



MEADOWTHORPE MESSENGER

Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association, 333 Larch Lane

Website: www.mnalex.org; E-mail: mnalexky@gmail.com

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"In the Spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside 24 hours." -- Mark Twain

Submissions for the *Meadowthorpe Messenger* must be sent by the 15th of the month to meadowthorpemessenger@gmail.com.

To receive an electronic copy of the Messenger, please send your e-mail address to meadowthorpemessenger@gmail.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 – Social half-hour at 6:30 p.m. Get to know your neighbors and enjoy refreshments! Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Special guest speaker Fayette County Attorney, Larry Roberts.

June General Membership Meeting: Tuesday June 14th, 2016 – Social half-hour at 6:30 p.m. Get to know your neighbors and enjoy refreshments! Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Derby Day: Saturday May 7th, 2016

Mayfest Arts Fair at Gratz Park: Saturday May 7th, 2016 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mother's Day: Sunday May 8th, 2016

Senator Reggie Thomas's birthday: May 20th!

MEADOWTHORPE CHILDREN DESIGN SLOW DOWN SIGNS AND PAINT BUTTERFLY HOUSES

If you've ventured through the Kenwick, Castlewood or North Limestone neighborhoods recently, you've likely noticed colorful signs in residents' yards reminding drivers to slow down, that there are children at play, or the speed limit. These signs catch your attention because they are different than the signs we usually see along our roads. They are hand painted by neighbors of all ages and are not uniform in size. Each one is unique!

We're excited to announce that we brought this project, along with building and painting butterfly house to Meadowthorpe on April 23. Visit www.mnalex.org/recent-news to read the full story, which was written after this newsletter went to print. We would like to thank Traci Letcher and Amy Steele for putting on this exciting activity.

NEIGHBORS STAY IN THE KNOW

The newly redesigned MNA website is a great resource to stay up to date with local happenings and neighborhood announcements in between newsletters. Visit www.mnalex.org.

"Like" Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/www.mnalex.org.

SECOND DISTRICT EVENT

Since taking office more than three years ago, Councilmember Akers has wanted to host a community festival/picnic that would better connect the neighborhoods and residents of the 2nd District. That plan has finally come to fruition and she is excited to share the first-ever **2nd District Fall Festival**, is scheduled for **Sunday, September 25th, from 1-5 p.m. at Masterson Station Park**. Plans for this free family event include inflatables for children, games for adults, food, drinks, music and opportunities to get to know your neighbors at a fun, relaxing neighborhood picnic.

Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association has agreed to be the fiscal agent and help with planning the event. As with any large event, individual volunteers are still needed as well as groups to help with planning, fundraising and coordinating activities at the event. So far there have been two community organizational planning meetings and a non-profit is the fiscal agent, making all donations tax deductible. Councilmember Akers and her council aide Sharon Murphy thank everyone for their help and participation so far! Meadowthorpe looks forward to having a big showing at the event!

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

By: Erik Rust

This year's Meadowthorpe Yard Sale is set for Saturday June 6th, 8am to 4pm. To promote traffic to maximize the success of the sale we will be placing ads in the Lexington Herald-Leader, on Craigslist, and Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc). Please share the news through your regular Social Media outlets so that we may reach as many shoppers as possible. Signage will also be placed at neighborhood entrances to attract the attention of any passers-by.

If you are planning to hold a yard sale, please inform a member of the Executive Committee verbally or via e-mail (mnalexky@gmail.com). If we have a sense of which homes will participate we can design a visual map showing locations of sales to make for a very organized shop (and perhaps a nice tour map to neighborhood newcomers).

No matter how strange or unseemly you may believe your items to be there is likely a buyer out there. With the advent of social media and our continued ability to connect with one another through the internet the public is as attuned to yard sale hunting as ever. If you have items to sell but do not wish to hold your own yard sale, please try to partner up with your neighbors. Don't miss out on the fun and the chance to make a couple of extra bucks and downsize your unused or out-of-date belongings.

We will try to have large bins on hand from the city for unwanted items as we did last year. Year's past have also seen BBQ, bake sales, hot dog and lemonade stands, and are always encouraged. Should you have any homemade canned sauces or other food products this would also be a great chance to introduce them to new tasters. As beautiful and full of character as our neighborhood is this year's sale should prove to be a smashing success. Happy Selling!

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Musings from the President for May

By Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association President Jim Capillo



I sit to write this after the April meeting but before the Board of Adjustment hearing on the Republic Transfer Station. Unfortunately, you are reading this after the hearing, so you know what happened, and I do not.

The MNA meeting this month was very informative, in my opinion.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government staff came and discussed a number of things that they do. But, more importantly, they discussed a number of things they cannot do. Once a conditional use is granted, they cannot recommend closing it down unless there is a violation of the conditions contained in the grant. Unfortunately, being a good neighbor is not one of those conditions. Nor is don't commit crimes or allow crimes to be committed. That is why the planning staff will not be able to help us with the recent gunfire situation at Royal Lounge. Luckily, law enforcement (Kentucky Alcohol Beverage Commission officers) may be able to work on that.

The lesson is that we, as neighbors, need to fight unwanted conditional uses BEFORE they are granted. I am told that of the many local government agencies, the Board of Adjustment is one of the most responsive to the concerns of just plain folks. So, if the Board of Adjustment did not grant the conditional use for Republic to build a transfer station, it is because we (just plain folks) made our voices heard.

We did it back in the 1980s when Winn Dixie wanted to move from the old location (the Goodwill store) across the street to the new location (Kroger). We filled the Urban County Council (another very responsive agency) chambers and they heard us and said yes, as we requested. We also did it a few years ago when there was an attempt to place a homeless shelter on the other side of the Southern Railway tracks.

If we did it again, good for us. If we didn't, we need to be prepared to do better the next time.

POP'S RESALE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

By: Dan "Pop" Shorr

It will be 20 years next month! Pop's Resale opened their door on May 22, 1996, and it has been a fantastic wild ride! Pop's Resale will be celebrating on **Saturday, May 21st** with a party. There will be free stuff, specials, and lunch! Everyone in the Meadowthorpe neighborhood is invited. Help Pop's celebrate 20 years!

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Dan "Pop" Shorr at 859-254-7677.

REPUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE

Republic Services has proposed a new waste transfer station at 203 Lisle Industrial Avenue. This property is currently zoned I-2 (heavy industrial), which allows a transfer station, but requires a conditional use permit. The hearing for this application will be held after the print date of this publication, so an update will be provided in the June *Meadowthorpe Messenger* as well as at the May 10th neighborhood association meeting.

SPRING PLANTING TIPS

Spring is in the air! And in spring we move our house chores from the inside to the outside. In the spirit of May, here are a few spring planting tips from Gardening Master Paul James, host of HCTV's *Gardening by the Yard*.

1. To remove the salt deposits that form on clay pots, combine equal parts white vinegar, rubbing alcohol and water in a spray bottle. Apply the mixture to the pot and scrub with a plastic brush. Let the pot dry before you plant anything in it.
2. To prevent accumulating dirt under your fingernails while you work in the garden, draw your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt can't collect beneath them. Then, after you've finished in the garden, use a nailbrush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.
3. To prevent the line on your string trimmer from jamming or breaking, treat with a spray vegetable oil before installing it in the trimmer.
4. Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.
5. To have garden twine handy when you need it, just stick a ball of twine in a small clay pot, pull the end of the twine through the drainage hole, and set the pot upside down in the garden. Do that, and you'll never go looking for twine again.
6. Little clay pots make great cloches for protecting young plants from sudden, overnight frosts and freezes.
7. To turn a clay pot into a hose guide, just stab a roughly one-foot length of steel reinforcing bar into the ground at the corner of a bed and slip two clay pots over it: one facing down, the other facing up. The guides will prevent damage to your plants as you drag the hose along the bed.
8. To create perfectly natural markers, write the names of plants (using a permanent marker) on the flat faces of stones of various sizes and place them at or near the base of your plants.
9. Got aphids? You can control them with a strong blast of water from the hose or with insecticidal soap. But here's another suggestion, one that's a lot more fun; get some tape! Wrap a wide strip of tape around your hand, sticky side out, and pat the leaves of plants infested with aphids. Concentrate on the undersides of leaves, because that's where the little buggers like to hide.
10. The next time you boil or steam vegetables, don't pour the water down the drain, use it to water potted patio plants, and you'll be amazed at how the plants respond to the "vegetable soup."
11. Use leftover tea and coffee grounds to acidify the soil of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and even blueberries. A light sprinkling of about one-quarter of an inch applied once a month will keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side.
12. Use chamomile tea to control damping-off fungus, which often attacks young seedlings quite suddenly. Just add a spot of tea to the soil around the base of seedlings once a week or use it as a foliar spray.
13. If you need an instant table for tea service, look no farther than your collection of clay pots and saucers. Just flip a good-sized pot over, and top it off with a large saucer. And when you've had your share of tea, fill the saucer with water, and your "table" is now a birdbath.
14. The quickest way in the world to dry herbs: just lay a sheet of newspaper on the seat of your car, arrange the herbs in a single layer, then roll up the windows and close the doors. Your herbs will be quickly dried to perfection. What's more, your car will smell great.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS AND COUPONS

Advertisements in the *Meadowthorpe Messenger* are printed at no charge for neighbors and neighborhood businesses per the MNA Ad Policy. These ads are printed as a service at the request of neighbors and do not imply a reference or endorsement by the MNA for any particular business or service person. Always seek your own references.

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Rom. 15:13 **Contact: 859-608-0847**

PET SITTING – Contact Meadowthorpe neighbor Edith Speaks at edithspeaks@twc.com or 388-9248.

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at 1432 N.Forbes rd, is home to Lily of the Valley Jewelry and Mudroot Pottery. Both artists work on site, with a showroom for shopping. Open M-F, 11-6 and Sat, 10-5. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see our "away days" for events such as Gratz Park Mayfest.