



# MEADOWTHORPE MESSENGER

Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association, 333 Larch Lane

Website: [www.mnalex.org](http://www.mnalex.org); E-mail: [mnalexky@gmail.com](mailto:mnalexky@gmail.com)

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*"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June." -- Al Bernstein*

*"Spring won't let me stay in the house any longer! I must get out and breathe the air deeply again." -- Gustav Mahler*

**Submissions for the *Meadowthorpe Messenger* must be sent by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to [meadowthorpemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:meadowthorpemessenger@gmail.com).**

To receive an electronic copy of the Messenger, please send your e-mail address to [meadowthorpemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:meadowthorpemessenger@gmail.com).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**June General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**– Social half-hour at 6:30 p.m. Get to know your neighbors and enjoy refreshments! Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker: Andi Johnson, Commerce Lexington registered lobbyist.

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** – Annual Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Yard Sale

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. - Midnight** – Festival of Hope at Masterson Station Park – Sundy Best and Bobby Perry Band will be performing

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.** – 2<sup>nd</sup> District Fall Festival at Masterson Station Park

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

*Musings from the President for May*

By: Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association President, Jim Capillo



At the May neighborhood association general membership meeting, Troy Lyons, owner of Landmark Landscaping (which is across the street from the Wyse Building), stated that he is considering asking for a ZOTA (Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment) for a flex space project in the I-2 zone for the Lisle Industrial Road area. The association agreed to give provisional support for his idea. I wanted to take the opportunity to explain what we did.

A text amendment allows certain additional uses in the zoned area. In addition to the uses permitted by the I-2 zone, the following uses would be permitted: schools; libraries; museums; art galleries; studios for work or teaching of fine arts, metal work, photography, dance, drama or theater; churches; private clubs; establishments for the retail sale of merchandise, food and food products (under 20,000 square feet); restaurants (under 4,000 square feet); offices; health clubs; athletic clubs; and spas.

In my personal opinion, it is a win/win situation. Any of the additional permitted uses authorized by the text amendment would tie Lisle Industrial Road closer to 75% of the areas surrounding it. There are schools, offices, retail sales, restaurants, and clubs within a stone's throw of the space. Approval of the amendment would build a bridge (rather than a dam) between Meadowthorpe and the Distillery District. However, it is provisional support, subject to review of the membership should the situation warrant it.

On a different topic, we have invited Andi Johnson, the Commerce Lexington registered lobbyist, to the June meeting. I am hoping she will share her insight about the process of getting action through the General Assembly as well as the actions that Commerce Lexington is pushing on the state and local level. Come and learn.

*Note: This month's newsletter will not contain advertisements, due to limited space.*

## **ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE**

By: Erik Rust

This year's Meadowthorpe Yard Sale is set for Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To promote traffic to maximize the success of the sale, we will be placing ads in the Lexington Herald-Leader, on Craigslist, and MNA's official Facebook page. 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 email (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. Please stay tuned to the MNA website and Facebook page to follow updates regarding the yard sale. We will try to have large bins on hand from the city for unwanted items as we did last year. Years past have also seen BBQ, bake sales, and hot dog and lemonade stands, which 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!

## **MEADOWTHORPE CHILDREN DESIGN SLOW DOWN SIGNS AND PAINT BUTTERFLY HOUSES**

By: Amy Steele (Pepper Drive)

On Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Meadowthorpe neighbors gathered at the community center to paint signs encouraging drivers to slow down on our roads. Twenty-three people showed up, representing eight households and seven neighborhood streets. Four of the children in attendance were aged two or under, three of which participated in the project as well! Fourteen signs are completed, and others are fully prepped. Look for them throughout the neighborhood!

In addition, Traci Letcher arranged for six butterfly houses to be painted and posted at Louie Mack Park. These were a great deal of fun for the children and will add a lovely touch to the landscape. Watch for them to be mounted on their posts soon!

Several children, with help from Maria Kenney (Burke Road) and myself, painted butterfly houses in conjunction with the neighborhood traffic signs on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bill Congleton (Glendale Avenue) and Russ Letcher (Pelican Lane) helped to install the houses.

Stop by the park and check out the waystations in front of the community center (333 Larch Lane) and in the playground area. A big thanks to donor Troy Lyons (Lisle Industrial Avenue) for supporting these purchases!

## **PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE LEX-CHIP SURVEY FOR THE LFUCG HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Lexington Community Health Improvement Plan, or LEX-CHIP, wants to hear from you! LEX-CHIP is a group of community partners who are collecting public input on the top health and safety issues in Lexington. You can get involved by completing a survey to identify the most pressing issues. Everyone eligible in a household can complete the survey! You must be 18 years of age or older to participate. ALL information is ANONYMOUS unless you choose to submit your contact information to be entered in a drawing to win one of three \$150 Wal-Mart gift cards. LEX-CHIP looks forward to your participation. You can access the survey here: English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFCHDCHIP>; Spanish: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/SPANLFCHDCHIP>

## **FRIENDLY REMINDER TO ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING GROUNDS**

"We need every Kentuckian to be a part of this effort," Commissioner Quarles said recently at a news conference. "Citizens can help by eliminating areas of standing water that could serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes – puddles, old tires, buckets, and any household items that potentially could fill with water if left outside."

## **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](http://www.mnalex.org).

"Like" Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association on Facebook! Visit [www.facebook.com/www.mnalex.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.mnalex.org).

## **IT IS WITH SAD NEWS**

I report with a heavy heart that long time neighbor and friend, Don Bertoldo passed away in early May.

Donald Richard Bertoldo, USAF Lt. Col., Ret., born January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1947, died on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at UK Chandler Medical Center. Don graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory, class of 1964, and earned a BS from San Jose State College and MBA from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX. Don taught ROTC at the University of Kentucky from 1977-1982. He retired from the USAF in 1994. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism involving risk of life on March 11, 1973. Don was also honored by the government of the Philippine Islands for this action. He enjoyed working with stained glass, model trains, and construction remodeling projects. An avid sports fan, he rooted for the SF Giants, SF 49'ers, UK and the SA Spurs. Don is predeceased by his father, Nicholas R. Bertoldo. Survived by his mother, Rose Mary Bertoldo, (San Jose, CA); wife of 43½ years, Marilyn; sister, Barbara Lucas (NE); brother, Nicholas Bertoldo (Christy), (CA); a special friend, Conrad V. Schmidt M.D., (OR); godfather and uncle, Victor Bertoldo; uncles, Patrick and Richard Caporale; many cousins, nephews and nieces. Don was godfather to Will Flynn. Don was a member of St. Peter Parrish. Sincere thank you to all of the doctors, nurses and teams at the Lexington VAMC, Markey Cancer Bone Marrow Transplant Team and UKMC Chandler. Funeral service will be Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church. Visitation will be from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Friday at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions suggested to Lexington Humane Society, Disabled American Veterans, or Paralyzed Veterans of America.

## **LEXINGTON RESCUE MISSION MOVES JOB TRAINING TO MEADOWTHORPE NEIGHBORHOOD**

By: Laura Carr, Development Director at LRM

Lexington Rescue Mission (LRM) has moved into the Meadowthorpe neighborhood at 1400 North Forbes Road, where it is training job-seekers in the skills they need to find, obtain, and keep lasting employment. The mission trains job-seekers through Jobs for Life, a faith-based program that teaches the soft skills that are necessary in any workplace.

Once Jobs for Life participants complete the five-week job training program, they are eligible to work through Advance Lexington, a staffing service operated by the mission. Both Jobs for Life and Advanced Lexington are based in the facility on North Forbes Road.

This free program is operated in partnership with Jubilee Jobs and is open to any unemployed or underemployed adults living in Fayette County. Job-seekers who are interested in participating should fill out an application, which is available online at [www.lexingtonrescue.org](http://www.lexingtonrescue.org), and complete an interview with mission staff. For information on volunteering as a mentor or hiring Advance Lexington trainees to work in your business, please contact Angie Dennis at (859) 806-4132.

Lexington Rescue Mission is Christ-centered ministry that meets the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of hurting people in the greater Lexington area. It is accredited by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

## **REPUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE**

By: Coleman Bush

It was with hopeful trepidation, if there is such a state of mind, that I drove to the LFUCG Board of Adjustment (BOA) hearing on April 29, not because we had not done our best, but primarily because the LFUCG Division of Planning Staff had recommended approval of Republic Services' application for a conditional use permit; such recommendation signaling about an 85% chance of success for Republic, based on historical BOA decisions.

Usually, when there are objectors to an application, the chair will ask the parties to step out of the room to see if any compromises can be reached. Observing the sea of neon-green "MNA says NO" stickers worn proudly by MNA members, he sagely said, "I don't think that is necessary in this case."

The chairman stated the order for the presentations: Planning Staff; the applicant Republic Services, through their attorneys; Attorney Jacob Walbourn, representing Winmar Corporation, owners of the Bakhaus Building, the Tate Building and other nearby properties; Neighborhood Association and HOA representatives; Neighbors.

As the Planning Staff made its case for approval, a noticeable hush fell over the crowd, as, on the surface, the arguments for approval seemed quite compelling. I was reminded of Mighty Casey and the Mudville Nine:

*“The outlook wasn’t brilliant for the Mudville Nine that day:  
The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play,  
And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same,  
A pall-like silence fell upon the patrons of the game.”*

I was encouraged, however, when the Planning Staff presented over 200 letters and e-mails that had been received in opposition to the application.

The presentation by the applicant, through its attorneys, was quite lengthy, and included testimony from experts in traffic and environmental matters.

With surgical precision, Jacob Walbourn excised each of the applicant’s arguments. To discount the assertion that our existing landfill was nearing capacity, Jacob displayed facts showing that garbage production per capita is steadily decreasing as a result of environmental awareness. His presentation was factual, steady and concise and we owe him a great deal of thanks.

MNA (Coleman Bush), followed by Providence Montessori students and objectors Saidi Harl and Ava Tackett (The impact that their presentations made was huge – it is always refreshing to see children eager to get involved in issues that concern them, their school and their city); Townley Park HOA (Joe Smith) and Melrose-Oak Park Neighborhood Association (Eric Baker), presented next in that order. Each representative spoke of the importance of their respective neighborhood and of the harm that approval of this application would bring.

Numerous petitions were entered into the record: 597 hard copy signatures from Meadowthorpe residents; 146 hard copy signatures from nearby residents (including 49 from Townley Park), customers, business owners, teachers and parents of students. These petitions represented 35 local businesses; 106 on-line petitions.

Altogether, 849 people, either living in, working in, or frequenting our neighborhoods, signed petitions to oppose the transfer station. Additionally, we introduced into the record 70 letters of opposition from Meadowthorpe Elementary School and Providence Montessori School students.

So many people were involved in this effort: The many neighbors who signed petitions; the many neighbors who collected those signatures (including Burke Road neighbor Lora Munsey’s niece Sophie Brewer [age 10], who collected 16 signatures on her own); all of the neighbors who distributed “RED ALERT” flyers; Maria Kenney for her meticulously-researched and well-written op/ed piece; the Herald-Leader for its editorial stating support for neighborhoods; the anonymous donor who paid for the bus to transport 36 neighbors so that parking would not be an issue (Jim Stone described the bus rides to and from, especially the one from, as an opportunity to make new friends while leaving the driving to someone else); the many neighbors, who by other means of transportation, attended the hearing; Jacob Walbourn and Winmar Corporation, again; At-large council member Richard Moloney, who spoke eloquently on our behalf and against the application; and especially neighbor Tom Blues, who energized us and helped us better understand the true threat this represented to our neighborhood.

As the hearing neared its end and as one of the BOA members summarized by expressing his doubts about the transfer station, the outlook cleared and our faces began to show signs of true hope. Then, one by one, like dominoes falling, each board member expressed a similar sentiment, with one board member stating that a public/private partnership, utilizing the existing transfer station, might be the best approach for Republic Services.

A motion was made to disapprove the application and the subsequent vote was 7-0 in favor of the motion. Mighty Casey (comprised of every element of our opposition) hit a home run on this day.