



# 5th District e-Newsletter

News and announcements from  
around our community



166th Edition

Details for the District

December 5, 2014

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## Bullet Points of Interest:

- This is the final *5th District e-newsletter* for the year! Tuesday December 9th will be the last date for Council meetings for 2014. Meetings will resume Tuesday, January 13th, 2015. The 5th District Office will be closed from December 19th through January 5th. E-mail will be checked during this time period, but on a limited basis. If you need assistance, please call LexCall 311 or (859) 425-2255. Happy holidays and thank you for a great year!
- Don't forget that Ashland's Lighting on the Lawn is Sunday, December 7th, with festivities beginning at 4:45 p.m. and the tree lighting at dusk. Directly following, the Mansion will be open for candlelight tours. Click [here](#) to contact Christina Bell for more information.

## Paving An End to 2014

Dear Neighbor,  
As this is the last e-newsletter of the year, I want to wish you and your family the best for the holidays and 2015!

Over the next week—weather permitting—the larger work for the Chevy Chase Pedestrian Improvement Plan will be complete. As I noticed that the new Kroger parking lot was paved this week, the same will happen here further down the block. First, the old pavement will be milled, as needed, for replacement. That means the area from Billy's Bar-B-Q and Barbara Ann's School of Dance all the way around to Starbuck's and from some distance up Fontaine Road, through the intersection and down to Domino's Pizza. As the price of oil and asphalt have moderated, if funds prevail, it is my hope that as much of South Ashland Avenue from High Street to Ashland Terrace can also be included, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Once the milling is done—in hopefully one day—the paving crew will follow on the next. While it's a lot of milling and paving work right at the holiday season,

the want is to get it finished before the asphalt plants close for the winter. Traffic markings will follow directly but all of the nuisance of the stripping plan will ultimately take another couple of days to finish. This will be a time of transition for parking by Rite Aid, Morris Bookshop and Liquor Barn Express. With new spaces and signage there will be both more and safer parking in that area. Meanwhile KU has been signaled to put up streetlights where they have been positioned. Somewhere in all of this the orange barrels will leave if not with Santa Clause, then sooner! For now contemplate your blessings and those of your family. Enjoy them and your time together.

The Mayor and Council will be sworn in on Sunday, January 4th at the Bluegrass Ballroom of the Lexington Center. Part ceremony; part history and civics. I welcome all of you to come. I appreciate the new year and the ability to continue to serve you and the Fifth Council District.

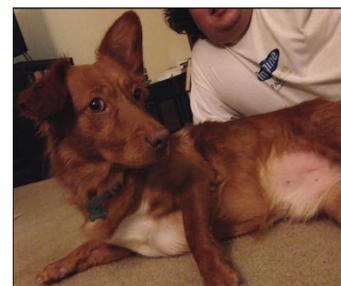
My very best,  
Bill



Look for this signage in Chevy Chase soon. To watch a brief video on how the concept works, click [here](#).

## Georgia Family Still Searching for Pet Lost in Idle Hour

Posted on several 5th District neighborhood group Facebook pages over the Thanksgiving holidays was the story of Moose, the Corgi mix from Atlanta, Georgia who went missing from his owners while they were visiting in the Idle Hour neighborhood. Unfortunately, Moose is still missing, but he has recently been possibly spotted as far down as the Wendy's on Richmond Road. He was last seen with his blue collar and a red reindeer bandana. The Facebook page [Finding Moose](#) has been set up for leads and/or updates; if you have any information, please click [here](#) to share it, or call (859) 475-3811 or (859) 396-6421.



Missing Moose has Georgia on his mind.

## From Chief to Commissioner, Bastin Is On the Move

Last night, Council unanimously approved the Mayor's appointment of Police Chief Ronnie Bastin to Public Safety Commissioner. Earlier this week, the Mayor promoted Bastin and announced a search process for a new chief. "Ronnie Bastin knows Lexington; he knows public safety; and he knows how to be an excellent administrator and leader," Gray said.

Bastin was named Chief on January 7th, 2008, by then Mayor Jim Newberry. He joined the force in 1984 and worked his way up through the ranks.

"As Police Chief, it has been my pleasure to partner with community members to improve the quality of life in Lexington and make significant improvements at the Division of Police," Bastin said. "I am looking forward to using my experience, partnerships and energy to work to ensure our public safety team continues to provide the service our community deserves."

Bastin holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, and a master's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Kentucky University. He also completed the administrative officers course at the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar.

Bastin's promotion will create a vacancy in the role

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*Bastin has been in position as Chief of Police since 2008.*

## Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention Requests Your Help

On January 28, 2015, dozens of volunteers will hit the streets of Lexington for an annual survey to count the number of people experiencing homelessness. These volunteers need gift bags filled with items of use to those living on the streets: socks, bus passes, toiletries and the like. These supplies fill an immediate need and build trust with volunteers conducting the surveys. Therefore, the Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention is looking for churches, civic groups or even individuals willing to donate items or conduct supply drives to collect the items. About 100 gift bags are needed; donations will be accepted until a week prior to the survey date, but are always welcome. To help, contact Charlie Lanter by clicking [here](#) or at (859) 258-3105.

## New Mental Health Court Launched in Fayette County

A judicial diversion program for helping mentally ill citizens recently started in Fayette County District Court. Mayor Jim Gray joined Judge Kim Wilkie in announcing the opening of a new Mental Health Court. The court held its first session in late November.

"This program is about getting people off the streets and into the treatment they need to lead productive lives instead of continuing to cycle through our criminal justice system," Gray said. "Mental Health Court will improve the lives of its participants and public safety in Lexington, and have the added benefit of saving taxpayer money."

"Two years ago, a group of stakeholders from the mental health and criminal justice communities identified Mental Health Court as an important project worth supporting," Wilkie said. "All Fayette County residents should be proud of the direction the community is taking in providing more assistance to citizens with mental health issues and continuing to make Lexington a great place to live and work."

Similar to the successful Drug Court and

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A colorful advertisement for a casino-themed event. It features a red background with a white penguin wearing a black top hat and a red bow tie. To the right, there are playing cards (Ace of Spades, King of Hearts, Queen of Diamonds, Jack of Clubs) and red dice. The text reads: "Click Me! SAVE THE DATE! LEXINGTON HEARING &amp; SPEECH CENTER Frankel COCKTAILS &amp; CASINO NIGHT FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2015 • 7:30 P.M. The Carrick House 312 N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40508 TICKETS - \$100 Featuring Petite Bites and Hors d'Oeuvres from Lundy's Casino-style games, including Blackjack and Craps Silent &amp; Live Auctions Black Tie Optional".

**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

E-mail: [bfarmer@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:bfarmer@lexingtonky.gov)

## Details for the District

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of Chief of Police. The Mayor, who has the authority to appoint the new Chief, has formed a search committee tasked with making recommendations to the Mayor. The committee members include:

- Glenn Brown, the city's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Committee Chair
- Peggy Henson, Councilmember
- Dr. Victor Kappeler, Foundation Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University
- Ray Larson, Commonwealth's Attorney
- Debbie Long, owner Dudley's restaurant
- Dr. Derek Paulsen, Commissioner of Planning, Preservation and Development
- Rev. Willis Polk, Imani Missionary Baptist Church
- Jason Rothermund, President, Fraternal Order of Police

- Dianet Valencia, outreach program coordinator for the state Labor Cabinet, and community advocate

Bastin will replace Clay Mason, who is pursuing business opportunities through a private consulting company. "Clay helped lead our public safety units through challenges as well as difficult financial times," Gray said. "He is a true professional and we wish him the best in his next endeavor."

Those interested in applying for the Chief's position should send a résumé by close of business on Wednesday, December 10th, to:

Glenn Brown  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Government Center  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

The search committee is reviewing applications from all interested candidates. However, outreach will be focused on internal and local/regional candidates. Most Lexington police chiefs have risen through the division ranks to become chief.

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Veterans Court programs, Mental Health Court is an alternative to the traditional judicial system. Eligible participants include nonviolent defendants who have been referred to mental health court by a judge. The goal is to reduce the incarceration rate of mentally ill offenders through mental health treatment services, court supervision and improved personal accountability.

The City's Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention will provide startup funding to support the Mental Health Court in its first few years of operation. A Request for Proposals was issued to identify potential staffing and case management models for Mental Health Court. Funding for the project will go before the Urban County Council for approval.

"Mental illness is a major contributing factor to homelessness in Lexington and some of our citizens are caught in a cycle of streets, jails and institutions," said Charlie Lanter, Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. "By supporting this diversion program, we expect to stabilize some of the more chronically homeless individuals in our community and help them secure housing and other necessary supports to keep them off the streets."

## Fifth District Resident is "Betzing" on Your Support

Fifth District resident Liza Hendley Betz opened Fáilte Irish Imports in 2001 and is hoping, literal barriers permitting, to make a successful run of it for several more years. Like many other downtown businesses, Betz has been impacted by seemingly never-ending construction. If you missed Tom Eblen's piece about Betz and Fáilte earlier this week, please click [here](#) to see how you can still make shopping locally work for Betz and others like her. Shop Fáilte online by clicking [here](#).



The 5<sup>th</sup> District Newsletter is distributed via e-mail to any Lexington resident. I encourage leaders of the 31 active neighborhood associations in the 5<sup>th</sup> District to provide input for the newsletter and to distribute the newsletter to their members. Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter may contact the 5<sup>th</sup> District Council office via e-mail at [bfarmer@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:bfarmer@lexingtonky.gov). If you wish to unsubscribe to the newsletter, e-mail [jgies@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jgies@lexingtonky.gov).