



5th District Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



One-hundredth Edition

Details for the District

May 10, 2013

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Bullet Points of Interest:

- In case you missed last week's newsletter, the First Annual Crawfish Festival will take place tomorrow at the Red Mile Race Track. For more information, click [here](#).
- The next general meeting of the Kenwick Neighborhood Association will take place on Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Kenwick Community Center. KNA will hold elections, make announcements about the Bungalow Tour and Community Garden and discuss the new NextDoor group.
- This Saturday, Idle Hour neighbors will begin planting in the St. Ann Island from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Join your neighbors for a fun morning of planting flowers and shrubs to help beautify the St. Ann Island. Bring shovels, trowels, gloves, a wheelbarrow or just yourself.
- The Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate Peony sale has been rescheduled for Saturday from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. Call (859) 266-8581 for more info.

One Hundred "Dear Neighbors" and Counting

Dear Neighbor,
This week's Council schedule may not be as special as this our 100th official edition of the newsletter. A consistent source of news and information the e-news does have quite a following. I solicited a comment from the Mayor to give this 100th offering a more official bent. Here's what he said: "Councilmember Farmer does a great job of keeping the folks in his district informed through this newsletter and the solid information it provides ... the kind of information every citizen needs. That's important to our city and our citizens."

While we have had our pictures taken together before, none was available at press time. We can follow up on that next week. As some of the Council and 180 or so business leaders went on the Commerce Lexington trip to Omaha, Nebraska there was no Thursday evening Council meeting. The committee and work session meetings on Tuesday were somewhat of an adventure but since the next evening—and official meeting—was three weeks away even those agendas were somewhat light.

Today was special as I got to tape an edition of *LexPlore* at the UK College of Agriculture in the basement of the Garrigus Building on Cooper Drive. Each Wednesday and Friday fresh meat products are available for sale to the public from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. I would call this not just Kentucky Proud but Kentucky Proudest! Apple bourbon brats; the Wildcat Tail—a cheddar brat—as well as assorted bacons are available in different varieties on those days. If I had time today I'd head back over there to buy dinner. Look 'em up and give it a try.

Each Friday I play a role but Jessica Gies in the 5th District Office does the heavy lifting to make this newsletter both interesting and informative. Many folks follow along, some submit feedback but all seem to enjoy.

The century mark is special in sport, on your car's speedometer and on that legal tender too. Today this form of service to the 5th Council District takes on a more special look: Editions with three digits!

Thank you to all of our loyal readers.

My best,
Bill

Historic Marker Gets Facelift on Old Cassidy Avenue

We would like to express our appreciation to the Fayette County Sheriff's Office and Ron Watson for stepping in on Old Cassidy Avenue to repair the historic street marker that sits on the corner. We hope to engage their help to repair others in the neighborhood as well.



Ron Watson hand painted the marker last week.

Kentucky American Water Seeks to Raise Rates

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold a meeting in Lexington later this month to receive public comments on the request for a rate increase by the Kentucky-American Water Company (KAW). The public comment meeting will be preceded by an information session during which PSC staff will explain the rate adjustment process and the criteria used to evaluate rate adjustment requests rates. The presentation will include an overview of the Kentucky-American Water application.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th at 5:30 p.m. (public comments at 6:30 p.m.) in the auditorium at Bryan Station High School, 201 Eastin Road. KAW is seeking PSC authorization to increase annual revenue by about \$12.3 million per year, or about 14.6 percent. The company estimates that the monthly bill for a typical residential customer (using 4,500 gallons per month) would increase by \$5.76, or 17.6 percent, from the current \$32.75 per month to \$38.51 per month.

In addition to the base rate increase, KAW also is asking the PSC for permission to begin adjusting rates annually to cover the cost of infrastructure repairs and replacement and to account for fluctuations in the cost of energy and chemicals. The annual adjustments, which would be separate line items on customer bills, would be subject to PSC review and approval, but through a process less extensive than that in a rate case. The Kentucky-American application and related documents are available on the PSC [website](#). The case number is 2012-00520. If you wish to address the proposed rate increase you may speak at the meeting or submit your comments in writing.

Superintendent Shelton Responds to Allegations of Improper FCPS Spending by Special Education

News station W-LEX 18 recently questioned the spending of the special education department of the Fayette County Public School system. (Click [here](#) for the broadcast segment.) In an e-mail sent this past Wednesday, Superintendent Tom Shelton had this to say in response to those allegations.

Dear Key Communicators:

Every day, the families of 40,000 children trust the Fayette County Public Schools to do what's best for their kids. I take that responsibility to heart and feel a servant's calling to meet the high expectations of our families, our students and our community. The taxpayers of Fayette County have committed resources to provide a world class education for our young people and our school board and leadership team work diligently to be good stewards of those funds.

A local television news station recently raised questions about the travel and spending in our special education department. We provided more than 5,700 pages of open records in response to several requests. In the end, they aired a story that centered on isolated examples of unprofessional communications and poor judgment by a handful of employees. Those situations are personnel matters that have been dealt with accordingly and appropriately.

As public servants, we have to be above reproach in everything we do. Transparency and accountability are core values for our district and because perception is reality, it is important to be forthright about the questions raised and to address any areas of concern.

(Continued on page 4)

Health Department to Help People Quit Smoking in 2013

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department is offering another round of classes designed to help people stop smoking. The 12-week class will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning May 15th at the Public Health Clinic North, 805A Newtown Circle.

The Health Department uses the Cooper-Clayton Method to stop smoking, which provides 12 weeks of education and support sessions that have been proven effective for smokers no matter how long they've used tobacco products. "Our Cooper-Clayton classes have proven to be effective for those wishing to quit smoking because they provide education, social support and nicotine replacement therapy," said Angela Brumley-Shelton, tobacco health educator with LFCHD. "These classes offer participants their best chance at stopping smoking for life."

The class requires participants to pay \$10 each week for the first 10 weeks for a total of \$100. The full amount can be paid at registration or weekly payments will be accepted. Participants will receive nicotine replacement therapy products, such as nicotine gum, patches and lozenges for 10 weeks of the program. For additional information, call (859) 288-2457.

Gem Takes the Credit for Creating Your Councilmember

This week's gem interview was conducted by none other than the gem's own son. Mrs. Jean Farmer may be a woman of few words (so we'll just use really big pictures!), but without her existence the 5th District would certainly not have our esteemed Councilmember, Bill Farmer, Jr. For the 100th (she isn't!) Edition and in honor of Mother's Day, this week Bill sat down with his mom to see what makes her sparkle and this is what she had to say.

Q. First of all, tell us who you are and what you do.

A. My name is Jean Farmer I show up at Farmer's Jewelry every day and do very little unless there is a crisis.

Q. How long have you lived in Lexington?

A. On and off all my life but I'm not telling you how long that is.

Q. What is your earliest memory of Chevy Chase?

A. I bought a charm from Farmer's Jewelry in October of 1956. Matt Clay had the Holiday House next door and the Saratoga was around the corner. There was the Ashland Theatre, Don McGurk had a children's store; Russell Lutes Interiors; Abnott's Barber Shop; and Mr. Morris had a liquor store on the corner.

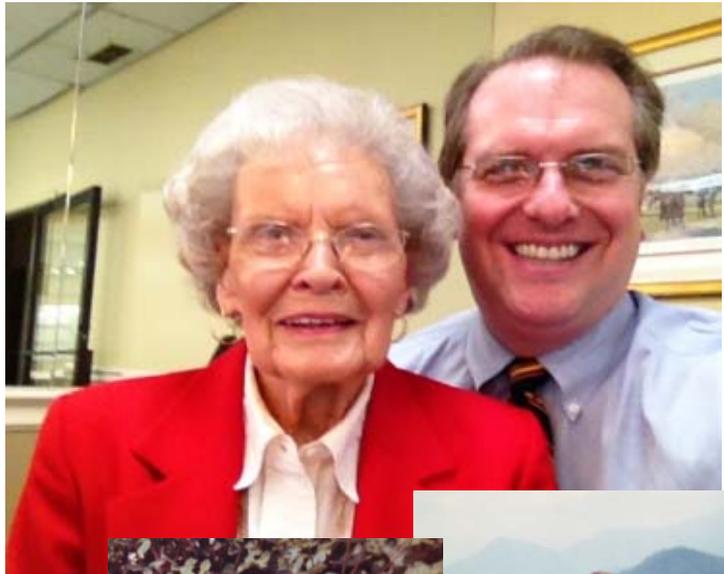
There was a hardware store where Sew Fine is. There was Veda's Dress Shop; Ginny's Styling Salon; Pieratt's; Tommy Masters and the Toddle House. There was a five and ten cent store where McAlister's is now.

Q. What's the biggest change you've seen to Chevy Chase?

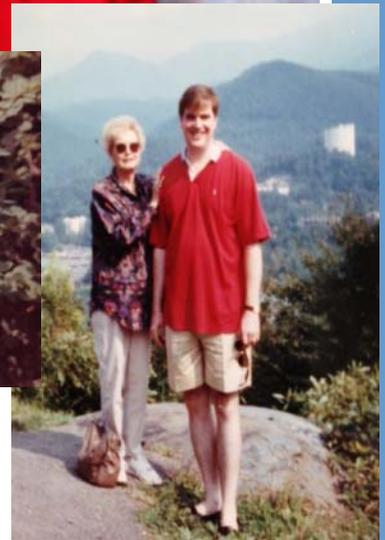
A. The addition of Chevy Chase Plaza about 25 years ago.

Q. Do you have any questions or concerns for the 5th District?

A. [She laughs.] No questions or concerns while my son is on the Council. (*Amen to that!*)



Thanks Mom!



Big Band & Jazz is Back!

Big Band & Jazz, one of Lexington's longest running and most beloved concert series, features great jazz and big band music weekly. The May and June concerts will be held at the Moondance at Midnight Pass Amphitheatre in Beaumont Circle while the July and August concerts will take place at Ecton Park. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating and pack a picnic dinner. New this year, patrons can enjoy authentic Greek cuisine from Athenian Grill Food Truck. For more information on this free event, call (859) 288-2925.

BANDS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR

MOONDANCE AMPHITHEATRE

May 14	Young at Heart Big Band
May 21	The MetroGnomes
May 28	The Bluegrass Area Jazz Ambassadors (BAJA)
June 4	Joey & the Cruisers
June 11	Ozone
June 18	Lexington Concert Band
June 25	Tim Lake & the Blue Jazz Persuaders

ECTON PARK

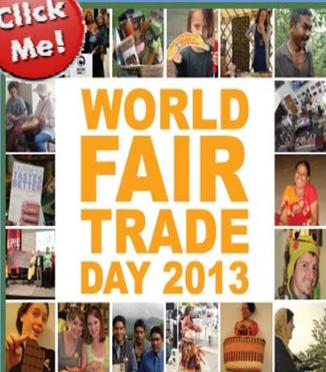
July 2	Lexington Concert Band
July 9	Walnut Street Ragtime Ramblers
July 16	Rick Cook Quintet
July 23	Colonel's Choice
July 30	Oslan Daily Jazztet
August 6	Jay Flippin
August 13	Dan Brock & Friends
August 20	DOJO
August 27	Jazzberry Jam

FROM THE OFFICE
OF 5TH DISTRICT
COUNCIL MEMBER
BILL FARMER, JR.

5th District Council Member
Lexington-Fayette Urban
County Council
200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Phone: (859) 258-3213
Fax: (859) 258-3838

E-mail: bfarmer@lexingtonky.gov

**WORLD
FAIR
TRADE
DAY 2013**

ADVOCATE. ORGANIZE. ENJOY.

Date: May 11th, 2013 11am-6pm
Location: 523 E. High St. Lexington, KY
Details: Lucia's World Friendly Boutique

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.

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One of the conferences in question was paid for by the Scholastic publishing company, a district vendor. In 2009 the special education department spent \$470,000 from federal stimulus money with Scholastic to cover the cost of a computer-based reading program for middle and high school students. The contract with Scholastic was completed before special education employees were invited to attend the workshop. Although an inappropriate email exchange occurred related to the open bar at the conference, spending with Scholastic in the months following the conference was less than \$7,500. The following year, the special education department spent less than \$5,000 with Scholastic. The facts do not support a link between the travel and future spending decisions.

Our district spends roughly \$48 million a year to educate our students with special needs. The travel highlighted by the news story averaged \$15,000 a year for a team of seven employees. Professional development for our teachers and administrators is vital to ensure that our students have the benefit of the most current and cutting edge instructional practices. The travel in this department was not excessive and costs were within reason.

The story criticized the cost of hotel rooms for a conference in Orlando, but failed to mention that the five employees at the training stayed at the conference hotel and shared rooms. Over a five year period, there was an instance of two employees missing a three hour afternoon conference session to take a side trip to the Grand Canyon that they paid for themselves. That situation has been addressed and a policy change made last fall should safeguard against such instances.

As part of our district commitment to continuous improvement, we are always looking for ways to strengthen our processes and tighten our procedures. In December we adopted several amendments to our Professional Leave & Travel Policy Handbook and made many improvements to our procedures. A new addition now requires proof of conference attendance. We will also be add-

ing a step to our professional leave request process to help us flag any travel paid for by district vendors and give us the opportunity to review any potential conflicts of interest.

I do not want to minimize the reporting done or defend a lapse in professional judgment demonstrated in these isolated incidents. I expect more of our employees and I take personal responsibility when we fall short. We will be reinforcing best practices and expectations for social media use with our employees and will continue to scrutinize our professional development procedures to look for ways to improve. I am also developing a specific code of ethics for our administrators. But I do want our community to understand that their tax dollars are being spent judiciously. We are committed to maximizing the educational return on your investment in the students of Fayette County and we will not let you down.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at either tom.shelton@fayette.kyschools.us or (859) 381-4104.

Sincerely,
Tom Shelton, PhD
Superintendent
Fayette County Public Schools




2013 mutt strut

co-sponsored by **PETSMART**



Peter Pan

Lexington Opera House
May 11 & 12, 2013

TICKETS
(859) 252-5245
(859) 277-2227