonky.gov/council-district-9</a>.

# Continued from Page 1

Tom Martin provided an update on the City's <u>Comprehensive Plan</u>. Kentucky state law requires the Division of Planning to draft an update to the community's Comprehensive Plan every five years. The plan was last updated in 2013. (See the plan's mission statement at right.) Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan often indicates a need for additional small area plans or other types of studies or analyses as well. You can <u>find information here</u> about the various plans, studies and surveys that guide growth and land use management in Lexington-Fayette County. If you would like to receive information about the upcoming Comprehensive Plan process, contact the Division of Planning at (859) 258-3160 or e-mail <u>planningmailbox@LexingtonKy.gov</u>. Thank you to Pastor Bill Boldt at Southern Heights Baptist Church for providing meeting space for the meeting.

#### Mission Statement

The 2013 Comprehensive Plan seeks to provide flexible planning guidance to ensure that development of our community's resources and infrastructure preserves our quality of life, and fosters regional planning and economic development. This will be accomplished while protecting the environment, promoting successful, accessible neighborhoods, and preserving the unique Bluegrass landscape that has made Lexington-Fayette County the Horse Capital of the World.



9th District Neighborhood Association Leaders meeting on October 18th at Southern Heights Baptist Church.



Lt. Newman and Sgt. Rothermund providing an update on public safety issues in the community.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, as part of the FY2017 budget, has established a new **Economic Development Grant program**. The purpose of the program is to provide economic and workforce development services that supplement and support the work of the Urban County Government. The areas that have been identified as the initial points of emphasis for the grant funds are Training & Re-Training, Business Assistance, Entrepreneurial Support, Employment Re-Entry, and Services Related to Economic Development. For more information, contact Elodie Dickinson, LFUCG Workforce Development Manager at (859) 58.3026 or e-mail her at edickinson@lexingtonky.gov.



Shillito Park's basketball courts will soon be resurfaced to bring them back up to top shape.

Shillito Park Basketball Courts. Thank you to Parks and Recreation for the prompt attention to recent concerns expressed about the condition of the basketball courts at Shillito Park. (See photo at left.) Parks and Recreation will be resurfacing the courts soon and bringing them back up to top condition. It became possible to allocate funds for the project on a fast track thanks to my colleague Councilmember Kevin Stinnett and the popular courts should be looking great once again in time for Spring. The City has more than one-hundred public parks to maintain and Parks and Recreation works extremely hard to keep them in excellent shape.

**Council Swearing-In Ceremony**. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. for the City's official Council Swearing-In Ceremony at Lexington's new Senior Center at Idle Hour Park behind Southland Christian Church on Richmond Road. The event is free and open to the public. Please consider this my personal invitation to you to attend.

As always, I welcome your feedback at anytime on any issue of concern. Have a Happy Thanksgiving. All my best,

Jennifer

# 200 Trees Planted during Shillito Tree Planting Event

The Friends of the Parks and LFUCG Division of Parks and Recreation held a tree planting event at Shillito Park on Saturday, October 29th. There was 80 volunteers and 200 trees were planted in 1.5 hours! A successful grant application to the Plant for the Planet Grant Program, sponsored by Kentucky Utilities resulted in funds to purchase 200 trees. The new trees replace those removed due to the ash borer infestation.



















Photos provided.

# Lexington Wins Three Public Works Awards

The City of Lexington was recently honored by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Public Works Association for three public works projects.

The Blue Sky Wastewater Treatment Plant acquisition and closure project won in the sanitary sewer services category. The project by the city's Division of Water Quality included Lexington's acquisition of the bankrupt Blue Sky treatment plant and construction a new pumping station in place of the aging treatment plant. The new pump station now conveys sewage from the Blue Sky Rural Activity Center back to sewers within the Urban Service Boundary, providing additional capacity to the previously underserved area around the I-75 and Athens Boonesboro Road interchange.

The city also won an award in the safety category for a highfriction asphalt project handled by the city's Division of Streets



and Roads. High friction asphalt is a specialty application that greatly reduces vehicle crashes caused by a loss of traction, usually in areas containing curves and/or grade changes. Some examples would be interstate off ramps, 90-degree turns, and hilltops or valleys with a curve. Five locations known for high car-crash counts were chosen for the project: Stone Road, Alexandria Drive, Henry Clay Boulevard, Fortune Drive, and Montavesta Drive.

Lexington's new Pavement Management System won an award in the technology category. The city's Department of Environmental Quality & Public Works hired a pavement management consultant to identify pavement performance goals. The consultant digitally inspected and documented pavement conditions, and identified pavement treatment options, cost estimates, and benefit-cost ratios. As a result, Lexington has been able to utilize public funds more efficiently by eliminating the "worst-first" approach to pavement management.

The awards were presented during the Kentucky Chapter of the American Public Works Association's state conference, which was held in Lexington. The APWA's Awards Program was established to recognize outstanding individuals, groups and chapters representing the best in the public works profession.

Source: Public Information Office

# Lexington NAACP Honors Female City Council Members



Lexington NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet at The Lyric.

The Lexington-Fayette National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) celebrated its 2016 Freedom Fund Banquet on Thursday, November 3rd at the historic Lyric Theater in downtown Lexington, and honored the women of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council.

The special evening featured keynote speaker Lexington Herald-Leader CEO and President Rufus Friday.

The Lexington NAACP's special recognition of Lexington's eight female Council members was due to the fact that we now hold a majority on the City Council for the first time in Lexington's history.

It was indeed an honor to be recognized by the Lexington chapter of the NAACP and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to attend the banquet.

# Tips from Lexington Police

Vehicle break-ins and auto thefts are on the rise across Lexington, and investigators with the Lexington Police Department are urging citizens to protect their cars and valuables.

Over the past three months, Lexington Police received 262 reports of stolen vehicles, up from 166 during the same timeframe last year. Of the 262 recent auto thefts, approximately 110 cases involved the suspect using a key to the vehicle.

Lexington police also received 788 reports of larcenies from auto over the past three months. While that overall number is down compared to 2015 data, officers have seen a recent spike in reported incidents.

Many of these crimes could have been prevented by not storing or leaving keys in the vehicle, not leaving valuables inside the vehicle, and by keeping it locked.



Officers work every day to track down suspects and recover stolen property, however citizens are encouraged to take steps to help stop these crimes of opportunity from happening in the first place.

Here are some tips to help lower your chances of becoming a victim of Auto Theft or a Larceny from Auto.

- Lock your doors: Keep windows and sunroofs closed, and doors locked.
- Take/hide your valuables: Keep your belongings out of sight either with you or locked in the trunk. After you've hidden your belongings, don't forget to hide the evidence; such as power plugs, MP3 adapters and GPS suction cup mounts.
- Stow your valuables before arrival: Experienced thieves often stake out parking lots to watch for people putting items in their trunk. Help prevent car break-ins by putting valuables such as laptops, messenger bags and electronic devices, into your trunk before you get to the parking lot.
- Don't leave keys in the car: Take your keys with you. Do not leave spare keys under the mat, above the visor or in a center console. Thieves know to look there.
- Don't leave vehicles running and unattended: If you make a stop and exit your vehicle, turn off the engine and take the keys with you. Leaving the vehicle running and unattended is a violation of city ordinance.
- Trust your instincts: If you see suspicious activity, find another spot to park. If you're concerned, report your suspicions to police. You may be helping keep another person from being a victim of a car break-in.

Source: Public Information Office



# Veterans Day Appreciation Event at Veterans Park

Veterans Park provided an appropriate backdrop for the second annual Veterans Day Appreciation event on Friday, November 11th. The event was the brainchild of Councilmember Susan Lamb, which is held to honor our veterans. She was joined this year by U.S. Congressman Andy Barr, veterans from across the community, dozens of Lexington citizens, several Council colleagues, and students from Veterans Park Elementary 4th & 5th grade chorus. The event was deemed a great success.















# Cardinal Hill Pumpkin Run 3K at Wellington Park







The 1st Annual Pumpkin Run 3K was held on October 29th, 2016 at Wellington Park. The event benefited Easter Seals Cardinal Hill Adaptive Recreation. A piece of pumpkin pie awaited participants at the finish line. Photos courtesy of Cindy Jacobelli, Cardinal Hill Hospital. To learn more about Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital visit: <a href="https://www.cardinalhillhealthsouth.com">https://www.cardinalhillhealthsouth.com</a>.

# DLC Now Accepting Applications for Christmas Parade



The <u>Downtown Lexington Corporation</u> is currently accepting applications for the 2016 Lexington Christmas Parade. This year's parade will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 6th. If you are a part of a group, band, service organization, etc., and would like to participate in the parade, fill out an <u>application</u> and return it with payment by Friday, December 2nd. For information call the DLC at (859) 335-8640.

Photo: WVLK Radio Personality Jack Pattie was Santa Claus in the 2015 Lexington Christmas Parade.

Photo: Rob Bolson

# Lexington Firefighter Toy Program Needs New Toys

Since 1931, the Lexington Fire Department has helped tens of thousands of kids receive toys for Christmas that they may not have otherwise received.

You can help with this year's Firefighter Toy Program by donating a new, unwrapped toy for infant to 12 years of age at any Lexington fire station.

The Firefighter Toy Program is open to Fayette County residents who need assistance providing toys for their children, infant to 12 years. Applications will be taken from November 7th thru the 23th at 442 Southland Drive Lexington, Ky. 40503

Monday-Wednesday: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.lfdfof.org/firefighter-toy-program/">https://www.lfdfof.org/firefighter-toy-program/</a> or contact the Lexington Fraternal Order of Firefighters at (859) 523-9576.



LM Communications has partnered with the FOF Toy Program to host a Bikes for the Bluegrass campaign with the goal of providing a bicycle for every child applicant in the FOF Toy Program. Drop off a NEW bicycle appropriate for ages 3–12 between November 18th-21st at Courtesy Acura on Nicholasville Road.

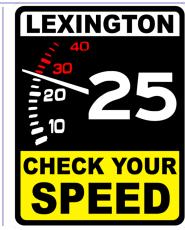
Toys should be **dropped off by Thursday**, **December 15th** as the distribution date is two days later.

# Your Parks, Our Future. Your Input.

The City of Lexington is in the process of developing a Master Plan to provide a vision and direction for the next ten years for the Division of Parks and Recreation. Your input is crucial to preparing a plan that responds to the needs of all residents.

Please provide your input through this web site, and return often as the questions as information will change as the project progresses. Thank you for your concern, ideas, and suggestions.





# Flashback Photos: Clays Mill Road circa 1980s.

Thank you to Bob and Mary Seelbach who recently sent me these terrific vintage photographs of Clays Mill Road taken in the 1980s. Do you remember this period of time? If you have vintage photos of our 9th District, I would be happy to include them in a future newsletter for all to enjoy.



Clays Mill Road facing North. Post Road is at the right.



Clays Mill Road facing North. Note the Ashland Service Station in the distance at Wellington which ended at Clays Mill Road during that period.



Clays Mill Road facing North just inside New Circle Road. The old Swan Farm is on the left.



Clays Mill Road facing South just past Wellington Way.

Photos courtesy of Bob and Mary Seelbach.

# City Leaf Vacuum Collection Program



Keep up with the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works on:

Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/LiveGreenLex">www.facebook.com/LiveGreenLex</a>
Twitter at <a href="www.twitter.com/LiveGreenLex">www.twitter.com/LiveGreenLex</a>
Instagram at <a href="www.instagram.com/LiveGreenLex">www.instagram.com/LiveGreenLex</a>

Lexington's 2016 vacuum leaf collection program began on Wednesday, November 9th and is scheduled to continue through Thursday, December 22nd. The vacuum pickup is offered once a year for single-family homes that receive city waste collection service.

Vacuuming will occur Mondays—Saturdays. To find your scheduled week and sign up for text reminders, use the interactive map at <a href="www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves">www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves</a>. Inclement weather can affect the collection schedule. When this happens, the interactive map will be updated, and a text alert will be sent to those impacted who signed up for the text service.

Residents participating in the vacuum program should prepare their leaves the Sunday before their scheduled collection begins. Rake leaves into the area between the sidewalk and street.

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; they can cause traffic hazards and clog storm drains. Piles should only contain leaves. Other objects, such as tree limbs and rocks, can injure crew members or damage equipment. For more information, call LexCall at 3-1-1 or visit <a href="https://www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves">www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves</a>.

# Plantation Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thank you to Plantation Neighborhood Association for the recent opportunity to speak with you at your association meeting along with fellow Councilmember Amanda Mays Bledsoe and our Fayette County PVA, David ONeill.

The meeting included association business, discussion of a neighborhood watch program, and dialogue regarding the new development proposed near Harrodsburg Road.

Lexington has more than 250 neighborhood and homeowner's associations. You can find contact information for individual associations here: <a href="https://www.lexingtonky.gov/find-your-neighborhood-association">https://www.lexingtonky.gov/find-your-neighborhood-association</a>. To find out what neighborhood association you may live in, go to <a href="MapIt!">MapIt!</a> and type in your address by selecting the "find" function/binoculars icon.



# City's Hires New Workforce Development Manager

The city's new workforce development manager, Elodie Dickinson, started work this past month. Dickinson's appointment addresses what many see as a gap in city services that opened in 2007 with the closure of the Mayor's Training Center.

She is the former Regional Manager of Program Services for Goodwill Industries, where she managed all workforce development programs and grants in Lexington.

Mayor Gray noted, "the goal is to continue the success we've had growing the economy by ensuring we have a trained workforce that attracts employers who offer good jobs -- the kinds of jobs our citizens want and need."

Welcome aboard!



# Ice Skating Rink Opens on November 12th



From November through the beginning of January, the lawn at <u>Triangle Park</u> is transformed into a winter wonderland with the Unified Trust Company Ice Rink. For a nominal fee, you can take to the ice in the glow of Lexington's official Christmas Tree bringing a unique experience for guests and locals of all ages.

Hours are Monday – Friday, 4–10 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m. and Sunday, 1:30–9 p.m. Admission and skate rental is \$12 for 90 minutes on the ice.

For more information on Triangle Park, visit <a href="http://www.visitlex.com/things-to-do/attractions/triangle-park/">http://www.visitlex.com/things-to-do/attractions/triangle-park/</a>.

Source: TriangleParkLexington.org

# Do You Recognize this Woman?

Do you recognize this woman? WATCH THIS VIDEO.

Lexington Police have released photos of a woman who they say are behind at least fifteen car break-ins and thefts at Shillito Park and Cardinal Run Park going back to mid-September. They believe she is working with two men. If you know her, please report it to Lexington Police at (859) 258-3600.



# Housewarming Gift Baskets Service Opportunity



The City's Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention works diligently alongside several local partners to help people experiencing homelessness find and move in to a new home. However, moving home after a long stay on the streets means starting out with little or nothing. Newly housed citizens often need daily items that most of us take for granted and they lack the money to stock their own shelves with dish soap, laundry detergent, toliet paper and other essentials.

The Office of Homelessness is now assembling "Welcome Home" baskets with hopes of providing one to each household in Lexington entering permanent housing and exiting homelessness. Individuals, offices, churches, and civic groups can collect specific items or assemble a basket and arrange for delivery by contacting Kayla Renfro at (859) 258-3142 or krenfro@lexingtonky.gov. Click here for more information about the baskets including items that are needed and/or how to assemble your own.

# Thanksgiving Meals Available in the Community



Several local organizations offer Thanksgiving meals for people experiencing homelessness and for others in need. Information about each is below including how to participate and how to volunteer or support each meal. All meals are open to anyone. Locations:

The Salvation Army - Thurs., Nov. 24, 12 to 1 p.m. at 736 West Main Street.

**Lighthouse Ministries** - Sat., Nov. 19, at 3 p.m.at Sayre School, 194 N. Limestone. <u>Click here</u> for more info or to volunteer.

Faith & Community - Thurs., Nov. 24, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 205 E. Short Street. Click here for more info or to sign up to volunteer.

Lexington Rescue Mission - Wed., Nov. 23, 5 to 7 p.m. at Broadway Christian Church, 187 N. Broadway. Click here for more information.

9th District Good Neighbors of the Month

James and Carol Brangers of Stonewall has nominated their neighbors **Dan Marsh and Laura Anschel**, for Good Neighbors of the Month.

Carol notes, "My husband has recently had open heart surgery; he is 78. We are both senior citizens. He was hospitalized for 6 days. After he returned home, he was unable to push, pull, or lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk (doctor's orders). Aside from the visits to the hospital and the food provided, Mr. Marsh has mowed our lawn every week since we returned home. The have watered the lawn during the dry periods. My husband also has a vegetable garden. Every evening or so, there is a bucket of tomatoes, green beans, peppers, zucchini, and squash at our back door. This is the same gentleman who we find in our driveway with a shovel on those days when there are 4-17 inches of snow. Never had neighbors as kind and gracious and I do plan to do everything I can think of to repay that kindness, but they are certainly "Good Neighbors of the Month" in this neighborhood."

Dan and Laura certainly sound like great neighbors and I am happy to feature their acts of kindness and neighborly spirit. We are fortunate to have so many great neighbors here in the 9th District! Send your nominations to <a href="mailto:imossotti@LexingtonKy.gov">imossotti@LexingtonKy.gov</a>.





# Grant Opportunity in the Community

LG&E and KU has announced their grant programs are going green! Their LG&E and KU Foundation, Plant for the Planet and Community Investment Funding grant processes will take place through their new online grant portal. All applications and corresponding documentation must be submitted electronically through the portal. Paper applications will no longer be accepted. The portal is now live and three different grants are available. Grant application periods and other information can be found here: <a href="https://lge-ku.com/contributions">https://lge-ku.com/contributions</a>.

# Submit an Anonymous Tip



<u>Text-a-Tip</u> is a tool for citizens to anonymously submit crime-related information.

Anyone with information about a suspect or an incident can text **LEXPD** in the body of the message followed by the tip and send it to CRIMES (274637).

Text-a-Tip can also accept video or picture files with the message.

Tipsters who text infor-

mation that leads to an arrest could potentially receive a reward up to \$1,000.

The Text-a-Tip service is free and requires no purchase or download to participate, however standard messaging rates and other fees may apply.

The police department cannot find out the identity of the tipster unless the person chooses to reveal it.

# Know a Good Neighbor?



Do you have a neighbor who deserves recognition for their contributions to the community? It only takes a few minutes to e-mail me a nomination so that I can recognize them here in the 9th District newsletter to let them know they are appreciated! Maybe they rake leaves or shovel snow for others? Or volunteer in the community? Or go out of their way to help others in some other fashion?

Let's recognize them!

E-mail me at <u>imossotti@LexingtonKy.gov</u>.

# Beshear Warns of Scams Targeting Veterans



# Pitching in to Plant.

Robin and Peter Young of Robinwood neighborhood recently joined in the tree planting event at Shillito Park. (See story on page 3.)

Send me your photos of activities here in the 9th District so that I can feature them in a future newsletter. E-mail <a href="mailto:jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov">jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov</a>.





Photos provided by Robin Young.

Attorney General Andy Beshear is warning Kentuckians to be cautious of scams targeting veterans. According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there are nearly 330,000 veterans in Kentucky who could be the target of scams. The scams include calls and emails offering bogus military discounts and soliciting personal military information. Scammers are pretending to be a deploying solider or claim to be a representative from a bogus military charity.

Beshear notes that the AARP has issued a nationwide alert to help veterans identify the top scams targeting veterans and military families.

**Veterans Affairs Impostor Scam** – By phone or email, a scammer may claim he or she is from the Department of Veterans Affairs and ask to confirm or update personal military information.

**Deployment Scam** – Con artists may pretend to be a deploying service member who places an online classified ad looking to sell an expensive item right away at a steep discount. The scammer will ask for upfront payment with gift cards or wire transfer and never provide the item.

**Benefits Buyout Scam** – Scammers may target veterans in need of money and offer to pay them cash in exchange for their future disability or pension payments. The cash offered is usually only a small part of the value of the disability or pension benefit.

**Military Discounted Rent Scam** – Fake online real estate classified ads may target veterans by promising military discounted rent. The scammer then takes a veteran's money through a wire transfer as a security deposit to the "landlord."

**Fake Military Charity Scams** – Scammers often try to use what sounds like legitimate charities and reference armed forces, veterans or military families to try and swindle Kentuckians.

Beshear offered these tips to help veterans and Kentuckians identify scams:

Be suspicious when asked to pay with gift cards or by wire transfer. These payment methods are often used by scammers because they are difficult to track and nearly impossible to recover. The Department of Veterans Affairs will never call to update personal financial information over the phone.

Donors who are not familiar with a charitable organization and how they use their money can verify what percentage of their income goes to the charity's purpose on <a href="CharityNavigator.org">CharityNavigator.org</a>. Additional research tools and resources can be found on the Attorney General's website.

Veterans and their families should only work with VA-accredited representatives regarding their benefits. To find a VA-accredited representative, visit <a href="http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp">http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp</a>.

To report a scam contact the Attorney General's Office at 888-432-9257 and file a complaint online. Kentuckians are urged to stay up to date on new and trending scams by signing up for Scam Alerts. To enroll text the words KYOAG Scam to GOV311 (468311), or enroll online at <a href="mailto:ag.ky.gov/scams">ag.ky.gov/scams</a> and select text message or email alert.

In October, Beshear announced Kentucky service members and their families targeted by retailer USA Discounters will share nearly \$1 million in restitution from a multistate settlement to resolve claims the company preyed on service members with deceptive trade practices. Source: Kentucky AOG Office.

# Lexington Receives Top Honors at AIB Symposium

Lexington received top honors at the 2016 America in Bloom (AIB) symposium on October 8th in Arroyo Grande, Calif. The city earned the highest rating of five blooms and was named the population category winner for communities over 50,000. Lexington was also recognized for its exceptional efforts related to urban forestry. This is Lexington's third year participating in the awards program, and its first year receiving five blooms.

Cities that participate in America in Bloom's awards program are judged on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscaped areas and floral displays.

The city's local AIB affiliate, America in Bloom Lexington, compiled a community profile which highlights public and private efforts related to each criterion. This document was reviewed by two judges from the national organization, who visited Lexington in April. Ann Garrity, President of AIB Lexington, coordinated the judges' tour. After speaking to the judges and reviewing their report, Ms. Garrity shared that the judges, "felt Lexington's pride showed throughout the community, with volunteers and partners working together to make our city a destination worth visiting and a special place to live."



Lexington is the host city for the 2018 national America in Bloom symposium.





# Community Events: Mark Your Calendar!



Ice Skating Rink at Triangle Park

Southern Lights Holiday Festival

Official Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dicken's A Christmas Carol & Candlelight

Tour at Waveland

Downtown Christmas Parade

November—January

November 18th-December 31st

November 26th

December 2nd-3rd & 9th-10th

December 6th

# Food for Fines Program Now in Progress



Do you have unpaid parking tickets? Want to help local families facing hunger? You're in luck. The Lexington Parking Authority has announced that its LEXPARK program will once again run the "Food for Fines" canned food drive from Monday, November 7 through Friday, December 16.

Customers who bring in 10 cans of food will receive \$15 off any LEXPARK or Lexington Police issued parking citation. Customers with multiple citations may bring in as many cans as they wish and receive \$15 credit for every set of 10 cans. 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 vegetables which are at least 14-15 oz. large and protein items such as canned meat, beans or peanut butter are suggested.

Expired, damaged or opened food donations will not be accepted. Please be considerate when selecting donated items.

Source: Public Information Office

# Quick Reference Information



# How to reach Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti:

#### By mail:

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

https://www.lexingtonky.gov/council-district-9

**By telephone:** 859-258-3215



jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov

#### By Social Media:

Facebook: <u>CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti</u>

Twitter: <u>@Mossotti9th</u>

Instagram: CouncilmemberMossotti

#### **Legislative Aide:**

Rob Bolson

E-mail: <a href="mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov">rbolson@lexingtonky.gov</a>
Telephone: 859-425-2564

LFUCG Website: www.LexingtonKy.gov

#### **Useful Telephone Numbers:**

**EMERGENCIES** 911 (Police, Fire, EMS)

**LexCall** (City Hall) 311 (or 859-425-2255)

 Police (Non-emergency)
 258-3600

 Fire (Non-emergency)
 231-5600

 Poison Control (24/7)
 800-222-1222

Before You Dig 811

City Garbage Collection 311 (or 859-425-2255)

 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



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: https://www.lexingtonky.gov/lexcall-311

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

Please forward a copy to them. Or to subscribe, e-mail <a href="mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov">rbolson@lexingtonky.gov</a> to be added to the distribution list.

Miss an edition? Read and download previous editions here: https://www.lexingtonky.gov/council-district-9

# New Firefighter Recruit Class Graduates



On Friday, October 14th, the newest group of Lexington Fire Department recruits graduated from their 22-week training program.

"We're very proud of this class," said Training Administrator Battalion Chief Chris Ward. "We put these men and women through a lot, and they have always met our expectations."

Thank you for your service to our community!



# Winter Clothing Collection



Lighthouse Ministries is collecting coats, gloves, hats, and socks for men, women and children to prepare for winter. Lighthouse Ministries is a non-profit corpo-

ration serving men, women, and children of Kentucky. Learn more: <a href="http://thelighthouseministries.org/about/">http://thelighthouseministries.org/about/</a>

Drop off new or gently used items Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 190 Spruce Street in downtown Lexington. Their Facebook pages notes that they are also in "desperate need" of the following items:

8 oz. Styrofoam plates
8 oz. Styrofoam cups and bowls
Coffee, Sugar packets, Creamer
Salt and pepper
Napkins
Plastic forks and spoons
Toilet paper
Large garbage bag
Shoes for men

# GOOD NEIGHBOR TIPS

Thinking about starting some new home improvement projects this spring? Here are some quick tips to remember:

- A permit from the Division of Building Inspection is required before a structure may be built, moved, added to or structurally altered.
- A permit is also needed for installation of a swimming pool, construction of a driveway or fence or major remodeling of a home.
- ✓ Before issuing a permit, the Division of Building Inspection will review plans to make sure they conform to the zoning ordinance and building code.
- ✓ Please call the division at (859) 258-3770 to find out if you need a permit, before you begin any home improvement.
- ✓ Underground utilities should always be located before any digging is done. Contact Kentucky Underground Protection at 1-800-752-6007 before you begin!





**December 7, 2016** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

at Embrace Church 10 15 North Limestone Street Lexington, KY 40505

Join us for a free workshop to learn simple, energy-saving tips that will save you money and make your home more comfortable this winter. This hands-on workshop will give you the skills you need to protect your home against high energy bills. This workshop is free and includes dinner and childcare for children ages four and up.

# INCLUDES DINNER & CHILDCARE (ages 4+ up)

Register online at: http://bit.ly/2dZpBqe or call 859-266-1572

For more information, please visit: www.BgGreensource.org











