

# THE LARK

September/October 2023

[Meadowhill.net](http://Meadowhill.net)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! As you read this update, it is the start of Labor Day Weekend, summer is ending, and the fall season will soon inundate us with pumpkin spice beverages and food items galore! With the seasons in New England changes are the norm.

Committees are in place and working hard in their respective areas. The increase in volunteers has been phenomenal as we see new perspectives and added expertise through these new volunteers. The blend of the existing committee members with the newer members brings an amazing level of talents and energy to the benefit of Meadow Hill. We thank you all for your willingness to serve. We also welcome more volunteers, so if interested, please contact the Chairperson of that Committee. The list of Committees is posted on the Pitera and the Meadow Hill websites and can also be found in The Lark.

The new Meadow Hill Directory was recently updated and distributed to all residents. We took great strides to review, edit, and "strive for a perfect document"; however, we know there were some mistakes. We would ask you to let us know of any changes and we will update the information for the next publication. We will also keep an on-line version available through our Meadow Hill and Pitera web sites. Many thanks to all that helped with the 2023 Edition – Nancy Maloney, Chris Keating, Toni Dolan, Sheila Duncan, and Gene Flynn. Kudos to Deb Wellington for the new map.

The Rules and Regulations were fully adopted and are in effect. The final wording for Section 21.3 was developed responding to many of the comments raised by residents. The final version is updated on the web sites.

The next few months will be busy for the community as we see completion of the wiring project and fire rebuild projects, the rollout of ideas for the Hollister House, and the preparation of our 2024 budget.

The rebuild project remains delayed from full completion due to the delay in parts for the permanent electricity. The extended delay has created an undue hardship on the garage unit owners; however, at the time of writing of this article, Imagineers has received good news that the parts have been received by their electrician and the work is being scheduled with Eversource. Depending on Eversource's schedule, the permanent electrical will be done in the next couple of weeks – mid-September – and the garages will be fully operational.

The second major project – the Aluminum Wiring Remediation – also impacted by supply chain delays - is projected to be completed by the end of October. Alwire and Elite Electrical have worked diligently and continuously on the project since January and are about 2/3 complete with the project. All supplies have been delivered and additional staffing is being engaged to accelerate the project completion to meet the end of October timeline. If you have not scheduled your unit, please do so this month by contacting Angela Heizman at 860-604-9539.

The 2024 budget planning being led by our Treasurer Brenda Berk and her Budget Committee of Larry Abbott, Connie Liscomb, Toni Dolan, and Deb Wellington has started. I will give an update in the next edition of The Lark.

Finally, the October 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting will be an evening meeting and an Open Forum. Mark your calendars and further details will be forthcoming later this month.

Enjoy the Fall!

Jim Fuda

## Remembering John Vollinger



Many MH residents will remember John Vollinger. A long time MH resident, he became Meadow Hill's first resident centenarian. A former US Marine and World War II vet, John passed away on June 21. He is predeceased by his wife of 75 years Rosemarie, and leaves behind three children, six grandchildren as well as several great- and great-great-grandchildren. Condolences to John's extended family.

## New Grandpa Alert



Warning to residents: If you have any encounters with Darien, be prepared to enjoy pictures of his adorable first grandchild. Hailey Grace was born on July 23, weighing in at 7 pounds 3 ounces. Everyone is well, she is gorgeous, and Darien is understandably smitten. Congratulations, Darien, and welcome to the new world of grandparenthood!



## Coming Attractions

**Grounds Committee "Movie Night"** - Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, birds and bats are vitally important to ensuring the continuity of our food supply and natural balance. Yet, their very existence is under threat from forces such as climate change, habitat loss, pollution, and chemical/pesticide use. If you would like to learn more about pollinators, why they matter, and how we can help them flourish, join us this fall for a "movie night" sponsored by the Grounds Committee. We will show a short film and have an open discussion about what we are trying to do at MH to support our pollinator populations. Popcorn and soft drinks will be provided! Date and time to be announced; look for a flyer in your door.



**Transitional Living Seminar** - Watch for an upcoming Transitional Living Seminar focusing on senior living options beyond Meadow Hill. Over the last few years, huge strides have been made in creative independent and assisted living options for seniors. The days of going from independent living to nursing homes are over. If you or your loved ones are thinking of what you may need beyond Meadow Hill, see where living can still include your pets, your garden and independence (or assistance if needed). We will have a speaker with over 30 years of experience who will present these options and explain how affordable they can be. Stay tuned for more information and date to be determined.



## Transition Checklist

## Watch Out for This Plant



A notice from the Town of Glastonbury advises that Spotted Water Hemlock has been identified on a private property within the town of Glastonbury. SWH is found in streams and waterways and resembles Queen Anne's lace. This plant is highly toxic to people and pets. If you see it on Meadow Hill property, avoid having any contact with the plant and report it to Mike Proulx, Grounds chair. For pictures and more information:

<https://www.glastonburyct.gov/Home/Components/News/News/7967/>

## Key Dates

### September:

Sept 2 – V-J Day

Sept 4 – Labor Day

Sept 10 – Grandparents Day

Sept 11 – 9/11 Remembrance Day

Sept 15 - Rosh Hashanah begins

Sept 20 – Board meeting

Sept 24 - Yom Kippur

### October:

October 17 - Bulk Pickup

Oct 18 – Board meeting (Evening)

Oct 31 – Halloween

## FIREWORKS?



We probably all grew up with the fun of the 4th of July and the fireworks! I certainly never thought about them as anything but a wonderful display of fun and tradition. We are all aware of the many threats to our environment but hardly think of fireworks in that equation, right? So I thought I would share this information and see what YOU think.

Ask the birds. What? They're not answering?! Well, luckily, scientists have been studying them in relation to the disruptions caused by the fireworks we love so

dearly and the results are not pretty... Here are a few findings found in the Summer 2023 Audubon magazine.

- The noise and lights disorient birds. "The booms and bangs risk driving off parents, leaving chicks exposed to predators and other threats" according to a Florida Audubon conservation director.
- Geese flew greater distances and climbed higher for several nights after a celebration; some flew more than 300 miles on the night of fireworks, a distance typical only during migration.
- Long after the show ends, fireworks also pollute the air and water with metals and other toxic chemicals that build up in the food chain, contaminating fish and reptiles that birds and other animals consume.
- In Texas in 2022, a show spooked an egret colony. Panicked birds collided with power transformers, causing an outage and avian deaths. Some hatchlings fell from their nests.
- More human-caused wildfires in the West start on July 4th than any other day.

There's more but, I know, enough already! These are just some of the problems fireworks can spark; but here are some solutions:

- Municipal displays organized to safely locate shows far from sensitive areas.
- A switch to laser or choreographed drone displays.

Thoughts to ponder for July 4th 2024.

Submitted by Robyn Castano

## What is Your 'ASK' Story?



We recently heard a humorous proposal story from a MH couple, and it got us to thinking there must be other cute, funny, touching, romantic, or otherwise interesting "ask" stories within our resident population. If you have a "how we met" or "how he/she proposed" story you'd like to share, let us know. You can write it yourself, or just tell us the story and we can write it up for you. If you'd rather keep your story anonymous, that's fine! Contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347 or Mike Proulx at 585-474-6698.

## Volunteer Accounting Help Needed

The Meadow Hill Budget Committee is looking for a general ledger accountant to help analyze historical reporting.

If you can help, contact Brenda Berk at 860-463-8262.





## COMMUNITY EVENTS



The [Sharing Tree](#) is a quarterly publication that is packed with important information about Glastonbury Senior Center events, educational courses, travel and much more.



Check it out!!

For **Library Events** click [here](#).

## Deadline Approaching for Veteran's Tax Exemptions

September is the latest veterans can apply for Town of Glastonbury tax reduction the following year. If you are interested:

- Additional Veterans Exemption deadline: September 29, 2023
- Honorably discharged veterans qualify for a \$1,500 exemption
- Disabled veterans may receive an exemption of \$2,250 to \$15,000 depending upon their disability

Additional Veteran's application:

<https://www.glastonburyct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/39506/637958905542670000>

Submitted by Deb Wellington

## Energy Programs Available for CT Residents

As fall approaches, it's not too early to start thinking about cool weather energy bills. There are two key programs in CT that people living at MH may be interested in taking advantage of.

### 1. EVERSOURCE ENERGY AUDIT:

- No minimum age requirement.
- \$50 co-pay for an energy audit.

On average, Connecticut households save \$180 per year from the initial visit, and often more if additional measures are completed. If you meet income eligibility requirements, (income limit of \$39,761 for 1; \$51,996 for two people) you may receive the initial visit at no cost. You may also receive up to 100% off an approved insulation project and incentives for additional energy-saving upgrades.

Apply on line at: <https://www.eversource-ct.com/HES/> or call 1-866-527-SAVE. For a complete summary of details of the program:

<https://www.crtct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-2023-HES-IE-Application.pdf>

### 2. ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

- No minimum age requirements.

Connecticut residents with qualifying income (income limit of \$39,761 for 1; \$51,996 for two people) can apply for this program, either on-line, by phone, by email or regular mail, or in person:

<https://www.crtct.org/programs/basicneeds/energy-assistance/>

Benefits from this program can range from \$250 to \$600 depending upon your situation. The program opens in September for the 2023-2024 season. Benefits are usually paid directly to your utility company.

Call Glastonbury Social Services at (860) 652-7638 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Both of these programs can also be reached via the town of Glastonbury Human Services web page:

<https://www.glastonburyct.gov/departments/department-directory-a-h/human-services/social-services/fuel-bank-and-energy-assistance-programs>

Submitted by Deb Wellington

## Important Reminders

**Fall Bulk Item Clean Up Day – October 17th:** It's time for our fall bulk pick-up opportunity. Mark your calendar now for October 17th, with drop off permitted in front of the barn/greenhouse on October 16th and until 10am on October 17th -- at which point, the items will be taken to the Transfer Station. Please limit your drop-off -- two large items that cannot go into regular trash but no heavy items like appliances and couches.



### Garden Clean-Out:

As sad as it was to see our river gardens destroyed by the July floods, Maintenance reminds us that anything left in the Community Garden (river garden), must be cleaned out by October 1.

Garden Before Flood



Garden After Flood



**Water Heater Advisory:** If you install a catch pan and emergency shut off with your hot water heater you should be aware the shutoff may not work in a loss of power if a battery back-up system was not included. If the emergency back-up is installed, you should replace the batteries at least once per year. If you have any questions, contact your contractor.

**Fireplace Reminders:** As cool weather approaches, let's remember that burning wood in fireplaces is strictly prohibited according to Meadow Hill rules. In addition, if you have a gas fireplace, you must have it professionally cleaned at least every two years.

**New (Optional) Work Order Request Form:** In response to owner suggestions, the Executive Board and Imagineers are introducing a paper version of the Work Order Request Form, which will now be available on the table at the bottom of the stairs in the Clubhouse. This form mirrors the electronic version available in Pitera. If you choose the paper version, after completing your request, mail it to Sheila Duncan at Imagineers and it will be considered along with the electronic Pitera requests.

**Hose for Resident Use:** Need a place with access to a hose for washing your car? The hose on the front of the Maintenance Building is available to any resident for their use, any time after 4:00 pm on weekdays or on the weekend. Please don't leave the car unattended so it doesn't block access to the garage. Be sure to turn off the water when done.

## MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

**Pool** - Closing September 25th

**Tennis and shuffleboard courts** - Closing early November (weather dependent)

**Book Club:** The MH Book Club meets in the Clubhouse on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30.

Sept 5 - 'Call the Nurse: True Stories of a Country Nurse on a Scottish Isle' by Mary J MacLeod

October 3 - 'Tomorrow, Tomorrow and Tomorrow' by Gabrielle Zevin

November 7 - 'The Girl who Came Home -the Titanic'- by Hazel Graynor

**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.

**Hollister House** - remains closed until further notice due to use by the construction contractor.

## 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. Board president is Ex Officio on all committees.



**Budget:** Brenda Berk, Treasurer and Chair, Larry Abbott, Toni Dolan, Connie Liscomb, Deb Wellington.  
**Communications/Welcoming:** Gene Flynn, Chair, Mike Proulx, Denise Weeks, Robyn Castano, Suz Fields, Diane Sikorsky, Luther Weeks, Board Liaison, Jim Fuda.  
**Grounds:** Mike Proulx, Chair, Harris Berloe, Dick Brimley, Dave Fillion, Patti McNamara, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx, Peter Rothfarb, Susan Wallace, Judith Woodward; Board liaison – Ron King.  
**Long Term Planning Committee:** Jim Fuda, President and Chair, Larry Abbot, Frank Cisz, David Faxon, David Hogan, Ed Litke, Reg Wellington.

**Maintenance and Amenities:** Walter Brownsword, Director and Chair, Bob Kolwitz, Roger Bouchard, Ray Dolan, Vin Liscomb, Eileen Swenson.  
**Stables, Greenhouse, Garden as subcommittee:** Darien Covert.  
**Social:** Donna Whalen, Secretary and Chair, Hazel Brimley, Jane Marcin.  
**Trees:** Gene Flynn, (Chair), Bob Kolwicz, Roger Bouchard, Board Liaison, Ron King  
**Clubhouse Rental:** Danielle Merritt, Imagineers  
**Future Committees:**  
 Nominating  
 Finance  
 Risk Management/Insurance

### 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> Jim Fuda 860-729-0354	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Ed Litke 860-430-9611	<b>SECRETARY</b> Donna Whalen 413-429-6323	<b>TREASURER</b> Brenda Berk 860-463-8262
	<b>DIRECTOR</b> Walter Brownsword 860-633-0207	<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

<p>Monthly Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm.</p>	<p><b>REGULAR MEETING</b>                  Sept. 20th at 1:30 PM                  Oct 18<sup>th</sup>                  6:30pm (Board Business)                  7:00pm (Presentations/                  Open Forum)  <b>AT THE CLUBHOUSE</b></p>	<p>Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at <a href="http://www.meadowhill.net">www.meadowhill.net</a>                  Hard copy minutes are no longer available at the clubhouse due to the coronavirus.</p>
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Lark Editor: Mike Proulx; Lark Designer: Denise Weeks