

5th District Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



142nd Edition

Details for the District

May 30, 2014

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Bullet Points of Interest:

- The Kenwick Neighborhood Association is participating in the great American Cleanup again this year. KNA invites volunteers to walk around the neighborhood for about an hour to remove trash along the streets. You will be provided gloves and trash bags. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Kenwick Community Center, 313 Owsley Avenue.
- The Idle Hour Neighbors Alliance invites you to their neighborhood yard sale on Saturday, June 7th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This is a rain or shine event.
- The Ashland Lawn Party will take place on Saturday, June 21st from 5:00 until 10:00 p.m. There will be live jazz, cocktails, a silent auction, dinner by Dupree Catering, a live auction and plenty of fun! Table of 8 \$1,000. Individual tickets \$100 or \$75 for 35 and under. Click [here](#) for more information.

Link Efforts Lead to Bigger Budget Discussions

Dear Neighbor,
The Mayor's Youth Council met in Council Chambers today. I joined them for a while and met the Youth 5th District Council Member Amani Shalash. She was a fine addition to what was a very diverse Council. They enjoyed excellent debate and discussion, representing themselves and their views quiet well. Lexington's future looks well in hand to me. My best to all who participated.

We had an extraordinarily long set of meetings on Tuesday as the five "links" of Council reported out on the part of the budget they have been overseeing since the mayor proposed his FY2015 spending plan.

As highlighted in the paper, in sum all five reports would add a potential \$1.5 million to the budget. The link I chaired proposed only one change, that being adding about \$85,000 for hazardous street tree removal. The proposed budget called for \$40,000, which would remove about 55 trees. Additional funds would bring that total to about 200 trees and be match-grant driven. Between the Emerald Ash Borer and the aging Pin Oak population, the hazard is real.

The Council will debate these changes and if added will have to find funding for them. Likewise we will also debate proposed additions to the budget from individual Council Members. For our 5th District I have asked for bond funding to complete the new fire station #2 to be built near Chase Bank in Eastland Shopping Center. This updated structure will house more equipment but more impor-

tantly will do so much nearer to us than before. Similar to last year I am asking for funding of a \$5 million paving bond to help us once again try to catch up on paving needs city wide. Here hoping that's successful.

My other two asks are for funding to add restrooms to Lansdowne-Merrick Park and to upgrade the signal system on Henry Clay Boulevard at Menifee Avenue. As a well located park Lansdowne-Merrick needs restrooms to give relief to all who use the facilities, which are enjoyed by all ages. The Fairway neighborhood needs traffic relief that I believe a smarter signal can provide.

As with the link reports, funding for these projects would have to be identified and enabled in order for them to happen, and all of that only if the Mayor doesn't veto the changes. First reading of the budget will be Tuesday June 17th with a second reading on Thursday the 19th followed by a vote. As we wind through these meetings and decisions I'll report our progress here and look forward to your comments and suggestions.

I'm glad the weekend came a day sooner this week! Don't forget to *Hail Yes!* with the Colt Trolley as it cycles through Chevy Chase to downtown Lexington on weekend evenings and then weekdays during lunch hours. Page 4 provides more detail.

Enjoy your weekend with my best,
Bill



Amani Shalash represented the 5th District during the Mayor's Youth Council debate today and will appear on WKYT this evening.

Cooper Drive Resurfacing Begins Monday

The section of Cooper Drive between Sports Center Drive and Nicholasville Road will be impacted by road work beginning on Monday, June 2nd. The work includes road resurfacing and re-striping, resulting in enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Vehicle through traffic will be maintained, but motorists should expect delays.

Anyone who normally travels in the vicinity should allow extra time for their commute. Drivers and pedestrians are encouraged to use caution as they navigate the area. The project is scheduled to conclude by Friday, July 11th.

PGA Professionals to Teach Kids in Free Golf Clinic

Cricket Kids Golf Clinic is a specialized clinic for kids ages 6 to 14, to introduce them to the game of golf and, or if already a golfer, assist them in improving their skills and allow them to better enjoy the game. The camp will take place at the beautiful Kearney Hill Golf Links and will conclude with on-course instruction at Meadowbrook Golf Course on June 14th. The camp will include instruction from PGA Professionals covering all aspects of the game of golf and how you can learn to play and enjoy the game, or it will allow you to brush up on your fundamentals and get hands on instruction to assist with the improvement of your game. Click [here](#) to register online.



Lifeguards Are In Demand!

Do you have a teen or college student home for the summer who has experience in water safety? Parks and Recreation is now hiring lifeguards for all LFUCG pools. Aquatics uses the Lexingtonky.gov Jobs website to process applications. To apply for an aquatics job, utilize the LFUCG online application process at <https://jobs.lexingtonky.gov/careers>. Resumes cannot be substituted for an application but may be attached with required documents to verify education, training or certification/license(s). Visit the Aquatics offices at 469 Parkway Drive to apply or call (859) 288-2973 for more information. A full list of summer jobs available through Parks and Recreation is available by clicking [here](#).



Mayor Gray Takes Cold Water Challenge to Raise Funds, Tasks Council to Do the Same

Recently Lexington Firefighter Joe Vissing was diagnosed with cancer. His fellow firefighters have rallied around him to raise funds in a variety of ways. Most creatively, many have stepped up to take part in the Cold Water Challenge. The rules are simple: You have 24 hours to take the cold water challenge, donate \$10 to Vissing's Medical Fund, and then call out three more people. If you choose not to take the challenge you must donate \$100. Mayor Jim Gray took the challenge in downtown Lexington this afternoon, seen here with participants from the Mayor's Youth Council. Mayor Gray has "called out" the entire Council for the challenge, so look forward to more fun soaking next week. Click [here](#) for more on the fundraising story from WLEX18.



Mayor Gray today took the Cold Water Challenge, which will raise funds for a local firefighter.



FROM THE OFFICE
OF 5TH DISTRICT
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Details for the District

Tom Shelton Explains School Budget Decisions

Dear Key Communicators:

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you for your support, candor and participation as we have made our way from discussions to the adoption of a 2014-15 Tentative Budget.

Our Fayette County Board of Education voted 4-1 Wednesday to approve a roughly \$428.4 million spending plan for next year. The approved budget contained several amendments brought forward by our school board members in response to concerns they received from constituents. We fully support each of the changes and believe that this is a budget that will help us ensure financial stability in upcoming years.

To highlight the changes in the budget:

- There will be no reductions to band and orchestra staffing.
- In the area of special education, \$2 million will be held in reserve to provide flexibility and to meet student needs we may not anticipate at this time.
- School-level classified staffing will be reduced by 3% instead of 5%.
- Staffing reductions at our special programs and technical schools will not exceed 3%.
- A special fund will be established to support special trips and other student activities for priority schools and schools with high-needs populations as a means of providing support for equity needs at schools across the district.
- No employee will have their work calendar reduced by more than five days.
- Employees who have more than 26 years of experience and are no longer eligible for “step-up” increases that would offset the reduction in work calendar days are guaranteed to earn no less than their current salary next year.

The board meeting also included a detailed explanation and response to the questions raised about journal entries, including comments from our external auditor who spoke in review and support of the entries made. We are pleased to let you know that the State Auditor has agreed to conduct an independent audit to provide assurance to everyone that there were no problems with the transactions. In addition, we received word overnight from the Kentucky Department of Education that they have reviewed the entries and have found them to be correct and proper.

Throughout this process, each of our board members has shown passion for doing what is best for students and I want to publicly thank each of them for speaking their hearts and fighting for kids. Many employees, parents, and members of the community spoke during last night’s meeting and have reached out through phone calls, emails, public forums and Let’s Talk over the past months. I am sincerely thankful to each one of you who engaged in the process.

In closing, I’d like to share a quote from Maya Angelou, an amazing poet, author and sage, who passed away just yesterday: “We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.” I truly believe that disagreement is part of having a healthy democracy and can be good for our school community. We make better decisions when all points of view are shared and I hope we will continue to have lively and spirited debates in the name of doing what’s right for our students.

Tom Shelton, PhD
Superintendent
Fayette County Public Schools

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.



Free Downtown Trolleys

Blue Line

Loops every 21 minutes
 Mon-Fri Lunch 11 am. - 2 pm
 Thur - Sat nights 6pm - 1am

Green Line

Loops every 16 minutes Thurs-Sat
 nights 9 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Hail Yes!

Flag us down and hop on!

Trolley drivers are happy to pick up passengers between stops as long as it is safe.

