



# 5th District e-Newsletter

News and announcements from  
around our community



178th Edition

Details for the District

April 17, 2015

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## Bullet Points of Interest:

- The Kenwick Spring Carnival will take place on April 22nd from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at 313 Owsley Avenue. Everyone is invited for a great evening of fun. There will be food, music, inflatables and carnival games. The street will be blocked off from 4:00 until 9:00 p.m. from 215 Owsley Ave and Cramer at the three way stop to 313 Owsley Ave and the Menifee intersection. Residents will still be able to have access to the street during these times.

Kenwick will be closing Friday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. and will be re-opening on June 15th to August 7th for Summer Camp. Sign-ups for Summer Camp will take place on April 21st-23rd for additional information please call (859) 288-2955.

## Today's Meeting About Tomorrow's Budget

**D**ear Neighbor,  
Here's to a beautiful Keeneland weekend for you all!

Following the Mayor's Budget Address on April 7th, the Council had its first budget retreat today to consider his proposed Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) budget. We met at the Lyric Theatre from 9:00 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m. The Mayor was there for most of the meeting, and all of the Council were present along with a fair amount of staff—both Administration and Council.

A meeting of this sort can sometimes be a bit unwieldy but grants opportunity for many to learn. With six new Council Members (out of fifteen), today's meeting was by and large a great exchange that sets our process officially in motion. The proposed budget is \$324.5 million up 3.6 percent from last year. The largest part of that is from our 2.25 percent payroll withholding tax that is forecast to produce \$179.5 million—that's up 3.9 percent year over year.

The budget contemplates 34 new positions with a total of 16 in various Police, Fire and Public Safety divisions. Three in Social Services. Six spread across Planning, Engineering and Code Enforcement. The other 9 fall variously in the Mayor's office, the CAO's office, Human Resources, Communications, Waste Management and Water Quality.

Let me hit just a few highlights. We currently have \$25 million in our Economic Contingency Fund (the "Rainy Day Fund"). Loosely we would cap that at about \$32 million or about ten percent of our General Fund Budget. After this year's allocation required by ordinance, we should be at about \$27 million. Our general fund is carrying about \$310 million in bond debt with FY16 and FY17 debt service forecast at \$35 million per year.

We, as a city, enjoy a AA and "stable" bond rating. The agencies take into account the amount of well-educated folks in our area, as well as the amount of employment in industry, government and medical arenas. It's a diverse spread that adds to the stability aspect. The fact that we have dealt with pension reform (to the tune of \$30 million per year, or 30 years) is a huge positive for us. We get high marks for our Samuel Brown Wellness Center that continues to help us keep employee medical costs down. And lastly because we have a good record for saving and keeping a fund balance (think of it as unspent money in the checkbook), our credit is as I said AA!

Now where that all will take us is subject for follow-up articles but for today we have a pretty positive picture and time to make the best decisions we can for us all. Have a great weekend.

My best,  
Bill

## Don't Forget Your Free Mulch!

**Y**ard waste collected by the city's Division of Waste Management is now mulch material and will be given away for free tomorrow at 1631 Old Frankfort Pike (the city's former landfill site). The mulch will be available for pick up from 8:00 a.m. until noon, or while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents should not arrive before 8:00 a.m. and are limited to one pickup truck load each.

## New Fire Equipment A Boost for Lexington's Fleet

The Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Services now has a complete authorized fleet of aerial ladder trucks, fire engines and ambulances—a total of 12 new vehicles. New fire apparatuses have arrived and have been prepared for service, said Assistant Fire Chief Harold Hoskins. They include two new ladder trucks, which will replace two current 105-foot ladder trucks, manufactured in 2000 and 1997. The old ladder trucks will be part of the fire department's reserve fleet. The current reserve ladder trucks will be sold.

The City of Lexington has seven on-duty ladder trucks and two reserve ladder trucks, Hoskins said. The new equipment cost \$878,000 each. The city has purchased five new fire engines over the last year or so. The new engines replaced Engine 1 at the Third Street Fire Station; Engine 8 on North Broadway; Engine 10 off Georgetown Road; Engine 12 on Southland Drive, and Engine 16 at the underground fire station on Man O' War Boulevard and Bold Bidder Drive.

Each new fire engine cost \$492,000, Hoskins said. They replaced fire engines ranging in age from 1997 models to year 2000 models. One of the fire engines, Engine 8, was totaled in an accident on Interstate 75 in 2013. The city has 22 on-duty engine companies and also maintains four reserve engines, Hoskins said.

Also, within the last several years, Lexington has replaced four ambulances and added one ambulance, at a cost of \$243,000 each. The new ambulances replaced EC1 at Station 1 on Third Street, EC4 on Tates Creek Road, EC8 at Station 2 on New Circle Road and EC9 at Shillito Park.

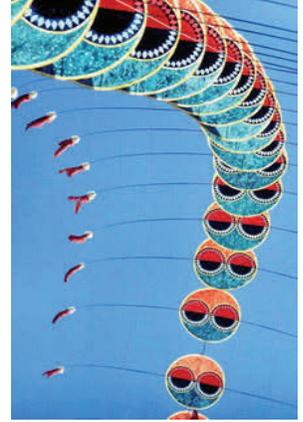
"Some of the ambulances replaced had more than 260,000 miles on them," said Hoskins. "But, considering idling time, they had the equivalent of more than 500,000 miles on them. The fact that they were still on the road is amazing."

Hoskins said the fire department was thankful for the new equipment but hoped that in the near future Lexington would have an apparatus replacement plan that would schedule replacement of fire equipment.

"Replacing so many vehicles at one time means that, while we dig ourselves out of one hole, we create a future hole—a point in time when we will have to dig ourselves out again," Hoskins said. "But it's all about funding and everybody (in government) has their needs."

## Kite Fest Fills the Skies At Jacobson park

The skies of Jacobson Park will be filled with hundreds of kites this spring as Kite Fest returns for another year. Join us as we celebrate National Kite Month and Parks and Recreation's first major outdoor event of the season. Free activities will include kite flying, children's games, special entertainment, kite making and much more. Food and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the day or families may pack a lunch and picnic in the park. Kite Fest is brought to you by Lexington Parks and Recreation.



## Fayette County Clerk Implements New Vehicle Registration Receipt

As of Monday, Lexington residents will no longer receive the familiar blue and white registration receipt when they renew their vehicle license plate. The Fayette County Clerk's office has implemented a new system in conjunction with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet that upgrades the receipt and substantially automates the procedures for vehicle registration. The new receipt will have the familiar sticker embedded on an 8½ x 11-inch page that contains all the same information as the retiring receipt.

"This is a huge step forward in automation for both County Clerks and the Transportation Cabinet," said Don Blevins, Fayette County Clerk. "The embedded decal will prevent the public from misplacing the sticker before they apply it to their license plate. In addition, we are also implementing a document scanning process that will dramatically reduce the amount of paper we store and ship to the Transportation Cabinet."

The state-wide project is known as PODD, for "Printer on Demand Decal." So far, the new system has been deployed in 42 of 120 counties, according to the project manager for the Transportation Cabinet. Full implementation is expected to be completed by the end of April.

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Details for the District

Pool Registration Couldn't Come Soon Enough!

Pool passes for Parks and Recreation's pool and aquatic centers are available to be purchased online at [parks.lexingtonky.gov](http://parks.lexingtonky.gov) beginning April 28th at noon through May 17th. After that time, pool passes may be purchased at aquatic centers during operating hours beginning May 23rd. The cost is \$40 for an individual pool pass when purchased at the pools. Family passes (up to six family members) will also be available for \$200 if purchased at the pools.

Registration for swim lessons and swim team will be offered online beginning at noon on April 28, and will remain open through May 16th. Beginning May 25th, registration for swim lessons and swim team is available at the pools during normal operating hours until the day before each session.

In-person registration will be held at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office

(469 Parkway Drive) from noon until 7:00 p.m. on April 29th. The cost for swim lessons is \$25 per child and all fees must be paid at the time of registration—no exceptions. All programs are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and are non-refundable. When registering for swim lessons or teams remember to have the following with you: child's proof of age; child's skill level; and preferred session/time of lesson. A minimum of three participants must be registered in order for the class to be held. Click [here](#) for full details.



Click [here](#) for information about upcoming pool programs.

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).

**Stargazing**  
Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Click Me!

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
8:30pm

View the night sky with the Bluegrass Amateur Astronomy Club.

This program is weather dependent so please call (859) 272-6105 to register.

PARKS & RECREATION  
LEXINGTON, KY

**Language of Spring Wildflowers**  
Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Click Me!

Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
1:00pm

Come see the breathtaking display of our spring wildflowers.

To register for this free program please call (859) 272-6105.

PARKS & RECREATION  
LEXINGTON, KY

Raven Run is a unique, 734-acre nature sanctuary dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the Kentucky River Palisades and early Kentucky history. Part of the property was acquired with funds from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. The sanctuary is one of the city parks and is thus accessed free of charge.