

THE LARK

February 2020

Meadowhill.net



ED LITKE - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER



A Glastonbury resident for nearly fifty years, Ed Litke certainly knows his way around town. Calling Meadow Hill home for the past thirteen years, Ed also knows this community and how to get things done. Ed found his way onto the MH Executive Board as an appointment but was subsequently elected to a three-year term. He served one of those years as president and his current Board term expires in June. When you think about what has occurred over the past four years, I'm sure you will agree that the Board has been pretty busy and effective, and Ed contributed towards that.

When asked what he is most proud of in his tenure on the Board, Ed talked about all the amenity improvements, Board attention to a thoughtful future capital improvements financial plan and a change in Management Company two years ago. But I think Ed is modest in not touting how his own collaborative style has influenced Board discussions and decisions.

He draws from his professional background in education - as a teacher and a principal in evaluating situations, balancing budgets and leading others. He practices making decisions by enrolling others in the fact gathering and discussion stages. This all leads to defensible, balanced solutions.

Ed helped to create a Maintenance Committee at Meadow Hill to help Darien Covert plan and prioritize maintenance projects. He has also contributed on the Finance Committee, even before being elected to the Board. If you get the impression that Ed enjoys contributing, you'd be correct.

Ed and Suzanne have two children and six grandchildren. While they have had options to purchase larger units at MH to handle family gatherings, it is the river view that keeps them where they now live. Outside of family, Ed is so into golf, it could be his middle name. Glastonbury Hills is where you'll often find him when he's not taking his grandson golfing in other parts of the state. And although his boating days are in the past, bring up the subject and see his eyes light up. Better watch out Suzanne, maybe those days are not in the past? Please seek Ed out to thank him for all his service to the Meadow Hill community. By Gene Flynn

KEY DATES

Feb 2 - Ground Hog Day	Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Feb 2 - Super Bowl	Feb 17 - Presidents Day
Feb 5- Game Day	Feb 19 - Board Meeting
Feb 11 - MH Listening Session (7 pm)	Feb 25 - Mardi Gras
Feb 13 - Age Friendly Community Conversation	Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday



Get Ready! Starting in March!
Date: Monday 30th @ 6:00pm
We need a few volunteers



If interested, please contact Kim T. @ 203.915.4125

GETTING AROUND – TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR SENIORS

Most of us would probably agree that aging is a mixed blessing. Along with numerous joys and privileges, it also brings its share of challenges. One such challenge for seniors is figuring out how to get around when driving oneself may no longer be the best option. Fortunately, there are many transportation alternatives for seniors who either cannot or prefer not to own and operate a car. This article introduces some of those options, as well as some resources that are available for seniors who are still driving.

Town/Municipal Resources



Dial-A-Ride: Operated by the Town of Glastonbury Human Services Dept, this is a no-fee, local in-town transit service for Glastonbury residents age 60 or older (and persons over 18 with qualifying medical disabilities). Riders not sufficiently alert and ambulatory must be accompanied by an attendant. New riders must fill out an Emergency Information Card, available from the Senior Services Department or from a Dial-A-Ride driver. Service is available by reservation only, Monday-Friday, 8:45 am to 3:30 pm except for holidays and weather closings. Service for evening and weekend activities is offered Tuesdays and

Thursdays, 4:45 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturdays 8:45 am to 3:30 pm. Service is cancelled when weather conditions are difficult or dangerous. All ride requests must be made by calling 860-652-7643 between 8:00 am and 11:00 am one business day prior to the day of the ride. Priority is given to medical appointments, with Senior Center programs and trips second. All other destinations are scheduled thereafter. There is a standing schedule for trips to Glastonbury grocery stores (see link below). When calling to schedule a ride, specific information about the rider and trip must be provided. The link below contains full details about the program:

Dial-A-Ride webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/sd8l8n9>

The Dial-A-Ride brochure (see reference above) also provides information about two resources for situations where Dial-a-Ride may not be appropriate.



F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service Here) provides transportation for out-of-town medical appointments or medical appointments within Glastonbury for persons unable to use Dial-a-Ride. Advanced reservations are required (860-647-3911). Transportation is provided by volunteers in their own cars. There is no charge, but the rider must pay any parking fees. For more information, refer to the Dial-A-Ride brochure.

A.D.A Transportation-CT Transit provides door-to-door transportation for any purpose for persons unable to use regular CT Transit bus service. Rider eligibility must be established in advance. The user's pick-up address and destination must be within the ADA service area. This service operates 7 days per week during the same hours as regular bus service. The fee is \$3.00 each way, payable at the time of ride. For more information, refer to the Dial-a-Ride brochure above.

For-Profit Resources

Ridesharing apps - Ride-sharing services Uber and Lyft have become widely used and are very similar in operation. These services offer personal, door-to-door transportation in the driver's own car. Each is accessed through an app on a smart phone. When you request a ride, the app uses your phone's GPS system to determine your starting location (pick-up point), and then calculates the fee to the destination you request, so you know in advance what the ride will cost. Price may vary depending on traffic or time of day ("prime time" may be more expensive). You can choose from different vehicle options; for example, if you



have several people in your party or a lot of luggage, you may need a larger (and pricier) vehicle. Once your car/driver is assigned, you can track its progress toward you in real time using the app. At the end of ride, the charge is automatically applied to the credit card on file. You then have the option to rate the ride/driver, and add a tip. Unlike a taxi, no cash is ever exchanged. Rides are generally available 24/7 and can be scheduled in advance. For more information, download the app or go to <http://uber.com/> or <http://lyft.com>

GoGoGrandparent

What if you'd like to use Lyft or Uber but you don't have a smart phone? GoGoGrandparent is a service that acts as an intermediary between you and Lyft/Uber, allowing you to use regular voice telephone service to request and monitor rides through those popular services. Once you are registered with GoGo, it takes just a simple phone call to request an Uber/Lyft car to pick you up at your home or the last place you were dropped off (if you're requesting a return ride), or a custom location. GoGo charges a per-minute concierge fee from the time they process a request



until they stop monitoring your ride (this does not include the actual ride fare). To alleviate safety concerns, GoGo sends updates to your designated emergency contact each time you request a ride, and throughout the progress of your trip. For more information and a simulated demonstration, go to <https://gogograndparent.com/>

TAXI: Despite the rise of rideshare apps, taxis are still a viable means of getting from place to place. Many will take reservations ahead of time. If you're not sure what taxi company to use, it might be helpful to read some on-line reviews. A Google search for taxis near me turned up a list of The Best 10 Taxis in Glastonbury CT on Yelp, with several user reviews.



While it may be intimidating to face the world after we stop driving, there have never been so many options for active seniors to keep on the go without feeling grounded!

Resources for Senior Drivers

For the many seniors who continue to drive their own cars, there are resources available to help make driving safer and more affordable.

AARP: The AARP Safe Driver Course is offered in-person or online and provides a good refresher as well as discounts on insurance through many insurance companies. Gene Flynn gave an excellent first-hand account of his experience with the course in the Nov, 2019 issue of Lark ("Want to Save Some Money" on page 3). For more information about assessing driver safety and the safe driver course go to: <https://www.aarp.org/auto/driver-safety/driving-assessment/>



AAA: The American Automobile Association (AAA), offers professional driving assessments, and a variety of safe driving courses tailored specifically for seniors. Find out all the information at <https://seniordriving.aaa.com/>

CarFit: Created through a collaboration of the American Society on Aging, AAA, AARP, and AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association), the CarFit program helps mature drivers find out how well they currently fit their automobile, understand the individualized adjustments and safety features of their car. During a free, 20-minute CarFit clinic, trained volunteers use a 12-point checklist to ensure that each driver's car is adjusted properly for the best "fit," and that the safety features of the vehicle are explained. Check with the Glastonbury Senior Center for 2020 CarFit events. For more information about CarFit go to

AOTA: <https://tinyurl.com/w3uexuy> or AAA: <https://tinyurl.com/rsgo5es>

Whether driving our own car or utilizing the many other available transportation options, there have never been so many resources available to help keep today's seniors on the go.

WELLES TURNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS



Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood, Feb 6, 6:30 pm. This presentation will link the legendary star's career and legacy to her roots in Connecticut to ask how she achieved her truly extraordinary legacy. Seating is limited, so registration is requested and begins January 9, online or at the Reference Desk at 860-652-7720.

Friday Afternoon Films at the Library features "Moonstruck", Feb 7, 2:00 pm. A Brooklyn widow, engaged to a mama's boy, falls in love with her fiancé's brother. Starring Cher, Nicolas Cage, Olympia Dukakis, Vincent Gardenia and Danny Aiello. Rated PG; 1 hr. 42 min. Refreshments will be provided. No registration - drop in!

Glastonbury Age-Friendly Community Conversation

Thursday February 13, 2020, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Riverfront Community Center (Snow date: February 20, 2020). Your input is critically important on how Glastonbury can provide the highest quality of life for its residents at every age. Topics will include: Housing, Transportation, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Community and Health Services and Social and Civic participation. Town officials will be present to hear your ideas! Light refreshments provided.



Reminder to Dog Walkers: Residents have asked us to remind all dog walkers to continue to pick up after their dogs while walking them on MH grounds. Ice and snow on the ground can conceal a “land mine” left behind by a dog. Thanks for your consideration.

Reminders from Grounds Committee

It may not feel like it, but spring is not that far away and it’s not too early to start thinking about landscaping and planting projects for the coming season. If you have suggestions or requests for grounds improvements, the best way to get them on our radar screen is to

submit a Work Order. This ensures they will get reviewed and tracked. Also, if you wish to be responsible for maintaining the area around your unit (trimming of trees and shrubs; all plantings; and weeding) you must complete and return the *Do Not Touch* form. The forms will be mailed to all residents in early-February and must be returned by March 15. Meadow Hill, Inc. will remain responsible for annual edging, fall and spring cleanups, mulching where reasonable, and removal of dead trees and shrubs. Thanks!

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

Condolences – to the family of John Perry recently of Unit 85, who passed away January 8th.

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.

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

Greenhouse - Remember to water your plants. We are fortunate to have this amenity for protecting our plants. Check to see that your plants are labeled with your name and unit number. Happy Gardening !

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

Game Day – February 5 from 1 p.m. to 3pm in the Hollister House. Bring your own games or we have games we will show you how to play. Refreshments served. Sue and Emil Ostrowski are coordinating. 860-781-8026.

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 Frederickson at 860-633-0158.

February book: Lincoln’s Last Trial by Dan Abrams.

March: The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead.

Garage rental wanted – Please contact Todd Blais 860-729-1430.

Camp Rental – Adirondack camp available for rent. Spring, summer or fall, 2020. For details, please contact Jack Raycroft at 860-633-1754.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
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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

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
February 19th
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.