

THE LARK

JANUARY 2019

Meadowhill.net



MEET SHEILA DUNCAN



She's smart, always smiling, and has a warm greeting for everyone she meets. She is Sheila Duncan, Meadow Hill's manager. After twenty-three years of property management experience, Sheila came to us when we hired Imagineers as our management company. After attending Penn State where she studied business management, Sheila began work in the property management business in State College, Pennsylvania (home to Penn State University's main campus) where she managed apartment communities. After moving to Connecticut in 1999, she continued her career in the property management industry as a regional property manager working with multiple apartment communities throughout the state. In 2006 she

began managing homeowners' associations. She currently manages a total of ten associations, seven of which are 55 and older communities. She especially enjoys working with the 55 and over communities because she feels the homeowners tend to be more involved, especially with grounds, landscaping, etc. She would like to see every resident on a board or committee at some time.

She loves the variety of her work: each community is different, and every day is different. When she wakes up in the morning, she never knows what the day will bring. She meets and works with homeowners, contractors, and boards. The most important parts of her job are communicating with homeowners and coordinating contractors, board members and maintenance staff. One of her important goals is to keep up the market value of the homes and communities within which she works, while at the same time keeping the condo fees down. I'm told by one of our board members that in addition to being punctual and very efficient, Sheila is always willing to help and to find an answer to any question or problem.

When Sheila isn't working, she leads a full life. She has two dogs: Bruno, an English bulldog (big, lazy baby); and Luna, a cocker spaniel/shar-pei mix (older and sedate). As a dog owner, she's not surprised by any dog issues we may have here at Meadow Hill. She loves to read, travel, snowboard, and visit vineyards. She's an avid sports fan, cheering especially for the Boston Red Sox and the Penn State Nittany Lions. She loves the beach and often vacations in Mexico's sunshine at Playa del Carmen.

I hope this short article helps you, Meadow Hill Residents, to know Sheila... the Manager side and the personal side of her. By Judy Soule

JANUARY BOARD MEETING RESCHEDULED

PLEASE NOTE: The January Board meeting has been moved to January 14th at 1:30 at the Clubhouse.

Put All Your Recyclables In One Container!
Single Stream Recycling
 Programa de Reciclaje

Unacceptable Items / Artículos No Recycables:

******NO PLASTIC BAGS ALLOWED******

Unacceptable Paper – Wax paper, soiled paper, soiled napkins & paper towels, pet food bags & dryer sheets

Unacceptable Plastics – Any plastic that doesn't have a number on it. (Examples – garden hose, trash and ziplock bags, cereal box bags, bubble wrap, clear plastic wrap, potato chip bags, single cheese wrappers, soiled plastic bottles and bags)

Unacceptable All Styrofoam – While it may seem recyclable, there is not enough material left after breaking it down to make a new product. TIP – bring your own container to avoid having to use Styrofoam.

Unacceptable Aluminum – Soiled aluminum foil, soiled tin cans, no frying pans.

Unacceptable Cardboard – Soiled pizza boxes and soiled cardboard. (Examples – grease, mold, paint)

Unacceptable Glass – Windowpane glass, plated glass (windshield glass)



Metal Drums
Contenedor de Metal



Garbage
Basura



Plastic Bags
Bolsas Plasticas

Acceptable Items / Artículos Recycables:



Magazines
Revistas



Paper Bags
Bolsas de Papel



Junk Mail
Correspondencia no Solicitada



Office Paper
Papel de Oficina



Phone Books
Directorios de Telefono



Newspapers
Periodicos



Cardboard (Flatten)
Carton



Paperboard
Cartoncillos



Plastic #1 - #7 Containers
Botellas de Plastico



Aluminum (Cans)
Latas de Aluminio
Papel de Aluminio



Metal Cans/Containers
Latas de Metal



Glass Bottles & Jars
Botellas de Vidrio

860.724.4575

**ALL WASTE
INC.**

www.allwaste.com

POOL UPDATE

The cover is on and secure, and the pool is winterized. Landscaping, fence replacement, new entrance and walkway will be done in the spring.

The 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The most effective way to reduce waste is not to create it in the first place.

- * Look for products that use less packaging
- * Buy reusable over disposable items
- * Maintain and repair products
- * Borrow, rent or share items that are used infrequently.

EPA.org.

MEADOW HILL TREES

The Meadow Hill Trees Committee was commissioned last year in response to significant winter storm damage to trees, and to address some neglected tree maintenance. This committee managed the removal of 10 trees in 2018, largely on the periphery of the complex. Stumps were ground, and five new trees were planted.

A set of recommendations on next priorities was drafted by the committee, with some recommendations meeting resistance within the community. The Executive Board, along with the Trees Committee attempts to take a holistic view of tree management within our grounds. Keep in mind that many of our trees are in excess of 40 years old. Pines are known to have shallow roots and are brittle, with a lower life expectancy than other trees. Ash trees have been susceptible to disease. Many of our trees have been impacted by invasive insects, birds, storm damage and drought. It's no different elsewhere in the Northeast as reflected in newspaper and online articles on the topic published within the last year.

Now add the perspectives of residents to this discussion. Requests for tree additions, trimming and removal come from unit owners throughout the year. Some owners express emotional attachment to their immediate surroundings of trees and shrubs and don't want to see any changes. Sometimes neighbors are not in alignment on trimming or tree removal. So, often we see conflicting opinions.

The Board has a responsibility to ensure safety to life and property. Falling limbs, root systems pushing up sidewalks and tree damage to roofs and gutters are real concerns. And we need to do this tree management within our Meadow Hill budget. Bottom line, the topic of trees is not a simple one to manage and our residents can expect trees to be a prime topic of conversation and planning over the coming year. We recognize the importance of both fully explaining our plans and securing community input as the discussion unfolds.

The Tree Committee members are Bob Kolwicz, Roger Bouchard, Dave Faxon, Gene Flynn and Darien Covert. Comments or questions can be directed to any of us. Contributed by Gene Flynn

WINTER STORM SAFETY TIPS

Before the Storm

- * Build an Emergency Kit with the essentials for your family
- * Stock up on non-perishable canned goods and pet food
- * Ensure you have adequate medical supplies and prescriptions
- * Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for proper operation and battery life
- * Fill your car with gasoline
- * Have access to flashlights and extra batteries
- * Have your mobile phone fully charged

During the Storm

- * Report a power outage quickly online at eversource.com or call in CT 800-286-2000
- * Unplug sensitive equipment if you don't have surge protectors

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS



Our December 8th Holiday Party

had a great turnout and the
Doo Wop Shop was a hit as always.
A big thank you to the committee:
the Bryants, the Brownswords, the
Wilseys, the Weeks; Barbara Massey,
Gerri Whittemore, Irene Adamson,
Lydia Zimmerman, Bernice Spencer
Mary Ellen Linderman and Linda Fay
for

their efforts.
Here are some
photos of the event.



Holiday Party Survey

The Holiday Party committee is soliciting feedback on this popular event, so we can make sure it meets the expectations of residents. We'd like a response from every unit, so if you haven't responded yet, please do so and return the completed survey to Denise Weeks, 334 Hollister Way West. Thank you!

UNIT # _____

1. Did you attend the Holiday Party this year? ☐ YES ☐ NO
2. If so, why? If not, why not? _____

3. Have you attended the party in past years? ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Which dates would work best for you? Check all that apply.
☐ First Friday in December ☐ Second Friday in December
☐ First Saturday in December ☐ Second Saturday in December
☐ First Sunday in December ☐ Second Sunday in December
5. For entertainment, we have had the Doo Wop Shop for several years. Would you like to have them again next year, or something else? ☐ Doo Wop Shop ☐ Something Else
6. If something else, do you have suggestions for other entertainment? Please specify.

7. What if anything else would you change about the traditional Holiday Party?

8. Would you be interested in serving on the Holiday Party Committee? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Feel free to provide additional comments on a separate sheet.

POKER ANYONE?

Looking for Poker players, both men and women!!
5 or more, low stakes.
Meet up on Thursday, January 10, 2019
1:00 pm at the Hollister house.
Call Emil Ostrowski, 7 Hollister Way N at 860-781-8026.



The well-known benefits of a regular poker game for adults apply to children as well, cementing relationships, acquiring social skills, developing critical thinking and honing interpretive and analytical skills. -CBS News *MONEY WATCH*

Poker players you might have heard of: Barack Obama, Bill Gates, Steve Ballmer, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Dwight Eisenhower. - *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

What, no women!- Editor's note

KEY DATES

January 1 – New Year's Day	January 14 – Board Meeting
January 2 – Game Day, Hollister House	January 21 – Martin Luther King Day
January 8 – Book Club	

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

Game Night will be Game DAY for January and February.

For those two months we will meet on the first Wednesday from Noon - 2:00 at Hollister House. We'll teach you, or bring your own games. Feel free to bring your lunch if you wish. For more information call Dale Carsten at 860-881-7901.

Crafts and Needlework – If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and enjoy giving items to those in need, please contact Linda Fillion at 860-559-5504 or email Lfillion@cox.net for details and patterns. Items such as baby hats, booties, lap robes and prayer shawls are really appreciated by Middlesex Hospital, where we donate about 96 such items per year through our monthly deliveries.

Lark Submissions Please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347 for more information on submitting articles and notices

Garage for Rent- if interested call John Perry at 860-633-4379.

Book Club

The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to learn more, please call Carol Fredrickson at 860-633-0158 or Suzanne Litke at 860-439-9611.

January Selection: Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf

February Selection: Rebecca by Daphne duMaurier
Please note in January will we meet on January 8.

Clubhouse Rentals

For all rentals and scheduling of the clubhouse or Hollister House, please contact Marge DeMay at 860-633-6599, Unit #90.

Clubhouse – The Clubhouse is open for all residents every day. Come enjoy the gym, play pool with a friend or check your email. In the event of a scheduled rental, board meeting, etc., the upstairs room will be closed.

Winter Weather Conservation Reminder –

On very cold nights let faucets drip to keep pipes from freezing. Typically, only outside wall faucets need to drip, in addition to opening the cabinet door.

Drip..drip...drip. Not flowing freely, to conserve our precious water.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
635 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105
860-768-3419

Property Manager: Sheila Duncan

Assistant Manager: Kristen Vibberts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Luther Weeks
860-918-2115

VICE PRESIDENT
Cathy Wanat
Unlisted

SECRETARY
Gene Flynn
860-212-7347

TREASURER
Larry Abbott
860-682-2543

DIRECTOR
Ed Litke
860-430-9611

DIRECTOR
Polly Labombard
860-977-9002

To Email Management staff or Board Member click on <https://tinyurl.com/MHillContacts>

BOARD MEETINGS

Monthly Board meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Clubhouse.

THE NEXT MEETING

January 14th

1:30 PM

IN THE CLUBHOUSE

Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at www.meadowhill.net

Hard copy minutes are available at the clubhouse office one week following the meeting.