

5th District Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



143rd Edition

Details for the District

June 6, 2014

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Bullet Points of Inter-

- Bluegrass Greensource is seeking a full time VISTA Volunteer to manage a Green Jobs program for Title 1 High Schools in Central Kentucky. A degree or previous experience in an environmental field is required. E-mail your résumé, letter of interest and contact information for three references to maxine@bgGreensource.org. Applications will be accepted through June 13th or until the position is filled. For more information and a detailed job description, click [here](#).
- The Bluegrass 10,000 footrace tracks through the heart of Downtown Lexington as a kickoff to the July 4th festivities. If you haven't been a part of it before, come and join in the fun! Online registration will continue through June 25th at [Active.com](#). All other registration begins on June 2nd. Click [here](#) for more registration information.

Artfully Speaking, A Productive Week in Review

Hello Neighbor,
There was no Tuesday work session this week, which left just last night's Council meeting. Plenty is going on. Here we go.

The last of the paving bond funds went down on several 5th District streets this week. I hope a road you use regularly was one of them. Interesting to note that as the FY2015 budget work comes to a close, the budget for paving is still under consideration as we all grapple with roads savaged by winter and in need. Next week should offer decision rather than conversation.

The concession stand at Ecton Park was broken into twice last weekend. Once again, vandals removed the air conditioner and the boards over its opening. On Tuesday, we filled the opening with masonry and will add a free standing unit to cool the facility. Our Parks and Recreation folks did quick work. Well done.

In more Ecton Park parking lot news the final work to widen the lot will begin soon. The right-hand edge of the lot will be pushed out about 12 feet and refinished to match the rest of the new lot. All the space possible there will be utilized. I again thank the Parks and Recreation folks or their continued excellent efforts.

A lot of time and attention was focused on the final vote to enable 21c Hotel to move forward last night. The Council in essence voted for the project when all of the financing work began. Last night's vote was to agree with the Federal Housing and Urban Development decision that they would loan the project \$6 million, given its ability to bring jobs to specific groups in need that would benefit. The fog of decision found folks trying to cast this as an either/or about affordable housing funding or further taking issue with in essence what

art is. All in all, it was a great public discussion followed by the same from Council. It's always great when Council Chambers fills with people who care deeply about an issue. Last night was an excellent example.

Having this level of investment in our downtown is a positive. Adding this brand to Lexington among the select cities that 21c Hotel now serves puts us in fine company. Personally I enjoyed the discussion of HUD funds and uses and look forward for it to continue. Too often those funds come and go with little fanfare or explanation. This use of loan funds and discussion may change that.

The discussion and thinking about what art is and how it is appreciated—or not—was truly a great thing. If 21c Hotel were not locating here no discussion or thought about that would have taken place, much less what will happen when the actual museum opens. Great stuff.

This weekend many will graduate here in Lexington. My best to each graduate and the family that helped them earn a diploma! It's a rite of passage that sets the stage for life decisions. Congratulations to all.

In saying that we must all also thank every soul and soldier that hit a beach 70 years ago today to protect our freedom and way of life. Those brave soldiers inspire us all still today. Their sacrifice, sometimes ultimate, helped protect for each of us not just our freedom but our right to have freedom of expression. My words of thanks are small in comparison. Today we must also thank all those who serve still, protecting what so many have fought for us to have.

My best,
Bill

Lexington's First Food Coordinator Will Bring the Farm to the Table

Ashton Potter Wright started work this week as Lexington's local food coordinator, a new position charged with improving connections between Central Kentucky farmers and consumers. "The goal is to grow the local agricultural economy while improving the health of local citizens by providing better access to healthy, locally-grown foods," Mayor Jim Gray said.



Council Member Steve Kay worked to establish the position. "Ashton will fill the gap between producers and consumers, improving connections at all levels, individual and businesses," he said. "It's a regional position. The consumers will be concentrated in Lexington, but Ashton will work with farmers and buyers throughout Central Kentucky."

With the hiring of Wright, Lexington becomes the second city in the state with a Local Food Coordinator. Louisville's Farm to Table Coordinator served as a model for Lexington. Wright will be part of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, but the pilot position is funded through a combina-

tion of agriculture development funds, private grants and \$25,000 from the city.

Wright, a Lexington native, holds a doctorate in Public Health from the University of Kentucky. She has worked on several initiatives to improve access to healthy food at both the state and national level. She recently completed a fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, where she served as the operations manager for First Lady Michele Obama's Let's Move! Child Care campaign.

The Council will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23rd for the proposed renovation and redesign of Rupp Arena and the Lexington Convention Center. The meeting will take place in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 200 East Main Street. Mark your calendars to attend this meeting or watch the broadcast on GTV-3. You can also watch online by clicking [here](#).



Comcast Moves Full Steam Ahead with Time Warner Cable Merger

Comcast has now filed both parts of its proposed merger with Time Warner Cable at the FCC and the heavy lifting on vetting the deal, and comments about the deal, can begin in earnest. Yesterday, Comcast filed with the FCC the public interest statement, exhibits and license applications for its spin-off of 3.9 million customers, which it promised to do to try and assuage concerns about the size of the combined company. A key public interest point the company makes is how the creation of the new company, SpinCo, will bring more competition to the marketplace—while the TWC merger will not reduce it, Comcast has already pointed out.

"The SpinCo transaction will create substantial public interest benefits," says Comcast. "While SpinCo will be a new company, it will be larger than all but four other cable companies in the United States and will have a tightly integrated, contiguous service footprint. This scale and geographic scope will facilitate investment in innovation and high-quality services within SpinCo's footprint. From the outset, SpinCo will be well positioned to compete aggressively in the highly competitive markets for high-speed Internet, voice and video services."



Comcast will not own shares in either Charter or SpinCo after the closing of the spin-off, the company says, and for the

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first eight years would not be allowed to own more than 1% of SpinCo shares. "In short, SpinCo will be entirely independent of Comcast," the cable operator told the FCC.

"We have now filed the Public Interest Statement and other documents associated with our planned divestiture of 3.9 million subscribers at the conclusion of the Time Warner Cable transaction," Comcast said in a statement. Concurrently, Charter has filed their documents for these deals. "In addition to the Public Interest Statement for the systems we will obtain directly from Charter, we've filed updated maps and other information which shows, among other things, how the divestitures will change the Comcast footprint after the TWC transaction. With these filings, all necessary applications have been submitted to the FCC and we look forward to continuing to work with the FCC and the DOJ as the review process moves forward."

If you live in Fayette County and have a cable related complaint and/or comment that is not resolved by dealing directly with Time Warner Cable, (859) 514-1400, you may call Lexcall (311) or send an e-mail to

commentoncablelexington@lexingtonky.gov. Written comments can be sent to the attention of the Telecommunications Officer, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, 200 E. Main Street, 4th Floor, Lexington, KY 40507. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and a description of the complaint and/or comment.

Free Swing Dance Lessons on Short Street!

Tomorrow evening from 7:00 until 11:00 p.m., make plans to join Arthur Murray Dance Studio and the Hepcats Swing Dance Club as they provide free lessons to everyone who wants to learn to swing dance. Once the lessons are over, there will be a live band and street dance. Experienced dancers can test their skills with a dance contest during the intermission. Participants can just come to enjoy the music or join in and dance. Admission is free. Call (859) 288-2925 for more information.



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.

advocates BUSINESS OWNERS
COMMUNITY LEADERS church representatives
educators HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS immigrants
LEGISLATORS public safety officers REFUGEES social workers

Save the date!

World Refugee Day Summit

Lexington's
Bridge
to the World

Friday, June 20th **9am-12:30pm**
Central Library 140 E. Main St. Lexington Lunch and cultural celebration from 12:30-2pm

A conference for community members to explore the challenges facing our growing refugee community and to share in the success stories. The conference will culminate in a cultural celebration that will highlight the various groups of refugees resettling in Lexington. Registration opens in March. Session topics include:

Adult Education Employment and Government and Healthcare Housing K-12 Education
Workforce Development Community Services

For more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/lexingtonrefugeesummit>

LexArts Seeks Input for New CEO

An integral part of the process in the search for a new CEO of LexArts is determining what role the new leader will play and to that end, a public discussion has been scheduled. Moderated by Bianca Spriggs, panelists will include J. David Smith, Jr., Chair of LexArts' Grants Committee and Chair of the Search Committee, John Long, Chairman of the Board, and Allison Kaiser, Executive Director of the Lexington Philharmonic.



LEXARTS

The public meeting will be held at Arts-Place, 161 North Mill Street, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23rd. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.