

Masterson Station Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood News

AUGUST 2004

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253-3996

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381-0922

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Edwin Gibson
263-7681

THANK YOU MASTERSON STATION

By Donna McMahan

It seems like just yesterday that the tornado smashed through our neighborhood, leaving so much destruction in its wake. It was my last day of work for the school year, and I volunteered to staff the clubhouse during the aftermath to assist our unfortunate neighbors as much as I could.

What an experience that was! I watched you, the residents of Masterson Station, pull together as a community, and of course the rest is history. What happened at the clubhouse in the ensuing weeks was not planned. It was simply the reaction of a concerned community for its neighbors.

The board members of the neighborhood association rushed down to open the clubhouse that fateful night and had it open within 30 minutes of the tornado's passing. The clubhouse provided a central

location for tornado victims to congregate, and a shelter for those needing a place to stay for the ensuing nights. We served as a central location for government agencies who needed a place to organize and meet with residents.

Every step of the way, you provided us with the things we needed to operate at the clubhouse. Many of you solicited and delivered donations of food and supplies from generous local businesses, and offered your time to help staff the clubhouse and handle donations. We collected your generous donations of clothing and toys for your neighbors and delivered the excess to devastated flood and tornado victims in Floyd County, Kentucky.

There is no way I can express how proud I am of our neighborhood and what we have done. I just want to say thank you, Masterson Station.

2004 Association Calendar



August

Board Meeting 10th
Association Meeting 17th

September

Neighborhood Yard Sale
18th

October

Board Meeting 12th
Association Meeting 19th



President's Pen

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Jeff Crabb

The Bad – An F3 tornado hits our and surrounding neighborhoods late on May 27th.

The Ugly – The devastated homes and cars left in the wake of the tornado.

The Good – No reported deaths due to the tornado. Neighbors helping neighbors. Neighbors who didn't know each other before that night, were now introducing themselves and helping one another to retrieve items from damaged

homes and offering to provide shelter and emotional support to those who were in need.

Within an hour the clubhouse was open for those who needed a place to go and remained open for as long as it was needed, providing food, a place to gather and even spend the night.

Donations from other neighbors and from all of Lexington started pouring in, along with many offers

to volunteer.

It will take months to rebuild & probably years for all the physical evidence of that night to disappear. It will take a lot longer for the memories of that night to be forgotten.

For as impressive as the weather was on May 27th, 2004, even more impressive is how the residents of this neighborhood pulled together & took care of each other.

Masterson Station Park Policies

and How They Affect You

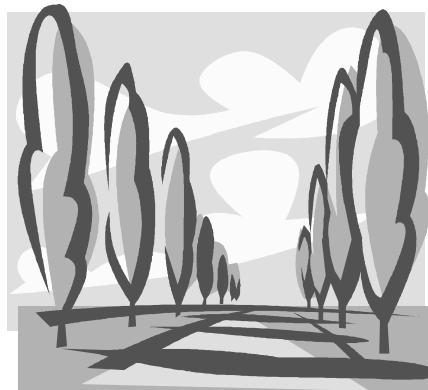
by Donna McMahan

A number of our residents have had problems resulting from Lexington's Parks and Recreation policies on Masterson Station Park. I want to provide you with some background information. In 1972 Masterson Station Park was transferred to Lexington under a federal government program to provide excess federal land to cities for parks. The following activities were included in the original plan for the park: family and group picnicking; a playfield in the "designated area" (on the west side of the park adjacent to Leestown Rd.) for baseball, softball, and football; tennis courts; a golf course; overnight and day hiking; horseback riding trails; dog training; wildlife and nature study areas; scout camping; and recreation gardening. Few of these activities were developed. The park has been used for the following purposes: by the Lions Club for their yearly Lions Bluegrass Fair; a jump course for horseback riders; a public horseback riding program run by Parks and Recreation, which includes a riding program for persons with disabilities; picnicking at two picnic shelters; an inline hockey arena that is rarely in use; and a soccer complex for members of the Lexington Youth Soccer Association. Recently a public dog park has been added.

The deed from the National Park Service granting to Lexington the land which is now Masterson Station Park stipulated that park land not be leased to anyone except a governmental agency. Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) violated this restriction and leased the soccer area to the Lexington Youth Soccer Association (LYSA) in August of 1989. In February of 1994 the federal government sent a letter notifying LFUCG that it is illegal to lease park land to LYSA, but LYSA continued operation of the soccer complex and expanded its soccer complex under that lease. On Janu-

ary 23, 2001 the National Park Service again declared LFUCG's lease with LYSA to be illegal, requiring that it be cancelled within 45 days. In 2001 an agreement replacing the illegal lease was drafted. This agreement was approved by City Council last month.

Further expansion of the soccer complex has occurred the last 5 years. This recent expansion took place behind existing residences in Masterson Station. A large portion of the expanded complex is surrounded on three sides by homes in Masterson Station. The 'lease' with LYSA indicated that a 50 foot buffer between the soccer complex and the adjacent property was to be maintained. This area was not to be graded and would remain a buffer between the park and the adjoining property. LYSA violated its contract by extending its fields and constructing a road into the 50 ft. buffer by varying amounts ranging from 25' to 15' from the property line, causing conflict with neighboring homes. Residents have complained of excessive noise and garbage, trespassing on their property, and destruction of private property by LYSA members. Several years ago a park plan was developed which expanded the buffer between the residences and the LYSA fields to 100 ft. from the property line. To date nothing has been done to remove the soccer fields and the road or restore the buffer area.



Initially, no trespassing signs were posted around the soccer fields but were taken down due to complaints by the public. The soccer fields have been used for casual play by young children in our neighborhood and the general public as well as LYSA. LYSA and Parks and Recreation have now restricted access to LYSA members only to protect LYSA's investment in the park. They have hired off duty police to remove everyone other than casual walkers cutting across the fields, indicating that any other activities constitute destruction of LYSA's property. Several Masterson Station families were asked to vacate the soccer field area in May and have complained. I have asked two lawyers to comment on the right of the public to access land dedicated as a public park. Hank Graddy, Attorney at Law, researched the dedication of public parks and states: "The essence of dedication is that it shall be for the use of the public at large, that is, the general, unorganized public, and not for one person or a limited number of persons, or for the exclusive use of restricted groups of individuals." Mike Rose, Attorney at Law, states, a) taxpayers have an investment in the park that also must be protected, i.e., the ability to use the park and b) LYSA's rights are subject to and limited by the right of the public to use the park.

The Masterson Station Neighborhood Association Board of Directors met with Parks and Recreation to discuss the concerns of our residents. I have asked for clarification on the trespassing issue by requesting that the public be informed of the specific statute or regulation and violation that a citizen may be charged with for playing or walking excessively on the soccer fields, and the penalty. We will continue to keep you informed on this issue as information becomes available.

HIGH SCHOOL REDISTRICTING

an editorial by Jennifer Richardson

Masterson Station will be redistricted from Paul Laurence Dunbar (“PLD”) to Bryan Station (“Station”) soon. It is to occur when the new Station high school is built, or upon a substantial completion. The expected completion of the new Bryan Station is December 2006. As parents we should be concerned about the redistricting for many reasons. The first and most important is that Station has not lived up to the federal “No Child Left Behind Act.” If you are unfamiliar with the federal law please refer to www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml.

As cited in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* on May 16, 2004, parents of children who will be attending Station in the fall of 2004 can request a transfer because Station has not met their goal for the past two years. “The school district must offer a parent a **minimum of two schools** . . . that have extra capacity and are relatively close to where the child lives. If so many students seek transfers to another school

that it overflows, the law says the school district **cannot deny** the transfer.” May 16, 2004, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, page C4

The school board can choose not to comply with the “No Child Left Behind Act” but if they do so they would lose thousands of dollars in federal monies.

The second most important reason we should be concerned is that PLD is considered one of the best high schools in the state and Station as one of the worst. Yes, PLD is overcrowded and Station is not, but if your child is going to school to receive an education and plans on attending college do you want them to go PLD or Station?. PLD test scores far exceed Station’s test scores and as a parent I would prefer my child to go to the better school, wouldn’t you? The statistics are clearly stated on the Fayette County School website (see www.fayette.k12.ky.us and click on “our schools; high schools” and then either PLD or Station): only 51% graduate and

go on to college from Station, 8.4% dropout at Station (the county average is only 3.3% — that is a difference of 5.10%) whereas, 76.8% graduate and go on to college from PLD. Furthermore, there is an Honors program offered at PLD but not Station. Which would you rather your child attend? We must gather as a community, come up with a plan and let the school board know that we want our children to receive the best education possible.

As a note, if your child is attending PLD this fall or in the school year 2005-2006 and the new Station is completed, your child is not assured to stay at PLD (see FCPS.net/redistricting). However, if the new Station is built and your child will be in their last two years at PLD they are eligible to continue at PLD.

If you would be interested in helping, have ideas, or comments please e-mail me at jenrichardson@insightbb.com.

Masterson Station Park Soccer Fields

by Bill Carmen, Associate Director of Lexington Parks and Recreation

The Masterson Station Park Soccer Complex has been leased by the Lexington Youth Soccer Association for fifteen years. LYSA has constructed the facilities, manages the program for 3000 youth and adult soccer players, and maintains the facilities. Over the last two or three years, the maintenance of the fields has increased by \$80,000 due to soccer field damage caused by unauthorized use of the facility. Additionally, the Division of Parks and Recreation has experienced a dramatic increase in complaints from neighbors concerned about illicit activities occurring in and around the facility. The Division of Parks and Recreation has taken a more active role in mitigating problems that have been occurring in and around the soccer complex in Masterson Station Park. The most notable problem has been the unauthorized use of the soccer complex by people who have no affiliation

with LYSA damaging the soccer fields and creating negative impacts on the adjacent neighbors such as after-hours noise, traffic and drinking. The Division has been working on two strategies to overcome the problems. As some of the unauthorized use of the soccer complex has originated with Lexington’s Latino and Hispanic community who are as passionate about soccer as Lexingtonians are about basketball, the Division is working with LYSA, the Hispanic Pastors Association, and other groups to assimilate these soccer players into existing soccer programs. This effort includes encouraging these folks to join LYSA, and locating and developing additional soccer field facilities in Lexington. The second strategy is to enforce current regulations regarding the soccer complex at Masterson. The Division of Parks and Recreation and LYSA

are partnering to fund an after-hours police presence in the complex. Uniformed officers are informing unauthorized soccer players (and other people who may be damaging the fields) of the regulations and distributing a printed flier suggesting other available soccer fields. Plain-clothes officers are investigating and arresting individuals who are using the area after hours for illegal and illicit activities. Additionally, Parks has begun mowing an expanded area at the end of the Meadow Valley sidewalk entrance to provide neighborhood children (and adults) a place to participate in informal field sports outside of the soccer complex. The two soccer fields near the front of the park are also available for informal play. LYSA and Parks are also designing a gate to block off the soccer complex after normal hours.

SIGNS in RIGHT of WAY

by Teresa Geyling

Lexington has a law prohibiting the use of public land and right of ways for signs and posters. This includes For Sale by Owner and Realtor Signs, Open House Signs, and Fliers posted on poles. Due to this policy in the city of Lexington, and to maintain the overall value of our neighborhood, the property manager of Masterson Station will remove these signs from the main entrance, and any other "public" or neighborhood property. Un-



derstanding For Sale by Owners rely heavily on these signs, and the potential positive influence sales in our neighborhood have on property values, For Sale and Open House signs will be

left in place from 9am Friday to 9am Monday. Any signs left in public space on Monday at 9am will be removed and disposed of. Please pass this information along to your realtors as well, so they understand what will happen to their signs. For other information you might include on a poster, such as missing pets, we will be installing a new neighborhood sign at the main entrance that can be used for those items on a limited basis.

Masterson Station Neighborhood Association, Inc. 2004 Budget

	Jan - Dec 04
Income	
Income	
Late Charge	1,800.00
Maintenance Fee	33,500.00
Newsletter Advertising	120.00
Total Income	35,420.00
Total Income	35,420.00
Gross Profit	35,420.00
Expense	
Administrative	
Dues & Subscriptions	30.00
Insurance	2,500.00
Legal	2,400.00
Management	9,470.00
Newsletter	1,500.00
Office & Postage	3,600.00
Special Projects	4,000.00
Taxes	30.00
Total Administrative	23,530.00
Maintenance & Repairs	
Groundskeeping	6,000.00
Irrigation	370.00
Landscaping	2,100.00
Lighting & Electrical	600.00
Total Maintenance & Rep...	9,070.00
Utilities	
Electric	500.00
Water	400.00
Total Utilities	900.00
Total Expense	33,500.00
Net Income	1,920.00

Neighborhood Burglary

On April 24th, around the 400-block of Lemon Drop Lane there were several reported burglaries. The burglaries also included property damage to at least one vehicle. There were two bags of, what appears to be, stolen items found next to a house in this same area. If you were a victim of these burglaries and want to claim these items, please contact Tammy Satterly @ 333-7495 and describe the items to her.

US 421 Bridge to be Replaced in 2005

By Jeff Crab

It's a little early, but something everyone needs to be aware of. The bridge on Leestown Road between Clyde Street and Price Road will be replaced next year. From late March 2005 until no later than November 1, 2005 the road will be closed to thru traffic. For more information check out www.us421.ky.gov.

MASTERTON STATION NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Phone: 859-263-7681
Fax: 859-264-1112
E-mail: manager@mastersonstation.org
Website: www.mastersonstation.org

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Announcing . . .

This year's neighborhood Fall sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th. The Association will advertise the sale in the Lexington Herald Leader, and post signs at the entrance of the neighborhood.

Couples Card Group

Are you interested in helping form or join a Couples Card Group? If you want to play a friendly game of Euchre, Bridge, Pinochle, or Dominoes with neighbors without having to leave Masterson Station, please call Fran Samuelson at 381-0922 so that she can compile a list of interested neighbors and their game preferences.

Services Offered

Childcare

2 eleven year olds willing to babysit. Call Shanoah and Chelsea @ 252-7793 or email to walton321@msn.com.

Two girls who are Red Cross Certified in babysitting, ages 13 and 14. Call 225-2627 or email Diane at DianeO-mite@yahoo.com

House Cleaning

Call Janice 389-8188 or Glenda 268-0888 We are working with several of your neighbors and would like to expand our business. We have only a few openings so call now and set up an appointment.

Current Resident or
Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4

Newsletter advertising:

On the website or in the newsletter, contact Jeff Crabb 252-5497 or webmaster@mastersonstation.org.

Childcare Services Needed

Eight week old infant, starting in December, for 4 - 5 days per week, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Contact kevinchristah@netzero.com.

Care for two children, ages 6 & 8, 2 or 3 days a week, before school (6:15 AM to 7:30 AM) and after school (3:45 PM to 4:30 or 4:45 PM). Call 252-9352.

Looking for someone to switch a day of babysitting with me. Need care for 2 boys, ages 3 & 1 year, one day a week. Contact Robdae@msn.com.

Three year old girl, 2 days a week. Contact acmelrose@alltel.net.

Fourteen month old, 1-2 days a week, starting in August. Must be a non-smoker. Contact Alecia @ 255-8869 or umberger@copper.net.

Seven-week old baby. Contact Michael Powers @ 489-4735



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