

THE LARK

September 2020

Meadowhill.net



MEET GERRI WHITEMORE



Mrs. Geraldine Walker Whittemore - Gerri, as she is known to so many Meadow Hill residents- is an amazing person who always has a smile for anyone who walks past her beautiful garden! Every year, Gerri creates and maintains her lovely garden with a mixed variety of colorful plants. Gerri has been a true member of the Meadow Hill community, donating her time and efforts for organized events for many years. She and her late husband, Al, had been Glastonbury residents since their marriage in 1945 but because of his failing health, moved to Meadow Hill in 1994. Recently Gerri shared some of her life memories with us.

"I was born in Rutland, Vermont in 1922 into a truly Old Yankee family, with a Plymouth, Mass heritage dating back to 1621. Noah Webster, who composed the First American Dictionary for the American school children, was a family member on my mother's side. I attended grade and high school in Rutland, graduating in 1940. At 6 years old,

my aunt and uncle, who lived in Forest Hills, New York, and did not have children, wished to expand our outside world. For the next ten years, I spent winter and summer vacations in N.Y., ice skating, seeing Broadway shows and vacations at their Long Island Rocky Point cottage. As a result, the fashion world drew me into designing my clothes, dresses, coats and play clothes. In my home economic classes, I entered a statewide competition and won! After graduating, I went on to Traphagen Fashion School, immersing myself in learning to sketch designs for drapes, figure fitting, drafting the pattern and finger points of couture design. At the same time, I took courses at Columbia on fibers, weaving and dying.

December 7, 1942 - Pearl Harbor - changed my desire to immediately look for a job in the New York fashion Industry. All of the war plant manufacturing companies were calling for young girls to come and relieve the young men who answered the draft call and help in the War effort. I was hired at Pratt and Whitney and placed in house #49 to test 2800 Engines which went into the large bombers. While working there, I got married in June, 1945 and the war ended shortly thereafter. At that point, I was accepted into a G Fox & Co. merchandise training program and became an assistant fabric buyer and manager. About 5 years later, I was contacted to combine the men's tailor shop, ladies' alteration, bridal shop, monogramming and furs into one large work production, for five new outlying stores. Wow, that was a challenge.

With the war over, we had a large influx of refugees to work for us. There were German tailors who had escaped and still had tattooed numbers on their arms, Jewish women who escaped into the woods, Polish / Jewish men, one fur tailor taken prisoner and sent to Siberia to make fur lined officers' coats, and another Russian doctor, who escaped to the US. I remember four Polish women who escaped from work camps after being assaulted by guards, some left pregnant and had to hide in the Black Forest. And I also remember one special young man, from Italy, who came with nothing and did not speak English. I found him hiding in the hall at lunch time with a piece of Italian bread. I brought him a glass water and he was so very thankful and felt safe. So many of those talented refugee stories had changed my outlook on life and how we must encourage them to live a happier life here. Unfortunately, now I fear for our country, and that our lives will be changed forever! So, at 98 years old, being here at Meadow Hill and having good friends and other people stop by to talk and enjoy my garden brings me very much happiness."

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few years ago, I was invited to a meeting attended by representatives of condo boards from around Glastonbury. When I introduced myself as representing Meadow Hill, they immediately said in a complimentary, almost jealous way "You have your own staff." Sometimes we lose sight of all the benefits we enjoy from having Darien and Mike dedicated to Meadow Hill.

No doubt you all notice how quickly and thoroughly the recent storm was addressed. I don't believe access to any unit owner or emergency vehicle was blocked for more than five minutes. Some in town had to wait days for public roads to be cleared. Our staff, with the help of two part-timers did most of the clean-up and saved us thousands of dollars and days of inconvenience. Our staff's good relationship with Watson Tree helped get timely assistance with a couple of dangerous items, and later, help with some items too big for our staff and equipment.

Snow removal is another item where we benefit immensely from our staff's efforts. We are not dependent on snow removal contractors who would balance our needs with legitimate demands of multiple complexes. We have equipment and a dedicated crew who can address our immediate needs, at the optimum time, based on the characteristic of a storm, do a thorough job, while continuing to move snow and keep sanding and scraping as the situation demands.

Because Darien and Mike service just Meadow Hill, they have detailed knowledge of the property and can diagnose and address problems quickly and effectively, something we all benefit from. Other complexes must hire out to contractors and management company staff who necessarily have less familiarity with individual associations; they also have overhead associated with bidding, supervision, and travel.

Please join me in thanking Darien and Mike for their dedication to Meadow Hill. By Luther Weeks

INTRODUCING GROUNDS COMMITTEE LIASONS

To facilitate communication and ensure broad representation of owners' needs, the Grounds Committee is trying out a process in which there will be a designated committee liaison from each MH section (brown, gray, red). The liaison will be the "point person" that people in that section can contact with questions/concerns/ideas, etc. The liaison can provide a "first look" at those incoming communications, gather relevant information, and bring them to the full committee for further review and evaluation in order to make a recommendation to the Board. Because our liaisons are all dog-walkers, they are out strolling the grounds daily, so they are not only visible to residents, but also have regular visibility to our grounds. The liaisons are:

- Red section: Todd Blais, email: tchristob@yahoo.com
- Brown section: Vicky Germani, email: vlgctrptr@gmail.com
- Gray section: Kim Trela, email: kim.m.trela@gmail.com

If you wish to contact your liaison, email or in-person contact is preferred.

Please note this process does not replace the normal work order process; regular work orders should continue to be submitted directly to Imagineers. The liaison will also be a person that the committee chair can call on to do an initial evaluation and get more information when a work request comes in through Imagineers to the chair. The committee chair will continue to be the point of contact for Imagineers and the Board. We hope this process will enhance the committee's accessibility to our Meadow Hill neighbors, and look forward to your feedback!

THE MEADOW HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN



Meadow Hill is fortunate to have a community garden just beyond the pasture and over the bridge, settled between the brook and the river. We have 14 gardeners using the garden this year.

The gardens look very good this year. Because of the timing of the rain, we didn't need to water much with the hose this summer.

The hurricane knocked only a few things down but most of the garden still looked good. Because the grass was mowed early this year, we had very few mosquitoes all summer.

While we're mentioning the area by the garden, we should also mention the path that runs down from the garden to the river. Another interesting spot to see, is at the bottom of the path to the river is our beach. We have a sandy beach that is about 3ft wide by 40ft long. Many of the hikers walking along the side of the river, stop here to take a break. This is one of a few spots safe to reach the water's edge in Glastonbury along the trail. With the pool closed, one could bring a chair down and enjoy the sun by the river.

ISAIAS HITS MEADOW HILL

Remember when you couldn't pronounce Isaias (and maybe still can't)? Remember when you thought it was a good idea to stock up on frozen food? Remember when our garbage sheds were not as fragrant? Remember when your mother said it was a crime to throw out food? Well, if you are like me, the guilt caused by the crime of throwing out spoiled frozen food resulted in a headache, during a crime, because of a blackout, wrapped in a worldwide pandemic. You can't make this stuff up and even Stephen King's imagination can't top this.

Isaias surely created havoc at Meadow Hill. Besides the two-day blackout, the storm toppled 11 trees, with many more requiring trimming. We have had to revamp our plans for other tree planting and trimming in order to address emergency tree costs.

Here are some shots taken right after the storm. Darien and Mike had their hands full, but got assistance from Jordon and Nathan as temporary workers and from Watson Tree Service. But can you believe how much work got done so quickly? Before all of Glastonbury even got their power back, our roads were cleared, paddock fence repaired, several hazardous trees removed and some of the siding repaired. While the full clean-up is dependent on the availability of our very busy tree experts, we have come a long way. **Big thanks** to Darien, Mike and our Executive Board giving direction!!



KEY DATES		
September 7 - Labor Day	September 16 - Board Meeting	
September 11 - 9/11 Remembrance Day	September 18 – 27 Rosh Hashana	
September 13 - Grandparents Day	September 22 – Autumn Begins, Voter Registration Day	
FALL CLEAN UP DAY		
Will be Monday/Tuesday, September 15th . Two items per unit may be discarded by depositing them in front of the Greenhouse <u>on September 14th or until 10:00 am on September 15th</u> , at which time, they will be taken to the Transfer Station. Heavy or bulky items may not be included (sleeper sofas, refrig., etc.) Darien Covert		
MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES		
Welcome New Residents – Eileen and Peter Rothfarb and their son David in unit 174. Phone number is 860- 918-3802 Condolences – to the family of Joe Trusty, formerly of Meadow Hill who passed away August 17 th . Clubhouse and Hollister House – Closed until further notice due to the coronavirus. Clubhouse and Hollister House Rentals - Rentals discontinued until further notice due to the coronavirus. Lark Submissions Please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347 for more information on submitting articles and notices. Game Day – Cancelled. Usually held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm at Hollister House is cancelled until further notice due to coronavirus.	Book Club – Cancelled. Usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the Clubhouse is cancelled until further notice due to Covid19. We will be recommending two books a month for folks to read based on recommendations from book club members. This month’s books are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr, a Pulitzer Prize winner and• “And They Called It Camelot: A Novel of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis” by Stephanie Marie Thornton, historical fiction, 2020. Bingo – Cancelled. For Sale - Wool Oriental Carpet, 9x12, Red on Cream background, \$60.00; Black mesh Fireplace Screen, \$30.00. For more information – Call Carolyn at 860-430-1046	
MANAGEMENT COMPANY		
IMAGINEERS, LLC 635 Farmington Ave. Hartford, CT 06105	Property Manager: Sheila Duncan 860-768-3419 Asst: Property Manager: Lauren Figge 860-768-3313	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
PRESIDENT Luther Weeks 860-918-2115 TREASURER Larry Abbott 860-682-2543	VICE PRESIDENT Toni Dolan 860-918-7069 DIRECTOR Sandy O’Leary 860-916-0740	SECRETARY Connie Liscomb 860-659-7819 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. Meetings will be electronic. Information on how to connect will be forthcoming from Imagineers.	THE NEXT MEETING September 16th 1:30 PM Meeting Will be Electronic	Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at www.meadowhill.net Hard copy minutes are no longer available at the clubhouse due to the coronavirus.
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.		