

THE LARK

November 2019

Meadowhill.net



MEET LARRY ABBOTT



Larry Abbott has been a Meadow Hill resident for nine years. He still vividly recalls his first night here, taking a walk by the river and seeing the Lady Katherine motor by with calypso music. And his reaction both that night and today is – this is a pretty cool place to live. Once it was known that Larry had been treasurer for other non-profits, he was approached about joining the Meadow Hill Executive Board and immediately became Treasurer in 2017. Larry completed his first term and was voted into a three -year term in June, 2019. And of course, due to his expertise, was elected Treasurer again.

Being Treasurer is more than being a numbers cruncher, although he has shown that he's really skilled at that. Actually, Larry feels that numbers tell a story and he becomes the story teller. He is often the first person at MH to identify potential problems or to sound the alarm to unexpected, increased expenses. His observations have started Board dialogue on solutions to problems that others might never have caught. And because

he can fairly easily evaluate problems to their minimal or substantial financial impact, he's an essential participant in just about any MH issue analysis.

Now being in his third full year of Treasurer and chair of the Budget Committee, Larry is fully comfortable with his role and his relationship with Imagineers. He often challenges others when something doesn't add up – both literally and figuratively. He has the historical perspective as well the emotional connection to Meadow Hill as a resident. Needless to say, we are very fortunate to have Larry as our Treasurer, having gained the community trust very quickly and having put his finger on the pulse of issues also very quickly.

Apart from his role as Executive Board Treasurer, Larry loves to travel and is a race car enthusiast (watching, not driving). He is a father and grandfather and you can see Larry and Libby frequently at MH social events, walking the property and at the pool in the summer.

Please take an opportunity to stop Larry and thank him for all of his great work at Meadow Hill and for helping us control our operational and strategic expenses.

KEY DATES

3rd - end of Daylight Savings Time
5th- Municipal elections
5th - Book Club
6th - Game Night

11th – Veteran's Day
18th - Bingo
20th – Board Meeting
22nd – RSVP Holiday Party
28th - Thanksgiving

MEADOW HILL BARN and STABLES RESIDENTS

In this truly unique amenity to a condominium community, we now have 2 four-legged residents, frequently visited by Meadow Hill residents and their families. There you can visit Dutchess (Dutch) an American Quarter horse and Koochibar (Kooch) a Gypsy Vanner. Or you might see Dutchess and Koochibar at the green, in front of the barn or while enroute to the river area.



Nancy Roberts tells us about Dutchess: "I first met Dutchess on a cold snowy afternoon in December eight years ago, after looking for horses for about 3 months. She was 16 at that time and the first thing I remember was how I loved her face. She was used as a lesson horse at a farm in Columbia. Young riders would learn to ride on her. I noticed that the barn was busy with tractors, dogs and people. Dutch was so calm around them when I took a ride on her, I decided she was the one! We spent time in East Hampton and then moved to a farm in Colchester. Then, four years ago, I found Meadow Hill. I enjoy taking Dutch for a walk by the river and talking to all the people. It's a good spot for us and we are blessed."

Here is some information on the American Quarter horse breed: Quarter Horses are synonymous with Western riding, ranch work, roping, rodeo sports, cutting and reining. They get their name from Colonial times for being very fast in racing distances up to a quarter mile. The breed has 17 colors, but the most common is sorrel, a reddish brown. Today, quarter horses can be used as English pleasure horses, hunter jumpers, and trail horses. With their calm temperament, they are also a good family horse.

Elaine Lembo tells us about Koochibar: "While on a seven-day riding trek in Ireland, I saw and rode my first Gypsy Vanner horse, whose name was Shrek. I was far away from home but never had a worry riding this steady, curious and fun horse. I just loved the Gypsy's fairytale look and the "I'll take care of you" type of temperament. When I returned home, I found Thorn Hill Koochibar, a 14-month old filly in Naples, Florida. When I visited this young horse, I loved Kooch at first sight. I groomed and played with her until she turned two, then I broke her to ride and alongside of a driving trainer, broke her to drive a horse carriage. Our 15 years together has taught me that animals understand and feel much more than we know. I look forward to a happy retirement with Kooch here in a community that finds pleasure in seeing horses grazing in the field and visiting them by their paddocks!"

Here is some information on the Gypsy Vanner breed: They are a rare breed selectively bred for over a half century by the Gypsies of Great Britain to be the perfect caravan horse. The genetic origins of the breed include the Shire, Clydesdale and native British ponies such as the Dales. This breed possesses a temperament that is friendly and engaging, easy to train, smart and willing. Although originally bred to pull a gypsy wagon, they have been ridden in dressage, hunt seat, western pleasure and bareback. The Gypsy Vanner horse is a wonderful family horse.



LARK TEAM ENTERS ITS SECOND YEAR

Taking over from Judy Soule last year, the team managing the monthly production of the Lark has gone into its second operating year. While we lost Lydia Zimmerman from the team this summer, the rest of the team is going strong – keeping up with all the news of the Meadow Hill community and the town. You may have noticed that to diversify and make the issues more interesting, some articles of human interest, nature and other topics of concern to seniors have also been sprinkled throughout the issues. Denise Weeks, our technical expert handles the layout for every issue and has done a great job with it, adding creative touches. The rest of us – Norma Flynn, Mike Proulx, Elaine Lembo and Gene Flynn each take turns authoring the issues, while supplying each other with ideas, articles, critiques and the ever-needed proofreading! And Chris Keating manages the deliveries of the paper copies. We are always looking for more talent. If you have any interest in contributing, please contact Gene at 860-212-7347.



TREES COMMITTEE COMPLETES ITS DETAILED REVIEW



With the major tree damage of past winters already addressed, the Trees Committee has put plans in place to better manage our treescape. After reviewing the five villages and the paddock area this summer, the committee drafted a spreadsheet of 107 opportunities for new plantings, tree trimming and some tree removals. In addition, a list of trees that will be monitored at least twice a year due to their partial deterioration has been drafted. The multi-year Strategic Tree Management plan has been presented to and accepted by the Board. The top priorities are being addressed by the Board and any future work within the plan will also be subject to Board approval. Any resident with questions about specific trees can contact one of the committee members: Bob Kolwicz, Roger Bouchard, Dave Faxon, Tom Lombardo and Gene Flynn. New submissions for tree maintenance should follow the standard work request process with Imagineers.

WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY?

Ok, the headline had you hooked. Now I want to talk about that uncomfortable topic of driving skills. Many people fear the day when they lose their freedom by having to give up their license and/or car. Nobody wants to admit any issues with their driving and therefore steer clear of the topic altogether. That is what AARP knows about us, which is why they – along with AAA and other organizations - sponsor a Safe Driver Course geared towards mature drivers. And as an incentive to take this course, many insurance companies give a discount if you have taken it.



But, lots of people say “I’ve been driving for years; I don’t need a refresher course”. That’s fair, but those same people, who have been cooking for over fifty years will watch tv cooking shows or get recipes from friends - all to gather new tips on cooking better. Go figure.

We recently took a four-hour online AARP Safe Driver Course – breaking up the course into one-hour chunks. You can also find the course offered at the Community Center. The annual discount on our auto insurance policy amounted to \$112 for two cars/drivers, after investing about \$40 for the two of us to register for the course. The discount lasts for two years so it is a good economic return on investment. But the surprising thing is that the refresher was really good – effective reminders on safe driving habits, plus an exercise on the annual cost of owning a car. The course is worth your time and a benefit to your wallet for sure.

By Gene Flynn

GLASTONBURY HAPPENINGS

The Glastonbury Community / Senior Center has plenty going on in November.

- If you need or want help sorting out your Medicare enrollment options, you can make an appointment with a CHOICES-trained counselor at the Riverfront Community Center. Call 860-652-7634 to make an appointment.
- Enter to win \$100 gift certificate by completing the town's Livable communities Survey. Go to www.glastonbury-ct.gov/livable to complete the survey.



For more information on the many programs offered at the Senior Center, click [here](#) to check out the Sharing tree or pick up a copy at the Senior Center.



The town is offering Flu Shot Clinic
November 12th from 2-6pm
at the Academy Building, 2143 Main Street.
For more information contact the
Glastonbury Health Department at 860-652-7534.



SOCIAL HAPPENINGS



Holiday Party December 7th
Featuring a Holiday Sing-Along with
Jeff Weiselberg at the Piano
Great Food and Good Company
December 7th, from 5pm until...
You won't want to miss it!



CAROL SING - SAVE THE DATE



Join us for a Carol Sing on the Green near the flag pole.
December 12th at 3:30.
Music is provided.
Last year was a big success.
Call Sandy O'Leary 860-9160740 for more information.



BINGO IS HERE!!!



Mark your calendars....
Come and join us for a dry run of the 1st Ever Meadow Hill Bingo
Monday November 18th. We are looking for volunteers to help with set up and operations.
Please email Kim Trela at kim.m.trela@gmail.com if interested.
Look for the flyer for more details. Hope to see you all there!



SPORTS DAY



Great turnout of about 40 people for the Sports Day celebration of the re-opening of the tennis, pickleball and shuffleboard courts.

The October Thursday/Sunday Pickleball and Shuffleboard tournaments also took full advantage of, albeit, a late season, but the pent-up demand has certainly been met.

Thanks again to Darien and Mike on a great painting job on all three courts.



MEADOW HILL PHONE DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS



The recently released annual Meadow Hill Phone Directory had a couple incorrect or missing phone numbers. Please make the following corrections/additions:

Ed and Suzanne Litke Unit 179 N 860-430-9611

Suz Fields Unit 147 N 860-770-3249

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

Condolences – to the family of Valerie Driscoll, Unit 135, who passed away in October.

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. 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.

Game Night – We will meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 7PM to 9PM at the Hollister House. We'll teach you, or you can bring your own games. For more information call Howard Rosenthal at 860-430-6076.

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

BINGO – Monday November 18. Details in flyer coming soon.

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.
November: The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict.

December: Beartown by Frederick Blackman

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.

Lost and Found - If you lost a key ring with three keys on it somewhere in the vicinity of Units 84 and 86 on 9/23, please contact Linda Fillion at 860-559-5504.

For Rent - Adirondack camp for rent – spring, summer or fall, 2020. For details, contact Jack Raycroft at 860-633-1754.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
635 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Property Manager: Sheila Duncan
860-768-3419
Assistant Manager: Lauren Figge
860-768-3313

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Luther Weeks
860-918-2115

VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Litke
860-430-9611

SECRETARY

Connie Liscomb
860-659-7819

TREASURER

Larry Abbott
860-682-2543

DIRECTOR

Tom Lombardo
860-652-0090

DIRECTOR

unfilled

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.

Listening Session February 11 7pm at the clubhouse

THE NEXT MEETING

Nov 20th

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.



Amenities: OPEN

Budget: L. Abbott(C/L)

Nominating: L. Abbott(C/L)

Grounds: M. Proulx(C), C. Liscomb(L),

Trees: G. Flynn (C), T. Lombardo (L)

Stables: E. Lembo (C), E. Litke(L)

Social: S. O'Leary(C), L. Abbott(L)

Rental: M. DeMay (C), L. Weeks (L)

Communications: G. Flynn (C), L. Weeks (L)

Friends of the River: R. Bouchard (C), B. Kolwitz (C), L. Abbott(L)

Vegetable Garden: D. Fillion(C), L. Abbott(L)

Maintenance: L. Weeks (C), E. Litke(L)

Greenhouse: S. MacGregor(C), L. Weeks(L)

Rules: L. Weeks (C), L. Abbott & T. Lombardo (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.