

# THE LARK

May 2023

Meadowhill.net



## President's Message



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Meadow Hill has come alive with all of the spring perennial flowers in full bloom and the flowering trees ready to pop! With this unusually warm weather snap, it has been wonderful to see so many of you out and walking about! The sense of community that is always present here at Meadow Hill is evident as neighbors stop to talk to neighbors after a long winter, especially those who winter in warmer climates catching up on the latest "goings on".

When you read this article, at the April board meeting, the board received additional written and oral comments relative to the new set of rules that will govern the everyday tasks, events, and functioning of Meadow Hill. The Rules Committee consisting of Jim Fuda, Sandy O'Leary, Christine Keating, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx and I spent a great deal of time reviewing and revising the 1995 version. We made changes in some sections to bring them into alignment with the recently adopted declaration and bylaws, which are the legal documents that govern what we are allowed to do by law. Those documents had to be adopted by a majority of the community. The Rules, however, are voted on by the board, after Notice and Comment periods as required by our declaration and bylaws. The committee put forth a recommended draft and then they were sent out to the community for comments. There have been two Notice and Comment periods that allowed community members to send comments to Sheila Duncan at Imagineers, LLC. Simultaneously, our association attorney, Scott Sandler, reviewed the draft and made some suggested language changes and noted some legal requirements.

As we did not receive many comments during the initial notice and comment period, only six as of this date, the board committee members, Jim Fuda, Sandy O'Leary and I met to discuss the comments made by our attorney, as well as those comments received by the community members. In some cases, we accepted comments and inserted them into the document; in other cases, after some discussion, the board committee members compromised and/or made or did not make a change to the existing rule. After the second Notice and Comment period, we received additional written comments, as well as oral comments made at the April meeting. At this point in time, a committee of board members will be meeting to consider and discuss these comments and will put forth a revised document at the May board meeting at which time the board will be voting on the final document.

We appreciated the time that was given by the residents who reviewed this document, and we welcomed the input. When the final document is adopted, the board is hopeful that it represents a set of rules that will clarify some ambiguities in the former document, strengthen the board's ability to enforce, and generally continue to preserve and protect the beautiful "character of Meadow Hill". We would ask that each of you familiarize yourself with the new set so that you are compliant with them, especially those that are legal requirements. Hopefully, you will agree that, overall, these are reasonable guiding principles by which we can all live in harmony as good neighbors and friends. Meadow Hill is known for its beauty; let's all try our best to keep it beautiful.

Best regards, Toni Dolan

## Dog Days



We usually associate the term Dog Days with the hottest of summer months when we are pretty much miserable. I've been thinking of Dog Days differently now that I know what a blessing it is to have or to have had a dog, thus making Dog Days wonderful every day.

Yes, studies have proven the many benefits of dog ownership, including the fact that pet owners live a happier, healthier life than non-pet owners, Oh, I did say 'pet' owners, but you know I mean dog, right? All kidding aside, I never thought I'd want a dog because I thought they'd be following me around all needy, etc. But all of a sudden one day back about 14 years ago, the urge kicked in (something like the biological need to have a baby) . . . Well Suz finally agreed we could go to the shelter and look. . . I'll make this brief. Cricket won our hearts that day and for the rest of his 14 years.

Thanks to the many breeds of dogs (oh, did you know they are descendants of the wolf?) you now have the ability to choose your dog according to their inherent tendencies and behaviors. So, no Jack Russell Terrier if you like a calm existence. Many of us prefer the companionship aspect of having a dog, a tremendous benefit. Studies show that a dog makes you happy (I used to say that Cricket was my happy pill each day), and you'll get more exercise on average. They have also been found to soothe you more than the presence of a friend or spouse during a stressful time!

I've met so many people just by walking the dog! Dogs are natural ice breakers, allowing for conversation and connection. A natural enhancer! Hard to feel isolated when you have more interaction with others. And of course just petting your dog can elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine, which have pleasurable and calming properties.

Well, you get my point. Of course I haven't mentioned the fact that the dog doesn't take care of itself, or that they can cramp your social and travel activities, but I found that a small price to pay for that Happy Pill each and every day. My heart still hurts for the loss of Cricket but I wouldn't trade the wonderful life he gave me for anything in the world. Woof!

Robyn Castano

## Nominating Committee - Looking for Executive Board Candidates

The annual election of Executive Board members will be held in June as is customary. Prior board experience is not necessary - just an interest in representing your own point of view and helping to make decisions that positively impact our Meadow Hill community. And it's a chance to learn a lot and be part of a great team of people with common interests. If you have questions about the Board, contact Ed Litke at 860-430-9611.

Applicants for the Executive Board must submit their names by May 15.

Voting will take place at the June Annual Meeting,



## Bird Feeder Reminder

Meadow Hill Rule 6.16: Bird feeders may not be placed outside of an area of 4 feet from the foundation of a unit, without written approval from the Executive Board, which may be revoked at any time. Bird feeders are not allowed to be placed or remain outside from May 1 to September 30 each year, except for jelly type oriole feeders, finch thistle feeders and liquid hummingbird feeders. No feeder may be located within 10 feet horizontally or vertically of another unit's open deck.

## PICKLEBALL STRETCH (OPEN TO ANYONE)

Come join us for a gentle stretch before/after you play Pickleball or any other activity. MONDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 10:30 TO 11:00 UPSTAIRS IN THE CLUBHOUSE. Just bring yourself or invite another Meadow Hill friend. Loosen up and have fun! Call or text Robyn 860-797-7945.

## Think Globally, Act Locally



“Think globally, act locally” is a phrase we have all heard from political action committees, activist groups, and others. And even though it is widely used, it perfectly sums up the primary focus of the Grounds Committee as we continue to explore ways for Meadow Hill to be not just beautiful, but also environmentally responsible. The actions we take locally (here within our own campus) can have an impact that extends to the larger, “global” community in which we live. One example is the work we are doing to incorporate pollinator habitats into our planting plans, as we did last year with the first pollinator garden near the tennis

courts. Pollinators are critical to ensuring the continuation of the many fruits, vegetables, and flowers that we rely on for food and beauty.

When we hear the word pollinators, we tend to think of bees – especially honeybees - which are certainly a major pollinator. But did you know there are many species of bees in our state, and some are very specific to the types of plants they visit, such as squash bees? Other local pollinators include butterflies and moths and various other insects, as well as non-insect species such as hummingbirds. All of the pollinator populations are under pressure from habitat loss, pesticide use, and parasites. By providing more pollinator habitat right here at MH (local action), we contribute to the health of our larger environment (global thinking). Look for more on thinking globally and acting locally in future issues.

Mike Proulx, Grounds Committee

Information source: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Learn-About-Wildlife/Pollinators-in-Connecticut>

## Food Waste to Energy – It’s a Thing!

The Town of Glastonbury now offers a residential food waste collection and recycling program. This program goes beyond backyard composting as ALL food scraps are accepted including fruits & vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, bread, rice, pasta, raw and cooked foods, plants, napkins, paper towels, and parchment paper. Residents can bring scraps to the Food Scrap Drop-off Site at the Satellite Recycling Container located behind Town Hall. The material is then brought to an anaerobic digester where it is turned into clean energy and soil!



Click [here](#) to sign the food scrap recycling pledge and get a free starter kit like the one pictured, while supplies last. More information is available at the [town sanitation website](#).  
Denise Weeks

## Meadow Hill Book Club Alert



On April 4, a small group of interested residents got together to discuss the book, “The House in the Pines” by Ana Reyes. It was a very good discussion and brought new insight to the story and the author, making it much more enjoyable than just reading it on our own, with no sharing.

We will meet again on Tuesday, May 2 at 1:30 to discuss the book, “Commonwealth” by Ann Patchett. Please join us in the Clubhouse lower level office to meet new and old friends and to have a lively discussion about the book that was chosen. See you all there!!!! Question? Call Norma Flynn at 860-841-0845.

## Found Item

Ring found on floor of Clubhouse. Call Robyn Castano for information at 860-797-7945.



## KEY DATES

May 2 – Book Club	May 20 – Armed Forces Day
May 10 – Board mtg with Chase Bank	May 25 – Meet and Greet Volunteer Fair
May 14 – Mothers Day	May 29 – Memorial Day
May 17 – Board Meeting	

## 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](#).

## MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

**Hollister House** – remains closed until further notice due to use by the aluminum wiring contractor.

**Book Club.** The MH Book discussion group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 in the clubhouse. The May Selection is ‘Commonwealth’ by Ann Patchett. We are looking for a book to read for the June meeting.

**Tennis and shuffleboard courts** – are now open

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

**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.

**Pool** – closed until summer

## 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**  
Open

**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.

**REGULAR MEETING**  
May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM  
AT THE CLUBHOUSE

**Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at [www.meadowhill.net](http://www.meadowhill.net)**  
**Hard copy minutes are no longer available at the clubhouse due to the coronavirus.**

**Lark Editor: Norma Flynn; Lark Designer: Mike Proulx**