

The History of Meadowthorpe
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This brief history of Meadowthorpe Neighborhood was compiled by committee members from the Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association. We wish to thank all of those who made any contributions to this project.

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On October 13, 1949, Meadowthorpe Subdivision, Section 1, consisting of 158 lots, was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. H.R. Taylor was the owner, and it contained three streets running perpendicular to Leestown Road: Glendale and Hillsboro Avenues and Boiling Springs Drive.

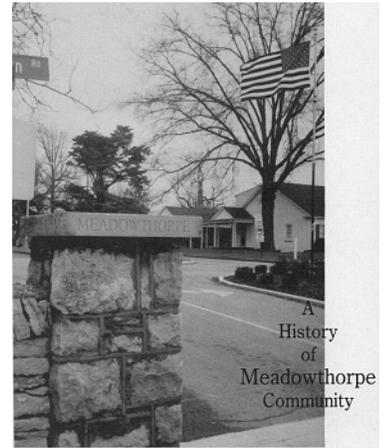
The name Meadowthorpe, preceded the subdivision by a hundred years . It was the name of a well-known stock farm owned by Jacob Hostetter. A two-story Greek revival house was built on the property around 1849. After his death in 1886, the farm was sold to William H. Cheppu. A story in the Lexington Transcript, 1891, referred to him as a well-known bookmaker. On April 28, 1892, in order to pay off an overdraft of \$32,000, he sold it to Col. James E. Pepper, owner of the Pepper Distillery. At that time there were 222 acres on the north side of Leestown Pike. The price of \$275 per acre was the highest that had ever been received for a bluegrass farm. If Pepper had followed through on his original intentions, a magnificent castle , would have been built on the property. Instead, he remodeled and enlarged the existing house, and added a new front gable inscribed with the name, date Meadowthorpe 1892. A picture of the home today is displayed in the main dining room of McDonald's restaurant located at 1620 Leestown Road.

In 1898 the estate was deeded to Pepper's wife, but after his accidental death in 1906 it was acquired by Dr. Samuel H. Halley, president/general manager of Fayette Tobacco Warehouse. He and his family lived there at least through the 1920's. Their home was the scene of many gala parties.

The first airport serving Lexington was located on this property, the hanger was located at what is now Boiling Springs Drive, between lots 200 and 204. It opened in the summer of 1927 with World War I ace Ted Kincannon as manager. Charles A. Lindbergh, famous for his non-stop flight from Long Island to Paris, France, in May 19, 1927. Mr. Lindbergh made arrangements with Kincannon to land there on March 28, 1928, with the stipulation that his arrival be kept secret. A 17 -year-old boy, Melvin Rhorer, was recruited to mark the field with a 100-foot limestone circle so it could be seen from the air. Melvin spent the night in the plane to guard it, while Lindbergh visited a friend, Dr. Scott D. Breckinridge. The secret leaked out, next morning close to 3,000 people watched the plane take off. Since the field was only a level pasture surrounded by trees and telephone wires, that was not an easy feat even for Lindbergh.

Halley Field continued to be used for a while after a municipal airport (the first in Kentucky) was built on Newtown Pike, but it was abandoned in 1934. Swope Loughridge, manager of Halley Field in 1929, says that the rent there was \$100 a month, and the Newtown Pike location was considerably cheaper .

The Halley family had ties to the 500 acre farm on the opposite side of Leestown Road, where the Meadowthorpe Shopping Center occupied by Winn Dixie was constructed in 1989. Mr. Rufus Lisle, a prominent farmer who bred and raced thoroughbreds, acquired the property which he named "Lisland" about 1870. The original house burned in



*Lexington, Kentucky
1991*

1899, eight years after his death. His widow replaced it with the house which was owned by the Lisle Family until the development of the shopping center. Famous winning horse Macbeth II was a part of the Lisland stables.

The Sharkey family owned land on all sides of the present Leestown-Route 4 interchange, including the land now occupied by Meadowthorpe Elementary School. Barns were on the site of the present Evans house at 281 Taylor Drive. The two unmarried Sharkey sisters lived in a large house. A smaller house behind with a tin roof, was occupied by three Sharkey bachelor brothers. Most of the house was torn down for the highway interchange, the brothers insisted that their new house which replaced it, also should have a tin roof. During the 1930's they sold and delivered milk to families in the area.

Glenn Greathouse remembers sitting on a stone fence at his home on Leestown Road watching it being widened to two lanes in the early 1930's starting with the Southern Railroad overhead viaduct. His family later lived at the corner of Leestown and Viley Pike.

Curtis Willmott's, Boiling Springs Farm adjoined Meadowthorpe Farm and extended all the way to Greendale Road. The farm was later sold to his brothers, John and George Willmott. When Hugh Taylor bought John's acreage, there was a pond at what is now the intersection of Forbes and Boiling Springs. When the subdivision was established, nothing was supposed to be constructed on that site. Prof. L.J. Horlacher of U. K., warned his daughter, Helen Evans, "it is not good to build houses over springs". Mr. Taylor enjoyed fishing in that pond, and on one occasion gave Horace and Lucille Gray a fresh mess of catfish that he had caught there.

The Taylors were later persuaded to convert John Willmott's farm into a country club, which was named Boiling Springs. It later became Spring Valley, and then Spring Lake. Until the club was actually chartered, H.R. and Leona Taylor lived in the main residence on the farm. Later the Taylors occupied the Meadowthorpe mansion for a number of years.

H.R. Taylor worked the Meadowthorpe land as farm land, Mark Penrod was farm manager. When the land began to be sold for building lots in 1949, a logical name choice for the first street was Boiling Springs.

Construction and laying of streets began in 1949, with attention being given to the principle that good housing should be back some distance from the highway. Trees were preserved as far as possible, and more planted from Hillenmeyer's Nursery. Some street signs, of poured concrete, still stand. All houses were to be built of brick, but exceptions for a few to be built of field stone, and detached wood garages at each house were built for the cost of \$150.00.

The first house, built from stones of Meadowthorpe Farm's fences, is at 212 Boiling Springs Drive. The second house, at 220 Boiling Springs, went to Frank Pieratt. The third house, 208, was built in 1950 and sold to O.H. "Shine" and Maureen Mauser. Kitty and James W. "Bud" Thornton, who was Hugh Taylor's bookkeeper, moved into 245 Boiling Springs that same year.

It was still rural living. All the mailboxes were on Leestown Road, the nearest grocery store was at Broadway and Short Streets. The landscape was still one of bams, pigeons, cows, and other livestock. In fact, Mrs. Mauser tells how her daughter Winnie, home with the measles the following spring, amused herself by counting the pigs she could see from her bedroom window. The stripping room of the barn which once stood at 281 Taylor Drive is still in use as a garage at 285 Taylor.

The Sunday Herald Leader for March 10, 1950, stated that in 1950 more home building permits were issued by Building Inspector James L. Shea's office than were issued during the spring of any of the past nine years. As an example, the paper showed many pictures of houses being built in Meadowthorpe. The new subdivision was developing rapidly, although there was still no telephone or bus service. Door-to-door mail delivery was not started until November 10, 1951.

Bill and Viola Shirley's house at 241 Boiling Springs was started April 10, 1950, and finished in July. Maureen Mauser recalls that digging, sawing, and nailing was going on 24 hours a day." Often residents would look out in the morning and realize that sometime during the night a basement had been dug. That was the year that the second street Hillsboro, was opened, and what was perhaps the first of many moves within the subdivision took place. The Thorntons sold their house on Boiling Springs to the Samuel Tabors and moved to Hillsboro. It was fortunate that their move was made in the fall, because there were periods in the winter of that year when nothing could move for days at a time. Mrs. Mauser states that at one point the wind had blown a wall of snow more than six feet high in front of their house.

Hillsboro actually was a hill. The 300 block was graded off to make it less steep. A number of the other streets were named for associates of Hugh Taylor; Forbes for Kermith Forbes, his partner; Burke for County Commissioner Dudley J. Burke. Pepper Drive was named for Col. James E. Pepper. One of Mr. Taylor's favorite actors, Wallace Beery, was buried in Glendale Cemetery in California the day the streets were being named, so "Glendale" was selected for one of them. Larch Lane was named for the larch trees in the area. Trees in the subdivision are of so many varieties that autumn colors now are spectacular.

Taylor Drive was opened in 1951, Forbes and Burke in 1952, and Leestown, running parallel to Leestown Road, in 1953. The 1952 Lexington City Directory listed Boiling Springs, Glendale, Hillsboro, Meadowthorpe, and Taylor, with many addresses given as under construction. The 1953 Directory shows one address (the Meadowthorpe Sales Office) on Burke nothing on Forbes. Forbes Road extended only from Boiling Springs to just beyond Taylor. On Larch Lane 14 homes were listed as under construction. Meadowthorpe had already become a community with the Meadowthorpe Homemakers Club established that year.

Townley Drive, the last street opened, had the first house built in 1954. The early residents on Townley had to walk to Boiling Springs to pick up their mail from rural roadside boxes. The 1955 City Directory was the first that listed residents on all the streets of Meadowthorpe.

Probably the first office in Meadowthorpe was that of the builders; Forbes and Taylor, who moved from 755 East Third Street to 361 Boiling Springs Drive. The first office on Forbes, listed in the 1954 City Directory, was also that of Forbes and Taylor. That office and the residence of Jimmy Derrick were the only buildings on Forbes at that time.

In response to a petition from the residents, the first hydrants were installed in the sub-division in 1952. Joe Evans, an insurance agent and resident, circulated the petition. In 1960 the Leestown Road Fire Station was located on the south side of the road, with a brand-new 1961 fire engine.

The first unit of the Meadowthorpe Commercial Business Center was approved in 1952. The first commercial building was constructed by Hugh Taylor, then bought by H.R. Taylor, Jr. and James W. Thornton, Sr. They later sold it to R.T. Jordan. The first store to open at the Meadowthorpe shopping center was the Leestown Pike Liquor Store owned by Hugh Taylor's son Jack. The store featured liquor from the Pepper Distillery, along with Old Fitzgerald, Calvert Reserve, and J.W. Dant. The remaining space was rented to other businesses, Dunn Brothers decorators; James H. Maffett, electrical contractor; Frankfort Kentucky Natural Gas Company; Commercial Printing Company; Breeders Supply & Equipment Company; Charles C. Shields, Accountant; Laval Cleaners ; The Little Shop, selling children's clothing; and Lawrence Drugs.

By 1954 a number of other businesses had been added; Bryant's service station; Meadowthorpe Mart furniture store; Nathan R. Garrison's real estate; Robert W.Hester's barber shop; Gail's Super Market; Hinson, Shields, & Tuttle, accountants; Modern Electric Company; Meadowthorpe Beauty Shop; and Meadowthorpe 5and10 cent store. Across the road were the Black Angus and the Blue Ox Restaurants, Meadowthorpe Service Station, and the R.M. Coons farm store, which later became the Leestown Road Hardware Store under the ownership of Frank Dicken. In 1955 Austin's Kentucky Food Store had superseded Gail's, and Kelly Dairy shared the address of

Garrison Real Estate. Hinson, Shields & Tuttle had moved to Forbes, and although several addresses there were still vacant, a number of businesses and offices had moved in. The Lexington & Fayette County Tuberculosis Association; the Meadowthorpe Barber Shop; Estes & Company food brokers; Hiles Upholstery; Heilbron Matthews Company; and Dr. L.E. Barker, dentist were added to make the area a vital shopping area.

Later additions along Leestown which remain in business today were the office of Dr. Bernard D. Cebelak, chiropractor; the Thoroughbred restaurant; and Citizens Bank (now Bank One). Others in the 60's that have since moved to other locations were Dr. Ted D. Ballard, family practitioner; a shoe repair shop; a gun and locksmith; and a music store selling pianos and organs and giving lessons. A branch post office operated out of various businesses at different times, the last location being in the shoe repair shop.

Danceland, on Old Frankfort Pike near what is now South Forbes Road, was a very popular night spot in the 40's and 50's. South Forbes, an extension of the street in Meadowthorpe, was not cut through from Leestown to Versailles Road until 1958.

Familiar people in the neighborhood during the early days were Leslie Shores, the mover; Jack Courtney; Bev Reed, who did all the clean-up for Taylor, lived at the corner of Leestown and Burke Roads. The uncle of "Big John" Travis, Col. Redd, who used to be grand marshal of all the local parades, lived in Meadowthorpe.

Hugh Taylor, with his dog, may have been the most interesting person. He could usually be found at Bill and Bob's on East 3rd Street around noon every day. When Ralph Kessinger approached him about buying a lot and having a house built in 1954, he said, "I don't fool with the G.I. Bill-takes too long to get your money". When Ralph replied that he couldn't finance it any other way, Taylor said, "we're opening up a new street, Larch. I'll show you your house in a few days". He did agree to sign a contract with Kessinger, although in 1953 he had refused to make a formal contract with Joseph Evans, saying, "You can either take it or leave it when it's done." The houses built by Taylor are still considered among the best in the neighborhood and in Lexington.

The appendix lists everyone who lived in Meadowthorpe at the beginning of 1955. See how many of these names are still familiar. A large number of these early residents still occupy their original homes. Others have moved many times within or in and out of the subdivision. As an example, Betty and Marion Hubbard, during their years in Kentucky, lived at six different addresses in Meadowthorpe; Bob and Betty Hester had seven.

Meadowthorpe residents were originally in the Greendale voting district, and the voting booth was in an open garage at the corner of Leestown and Boiling Springs, with an oil heater for warmth. Some of the early precinct officers were Jane Morris, Rodney Dennis, and Katherine Thornton.

There were many children in the subdivision, and they did many things together. In the early 50's children of Meadowthorpe held benefit talent shows for polio research. One was at the home of Sheila Keller, 325 Boiling Springs Drive. A play, "The Queen Is Coming", was held in the Thorntons' garage August 21, 1952, for the benefit of Cardinal Hill Convalescent Home, with the following cast:

Susan Kay Estes, 5 years old, 225 Boiling Springs
Joyce and Jim Derrick, 10 and 13, 261 Boiling Springs
Diane Shirley, 5, 241 Boiling Springs -"2";:
Jim and Mary Gray Thornton, 12 and 9, 268 Hillsboro cl,
David Otis, 13, 236 Hillsboro '::
Joan Slucher, 10, 235 Boiling Springs
Jean Wesley, 9, 261 Taylor

Another play, "The Helping Children", raised \$100 for Cardinal Hill through the sale of candy, Kool-Aid, popcorn and balloons. A variety show, charging a penny admission, raised \$1.03 for the benefit of Meadowthorpe's own playground.

The Meadowthorpe Recreation Committee was organized in February 1954, after Hugh Taylor donated three acres at the end of Larch Lane to be used for a playground. In April the Fayette County Playground and Recreation Board purchased eight adjacent acres so as to provide adequate space for softball, baseball, and other field activities in addition to the regular play area. The purchase price of \$7,000 was to be paid off at the rate of \$1,000 per year in rent. The County Board was to pay the rent and supply leadership and general supervision.

The Meadowthorpe Committee was to provide equipment, supplies, improvements and maintenance of the grounds. It was composed of Jane Morris and Ben L. Kessinger, Co-Chairmen; Sam Tabor, Finance Chairman; Harold Maffett, Facilities and Program Chairman; James A. Piper, Grounds Chairman; and K.E. Forbes, Katherine W. Thornton, Julia T. Irvin, Mrs. Vernon Winkler, and Betty Piper, members at large. A boosters' group called the Mothers' Club was organized to raise funds, recruit workers, and support the program.

The playground opened June 7, 1954, with a formal dedication July 19. Activities were scheduled from 10 am to 8:30 pm five days a week, under the supervision of Miss Audrey Hardin and Louie Mack of the Fayette County Schools. By this time, residents of the community had contributed \$1,288.13 to furnish equipment for the grounds, and were presented with a plaque of appreciation by the Fayette County Fiscal Court. Continuing hard work and support from the Committee, along with financial help from the Lions Club and labor donated by interested men in the community, developed the playground so impressively that in 1957 the Committee received a national citation for their outstanding service in promoting recreation. Because of the Committee's abilities and efforts and the community's obvious need for winter leisure-time facilities, the County Playground and Recreation Board then mortgaged the property and constructed the Meadowthorpe Recreation Center. Peyton Horton of 243 Pepper Drive has kept his copy of the dedication program, which lists the participants as follows:

Master of Ceremonies Julian R. Walker
Invocation Rev. Tony Tucker, Welcome Bernie A. Shively. Special Groups-County Recreation Board Members, Recreation Staff, Fiscal Court, School Board, Recreation Committee Chairmen, Speakers Dan Fowler, Judge Bart Peak. Betsy A. Burke, Dedication of Center Bernie Shively. Response Samuel Long, Jr. NRA Award, Meadowthorpe Committee. Mrs. A.D. Kirwan, NRA Sponsor Benediction Meeting, Women's committee, Mrs. Claude Trapp.

That was a year of other beginnings; Felix Memorial Baptist Church, under the leadership of the Rev. John Wallace, began a mission which met at 1479 Leestown Road. About the same time, Presbyterians began to meet in the barber shop owned by Edd Hester and his son Bob in the Meadowthorpe shopping center. From there they moved to the small house which had been Hugh Taylor's original office, in the 300 block of Boiling Springs Drive. A seminary student, Thornton "Tony" Tucker, served as their pastor. The Baptist congregation employed the Rev. Clayton Garland.

Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church was officially organized in February, 1955; Meadowthorpe Baptist's official organization, with 17 charter members, took place at the June, 1955, meeting of the Elkhorn Baptist Association. The Presbyterians purchased the lot on which their temporary building stood, with enough adjoining land to accommodate future construction. With Meadowthorpe expected to include the Boiling Springs Golf Course and extend all the way to Greendale Road or beyond as it continued to develop, it was anticipated that this location, would place the church near the geographic center of the subdivision, accessible from all sides. Even though the Baptist Church had not yet bought property, it was undoubtedly a shock to both congregations, as well as to the rest of the community, to learn later that year that a belt line was to be built around the city just beyond Penrod Drive, which would end the growth of Meadowthorpe.

The news was so hard to believe that Marion Hubbard went to the Highway Department in Frankfort to see if it was really true. In Frankfort he heard that the belt line was part of the incentive given to International Business Machines to locate in Lexington. IBM began hiring that year. Being cut off from future expansion was a disappointment, but it may have been a blessing in disguise. Accepting the inevitable, Meadowthorpe residents also decided that they did not want to be directly connected to the heavy traffic of New Circle Road at any point. When trucks tried to use Taylor Drive as an access road while the belt line was being constructed, residents went out in the street and intercepted them. The result of this containment was a close-knit neighborhood with a small-town flavor, accessible only from Leestown Road. The IBM employees who moved into it have contributed in many ways toward making Meadowthorpe the good community that it is.

The churches also benefited from their participation. The Presbyterian second building was completed in 1960. The Baptist congregation, having moved first to 245 Boiling Springs Drive, then to the park recreation center, purchased land from Hugh Taylor at the far end of Larch Lane and held services until 1964 in a concrete block building which had been used by Mr. Taylor as a carpentry shop. The men of the church, who did all of the interior work on the church, dedicated the building on November 29, 1964. The Rev. Larry Hart was called to be their pastor in the spring of 1969.

At first Meadowthorpe children attended Linlee Elementary School at the intersection of Greendale and Georgetown roads. Then Leestown was built, and that became their elementary school. While Leestown was under construction, children attended classes for several months in various churches around the city. The new building was first occupied on January 20, 1958.

Leestown Elementary School became a junior high school in the fall of 1960 when the new Meadowthorpe Elementary School was built on land purchased from the Willmott family, between Taylor Drive and New Circle Road at the end of Forbes. Mrs. Henrietta Harris, who had been principal of Leestown Elementary, then became principal at Meadowthorpe. The 1960 building did not have a cafeteria, so students went home for lunch or brought sack lunches to eat in their classrooms.

The children's first Christmas in the Meadowthorpe School found snow and cold weather canceled Fayette County classes the last day of school before the holidays, resulting in the cancellation of their planned class Christmas parties. As 284 of the 386 children were walkers, home room mothers hastily used their homes for the parties and offered transportation to the other 102 children who rode school buses, all with the cooperation of Mrs. Harris. Even a predominantly walking school had problems with snow days!

Mrs. Harris always came to school "dressed up", wearing jewelry, because the children seemed to appreciate it. She was probably personally acquainted with all of them. A very active and supportive PTA was one of the advantages of its being a neighborhood school. Programs, including one in which Mrs. Harris danced the Charleston, were lively and well-attended, and a very successful carnival has been held every fall.

By 1968 a tradition had developed in which the graduating sixth-graders all brought squirt guns to school the last day and used them as a friendly gesture of farewell. When some of them attempted the same ritual at Leestown the following year, one of the boys was surprised when a teacher did not realize that he had "shot" her only because he liked her. "I don't know why she was upset", he said after she complained to his mother. "Last year I shot the teacher, the principal, and the librarian. None of them had complained to anyone".

Just as Meadowthorpe residents have always joined together to promote the good things even from such simple pleasures as blocking off Taylor Drive after a big snow so both adults and children could go sledding, they have banded together to fight off threats to their community with equal vigor. Some of them rode around the subdivision in sound trucks in 1954 urging people to oppose annexation by the city. When it was proposed again some years later, the citizens again organized to oppose it, believing that taxes would be raised immediately, but city services would be slow in coming. They successfully prevented the construction of high rise low-income housing which was

proposed for the vacant section between Taylor Drive and the belt line. They brought pressure on the city government to eliminate odors from the dump. They even declined some favors, such as the offer of a zoo at the park. A Mr. McMeekin offered to donate all the animals if we would take them. Residents said, No, Thanks very emphatically. Neighborhood meetings, held in the school or one of the churches, were called whenever a matter of concern to the community came up. The Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association was not organized until July, 1982, the groundwork for it had been laid long before.

On July 25 forty-two people met at Meadowthorpe Baptist Church and voted unanimously to form an association. The first action of the group was a petition for improvement of the shopping center. The next meeting was attended by 100 residents with Mayor Scotty Baesler, and Councilman Tom Fields also attending. Problems concerning the shopping center, streets, sidewalks, parking, lights, trees, and use of the park were discussed. A constitution was adopted, and the following officers elected:

President-Louie Mack, Vice President-Howard Orme, Secretary-Maude Dryden, Treasurer-Kitty Thornton
The first newsletter, edited by Priscilla Brooks, came out in October, 1982 and was distributed by thirteen street representatives, who had volunteered also to relay suggestions and information from their neighbors to the Association. It reported that the Association had already been instrumental in getting new street lights and new blacktop for Taylor and Penrod Drives; getting the grass cut in front of the shopping center and the park area monitored by the police after dark; and getting a promise of the Mayor's help in improving conditions in the back of the shopping center.

The association has been invaluable as a liaison between the community and the city-county government.

Research revealed that the stone wall between Leestown highway and the street by that name was an old one which had been built by slaves, and was the responsibility of the city, so arrangements were made for its repair.

The Association has sponsored community wide observances of Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Fourth of July. The Baptist and Presbyterian congregations, under pastors Clayton Garland and Ned Hollandsworth, had held joint Thanksgiving services with fellowship afterward for a number of years. The Neighborhood Association sponsored community Thanksgiving services from 1983 to 2001. Meadowthorpe has twice won the contest for best float in the city's Fourth of July parade and also sponsored a children's parade through the neighborhood. The Association has distributed flags to be placed in front of each home on the 4th and Luminaries to be lit on Christmas Eve. It has also given prizes for the best outdoor Christmas decorations and parties at the park with Santa.

The Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Utilities Company in 1982 chose Meadowthorpe as one of the areas for a tree-planting project, removing those interfering with power lines and replacing them with low-growing varieties. Five years later, trees were given free to any individual who wanted to plant one on his property. Also in 1982, Hillenmeyer Nurseries donated flowers for planting at the Boiling Springs entrance, and citizens volunteered their time to plant and care for them.

Meadowthorpe has always been blessed with a number of residents who knew the proper and most effective channels for getting things done. All have benefited from the work of active groups such as the Optimists and Homemakers Clubs, and individuals such as our county commissioners and state representatives. The remarks usually heard, though, in response to any problem or need, are not, "I wish they would do something about it" but rather "We need to do something about it." Our organization, from the beginning, has been supported entirely by dues, which are actually voluntary contributions solicited once a year. It has also received gifts of money from Winn-Dixie, from Councilmen Tom Fields and Richard Moloney. Donations from other nearby neighbors have

supported many worthwhile projects. Improvements to the Community Center have come about through gifts of labor and materials such as that of Jenkins Electric Company, which installed the lights there.

The Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association has sponsored community wide garage sales and clean-up days. Funds have been collected to help families with unusual medical bills.

A service road built behind the shopping center now named Antique Drive, and a flag pole, bought by the Association, was installed at the main entrance of the subdivision. The organization has supported zoning changes on the south side of Leestown Road to allow construction of a new Winn-Dixie supermarket, and to allow residential, but not industrial development, beyond Viley Road. The last possible residential development within the beltline had taken place several years ago with the construction of the apartment complex, Westchester Apartments.

The merger of the city and county governments January 1, 1974 resolved the annexation question and brought sewers, street lights, and city garbage pick-up to Meadowthorpe. A banquet was held November 13, 1986, for all who had lived in Meadowthorpe 25 years or longer with 90 people attending. Many of these had occupied the same house during that entire time. But at the same time, some of our longer-term residents began to sell their homes and move to retirement housing. Others are staying or moving into Meadowthorpe for their retirement years. A very lively group of our older residents were honored at the Association meeting September 17, 1987. Meadowthorpe contains a mixture of all ages. A third generation is now growing up here. There are even a few children whose great-grandparents lived in Meadowthorpe. Many children have grown up here and stayed, or moved away and returned. Children who attended Meadowthorpe Elementary School are now leaders of its PTA.

Even those in rental housing are a relatively stable population. Some become future home owners in the neighborhood. Some home owners move to apartments when the household becomes smaller or maintenance chores become too arduous, but remain in Meadowthorpe. Still others have never owned homes, but have rented the same living quarters for years. Vacancies are usually filled very quickly without advertising.

Meadowthorpe has never been an insular community. With IBM (standing for "I've Been Moved"), the Veterans' Hospital, and the former "NARCO" (Federal Narcotics Hospital) now FCI (Federal Corrections Institute) nearby, people from many parts of the country have been transferred in and out. People with careers in education, medicine, and the military service have moved from one location to another, with Meadowthorpe as a temporary or permanent stop. Although many residents grew up in Lexington or smaller towns in Kentucky, there have always been people from many geographic backgrounds making up the mixture of business and professional people who compose the Meadowthorpe community. Since Leestown Road leads directly to Frankfort, people working in the state government have sometimes chosen to live in Meadowthorpe and commute. From time to time residents needing larger or smaller living quarters have had to find them outside of Meadowthorpe. Friendships have endured many years. The Meadowthorpe Bridge Club began in 1952 and is still going strong. Undoubtedly there are many other groups that are just as durable. As Maureen Mauser says, "Meadowthorpe friends are the best!"