



5th District e-Newsletter

News and announcements from
around our community



187th Edition

Details for the District

July 10, 2015

Inside this Issue:

- Monarch Waystation Tour This Weekend** 2
- What Is An Abandoned Property?** 2
- Why Not Use "Children At Play" Signs?** 3
- Historical Statues Discussion Is Open** 3

• **Editor's Note:** First, I would like to thank all who have sent in e-mail addresses in order to help me reconstruct the database that went missing in the dead of night. We've almost all had that late-night term paper that vanished after the last word was typed, and this was that same feeling. I thank you dearly. Please know that e-mail addresses received by the 5th District Office are never redistributed.

Second, while Council may be on recess, the 5th District Office is still open for business, with the exception of July 15th through the 20th. I will have limited access to e-mail. If you need immediate assistance, please call LexCall at 311 or at (859) 425-2255.

Thanks so much, and enjoy your summer.
-Jessica Gies

Many Thanks and Moving Forward

Dear Neighbor,
Council recess has begun but the Fifth District Council Office remains busy. We are still recuperating from a massive data loss of e-mail addresses that happened a couple of week ago. Despite the best efforts of both Jessica and the LFUCG IT folks, recovery has been hampered. If you are receiving this, I am most pleased. If you previously forwarded the e-news to a friend or family member please do so again because I fear we have lost touch with folks who don't know that we had such a calamity. Your help and understanding in this is much appreciated. Thank you.

We will have later coverage of the dedication of the Clay's Spring Park complete with pictures and some other catch-up items from the last couple of weeks as we reconstruct.

Our office and senior Traffic Engineering officials had a productive meeting with the residents of Blairmore about possible traffic calming measures in the area earlier this week. I was pleased with the turn out and interest. I have reviewed a potential memo from Traffic Engineering about the issue and anticipate sharing that with those folks from the meeting next week. I will keep you updated here as we move forward with those neighbors. While nothing is decided, if this were to move forward, it would be the largest traffic calming project, to my knowledge, in the city. Interesting stuff.

I hope you can enjoy a lazy day or two of summer now that it's here!

For now, My best,
Bill

Police Report Back On the Lakeshore/Blairmore Area

Based on concerns from neighbors in the Lakeshore and Blairmore areas, the Division of Police has increased patrols for both speeding and for possible criminal activity in that area. The information below came to us earlier in the week from Commander Roger Holland, Bureau of Patrol, East Sector.

Traffic: The Traffic Section completed an extra patrol for vehicles speeding on Blairmore Road from May 20th through June 17th. During this timeframe approximately seven hours of enforcement efforts yielded zero speeding violations. The main complaint for this area of town is students leaving Henry Clay High School and it should be noted there was minimal traffic volume after school let out at the end of May. This is a common complaint received in the traffic office and they routinely check the area of Blairmore and Hart Road when school is in session.

Lakeshore Extra Patrol/Park: Both Park Patrol and East Sector monitored the park specifically and there was only one occasion of illegal activity and was at the end of the school year when a couple juveniles were located with narcotics and had been skipping school. Schools were notified regarding that incident. We have not observed any other illegal or suspicious activity related to the park. Most observations included the park being empty or with minimal pedestrian traffic in the area.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

We are continuing to monitor the area and neighborhood as well. I have personally been in the area to observe for strategic patrol assignment needs as well.

In reviewing activity in the area, it has been concentrated towards the apartment complexes there on Lakeshore and Richmond Road and appears to have diminished since our arrests in the Woodhill Area that seemed to be directly affecting that area. We have this on our radar and will continue to monitor the area.

We thank the Division of Police for their diligence. If you wish to submit a request for extra patrols in your area, please click [here](#).



RUN FOR RECOVERY
JOIN US FOR THE 16th ANNUAL RUN FOR RECOVERY
JULY 25th, 2015 @ THE
HISTORIC KEENELAND RACE COURSE.
REGISTER @ WWW.SHEPHERDSHOUSE.ORG/RUN_FOR_RECOVERY.HTML



Waystation Garden Tour Provides Glimpse Into Preservation Efforts

Ten Lexington gardens will be on a Monarch Waystation Garden Tour this Saturday, July 11th, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. One of these gardens, located at 124 Idle Hour Drive, is in the Fifth District. All tour gardens are registered Monarch Waystations, and all are pollinator gardens planted predominantly with native flowers, shrubs, trees and grasses. Tickets for the entire tour are available at each garden for \$10.

The tour is organized by the Lexington chapter of Wild Ones, Native Plants/Natural Landscapes. It features six private gardens, three public or institutional gardens, and one garden at a business site. All the garden owners embrace the principles of ecological sustainability in the choices they make about design, planting and maintenance. The addresses and descriptions of all gardens, as well as other tour information, are available at www.lexington.wildones.org.



Monarch Watch estimates that 10,000 Monarch waystations are needed to even begin to compensate for the milkweed lost to urban sprawl.

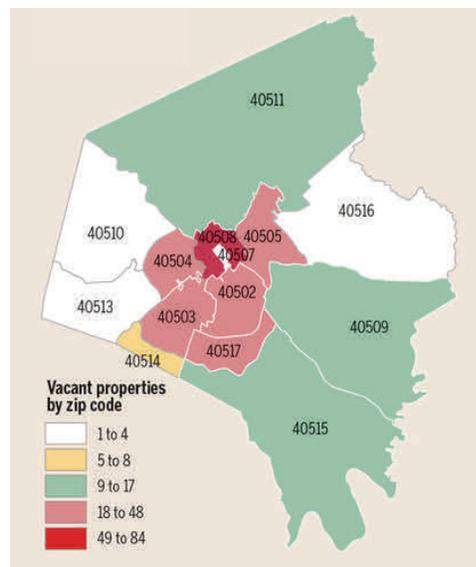
Is My Neighbor's House Actually Abandoned?

After receiving calls in the 5th District Office regarding properties of concern, specifically those that appear “abandoned,” we thought we’d provide a clear definition as to what that means. The full criteria for defining such can be found [here](#). Not all sections of the law apply to LFUCG’s process, so here is an edited version of the parts that we use.

“Abandoned Urban Property” means any vacant structure in a predominantly developed urban area which has been vacant for a period of at least one (1) year and which:

- (a) Because it is dilapidated, unsanitary, unsafe, vermin infested, or otherwise dangerous to the safety of persons, it is unfit for its intended use; or
- (b) By reason of neglect or lack of maintenance has become a place for the accumulation of trash and debris, or has become infested with rodents or other vermin.

For more background, click [here](#). To report issues at a vacant or abandoned property, call LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255.



This map shows where suspected vacant properties are located by zip code.

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Details for the District

“Children At Play” Signs and Why They Aren’t Allowed

Often the 5th District Office receives requests for the installation of “Children At Play” signs for streets in residential areas. At first consideration it might seem that these signs would provide protection for youngsters playing in a neighborhood. They don’t.

Studies made in cities where such signs were widely posted in residential areas, show no evidence of having reduced pedestrian accidents, vehicle speed or legal liability. In fact, many types of signs that were installed to warn of normal conditions in residential areas failed to achieve the desired safety benefits. Further, if signs encourage parents with children to believe they have an added degree of protection, which the signs do not and cannot provide, a great disservice results.

Children should not be encouraged to play in or near the roadway. The “Children

At Play” sign is a direct and open suggestion that it is acceptable to do so. Even at very low speeds, in a vehicle/pedestrian accident, the pedestrian loses. It is much more appropriate to teach children to respect moving vehicles, and how to be a safe pedestrian (walk facing traffic, look all ways before crossing the street, and so forth).

In addition, Federal and State signing regulations do not allow us to use “Children At Play” signs. We are allowed to post signs for schools, playgrounds, parks and other recreational facilities, but only when those using these facilities will likely impact drivers on adjacent roads.



Mayor Asks Board to Review Cheapside Statues, Marker

Mayor Jim Gray, emphasizing the importance of diversity, inclusion and respect, this week asked the [Urban-County Arts Review Board](#) to review the placement and presentation of two historical statues and a historical marker in Cheapside Park. The statues are of two Confederate officers, John Hunt Morgan and John C. Breckinridge. The historical marker provides information about slavery in Lexington.

“Our goal is to respect our authentic history, while also respecting diversity and inclusion,” Gray said. “We are adapting and adjusting to current times, current issues and current challenges.”

The Urban-County Arts Review Board was established in 2004 to review proposals for visual artwork in public spaces, including but not limited to memorials, monuments and lighting projects, and for aesthetic opportunities.

Gray asked the board to gather input from citizens, civil rights leaders, historians and artists. “We want to hear from everyone,” said Gray, who said he has asked the Board to schedule a public meeting. The Mayor asked the Board to report back to the administration and to Council. Click [here](#) to submit your opinion to the 5th District Office.



*The John Hunt Morgan Memorial—
one of over 60 different Civil War
properties in Kentucky—was placed on
the [National Register of Historic
Places](#) in July of 1997.*

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.



SATURDAY AUGUST 22

SUNDAY AUGUST 23



"I Crave it Local"

