

STONEWALL INFO

Stonewall Community Association
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NOVEMBER 2017

Stonewall Community Association

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MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE FOR 2018

Membership dues for 2018 will be owed in January. Your \$25 annual dues make possible an array of neighborhood services, including this newsletter. Dues cover the operating costs of organized community events such as the ice cream social and the Independence Day parade, as well as meeting expenses and facilities rental. Please send payment of \$25 for your household to our treasurer Fred Brandon, 731 Cindy Blair Way, Lexington, KY 40503. Dues paid by new neighbors who joined in October or later this year are good for 2018. Make you check to Stonewall Community Association. If you have questions about membership dues, contact Fred at 260-1005.

STONEWALL EMAIL UPDATE

We keep in touch with Stonewall residents for Safety Watch purposes and other important notices via email. Please send changes in email addresses (include both old and the new address and your name and Stonewall street address) or ask to be added if you are not already listed to stonewallweb@gmail.com. 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.

HOLIDAY WISHES

As this newsletter is being prepared, it is not even Thanksgiving! Yet all around us are reminders that the holidays are approaching. A major reason for sending this quarterly newsletter is to be sure that all in the Stonewall neighborhood have been informed that holiday lights will soon be up – close to the first of December, and that the Stonewall Community Association will once again offer community caroling, an event that we hope will become a new neighborhood “tradition.” Your neighborhood association would like to take this time to send good wishes of happiness and cheer to all residents. May your holidays be safe and comforting and fulfilling!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 10

The specifics: caroling in the open air will be held on Sunday December 10. All Stonewall residents are invited to meet at the Clays Mill / Cindy Blair entrance at 5:30 p.m. to participate in the third annual singing of Christmas carols around the decorated trees of the Cindy Blair island. This is an informal occasion, and in the past we have had around 40 people of all ages. Even some dogs. After half an hour or so of singing, we usually are ready to warm up by going to the warmth of Brooklyn Pizza in the Keithshire Place Shopping Center, where participants order some lovely snacks and share the company of other residents.

If you plan to join in this occasion, please help to make it safe: wear clothing that is visible to vehicles, perhaps even somewhat reflective; dress warmly – after sundown, the day cools off; park on a side street (like Keithshire) if you drive to the event; carry a flashlight so that you can see and be seen. Last year, we were fortunate to have a police officer with police car on site to calm passing traffic and to make it apparent that an event was taking place that demanded caution for participants and drivers.

We hope that the crowd will grow again this year and that interest in sharing some time at Brooklyn Pizza will result in lots of us getting to know our neighbors better!

IS STONEWALL SCHOOL POLITICALLY CORRECT?

Stonewall Elementary School made the newspapers this fall. The Southern Poverty Law Center listed the school as one of 109 public schools named after Confederate figures. The Fayette County Public School system and ultimately School Principal Bill Gatliff were put on the spot to establish that it was not named for Stonewall Jackson. Mr. Gatliff contacted our association for help, and we were able to provide him with several references to the school published in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* that clearly indicated the school, opened in 1961, was named for the Stonewall subdivision and not for the Confederate general. Besides, it could be pointed out that any Lexington public school named for a person is always identified by the person's full name, not just by a nickname. The school has since been removed from the Southern Poverty Law Center's list.

REMEMBERING CARL PETER

In our previous newsletter, we paid tribute to long-time Stonewall resident Carl Peter, who at 92 had set a remarkable example of what we can contribute to our neighborhood and our city in our retirement years. Your editor first planned the tribute about two years ago but never found space to include the article until recently. Carl died September 14, 2017. We are happy to report that he read and appreciated the newsletter's tribute and enjoyed the recognition. Carl was a good friend of many of us. Copies of our newsletter with the tribute to Carl were given to his children at the memorial service in November. May he be long remembered.

1400 and 1580 HIGBEE MILL ROAD

These two areas of infill which lie at the southern border of the Stonewall neighborhood have been the subject of much discussion in previous editions of this newsletter. At this time, there is little official to report on with regard to them, although both properties are being closely watched by Stonewall Community Association (SCA) and other surrounding neighborhoods.

You will recall that 1580 has been officially approved by LFUCG for development via the construction of townhouses on its lot 2A and for the building of a day care center on its lot 2B. In both instances, your neighborhood association did its utmost to help assure that if development was approved, it would be reasonable development. Much effort has been devoted to keeping neighbors informed and participatory in the happenings at 1580. It is safe to say that many of us still have serious misgivings about the wisdom of constructing a day care center and town homes that empty onto the small, undeveloped country road that is Higbee Mill Road and near South Elkhorn Creek that currently is part of a FEMA flood zone that is so near many Stonewall and other homes.

At 1400 Higbee Mill, many of us have observed the influx of gravel gravel gravel – fill that has elevated this land bordering South Elkhorn Creek, albeit with the authorization of a Kentucky Division of Water fill permit. As of this writing, no development proposals to the Planning Commission or requests for conditional uses to the Lexington Board of Adjustment have been entered. Stonewall residents should rest assured, however, that people are aware of things that take place at 1400 Higbee Mill Road and that they do continue to await proposals for action on the land, simply in an effort to protect their neighborhood's character and to safeguard home values and public safety.

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Stonewall Community Association is always looking for Stonewall neighbors who would be interested in serving on our board of directors or on committees working on neighborhood events. We will be having elections to our board of directors in March 2018 in conjunction with our annual business meeting. There will be five openings to fill 3-year terms. The board meets 6 times a year to deal with issues related to our neighborhood. If you want more detail on the board or on other service opportunities, call our president Caryl Pfeiffer (223-4453).

A GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—SAFETY WATCH

Stonewall's safety watch, which has been in place for 10 years and has served as a model of neighborhood involvement (its story was shown on the Government Cable channel off and on for many years) is in need of an interested person to continue its excellent record, a volunteer to lead it who has a more than average interest in serving the neighborhood and assuring its continued safety level.

PROPERTY REASSESSMENT IN 2018

Several neighborhoods, including Stonewall, wholly or partially within the 9th district are part of the Fayette Property Valuation Administrator's 2018 home value reassessment plan based on a quadrennial plan mandated by the Kentucky Department of Revenue. The PVA's office wants homeowners to be aware that PVA officials are currently conducting inspections. The PVA staff is always easily identifiable while inspecting properties. Their cars are clearly marked as state vehicles, and if staff members are out of their cars and inspecting on foot they will be wearing an easily identifiable safety vest. They are not authorized to enter houses but must do all work outside the home.

Your assessment notice is sent after assessments are completed and will indicate what the Fayette County PVA determined your property is worth as of January 1, 2017. The Kentucky Constitution requires all property be assessed at 100 percent Fair Cash Value unless otherwise exempted. Fair Cash Value is the property's most probable sale price in a competitive and open market, with a knowledgeable and willing buyer and seller. The Taxable Value is the value on which property taxes will be based. The PVA Office does not set tax rates or collect property tax payments.

If you do not agree with the Fair Cash Value, you can call (859) 246-2722 or visit the PVA Office at 101 E. Vine Street, Suite 600, NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2018. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You must speak with a designated PVA staff member by May 15 in order to appeal your property assessment. The likelihood of increased valuation is very high due to home prices having risen in recent years and the sales market being brisk. The appeals process is usually effective, however. Reasonable appeals are often rewarded by reduced assessments.

For more information, visit the web site fayettepva.com and click on ASSESSMENTS AND APPEALS.

SCA WEB SITE IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Please remember that

<http://www.stonewallneighborhood.org>

is the official web site of Stonewall Community Association. Under the direction of our webmaster Andrew Franklin, we supply information that relates to neighborhood needs. Please check it out!

WOMEN'S GARDEN NEWS

Wellington Park, located on Wellington Way and Clays Mill Road, is the home of the Lexington Women's Garden. Garden volunteers are putting the garden to bed for the winter.

Funding is still \$20,000 short on the Katsina sculpture proposed for the Women's Garden although there is a tentative plan for an unveiling event on Mother's Day in 2018.

Former LFUCG Councilwoman and Vice Mayor Isabel Yates was honored in the garden this fall when 1,500 daffodils were planted in her name. Donated by Stonewall resident Bennett Clark, they were Year 2017 America in Bloom Community Champion daffodils. Next spring, this massive planting of brilliant yellow flowers will be visible to passing cars on New Circle Road. We look forward to seeing their beauty in the spring.

NEW NEIGHBORS

You may have noticed in our earlier 2017 newsletters that Stonewall Info has not been listing any new neighbors. At the end of 2016, we lost three of the merchants who supported us with their donations, making it impossible to fill our welcome baskets. It has taken way too long to develop a new welcoming package, but that has now been done, and we are in the process of reaching new neighbors who have moved to Stonewall homes this year. If you are one of these new residents, look for our welcomers before the end of the year. After that we will be making contact with new neighbors every two to three months as needed.

So far we have welcomed the following neighbors who moved into Stonewall early this year: **Cameron and Mary Jean Ewert**, Chatham Drive; **Kevin and T. J. Kidd**, Cornwall Drive; **Bret and Sally Foster**, Grasmere Drive; and **Ashley Cannon**, Roxburg Drive. By the time this newsletter gets mailed, many more will have been welcomed. And if we somehow miss welcoming you, please let us know.

Local merchants who have contributed to the current welcome packages include Bluegrass Baking Company, Bella Blooms florist, Best Brains, Your Name Here Bowtique, Domino's Pizza, Lyle's Barbeque, North Lime Coffee and Donuts, and Peoples Exchange Bank, all in the Stonewall Shopping Center. We plan to add others to this list through the year. We ask that you support their generosity by patronizing their businesses.

SHOPPING CENTER NEWS

Your Name Here Bowtique, specializing in personalized gifts, has opened in the Stonewall Shopping Center. Vinaigrette Salad Kitchen (serving soups and salads) has located a branch in the Palomar Centre. There is still no activity on the gasoline station which was advertised to open in the Stonewall Center last spring.

NEWS BRIEFS

GREEN AWARDS. Among this year's LFUCG Green Awards, which recognize contributions to the local environment, were two in the Stonewall area. Bluegrass Baking Company received an award for its Team Baguette Project. Congratulations to owner and entrepreneur Jim Betts! The Clays Mill Road Widening Project Section 2 (New Circle Road to Man o' War Boulevard) was also a recipient. Landscaping of the islands at the intersection of Clays Mill Road and Wellington Way made the intersection safer, and the project itself vastly improved the ease of travel through that junction.

LOSE THE CLIPPINGS BY RECYCLING. If you are not on city trash collection and still have clippings from your yard to dispose of during the winter, and if you want those clippings to be recycled and returned for use as mulch instead of being dumped with nonrecyclable trash in a landfill, LFUCG allows you to bring two pickup-truck loads of brush or yard waste each month free of charge to the Haley Pike Waste Management Facility. The facility is at 4216 Hedger Lane and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 859-425-2255 if you have questions. Proof of Fayette County residency is required.

WINTER PAUSE. On a regular basis, usually quarterly, LFUCG offers some services free to all Fayette County residents, regardless of whether they receive city trash pickup. These services include safe disposal of hazardous wastes, secure shredding of up to four boxes of personal and other documents, and disposal of a level pickup truck load of household trash. Stonewall Info tries to inform our residents about the availability of these city events because most Stonewall residents pay for private trash collection and may not know about these useful services. All such services have ended for 2017, but they will commence again in the new year. Check lexingtonky.gov or call 311 for schedule updates.

ANOTHER WINTER PAUSE. Stonewall Elementary School and Jessie Clark Middle School will be closed from December 20 through January 1 for the holidays.

NO VOTING THIS TIME. No elections of public officials are scheduled for Lexington this November. Every fourth year we get a fall break from all levels of government. Next year we will be voting again for many offices, at the local, state, and federal levels.