



5th District e-Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



170th Edition
Details for the District

January 30, 2014

Inside this Issue:

- Sustainability Grants Increase, Expand to All 501(c)3 Nonprofits 2
- Pet Waste Hits Facebook 2
- New Collection Schedule Impacts Yard Waste 3

Bullet Points of Interest:

- Local residents can receive valuable help this tax season through the Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP), which is providing free tax preparation assistance at 17 sites across Central Kentucky. This year, many workers will qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for the first time because their income declined or they became unemployed; tax refunds through the EITC and Child Tax Credit can help low- and moderate-income families cover day-to-day expenses such as utilities, rent and child care. Families with three or more children also get an extra boost with a larger EITC this year. For more information, visit uwbg.org/CKEEP.

Retreating Into Super Bowl Weekend

Dear Neighbor,
Happy Super Bowl weekend to you! Enjoy your commercial breaks!

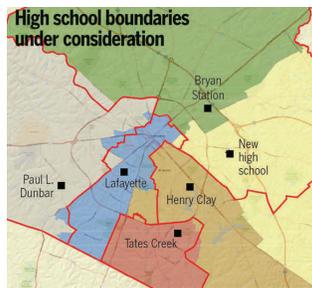
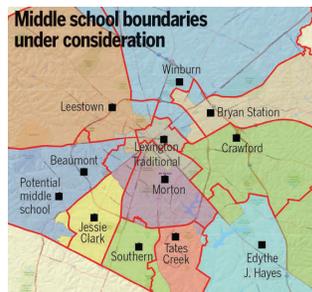
Part of today was spent in this Council's first retreat. Led by Vice Mayor Steve Kay this was different by design than other such gatherings that I have been a part of. This was a true getting-to-know-you session. With six new and former Council Members now part of the group we shared our histories and backgrounds in an informal setting. It was all quite interesting and I must say while getting to know newer folks was a priority, it was sometimes more interesting to get to know colleagues with whom I have already served. We are a truly diverse group and our absolute common thread is our love and respect for Lexington—not just as it is but also as it can be. This was a great way to start our teambuilding before we head into the budget season in all of its complexity.

As you enjoy this edition of the e-news please reference a couple of items. First you'll note on page 3 that the

yard waste collection schedule will alter during this part of the winter. Not only does our area recycle excellently, we also make ample use of our yard waste containers and bags. The winter schedule is based on usage system-wide and is only temporary, but it may make a difference in your activities for a few weeks.

Also, I appreciate the inquiries about school redistricting but am at a bit of a loss to help. The Fayette County Public Schools are a wholly separate entity than the Urban County Government, with a taxing base larger than what the city collects. While I am always glad to be of service, for this issue my best help is to refer you to either Amanda Main Ferguson, our school board representative, or to Alan Stein the chair of the Restricting Committee. Neither I nor the Council Office have any direct input into these important deliberations, but I am glad to help facilitate your input where possible. Many thanks and have a great weekend. I hope your team wins!

My best,
Bill



Click [here](#) for more information about school redistricting.





FREE CHOCOLATE
FEB. 6

Grant Money Now Available for Environmental Projects

Lexington residents wanting to improve the city's environment are invited to apply for a 2015 Sustainability Grant. The grant amount has been increased to \$5,000 and eligibility requirements have been expanded to include all 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Public and private schools, neighborhood and homeowner associations, and churches can also apply.



Those who are interested in planting or reestablishing community gardens should consider applying for a Sustainability Grant.

The city's Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works is providing the grants to collaboratively and creatively improve Lexington's environmental health. Grants are available for a wide range of projects including:

- Rain gardens
- Green roofs
- Community gardens
- Streamside restoration
- Recycling programs
- Beautification projects (outside only)
- Rain barrel projects
- Cleanup and restoration of illegal dumpsites
- Litter projects
- Planting of street trees
- Other projects that are determined to improve the environmental health of the community and meet the principles of sustainability

Eligible applicants may apply for a maximum grant of \$5,000. Each grant requires a 50% match, which can be materials, in-kind services or a combination of both. In-kind matches may include items such as documented use of vehicles or machinery or meals served to volunteers. Documentation must be provided on the value of all in-kind supplies, materials and services. Click [here](#) for more information and application materials. Applications must be postmarked or submitted to the department's office by 4:30 p.m. on March 1. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. Contact Louise Caldwell-Edmonds at (859) 425-2800 or via e-mail at louisec@lexingtonky.gov if you have questions or would like a copy of the grant application sent via mail.

Pet Waste Etiquette Is a Real Doozy in Many Neighborhoods

Let's all admit it. Nothing says hello better than stepping in a pile of dog poo. Especially for those of us who pick up after our pets who haven't yet mastered the art of using the half bath downstairs. But for those of us who are responsible



pet owners (and polite neighbors), what is the proper etiquette for disposing of pet waste as you're walking through a neighborhood? Recently on Facebook, a 5th District neighborhood used their page to shed light on their pet waste likes and dislikes. Several comments applaud dog owners...almost. It seems some owners are prone to pick up after their pets, only to leave the bagged waste behind on the curb.

This is not an option, as stated in the following ordinance:

Sec. 4-23.1. Responsibility of owner to remove animal excreta from waste removal areas.

(1) The custodian of every animal shall remove any excreta deposited by his/her animal (s) within the urban service boundary on public walks, streets, recreation areas or private property belonging to another.

(2) Any excreta not removed in violation of subsection (1) above is declared to be a public nuisance.

(3) Any person violating any provision of this section shall, upon conviction thereof by a court of competent jurisdiction, be fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each violation.

For a full list of ordinances that apply to "Animals and Fowl," click [here](#).

But, what should you do while on a walk with Sparky and you have in hand a bag of "excreta" that you'd like to dispose of quickly? Opinions vary on the neighborhood's Facebook page, but the general consensus seems to be that if the bag is tied tightly, it's okay to use a neighbor's Herbie, but do tie it tightly to avoid receptacle contamination. According to Tracy Thurman, Director of Waste Management, "Each waste container has a serial number that geocodes it to an individual address, and it is the property owner's responsibility to keep those containers

(Continued on page 3)

**FROM THE OFFICE
OF 5TH DISTRICT
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Details for the District

(Continued from page 2)
clean.”

Thurman did point out that it is safe to put pet waste in a Lenny, which many residents use for yard waste. (Call LexCall 311 if you'd like to order one.) However, the waste can't be bagged, so unless you wash your hands an awful lot, this disposal method probably isn't for you on your morning walk. Do note that it is completely acceptable to clean up after your pet via the public "Pitch In" stations that are located in city parks and public areas.

The bottom line is that no one wants to clean up a mess they didn't make. Be courteous and considerate. If you need another reason, just think of where that waste goes if left to disintegrate into the ground. That's right: Your watershed. Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into storm drains by rain. Storm sewers usually drain directly into our lakes and streams, carrying many pollutants along with the water. When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can kill fish. Pet waste also carries diseases, which makes water unsafe for swimming or drinking. So please, clean up after your pet!

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.

DO YOUR DUTY.

Protect Your Watershed

Pick up after your pet. If you don't, pet waste washes directly through our storm sewers and into our creeks and streams

Bag It

Trash It

Wash Up

Want more information?

Call LexCall at 311 or visit

livegreenlexington.com >>>



City Announces New Winter Yard Waste Collection Schedule

Lexington's Division of Waste Management will begin a new winter collection schedule for yard waste on Monday, February 9th, that will run through Friday, March 20th. Because of significantly reduced demand, city crews will not pick up Lenny containers, yard waste bundles or yard waste bags each week. Weekly service of trash and recycling will continue as normal.

"Most households don't have yard waste this time of year," said Waste Management Director Tracey Thurman. "Our new 6-week winter schedule will allow our crews to be more efficient on waste and recycling routes and will save taxpayer dollars."

The regular yard waste collection schedule will resume on Monday, March 23rd. Residents with a yard waste service request before then can call LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255 for pickup on an as-needed basis.

The Haley Pike Waste Management Facility will remain open throughout the winter collection period. Lexington residents can drop off yard waste at the landfill two times per month at no charge. Residents can drop off up to one pickup truckload of material per visit and must show proof of residence (such as a driver's license). The facility is located at 4216 Hedger Lane in Lexington. Facility hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The facility is closed on Wednesdays, Sundays and remaining Saturdays.