


LEXINGTON
Council District 2

News for You

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE OFFICE OF JOSEPH SMITH

Council Updates

Dear Residents of the 2nd Council District,

March is already upon us as we make plans for the Spring. There is much to be proud of in our District. And, as I make my rounds across the district each month, it's been my experience from the neighborhood and homeowner associations how well they work together for the common good of our community in which we live.

Plans are underway for my next quarterly "Coffee with Your Councilmember". Notices will be sent out and posted on Facebook. Thanks to each and every one of you who took time out of your busy day and stopped by the 1st Coffee event on February 17th.

The City announces that a second Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor of the Government Center for the purpose of obtaining citizens' views on the development of the Consolidated Plan one-year Action Plan that is to be submitted by LFUCG to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in May and to provide information on housing and non-housing needs of the low - and moderate-income residents of the community.

I hope you find the information published in this newsletter useful, and as always, Thanks for your support!

Joe Smith

2nd District Councilmember



Welcome College Hunks Hauling Junk & Moving, Inc. to 2nd District, located at 125 Trade St., Suite H, Lexington, KY. Visit their website at www.collegchunshaulingjunk.com



Joseph Smith
2nd District Council Member



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Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Government

www.lexingtonky.gov/district-2

Non-Emergency—(859) 258-3600
EMERGENCY - 911

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Homelessness declines to lowest in last 12 years

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Lexington has reached its lowest level since at least 2005. “We’ve still got work to do, but we’re making progress,” Mayor Jim Gray said. “Our work and investments are beginning to pay off.”

“Since 2014, the City has gradually changed the focus of the way we help people who are homeless, Mayor Gray said. “Permanent housing is now the priority. And it’s working – we have significantly fewer people sleeping on the street.”

In 2005, 882 individuals and family members were found to be homeless in Lexington during the annual complete count exercise. This number continued to trend upward, reaching its peak in both 2011 and 2014, with over 1,500 individuals and family members homeless on any given night in Lexington.

Results from the 2018 count show that 685 people slept on the streets, in an emergency shelter or in transitional housing on the night of January 24. That is a decrease of 859 people, or 55.63%, below 2014, when there were 1,544 people sleeping on the streets, in an emergency shelter or in transitional housing. It’s also a decrease of 366 people when compared to the 1,051 count in 2017.

“This is a moment to pause and recognize our progress, celebrate what has worked, and assess the great challenges that still lie ahead,” said Polly Ruddick, Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. The Office was established by Gray and the Urban-County Council in 2014, along with an affordable housing trust fund.

“Every night there are still about 700 people in our community with no place to call home, and many hundreds more on the margins, fighting to stay off the streets,” Ruddick said. “Our work continues until everyone in Lexington has access to opportunities, support services, and safe, decent, affordable housing.”

Gray thanked the network of organizations and people who work every day to help those who need housing assistance in Lexington.

In addition to the overall numbers, Lexington is also seeing improvements in:

- The number of veterans who are homeless. In 2014, 203 homeless veterans were reported on the night of the count; this year only 92 veterans were found to be homeless, a difference of 54.6%.
- The number of people who are chronically homeless. In 2014, 186 individuals were reported to have been living on the streets or in an emergency shelter for longer than a year, as compared to 92 people this year.
- Chronically homeless families. The counts show a decrease from 12 families (33 members) in 2014, to 2 families (6 members) in 2018.

Since 2014, Lexington has realigned over \$1.1 million in federal housing funds from transitional housing to permanent housing, providing an estimated additional 330 permanent housing beds. In addition, Lexington has invested \$2.8 million, supporting over 13 different homeless programs that assist in housing and provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness. Also since 2014, Lexington has invested \$9 million in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund it established.

The annual homeless count is conducted each January, and is required for communities receiving federal homeless funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Teams of volunteers visit outdoor sites where people experiencing homelessness have been known to congregate, while shelters and housing programs report their occupancy. This year, 18 teams canvassed over 100 locations throughout Lexington and Fayette County.

Lawrence Weathers officially sworn in as Lexington police chief

Officially Lawrence Weathers was sworn on as Lexington Police Chief on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the lobby of the Government Center.

He officially started as Chief on March 5.

No stranger to Lexington or the Police Department, Weathers, 54, retired from the Lexington Police Department in 2016, after 27 years of service to the City.

Then, he served as Director of Law Enforcement for Fayette County Public Schools.

A Lexington native, Weathers was raised on the east end and north end. He's from a large family – he has nine brothers and sisters, many of whom work in the criminal justice community.

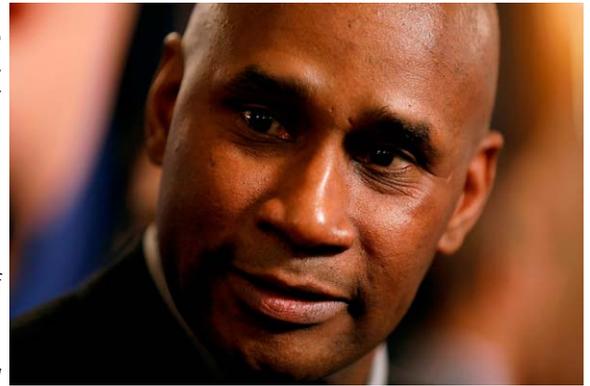
"I want to give back by sharing my knowledge and experiences. I want to show a person can succeed," Weathers said. Weathers isn't one of those people who always wanted to be a police officer. "Honestly, there was an ad in the paper and they offered health benefits," said Weathers, who joined the Lexington Police Department in 1989. "There were 1,300 people taking the test for 12 spots. I got one of them."

During his career, Weathers held a variety of assignments within the Police Department, working his way up the ladder and giving him a broad range of experience.

The Mayor's announcement of Weathers' appointment came on Monday, February 3, 2018 at 11 a.m. This is an important day for our city," Gray said. "Public safety is a top priority for our citizens and for me. Lawrence Weathers is a strong believer in community-oriented policing and in developing partnerships throughout the community. I believe those are important keys to improving public safety."

Weathers holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Kentucky University. He and his wife, Melinda, live in Lexington and have three children, Jordan, Benjamin and Emery.

Weathers succeeds Interim Chief Ron Compton, who took over after Mark Barnard retired in January.



Historic Courthouse Reveal

It has been closed to the public for 60 years, home to rusting heating and air conditioning equipment, an elevator shaft, peeling paint and deteriorating plaster.

No more. At a 10 a.m. press conference on Monday, February 12, 2018, Mayor Jim Gray reopened the restored dome of the Lexington's Historic Courthouse. And it's gorgeous.

"The dome tops off a courthouse that once again will be a centerpiece downtown," Gray said. "A place that welcomes everyone with a restaurant, a bar, offices, a Visitors Center and fantastic space for all kinds of celebrations ... the dome." The entire building will open in late spring.

The work on the dome is part of a \$32 million public-private project to restore Lexington's Historic Courthouse, which has graced Main Street since it opened in 1899. The Courthouse is the fourth to stand on the block at 210 W. Main St.

A renovation project in 1960 closed the dome to make room for desperately needed space for the courts to operate in the overcrowded courthouse. Fayette County's courts were housed in the Main Street building until 2001, when new courthouses opened on Limestone Street.

Holly Wiedemann, development agent for the restoration, said the dome is the most "historically intact" area in the building. "The plasterers took castings of intact plasterwork and made the missing ornamentation," Wiedemann said. "Two of the paint colors are originals, as identified by a historic paint analysis. And the lights in the dome were original to the building. We simply replaced the bulbs."

The building was one of the first electrified buildings in the area, and its innovative use of electric lights in the dome was groundbreaking when the building opened 119 years ago. "It was something you saw in Paris, France, and in Lexington, the Athens of the West," said Wiedemann, President of AU Associates.

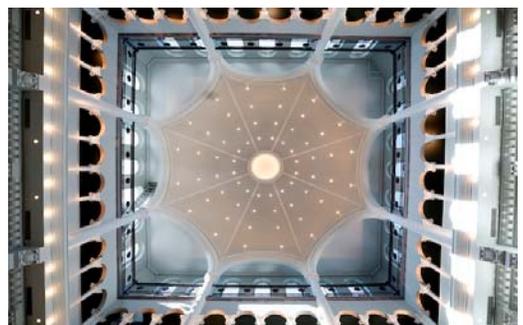
The dome, Limestone Hall, has been leased to LexEffect, an event management company, and the first events will be held there later this month. All of the space in the Courthouse is leased. The rent will be used to cover operating and maintenance costs.

The restoration was partially financed through historic tax credits. "We didn't want the cost of another government building to maintain," Gray said. "And we financed the restoration partially through historic tax credits. We involved the private sector rather than go it alone with public dollars."

Although the dome is finished, work continues on the other floors of the Courthouse. The public will be invited to tour the building when work is complete in late spring.

Until then, citizens are encouraged to drive by and take a look at the many changes. The building is now lit at night, and most of the construction fence has been removed, making it possible to see the exterior changes.

Chief Administrative Officer Sally Hamilton and Administrative Officer Senior Jenifer Wuorenmaa managed the project for the City.



2018 District Neighborhood Grants & Resources

Neighborhood Match Grant

LFUCG Grants & Special projects

Application for Fiscal Year 2019 on or around June 22, 2018

Deadline Date: July 27, 2018

Maximum Amount: \$10,000

Website: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=167>

Contact: sloveday@lexingtonky.gov or (859) 258-3073

The neighborhood association must match all funds it receives with an equal amount through cash contributions or donated materials, service or labor. Below are links to access the NAMP Guidelines, application, and other forms

Storm Water Neighborhood Class A Incentive Grant

Maximum Amount: \$100,000

LFUCG Division of Water Quality

Due: MAY 11, 2018

Website: <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/news/01-26-2018/stormwater-grant-recipients-announced>

Contact: Chris Dent at cdent@lexingtonky.gov or 859-425-2521

This grant has been established to assist property owners, businesses, and organizations in the implementation of projects that serve to improve water quality through innovation and education throughout Fayette County. A required 20% cost share of total project cost in cash or in-kind donation is required. Projects include, but are not limited to planting trees along a stream, stream cleaning, storm drain marking, installation of a local garden, retention pond, or educational material about water quality and pollution.

Class B Education Grants

Due May 11, 2018

\$35,000 max and first \$2500 is pure grant and above the first \$2500 is a 1:1 cost share

Class B Infrastructure Grants

Due July 27, 2018

\$300,000 max and 20% cost share

Example of neighborhood projects: <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/news/10-04-2016/stormwater-grant-recipients-announced>

Community-Wide Housing Emergency Repair Program

Maximum Amount: \$5,000

LFUCG Division of Grants and Special Programs

Date: On-going

Website: <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/emergency-repair-program>

Contact: April Meadows by phone (859)258-3070 or email ameadows@lexingtonky.gov

This Program is designed to provide deferred loans of up to \$5,000 to assist eligible homeowners with emergency repairs on their homes. ANYONE who owns and occupies their house and whose household income does not exceed the guidelines (based on family size) is eligible to apply.

Corridor Match Grant

LFUCG Corridor Commission

Applications accepted from February 1, 2018 thru March 30, 2018 by 4:00 pm

Website: <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/boards/corridors-commission>

Total Amount available in grant: \$20,000 (will be divided amongst highest scoring applicants)

This grant is for any physical improvement (planting, sidewalk, bench, wayfinding signs, etc), activity to promote a general clean-up, or removal of street trees on the corridor named above. This is a 100% match

2018 District Neighborhood Grants & Resources (cont'd)

grant. In-kind donations match accepted. There are no set amounts on the application, but \$20,000 is available. The selection criteria can be found on the website.

Hazard Street Tree Replacement Cost Share

Average Amount: Cost share of removal

Urban Forrester Program, LFUCG

Conducted on a first-come basis as long as funds are available

Due: **No funds available at this time. Check back after FY 2019 in July of 2018**

Contact: Tim Queary at tqueary@lexingtonky.gov or 859-258-3404

Hazard Street Tree Cost-Share and Grant Program for property owners throughout the Urban Service Area (USA) to remove and replace street trees that pose a threat to public safety. This is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance to residential property owners for street tree removal, including stump grinding and new street tree installation, in accordance with Chapter 17B of the Code of Ordinances. This program provides matching monies to reimburse property owners 50% of the total cost of removal of hazardous street trees.

Sidewalk Replacement Cost Share

Average Amount: 50% Cost share of removal

Code Enforcement

Due: Conducted on a first-come basis as long as funds are available

Contact: Must be cited to apply for funds

In most cases, the Sidewalk Replacement Grant Program can provide assistance to residential property owners. This grant may reimburse a reasonable amount (currently \$5.00 per square foot) of cost related to the replacement of any residential sidewalk which has been placed under notice by Code Enforcement. Up to 100% of the replacement cost may be available to home owners that are considered qualified property owners.

Neighborhood Development Grant

LFUCG Council

Average Amount: \$750

Contact: Councilmember

Due: On Going

Projects must be for a public good. Past projects have included neighborhood beautification projects, neighborhood parades and events, signage, and cost sharing projects. Neighborhoods or schools must be registered with the state and in good standing. To make a request, please submit a request via email detailing the project and the total cost.

Outside Funding

Neighborhood Trees Grant

The Tree Man

Contact: Arborist Stacy Borden stacyborden@gmail.com

Website: <http://thetreemanlexington.com/neighborhood-tree-planting>

Due: On-going

The Neighborhood Tree Planting Program brings affordable, quality trees to neighborhoods. Please take a moment to look at our website for more information on this new service. This service is available to individuals, small groups and entire neighborhoods. Our goal is to get more trees into our landscape.

2018 District Neighborhood Grants & Resources (cont'd)

Outside Funding cont'd

American Water Environmental Grant Program

Kentucky American Water

Due: Due March 26, 2018

Website: <https://amwater.com/kyaw/news-community/environmental-grant-program>

Contact: Susan Lancho at susan.lancho@amwater.com

Competitive grant program offering funds for innovative, community based environmental projects that improve, restore or protect the watersheds, surface water and/or groundwater supplies in our local communities based on funds available. We are pleased to offer this modest assistance to our community partners, while leveraging local resources and capabilities to make a positive impact on the environment.

To qualify for Environmental Grant funding, a proposed project must be:

- Located within Kentucky American Water's 12-county service area (Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Jessamine, Nicholas, Owen, Scott and Woodford counties)
- Address a source water or watershed protection need
- Completed between May and November of the grant funding year
- Establish a new or innovative program or a significant expansion to an existing program
- Be carried out by a formal or informal partnership of at least two organizations; and provide evidence of sustainability.
- Maximum grant is \$5,000.

GO LOCAL - Annual Citywide Service Project

Contact: Brent Barger, CKY ReachOut Initiatives at (859) 263-4633 x230

Crossroads website: www.crossroads.net

Deadline: March 23, 2018

Over the past 12-years Crossroads has unleashed thousands of volunteers with muscle, people who can organize, who love to get dirty and love to help serve our community. We do this through our annual citywide service project, **GO Local** and this is your invitation to participate.

In four hours on **Saturday, May 12th** (there is flexibility to do projects earlier in that week if necessary), we'll tackle nearly 1,000 projects at schools, social agencies, parks, and in our neighborhoods from Cincinnati to Lexington to Dayton and across the country. We'll partner with organizations helping pursue their mission as we further ours to Mobilize, Connect, and Change the World. We'll seek to work alongside the people we serve, doing **GO Local** with but not for organizations. We believe that common pursuit, working together, and serving others are key to putting into action our desire to change the world and it starts in our neighborhoods.

Click below for a YouTube clip from 2017 that will give you an idea of what the day looks like. [GO Local 2017 Recap Video](#)

Over the next few weeks we'll seek to solidify partners for this years event. Below is a link to the GO Local 2018 Project Submission Form. If you wish to submit a project(s) for consideration, we have extended the deadline to get your GO Local project request form submitted from Monday, February 19th to **March 23rd**. The earlier your submission is received the higher likelihood of it being selected.

[**SUBMIT PROJECT REQUESTS HERE**](#)

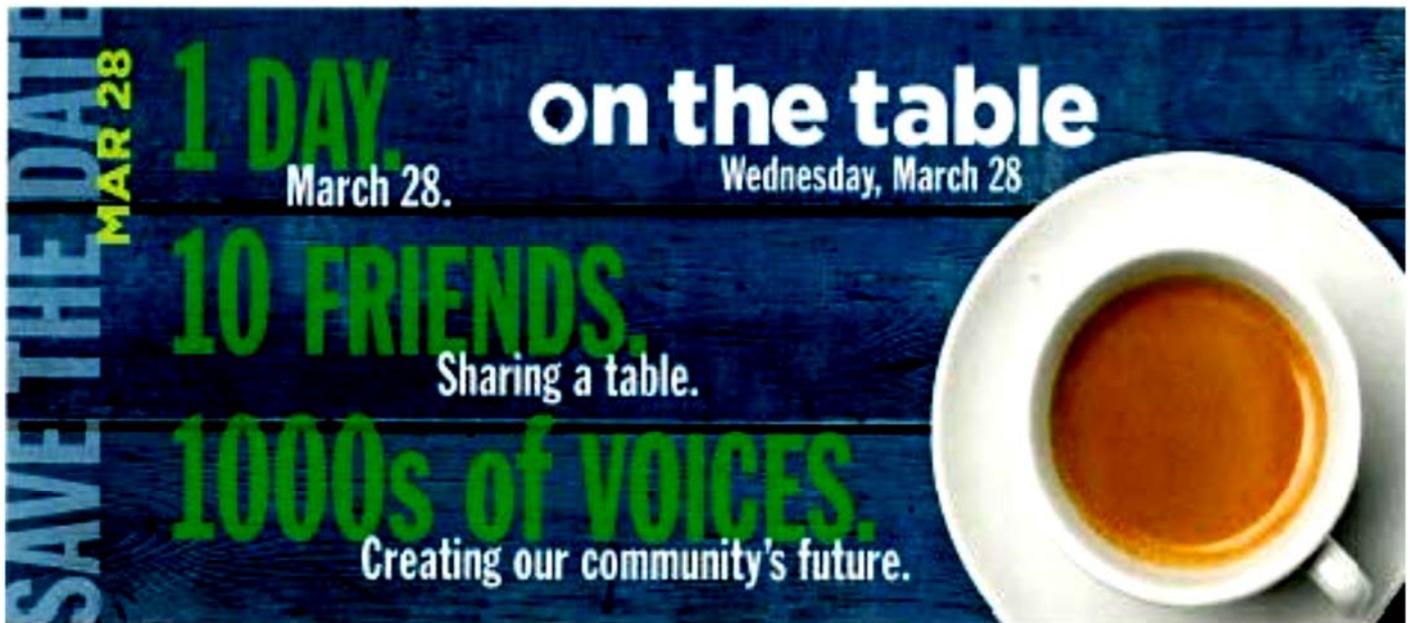
Share a table - Wednesday, March 28th

Save the Date: On the Table on March 28! Lexington is a planning partner for this year.

Once again, the Blue Grass Community Foundation, the City and several community partners will hold "On the Table" discussions on one day...**March 28**...all around our city.

Everyone is encouraged to gather for an hour over breakfast, lunch, dinner, a coffee break, or any time in-between to discuss how to have an impact on the future of Lexington and communities across the region through individual and collective civic action. Conversations will explore topics such as volunteering, voting, charitable giving, helping a neighbor, improving the environment and more.

To learn how you can be part of this important initiative visit www.bgcf.org/onthetable



WHEN: One day only – **Wednesday, March 28, 2018.**

WHO: Anyone who lives, works or studies in Lexington or Frankfort, or anywhere throughout the region.

WHAT: Host or attend an On The Table conversation.

WHERE: Mealtime conversations – breakfast, lunch, dinner and everything in between – can be hosted anywhere – fancy or informal – it's entirely up to each host.

To get all the details or to host your own table, visit bgcf.org/onthetable,

490 East High Street • Suite 112 • Lexington, KY 40507 / 859.225.3343 / bgcf.org



MAR 28
on the table
your voice matters.

BLUE GRASS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
WE'RE IN IT FOR GOOD

Consider being a HOST for "On the Table" and invite your neighbors to join in the discussion.

Citizens' Environmental Academy - Apply by March 30th

CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL ACADEMY

2018

APPLY BY MARCH 30.
APPLICATION + INFO: LEXINGTONKY.GOV/CEA

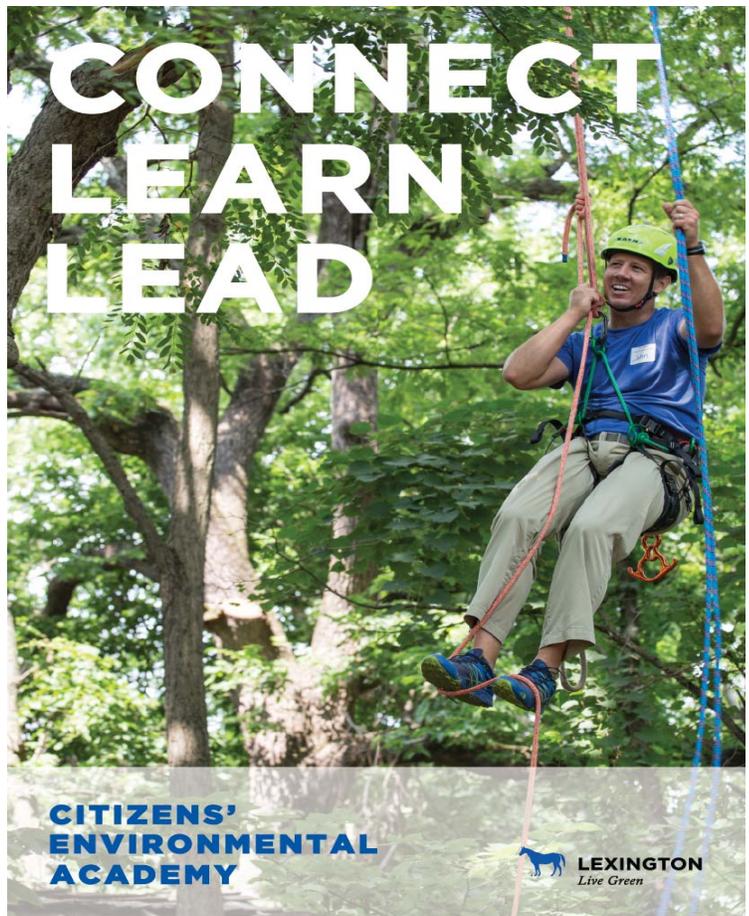
CONNECT. LEARN. LEAD.

LEXINGTON
Live Green

The Department of Environmental Quality & Public Works are in the process of recruiting members for the 2018-2019 class. Participants from the first class are finishing up their projects in preparation for graduation in May.

One Saturday a month, from May to September, members of the Citizens' Environmental Academy will participate in tours, talks and hands-on activities related to water quality, urban forestry, waste management, safe streets and more. After attending these sessions, participants have six-months to carry out projects related to the content of the academy.

For more details, the full schedule and the application, visit www.LexingtonKY.gov/CEA. Applications for the 2018-2019 class will be accepted through March 30.



Division of Emergency Management - BeReadyLexington App

The Lexington-Fayette County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is a division of Lexington-Fayette County's Department of Public Safety. DEM works before, during, and after emergencies to minimize impacts on the community. Their work depends upon coordination with others in government, the private sector, and the wider community to promote risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery. Our goal is a resilient community that can endure all hazards, adapt quickly to disruptions, and return to normal activities as soon as possible.

To learn more about DEM, visit their web pages that describe [what they do](#) and Lexington's [emergency operations center](#). To learn how you can help them make Lexington a stronger, safer community, [see their page on getting involved](#). You also can [get to know their staff](#) or [contact them](#) for more information about any of their programs.

I DON'T HAVE TIME. IT JUST SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF WORK. IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME.

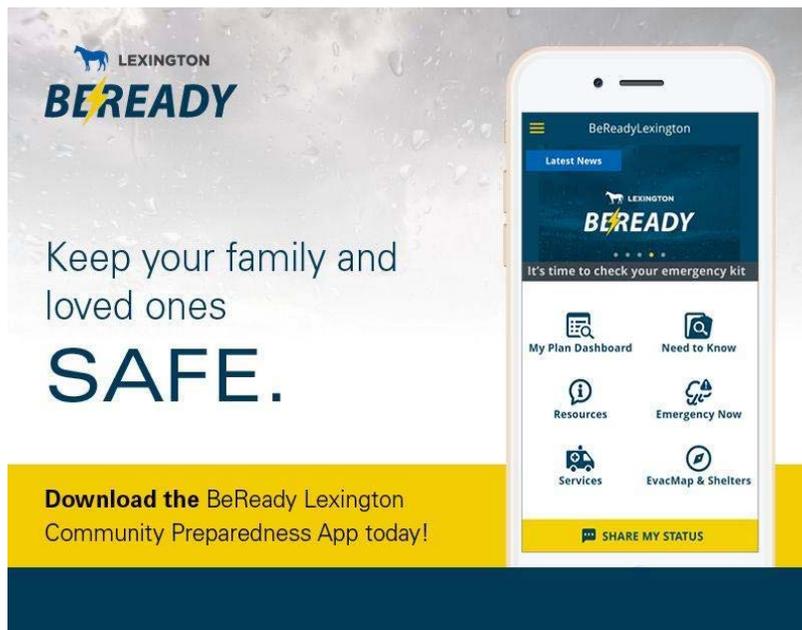
Those are just a few of the reasons people make for not being prepared for an emergency. Emergencies don't have to be on a large scale to have an enormous impact on your life. Most likely, you or someone you know has been without power for more than three days. Many times, these events aren't due to severe weather but an accident like downed power lines, faulty equipment, broken water main or frozen pipes. Emergencies are unpredictable but that doesn't mean you can't be prepared for a disaster.

DEM has worked to develop a new mobile phone and tablet app that will help you better prepare and plan for how to respond to a disaster in your area. By downloading and using this free app, you will be able to:

- Share your status with your selected contacts with the push of a button.
- Receive critical emergency alerts.
- Get the latest emergency preparedness news and weather alerts for the Fayette County area.
- Create a personalized emergency preparedness plan.
- Locate Fayette County's emergency shelters.
- View up-to-date evacuation route maps.

The **BeReadyLexington** app, which is FREE, is available for both Android and iPhone users. Visit the Google Play Store or iPhone App Store and search for the **BeReadyLexington** app. Download and install it.

You'll be better prepared to handle what happens. Remember disasters don't plan ahead. You can.



The graphic features a smartphone displaying the BeReadyLexington app interface. The app screen shows a header with the Lexington BeReady logo, a 'Latest News' section, and a grid of icons for 'My Plan Dashboard', 'Need to Know', 'Resources', 'Emergency Now', 'Services', and 'EvacMap & Shelters'. A 'SHARE MY STATUS' button is visible at the bottom of the app screen. To the left of the phone, the text reads 'Keep your family and loved ones SAFE.' Below the phone, a yellow banner says 'Download the BeReady Lexington Community Preparedness App today!'.

Be Aware.
Make a Plan.
Build a Kit.
Get Involved.

It's all possible with help from the
BeReadyLexington app.

PARKS & RECREATION PROJECTS...UPDATE



Below are the funded, Parks & Recreation capital project updates for the 2nd Council District. We are excited about all the projects and wish to highlight a few on the road to completion this month.

Masterson Hills Trail

Project Manager: Justin Carey
Budget: \$75,000
Status: On going

Masterson Hills Basketball court

Project Manager: Justin Carey
Budget: \$75,000
Status: On going

Trailwood Trail Connector

Project Manager: Justin Carey
Budget: \$83,500
Status: On going

Kearney Retention Wall

Project Manager: Anthony Williams
Budget: \$328,030.
Status: On going
Notes: Safety issue completed.

Douglass Pool Improvements

Project Manager: Justin Carey
Status: Bid Recommendation made

Masterson Spray ground

Project Manager: Justin Carey
Status: Complete
Notes: Winterized

Parks Master Plan

Project Manager: Suzanne Leabee/ Michael Johnson / Michelle Kosieniak
Budget: \$250,000

Status: The Master Plan Steering Committee and the Parks Advisory Board met on November 15. Pat Hoagland of BCI presented the Top 20 recommendations for Parks in general. Recommendations for regional, community and neighborhood parks were discussed and the draft action plan was distributed



LexGOGreen - Tips for the Month

Salting sidewalks and driveways in snowy weather can keep us safe, but too much salt pollutes our streams. Salt before snow and ice or after shoveling your sidewalk. Only use as much salt as you need. Sweep up extra salt to save for future use.



PROTECT LOCAL STREAMS

Salt sidewalks responsibly by following these simple steps:

1. Only sprinkle salt on the sidewalk.
2. Salt before snow and ice or after shoveling your sidewalk.
4. Use salt sparingly.
5. Sweep up extra salt to reuse for next time.

#LexGoGreen
TIP OF THE
MONTH

 **LEXINGTON**
Live Green



LEXINGTON
LexCall 311

Download the free
LexCall app
on your
[iPhone](#) or [Android](#)