

5th District Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



146th Edition

Details for the District

June 27, 2014

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Bullet Points of Interest:

- Our thanks to 5th District resident Laura Farnsworth for her work on this year's Fourth of July Festival in downtown Lexington. This year, the celebration will honor military personnel, veterans and first responders. Please click [here](#) for a list of July 4th events downtown.
- You are invited to join Council Member Farmer, Vice Mayor Linda Gorton and a host of others on a walk down the newly installed Tates Creek sidewalk tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Participants should meet at the Lansdowne Shopping Centre near the fire station.
- The Division of Emergency Management has issued a press release about door-to-door security sales. Please click [here](#) for more information.

This Week, Crime Is Primetime

Dear Neighbor,
It has been a long week with too many incidents involving our local police force and all of our emergency services. We all strive for safety but even so bad things still happen. Last night's head-on collision killing six jumps to mind today but for many in our neighborhoods the gun violence near our homes is much more threatening. I believe in our police force, all of their abilities and I know that they do their best for us.

We all need to be necessarily vigilant. Be aware of your surroundings at work, out in the community and to another degree, even at home. Mayor Gray continues to take steps to quell this tide of crime and I can only agree and be supportive. Being aware is only one part. Be part of your neighborhood group and its chat or online posting area. When you are out especially late size up what you are doing and the safest way to do it in a necessarily public way. No matter what the occurrence or need, don't hesitate to contact the authorities. Indeed, call every time.

The entire Police apparatus and prosecutorial services are working on the cases formed from these violent acts but we are all involved on doing good and keeping Lexington safe.

As an added note, the Bullet Points of Interest at left include a link to a recent press release by the Division of Emergency Management about door-to-door security sales. This is an issue that has been reported between neighborhood listservs, and it is one that the Better Business Bureau cautions residents to know of.

Moving now to paving, from my viewing of recent internal e-mails it appears that the "paving need" in our area is about \$2.6 million. While no district will receive

more paving dollars from the new budget than ours (other than the 12th because of county road contributions from the state), it will still only be \$747,083.96 to spread around a district that pays a heavy toll for bearing so much of the transitory ills of Lexington.

The arterials alone say it and include parts of Winchester, Liberty, Richmond, and Tates Creek Roads and Alumni Drive. The goal is to spread this resource as far as effectively possible and as always I appreciate your suggestions. As we work on submitting a paving list some trial runs should appear here for your interest.

Our new director of the Division of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Brad Chambers, has started work recently. I am looking forward to meeting with him soon and gauging his thoughts about parks in general and in particular in our area. If you have a thought or idea about parks and their uses, please let me know so that I can try to incorporate those into our initial discussion. I find so much interest in our parks and their uses. Please share your interests with me.

On a lighter note, I was pleased to interview the folks from the new Shakespeare & Co., which will open soon in Chinoe Center. On page 3, there is online access to that interview. While the venue is still under construction as of today, it is one that many of us remember as an old haunt and will be back bigger and better soon. I hope to soon see you there.

The e-newsletter will go on hiatus next week. In the meantime, please enjoy a safe weekend.

My best,
Bill

Mayor Gray Rallies Forces Against Crime

On Wednesday, Mayor Jim Gray gathered leaders of Lexington's criminal justice community together, asking that they dedicate all available resources to solving last weekend's violent crimes and, going forward, to preventing similar incidents. "As public safety officials, we are responsible to prepare for the community's public safety needs, and we advocate to the Mayor and the Council for the resources we need. And, together, the Mayor and the Council have delivered those resources," said Police Chief Ronnie Bastin, who met with the group that afternoon, along with Vice Mayor Linda Gorton. The 2015 budget Council just approved includes more than \$165 million for public safety.

"Today Mayor Gray and Vice Mayor Gorton asked that we dedicate resources, as needed, to take down violent criminals. And we're getting it done," Bastin said. Gray said, "Whether it is a natural disaster or an unfortunate act of violence, our public safety community is staffed and trained to always respond with discipline and commitment."

In the past few years, Lexington's criminal justice community has built strong partnerships, a spirit of collaboration that allows them to work together as partners, Gray said. "That's one of our city's greatest strengths."

Gray said the group immediately agreed to dial up efforts, aggressively pursue leads, and make it the highest priority to solve these crimes, put the criminals in jail and find more effective ways to prevent this kind of violence. "It's our duty to work together to stop this kind of behavior in our town. This level of violence is unusual for us. But it cannot, it will not be tolerated," he said.

Within the Division of Police, investigators, patrol officers, CLEAR units and neighborhood resources are already working on the shootings 24 hours a day, Chief Ronnie Bastin said. "We have the resources we need and we are following up on every possible angle," Bastin said. "I have confidence in our police,"

Gray said. "Over the past two years, police have solved 100% of the homicides."

Gray said the Sheriff's Office also has "boots on the ground" who can help gather information, and Sheriff Kathy Witt immediately offered her assistance. Similarly, corrections officers often have the opportunity to gather useful information. Community Corrections Assistant Director Lt. Col. Scott Colvin said his officers are ready to help.

Firefighters report information they pick up when called to crime scenes, where they talk to victims, families and witnesses, said Fire Chief Keith Jackson. Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson and

County Attorney Larry Roberts said their job begins as soon as the arrests are made. "Our

CLEAR by the Numbers

CLEAR, which stands for Community Law Enforcement Action Response, was founded in 2006. Here's where and how many of these officers there are:

- Downtown Entertainment District Officers, who also patrol parts of Chevy Chase: 7
- Community Resource Officers: 6
- CLEAR Response Officers: 24

The difference between a CLEAR Officer and a Patrol Officer is that CLEAR units address high priority areas where problem solving is key. They also are utilized during large-scale events.

Speaking of Crime...

Over the last few weeks, crime complaints have come in from Statesman Way, and a number of addresses were provided. We have communicated with the Di-

vision of Police and they have responded properly and courteously. However, the following e-mail is a reminder that all incidents need to be reported.

"Please continue to encourage people you speak with to report these crimes to the police department as we have no reports from any of these addresses this year. The only thing we have is a request for an extra patrol from 8xx because they were going to be out of town and a report of suspicious persons approaching houses from 7xx. We investigated those persons who turned out to be church members going door to door. There were two residential burglaries on the street back in January and reports of criminal mischief on 4/10 and 5/26 that were reported to us at different addresses. We will go forward with the extra patrol but I wanted to let you know none of those addresses had reported a crime to us."

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Scam Hits Close to the 5th

Each day, the Division of Police e-mails each Council office a report of the more nefarious crimes that occur across the county the day prior. While this information is important, certainly, we don't share it unless necessary based on the potential for it to become fodder for a Telephone Tree mentality, in which well-intentioned recipients might turn one instance into something that seems widespread. However, while we're on the subject of crime and because this section of Albany Road is just outside the 5th District, we thought we'd share in this case.

Today's report stated: "At 0955 hours, units responded to 5xx Albany for a report of a suspicious subject ringing the doorbell. The caller stated the subject had scammed her earlier by getting her to agree to pay for roofing work that was never completed. When the officer arrived, he found the suspect's girlfriend sitting in his truck in the driveway. She told them the suspect had walked up the street. Concerned that a burglary was in progress, he asked for additional units. The suspect was then discovered coming from behind a house. Further investigation revealed the suspect had committed a burglary next to 5xx. Detectives also responded to the scene and the suspect was transported to the Detective Bureau for an interview. He was charged with Burglary 2nd, Criminal trespass 2nd, Possession of Synthetic Marijuana, Possession of a Controlled Substance and Promoting Contraband." Please always do your due diligence when hiring a contractor.

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.

Idle Hour Update

The Mayor included the Senior Citizen's Center project in his proposed budget and with the Council's ultimate approval of the bond issue, we are quickly approaching the bid stage! EOP Architects produced a very detailed set of specifications, so we are anticipating great bids. We are still on target to advertise the bid on July 28th, with the opening to occur on August 26th. The current bid schedule is available by contacting the 5th District Office by clicking [here](#). If anything should change prior to the next meeting on August 8th, we will certainly let you know.

Work is moving forward in Idle Hour Park. Reports are that neighbors are excited and naturally, we have received some calls about the summer sports activities. We are going to have an internal meeting with our Division of Parks and Recreation to discuss the best mode of communication to our Idle Hour friends.



Garbage Collection Changes for the Holiday Weekend

The Division of Waste Management will adjust its collection schedule for the Fourth of July holiday on Friday. Residents whose regular collection day is on Friday will receive their collection service on Wednesday, July 2nd, two days before the holiday.

Residents who normally receive Friday pick-up should place their Herbies, Rosies and Lenny carts out on Tuesday night, July 1st, to assure collection on Wednesday. Businesses that have city waste management services for their dumpsters (landfill bound and recycling) and normally have pickups on Thursdays will have their units picked up on Wednesday, July 2nd, while those who normally have pickups on Fridays, will have their units picked up on Thursday, July 3rd.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th. The Lexington Recycling Center, the city's Electronic Recycling Center and the Haley Pike Waste Management facility will also be closed. For more information, contact LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255.