

# THE LARK

March-April 2024 LARK

**Meadowhill.net**



## Introducing Board Member Paul Jenkins

You may be surprised to know that Paul Jenkins agreed to a director position on the board of Meadow Hill because he was 'curious'. What better quality for one in a position to investigate M.H. business and respond accordingly!

Paul's work life revolved around his ability to investigate problems and fix them. He was a specialist tradesman in machine tool repair and traveled the world for his company. He was sent to companies needing this repair work to keep their business in business! Certainly it was an often solitary involvement with little in-person contact.

He admits that he carries this insular lifestyle with him today; as a result of hours, days and years of this specialized work; from one job, one country, right on to the next. Looking back, he refers to it as his nomadic life. But now that he and Sue Bedell live at M.H., he wants connection to community. That has been a slow but steady accomplishment. His position on the M.H. board is a step in that direction.

Paul grew up as an only child. He does have a step-sister but she is 9 years his senior. In high school, he was separated from his grade school friends and drew on his own resources - an avid reader. Now retired after 50 years of employment, he is adjusting to life in the slow lane. He feels he is a conservative thinker, certainly thoughtful and mindful of decisions and consequences.

He met Sue in 2021 and they moved here to M.H. in 2022. His days are now filled with household chores, walking his dog, Grace 2-3 miles a day, and planning future travel with Sue. They enjoy walks together as well as playing with state-of-the-art toys: electric bikes, motorcycle, hot rod vintage car and kayaks. Oh, and Pickleball come Spring.

Both Paul and Sue grew up in the Hartford area, as have so many M.H. residents. They bring a sense of continuity and stability to our changing M.H. community. We welcome and thank Paul for his contribution to M.H.



## Key Dates

### March

10 - Daylight Savings Time starts

14 - Pi Day

17 - St. Patrick's Day

20 - Board Meeting

23 - Purim begins

31 - Easter

### April

1 - April Fools Day

15 - Taxes Due

16 - Bulk Pick up

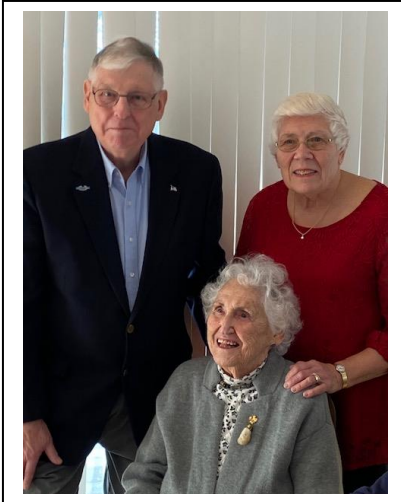
17 - Board Meeting

22 - Passover Begins

25 - Glastonbury Police Department Event

May 1 - Garden Plot Request Deadline

# *Another Successful Birthday Bash!*



The Clubhouse was the location of Connie Abbott's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration on January 21<sup>st</sup>, with over 70 in attendance. This was only one of several birthday celebrations for Connie. Our state Representative, Steve Weir also arranged to have January 19<sup>th</sup> proclaimed "Connie Abbott Day" in the State of Connecticut. Congratulations Connie and Best Wishes.



## **From the Notebook of Connie Abbott – 100 Years After 1924**

I want to thank Denise Weeks and her committee for the great job handling my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at the Clubhouse. I also want to thank all the Meadow Hiller's who came out and gave me such wonderful birthday cards and gifts. It was one of the very best times I have ever had at Meadow Hill. Stay well. Stay safe. And God Bless America. by Connie Abbott



## Planning Your Farewell – IMHO (In My Humble Opinion)



This is the first in a series of articles on planning for your own end-of-life. Other than taxes and “change”, death is the only thing we can be certain we will all face. But do we really face it or do we avoid talking about it? Probably both. When we were younger, the death of a loved one involved two nights of “viewings” (which now sounds oddly creepy to me) and a formal funeral. And the whole process began about a day after the actual death. Talk about putting the family through the wringer. Thank goodness in today’s day and age, in addition to newer standard approaches to farewells, some people have begun putting their own spin on how to be remembered. And society is seeing more positivity in these end-of-life celebrations which are often held in places other than religious buildings. We have had memorial services in our Clubhouse, for example.

In my church’s role of lay pastoral care, I’ve been with a few patients and families at end of life. One surprise that often stands out for me is the lack of planning for funerals/memorials. And family members left behind end up leaning on clergy and funeral home directors to plan the formal memorial. Maybe it can be different. Maybe now is the time that you should put your own wishes in writing.

What would you document? Have you considered pre-paying your final expenses with a funeral home or crematorium? What a gift that would be to your family. Do you have special music, scripture readings, poems or even preferences on speakers at the event? The internet is a wealth of information about post-death planning logistics. You can give just a framework (ex. no calling hours and just a brief service) or go into details (ex. three specific music selections).

And then what? Once you’ve crafted a letter of preferences, leave it with your religious institution, attorney or executor/executrix. Remember, wills are often read after burial so keeping these instructions with your will may not work.

The genesis for this article is my own situation. I want to design my own send-off as a “reunion” of family and friends. It will be held when the weather usually cooperates so people stream in and out of the event into the sunshine. And music, lots of it – although many of you would put your foot down on dancing at a farewell. But why not? I want a celebration of life, not a low-energy, sad, dirge-music event that attendees can’t wait to leave. Reunions are fun events with plenty of “remember when...” moments. I’m hoping most will remember positive and not embarrassing memories about me!

While you’re at it, do you have a will or one that reflects your current estate wishes? If not, make an appointment today with an estate attorney to give you peace of mind. Some people think that final memorial services are only a tool for a grieving family. I think it’s a chance to paint a self-portrait for my family and friends. By Gene Flynn

### Protect Yourself and Others – Mark Your Calendars!

GPD Presentation - Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

The Glastonbury Police Department requested the opportunity to present a seminar on Elder Fraud at Meadow Hill – and we said YES! We think if it is important for GPD to relay this information – then it is important for us to hear it.

This fast-growing problem is hitting hard and has even hit some of our own Meadow

Hill residents. We know being a victim of fraud results in losing your money and time (can take many months to resolve); but it can also cause anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, loss of confidence and PTSD.

Learn how **not** to be a victim. Some scams covered are: Government Impersonators, Utility Company scams, Obituary scam, Tech Support scam, Romance scam and Grandparent Scam. We are expecting this will be a very popular and well attended seminar, so mark your calendar and be at the Clubhouse at 4:00 p.m. on April 25<sup>th</sup>!

Also, under the topic of protection, we have seen a few instances in the past few months of minor vandalism at Meadow Hill, principally at night. If you see something strange, report it to the Police. It takes a village to keep us all safe. While not a huge problem for Meadow Hill, we can’t be too careful. By Bonnie Brooks



## Toward a More Sustainable Green Space



It's no secret that it's hard to grow good grass in many areas of Meadow Hill. Outside of the center green, there is no irrigation, and in many areas, there is little shade. Despite ongoing applications of topsoil, seed, and fertilizer, we are at the mercy of the rain gods to produce healthy grass lawns. Last summer we had ample rain, resulting in good grass (along with river flooding that wiped out the community garden). But the previous three summers were hot and dry, and much of the campus looked parched and arid by mid-July. With climate change

creating longer, hotter, drier summers, and water becoming scarcer and more expensive, the Grounds Committee believes we need to be looking at alternatives to traditional grass lawns. We are not alone. Across the country, individuals and communities are looking for more sustainable, eco-friendly, and resource-responsible options for creating and maintaining green spaces.

We've taken some steps already. Over the past two summers the Grounds Committee has created two pollinator gardens along the north fence line, converting about 350 square feet of grass to pollinator-friendly natural "mini-meadows." We will continue to expand those efforts going forward. In addition, the Grounds Committee, working with the Long-Term Planning Committee, will explore other possible alternatives to turf grass lawn.

The first step will involve testing 2 or 3 potential grass alternatives in a small area. The intent is to create small test plots (about 6 ft x 6 ft) of alternative ground cover that are suitable for our climate and soil conditions, and require minimal watering, weed control, or mowing. We are currently evaluating options, but the specific plants have not yet been selected. Once established, the test plots will be allowed to go through at least one full annual cycle so we can observe them at every stage of their growth. The test plots will be located where they are easily accessible so residents can also watch their progress. If a suitable candidate emerges from the test, we will move on to try it in a larger area and continue to monitor. Over time, we expect to repeat the process multiple times.

Rest assured, the goal is not to eliminate all grass from Meadow Hill, but to integrate more natural and eco-friendly ground plantings where it makes sense. This is a long-term process that will unfold over many years. And with each incremental step along the way, we can help reduce Meadow Hill's environmental footprint and align our greenspace more closely with the natural world. Look for more details in future issues of the Lark. By Mike Proulx

## A Personal Revelation

I like to close a book and then see the bookmark, showing me how much further to the end of the book that I never want to end. I have just started to hold and read a real book again. Previous to this, my eyes were more of a problem and could only read from the Kindle. I am thankful for the new medication that allows my eyes to adjust to a real page and a real book which I have longed for - for so long.

This would never have happened if I had not seen the listing in the local Glastonbury paper promoting a sale at the South Glastonbury library. You could buy as many books as would fit in a bag for just five dollars. This was the miracle that brought me a bag of books that I searched through and found my first to read. This one book was the gift.

I began to feel this new and unusual excitement, having previously avoided paper books as unmanageable. I wondered - why had I not found this treasure somehow in my Kindle reading? I believe it may be the magic of that old library in South Glastonbury that invited me in to find this special book. Suddenly, my world has opened up and a new joy has entered. Do you remember this happening to you? Was there a time you opened a book and felt bedazzled? Well then, you understand. By Robyn Castano

## Let's Talk About Condo Community Roles and Responsibilities



One factor that prospective condominium homeowners look for in a condo association is a strong sense of community and leadership. This is best achieved when homeowner, non-owner residents and community leaders recognize and embrace their rights and responsibilities. In this Lark issue, we examine the roles and responsibilities of homeowners. In the next issue, we'll explore the roles and responsibilities of our manager, superintendent and Executive Board.

As homeowners, we have the **rights** to:

- A responsive and competent association.
- Honest, fair and respectful treatment by community leaders and managers.
- Ability to participate in governing by attending meetings, serving on committees and standing for election.
- Access to association records.
- Prudent expenditure of fees and other assessments.
- Property maintenance according to established standards.
- Fair treatment regarding financial and other association obligations.
- Receive all bylaws and association rules before property closings and as the Board / Community adjust them.
- Ability to appeal to the Board when decisions affecting non-routine financial responsibilities or property rights are made.

And homeowners have the **responsibility** to:

- Read and comply with association governing documents.
- Maintain their property according to established standards.
- Treat association leaders with honesty and respect.
- Vote in community elections and on other issues.
- Pay association assessments and fees on time.
- Request reconsideration of material decisions that personally affect them.
- Maintain accurate resident records with the manager.
- Ensure all residents within their unit adhere to MH bylaws and rules

### Community Garden Plot

Deadline for requesting a plot in our Community Garden is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Before then, if you have had a plot previously, please be sure that your garden is free and clear of all weed blocker and stakes. Interested in a plot this year? Contact Darien Covert, our Meadow Hill Superintendent.



### Bulk Pick Up Day – April 16th



Mark your calendars now for the next Meadow Hill Bulk Pick up day scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. You may start leaving qualifying items by the barn on Monday, 4/15 and the bulk items will be taken to the Transfer Station about noon on the 16<sup>th</sup>. No major appliances, sofa beds or similar heavy items; don't include any items that can be placed in the blue trash bins. Any question about eligibility, contact Darien Covert.

### New Walking Map of Meadow Hill

Great thanks to Peter Rothfarb for creating a walking map of Meadow Hill which the Board has approved for distribution. Watch for it to be posted to the Meadow Hill Facebook page and MH website. If you have questions about how to get it, contact Gene Flynn.

## Do You Have Forgotten Money?



The state of CT has a database of unclaimed funds – monies left in bank accounts, business credits and tax refunds. It's worth checking out if your name (or someone you know) is on the list. The list also shows the process to claim these funds. Check it out using; <http://www.ctbiglist.com/>  
By Deb Wellington

## Homeowners Tax Credit

Here is a summary of tax exemptions and tax credit programs in the State of CT and Glastonbury. Use this link for details and applications:

<https://www.glastonburyct.gov/departments/departments-directory-i-z/property-assessment/summary-of-exemptions-and-property-tax-relief-programs>

Here are the highlights:

- Homeowner's Tax Credit has state and local components based on income.
- Must be a Ct/Glastonbury resident and over 65
- State credit income limit: \$43,800 for singles, \$53,400 for married applicants.
- Local credit income limit: \$69,700 for both singles and married applicants.
  - ***Total tax credits can range from \$250 to over \$2000 depending upon income and marital status***
- Long-term homeowners (20 of the past 25 years) get an extra \$100 tax credit.
- One application covers both programs.
- Income includes all taxable and nontaxable income.
- Proof of 2023 income required: tax return or 1099 statements and SSA-1099.
- Homeowners Tax Credit deadline for completed applications and documentation: 4:30pm on **May 15, 2024**.
- For assistance, contact Glastonbury Social Services at 860-652-7638 or [socialservices@glastonbury-ct.gov](mailto:socialservices@glastonbury-ct.gov).
- Applications can be submitted in-person, emailed, or mailed to the Assessor's Office. Ensure all required documents are included.

By Deb Wellington

## 2024 Men's Golf League



If you're interested in joining our newly formed golf league, contact us. Play will begin in April. For Information contact:  
John Whalen 413-429-6324 [jmwhyte@aol.com](mailto:jmwhyte@aol.com) or  
Ron King 860-983-1685 [cpgking@gmail.com](mailto:cpgking@gmail.com)

## Pickleball Update

This is the first call for anyone interested in pickleball at Meadow Hill this year. Please contact Robyn Castano at 860-797-7945, not only a MH resident but also a certified Pickleball instructor! Beat the rush, call now and join the fastest growing sport for seniors in America.





## 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](#).



### Training for Online Registration for Senior Center Programs

Not sure how to use the on-line registration programs to register for events and classes at the Welles Turner Library or Glastonbury Senior Services? Join Library and Senior Services Center Staff on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center to learn how to register on-line for Library, Senior Center and Parks & Recreation classes and programs. Call to register, 860-652-7638. By Denise Weeks



**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON  
OF FUN, VENDORS & MORE!**

- RAFFLES
- HEALTH RELATED VENDORS
- GLASTONBURY YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
- GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT
- GLASTONBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT
- PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK
- GIVEAWAYS
- CHILI CONTEST WITH FREE SAMPLES!
- FREE CHAIR OR HAND MASSAGE IF YOU VISIT 10 BOOTHS!

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
**BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE**  
**FOOD PANTRY FOR A FREE RAFFLE TICKET!**

**FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 8TH**  
**2 PM- 6 PM**

**RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**300 WELLES STREET,**  
**GLASTONBURY**

**VISIT OUR PAGE HERE!**



## MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

**Condolences** to Sue Ostrowski and family on the death of her husband, Emil in January. Also in January, we lost Kathy Hoogewerff, who lived in Unit 44. Our heartfelt sympathy to both families.

**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.

**MH Book Club** – meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 at the clubhouse.

- March 5: “Still Life” by Sarah Winman
- April 2: “Mortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot
- May 7: May: “Pachinko” by Min Jin Lee

**Garage Rental Wanted:** contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347

**Hollister House** –closed until further notice.

## 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.

**Clubhouse Rental:** Danielle Merritt, Imagineers

**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

**Future Committees:**

Nominating

Finance

Risk Management/Insurance

## 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**  
Jim Fuda  
860-729-0354

**DIRECTOR**  
Deb Wellington  
860-306-4502

**DIRECTOR**  
Walter Brownsword  
860-633-0207

**SECRETARY**  
Donna Whalen  
413-429-6323

**DIRECTOR**  
Ron King  
860-983-1685

**TREASURER**  
Brenda Berk  
860-463-8262

**DIRECTOR**  
Paul Jenkins  
860-990-3302

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**  
**Mar 20 and April 17**  
**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: Gene Flynn; Lark Designer: Denise Weeks**