

STONEWALL INFO

Stonewall Community Association
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Lexington, KY 40503



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MARCH 2017 Stonewall Community Association Newsletter www.stonewallneighborhood.org

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, MARCH 27

The Stonewall Community Association's (SCA's) annual business meeting is scheduled for Monday March 27 at 7 p.m. (March 28 in case of inclement weather) in the library of Stonewall Elementary School. The program is yet to be determined, but you can expect to meet with our elected officials at the LFUCG and State levels and to hear about the current status of various projects in Lexington and the Stonewall neighborhood. We hope that you will attend, enjoy seeing the neighbors, and learn a few things. And if there is an issue that you want to hear about, by all means, let us know and we will try to prepare something on the topic. Contact us by email (jcabaniss@gmail.com), and be sure to leave your phone number in case we need to have more information.

BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTIONS

At the March annual business meeting we will compile results of the election of SCA's four officers and five of its fifteen board members. Ballots for the election are included in this mailout along with dues forms. All association members are eligible to vote, one vote per household. Mail your completed ballot and dues to our treasurer Fred Brandon by March 22, or bring to the meeting March 27. Officers elected now serve two-year terms, and board members serve three years. Association bylaws specify that a president can serve two consecutive 2-year terms only. These are the nominees:

Officers (2-year terms)

President: Caryl Pfeiffer, current vice president
Vice-President: No candidate
Secretary: Sheila Carmack, current secretary
Treasurer: Fred Brandon, current treasurer

Board members (3-year terms)

(all are currently on the board or an officer)

Barry Bingham, Tudor Drive
Janet Cabaniss, Cumberland Road
David Owens, Roxburg Drive
Carol Webb, Saxon Drive

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE FOR 2017

Also included on the insert with this newsletter is a convenient way to join or renew your membership in SCA until next 2018. Your membership dues cover a myriad of items: the operating costs of organized community events such as the neighborhood garage sale, the annual ice cream social, and the Independence Day parade, as well as meeting expenses and facilities rental. This newsletter and the postage to mail it are part of the expenses SCA pays every year, as are our web site, incorporation renewals, special activities (such as the Long-Term Residents' Recognition we held in 2016), butterfly garden expenses, holiday decoration expenses, and on and on!

Please take a moment to prepare your check for \$25 of dues and vote for the officers and directors who keep the association running. Then use the addressed envelope to send them to our treasurer, Fred Brandon, 731 Cindy Blair Way, Lexington, KY 40503. If you have already mailed your 2017 dues, please accept our thanks! But we still need you to send your completed ballot for the board of directors. If you have questions about the status of your dues, contact Fred at 260-1005.

It is also irresistible for us to mention that we welcome additional contributions above the dues level. Such amounts go to good use – for improvements on and maintenance of the Cindy Blair Way island, to help finance special events, to replace and expand holiday decorations, and to pay for a number of unexpecteds – lighting replacement of the Stonewall welcome sign, repairs of irrigation for the island, and replacements of our aging yard signs that offer information on our August social, the garage sale, and the July 4 parade. We thank you for helping to make the neighborhood a welcoming place.

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President—Janet Cabaniss
Vice-President—Caryl Pfeiffer
Secretary—Sheila Carmack
Treasurer—Fred Brandon

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Janet Cabaniss
jcabaniss@gmail.com

Don Starsinic
DStarsinic@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barry Bingham
Robert Blankenship
Leah Atkinson Brand
Mark Fox
Andrew Franklin
Keith Gaines
Mary Kay Gumberts
Trish Henson
Kim Justus
David Owens
Elizabeth Pattengill
Bill Short
Wayne Starnes
Don Starsinic
Carol Webb

STONEWALL EMAIL UPDATE

We have updated our email address file to keep in touch with Stonewall residents for Safety Watch purposes and other important notices. If you are not on this list, please send your email address to stonewallweb@gmail.com and we will add you. **If you have more than one email address, give us the ONE your family uses most.**

If corrections need to be made to your mailing label, please notify Don Starsinic at 224-8017 or DStarsinic@aol.com.

FOOD DRIVE

Please bring canned items with you to this year's annual meeting. Representatives from our association will take the collected items to God's Pantry. Our thriving neighborhood can only benefit by being generous to those who don't know where their next meal is coming from. God's Pantry relies on food drives to keep their shelves stocked. Most needed items include canned vegetables, soups, and fruit; shelf stable milk; protein (peanut butter, non-green beans, canned meat); pasta; rice; and cereal. For more information about God's Pantry go to www.GodsPantry.org.

STONEWALL PARK SPRING ACTIVITIES

Liz Pattengill tells us the good news that LFUCG Parks and Recreation is going to install a water source adjacent to our butterfly garden in Stonewall Park on Cornwall Drive this spring. This feature will have a drinking fountain and a much needed faucet from which gardeners who assist in keeping the butterfly garden alive each summer will no longer be required to tote water milk-gallon by milk-gallon from their homes, to their vehicle, then to the garden. Look also for the garden to sport a fresh coat of mulch to preserve its perennials and make it look attractive.

Meanwhile, we hope to continue an organized a work detail to remove invasive species from the park. Robert Blankenship and his team work faithfully to eliminate invasive honeysuckle and winter creeper and other unwanted plants. You can see their success if you take a look at the park along the trail. This, however, is a job that is never done, and the need for workers will always be with us! Please help out if you can.

Finally, we are hoping to organize a Stonewall Great American Cleanup on a spring Saturday when we will ask for volunteers to participate. Activities will include clearing invasives, spreading mulch, and removing accumulated trash from over the winter.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Did you see that there is a web site listed at the top of page 1? Yes, we have redone the Stonewall Community Association web site. Its new name is

www.stonewallneighborhood.org

Thanks for this site go to two energetic members of our board, Andrew Franklin and Wayne Starnes. Although the site is still a work in progress, we hope it will be useful for us all. You can now find information about the association, the community, and the city. Previous Stonewall Info newsletters are available from the web site. We plan to update the information monthly and eventually install a calendar. Please check it out and become familiar with what it has to offer. We are open to suggestions.

1580 HIGBEE MILL ROAD DAY CARE CENTER

1580 Higbee Mill Road has been subdivided into two lots. The first lot is named 2A, on which clearing of woods and underbrush has started to accommodate construction of 20+ planned town homes consistent with R1-T zoning. These townhomes have an approved development plan. They were proposed and approved by the LFUCG Council shortly after the neighborhood and the LFUCG Planning Commission rejected a request for apartments on that land during spring 2016.

The second lot on 1580 Higbee Mill is 2B, and a public hearing with the LFUCG Planning Commission will take place on March 23 downtown in Council Chambers starting at 1:30 p.m. A request for a zone change from the existing zone **R1-T** (town houses) to **R3 with a deed restriction of no residential use**. This zone change is being made to permit a day care center to be built on the property. The neighborhood met October 10, 2016 at Stonewall School with the developer about this idea, and the zone change request has now proceeded through LFUCG's three required committee reviews with approvals by all three groups. If the zone change passes at the hearing and then in Council, work will begin.

We know that many rumors have floated around the area lately, and there is a lot of confusion swirling about this zone change at 1580. People seem to think that rezoning of 1400 Higbee Mill is involved. IT IS NOT! There is no relationship between the request for a zone change at 1580 and any activity undertaken at 1400 Higbee Mill Road. You can review the zoning committee approvals of the 1580 proposal for a zone change on our web site. Two approvals are required, one for the zone change to R3 and a second to add the conditional language restricting the use of the land in the R3 zone to NO RESIDENTIAL in lot 2B. These approvals were passed by the zoning committee on March 3, 2017. You do need to read it carefully to understand that this zone change will go through only to build the day care center. Building of residences is prohibited on lot 2B if the Planning Commission accepts the committee approvals.

The case will be reviewed and Planning Commissioners will vote to approve or not approve the change to conditional zoning to build a day care center on March 23. Public input can be given at this hearing, in the form of 3 minutes per speaker.

ANOTHER DAY CARE CENTER

On December 13, 2016, SCA and other residents met with developers at Stonewall Elementary School to learn about their proposal for a new day care center to be built at 3280 Clays Mill Road, across the street from Jessie Clark Middle School. The discussion of the project was amicably received by attendees, and the plan has been approved by the LFUCG Council. Construction is expected to begin during 2017.

1400 HIGBEE MILL ROAD

As of the time this newsletter was written, no requests for a development plan and no requests for any conditional uses have been entered with local government for the property at 1400 Higbee Mill Road. History: In early 2015, a developer met with the SCA board to discuss locating a retail garden center and mulch operation there (from the Summit property on Nicholasville Road). The property went up for sale and was sold. The new owners proposed a construction variance with the Board of Adjustment that they later withdrew without action. In August 2016, the owners were granted a Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) fill permit to raise the surface of much of the acreage above the South Elkhorn Creek flood plain. Of course, we are curious about what's happening there! We were told most recently that the owners are not sure of their plans for 1400. However, the owners have also informed us that in the first weeks of March they will begin to use their KDOW fill permit. Fill dirt and materials will start being added to raise the land.

It is our intention to keep our residents posted if and when an official action is requested on this property. Most likely, official proposals will be shared in this newsletter if there is time, but also on the email list to neighbors in the case of a need to get information out quickly to meet a deadline.

NEWS BRIEFS

Stonewall's annual yard sale, free to residents, is scheduled for Saturday June 3. Mark the date and start collecting your items for sale. This is always a big event.

Fayette County Public Schools will be closed for spring break April 3-7. The school term was scheduled to end May 19, but winter weather has thrown it into the week of May 22.

For details about the Stonewall Garden Club, which usually meets the second Monday of each month, please contact Jean Abner (223-9330).

ATTENTION PARTY PLANNERS

Stonewall knows how to throw a party. We would love your input to make our get-togethers even better. Help is needed with idea generation, implementation, and recruiting friends to help in the fun. If you like to plan or help with events, please contact Sheila Carmack at scarmack23@gmail.com.

SHOPPING CENTER NEWS

There is a new barbeque restaurant (Lyle's) where J. J. McBrewster's closed in November. If you can, please use the Stonewall Shopping Center shops, which suffered so from the disruption during the long period when the new Clays Mill Road intersection with Wellington Way was under construction.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Since the loss of three contributing merchants in 2016, it is harder to fill welcome baskets for new Stonewall neighbors. Our association feels this is a good time to review our procedures. Our last basket delivery was in December.

In early 2001 board member Sheila Carmack suggested that a welcome basket program be initiated. She developed a procedure, lined up merchants to contribute, and formed a committee — initially Carlynn Brandon, Margaret and Don Starsinic, and Sheila. They began delivering in April 2001 and continued to use the same basic procedure to deliver welcome baskets monthly for the past 16 years. Sheila turned the program over to Don Starsinic in 2005, he managed it until 2014, then Sheila resumed responsibility again, with Don's help. Other deliverers volunteered over the years, most recently Leah Atkinson-Brand, Susan Bean, Jean Miller, Becky Mosolgo, and Angene Wilson.

Our welcome basket program has been a huge success, greatly appreciated by our new neighbors. Over the 16 years of the program we have delivered 463 welcome baskets. We want to continue this program as a vital and useful outreach opportunity. But Sheila and Don are wearing out carrying out all the steps needed each month. They'd like to simplify the process and get new volunteers involved.

Local merchants who are still committed to providing items for welcome baskets or packets include **Bluegrass Baking Company, North Lime Coffee & Donuts**, and **Peoples Exchange Bank** (Stonewall Shopping Center); **Central Bank** (Palomar Centre); **The Jewelry Centre** (Garden Springs Shopping Center); **Central Baptist HealthwoRx Fitness & Wellness Center** (Lexington Green); and **Pieratts Appliances**. We need more contributors, and we are canvassing nearby businesses to try to add to this list.

Jim Betts, owner of **Bluegrass Baking Company** (the one merchant who has faithfully donated to our program for all 16 years!) suggests that merchants would appreciate another way of getting new residents into their shops — discount tickets or other promotions, rather than merchandise. We plan to discuss this with all our current and potential donors and plan to cut deliveries to every three months. This procedure cuts our workload by about half and still assures that each of our new neighbors is welcomed by a member of Stonewall Community Association.