

THE LARK

July 2022

Meadowhill.net



Meadow Hill Executive Board Election



The Meadow Hill Annual Meeting was held on June 9th. Current Board Members Toni Dolan, Jim Fuda and Sandy O'Leary continued on the Board as set out in their original multi-year elections. New to the Board this term are: Ed Litke (3 year term), Dawn Faucher (3 year term), Ron King (2 year term) and Dave Faxon (3 year term). In a subsequent meeting, the Board elected the following officers: Toni Dolan, President, Ed Litke, Vice President, Jim Fuda, Secretary and Dawn Faucher, Treasurer. Congratulations to all the new Board Members and newly elected officers. The community appreciates the commitment of their time, talents and leadership.

Thanks go to Connie Liscomb, who has completed her three-year term and a great job as Treasurer. Gene Flynn completed his two-month appointed term, as did Dave Faxon who opted to run for a full term. Luther Weeks, who served part of the past year, was also thanked for his multi-year Board service. In addition to his Secretary duties, Jim Fuda will continue to oversee the fire rebuild effort on behalf of the Board.

Meadow Hill Advisory Committees

Each year, the President identifies standing committees needed to assist the Board in maintaining the character of Meadow Hill, as well as appointing members of those committees. Toni Dolan has selected Board Liaisons and Chairs for all committees and now seeks volunteers for the following committees: Long-term Study, Budget, Communications, Grounds, Maintenance/Amenities, Social, Rules and Trees. None of these advisory committees involve physical work. Please see the article on volunteerism below. Our community's functions and management rely on volunteers of all types. If you would like more information on the roles of each of these committees and/or want your name in nomination, please contact Toni Dolan on 860-918-7069.



WHY VOLUNTEER? As with the ebb and flow of everyday life, the appearance of volunteers in non-profits and not-for-profits also rises and falls. We have certainly felt that here at Meadow Hill. Other than our paid Management Company, our two employees and hired contractors, everything else that happens in

the running of our community relies on volunteers. We were fortunate enough to get four folks to step forward last month to fill the four open positions on the Executive Board – especially with their knowledge, experience and talents. We haven't always been as lucky with advisory committees.

So, it's worth examining the "why" in the question of why people volunteer. We've established that the community benefits by maintaining a well-run leadership team, which affects our way of life and property values. But consider the benefits to the volunteer – which could be YOU.

Here are some to consider as you weigh putting your name forward for one of our advisory committees:

Provides a Sense of Purpose – Many people want to be part of something larger than themselves. You can add more meaning to your life and feel a greater sense of purpose if you give of yourself to a cause or community.

Meet new people and get continuously connected to folks you already know -Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice and develop your social skills. And if you haven't lived here long, you get to meet others all over Meadow Hill. COVID certainly taught us the importance of having social connection.

Inspire others – When others see you contributing, they might be more likely to do likewise. And it's a good example to set for your adult children, who might worry less about you knowing that you are not completely alone at Meadow Hill. Some of our volunteers are over age 95; talk about inspiration!!

Volunteering is good for your mind and body – Studies show that volunteering boosts your self - confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction. The more you feel a sense of accomplishment, the more positive your outlook on life. And who doesn't want more fun and happiness in their lives?

Combats Depression - A key factor for depression is social isolation. Working with others, even on a short-term social event can prove to be a support system you need in your life, reducing personal stress.

Helps you Stay Physically Active – Studies show that, especially in older adults, volunteers have a lower mortality rate than those who do not. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain and heart disease.

Teaches you skills - Ok, most of us are retired but that doesn't mean our brains stop working. Some committee jobs can give you the chance to learn. Get out of your comfort zone without changing your address! Dust off or learn critical thinking, financial acumen, collaboration skills and strategic planning abilities – and use them to help our Executive Board.

Gives you a broader perspective – Shared-community living takes a lot of stress off our plates but sometimes, we don't try to understand difficult decisions made by community leaders. It's so easy to poke at decisions without understanding what goes into the decision making. Working on a standing committee gives you that “behind the scenes” viewpoint that makes you more comfortable with community-wide decisions.

You don't have to be an extrovert -- Not all volunteers on our Board or committees are extroverts. Some of us introverts need a little push but rarely regret the effect of developing friends in the neighborhood. A greater sense of community benefits all people, regardless of personality type.

You don't have to leave home – If you are somewhat mobility-impaired and feel that keeps you from volunteering, just know that there are several activities such as mailings, name tag preparation, etc. that you can do from home.

And you feel good – When you give back to others, you know that your fingerprints are on the community in a unique way. The power of giving means being a greater part of the fabric of the community, which makes you smile at the end of the day.

If you are or have been involved in the Executive Board or one of the standing Meadow Hill committees, you know how important volunteerism is. And you recognize that value in other volunteers – giving you instant connection with them. If you aren't involved right now but wish to explore where your talents, interests and energies might be best matched, contact Toni Dolan, Meadow Hill President as soon as possible. Toni is selecting standing committees this month. See the last page of The Lark for a listing of current committees. Step up and try your hand – short term events or annual committee workings; see what's a right fit for you.

Emergency Notification System

We previously reported to you that the Board was looking into an emergency telephone message/alert system. While the Communications Committee and Board selected a vendor in May, the deep dive-training revealed a highly technical system to operate. So, it's back to the drawing board to find a vendor more in line with a casual user in mind. If you have experience as a recipient of messages from a school system, place of business or other organization, please share your experience with Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347.

POOL SAFETY



This is an annual reminder of the Pool Rules which are often overlooked. You can find Rule 12 – “Swimming Pool and Pool Area” in the Rules selection in the right navigation bar of the Meadow Hill website. Here is a link to [Rule 12](http://meadowhill.net/?page_id=16) (http://meadowhill.net/?page_id=16). Especially now that visitors are permitted again in the pool area, each resident-user of the pool should know and adhere to all the pool rules. Most often missed rule? – last one leaving the pool area, regardless of the time of day, must lock the gate. Let’s keep it safe for everyone.

THANK YOU DARIEN AND MIKE

Just about everybody knows Darien Covert, Meadow Hill Superintendent and his associate, Mike Curtis. Both are full-time staff and can be seen in all corners of our Meadow Hill campus every Monday to Friday (and weekends for snow duty). Both men manage huge jobs of not only standard day to day responsibilities but also all work orders generated by residents. They receive guidance from the President, our Management Company and also the Maintenance Committee (resident volunteers). The fact that Meadow Hill is known for its park-like beauty is not by chance. Our staff oversee grounds and building maintenance as well as the priorities/finished products of all contractors that we hire when staff does not have the skillset or



equipment to get the job done. The net effect is seen all around us, but what you don’t see is their position descriptions – which read like a phone book.

If you read the monthly Board Meeting package, you see Work Orders displayed, monthly maintenance task lists, and priorities set by the Maintenance Committee. Staff accounts for progress on all of these lists monthly. But even if you’ve lived here a while, you are not likely to see all they do. There are lots of behind-the-scenes tasks you don’t see like rototilling the community garden, plantings for the Grounds Committee, tree maintenance, policing the dump area, semi-annual bulk pickup, cleaning dryer vents, cement platforms for benches and caring for picnic tables and benches, greenhouse and barn maintenance, fence, sprinkler system and pool upkeep, painting of light poles, and clubhouse event set up/take down as examples. And there are many more.

Along with their skill set and knowledge, one element that makes them so valuable is their attitude and concern for the welfare of Meadow Hill and its residents. They are respectful, generous with their time and frequently go above and beyond. Hats off to Darien and Mike and thanks for your ongoing care.

Vicki Germani and Gene Flynn

PILERA

The name sounds like a submarine but it’s really an electronic information tool used by our management company. You can find a link on our Meadow Hill home page. Before gaining access to the system, you must request a logon and password from Imagineers. Contact Danielle Merritt at Imagineers (phone number on last page).

Pilera is the place to go to find your Meadow Hill account status (e.g. monthly HOA fee payments), household personal information and a library of Meadow Hill documents. Some of those documents also appear on our MH website.

Any questions about Pilera can be directed to Danielle at 860-768-3419.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



The [Sharing Tree](#) is a quarterly publication that is packed with important Glastonbury information, events, educational courses, travel and much more. Check it out!!

For Library Events click [here](#).



Expanded Dial-a-Ride

Dial-a-Ride is now providing rides to the Farmer’s Market on Saturdays and to the Summer Concert Series. Call 860-652-7638 to schedule transportation to either event.

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

Condolences to the family and friends of Marcia Rosenblatt who passed away on May 30th.

Welcome to Harris and Nancy Berloe, new owners of Unit 74. Please stop by and wish them well at Meadow Hill. Their phone number is 917-608-4650.

Clubhouse: Clubhouse now reopened. See posted rules.

Hollister House – remains closed 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.

Tennis and shuffleboard courts are now reopened.

Pool – is now open for residents and guests.

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 for details. Items such as baby hats, booties, lap robes and prayer shawls are really appreciated by Middlesex Hospital.

Garage Rental/Purchase Wanted – Our newest residents, Harris and Nancy Berloe, seek a garage for rent or sale. Please stop by unit 74 or call 917-603-4650.

For Rent: Adirondack family camp on lake. Sleeps six adults, four kids. 4 ½ hours from Glastonbury. Call Betsy and Jack Raycroft, 860-306-4976.

MEADOW HILL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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. Below are the committee chairs, liaisons from the Board and Committee members. Let's all thank these community members for their work to make Meadow Hill a great place to call home.



Budget TBD (Chair), Larry Abbott, David Faxon, Christine Keating

Communications: Gene Flynn, oni Dolan (liaison), Mike Proulx, Denise Weeks, Norma Flynn, Nancy Maloney; Luther Weeks, Mary Anne Costerella

Grounds: Mike Proulx, (Chair), Jim Fuda, (Liaison), Jack Raycroft, Todd Blais, Vicky Germani, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx

Trees: Gene Flynn, (Chair), Sandy O'Leary, (Liaison), Roger Bouchard, Bob Kolwicz

Clubhouse Rental: Danielle Merritt, Imagineers

Maintenance and Amenities: TBD, (Chair), TBD (liaison), Vin Liscomb, Bob Kolwicz, (Stables, Greenhouse, Garden as subcommittee): TBD, (Chair), TBD (liaison) Dave Fillion, Nancy Roberts, Sandy MacGregor

Nominating: Sandy O'Leary

Rules: Toni Dolan, (Chair) ; Jim Fuda, Sandy O'Leary, Vicki Germani, Kathy McCarthy Proulx, Chris Keating

Social: Sandy O'Leary, (Chair), Members as assigned

Long Term Study Committee: Jim Fuda, (chair), Larry Abbot, Dave Faxon

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
635 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Property Manager: Sheila Duncan
860-768-3419
Asst: Property Manager: Danielle Merritt
860-768-3419

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Toni Dolan
860-918-7069

VICE PRESIDENT
Ed Litke
860-430-9611

SECRETARY
Jim Fuda
860-729-0354

TREASURER
Dawn Faucher
413-273-4486

DIRECTOR
Sandy O'Leary
860-916-0740

DIRECTOR
Ron King
860-983-1685

DIRECTOR
David Faxon
860-430-1061

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.

THE NEXT MEETING
July 20th
AT THE CLUBHOUSE
1:30 PM

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.

Lark Editor: Gene Flynn; Lark Designer: Denise Weeks

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SEMINAR

It was the summer of '71. A friend and I hitchhiked cross country; our only fear was running out of money before we got home. Growing up, how many of us were sent outside by our parents with instructions not to come home until the streetlights came on? Our high school trip was to NYC, dropping us off in the middle of the city. They gave us tickets to a Broadway show, and told us to be back to the bus by 11 p.m. or left behind. We all made it home. And the antics of college? Don't get me started.



Unfortunately, while our memories remain, that way of life does not. It was how we grew up, how we lived and perhaps it continues to be our mindset when it comes to living in today's world. But the world has changed drastically since those carefree years and we must learn new behaviors to protect ourselves. Introducing Situational Awareness.

In our hectic daily lives and as we age, it's easy to focus only on the task at hand. But being more aware, more observational while performing tasks can save you from being a victim. You can learn better ways to protect yourself at the gas station, at the mall or simply talking a walk.



Mark your calendar now to join us on Wednesday,

September 28th at the clubhouse for an informational seminar
with Glastonbury Police Officer Michael Magrey.

Situational awareness, criminal trends and several other topics will be covered.

More information will be given over the summer.

By Bonnie Brooks



RIVERFRONT MUSIC SERIES



**Featured on Wednesday nights all summer! Head
down for great music, food vendors, Farmers
Market & more!**

Riverfront Park 6:00 P.M.

Dial-A-Ride Available

Call 860-652-7638 before 4pm

June 29	Town Band	Music of America
July 13	Headline Concert	White Wedding
July 20	Headline Concert	MacDaddy!
July 27	Headline Concert	384 East Band
August 3	Town Band	Broadway Lives!
August 10	Town Band	At the Movies
September 7	Headline Concert	Shaded Soul

