

THE LARK

April 2019

Meadowhill.net



INTRODUCING THE MEADOW HILL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The purpose of this article is to provide a review for residents of the Board's Maintenance Committee and its relevance to our Meadow Hill Community. We have concluded that the approach we've established saves us tens of thousands of dollars yearly as well as promoting increased pride and enthusiasm among our maintenance personnel. Having our maintenance staff plan, schedule, and complete the work is the key to the large savings. Consequently, a brief article follows with the intent of sharing the good news with our Meadow Hill neighbors.

The maintenance review project began back in 2016 and was facilitated as an assigned board committee. The initial objective of the group was to identify all maintenance items within our community that would need repair or attention, for which unit owners would not typically submit a work order. The committee identified approximately sixty such maintenance items in its review. One example of such an item would be the yearly painting of all white safety markings on roads and stairways.

The planning committee then organized the sixty plus items into appropriate categories where some needed attention daily, some weekly, monthly, yearly, and some were placed into multi-year projects. This type of structured approach allows for sufficient planning and preparations for the board and for our maintenance personnel as well. From this planned list of projects, the committee pulls items that are scheduled for a particular year, adds any new projects that have surfaced in need of immediate attention, and we have a "Project List" for the specific year. The "Project List" is included in board packages each month for ease of reference by our residents.

Again, we found that this planned approach has saved us many thousands of dollars a year. Last year in 2018, we estimated a savings of over \$85,000. dollars. For 2019, we estimate a similar big dollar savings. Two examples of the fourteen projects planned for 2019 are (1) replacing the north fence and (2) cleaning all resident roofs that need treatment for moss growth.

In closing, I thank our current president, Luther Weeks, for formally establishing the Maintenance Committee this year. Luther has been very much involved in the process and serves as the committee chair with Ed Litke serving as committee liaison to the board. If you have any questions at all please speak to any of our board members as all of us are very much involved in the process. Remember also that the sixty-item maintenance list and the yearly project list is in the board packet each month for your perusal. Ed Litke

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Several - actually quite a few - residents have asked that we shout out to Darien and Mike for their dedication, strong backs and knowledge of how to deal with our ever-changing New England weather.

"We appreciate their quick response.... We have had some pretty cold days and they were out there putting down salt and trying to keep everything done in a timely manner, not an easy task but they do. We are very lucky to have them here every day. Thank you, Darien and Mike."

APRIL 1920 LARK

The custom of setting aside a day for the playing of harmless pranks upon one's neighbor has historically been common throughout the world. The positive view is that April Fools' can be good for one's health because it encourages "jokes, hoaxes... pranks and belly laughs," and brings all the benefits of laughter including stress relief and reducing strain in the heart.

KEY DATES

April 1	April Fools' Day	April 17	Board Meeting @ 1:30
April 2	Book Club	April 19	Passover begins, Good Friday
April 15	Tax Day	April 21	Easter
April 15-19	Glastonbury School Spring Break	April 30	Insurance Information Session
		May 4th	Derby Party, 5:00 PM, Clubhouse

IN THE GARDEN

WEED CONTROL - There are many eco-friendly methods for controlling weeds, including:

- Pull them out
- Behead them - so they won't go to seed and spread
- Hire goats
- Pour boiling water on them
- Salt them
- Pour vinegar on them
- Eat them - young greens of dandelions, dock and chicory
- Brew a batch of weed killer. Works great on poison ivy.
 - 1 gallon white vinegar
 - 1 cup salt
 - 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap

(This is not a joke, prank or hoax)



PLANTS - Native plants are trees, shrubs and wildflowers that grow in a specific region where they have evolved over time, adapting to the prevalent environmental conditions. Because of this, they can conserve water resources more efficiently than non-native plants. Native plants support native animals and are important components of the food chain. As these plants disappear, so will the insects, birds and other animals that depend on them.

Non-native plants can quickly become invasive. Once established over large areas, invasives require enormous amounts of time, labor and money to manage. When selecting plants for your garden avoid buying any that are known to be invasive. For more information check, www.invasive.org.



Georgia O'Keeffe, *Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1*, 1932,

GARDEN CLUBS - Glastonbury is fortunate to have several active gardening clubs sharing their talent and knowledge. Many of the lovely landscape plantings around town are the result of their efforts. Some of their projects are listed on their websites.

- Country Gardeners of Glastonbury meets monthly from September through June. Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.
 - <https://countrygardenersofglastonbury.com/>
- Glastonbury Hill and Dale Garden Club meets from September through June on the second Thursday of each month.
 - <http://www.glastonburyhillanddalegardenclub.org>
- The Glastonbury Garden Club
 - www.glastonburygardenclub.com

FLOWERS - The New Britain Museum of American Art has a new exhibit - *The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art*, through June 2. Saturday admission from 10:00 am to noon is free!

TREES OF MEADOW HILL – Just call me Honey... If not for its propensity to litter roof, yard, and street with large, brown, green-bean-like seed pods every fall, honey locust would certainly be planted more widely, for it is a handsome tree. Fast growing and tolerant of salt, flood and drought, it is commonly grown as a street tree in urban areas. Its yellow spring foliage turns bright green as the season progresses. Growing to the right of the MH maintenance building, it is worth a good look.

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER - By our definition: A natural fit of environmentally concerned residents of Meadow Hill; and Meadow Hill's geographical location along the banks of the historic Connecticut River.

Our committee formed many years ago primarily to eliminate those invasive species of plants which had taken over Meadow Hill's most western border.



Great strides have taken place in this endeavor, and now this effort provides our residents a clean, unobstructed view of the Connecticut River and the native flora and fauna. From the first work on the corral slope, we now encompass areas south to Hollister Way West, and north to and including the landfill. We evaluate these areas every year in order to keep the native plants free and healthy, eliminate any hazardous tree conditions that may exist and maintain an area for the residents to use and enjoy.

In keeping with our effort of sustainability, we encourage residents who are

thinning out plants around their units, to contact us before disposing of them so that we may see if they are able to be utilized in those areas that we are replenishing.

Our Committee members include, Roger Bouchard, Bob Kolwicz, Marge DeMay, Larry Abbott, Bev and Lynn Willsey, Daren Hill, Moira Finnegan, Norm Gordon, and Donna Goselin. Please contact Roger Bouchard, Bob Kolwicz or Donna Goselin to look at any plants you may be eliminating.

WILDLIFE WATCH

One of the joys of life in Meadow Hill is the opportunity to observe the abundant wildlife that inhabits the woods along the Connecticut River. This article is the first in an occasional series that will introduce some of the birds and animals with whom we share space, and report on interesting wildlife sightings by Meadow Hill residents. In this issue, we look at a normally aquatic creature that may occasionally be seen on land as we move deeper into the springtime: the common snapping turtle.



These armored amphibians live in almost any permanent body of fresh, or even

brackish, water throughout the eastern United States. They have a dark carapace (upper shell) with deep serrations at the back end. Adults typically have a carapace measuring 8-12 inches, weigh 10-35 pounds and can live up to 40 years. They have a long neck, large head, and a sharp, hooked upper jaw (see photo). As omnivores, they feed on plants, fish, frogs, insects, birds, small mammals and other protein sources.

Snapping turtles are nocturnal and live almost entirely in the water, except during the nesting season when the females leave the water and travel considerable distances to lay eggs. Most nesting in our area occurs in May and June. The female uses her hind legs to dig a bowl-shaped nest in a sunny area and lays 20-40 eggs. The attached photo of a female digging a nest was taken behind a home in Meadow Hill last Memorial day. After depositing the eggs the female leaves the nest and returns to the water. Eggs that are not destroyed by predators will hatch in about 80-90 days, and the inch-long babies instinctively head to the water.

What to do if you see a snapping turtle on land? Enjoy the sighting and avoid touching, picking up, or disturbing it. Keep children and pets away from it, as the strong, sharp jaws can result in injury. The adult will leave in a few hours after laying its eggs. Turtle eggs and nests cannot be disturbed without authorization from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). For more information, [click here](#) or go to <https://tinyurl.com/DEEPturtles>.

Have you seen an interesting bird or animal around MH? Let us know and we'll feature it in a future edition of the Lark. Mike Proulx

SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

We have been profiling Meadow Hill committees in the Lark for the past six months. Why? Because the community should have an awareness of all the work going on and show gratitude to our committees for their ongoing work. Maybe you'd like to step forward and participate in some way. It's a great time to think about what area of interest you'd have and where you'd like to volunteer.

Board elections are just a couple months away - a terrific way to get behind the scenes and understand how our community governance works. And it's a great way to have your voice heard. If being a Board member is too big a step at first, raise your name to the President for participation on any of our other committees. The last page of this Lark lists what committees we have, who the chairs are and who from the Board participates on the committee. Contact the committee chairs if you have questions about what the committee does.

Spring is a great time to start budding ideas, not just plants. Get involved. Be a part of something great here at Meadow Hill.

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY - The town of Glastonbury and the Commission on Aging are conducting a community survey as part of their participation in AARP's Network of Age Friendly Communities. Residents will be asked to assess how the town fares on 8 Domains of Livability: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, and Community Support and Health Services. To participate in the survey click on/go to the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Glastonburylivablesurvey>

FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

Joint pain, heartburn, sleep apnea - whatever is keeping you up at night, here's some help from Silver Sneaker: 11 Best and Worst Sleep Positions for Older Adults, <https://tinyurl.com/SilverSneakersSweetDreams>

LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER



Nude Swim Hour is again to be enjoyed by the residents of Meadow Hill. Popular in the early 1960s it was discontinued in the mid-seventies. Numerous requests in the last few years brought the issue to a vote and it is now going to be a regular event. Rules will include body coverups to and from the pool, no loitering around pool while fully dressed. Full details will be published prior to the June first start.*

*April Fool!! Hope this gave you a chuckle!

REQUESTS FOR VEGETABLE/GARDEN PLOT

Anyone interested in a garden plot down by the river for the 2019 season needs to put in your request for a full or half size plot. The size of a garden plot is determined by the number of owners requesting a plot. The cutoff for requesting a plot is May 1st. To request a plot contact: David Fillion unit #182, lfillion@cox.net or 860-299-3313. Your request needs your name, unit # and plot (full or half) size.



DISPOSAL OF YARD AND GARDEN WASTE

A friendly reminder: Please place all yard waste in the designated dump area - between the tennis courts and the maintenance building; please place it behind the fence. Only biodegradable materials please - no plastic. It's really a temptation to slip yard waste in the trash cans, but it's a no-no. Thank you for your cooperation.

WATER USAGE UPDATE

A review of water usage and rates for the past couple of years shows that the rate we pay has increased 11% from 2017 to 2018 and 8% from 2018 to 2019. This is for the per gallon rate and also for fixed fees. We should all do our best to continue to observe common sense water conservation practices and be cognizant of our water usage.

SPECIAL NOTICES TO OWNERS



Insurance Information Session - An insurance information session will be held with Bouvier Insurance Agency representatives at **7:00pm on Tuesday, April 30th at the Clubhouse**. The primary intent of this session is to understand potential impacts of Meadow Hill increasing its property insurance deductible to \$10,000. We should all understand what our individual condominium homeowners policies cover and what would happen if the Board votes to increase the Meadow Hill deductible. Please join us for this informative session.

Proposed Meadow Hill Rule Changes -The Meadow Hill Executive Board voted at the March 20th Board Meeting to release nine proposed Meadow Hill Rule changes to owners for comment. Formal Notice of these nine proposed rule changes will be sent to Meadow Hill owners via US Mail. Watch for them and please review the proposed rule changes carefully. Comments from owners are welcome prior to the next Board meeting on April 17th. Instructions on submitting comments are included with the mailing

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

WELCOME New Residents George and Judy Fay, unit #217. Their email address is gfoy3@cox.net. Their phone number is 860-235-0827.

Kentucky Derby Party - The Social Committee will be hosting the third Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, May 4th at 5pm in the Clubhouse. Watch for the upcoming flyer.

Board Opportunities - A few directors are stepping down at the end of their terms on the Meadow Hill board. If you would like to learn what's involved in serving on the board, please contact Nominating Committee chair, Ed Litke at 860-430-9611.

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.

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.

April : Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

May: The Great Alone by Cristine Hanna

Garage available immediately at #97 Hollister Way North. Call John at 860-559-5725.

Garage available starting May 1 at #85 Hollister Way North. If interested call John Perry at 860-633-4379.

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.

Game Day - We will meet on the first Wednesday from Noon - 2:00pm at Hollister House. We'll teach you, or you can bring your own games. Feel free to bring your lunch if you wish. For more information call Howard Rosenthal at 860-430-6076.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
635 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Property Manager: Sheila Duncan
860-768-3419
Assistant Manager: Pat Lokiec
860-768-3313

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Luther Weeks
860-918-2115

VICE PRESIDENT
Kathy 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 held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in the Clubhouse.

THE NEXT MEETING
April 17th
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.

MEADOW HILL COMMITTEES

Advisory committees play an important role in Meadow Hill. They provide information and work that improves Meadow Hill beyond what the Board and Manager can do without assistance. If you would like to contribute to making Meadow Hill even better or if you feel your views or those of your area are not fully represented on a Committee, consider joining a committee. Here is a list of current committee chairs.



Budget: L. Abbott(C/L)
Nominating: E. Litke(C/L)
Communications: G. Flynn (C/L)
Grounds: M. Proulx(C), P. Labombard(L),
Trees Subcommittee: Gene Flynn (C/L)
Pool: K. Wanat(C/L)
Stables E. Litke(L), N. Roberts, S. Crone

Amenities: K. Wanat(C/L)
Social: S. O'Leary(C), L. Abbott(L)
Friends of the River: R. Bouchard (C), L. Abbott(L)
Vegetable Garden: D. Fillian(C), L. Abbott(L)
Maintenance: L. Weeks (C), E. Litke(L)
Greenhouse: S. MacGregor(C), L. Weeks(L)

Key: (C) – Chair, (L) – Liaison

REQUESTS AND REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Committees and Residents should submit agenda requests and reports to Imagineers 10 days before the monthly Board meeting.

To email Board Members or submit work orders refer to the MeadowHill.net.