

5th District Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



135th Edition

Details for the District

April 11, 2014

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Bullet Points of Inter-

- Mayor Jim Gray today named Charlie Lanter the city's first director of the newly created Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. Click [here](#) to read the press release.
- The Kenwick Center will be holding an egg hunt for kids on Wednesday, April 16th starting at 6:00 p.m. The kids will be divided into three age groups to make the hunting fair. The Kenwick Center is also requesting donations of individually wrapped candy for the 500 eggs they will be hiding. Please call (859) 266-6405 for more information.

Budget Season: Bring It On

Dear Neighbor,
Besides The Wildcats (congratulations!) almost winning the National Championship on Monday, we had a different sort of excitement on Tuesday as the Mayor delivered his much anticipated 2015 Proposed Budget Address. The early highlights include a \$313.2 million budget that is a 5% increase over last year. When the economy improves Lexington's finances change for the better quickly. As proposed the balanced budget adds two recruit classes for both Fire and Police as well as 15 new Police positions. A budget for bleachers around the new multi-use fields in Shillito Park as well. More paving funds of at least \$3 million. And debt service for Rupp Arena bonding starting in 2016 of about \$2 million annually.

There will be great debate and many decisions by Council before passage of the final version of the budget in early June. I am interested in your thoughts and priorities and encourage you to let me know what you think about the budget as a whole or about individual concerns you may wish to express. We all look forward to the best decisions for our community.

As for the current issues surrounding the transfer of Time Warner Cable to Comcast, we have received confirmation that the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday approved the transfer, and the issue lies with the FCC for approval along

with thousands of municipalities in which Time Warner Cable operates. The transfer is subject to approval of local governments and the LFUCG has been looking at this issue for quite some time.

An important part of a municipality's review of a transfer request involves assessing Comcast's financial, technical, legal and character qualifications and evaluating the Time Warner Cable's past and current performance and identifying any noncompliance issues.

Next Tuesday in the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting the issue of Affordable Housing will be more closely examined. The Administration's organizational plan and timeline will be part of that discussion. We will also have an update on design guidelines for Downtown and possible updates or changes to the Residential Parking Permit Program. As I looked over that legislation today it bears Mayor Baesler's signature. I'm guessing there's room for both better practices and community notifications too.

This weekend, my wife Kim and I will take part in an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* to benefit the Lexington Children's Theater. If I don't see you there, I hope to find you well in temperatures outside that promise to hit a nearly impossible to remember 80 degrees! Enjoy!

My best,
Bill

Plant a Seed, Get a Donut!

With an eye on the weather, the Kenwick Neighborhood Association is on schedule to prepare the community garden beds tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The garden is located on the corner of Owsley Avenue and Cramer Avenue, behind Victory Christian Church. There are a number of people signed up, but more hands are welcome to make the work light. RSVP to kenwickneighbors@gmail.com. Donuts have been kindly donated by Donut Days, a local bakery that will be opening up a shop in Chevy Chase in the near future. Please check them out by clicking [here](#).

Advocate Keeps An Eye On Explosions at CentrePointe

A hidden gem within LFUCG, the Citizens' Advocate often is forgotten as a resource for issues you might feel have been overlooked by government entities; Penny McFadden is your Citizens' Advocate. The 5th District Office often works with Penny to resolve issues that stump even our office. This past week, both the 5th and 3rd District Offices were contacted regarding storm sewer concerns surrounding the blasting at the CentrePointe site. When it rains, the resulting water must be pumped out and—imaging all things that must be down there, combined with the blasting materials—worries about tainting both the storm sewers and Town Branch have been raised. Penny did some investigating and her results are interesting enough to share here.

“Problem: A citizen called and was concerned about the dewatering at the CentrePointe site. The citizen was upset that the water was going in to the storm sewer without testing for ammonium nitrates.

Result: We are not currently sampling the water being pumped off of the site for chemical compounds; we are making daily visual checks of the creek for turbidity issues. As of last week, the area that they are blasting in has not intersected the

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Ashland Opens Its Own “Library”

Residents of the Ashland Neighborhood have recently come together to create a Little Free Library. It's a “take a book, return a book” gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. A Little Free Library is a collection of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. (Kenwick neighbors can visit 316 Richmond Avenue to take part in their own exchange.) Neighbors will hold a dedication to the Little Free Library on Sunday, April 27th from 3:00 until 4:00 p.m. at 221 South Ashland Avenue. If you attend, you are encouraged to bring new or gently used books, a selection of which will be donated to The Carnegie Center and The Nest: Center for Women, Children and Families in honor of the dedication.

If you would like to start a Little Free Library in your neighborhood, click [here](#) for more information.



Little Free Libraries offer a new and interesting way to interact with your neighbors. Click the play button for more info.

Surplus Funds Pave the Way for a Smoother Ride

In Fiscal Year 2014, the 5th District was fortunate in that we received roughly \$1.9 million for resurfacing streets in need. While the next budget cycle proposed by Mayor Gray allots a much smaller amount per district so far, we did find that from this past cycle, the 5th District had a surplus of approximately \$260,000. Each year, we ask you to submit requests for paving, which we keep in a database and address as funds allow.

At right are the roads that some of you championed for even after our finalized FY14 list was submitted to the Division of Streets and Roads. You will soon see paving activity in these areas as we utilize our surplus funds. Fiscal Year 2015 will be a lean paving year, but your input is still valued. Please let us know what stretches of road jolt your bones.

Of note, the \$25,000 dedicated to the Ecton Park parking lot is part of a \$75,000 split between the Divisions of Water Quality and Parks and Recrea-

tion, and the 5th District Office. The \$40,000 earmarked for the Euclid Intersection is half of an \$80,000 split with Council Member Diane Lawless for the Pedestrian Improvement Plan in the Euclid Avenue/High Street/Fontaine Road intersection. Council Member Lawless will also contribute \$40,000 to that endeavor.

Street	Begin	End	TOTAL COSTS
BRISTOL	HART	CUL-DE-SAC	43,643.69
TEAKWOOD	TALLY	STRAWBERRY	49,421.97
WOODSPOINT	FONTAINE RD	FINCASTLE EXIT	16,714.29
WOODSPOINT	FINCASTLE RD	FINCASTLE EXIT	9,017.34
COCHRAN	TATES CREEK RD	CHENAULT	20,066.06
COCHRAN	OLD CASSIDY	CHENAULT	9,196.95
COCHRAN	HART	OLD CASSIDY	14,715.11
FONTAINE	CHINOE	CULPEPPER	15,718.42
HART	CULPEPPER	CLINTON	14,715.11
Ecton Park Lot			25,000.00
Euclid Intersection			40,000.00
			258,208.93

FROM THE OFFICE
OF 5TH DISTRICT
COUNCILMEMBER
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



Saturday, April 12
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hisle Park
3551 Briar Hill Road

For more information:
www.lexingtonky.gov/rtb
or call (859) 258-3405

DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



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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groundwater that they are having to pump offsite. The clay particles from the dirt being tracked onto the street have been the main issue with the construction so far. The dewatering discharge has been clear. The ammonium nitrate that would be used in the blasting would be used up in the exothermic reaction (explosion) of the chemicals. The results of the reaction would be heat, water, and nitrous oxide (gas). Ammonium nitrate by itself is a highly-soluble salt that is a commonly used fertilizer. We cannot test specifically for ammonium nitrate. We can test the creek for ammonia, nitrates, and total dissolved solids (TDS), but we do not expect the levels to be elevated above the background levels already present in the creek due to runoff from road salts and lawn fertilization. We will conduct a round of sampling once they are pumping water from an area where blasting has occurred to confirm. I will update on our findings once the sampling conditions are met.”

The Citizens’ Advocate investigates citizens’ complaints; discloses any irregularities or abuses found in the LFUCG or with its officers, agents or employees; recommends policy changes to improve citizen access to LFUCG departments, divisions, agencies and offices; suggests ways to strengthen the government system; and provides callers with information and referrals. If you feel you have an issue that needs to be addressed by the Citizens’ Advocate, contact Penny at citadv@lexingtonky.gov.



Duke Road Cell Tower Makes Progress

Pursuant to the 5th District Office’s recent inquiries regarding the status of the replacement of the wireless communications tower at 610 Duke Road, Christopher King, Attorney at Lorch, Naville, Ward, LLC contacted Crown Castle’s Project Manager and Construction Manager for that site. He has provided us with the following information:

Shortly after the new tower was erected, antennae for three of the four existing carriers were immediately relocated from the old tower to the new one. One existing carrier experienced delays in getting new antennae and related equipment for installation on the new tower. To maintain wireless service in the area, it elected to remain on the older tower until the new equipment was received. The new equipment has been received recently and the Construction Manager has requested and is awaiting authorization from the carrier to proceed. Weather permitting, Crown Castle expects to have the project completed and the old tower removed by May 15th.

Free Summer Camps for Military Families

The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service is hosting two free military family camps this summer. The Deployment Support Camps are open to families from any state or branch of the military including active duty, Reserve, and National Guard. Children must be between 5 and 18 years old. The first camp is June 20-22 at Mammoth Cave National Park. The second camp will take place July 11-13 at UK’s Robinson Forest. For more information, contact Jan Childers at nfsjan@uky.edu.