



5th District Newsletter

*News and announcements from
around our community*



One Hundred Fifteenth Edition

Details for the District

September 27, 2013

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Bullet Points of Interest:

- We recently received a call from a neighbor who had a suggestion for the use of the fund balance indicating that she would like to see a barrier installed at Liberty Road and New Circle to prevent people from turning in and out of the Speedway onto Liberty Road. She also stated that the road is in terrible shape and needs to be repaved near Charlie's Fish Market at Liberty and Winchester Roads.

The barrier is already planned to be installed by the state in the next few weeks. It has been designed and funded by the state. If anyone would like to see the design or pictures of what is being installed, please let us know.

The plan to replace the sewer drop and sidewalk—along with repaving—in the area of Charlie's Fish Market is underway. It has similar complications to the intersection work in Chevy Chase. We will keep you updated as these plans progress.

Much Ado in a District to Be Proud Of

Dear Neighbor,
Council work highlights are often media fodder, and I am pleased to say that more often than not, the 5th District ends the day on a positive note. The communication you share with the office is critical to the “community feel” that we share and I am pleased that you help set an example of how that effort can prove to be fruitful. We have much to be proud of. Now for the rest of the story.

Fund Balance Debate

As I told you last week, some of my fellow colleagues have transcribed to the idea that doling out the fund balance to each Council district for capital projects will be of benefit to their constituents. I disagree because such small allotments do little to benefit the whole.

My thesis is simple; we have worked so well together so why stop now. The discussions we are about to have will add funds not only to our Economic Contingency Fund but will also hopefully create a true Rainy Day Fund. We will set aside funds to help offset upcoming health care increases for those insured by the city. We will do some more paving too. These are all decisions that work toward the common good. Some may still try to partition funds separately. I will not be supportive. I'll follow up with a breakdown of our actions here as they occur. Short of that, if you have suggestions please let me know.

Harbor at Lakewood Park

I was glad to be part of an open house recently for the seven new town homes being completed right now off of Laketower Drive. This is new development by the same folks who brought new life to the area through the Lakewood Park apartments. These new homes look out over the duck pond and across parts of reservoirs

two and three. The new construction is beautiful and if you are out for a drive go see how nicely the area is coming along. Next up will be a similar number of units oriented directly toward reservoir two. They will well compliment what is already a great retention of this fine neighborhood.

Sunday Plans

One of the special perks of serving as your Councilmember comes during the fall neighborhood picnic and annual meeting flourish. I am always glad to be invited and am glad to join you as often as possible. After what I hope will be a great game with Florida on Saturday night, Sunday afternoon will bring the Louisiana Avenue picnic followed by the Ashland Park Neighborhood Association picnic gathering. These will both feature great folks, fun for the kids and food. Thus the perk! If you are at one of these I will look forward to seeing you. If not when in can be of service please just let me know.

As I mentioned first off, we have many things to be proud of in the 5th District. One of those is the Kenwick Community Garden at the Victory Christian Church. I hope that you can make it to the Kenwick Victory Harvest Fest and Concert tomorrow; cooking classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and will feature the bounty of the garden so many have tended there. Music and food will be there to share. Bring a dish and a lawn chair and enjoy what is part of why our community is so wonderful. Above in the left-hand corner is a “Click Me” that will provide you with the details for the day.

My best,
Bill

Attorney General Brings New Funds for Affordable Housing

The Office of the Attorney General settled a legal dispute with Lender Processing Services, Inc., LPS Default Solutions, Inc., and DocX LLC (collectively, "LPS") for its questionable foreclosure practices relating to Kentucky residents. The settlement provides funds to assist individuals and communities negatively impacted by the foreclosure crisis. The Office of the Attorney General has been charged with the distribution of these funds.

For individuals personally damaged by the foreclosure crisis, the Office of the Attorney General established a remediation and assistance program. Consequently, we do not have access to personal information pertaining to individuals.

In addition, the settlement provides funding to assist communities negatively impacted by the foreclosure crisis. The Office of the Attorney General, *at their discretion*, distributes this portion of the proceeds to communities for foreclosure relief and housing programs, which can encompass numerous housing options.

The Office of the Attorney General has provided \$759,125 to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. The funding is for one-time, non-recurring money. Under the Office of Attorney General's guidelines, funds were to be used to support existing programs, as a means to leverage federal grant dollars where possible, and spent as soon as possible to realize the benefit to the community.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government projects address a wide range of needs and provide immediate relief and assistance to all ends of the housing spectrum. For example, the LFUCG proposal addresses homeless shelters and services, creates low income rental housing units and affordable homes for first-time homeowners, as well as provide funding for housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs to prevent foreclosures and keep families in their homes. It is a comprehensive

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Generous Donor Purchases Bullet-Proof Vests for K9 Unit

The last two Lexington Police K-9 dogs will soon be getting life-saving bullet-proof vests, thanks to generous donations and pledges from two Lexington companies. Garik, the K9 partner of Lexington K-9 Officer Henry Hicks, modeled one of the vests at a news conference Tuesday night to announce the donations. Of the nine dogs in the K-9 unit, seven already have bullet-proof vests.

Tom Workman, president of the Bluegrass Corvette Club, presented an \$850 check to Jayne Ford, president of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, which will facilitate the purchase of the vests. Each vest costs \$850.

"We are very much honored to be able to help out," Workman said. "This is one of many projects we raise money for during the year. We have lots of parades and events during the year and the police help us out with those so we are glad to be able to help with this."

During the ceremony Corvette Club member Tony Bates, owner of Bates Security and Sonitrol, learned that one dog would still be left without a vest and pledged another \$850 from his company to buy another vest in the near future.



Garik and partner Officer Henry Hicks demonstrate the bullet-proof vest for K-9s.

Click Me!



Neighbors Use “Elbow Grease” to Transform Community Corner

In June of 2012, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government entered an agreement with the Ashland Park Neighborhood Association (APNA) to beautify a highly visible corner at the intersection of South Ashland Avenue and High Street. This effort was aimed to both improve the area and tamp down the opportunity for graffiti artists to mar the traffic signal box in that location with their handiwork.

A pilot program that had been the subject of much discussion for many years, the city agreed to allow the neighborhood to paint the traffic control box Keeneland Green to better blend in with its surroundings and then plant perennials around the box to make the site more attractive. Currently, this is the only location where this type of transformation has occurred.

The agreement with APNA states that the neighborhood association must maintain the plantings and—through the use of graffiti-proof paint—must remove any marks of vandalism should they occur. In the event of damage to the project, APNA “shall as soon as possible take action to repair or replace any damaged landscaping material, painted surfaces and any other damage.”

While the process at times seemed somewhat drawn out for both parties, the end result is a beautifully planted space that all traveling through the area can enjoy. After painting the traffic signal box earlier this spring, APNA tilled the soil, planted bulbs and flowers as well as Liriope—or “Monkey Grass”—in the bed around the box.

With much tending and care, the bed has now filled in and motorists and pedestrians are treated to a colorful corner where before stood only a dull silver traffic control box. Following in the footsteps of former neighborhood president Tony Chamblain, current president Reverend Bob Sessum said, “This project really pulled many people in the neighborhood together and the result is being enjoyed by so many people who drive by the intersection. We are pleased to offer this flowering gift for everyone.”

David Burg, Lisa Myers and other members of APNA have taken on the responsibility of weeding, watering and replacing the center bed with seasonal color flowers. Bill Henkel of Henkel Denmark, Inc. helped with the design and the selection of plants. Passersby are often seen tending to the bed as well, plucking dead blooms from the plants. Reverend Sessum has reported that only twice has graffiti ap-

peared and with some “elbow grease” has been fairly easy to remove.

Full completion of the project will occur in the coming months when the city replaces the border bricks with concrete curbing. Sessum said, “That will be great. Once in a while I will get a call that one of our bricks are out in the street. But all in all, we all are very pleased with the beautification of the corner and we get lots of positive comments.”

The Ashland Park Neighborhood Association has been actively promoting the greening and beautification of the neighborhood for many years. With grants from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, APNA has planted dozens of new trees, most notably in the median of South Hanover Avenue, to enhance the appeal of the streets.

Tates Creek Road Sidewalk Project Weekly Update

Week ending September 27th

- Sidewalk has been installed between Centenary Methodist to just short of Alumni Drive
- Sidewalk has been excavated inbound to Alumni Drive as well as Rebecca Drive and Albany Road
- The path has been cleared and grubbed between Alumni and Rebecca Drives
- Sidewalk has been installed outbound to Rebecca Drive with the exception of two parcels
- Work continued on the pedestrian signals at Alumni Drive; they are up but not functioning.
- The stadium side of Alumni Drive is now complete

Plans for next week

- Complete Alumni Drive intersection including striping
- Continue excavating and pouring sidewalk on wide side heading south to just past Old Dobbin Road
- Start excavation from Centenary Methodist to Old Mt. Tabor Road
- Pour sidewalk from Albany Road to Rebecca Drive
- Continue working on the pedestrian signals at Alumni Drive
- Sod completed areas

FROM THE OFFICE
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Details for the District

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package that can be implemented in a timely fashion. For this reason it met the Attorney General Office guidelines, and at their discretion was funded as a package.

The proceeds received through this settlement represent one-time monies. Affordable housing is a larger issue that requires dedicated funds. We are working to address this need and develop a comprehensive housing strategy. In addition, Adult and Tenant Services (50% Emergency Solutions and 50% general fund match) currently provide homeless prevention assistance and rapid re-housing assistance.

Here is a breakdown of the agencies that received funding:

- \$230,000 will be used by Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) as the local match for the federal funds to construct up to eight housing units for residential homeowners displaced by the Newtown Pike Extension Project and/or low-income, first-time homeowners.
- \$100,000 to LFUCG that will be provided to the Fayette Local Development Corporation and/or the Lexington Urban League for property acquisitions to build and/or acquire housing for low-income renters.
- \$125,000 to LFUCG that will be used in conjunction with any Community Development Block Grant funds for the repairs and renovations of The Hope Center, a homeless shelter that provides services to more than 2,000 men each year.
- \$50,000 to LFUCG to support emergency and transitional living services provided by the Salvation Army of Lexington, which has experienced a 25% increase in homeless women and children seeking emergency shelter.
- \$125,000 to LFUCG that will be provided to Lexington Habitat for Humanity to construct at least two houses for qualified low-income families.
- \$129,125 to LFUCG for its Housing Rehabilitation Program and its Community-Wide Emergency Repair Program to help assist property owners in making repairs to keep their homes warm, dry and safe.

Currently, LFUCG has \$151,478 in the Emergency Financial Assistance Fund. Additionally, as noted above, LFUCG did receive funding for the Community Wide Emergency Repair Program, (\$129,125) and these funds can be used to assist homeowners who are facing foreclosure due to Code Enforcement violations.

The Attorney General made the determination regarding which agencies/programs would receive funding based upon criteria mandated by a court order, and these are the agencies and programs listed above and are set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA presented to the Council represents the final decision from the Attorney General regarding how the money is to be used.

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.

Chevy Chaser 2013 Fall Arts Preview



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CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Living History Day
Saturday, September 28 from 10 to 5
henryclay.org 266-8581