



MEADOWTHORPE MESSENGER

Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association, 333 Larch Lane

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

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"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August." — Jenny Han

"One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter." — Henry David Thoreau

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

Ice Cream Social: Tuesday, July 12th, 2016 – No General Membership Meeting in July, but please join us for our annual ice cream social.

August General Membership Meeting: Tuesday August 9th, 2016 – Social half-hour at 6:30 p.m. Get to know your neighbors and enjoy refreshments! Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, July 1st, 2016 – 12:00 p.m. Great American Pie Contest and Ice Cream Social at Fifth Third Pavilion.

Sunday, July 3rd, 2016 – 8:00 p.m. Patriotic Music Concert on Morrison Lawn at Transylvania University.

Monday, July 4th, 2016 – 7:00 a.m. Bluegrass 10K Race in downtown Lexington.

Monday, July 4th, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Street Festival in downtown Lexington

Monday, July 4th, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Annual Fourth of July Parade.

Monday, July 4th, 2016 – 10:00 p.m. Annual Fireworks at new location, Commonwealth Stadium near Alumni Drive.

PRESIDENT PONDERINGS

By: Jim Capillo

June 20 was the longest day of the year, the summer solstice, the beginning of summer. For the first time in nearly 70 years, the Full Moon and Summer Solstice coincided on the same day. At Stonehenge, around 12,000 people came to the historic site to watch the sunrise and welcome the year's longest day. Here in Meadowthorpe, we have less ambitious plans. Our next meeting will be the annual ice cream social, a traditional neighborhood gathering dating back to the 18th century in America.

Tuesday, July 12 at 7PM at the Community Center. Come, bring the kiddos, share and enjoy the park; welcome new neighbors, reconnect with old ones. A neighborhood is as strong as its neighbors.

COMMERCE LEXINGTON UPDATE

At the June MNA meeting, Commerce Lexington's Andi Johnson presented information which will impact our West Lexington area. Neighbors were asked to call, e-mail, and send letters to all of our Kentucky legislators regarding the proposed sound-barrier wall along New Circle Road in order to ensure funding. Visit www.lrc.ky.gov to find out more about writing your legislator.

Business development along Lisle Industrial and collaboration with LFUCG Planning/Design was also discussed. A big thanks to residents who gave great suggestions to Commerce Lexington regarding our area.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Fayette County Public Schools will begin the new school year on Wednesday, August 10th. Meadowthorpe Elementary school hours are 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. Expect heavy traffic on the car line route of Glendale, Taylor, and Boiling Springs.

Our neighborhood is assigned to Meadowthorpe Elementary, Leestown Middle School and PL Dunbar High School. However, many of our neighborhood children have qualified for specialized programs and attend other schools in the District such as Leestown Middle, Lexington Traditional Magnet Middle, Winburn Middle, Dunbar High, Lafayette High. Be aware that elementary, middle, and high school students are not allowed on the same bus and this results in multiple buses, at multiple times of the day in our neighborhood. Bus stops are primarily on North Forbes, Meadowthorpe Ave., and Taylor Drive. Please drive slowly!

If your child will be age 5 by August 1st or if you have recently moved to the neighborhood, visit www.fcps.net for more information on registration, vaccinations and testing required. It is also time to register for school!

Join us in welcoming the new principal Stephanie Urbanek to Meadowthorpe Elementary! Neighbors are always welcome at the school.

Meadowthorpe Elementary volunteers are needed – even if you can only volunteer once a month. You can help monitor lunch time, shelve books in the library, read to a student, help with the Chess Club, or even cut out shapes for teachers. Volunteers are welcome and needed. Stop by the school to learn about completing a background check and let the principal know you want to help.

FIGHT THE BITE DAY AND NIGHT

Protect yourself from Zika Virus and other mosquito related diseases

Help Eliminate Mosquitoes

Here are a few ways you can get rid of standing water and reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and property:

- Eliminate standing water in buckets, birdbaths, toys, puddles, etc.
- Fix leaky faucets and outdoor hoses that dripp water.
- Repair screens and windows to keep mosquitoes out.
- Dispose of old tires, trash, and building materials.
- Maintain hedges, shrubs, and tall grass to eliminate resting locations.

Protect Yourself

Follow these simple steps to protect yourself, family, and friends from Zika and other viruses:

- Apply insect repellent when you're outdoors. Always follow manufacturer directions for using repellents (especially pregnant women and small children).
- Avoid activities in areas with lots of mosquitoes when going outdoors.
- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, and socks to help protect from bites.

For more information about Zika Virus, visit www.mnalex.org and www.healthalerts.ky.gov.

BETH'S BEAT

July 4th is Independence Day, honoring the birthday of the United State of America. I like to celebrate America's birthday by running in the Bluegrass 10K, watching the parade downtown, and enjoying the fireworks after sunset. It is a day to get together with family and friends to enjoy each other's company and cookout food. But Independence Day is much more than cookouts and fireworks; here are some interesting facts regarding the birth of our country:

- On the 4th of July, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.
- Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776.
- The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men representing the 13 colonies. The moment the declaration was signed marked the beginning of all-out war against the British.
- The first signature on the Declaration of Independence was John Hancock's. The myth is that he wrote his name large so that King George would be able to read it without his glasses.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

July is the first full month of Summer! With kids out of school and individuals looking forward to outdoor activities, it is important to remember bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Bicycle Safety

Ten smart rules to bicycle safety, according to the Bike Madison Website:

- 1.) **Protect your head.** wear a properly-fitted helmet.
- 2.) **Stay visible.** If drivers can see you, they are less likely to hit you. Use lights when biking in the morning or evening and be sure to wear bright colors when biking so that you stand out more.
- 3.) **Look, signal, and look again.** Use hand signals to let other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians know where you are going. Bikes do not have turn signals, so people must use hand signals to indicate directional turns and stops. Make eye contact with those around you, so you can be sure that they see your signals. Do not assume that a driver will stop; bike with caution.
- 4.) **Stay alert.** Keep a look out for obstacles and be aware of the environment of your path.
- 5.) **Go with the flow.** Bike in the direction of traffic and when possible, stay inside the bike lanes.
- 6.) **Act like a car.** Drivers are used to the pattern of other drivers. Do not weave in and out of traffic. The more predictable you ride, the safer you are. Check for traffic and be aware of the traffic signals around you.
- 7.) **Do not get distracted.** Do not listen to music, text, or talk on the phone while biking. Bicycling demands your full attention, so avoid these distractions.
- 8.) **Obey all traffic laws and lights.** Visit www.sharetheroad.ky.gov for more information on bicycle safety laws.
- 9.) **Assure bicycle readiness.** Is your bike properly adjusted? Is your saddle in a comfortable position? Do you feel confident to ride your bike?
- 10.) **Do a quick bike test.** Check your brakes and your wheels. Make sure that “quick release” wheels are properly secured.

If you have additional questions about bicycle safety, contact P. Scott Thompson at LFUCG, at 859-258-3160.

Pedestrian Safety

Be Safe and Be Seen: Make yourself visible to drivers

- Wear bright/light colored clothing and reflective materials.
- Carry a flashlight when walking at night.
- Cross the street in a well-lit area at night.
- Stand clear of busses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before cross the street so drivers can see you.

Be Smart and Alert: Avoid dangerous behaviors

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Stay sober; walking while impaired increases your chances of being struck.
- Do not assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers; do not look at the vehicles. If a driver is on a cell phone, he or she may not be paying enough attention to drive safely.
- Do not rely solely on pedestrian signals. Look before crossing the road, and be sure to make eye contact with drivers in the area where you are crossing.
- Be alert to engine noises or backup lights on cars when in parking lots and near on-street parking.

Be Careful at Crossings: Look before you step

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.
- Obey traffic signals!
- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
- Watch for turning vehicles. Make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- Look across all lanes of traffic and be sure all lanes are visually clear before crossing.
- Avoid wearing headphones or talking or texting on a phone while crossing a street.

You are responsible for your own safety when bicycling or walking around town! Hopefully these tips will help keep you and your family safe this summer while you are out and about!

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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