

Spring 2018

Presidents Letter

We ended 2017 with warm weather and a great turn out for the Annual Tree Lighting event held December 3, 2017. Around 40 residents turned out as well as Santa. Thanks to George and Linda Birk for providing transportation for Santa from the North Pole and back in their golf cart. Tree trimming, singing and marshmallow roasting made for a fun evening. Thanks to board members, hospitality committee and all who helped make this a great event.



Thanks also goes out to Perry Bozarth, Mike Hart and George Birk for keeping the lights on. Our front lights went out twice this year and Mike worked to get them fixed. George and Perry both were helpful to the neighborhood by getting two light poles fixed. For new residents it's important to know that a portion of Colony Neighborhood Association contributions go towards paying for the electricity and maintaining our pole lights in the Colony.

Sherri Weisenfluh



Welcome to Spring in Kentucky



Save the Date

Annual 2018 Yard Sale

Saturday June 2, 2018
8:30am to 2:00pm

CNA Annual Meeting

Tuesday May 1, 2018
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
St. Raphael's Church
1891 Parkers Mill Rd.

Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors has created an ad hoc Nominating Committee to ensure a 2018-2019 election of board members at the Annual Meeting this spring. A packet of information that includes duties of board members, the current committees and how to access a copy of the Colony Neighborhood Association By-Laws was placed in each resident's mailbox. The committee has spoken with many residents and has identified candidates for the slate, but it's not too late to be considered. If you have questions about the committee please contact Sherri Weisenfluh at sherriweisenfluh@gmail.com. The current Board of Directors hopes each of you

will develop a deeper understanding of how the Board works to serve the neighborhood and will consider becoming an officer or joining a working committee. Many residents have served in previous years, and their work is appreciated.

Your Property Tax

(This article was updated from the Fall 2015 newsletter for the benefit of our new residents.)

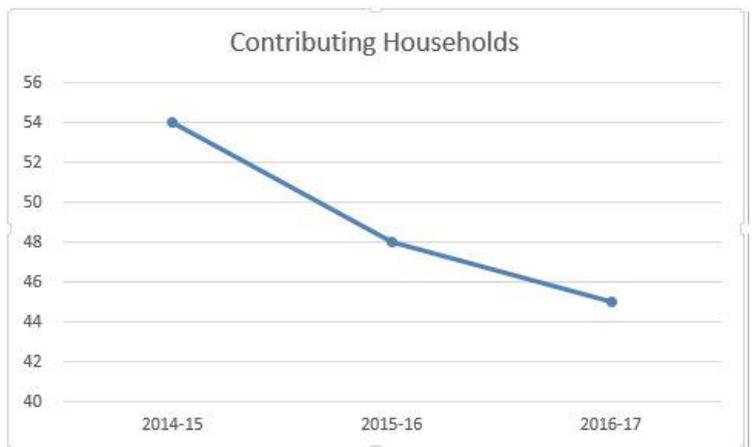
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government assesses property tax at different rates depending on services you receive. The full service District 1 has the highest rate of \$1.2174 per \$100 of assessed property value (2017 rate). The old Colony falls in District 2 because we don't receive waste collection or have city street lights. Our 2017 rate was \$1.0441 per \$100. For a home valued at \$250,000, that amounts to a savings of about \$433 per year. If you want to calculate your own property tax based on the valuation of your property go to <http://fayettepva.com/tax-districts-and-calculator> where you can search for your property and get the valuation and then use the calculator to find your tax.

If you already know your assessed value, divide it by 100 and multiply the result by 0.1733 to calculate your annual savings.

Also be aware that if you are 65 or older or are disabled, your home qualifies for the Homestead Exemption that reduces the assessed home value by \$37,600. To receive this benefit, you must fill out an application available on the Fayette County PVA website (<http://fayettepva.com/exemptions>).

Dues

Colony Neighborhood Association dues payments have been falling steadily for the past few years. We need your support to keep this neighborhood a beautiful place to live. Your contribution helps keep our street lights working and supports all the events you read about in these pages.



Contributions to the maintenance fund are due June 1st. Bring your check for \$125 made out to The Colony Neighborhood Association to the annual meeting and get us off to a good start this year.

Annual Picnic

We are looking for a resident willing to host the 2018 fall picnic. The host provides the space and works with the Hospitality Committee to plan the event. Annual contributions cover the cost of the main entrée, paper Picnic is usually held in Board if you are

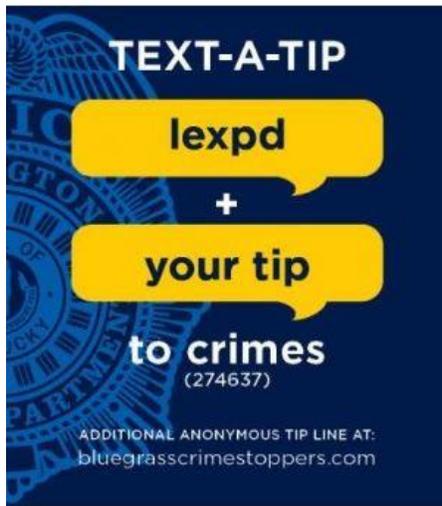


products. The Annual Colony September. Please contact the interested or have questions.

Emergency Safety Meeting

On February 27, 2018 an Emergency Colony Neighborhood Association Meeting was held at St. Raphael's Episcopal Church at 6:30 pm. Approximately 25 residents attended. By invitation, Peggy Henson, 12 District Council Member attended and Officer Towery from the Lexington Police Department. The Colony Neighborhood Association Board of Directors called the meeting in response to a higher than normal level of crime in our neighborhood.

Several discussions with the police lead to having extra police patrol in our neighborhood over a three week period. Residents that experienced a break in, car theft and car entries also made police reports. One neighbor reported concerns about vagrants living in the property located next



to the Starbucks on Versailles Road. The police were informed of concerns and two police officers investigated. Fayette County Code enforcement was also contacted and two city code enforcement personnel examined the property.

Officer Towery discussed a number of ways the neighborhood could improve safety. The strongest recommendation was to start a Neighborhood Watch program. Safety Booklets were available to residents who attended the meeting and extra copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

You can text a tip to the police by texting lexpd and your tip to: **crimes (274637)**. An additional anonymous tip line exists at: bluegrasscrimestoppers.com. The police do trend crime rates by geographical area. Officer Towery was very responsive to individual questions and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Colony Board Vice President, Kevin Davis, with experience from a previous neighborhood, has agreed to head up an effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch Program for the Colony.

11th District News, Neighbors, and More

Our council person, Peggy Henson, sends out a periodic newsletter filled with interesting information about Lexington and our area. In it you will find upcoming events and other useful information. You can find it at the following website, where you can also subscribe to an email version of the newsletter.

<https://mailchi.mp/38ab60d74e64/11th-district-news?>

We've lost a beautiful tree from one of our islands. The wet snow we had in March damaged most of the trunk of this Redbud tree and we had to remove the entire tree. We'll be looking for a replacement this Spring.



The Colony Neighborhood Association rejoined the Fayette County Neighborhood Council (FCNC) in the fall of 2017. We understand that the Colony Neighborhood Association belonged to the council in the past but had not belonged for several years.

According to the FCNC web site, joining the Fayette County Neighborhood Council has the following benefits:

- The FCNC has general meetings with city leaders to learn about and discuss issues of importance to neighborhoods.
- We conduct timely workshops and bring in experts to deal with neighborhood issues.
- The FCNC Board consists of neighborhood leaders from across Lexington with expertise in how to have a Successful neighborhood or homeowners association and how to solve common problems.
- The FCNC enhances neighborhood connections with the Urban County Government: <http://Lexingtonky.gov>

In February the FCNC put on a workshop about strategies for neighborhoods to use in dealing with zone change requests in their area. It was an excellent series of presentations by professionals and neighborhood activists experienced in this issue. The handouts from the meeting can be found on the Colony website under the DOCS >> Planning and Zoning tab.

Great news from our neighbor, Diane

I have some good news for my neighborhood association. Last week, I adopted the foster child I brought home from the hospital as a newborn in June 2016. Her new name is Miriam Flor. Her brother Andre (who will be 4 in June) and I couldn't be more thrilled that we now get to stay together as a forever family!



Wildcat Chase Stream Restoration

The Colony Neighborhood Association, with seed money from a Neighborhood Action Matching Grant and in partnership with Friends of Wolf Run, Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, and the Kentucky River Authority began a stream restoration project in 2014 along a headwater stream of Wolf Run called Wildcat Chase. The stream divides our neighborhood greenspace from residential properties along Versailles Road. The project has been progressing in phases with grant funds from participating agencies. The final phase is due to be completed at the end of April.

Invasive plants present along the stream at the beginning of the project.



Native perennial border in 2017 after three years of growth.

Stream margin native plant buffers provide a number of important benefits to the environment:

- Removal of invasive plants discourages their spread in nearby areas
- The deep-rooted native plants stabilize the stream bank and protect from erosion
- The plant zone diminishes storm runoff into the stream and filters some contaminants
- Native plants provide habitat and food for pollinators and other wildlife

The Wildcat Chase project has many accomplishments that we are proud of:

With grant funds from Kentucky River Authority, we installed plant markers and developed a website so that interested gardeners can learn more about native plants. The site can be accessed at <https://www.nativeplant.info/>.

- The site was designated a Monarch Waystation in 2016 and we saw our first Monarch caterpillar last summer on marsh milkweed.



- In July 2016, our site was featured on WLEX morning news as an example of a good design for urban stream buffers.

- Since 2015, Jerry Weisenfluh has been taking water quality samples as a volunteer with the Kentucky River Watershed Watch group. All the results of the testing can be found on the website <http://kgs.uky.edu/wwky/main.htm>. On this page, click the Site Number tab, then enter 3390 to see the testing data for our stream site. Most parameters are in normal ranges, except E.coli bacteria has been high during low-flow sampling events, and Triazine herbicide was high the one time it was tested. The E.coli is most likely coming from wildlife visiting the retention ponds in the New Colony. Triazine is a class of herbicide use in some weed control products and is likely entering our stream from storm runoff across neighborhood lawns.

- Clearing about one acre of invasive honeysuckle
- Cleaning trash from the stream
- Planting over 100 species of native plants with a 90% plus survival rate
- Contributing to overall water quality and stream health