



MEADOWTHORPE MESSENGER

Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association, 333 Larch Lane

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

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"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." -- Charles Dickens

"March on. Don't look in the rearview, just the windshield." -- Josh Bowman

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

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – 12:00 p.m. – Great American Clean Up Kickoff at Lexington Senior Center

Saturday, March 3, 2017 – Antiques and Garden Show at Alltech Arena at Kentucky Horse Park

Saturday, March 11, 2017 – St. Patrick's Day Festival in Lexington

Saturday, March 11, 2017 – 1:00 p.m. – St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Lexington

Sunday, March 12, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Lex Bruch with Ben Lacy at The Burl

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – MNA General Meeting

Friday, March 17, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Gallery Hop in downtown Lexington

Saturday, March 25, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Homemade Green Cleaners at Bluegrass Greensource

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

By: MNA President Jim Capillo

Neighborhood Watch is up and running (or at least walking) again! Due to the rash of recent criminal activity in the neighborhood, I reached out to several neighbors to serve on the Neighborhood Watch committee. Thanks to Mike Garvin, Karen Stivers and Chuck Smith for agreeing to serve. The Neighborhood Watch Program is a statewide and national organization fostering an active partnership between the Police Department and area residents to increase community awareness and crime prevention. The Neighborhood Watch Program can be a vital network that provides each resident with the knowledge and resources to fight crime through items including - Home Security; Property Identification; Public Safety Techniques; Neighborhood Awareness and getting to know your neighbors. The information is out there and there is no reason to re-invent the wheel. I hope that the committee will be able to get the information and bring it to the association so those who choose to do so can benefit. The good news is that the Police Department has identified and charged two individuals with some of the recent break-ins of sheds, garages and yards. In addition to marked units patrolling the streets as a crime prevention tool, several plain clothes detectives were cruising the neighborhood on foot and in cars gathering evidence.

ENGRAVED PAVER SALES CONTINUE

There is still time to order your engraved paver. The sale will be continued until two or three weeks before construction of the memorial plaza site at the Boiling Springs median commences. We expect the work to begin in the spring, when weather permits and contractors are scheduled.

Cost for pavers recognizing family, friends, relatives, etc. is \$25 each; pavers recognizing businesses are \$100 each. Mail completed order forms and payment to Coleman Bush, 324 Pelican Lane, Lexington KY 40511. Or drop off in the mail slots of Bill Congleton 248 Glendale, or Linda Melton 333 Glendale. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Tom Blues 254-0475 (tblues@twc.com) or Russ DiBella 255-7775.

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE--SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Prepare for a very busy day in Meadowthorpe as this annual tradition brings out all of the neighbors to sell or browse or visit with neighbors. Rain or shine.

This year, Brian Throckmorton has graciously agreed to coordinate the yard sale. If you are interested in helping out, please contact bthrock@aol.com.

MNA places an ad in the local newspaper and on social media to advertise this event across Lexington.

Start cleaning out your garage!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE MEADOWTHORPE EVENTS

Monthly General Neighborhood Association Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting runs from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 3 is the Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale.

July 11 the Neighborhood will host an Ice Cream Social at the Community Center. Come join us for the fun!

October 31 is Halloween in Lexington. Please pay close attention if you are out and about as the streets will be busy with adorable little Goblins!

December 10 at 6:00 p.m. is the annual MNA Holiday Potluck. Bring a side dish and enjoy the fellowship.

PANHANDLING AND GOOD GIVING

By: Beth Workman

The first known use of panhandling was in 1846, a term that was coined because of the resemblance of the extended arm to a panhandle. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, panhandling is the act of stopping (often accosting) people on the street to ask for food or money.

In February, the Kentucky Supreme Court struck down Lexington's ban on panhandling as the ban was in violation of the First Amendment Right covered in the United States Constitution as the Freedom of Speech. The Constitution further states that "Congress shall make no law... abridging freedom of speech." So what exactly is the freedom of speech and does this cover panhandling?

Freedom of speech covers verbal and non-verbal means of communication. Following many years of Supreme Court decisions, freedom of speech has been vetted as to what is and is not included as protection under Constitutional Law. It is a right to wear black armbands to school to protest a war, however, one cannot incite actions that would harm other, such as shouting "fire" in a crowded movie theater.

I fully support the freedom of speech; as it allows me to write my thoughts and opinions in this fine newsletter. I believe in the Constitution and the rights of the American people. However, I also believe in the protection of our people and the right to live a safe, happy and productive life.

Panhandling is harassment; it is also loitering and a public nuisance. Giving money to a panhandler could be helping a person to have enough money to get a meal or it could be going to support illegal activity. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing what a panhandler does with money. Of course, I believe that we should help those who are less fortunate than ourselves, but there are better means to do so that is not giving unprotected money to panhandlers.

My solutions are as follows:

1) Request that the City of Lexington support business sized cards that citizens can hand out to panhandlers, which include homelessness resources, so that the panhandler can have access to available resources. There are many organizations and churches that offer free meals and other resources to folks in need. Let's help those folks in need to make connections with those who have the ability to give.

2) An advertisement/marketing campaign that informs citizens of responsible giving. I, like many Lexington residents, support giving to worthwhile organizations that help those in need (Hope Center, Chrysalis House, Lexington Habitat for Humanity, etc). These organizations are held accountable for their spending and my donation is tax deductible. Let's help other residents be informed of good giving. Suppose a resident gives money to a panhandler, there is no transparency or fiscal accountability, rather that person could use the money to promote illegal activity. Whereas, if the panhandler needs help, they could access resources at the Hope Center, which is a fiscally responsible organization. This is a win-win, as people will donate money to good organizations and those organizations have more funds to help panhandlers.

I reached out to the Lexington Council Members, including our own 2nd District Council Representative. Unfortunately, I have not heard back from anyone. Thus, if you also feel that Lexington can better address the panhandling situation, I urge you to reach out to city officials.

EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR LOANS FROM LFUCG

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Division of Grants and Special Programs administers a Community-wide Housing Emergency Repair Program which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program.

The Housing Emergency Repair Program is designed to provide deferred loans of up to \$5,000 to assist eligible homeowners with emergency repairs on their homes. Qualifying items for emergency assistance are: • Electrical Systems • Plumbing Systems • Heating & AC Systems Emergencies are determined by the Grants and Special Programs Staff and are not intended for storm-related emergencies. Call 3-1-1 for more information.

TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN AT MEADOWTHORPE ELEMENTARY?

Any child who turns five on or before October 1 is eligible for full-day kindergarten in 2016-17. Per state regulations, **starting in 2017-18**, the birthday eligibility cutoff is on or before August 1st.

The next sign-up window runs April 11th to 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. weekdays, with evening registration from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 18th at your neighborhood school. Questions, please visit www.fcps.net.

BOILING SPRINGS MEDIAN

Your voluntary contribution/dues help pay for the mowing of the Boiling Springs median (contract of \$1,000 per year), flowers, water use for sprinkler and much more. Thank you! A few volunteers are needed twice a year to paint the median curb. Paint is provided and volunteers have chosen to complete this on their own time. If you can take a turn as a family or couple to paint the curb, please contact President Jim Capillo: capillo.jim@gmail.com.

BUDGET AND MNA DIRECTORY INFORMATION

In light of fiscal responsibility, transparency and good stewardship, the MNA Budget and Directory is available at www.mnalex.org. The budget was approved at the February 2017 meeting. Meeting minutes are also posted on the website.

STREET REPRESENTATIVES

Can you serve as a street representative? Street reps deliver newsletters to each residence near the first of each month and attend a Street Rep/Board meeting four times a year. Great job for a family! Please contact MNA Vice President Bill Congleton: 859.230.4635.

KEEP INFORMED ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD (LOST ANIMALS, EVENTS, CITY WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, ETC.)

Add your name to the neighborhood email list by contacting Secretary Traci Letcher, tsletch@gmail.com or mnalexky@gmail.com

- 'Like' Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association on Facebook.
- E-mail questions to: mnalexky.
- Pay your voluntary dues (collected in the Fall) or drop a check at 333 Larch Lane, Community Center.
- Attend the monthly membership meetings. The next meeting is March 14th at 7:00 p.m. with social hour beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Volunteer to serve on a committee.

FAYETTE ALLIANCE CITIZENS PLANNING ACADEMY

Fayette Alliance is proud to present the Citizen's Planning Academy, a five-week course that will educate and engage citizens of Fayette County on the importance of land-use planning, and its relationship to economic development, the environment, and quality-of-life issues in our community. From Monday, March 6th to Monday April 3rd, citizens are encouraged to attend a weekly course to learn about the City of Lexington Planning. Visit fayettealliance.com to sign up.

NEIGHBORS ADS

 **MATT S. FINLEY** 
ATTORNEY AT LAW
275 BURKE ROAD
LEXINGTON, KY 40511

- WILLS, TRUSTS, LIVING WILLS
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- AFTERNOONS AND WEEKENDS
- 20% DISCOUNT TO MEADOWTHORPE RESIDENTS

CALL: 859-494-5373
EMAIL: MATTFINLEY@TWC.COM

The LFUCG Division of Parks and Rec can organize an adult coloring book class which would meet once a month at the Neighborhood Center. Day or Evening and Day of the week (including weekends) will be determined by the participants. At the end of four months or so, there is the possibility of an art show showing the participants' work. If you are interested, contact Jonathan Washington at Parks and Rec or MNAlexKy@gmail.com

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Contact: 859-608-0847

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[205-792-3661](tel:205-792-3661)

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