



5th District Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



Eighty-seventh Edition

Details for the District

January 25, 2013

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Bullet Points of Interest:

- Thank you to those of you who completed the Community Crime Perception Survey. For the results of the survey, click [here](#).
- On Tuesday during the Council Work Session, Vice Mayor Linda Gorton will introduce a resolution endorsing the legalization of regulated industrial hemp and requesting that the Kentucky General Assembly consider adopting legislation that would allow for industrial hemp growth and production while addressing any public safety and law enforcement concerns; and thereby notifying Governor Steve Beshear, Senate President Robert Stivers, House Speaker Greg Stumbo, and Fayette County's legislators of this resolution. Members of the Hemp Commission will make a presentation to Council on Thursday during the 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting.
- If you missed Mayor Jim Gray's State of the Merged Government Address and would like to read his speech, click [here](#).

The Moments We've All Been Waiting For

Dear Neighbor,
I'm glad to be back in the rhythm of Council and Committee meetings. The new folks are working in well and we've the outline of a fine year ahead of us.

H-1 and Done

While I was unable to attend the Ashland Park historic overlay hearing on Tuesday evening it was an 11-1 success. As a property owner in the new district I knew I would have to recuse myself from the vote but was further advised by the Law Department that my presence at my post or in the audience would not do.

Ruffled feathers—mine included—aside, the outcome will benefit the neighborhood. I understand that some would never have agreed to more government in their lives. From my perspective the outcome has bred unrest between the Ashland and Ashland Park neighborhood associations. I will work to bring those two vital neighborhood entities back into closer alignment. Their continued mutual success is a win for all.

Kenwick

In lieu of the Tuesday evening hearing, I attended the Kenwick Neighborhood Association meeting at the community cen-

ter. They had a fine safety presentation from Officer Bige Towery. He is the Police Department's only community outreach officer and with time can be scheduled for your neighborhood association meeting too.

I have continued to work with the neighborhood and Victory Christian Church to bring the community garden to fruition. Since the meeting a draft agreement has been tendered for final consideration. I hope to have more on this next week.

Tates Creek and Cooper ND-1

As noted in the e-news last Friday, the out-of-compliance addition to the home in that overlay had not only been cited, but a new roof line with proper pitch is now underway. At present ND-1 enforcement is complaint-driven and as that overlay distinction is still a newer product, we may review how well that works in serving the needs of neighborhoods so designated.

I hope you enjoy this shot of winter. It's as cold as I recently remember.

My best,
Bill

Calling All Artists, Farmers, Wineries and More

Baby, it's cold outside! But that doesn't mean that 5th District resident Laura Farnsworth, Event Coordinator at the Downtown Lexington Corporation, isn't working her magic to make the 2013 Mayfest Arts Fair a success. Our neighbor (who should also get a shout-out for her tireless efforts to bring us the best of times at Thursday Night Live), is now accepting vendor applications for the following categories: Artist; Concessions; Performing Artist; Farmers Market; Winery Vendors; and Young Artists. Applications are due no later than Friday, February 15th and can be found by clicking [here](#). You can contact Farnsworth at (859) 425-2593 or by clicking [here](#).



Snow Plan

Mobile Food Trucks Revisited

For several years now, Council Member Peggy Henson has led the Itinerant Merchants Task Force through the process of establishing guidelines for members of this workforce cate-



The Bluegrass Food Blast events in 2012 were successful in introducing Lexingtonians to the possibilities food trucks have to offer.

gory. During many meetings, owners of food trucks attended to voice their concerns about ordinances that could impact their businesses negatively. Many distinctions were determined over the course of the task force's efforts, and Council Member Henson has endeavored to clarify those distinctions in a recent communication with other members of Council.

Council Member Henson first stated that food trucks are not the only defined itinerant merchants. Itinerant merchants include the temporary sellers of many other items, such as rugs, fireworks and artwork. There are two separate ordinances that pertain to such businesses: one that relates to all itinerant merchants and one that addresses food trucks on public property.

The Itinerant Merchant Task Force worked for many months to recognize and address issues that were brought to Council's attention by concerned neighborhoods. The initial work actually began during the Newberry Administration. Neighborhoods were concerned with itinerant merchants that were operating at entrances to neighborhoods and in some

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More on Montavesta

Last week, we reported to you that five parking spaces on Montavesta Road would soon be removed to help alleviate some of the traffic issues in the area surrounding Mayfair Manor. Our office received input from neighbors in the area that, "Previous accidents on Montavesta in this area behind Mayfair Manor are not the only problems with the widespread parking on the street." Further, "Egress from driveways create driveway vision problems for more residents in this area. The view of oncoming traffic is blocked by the steady line of parked cars." In addition, concern was raised that, "Eliminating five parking spaces on the west side of Montavesta immediately behind Mayfair Manor will only push parking farther north on Montavesta...thus the problem becomes more widespread rather than improved."

We asked Traffic Engineering to consider these concerns, and this is the response we received: "Based on the collision analysis, the majority of the collisions located in this area are side swipes. The purpose of removing the parking is to provide increased width for motorists traveling through the roadway's horizontal and vertical curve. Montavesta's 35-foot roadway width is adequate to support on-street parking, including the five parking spaces that will be theoretically relocated further from Mayfair Manor. Once improvements are made, Traffic Engineering will reevaluate the collisions in four to six months."

They went on to say that residents may request yellow curb markings on either side of their driveways if they are having difficulty entering or exiting onto Montavesta Road. If you are interested in having this done on your stretch of Montavesta, please contact us within the next two weeks by clicking [here](#). Subject line: Montavesta Curb Markings. We will compile a list of requests to streamline the curb painting process.

Are You Special? Let Emergency Management Know!

The Division of Emergency Management has a new way to help residents of the community with special needs when a disaster or emergency occurs: the community Special Needs Registry. You can now complete a Special Needs Survey form that will allow you to describe your special needs. Having a registry that pre-identifies residents of our community who might need special assistance during an emergency will allow Lexington First Responders to address the needs of the community more quickly and efficiently.

The information provided on the Special Needs Survey form will be stored in a Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government database and will not be made public. The information will only be used for public safety during a disaster or emergency. To register, please complete the on-line survey by clicking [here](#).



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cases multiple merchants at central locations adjacent to residential properties. The merchants were also operating into the early morning hours.

The task force introduced an ordinance that regulated itinerant merchants from locating within 100 feet of a residential property and limited the hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. These regulations addressed the needs of the neighborhoods.

A problem arose when the owners of food trucks expressed a desire to operate in the downtown area where there are residential properties. An exception was inserted into the ordinance that allowed an identified area of downtown and any adaptive reuse area an exemption of the 100-foot regulation. The task force went one step further and increased the regulated hours to 4:00 a.m. as long as merchants were located on a property with an open business, such as a nightclub.

The Lexington Health Department also regulates food trucks, which is by state statute. As for the permitting process, the task force asked Planning, Zoning and Revenue to make it less complicated for the merchants.

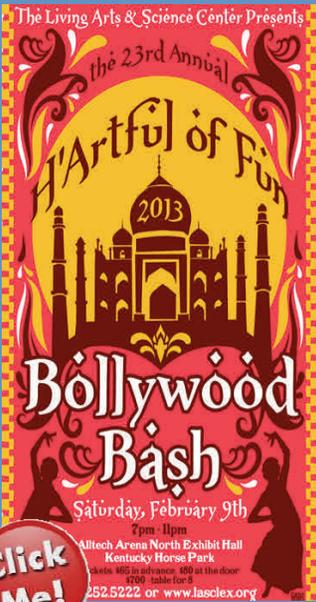
All and all Council Member Henson stressed that the task force worked with and addressed the issues of the food trucks, and at the same time worked to protect area neighborhoods. In addition, it has now been decided that a Mobile Food Trucks Work Group, chaired by 2nd District Council Member Shevawn Akers, will work to separate food truck regulations from those imposed upon itinerant merchants in order to address them as their own entity. Akers hopes to also streamline the process involved in starting and maintaining a food truck business. This work group will report its findings at the February 19th Economic Development Committee of the Whole at 11:00 a.m.

Words We Can All Live By

Following Tuesday's Kenwick Neighborhood Association meeting, Sara Constantine drafted a brief synopsis of recommendations given by Officer Bige Towery. The information is relevant to all neighborhoods, so with permission, we decided to reprint Sara's comments here.

- Call the police when you need to, not just after crimes have happened. Call about suspicious activity even if the person has left. Call 911 for emergencies and (859) 258-3600 for non-emergencies and suspicious activities. You are not bothering the police. Making connections between suspicious activity and thefts is how the police solve crimes. More calls mean more patrols and better allocation of officers for your neighborhood in the future.
- Be in touch with your neighbors. Any neighborhood watch is based on communication. If a crime or suspicious activity happens at your house, call the police and then take some time to call/stop by/e-mail/message a few immediate neighbors. Tell them to spread the word. If you can, use your neighborhood Facebook page or e-mail list serve to help spread the word even farther.
- A major part of the increase in crime is the changes in legislation that have reduced penalties for property crimes. This was done to reduce the costs of keeping people in jail, but we are paying for this change with the loss of property. Consider getting in touch with your state representatives to tell them you are concerned and consider writing a letter to the editor of the newspaper.

Thank you Sara! For more information about how to file a police report—online or otherwise—click [here](#). If your neighborhood association keeps in touch through e-mail blasts, Facebook or any other form of social media, please let us know by clicking [here](#).



The 5th District Newsletter is distributed via e-mail to any Lexington resident. I encourage leaders of the 31 active neighborhood associations in the 5th District to provide input for the newsletter and to distribute the newsletter to their members. Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter may contact the 5th District Council office via e-mail at bfarmer@lexingtonky.gov. If you wish to unsubscribe to the newsletter, e-mail jgies@lexingtonky.gov.

Please join us for the
2013 Lafayette Seminar in Public Issues

Vision into Action: Town Branch Commons
Vision • Design • Build

11:30 am, Thursday, January 31, 2013

Hilary J. Boone Center at UK, 500 Rose Street
(Free parking located directly behind the Boone Center)

A competition involving some of the world's best landscape architects is underway to determine who will design a park following the path of a historic stream in downtown Lexington: The Town Branch Commons.

Join us for a conversation about the vision for the Town Branch Commons, starting with its history and including a discussion of best practices for implementing large-scale public design projects.

Van Meter Pettit, AIA, NCARB, BPI BA, CEM, Founder and President of Town Branch Trail, Inc., will discuss the history of the Town Branch Creek and the vision for reasserting it into Lexington's urban plan.

Stan Harvey, AICP, Principal, Urban Collage, Inc., will discuss the emerging practice of establishing public/private partnerships to implement large-scale public projects such as the Town Branch Commons.

Q&A will follow the two talks. Lunch will be served.

The Lafayette Seminar & Luncheon is free and open to the public, but space is limited and reservations are required.

Please reserve your seat by January 28 by emailing GainesCenter@gmail.com or calling (859) 257-1537.