2018 September Issue #7



## Council District 2

# **News for You**

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE OFFICE OF JOSEPH SMITH Council Updates

Dear 2nd District Neighbors,

#### A New City Hall Up For Consideration

More than likely, you have heard in the news that Lexington needs a new City Hall. Our current building is nearly one-hundred years old, the former Lafayette Hotel, that was never intended to be a City Hall. Due to the building's age and ongoing maintenance needs, keeping the building in order is an endless task.

The Council is presently reviewing a local developer's proposal to move the current City Hall to the offices on the Lexington Herald-Leader building on Midland Ave,

Our current police headquarters is also included in the proposal to move to 100 Midland Avenue alongside a new City Hall. The building needs of a police agency are different than the needs of a normal office building. Full consideration should be given to Police command for review before a new police headquarters is designed and built.

The estimated annual lease payment in the current proposal includes an 804 parking space garage and 40,000-square feet of additional space for a new police headquarters, which is approximately \$5.1 million for 35 years with no escalation.

On August 14th, the Council held a public hearing at City Hall to hear public feedback on the proposed new City Hall. I welcome your input and appreciate the feedback as well.

The vote on whether or not to proceed at this point will be held on Thursday, September 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor here at 200 East Main St.

I invite you to attend and take advantage of the public input opportunity at the meeting. The meeting will also be televised live on Spectrum Cable here in Lexington, on cable channel 185 (LexTV) and also live streamed at Non-Emergency—(859) 258-3600 www.lexingtonKY.gov/LexTV.

Thank you for your support,

Toe Smith 2nd District Councilmember



Joseph Smith 2nd District Council Member



#### **Contact Information:**

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Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

www.lexingtonky.gov/district-2

**EMERGENCY - 911** 

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#### TOWN BRANCH COMMONS PROJECT UPDATE

Below is a brief summary on the Town Branch Commons project. This information will give you an overview of upcoming activities. Specific updates are below:

#### Utility Construction began in late July

- o Sanitary Sewer Upgrade: The sanitary sewer project, is well underway and I am happy to report they are on schedule. Contractors are replacing old and/or installing new higher capacity sanitary sewer pipe. <u>AREA of IMPACT:</u> along Main (from Elm Tree to Eastern), Eastern (from Main to Short), Short (from Eastern to Midland), and Midland (from Short to Third).
  - Construction started at Main & Elm Tree, and have been moving along Main toward Eastern Avenue. They have approximately 100 feet of pipe left to install on Main Street. They expect to be finished on Main Street the week of September 17. Lane closures on Main will still be needed as work turns the corner to Eastern Ave.



**Town Branch Commons Overview** 

- Construction will begin on Eastern Avenue early next week. Eastern Ave will be closed to place the remaining sewer located on Main Street. Pipe installation will then begin moving up Eastern Avenue toward Short St. The Eastern Avenue construction will be in two phases so traffic can be maintained on the upper portion of Eastern Avenue while work is being completed on the lower end at Main Street.
- <u>Short Street from Eastern to Midland Avenue</u> has been closed to accommodate the digging of a large pit to fit equipment for tunneling under Midland Ave. They are currently tunneling under Midland Ave to place the large pipe that will connect to the other side. Lane closures on Midland are expected in the upcoming months. An exact date has not been determined yet for these closures.
- <u>Lexington Center Corp (LCC)</u> Both TBC & LCC design teams have coordinated plans. TBC team is now working
  with Messer Construction (LCC's contractor) to develop a coordinated construction plan as both projects have
  overlapping schedules and project boundaries.

Below are a few images of the work going on inside the trenches in case you have been curious about what's going on down there:







#### Outreach:

- o <u>Website:</u> Please visit <u>www.lexingtonky.gov/sewerconstruction</u> for construction information, and to <u>www.lexingtonky.gov/townbranchcommons</u> for details about the trail project.
- o <u>Town Branch Park:</u> Our private partners at the Town Branch Fund have launched their revamped website-Check it out: <u>www.townbranchpark.org</u>

#### STAND FOR THE LAND OPPORTUNITY



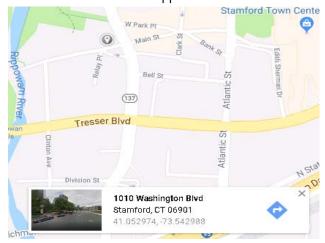
In partnership with Keep America Beautiful, KAB affiliates and partner organizations have an opportunity to participate in a Philip Morris USA initiative. Philip Morris will place 10,000 litter stands to collect cigarette butts in communities nationwide and educate adult smokers 21+ on the importance of disposing of their cigarette butts properly.

Adult smokers are being given the opportunity to enter locations (city and zip code) on a map to indicate where they would like to see a litter stand installed. As stands are placed, an interactive map will populate featuring local stories and showing locations that have been selected

Keep America Beautiful & Philip Morris USA request your help in finding locations to place litter stands to provide opportunities for adult smokers to dispose of their cigarette butts properly.

#### Requirements:

- Install the litter stand(s) in an accessible place (e.g., outside entrance to retail location, or transition point where adult smokers commonly dispose of cigarette butts). Hardware is included to mount each receptacle.
- Maintain litter stand(s) (e.g., regularly empty cigarette butts into garbage).
- Share the GPS coordinates of each litter stand's location with KAB to include on the interactive map. GPS coordinates can be identified in several ways:
  - Enter the litter stand location/address into https://www.latlong.net/ and record coordinates.
  - Using Google Maps, right-click the place on the map. Select "What's Here?". At the bottom of the map, a card with coordinates will appear.



#### Why Participate?

- For every additional litter stand, the littering rate for cigarette butts decreases 9%.
- The majority of smokers said they would properly dispose of their butts if suitable receptacles were available.
- Litter stands and hardware are offered for free

#### Litter Stand Specs/Photos:

Manufactured by Sidewalk Buttler

Dimensions: 4" x 4" x 14"

Made of aluminum with black powder coating

Empties from the bottom, by removing the shackle lock

Shackle lock & two nuts and bolts are included with the litter stand

#### Questions?

Contact KAB via email at litterstands@kab.org.



#### CHANGES COMING TO KENTUCKY'S Call-Before-You-Dig Law



Published from Kentucky Public Service Commission on May 22, 2018 the following article:

Changes Coming to Kentucky's call-before-you-dig law on July 14; financial penalties loom for violations

On July 14, the Kentucky Public Service Commission began investigate excavation damage COMMISSION to natural gas or hazardous liquid lines to determine whether it was caused by violations of Kentucky's call-before-you-dig law.

Under a change to the law that took effect July 14, the PSC will be able to impose financial penalties if violations are uncovered.

PSC Chairman Michael Schmitt said that the stepped-up enforcement of the call-before-you-dig statutes and regulations reflects a greater emphasis nationally and at the state level on pipeline safety.

"This new law brings Kentucky into line with federal standards, which the PSC enforces under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation," he said. "More importantly, it is an effort to significantly improve public safety by reducing the unacceptably high number of dangerous dig-in incidents involving natural gas pipelines."

Like every other state, Kentucky has a statewide 811 service that, by law, must be called at least two working days prior to beginning excavation. This advance notification is intended to allow ample time for utility lines to be located and marked so that excavation can proceed safely. Natural gas providers and hazardous liquid pipeline operators are reguired to provide the location of their lines to the 811 center.

The new law (Senate Bill 104), enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly and signed by Gov. Matt Bevin, gives the PSC the authority to enforce existing provisions in Kentucky statutes that are intended to protect natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines. The PSC will investigate incidents of damage to pipelines to determine whether a location request to 811 was made in a timely manner, whether the pipeline was located accurately and properly, and whether the excavation was conducted safely.

Excavators, including homeowners, could be penalized for not calling 811, ignoring location markers or using improper excavation methods. Operators could be penalized for not responding to requests to locate lines or for improperly or inaccurately locating or marking underground facilities.

Penalties are up to \$1,250 for a first violation, \$2,000 for a second violation, and \$4,000 for subsequent violations.

"Not every incident in which a gas line is hit will result in a violation being issued and a penalty assessed, especially if 811 has been called," said John Lyons, director of the PSC division of inspections, which will investigate incidents. "However, a failure to call 811 will trigger an enforcement action."

About 240 entities operate natural gas or hazardous liquid pipelines in Kentucky. They include local gas distribution



companies fully regulated by the PSC and municipal natural gas providers and other entities such as housing authorities that are regulated by the PSC for safety only.

In 2017, there were more than 1,200 incidents in Kentucky in which a gas line was damaged during an excavation. A PSC review of a sampling of the damage reports indicates that:

 Contractors and other professional excavators were responsible for 85 percent of the incidents, with water and sewer line repairs, building construction, swimming pool installation, and irrigation system installation among the most common causes.

## CHANGES COMING TO KENTUCKY'S Call-Before-You-Dig Law (cont'd)

- ⇒ Homeowners accounted for the remaining 15 percent of incidents. The most common causes were the installation of mailboxes or fencing, landscaping work, and water or sewer line repairs.
- ⇒ Causes of damage included a failure to call 811, improper location by the operator of the pipeline, or careless excavation.

PSC Executive Director Gwen R. Pinson said the PSC has begun making organizational changes in order to fulfill its new responsibilities to investigate and enforce the requirement to call 811 prior to beginning an excavation. The PSC also has launched an extensive public outreach effort, she said.

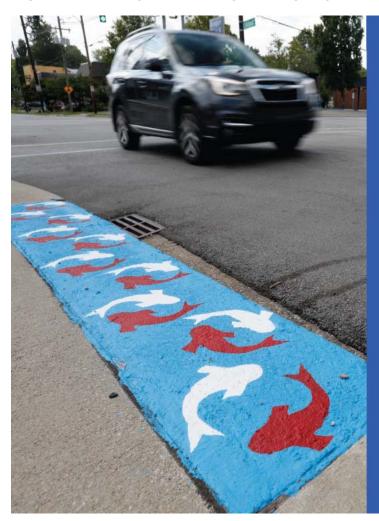
"We will be meeting with key stakeholder groups, including natural gas providers and the construction industry, to make sure that everyone understands the changes to the law," Pinson said. "The PSC also will require natural gas distribution companies to communicate with their customers about these changes."

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky.

From Kentucky Public Service Commission

http://call811.com/map-page/kentucky

#### GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



Storm drains lead directly to Lexington's creeks.

Stencil or paint your neighborhood storm drains to help protect local creeks.

To check out a free stenciling kit or submit an artistic design for approval, email jmyatt@lexingtonky.gov





#### PARK PROJECT UPDATE:

The Coldstream Dog Park reopened to the public on June 15, 2018.

## Parks & Recreation Update on Park Improvement Projects

Project name	Project Manger	Prime Contractor	Contract Amount or Project Budget	Fund	Status/Notes/ Est. Completion
Masterson Sprayground	Justin Carey	Pace Contracting	\$500,000.00	Bond 17	Substantially complete
Masterson Hills Trail/ Trailwood Connector	Justin Carey	G&G Paving	\$75,000.00	Council Reallocation 16	Masterson Hills trail substan- tially complete. Meeting with neighborhood regarding Trailwood.
Masterson Hills Basketball	Justin Carey	G&G Paving	\$75,000.00	GENERAL 17	Substantially complete
CBDG - Thompson Road Park Renovation	Michelle Kosieniak	Element	\$187,500.00	CDBG 17	In design.

## The Masterson Station Park Advisory Board

#### Here are some important updates to remember from the meeting held on September 5th:

The Masterson Station spray ground will be closing early this season in an effort to add more concrete around the structure to hopefully cut down on the mud and other things that cause the drain to back up. Mud and grass getting into and clogging up the drainage system leads to lower water pressure. During this time, they also hope to add some additional benches or some kind of seating areas.

The spray grounds at Castlewood and Douglass Park will remain open until October (as long as temps stay consistently above 63-64 degrees).

The Bluegrass Fair will be rolling into town early next summer. New dates are: June 6th-16th. Set up will begin early like always so expect to see them moving in towards the end of May.

Remember to stay off of the LYSA soccer fields unless you are authorized to be there.

There are lots of upcoming events happening at the park. Please be mindful of this while coming and going from the neighborhood as some of these could cause traffic delays.

## The larger events include...

9/15 - Down Syndrome Walk (Est. 2000 attendees)

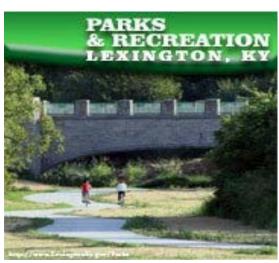
10/09 - FCPS XC City Championships (Est. 1500 attendees)

9/20 thru 9/24 - Big Bounce Event (Inflatables) (Est. 3000 attendees)

10/20 - Meet of Champions (XC) (Est. 8000 attendees)

(Est. 1000 attendees)

9/30 - Fire Prevention Fest



#### FY 2019 GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

#### Corridor Neighborhood Enhancement Match Grant Program

**LFUCG Corridor Commission** 

Applications accepted from August 1, 2018 thru September 25, 2018 by 5:00 pm

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

Total Amount available in grant for FY19: \$20,000 (will be divided amongst highest scoring applicants)

The objective is to partner with neighborhoods and other community-based groups to enhance the corridors leading into and out of Lexington and to increase awareness of corridor enhancements. The grant Program Guidelines and Program Application can be found <a href="here">here</a> - (<a href="https://www.lexingtonky.gov/boards/corridors-commission">www.lexingtonky.gov/boards/corridors-commission</a>).

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 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. If you have any question feel free to contact Jenifer K. Wuorenmaa, Office of the Chief Administrator at 859.258-3115 or email her at <a href="mailto:iwworenmaa@lexingtonky.gov">iwworenmaa@lexingtonky.gov</a>

#### 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.

#### **Resource Information**

#### Lexington Housing Dashboard

Displays a variety of information about an address

http://lfucg.github.io/housing-dashboard/

#### **Lexington City Gram**

Sign up for text alerts for code complaints, building permits, and foreclosures in your neighborhood

https://www.citygram.org/lexington

#### LexCall311 App

Download the 311 App to drop a pin and send a picture of your com-

http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=3441

Fayette PVA
Property Record

Property Records
<a href="https://www.fayette-pva.com">www.fayette-pva.com</a>

Secretary of State

Search for business and nonprofit corporation information

https://app.sos.ky.gov/ftsearch/

**Code of Ordinances** 

http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=11163

**Zoning Ordinance** 

http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=339

**Subdivision Regulations** 

https://www.lexingtonky.gov/land-subdivision-regulations

#### PARKS & RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER

Parks and Recreation has an amazing line up of programs, activities and events for you this fall. Keep a look out for their activity guide in the next couple of weeks and follow them on Facebook to stay in the know!

#### DATE TO KNOW:

- Youth Football and Cheerleading—Programs begin September 8
- Adult Co-Ed Volleyball—League begins September 12
- Jacobson / Masterson Station Spraygrounds—Close September 16
- Kiddie Kapers Dance—First week is September 24



#### **Big Bounce America**

This <u>September 21-23</u>, the world's largest bounce house is coming to Lexington! It is an action packed, family-friendly day of fun! <u>Tickets</u> can be purchased in advance or the day of. Don't miss it!



#### History to Chew On

On <u>September 11</u>, the Friends of McConnell Springs will have a speaker to discuss historical figures and events with Kentucky connections. It is a brown bag series but we will supply seating and drinks.

Call (859) 225-4073 to register.

#### Festival Latino de Lexington

<u>Festival Latino de Lexington</u> is this September 14-16. It is the biggest Latino event in Kentucky. The festival, in its 17th year, will have music, dances, activities, folk art, food and many special surprises. It is free to attend.

## SNAP-SHOT OF CITY HAPPENINGS: September 10 - 30, 2018

Monday, Sept. 10 Parks & Recreation Community Centers Open3 p.m. Click on Community Centers link for more details	Thursday, Sept. 20 Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission		
Tuesday, Sept. 11 Planning & Public Safety Committee	Government Center, 5th Floor - 200 E. Main Street  Developing and leveraging powerful capability state- ments		
Council Work Session	Corridors Commission		
History to Chew On - Exploring early furniture of the Kentucky Bluegrass Region and surrounds	Central Bank Thursday Night Live		
Thursday, Sept. 13 Central Bank Thursday Night Live!	Friday, Sept. 21 Gallery Hop - Paint by Nature		
Street <u>Council Meeting</u>	Saturday, Sept. 22  Mulch giveaway		
Friday, Sept. 14 Festival Latino de Lexington	Little Explorers—Colorful Leaves		
<u>Saturday, Sept. 15</u> <u>Junior Naturalists - Fun Times with Fungi</u> 10 a.m noon McConnell Springs - 416 Rebmann Lane	Tuesday, Sept. 25  Budget, Finance & Economic Development Committee		
Sunrise Archery	Government Center, Council Chamber - 200 E. Main Street  Council Work Session		
Scout Skills	Thursday, Sept. 27 Women business owner certification training & introduction to National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)		
Tuesday, Sept. 18 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee	Government Center, Room B109 - 200 E. Main Street  Council Meeting		
Council Work Session	Moondance Amphitheater - 1152 Monarch Street		

#### COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET

Healthy food options will soon be a bit easier thanks to the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department and the city's two farmers' markets.

The health department brings farmers from the Bluegrass Farmers' Market and the Lexington Farmers' Market together to give the community a chance to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. The LFCHD Community Farmers' Market began

with a grand-opening celebration 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on June 13 at the health department's two Lexington locations: 650 Newtown Pike (main location) and 2433 Regency Road (south location).

The remaining farmers' markets continue to alternate locations throughout the summer and into September:

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 19, 650 Newtown Pike 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 26, 2433 Regency Road

"Public Health is about the prevention of diseases and the promotion of good health," LFCHD spokesman Kevin Hall said. "By bringing both farmers' markets together for our staff, clients and neighborhoods, we are able to give better access to fresh fruits and vegetables and help educate customers on how to use them to improve their diet. Our Community Farmers' Market will let us continue to help Lexington be well."

The 650 Newtown Pike location will offer a variety of items from 4-6 farmers, and the 2433 Regency Road location will feature 2-4 farmers. "Both sites are open to everyone, and we encourage Lexington residents to take part," Hall said. "If you've never visited your health department, this is a good chance to see Public Health in action."

Helping Lexington be well.



For additional information, like the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LFCHD">www.facebook.com/LFCHD</a>, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/LFCHD and Instagram at @lexpublichealth. Details are also available at <a href="https://www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org">www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org</a>.

#### TASK FORCE ON NEIGHBORHOODS IN TRANSITION FORUM

The Task Force on Neighborhoods in Transition are hosting a Community Forum on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> at LTMS Cafeteria from 5:30 - 7 p.m. For residents whom can't attend, but still want to give feedback, go to the link at the bottom of the flyer and complete an online survey.

The purpose of this group is to identify ways to protect vulnerable residents from the impact of neighborhood redevelopment and transformation, with an emphasis on preserving history and the culture of communities.

On May 24, 2018, Vice Mayor Steve Kay and Councilmember James Brown announced the creation of the Task Force on Neighborhoods in Transition. (Watch video)

The group, comprised of Urban County Councilmembers, city developers, planners, historians, residents and other community members, will meet monthly to discuss the complicated topics of infill and redevelopment, preservation and gentrification. The Task Force will also attempt to identify ways to protect vulnerable residents from the impact of neighborhood redevelopment and transformation.

"The Task Force will serve as a complement to the work of the Infill and Redevelopment Committee and the Affordable

Housing Office as we address the challenges of growth within our finite boundaries," Kay said. "We do not want to become a community where the people who provide our basic services are unable to afford to live here."

Over the course of their work, Kay said the Task Force will work to identify existing resources, educate residents about homeownership and renting, foster relationships with residents and developers, identify ways to protect the history of communities, and develop policies or programs that support residents and neighborhoods.

"As a community focused on infill, local government has a responsibility to protect vulnerable residents and promote equity in our neighborhoods as they experience growth and redevelopment," Brown said.

The members asked to serve on the Task Force were selected based on their historical knowledge of Lexington's neighborhoods, planning and development experience, as well as their commitment to the residents within these neighborhoods. Some of the Task Force members include Ed Holmes of EHI Consultants, University of Kentucky history professor Dr. Gerald Smith, Fayette County Property Valuation Administrator David O'Neill and urban planner Stan Harvey.

"People generally measure the quality of life in our city by the quality of life in their neighborhood," Mayor Jim Gray said. "Each Lexington neighborhood is unique, with unique concerns. This Task Force will focus on addressing many of those concerns."

The Task Force began meeting in July, and will continues its work until it is ready to give a full report and make recommendations to the Urban County Council and other entities such as the Planning Commission.



## NEIGHBORHOODS IN TRANSITION COMMUNITY FORUM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 5:30 - 7 PM LTMS CAFETERIA

Participate in a community discussion about how neighborhoods are changing & how it impacts us all.

Can't make it? Help us by filling out this survey: bit.ly/neighborhood-survey

#### African-American Heritage Trail Signage

"Together Lexington" partners and citizens join Mayor Jim Gray for a news conference on September 6, 2018 to discuss interpretative signage installed to create an African-American Heritage Trail in Lexington. The news conference was held on DeWeese Street. The goal is to create a walking tour of local African-American history.











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