



5th District e-Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



294th Edition

Details for the District

September 28, 2018

Truth Behind the Façade of Interest on Romany Road

Hello Neighbor,
Let's start with all things Romany Road.

It's been nearly a year since the Cox Food folks stood before the Chevy Chase Neighborhood Association meeting and re-affirmed their intent to bring a fine new store back to the site of our happy grocery memories from the last 40 years or so. I wish that had happened.

Subsequent episodes found Cox out and Laurel Grocery folks in. No mobilization to move forward. Ultimate removal of the fence so that neighbors could use the parking lot. Calls to Code Enforcement and others to abate the site and secure it. Stories of animals in there. Stories of kids in there. Stories of homeless folks and others inside the property; and numerous calls, e-mails and conversations with me and with the Fifth District Council Office.

It's been a long road to just chain link fencing.

As time runs out on some of the conditions for redevelopment of the property, the ability to view the situation presents itself in another fashion now.

I have asked the Director of Code Enforcement, Alex Olszowy, to proceed with a Repair/Demolition Order for 344 Romany Road.

His response is vivid: "We will begin by generating a complaint to investigate an abandoned structure, the officer will check for violations, if violations are found, a notice to repair or demolish could be issued. The action(s) after that depend on the responses or lack thereof by the owners."

That makes me sad. But, at church one recent Sunday, a sweet lady who has known me since I was young stopped me in the hall and simply asked, "When are they going to tear it down?" That's when you know you've lost the confidence of the most anxious—and at one time most welcoming—folks gunning for the change.

Government takes time, but when the wheels turn everyone takes note. Please take

note here. Thanks those who have for too long kept watchful eye and community conversation alive around the issue and this building.

Page three has details related to the last plans filed for the project. You might find interest there.

Last night saw final reading for the newly -scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. It will be held on October 20th with more details on page two. I am personally very pleased about this as I asked for and worked to get this second event scheduled this year. Until now it's been once a year with literally overflow results.

I would like to thank the administration for their help to make this county-wide event happen. Disposal in a proper way is of concern to all. Rather than wait for six more months, get ready now—and get your house and garage clean for the holidays!

Five years ago, Lexington became a part of the America in Bloom movement. We have participated and increasingly have been awarded for the beauty our city can cultivate—from the work of the Corridors Commission to the folks on your block. This weekend their big meeting is in Lexington, and tonight several trolley routes will take AIB participants all over town—including a route through Chevy Chase, I've been told today! If we weren't doing well, they wouldn't be here. If you run across folks with green thumbs (even from South Carolina), make them welcome in our Kentucky Home!

Okay, here it is: The University of Kentucky football team could be 5-0 tomorrow. I'm no spring chicken and I've never ever been able to say that before. This team has heart, soul and leadership. Whether you're near or far, find a way to enjoy. History can creep up on you, but sometimes it just knocks the goalpost down, ploughs right through you and you just have to love it. Go Cats!

My best,
Bill

Inside this Issue:

Mallets Crack This Sunday at Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate 2

Boxwoods Take A Beating 2

Get Rid of Your HHW! 2

The Conditions for 344 Romany Road 3

Bullet Points of Interest:

- Council will be on Fall Break from October 1st through the 8th. Please contact LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2525 if you need immediate assistance.
- A fair amount of streetlights in the Fifth District have been reported as out. If you know of a darkened spot, please get the address where the pole is located and e-mail us [here](#). Kentucky Utilities has been responsive thus far, and may still have some areas of tidying up after July's big storm.
- It's that time of year again to think about the dancing undead and your best Michael Jackson moves. It's time for rehearsals for the Thriller Parade! All rehearsals will be at [Artworks at the Carver School](#) again this year and registration will begin 30 minutes before each practice. Regular Rehearsals begin on October 1st. Click [here](#) for more information.

All Croquet and Lots of Play at Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate

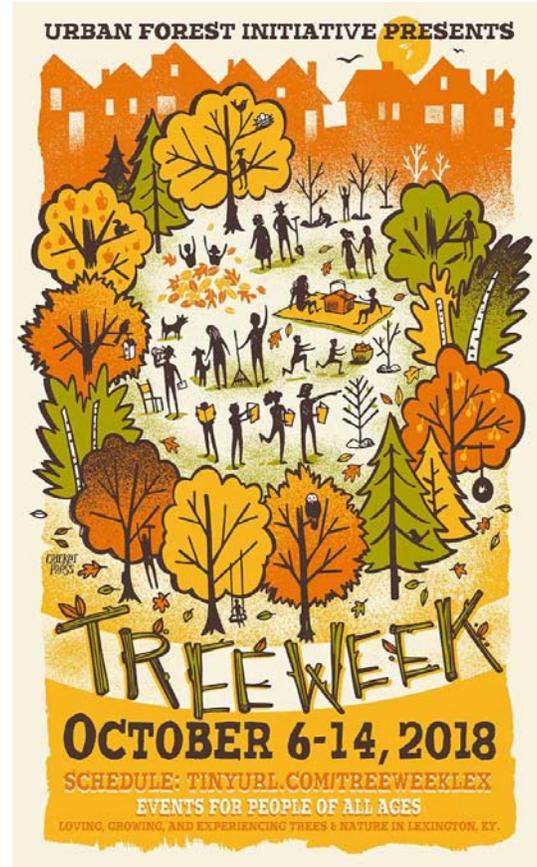
The lawn and walking paths at Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate have always been a favorite destination for joggers and dog walkers, but for one day each fall it is hallowed ground for those who enjoy the sound of a mallet striking a colorful wooden ball. The 8th Annual Croquet Tournament will be held on the lawn at the estate this Sunday, September 30th and will feature up to 48 teams of two competing for bragging rights—their names etched on the Legacy Trophy.

In addition, the winning team members will receive a commemorative large Barrel Beaker from the Asa Blanchard Collection by Lexington Silver Company. While contestants swing their mallets, spectators can also compete for prizes (donated by area businesses) for best picnic spread and best dressed man and woman sporting a 1920s vibe.



Click [here](#) to brush up on the rules of etiquette for playing croquet.

Click [here](#) for additional information, and while you're at it, take a look around the Estate's event calendar. You won't want to miss the October Yappy Hour Costume Contest, when spooky hounds take over the spectre-acular grounds!



Boxwood Blight: The Fungus Among Us

Boxwood blight has been detected in Kentucky again this year, and disease has been severe in some locations. Green industry professionals, owners of valuable boxwood collections, and many homeowners are worried about potential spread. During the past months, growers and gardeners have heard misinformation and witnessed improper fungicide applications as a result of the disease reports.

To help clear up these misunderstandings, the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service will host an educational event on October 23rd from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at [1140 Harry Sykes Way](#). Dr. Nicole Gauthier, UK Plant Pathologist will be the featured speaker. This event is open to both residential and commercial growers. This event is free, but you must reserve your spot! Call (859) 257-5582 to claim a seat.



Signs of boxwood blight include black cankers on stems, brown spots on leaves and premature loss of leaves.

Get Rid of That Household Hazardous Waste!

Products that contain corrosive, toxic or flammable ingredients are household hazardous wastes (HHW). These materials include common household items such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides. Improper disposal can pollute air, water or soil and pose a threat to human health.

From time to time, the city offers a household hazardous waste collection service. During these events, Fayette County residents can drop off the hazardous materials that have accumulated in their homes. The city will properly dispose of them—free of charge!

In its first year to have two such collections, the next drop-off will be held on Saturday, October 20th between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the city's old landfill pad at 1631 Old Frankfort Pike. Residents dropping off items at the event must fill out a survey form. ([Here's the form!](#))

Please click [here](#) to learn how to dispose of HHW safely and to see what you can safely get rid of. If you have any questions about HHW disposal in Lexington, please contact LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255.

FROM THE OFFICE
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The Dates, The Numbers, The Plans That Went Awry

Many neighbors in the Fifth District have been curious as to what conditions were placed on the property located at 344 Romany Road, which once held a Kroger grocery store. Signoffs from Building Inspection, Waste Management, Addressing and the Urban Forester are indicated in Accela—infrastructure software LFUCG uses to improve efficiencies—so items, 3, 4, 5 and 8 appear to have been addressed. Item 14 would have been addressed as part of the Planning Commission approval action. The plan was originally approved on April 13th, 2017.

The plans have a one year time line to be signed after being approved by the Planning Commission and this plan expired as of April 13th, 2018. The deadline to ask for a reapproval was September 26th, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in order to be added to the October 11th, 2018 Planning Commission meeting agenda. As of this publication date, that action has not taken place. We will provide details here soon as they take shape.



The property at 344 Romany Road has been vacant since September 12th, 2015.

PLN-MJDP-17-00028: SHOPPERS CHOICE (IGA ROMANY ROAD) (AMD) (6/4/17)
* - located at 344 Romany Road and 357 Duke Road. (Council District 5)
(Eagle Engineering)

Note: The purpose of this amendment is to add 1,287 sq. ft. of buildable area.

The Subdivision Committee Recommended: **Approval**, subject to the following conditions:

1. Urban County Engineer's acceptance of drainage, and storm and sanitary sewers.
2. Urban County Traffic Engineer's approval of street cross-sections and access.
3. Building Inspection's approval of landscaping and landscape buffers.
4. Addressing Office's approval of street names and addresses.
5. Urban Forester's approval of tree preservation plan.
6. Bike & Pedestrian Planner's approval of bike trails and pedestrian facilities.
7. Division of Fire, Water Control Office's approval of the locations of fire hydrants, fire department connections and fire service features.
8. Division of Waste Management's approval of refuse collection locations.
9. Documentation of Division of Water Quality's approval of the Capacity Assurance Program requirements, prior to plan certification.
10. Denote zone-to-zone screening for adjacent properties on plan, or denote approved variance(s).
11. Reduce front building canopy, location to meet 10' setback, or denote approved variance.
12. Clarify or remove note #15.
13. Resolve loading dock enclosure's conflict with existing 18' sanitary sewer & U. E.
14. Provided the Planning Commission makes a finding on the tree canopy.



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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.