



The Colony Newsletter

Dear Neighbors-

Greetings! As I walk through the neighborhood, I am excited to see the signs of Spring coming through more each day. I can only hope sunny, warmer weather is just days away.

With that warmer weather comes several opportunities for each of you to get involved in neighborhood events in the upcoming months. First, our annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th at the Saint Raphael Episcopal Church located at 1891 Parkers Mill Road. We will offer a pizza dinner, host a couple of guest speakers, and give a brief report on board activities.

Additionally, the Colony will hold the annual yard sale on Saturday, May 18. You may recall that last year we also hosted a neighborhood plant sale during yard sale weekend. We ended up raising \$126 towards the landscape fund and given its success, we will again plan on a plant sale this year. If you have plants you'd like to donate, please contact Jane Madden at janeamadden@aol.com. One new addition to our plant and yard sale this year is to incorporate a bake sale managed by our neighborhood chef, Brigitte Prather. If you'd like to contribute to this sale, please reach out to her at brigittecooks@gmail.com.

Finally, we have an open seat for a member on the Colony Board. If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer, we'd love to add a new name to the ballot. Voting will take place at the annual meeting on May 7th, yet just another reason to attend the meeting!

We hope to see each of you out enjoying our lovely little neighborhood soon, but in the meantime, please enjoy the articles in this Spring 2019 issue of the Colony Newsletter.

Your Neighborhood Association Secretary,

Abbie Loynachan

A Letter to the Colony Residents:

Over the last ten years, I have watched our neighborhood change from a very quiet and slow-moving neighborhood to a vibrant and growing community. As more active families continue to move into the Colony, we are hearing the laughter of children, we are seeing children riding bicycles and scooters, and we are noticing more and more walkers and runners than ever before.

Because of our growing neighborhood, we are also seeing many more cars and trucks on our streets. For example, we have four garbage trucks a week, UPS and FEDEX trucks more than once a day, Amazon deliveries, and the mail truck sometimes with more than one trip a day. In addition to these trucks, we have many more personal vehicles that make multiple trips in and out of the Colony on a daily basis.

Please remember that the speed limit throughout the Colony is 25 mph. When you pull out of your driveway or turn into our neighborhood from Versailles Road, please pause, take a breath, and remember to take your foot off of that gas pedal and slow down. We want our streets to be a safe place for all of our residents.

Darlene Bozarth



Lexington's Comprehensive Plan Update by Jerry Weisenfluh



You may already know that Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has been working on a regular update of the Comprehensive Plan for development. It was adopted in February of this year. There are new goals and strategies included in the plan that may eventually have an impact on our neighborhood, and certainly on the Versailles Road corridor.

The Division of Planning sought to create a process to encourage infill development within the existing urban services boundary in order to preserve rural land outside the boundary. Many of you have probably already heard or read about this. Under this plan, increasing building density on residential lots will be a priority as will mixed use development (residential, commercial, apartments, etc.). Arterial corridors, like Versailles road will be a particular focus on new developments of this type. Planning has stated that zone change requests will be streamlined to facilitate these goals.

One of the big questions for our neighborhood is how this plan will affect our ND-1 zoning overlay. At a recent meeting, we were told that the requirements of zoning overlays (ND-1 and H-1) will be respected, however rezoning of properties in such neighborhoods will not be prohibited. There's a lot more to learn about this before we know the long-term impacts on the Colony.

The Fayette County Neighborhood Council (we are a member) is holding a meeting on May 13 to discuss the ND-1 and H-1 issue. This meeting may be more about informing neighborhoods how to go through the process in order to put protections in place. If you are interested in attending, I can give you more information about the event.

LFUCG is also holding a citizens meeting about the Comprehensive Plan on June 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Phoenix building. Also, we intend to invite a representative from the planning staff to attend our annual meeting in May to make a presentation and answer questions. You don't want to miss this.

Impacting Lexington's Water Quality by Jerry Weisenfluh



Last fall I was appointed to Lexington's Stormwater Stakeholder's Advisory Committee. At my first meeting in December, there was a presentation about the results of a 2018 survey of Lexington residents about stormwater and general water quality issues in our region. The most interesting part to me was the questions they asked, because it told me what city water officials worry about in their day to day work. There were five things of concern that citizens can have a positive impact on.

Pet waste. We have a big problem with harmful bacteria (E.coli) in some our local streams. E.coli can come from leaks in septic systems and waste pipes, wildlife and agricultural animals, and pet waste. Most of us who walk our dogs in the neighborhood clean up after our pets as a courtesy to other residents. But it's just as important to clean up waste in your own yard to prevent contaminants getting into our local stream.

Flushable wipes. It turns out, they are anything but flushable. Wipes are a major problem at Lexington's water treatment plants and require periodic shut downs to remove them from equipment. You can help by disposing of flushable wipes in regular trash and remember to put nothing in the commode but toilet paper.

Grease and oil. Cooking grease and motor oil that are poured down the drain not only clog up your own pipes but cause expensive issues at water treatment facilities. All motor oil should be taken to a facility for recycling. Dispose of cooking oil in your solid waste.

Leaves and grass clippings. When leaves and grass clippings are placed on the curb for pickup, they can be washed into storm water sewers along the roadway. Large amounts of this organic material cause problems in retention ponds and streams by increasing algae growth. We've seen this at Wildcat Chase. The old part of the Colony doesn't have open stormwater drains, so this is not a big issue for us, but the new Colony does.

Excess Phosphorous in our stream water. We wrote an article about this subject in the Colony Fall 2018 newsletter. The problem is that our soils are rich in Phosphorous and don't need the extra "P" that most lawn fertilizers provide. Most of that chemical is unused by your lawn and ends up in the nearest stream. We got confirmation of this through our regular water sampling of Wildcat Chase, which has above-normal contents of P. You can help by minimizing or eliminating lawn fertilizer treatments, or choosing a product that doesn't have any P.

These are just a few ways you can help improve our environment and water quality while reducing costs for Lexington government.

Thinking Outside of the Box(wood) by Jane Madden



Spring is coming and maybe some of you are thinking about changing up your landscape. As a rule of thumb, a home's foundation landscaping should be renewed, at least in part, every 10-15 years. Some trees last forever but lots of shrubs don't; they become overgrown, die of disease or old age, and sometimes simply get boring.

Since I arrived in Lexington, I have noticed that the default option for most foundation plantings seems to be boxwood. They stand like oval sentinels all along the front of a house, changing only when severe winter winds brown out and/or kill some of their branches. Don't get me wrong, I like boxwoods in certain locations and admit to having a few in my own garden. I even like the aroma when the hot sun hits them, although this seems to be an individual thing and it rekindles fond memories of a trip to Williamsburg.

Landscaping your house with a variety of plant types, sizes, shapes and colors can give your property a more interesting look throughout the seasons as well as increase your home's curb appeal. This brief article offers some suggestions as to what you might do and a trip to a garden center will certainly provide you with more ideas.

If you want to keep the evergreen look, why not mix it up a little? Low growing evergreen shrubs like Dwarf White Pine with soft, blue green foliage or the low growing and spreading Procumbens Blue Spruce can be paired with Gold Mop Chamaecyparis (*cammy sih paris*) or other dwarf, dark green Chamaecyparis. There are many sizes and colors of Junipers for full sun and for shadier areas Japanese Plum Yew, either in spreading or upright form, offers an interesting alternative to the common Yew. But if you really, really want that boxwood look you can get a good simulation using Inkberry Holly. These shrubs are native and if you get a male and a female and that old plant magic happens, your female shrubs will reward you and the birds with black berries in the fall and persistent green foliage. They can also be easily pruned to keep their nice shape.

If you are feeling adventuresome, add in some flowering shrubs such as one of the many varieties of Abelia, which flowers in late summer and keeps its leaves usually until the end of winter. Weigelas come in many sizes from 1.5 to 6 feet and their flower colors range from white, through pink and red, and also green, bronze or variegated foliage. Dwarf Fothergillas, also native, have fragrant bottlebrush shaped flowers in spring, attractive soft green to blue green foliage in summer and bright orange fall color.

Spireas, of which there are many varieties, are also reliable flowering foundation shrubs and take well to severe renewal pruning every couple of years. However, certain of the older varieties, like Anthony Waterer, have been overused. Many

newer ones are available and they have prettier flowers and foliage. Hydrangeas are another default option around here but they can be water hogging divas and sometimes, unreliable bloomers. But they are pretty when they perform. Another overused foundation plant is the Knockout Rose but if you really like them, prune them back severely in Spring to keep them full.

You may have noticed that Burning Bush was not mentioned. Unfortunately, their beautiful red fall color cannot hide the ugly fact that they have become invasive in Lexington. However, there is something even better, the similarly sized and best of all, native Red or Black Chokeberries. These shrubs also have an intense red fall color plus the added bonus of white flowers in spring and red or black berries in summer. The Black Chokeberry also comes in either columnar or low, mounded forms.

A house corner often needs some “softening” with shrubs or small trees. We all know and love Dogwoods, Redbuds, Crape Myrtles and the smaller Hollies and Magnolias, and any one of them would look just fine, but there are other plants out there.

The compact *Viburnum carlesii* has extremely fragrant flowers in early spring as does an old fashioned lilac. If the corner does not get intense afternoon sun Serviceberry, a.k.a., Shadblow, a native, has white flowers in spring, blue berries in summer and orange foliage in fall. Other taller *Viburnum*, such as Cardinal Candy has white flowers in spring and clusters of red berries in fall. The native Sweetshrub, (Carolina Allspice), has interesting fragrant red flowers in spring and early summer and shiny bright green foliage that turns yellow in fall. If you prefer evergreen, upright Junipers such as Wichita (silvery blue) or perhaps a cluster of 3, narrow Trautman juniper (gray green) that resemble Italian Cypress could also work. *Arborvitae* could also be used at a house corner but they do have a tendency to split apart under heavy snow.

This has been a very brief overview of some foundation plantings that might prompt you to think outside of the box(wood) when landscaping your house. Look them up on line and read about their planting preferences, or take a trip to one of our local garden centers and talk to the people there who will help you make a landscaping plan perfect for your home.

New Power of Attorney Law by Sherri Weisenfluh

The term “getting your affairs in order” usually means taking care of writing a will, appointing someone to make health care decisions in the event you are no longer able to speak for yourself and appointing someone to make financial decisions if you are unable to make them for yourself (Power Of Attorney). Making these decisions without the pressure of facing major illness or impairment is one of the best gifts someone can bestow their family. While working at Hospice of the Bluegrass I witnessed the severe stress families and patients faced in discussing such difficult decisions. At times I was also involved in situations where someone appointed to make financial decisions abused their position leaving the patient without funds and few options. Additionally, I saw banks that refused to accept POA’s because the document was not executed on a form the bank required claiming the POA presented was not valid. The legislature addressed some of these concerns in the 2017 Legislative Session.

Kentucky General Assembly adopted a new Kentucky Powers of Attorney (POA) law in July of 2018 under KRS chapter 457. This new law was part of the Uniform Power of Attorney Act (UPOAA) and provides specific definitions and procedures necessary to ensure a POA’s validity in the eyes of the law and the entities (banks, insurance companies etc.) that accept POA’s.

CHECKLIST



Powers of Attorney documents are designed to appoint an agent to act on behalf of the person signing the POA as the principal. An example might be an individual, John (the principal) may decide to appoint one of his adult children, Jennifer to make financial decisions on his behalf if and when John is no longer able to communicate his wishes. John is the principal and Jennifer, the daughter becomes the agent.

The new legislation addresses a number of issues including:

Definitions and procedures: A list of definitions including who is the agent and principal, what durability and incapacity means and the process for signing a POA document. The major change being that the principal must sign a document before two disinterested witnesses and a notary. The law also provides a way for the principal who can't physically sign a document but can communicate their wishes to execute a POA. The law also provides mechanisms on when and how an agent can resign or be removed.

Responsibilities, duties and accountability of the agent: Agents are now required to work in good faith for the principal's benefit and with care, competence and diligence. Agents must keep a record of all monies received and spent and transactions. An agent who has actual knowledge of bad behavior on the part of another agent of the same principal is required to take action to safeguard the principal's best interest.

Third party acceptance: The law clarifies and specifies who is required to accept the POA and when and what are the options if the third part is not sure of the POA's validity. Third parties also receive protection if they accept the POA's validity in good faith. Time limits are also set for the rejection of a POA.

If you do not have a POA or need to make financial or health care decisions or wish to update your POA, please consult an attorney to guide you through the process.

Neighborhood Updates and Photos

If you are planning to remove invasive Bush Honeysuckle from your yard this year, remember that it's a good idea to treat the stump with concentrated glyphosate immediately after cutting. That will kill the root system, and you won't have to repeat the job next year. I would be glad to loan you an applicator for a short period of time and train you in how to do the application. Just email me at JerryWeisenfluh@gmail.com to set up a time.



Last fall John Burke and Jerry Weisenfluh used an electronic sensor to trace all the underground wires associated with our street lights. Most of the wires cross private property to access KU poles in right of way. This picture is an example of how we have recorded the results of the survey. We'll be coming to visit affected neighbors to share the results with them so that we can be alert to construction that may impact the wiring system.

The Colony Board of Directors asked for non-perishable food donations as a part of the Tree Lighting Ceremony in December 2018. Our neighbors generously contributed and a large amount of food was collected and donated on behalf of the Neighborhood Association to Gods Pantry, a local food bank assisting families in Kentucky. As the New Year progresses the board hopes to find additional ways to contribute to the community. Thank you for your contribution and making the effort to help those less fortunate.



The Annual Tree lighting

The annual tree lighting event was held on December 7, 2018. It was a windy day, but everyone had a cheerful, festive spirit brought on by hot cocoa, holiday treats, new blue LED lights, and of course, the arrival of Santa! A special thanks to Jenn Jackson of Third Life Photography for the excellent photos.



Landscaping Updates



Jane Madden has been renovating the island plant beds over the past three years. It takes about that long for new plants to mature and we are now seeing the beautiful results of her efforts.

Last year John Burke removed the teak benches and completely reconditioned them. This should extend their life for years. One of the benches was beyond repair and has been removed from the island at Mayflower and Colonial Drive.



A Neighborly Welcome



Please join us in welcoming Catherine Trombley and James Peavy to the Colony. They moved to Lexington from Washington DC in January 2019. They, along with their children, Francesca and Jude, and Tyson the dog, reside at 1252 Standish Way. Please introduce yourselves if you see them out and about.

Congratulations to the Davis and Prather families on their new additions!!!



Tess Camellia Prather. Born 1/24/19. Her mother and aunt have Vietnamese middle names for flowers that bloom in the seasons they were born. Camellias are from eastern and southern Asia and are referred to as winter's rose, as they bloom when most other plants are dormant.



Nazanin Sakineh Davis. Born 2/21/19. "Nazanin" is Persian for "lovely, delightful" and Sakineh is the name of Afsi's late Iranian Grandmother.



The whole family is adjusting well and Asa is such a proud big brother. They are looking forward to introducing her to the neighbors.



Sawyer is adapting to his new role as Canine Protector without any problems, though he does wonder why he's not allowed to play with her just yet.

Afsi is recovering well and is thriving as a new mother. Expect to see us out and about with the new neighbor as soon as it warms up.

Do you want to recognize a neighbor's good deed or have a story to share?
Do you have questions, ideas, suggestions for the neighborhood?
Is there anything you'd like to see featured in upcoming newsletters?
We'd love to hear from you! Please email us anytime at: thecolonyboard04@gmail.com