



The Colony Newsletter

We hope you will enjoy the articles in this Fall 2018 issue of the Colony newsletter. We're fresh from a highly successful annual picnic that was held on September 16th. Much gratitude is due to Darlene Bozarth who planned and organized the event. She did a great job. We are also indebted to the Palli family for offering their home when the weather wouldn't cooperate. The picnic always reminds me that the best part of living in the Colony is the community spirit and kindness of our neighbors. We have old friends, new friends, and many who volunteer their time to help keep the neighborhood a great place to live. I've also heard many stories about individuals lending an ear or giving assistance to neighbors in times of need.

Speaking of new friends, The Colony recently welcomed two new residents: Dr. Michelle Arnold and the Petrie family. Keep an eye on the website for their "Meet the Neighbors" pieces. In the meantime, if you see Michelle out running, please give her a friendly wave and please keep an eye out for the Petri's children playing when entering and exiting The Colony.

Our next event will be the holiday tree lighting to be held on Sunday, December 2nd. Stay tuned for more details about this popular gathering.

Your Neighborhood Association President,

Jerry Weisenfluh

Don't forget to make your contribution to the maintenance fund. We need your support!

A Brighter Colony

Have you noticed the Street Lamps in the Colony seem a bit brighter? If you have, you are not imagining it.

Over the last few weeks we have replaced all of the Street Lamp bulbs in the Colony with new, more energy efficient, LED light bulbs. The older CFL bulbs lose their light output (brightness/lumens) with age and therefore become dimmer. The LED bulbs do not.

Additionally the LED bulbs have a life expectancy of 50,000 hours while the CFLs are only expected to last 10,000 hours. There are 4,000 hours of darkness each year in this geographical area. While costing 50% more initially, the new bulbs will last five times longer than the CFLs. This is a savings of \$1,960 for all of the Street Lamps over the life of the LEDs. This does not include the reduction in energy cost.

Due to installing the LED bulbs Kentucky Utilities allowed us to negotiate a 49% reduction in the base rate, accompanied with a 69% reduction in the Energy Charge portion of the bill. Effectively we have cut the electric bill on the Street Lamps in half. That is an additional savings of \$1,800 over the life of the LEDs.

There had been some comments that the entrance to the Colony was difficult to locate at night. We installed the same LED bulbs used for the Street Lamps in the front entrance lamps making it easier to locate our entrance from Versailles Road. We will see a replacement savings of \$1,680 on these bulbs over their life expectancy.

All in all, the Colony is brighter. Brighter in lumens, economics, and environmental awareness!



Advanced Metering Systems

Kentucky Utilities (KU) filing with the Kentucky Public Service Commission for the full deployment of advanced metering systems (AMS) across their Kentucky service territory has been denied.

The proposed deployment would enable customers to access, through a web portal, information about their usage at any time, download consumption patterns to better understand how they use energy, as well as explore different products and programs that may align to their needs, the companies added.

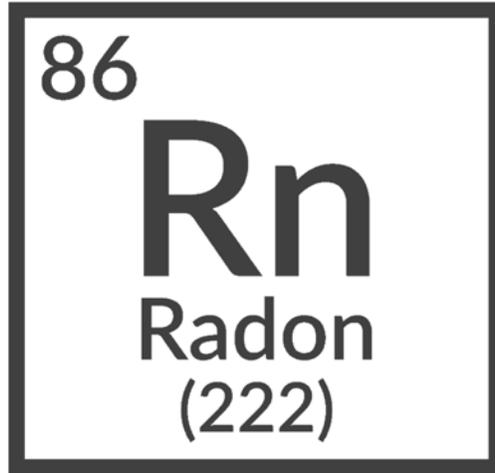
Also, the proposed deployment would further enable the companies to develop time-of-day or more dynamic rate structures that may assist customers to reduce their bills, the companies said. Among other things, the companies said that the proposed deployment would enhance their ability to localize and resolve power outages, and thus reduce customer outage times.

KU will continue to offer the [Advanced Meter Early Adoption Program](#) to an additional 5,000 customers who are interested in learning more about their energy usage patterns and ways to be more energy efficient.

Should you be interested in this program, you can learn more or enroll by going to:

<https://lge-ku.com/advanced-meters>





Should your home be tested?

Radon is an odorless gas present in soils that can enter your home through the basement, crawlspace, or concrete slab. It is a decay product of naturally-occurring uranium minerals and is believed to be a leading cause of lung cancer. The amount of radon in your home is a function of the local geology (rock and soil) and your home's construction. Some of the limestone units in central Kentucky contain phosphate minerals that can produce radon gas at high levels. Radon is measured in Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and the U.S. EPA recommends mitigating the issue when levels exceed 4 pCi/L. Some other health organizations use a lower limit of 2 pCi/L.

What can you do? Contact the Fayette County Health Department (859.231.9791) to obtain a free Radon test kit. If this short-term test indicates levels above 4 pCi/L, you should get an evaluation from one or more certified Radon mitigation companies in the area to learn how to reduce your home Radon levels. In most cases, mitigation is not prohibitively expensive. It involves installing a vent that exhausts radon gas from beneath your basement concrete slab to the outdoors.

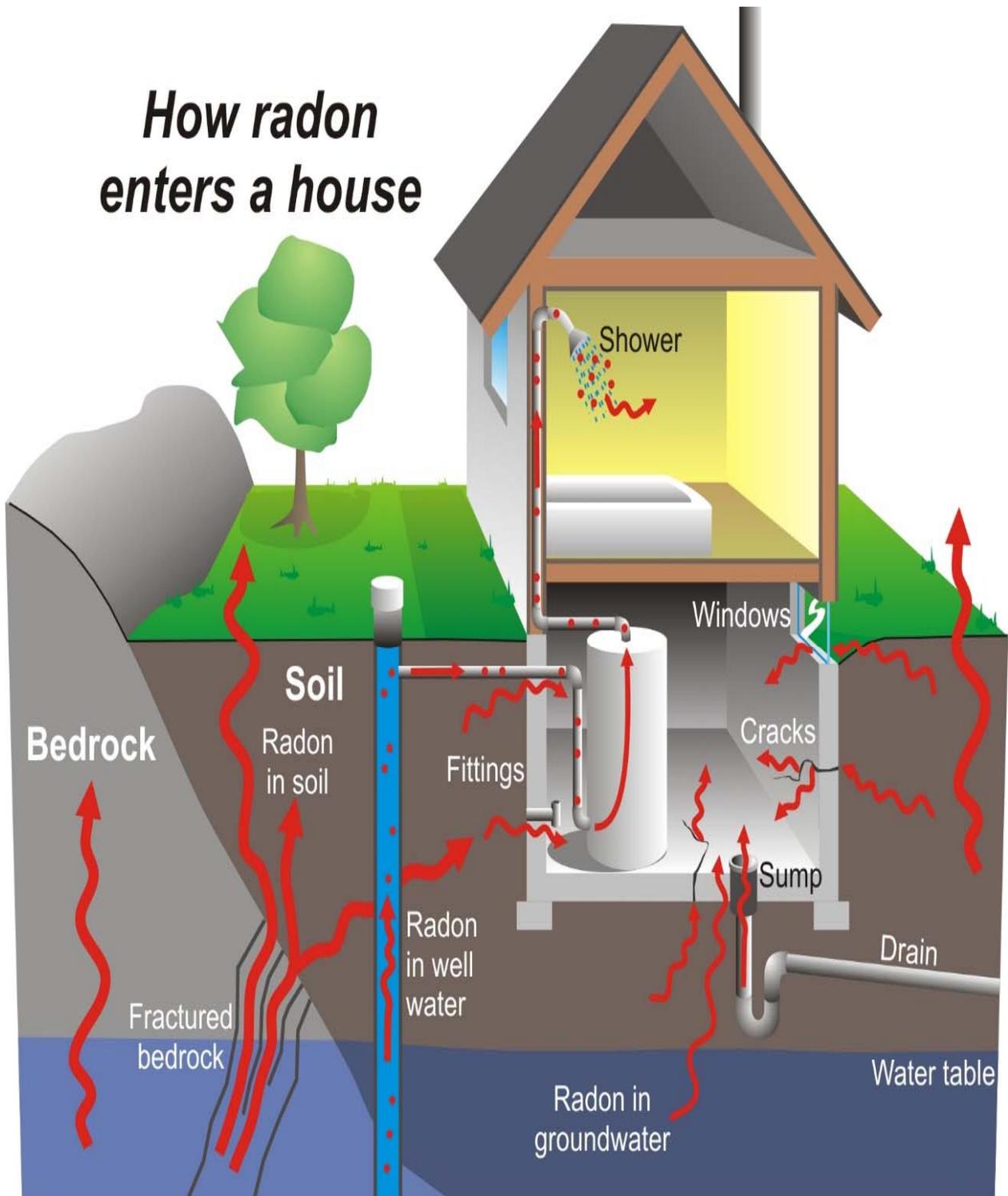
For more information about the dangers of residential radon:

U.S. EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

Fayette County Health Department: <https://lexingtonhealthdepartment.org/radon-awareness/>

Kentucky Geological Survey: <https://www.uky.edu/KGS/radon/index.php>

How radon enters a house



No **P** On My Lawn



If you fertilize your lawn, or are thinking about it, you might want to take advantage of a soil testing program offered by the Fayette County Extension Service. Most homeowners buy off-the-shelf fertilizers that have equal amounts of phosphorous (P), potassium (K), and nitrogen (N). It turns out though, that most soils in the Bluegrass have plenty of natural phosphorous and sometimes potassium, as well. The problem with using blended fertilizers is that the unneeded nutrients don't benefit your lawn and garden and end up in storm runoff then enters our waterways, promoting algae growth.

Out of curiosity, I had my own soil tested, and sure enough, my phosphorous levels were in the "very high" range, and I had moderate levels of potassium. The recommendation for perennial garden fertilizer is a pure nitrogen product and for grass a nitrogen-potassium mix. I was also advised to apply turf fertilizer only in the fall, because spring applications for cool-season grasses (Bluegrass or Fescue) weaken turf and promote weed growth.

You can get a free soil test from the extension service through November due to a grant they have for this program. Contact Rick Durham (rick.durham@uky.edu) to request one. Better yet, mulch your tree leaves on your lawn and maybe you can skip the fertilizer altogether.

Wildcat Chase Stream Restoration Update

The stream restoration project at Wildcat Chase is now in its fourth year. The part you see when you leave the neighborhood was the first area planted in 2014 and has become quite mature. At this time of year what you notice most are the purple flowers of New England Aster and yellow blooms of goldenrod, black-eyed susan, and sunflower. In addition to the plants we installed, many native species that existed at the site long before the honeysuckle invaded are becoming reestablished. These include wild senna, goldenrod, and jewelweed.

After our site was visited during a Stream Stewards field excursion in July, Amanda Gumbert of the UK Cooperative Extension Service asked to shoot a video for their Backyard Streams Program website. You can see the video at <https://youtu.be/n2ZsiHnrHQ>. We have attracted a lot of attention from stream restoration professionals for the work we've accomplished at our site.

This past year we completed the initial work on about an acre of the greenspace along the retention pond near New Circle Road. Many tons of honeysuckle were cut and either chipped on-site or taken away. In their place we have planted numerous young native trees and perennial flowering plants and shrubs. Immediately after the honeysuckle was removed, native jewelweed and grasses began growing along the stream margin that had been barren for years. In one of our summer storms, a large Hackberry tree fell at the site, and we were fortunate that the city came to remove the debris this month.



Photograph of latest restoration area before restoration showing extensive honeysuckle growth.



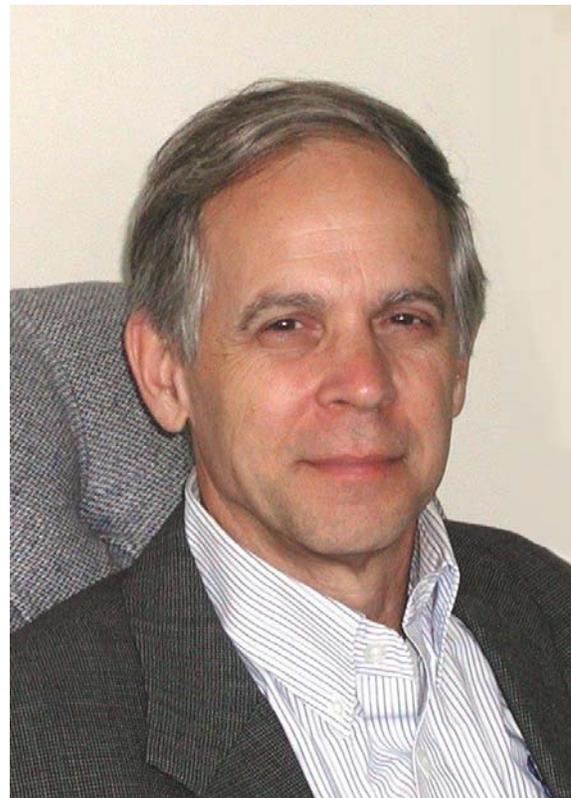
Photograph same area showing reestablished jewelweed along the stream banks that were previously overgrown with honeysuckle plants.

Meet Your Neighborhood Association Board!



Jerry Weisenfluh, President

Jerry moved to Lexington in 1980 for his first career job as a geologist at UK. Originally from upstate New York, he attended the College of Wooster and the University of South Carolina for post-secondary degrees. Jerry retired from the Kentucky Geological Survey in 2017. He and Sherri moved to the Colony in 2007 from the Woodland Park area where they lived for 25 years. Besides serving on the board, he is involved in water quality issues as a volunteer with Kentucky River Watershed Watch, Friends of Wolf Run, and LGUCG. He volunteers at the Arboretum, cycles, and is learning to play classical guitar.



John R. Burke, Vice President

After 31 years with Kentucky Utilities and 14 years as a Consultant to Electric Utilities throughout North America I retired in 2014. Marti, my wife, and I have been Colony residents since 2015 and thoroughly enjoy the park like atmosphere and camaraderie of one of the most unique neighborhoods in Lexington. Having spent several years on the board of many social, charitable, and recreational organizations it was only natural for me to be interested in serving on the Colony Board of Directors. Literally being “the new kid on the block” didn’t hurt either. I was elected to my position in 2018. I hope to bring my past experience aiding the Colony in the area of utility infrastructure and maintain the pleasant atmosphere and ambience of our wonderful neighborhood.



Abbie Loynachan, Secretary

I work at UK in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s office. I enjoy exercising, reading, and walking my dogs. My husband, Alan, and I moved to The Colony in October 2016 and have enjoyed the quiet, friendly neighborhood. I joined the board as secretary in June 2018 and have been helping with communications and the website. I hope to help keep The Colony a quiet, friendly, safe, and informed neighborhood.



Darlene Bozarth, Hospitality

I am a native Lexingtonian, and a retired small business owner. My husband, Perry, and I have lived in The Colony for 9 years. I enjoy sewing and painting. I consider living in The Colony a privilege; and hopefully, by serving on The Colony Association Board, I am helping to preserve, enhance, and protect the integrity and beauty of our neighborhood.



Kevin Davis, Treasurer and Safety

I work as a sales manager for a German manufacturing company and travel frequently. You will probably see me around the neighborhood running with our dog Sawyer, or riding my bike around Lexington training for triathlons. My wife, Afsi, and I moved into the neighborhood in 2015 and will be expecting our first child in February 2019.



Jane Madden, Member at Large

I moved to Lexington from Milwaukee in 2013 after retiring as a Professor of Neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. I have loved the Lexington area since the times when my family drove through it on the way to Florida for spring vacations. Coupled with that was my love of horses, horse racing and riding. I built my home on John Alden Lane and have truly enjoyed the Colony neighborhood and its residents. My goal as a Board member has been to renew and revise the landscapes of our beautiful traffic islands.



Brigitte Prather, Member at Large

After working the Lexington restaurant circuit and hosting a cooking show, I now work primarily in freelance food media and as a toddler chef for my son, Asa. My husband Michael and I are expecting a baby girl in January 2019. We were thrilled to find the lot on John Alden Lane so we could build our home, which was completed at the beginning of 2017. We'll finish up loose ends in the house one of these days and look forward to hosting many of the wonderful neighbors we've met. We love the quiet Colony streets for us to walk our dog Porter and for Asa to ride his scooter and learn to bike.



Neighborly Gratitude



Neighbors have reached out to the board to tell us about **Jennifer Rice's** many acts of kindness. Here are just a few comments we heard recently:

"During the power outage, she invited us to shower and enjoy AC at their house. It wasn't a hollow offer. She meant it. That gesture and spirit of "pulling together" (her words) meant so much."

"She's the epitome of neighborhood watch!"

Another neighbor said, *"Jennifer helped me find somebody to lay concrete at our house. It wasn't only a helpful recommendation, it was an excellent one."*

It is people like Jennifer that make The Colony a great place to live. Thanks for your thoughtfulness.



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?
Please email us anytime at: thecolonyboard04@gmail.com