



5th District Newsletter

*News and announcements from
around our community*



One Hundred Twenty-fifth Edition
Details for the District

January 10, 2014

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Bullet Points of Interest:

- The Lexington Council Garden Clubs is pleased to announce that funds are available for grant applications for environmental and beautification projects in Fayette County for 2014. The funds are from the Open Gates to the Bluegrass Garden Tour in June 2013. Projects that aid in protection, conservation, and enhancement of natural resources and civic beauty are encouraged. Funds are not available for private use or for profit businesses. Proceeds of \$4,000 were distributed to 10 applicants in 2012. [Applications can be accessed online](#) and must be submitted by February 15th. For more information, please contact Susan Craddock, project chair at (859) 252-8707.

Welcome Back With a Snap!

Dear Neighbor,
Happy 2014 to you! This week's deep freeze makes New Year's Day seem long ago. First, Lexington's good neighbor style was readily apparent all cold snap long. All of the crews that keep our streets open and the officers and firefighters that protect us did their jobs despite many adversities. Beyond that the communal giving and caring for homeless and less fortunate folks highlights what makes our city special beyond its greenery. The warmth of this spirit makes for a great beginning to the year.

In anticipation of gas line replacement from Kroger to the High Street intersection on Euclid Avenue, Kentucky American Water began street marking this week. All this as a backdrop for the Pedestrian Improvement Project for the area that will follow the utility replacement work. Here's to signs of progress!

I am also trying to get the engineering work complete for the Winchester and Liberty Road intersection repair and improvement. The Charlie's Fresh Seafood corner lacks definition from sidewalk to street to gutter and is generally worthy of improvement. When the look of the repair begins to finalize you'll see it here first!

Even though our first official meetings won't begin until next week, I did spend time in a meeting this week with some of the members of the boards of the Lansdowne-Merrick Neighborhood Association and Eastern Little League (ELL). The league has improved the baseball field in the park greatly over the past four years and now desires to add four sets of "boxed" lights to the field to facilitate some evening games. The two groups had a great conversation. ELL has

brought youth to the park and neighborhood and have themselves been good neighbors. As announced here earlier the funding for replacing tennis courts in the park has been secured and the bids for removing the old and rebuilding two brand new courts are in process. The park has long been a hidden gem and after the recent installation of exercise stations, it now serves outdoor and fitness enthusiasts of several generations. If you have thoughts or comments about the park please let me know. You can also send your thoughts to neighborhood president John Piccoro by clicking [here](#).

This week's frigid temperatures elicited several e-mails to the Council floor regarding the Care and Treatment of Animals ordinance currently on the books in Lexington-Fayette County. While many tend to our fellow man during such cold blasts (see page 2 for Kenwick residents' efforts), four-legged companions are sometimes overlooked. Lexington-Fayette Animal Care and Control (LFACC) responded to over 200 calls across the county on Monday and Tuesday alone. Many of the cases resulted in animals being surrendered by owners voluntarily; others did not meet the criteria necessary for action. According to LFACC, more specific guidelines, such as what is considered "adequate protection and shelter" per animal, per weight and per breed, would allow their officers to better safeguard these animals from the elements. Please offer suggestions as you see fit.

As we all return to the rhythm of winter know that if you have an issue or need that I can help with please don't hesitate to contact me. Many thanks and my best—for the whole new year!

My best,
Bill

Flushing the Fresh Feeling or Creating a Stink?

Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage our sewer system, cause sewer backups in our homes and sewer overflows into the environment. We all need to take responsibility for our sewer system and what we flush or pour down the drains.



Many household cleaning products are labeled and marketed as “disposable,” but these do NOT break down in the city sewer system and shouldn’t be flushed down the toilet. These items should always be placed in a trash can:

- Wipes marked “flushable”
- Baby wipes
- Diapers
- Disinfecting wipes
- Rags
- Dental floss

These products do not break down in water. They clog pipes and can cause expensive repairs in sanitary sewer pipes from your home to the treatment plant. Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet. Other waste should be bagged and put in a trash container. We need to save ourselves and our city from a pain in the drain so put wipes, rags and towels in the trash, not the toilet!

Kenwick Has the Drive!

In an effort sparked by neighbors Renea Buckles and Leann Murphy, the Kenwick neighborhood came together and held a Coat, Gloves, Hat, Blanket and Scarf Drive last weekend. Neighbors emptied closets to help those in need and overall, several carloads were delivered to the Catholic Action Center during this week’s cold weather spell. Not to be left out of the action (or out in the cold) Renea’s poodle Tucker made the news as well, reminding Lexington pet owners to be responsible during such cold snaps. Way to work together, Kenwick!



Tucker Buckles’ coverage of the news starts at the 9:00 minute mark.

Watch *The Butler* Do It

In celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Lee Daniels’ film, *The Butler* will be shown at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, January 20th at the Kentucky Theater. The film is free and open to the public. In *The Butler* actor Forest Whitaker portrays the role of Cecil Gaines, the White House butler who served under eight different presidents. During his tenure at the White House, Gaines witnessed the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, and other major events that affected Gaines’ life, his family and American society in general. Oprah Winfrey is cast as Gaines’ wife. Other stars in the film include John Cusack, Cuba Gooding Jr., Jane Fonda, Robin Williams and Alan Rickman.



Click [here](#) for more information.

To Catch a Thief

Police are asking everyone to take a look at surveillance video of a man caught breaking into Failte Irish Imports Shop. An exterior security camera caught the thief casually walking down Upper Street early New Year’s Day. He walked to the front door of 5th District resident Liza Hendley Betz’s store then out of the camera’s view breaking the glass and makes his way inside.

“We have two doors which I always thought would be extra security but after breaking the front door glass he jimmied one of the locks,” Liza said.

The burglar stole about \$200 cash but left jewelry and other merchandise behind. Liza wonders if this is the same guy behind at least seven other downtown business break-ins at places such as Taste of Thai and Cup of Commonwealth. “He’s got a distinctive walk,” she said. If anyone has any information regarding this break-in or any of the others are asked to contact the Lexington Police Department at (859) 258-3600.



Could this be the man we’ve been looking for?

Gem Stitches Creativity Together Piece by Piece

This week's Gem of the District makes an art of stitching together all things creative in the community around her. A native of Honduras, once making an average of \$30 per 70-hour work week, this gem brings freedom of expression to a fashionable level. This week, we sat down with Soreyda Benedit-Begley and asked her how she pieces it all together. This is what she had to say.

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

A. My name is Soreyda Benedit-Begley, and I'm a clothing designer, activist and community organizer. I'm a Co-Founder and current Director of the [Lexington Fashion Collaborative](#).

Q. Tell us about the Lexington Fashion Collaborative. What is the concept behind it?

A. The Lexington Fashion Collaborative (LFC) came to be in a very organic way. I have always said that is like that child that's left in front of your door to be taken care of. The first Future of Fashion was an event put together by me and Lexington-based photographer Richie Wireman. We decided to do a fashion photography exhibit with his photos and a runway show with my clothing. After the word got out about this event, many local designers got interested in being part of it and we decided to bring in as many as possible. With only about six weeks of planning, we ended up having 15 designers, and over 300 people came to the show! It was a big surprise for all of us that a fashion event, with very little promotion and in a city the size of Lexington, could attract that much of an audience. After the first Future of Fashion (this has become the LFC's annual fundraiser event) a lot of the participants got very excited and started to meet regularly until we officially formed the organization. We have done the Future of Fashion event for 5 consecutive years. You can find photos from the latest show, Future of Fashion V, by clicking [here](#).

We work with models, photographers, painters, graphic designers, writers, singers, textile artists and the like. Clothing is such a big, important element of our everyday life and a very special form of self expression for everyone. We not only work with people in the fashion world, we also work with other media artist like musicians, dancers and painters.



This dress was fashioned out of coconut bark.

We collaborate in shows that bring together all these art forms to create multimedia shows that are always very exciting for the audience and brings together people that very likely would never be attending an event together.

The Lexington Fashion Collaborative's mission is to bring awareness to Lexington's growing fashion community and to provide local individuals with a platform on which to display their talents. The LFC is basically an art organization that is mainly focused on wearable art. It is managed by artists and other people who are working in the fashion industry. We are very diverse in every way; we have people involved from different ethnicities, gender, nationalities and ages. We welcome everyone who wants to be involved with the only condition of following our code of conduct, which instructs people to give credit to the collaborators in any project when using their work. We also like to let participants know that in order to allow for inclusivity, LFC strives to be anti-oppressive and anti-racist, striving to build personal power, and a sense of self. We work for equality in all relationships. This

organization is growing so rapidly and most of our members are very serious about working in the fashion industry. To be successful they need an organization like the LFC to support them in their journey.

It is challenging for all of us to work just in fashion to support ourselves and our families—especially for clothing designers. The prices of imported clothing is so cheap and we can't compete with that. Some of our members also need to improve their skills and creating workshops or training programs is very important at this point. We want people to stay here and be able to make a decent living doing what they love. I feel that the LFC has done a lot to keep this talent here to help enrich the arts and culture of the city.

The main goal we have for the organization is to have a

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Artistry is at the heart of the Lexington Fashion Collaborative.



Shameless Editor's Plug: Caroline Gies wearing a Coco Jackson Design at the Future of Fashion 2009.

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Details for the District

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facility where we can do workshops, a showroom for designers, a photography studio, a hair and makeup room, a runway for model training and a library with books and DVDs that people can come and borrow to learn as much as possible about the industry. In 10 years I would like to see organizations like the LFC being developed in other places. It has been amazing to work as a team and to have the connection to the community, this organizations has made possible many wonderful things for us and the community.

Q. What influence from your life in Honduras has marked your path here in Lexington?

A. Two things that have been very important is my cultural background and the time I worked in sweatshops there. I'm from an indigenous group called Garifunas. I grew up in a little village in the north coast of Honduras. In our village everyone knew everyone, we worked together on things and helped each other out. We grew our food and didn't depend much on money. It is a totally different and unique system compared to the one in place here. Also, because I worked in sweatshops from when I was 14 until I was 20 years old, I learned firsthand how the fashion industry keeps the prices of clothes so low. With the fashion collaborative we are creating a new system to do fashion. It is one were everyone gets a chance to develop their craft and give the industry a shot.

Q. Do you have any questions or concerns about Lexington as a whole?

A. Concerns, yes. I see many projects (art, economic development, etc.) being focused on having very specific groups as "beneficiaries." I feel that in order to bring progress with any project, we need to think and act in a more inclusive way. Having access to networks is very important for personal and career development. Having a skill is not going to do so much for you if you don't have access to the right clientele. I just wish for more openness, understanding and opportunities for minorities to be part of the planning process and not to be seen always as the ones getting charity. For more information about LFC, click [here](#).

Memorable Mentoring

The Carnegie Center invites young women in grades 9-12 to apply to the Young Women Writers Project, a free series of intensive workshops focused on creative self-expression through writing. The selected group of participants will attend six sessions held on Saturdays in February, March and April. These sessions are 4-hour workshops in which experienced writers in their 20s and 30s mentor on a variety of genres, encouraging participants to look within themselves for issues that are important in their lives. Participants will also learn techniques of delivering an effective literary reading and the basics of the business of writing and future career opportunities. The program will culminate with two public readings and a Writing Mentoring Day, where participants will lead 4th and 5th grade girls in small group writing exercises.



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.

