

# THE LARK

January 2023

Meadowhill.net



## 2023 BUDGET PASSES OWNERS' VOTE



The 2023 Meadow Hill Budget, proposed by the Budget Subcommittee and passed by the Executive Board, was accepted at the owner's Annual Budget Meeting held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Adopted with no opposition by owners present and by proxy, the 2023 budget results in a 5.1% increase in expenses. New HOA fees, reflecting the approved increase will go into effect today, January 1st. Owners are reminded that HOA fees have not been adjusted in two years. The Subcommittee and the Executive Board have examined every possible way to avoid budget increases but so many expense areas are completely out of MH control. Huge thanks to the Budget Subcommittee for their hard work managing the many areas of cost increases with offsetting reductions in some other areas of expense. Thanks to Dawn Faucher, Larry Abbott, Connie Liscomb and Toni Dolan for a reasonable result in an unbelievable financial time.

## REBUILD OF UNITS #6 and #10

Interior work for insulation and wallboard is underway with the passing of the inspection from the installation of the rough plumbing, electrical, gas, and cable having been completed and a Town inspection scheduled. Construction of the decks, rebuilding of the retaining wall at Unit #10 is completed. Completion of these items allows for the installation of the siding to start, weather permitting. The current schedule provided by Imagineers is a January completion date.

The Board is working with Rob Bouvier, our insurance agent and Attorney Scott Sandler to continue our negotiations with the insurance company to reduce the gap between cost of the project and the insurance proceeds received to date. Letters have been sent to affected units and contact made to bring closure to the claim process for those units. Stay tuned for more updates as this process progresses.

## THE ALUMINUM WIRING PROJECT



Unit Owners are reminded they can call Alwire to schedule the aluminum wiring remediation for their unit by calling Angela Heizman of Alwire Project Engineering at 860-604-9539 during normal business hours.

Be on the lookout for a Project Update mailing in early January from the Board outlining the project progress, process, and information on the Special Assessment process and timeline.

## OUR RESEARCH ON RETIREMENT HOMES



Do we like change? No. Well not all of us at least. Thus, we see the common practice of procrastination when it comes to planning ahead for a time that we may have to leave the comfort of our homes to find another kind of arrangement.

Until Suz experienced a recent need for hospitalization and rehab, we thought we would just handle this issue when we needed to. However, we learned how vulnerable we really are, and how difficult it can be to handle major health care

decisions at a critical time. We decided to take the bull by the horns and start looking at life plan communities/retirement homes; sort of like looking into the crystal ball. We hoped that by doing some investigation ahead of time we would feel more comfortable making choices when/if the time came. Having said all that, we're still uncertain!

Investigating retirement communities was an eye opener. Some offer living accommodations along with complete health care (rehab, skilled nursing, memory care, hospice, etc.) while others have a menu of health care options to add-on as needed for additional cost. Those offering the full 'life plan' require a 'buy in' (as in, sell your home to afford it), along with additional high monthly payments. Other facilities just charge a monthly fee that covers your apartment, dining, and other related expenses. Extra health care can be added when needed for additional fees .

There were many other choices, such as size of apartment, quality of food, location, size of the campus, amenities (pool, walking trails, activities, etc.). We could also feel a certain 'vibe' from each facility - either "this feels really good" or "kind of depressing", etc. Taking time to tour several different places was very informative in the way that one tours several houses before knowing which one to buy. Many pros and cons to compare (list-making time).

Of course, there are other options such as in-home care, etc., but investigating the retirement homes felt like one part of the puzzle that we may need to take out of the box before trying to put all the pieces together. It's also helpful to talk to friends who have made choices and to gauge their feeling of success (or otherwise). Shared experiences make this all feel more personal, allowing it to come together one step at a time. **By Robyn Castano**

## HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PARTY VOLUNTEERS

The Halloween Party was a big success, and we hope you enjoyed seeing the pictures in the last edition of the Lark. Events don't happen without a lot of prep, hosting and clean-up and we had a great team in October. Great thanks to Sandy O'Leary, Donna and John Whelan, Hazel and Dick Brimley, Linda Fay, Caroline and Jeff Rhoades and Marge DeMay.



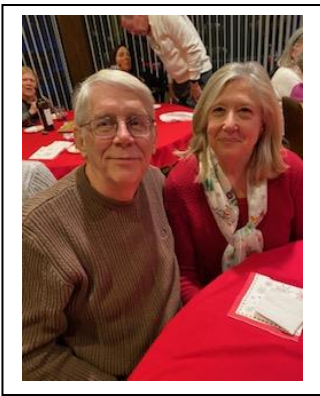
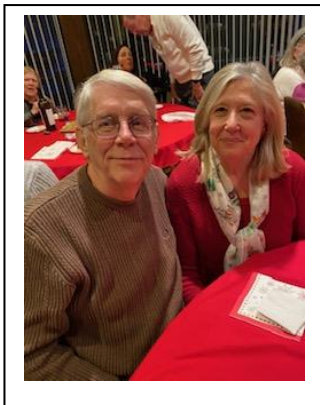
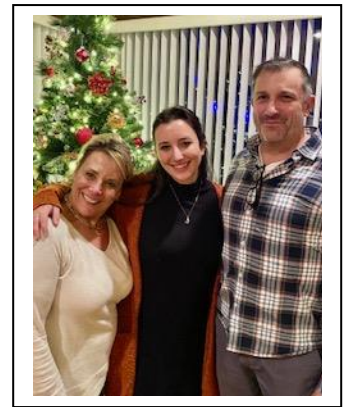
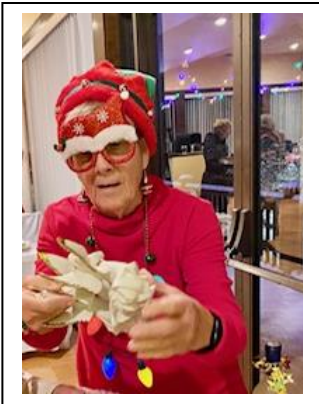
And then, just a few weeks ago, we had a tremendous Holiday Party, hosted by some of the same names - Caroline and Jeff Rhoades, their daughter Delaney and their friend Laura Szlatkowski, Donna and John Whelan and Sandy O'Leary. They pulled out all the stops with a wonderful meal catered by Emily's Catering Group of Bristol, a festively decorated clubhouse, live music by Delaney Rhoades, plus recorded music and a surprise dance routine by our own Sharon Mulcahy (with assistance from her sidekick husband, Cole). With a Secret Santa and plenty of take-home leftovers, this is going to be hard to beat in the future as a memorable party. Our great thanks to all the volunteers as well as the many residents who "braved the snow" to be part of the event! Social Meadow Hill is emerging from COVID and we love it!

## KEY DATES

1 New Year's	14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day
3 Book Club	16 Martin Luther King Day
6 Epiphany	18 MH Board Meeting
7 Orthodox Christmas	26 National Spouses Day



# Holiday Party Is A Hit!!!



## SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to our senior Meadow Hill senior – Gerry Whittemore who turns 101 on January 7th. Gerry is a huge inspiration to all of us and by the way, is not only living independently but a master at Bridge and Dominoes as well – getting lots of practice. If you’ve ever noticed her gardens, don’t ever think others do it for her. Congrats Gerry.



Not far behind her is Bernice Spencer, who turns 98 on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Another extraordinary person who is not only a great friend to many but also a superb artist. We have featured her and her paintings in a past Lark issue. Happy Special Birthday to Bernice!

The longevity of our residents speaks to the value of a community like MH where role models for healthy aging abound.

## 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](#).

### What is success? By Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and much;  
 To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;  
 To earn the appreciation of honest critics  
 And endure the betrayal of false friends;  
 To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;  
 To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child,  
 A garden patch or a redeemed social condition;  
 To have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation;  
 To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.  
 This is to have succeeded.

### MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

**Condolences** to Betty Matyia (#85) and family on the death of her husband, Len in November.  
**Welcome** to Doreen Kelly in Unit 126. You can welcome her in person or by phone: 631-379-2143. Welcome to the Meadow Hill family!  
**Hollister House** - remains closed until further notice due to use by the construction contractor.  
**Book Club** - The MH Book Discussion Group has re-started, planning to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 at the Clubhouse. If interested, contact Norma Flynn at 860-841-0845.  
**Tennis and shuffleboard courts** are now reopened.  
**Pool** - closed until next summer

**Lark Submissions:** Please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347 for more information on submitting articles and notices.  
**Bridge Players Wanted** - Please call Carolyn at 860-430-1046.  
**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.  
**Preowned Car Wanted:** Looking for a second vehicle to accommodate our daily travels. If you have one to sell, contact Robyn Castano at 860-797-7945

### MANAGEMENT COMPANY

<b>IMAGINEERS, LLC</b> 635 Farmington Ave. Hartford, CT 06105	Property Manager: Sheila Duncan 860-768-3419	Asst: Property Manager: Danielle Merritt 860-768-3419
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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Toni Dolan 860-918-7069	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Ed Litke 860-430-9611	<b>SECRETARY</b> Jim Fuda 860-729-0354
<b>TREASURER</b> Dawn Faucher 413-273-4486	<b>DIRECTOR</b> Sandy O'Leary 860-916-0740	<b>DIRECTOR</b> Ron King 860-983-1685
		<b>DIRECTOR</b> David Faxon 860-430-1061

To Email Management staff or Board Member click on <https://tinyurl.com/MHillContacts>

### BOARD MEETINGS

<b>Monthly Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm.</b>	<b>REGULAR MEETING</b> January 18th at 1:30 PM AT THE CLUBHOUSE	<b>Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at <a href="http://www.meadowhill.net">www.meadowhill.net</a></b> <b>Hard copy minutes are no longer available at the clubhouse due to the coronavirus.</b>
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**Lark Editor: Gene Flynn; Lark Designer: Denise Weeks**