

THE LARK

July/August 2024 LARK

Meadowhill.net



President's Message

I'm pleased to announce that all four nominees were voted in during our annual meeting, (Jim, Deb and Tim for 3 years; Paul for 1 year). We welcome Tim Reid to the Board, who brings enthusiasm and a desire to help the community. Ron King completed his term but will continue serving on committees. We thank Ron for his dedicated service and contribution. After the Annual Meeting, the Board elected officers for the 2024-2025 term:

- Jim Fuda, President
- Deb Wellington, Vice President
- Brenda Berk, Treasurer
- Donna Whalen, Secretary

Directors Walter Brownsword, Paul Jenkins, and Tim Reid will also contribute significantly to our community. The Hollister House vote was successful, with 91% of the community supporting the sale of development rights. This approval enables us to add approximately \$150,000 to our reserves and convert the Hollister House into a revenue contributor. Thanks to the Board, the Long-term Committee (LTC), especially Frank Cisz who was instrumental in this work, and the community for their support.

Moving forward, the Board and LTC will finalize the project details. Our attorney is establishing a closing schedule for the sale, ensuring we receive the funds and meet milestones.

We will continue to focus on safety, risk reduction, and liability minimization. Upcoming priorities include:

- Completing a Reserve Study for long-term capital improvements
- Dryer vent cleaning
- Deck repairs for safety
- Gas grill safety advisory
- Enhancing electronic communication systems
- Regular information releases to the community
- Creating a Unit Owners' Handbook
- Developing a Board of Directors Manual that documents our procedures and serves as a tool for new Board Members
- Reviewing and updating our Declaration, By-Laws, and Rules/Regulations
- Promoting social events to foster community relationships
- Supporting our Committees' contributions to Meadow Hill

Your input is vital. We encourage you to attend Board Meetings at 10am on the third Wednesday of each month and Planning Meetings at 10am on the first Wednesday (except July 3). These meetings are open to all residents, and you can speak during the Open Session. Meeting notifications and minutes are available on the Pitera and Meadow Hill websites.

Lastly, our most crucial element is the relationships within our community, with each other, with our vendors and contractors. Let's follow the Golden Rule: treat our neighbors as we would want to be treated. Meadow Hill is a special place, and together, we can make it even better.

Best regards,

Have a great summer!

Jim Fuda, President



Welcome Deb Wellington to the Executive Board



I just spent a delightful hour with one of Meadow Hills's new Board members, Deb Wellington. She had a long career with IBM in a variety of global sales, marketing and finance positions. As such, she travelled extensively, traveling to many countries throughout the world. She has many interesting stories to tell. Deb is originally from East Hartford and went to UConn for both undergraduate and MBA in Finance and Marketing.

Deb and her husband Reg moved here in October 2021. They didn't move far to be here as they have been long-time residents of Glastonbury. They have a small family with a son in Boston. Reg is also retired, formerly in food distribution sales management. Reg is a vegetable gardener and, like all of our community gardeners, was devastated by last year's Connecticut River flood.

Deb loves to play golf and solve sudoku puzzles. She is also a prolific reader and delved more deeply into cooking after retiring to create more interesting meals. Nevertheless, she honestly would rather go to a good restaurant.

Adventure allures her; mainly, she wants to make a difference wherever she is.

By Diane Sikorsky

Preparing for End of Life – Part III

In the March and May editions of The Lark, we explored two topics to consider as an aid to your family in preparation for your death. We covered giving your family some thoughts about how you want a memorial handled, and also to have non-emotional conversations now with your kids about your finances, your health and preferences for medical care as you age.



That brings us to the topic of organizing your legal papers and financial information, so your family doesn't have to search for everything they need to move through the probate process. Ideally, you should gather all these documents and financial records and keep them together in an online folder or in a hard copy file folder.

NOKBox (Next Of Kin) is an off-the-shelf product which provides the organizing tools (find it online). You may even ask your family to give it to you as a present, for you to complete. But I'm taking the cheaper route and using a cardboard file box with manilla folders, all labeled with the key topics. Same result, but just less pretty.

If you have ever been executor or executrix of someone's estate, you may have experienced a treasure hunt process, combing through closets, drawers, desks and attic/cellar boxes. Along the way, you may also find hidden cash stashes. Wouldn't it be easier to do the up-front work for your family and give them a road map as to where everything is?

End of life is a topic that no one wants to face but you certainly have the most knowledge about your own personal affairs. Organizing these important statements, wills and a summary of assets and liabilities would be a great gift to those you leave behind.

By Gene Flynn

Key Dates

July:

- 2 – Book Club
- 4 - Independence Day
- 13 – Pickleball Instruction
- 14 – Oldies Night
- 16 - Bring Hazardous Waste to Maint. Bldg
- 17 – Board Meeting

August:

- 4 – US Coast Guard Day
- 6 – Book Club
- 7 - Board Planning Meeting
- 21 - Board Meeting
- 26 – Women's Equality Day

Dryer Vent Cleaning: A Serious Business



An acquaintance recently had their dryer vent professionally cleaned. The cleaner discovered that a mesh screen had been installed over the vent by a previous resident, presumably to keep out squirrels and other pests. Because of the small openings in the screen, the lint was unable to pass through, and the vent was completely blocked with lint – a fire just waiting to start, and a good reminder that what we don't know CAN hurt us!

According to Consumer Reports, nearly 14,000 home fires are started by clothes dryers each year, and more than a quarter of them are caused by accumulated lint, which can constrict the ductwork that expels hot air outside. That is why Meadow Hill will require all residents to have their dryer vents professionally cleaned in 2024 and at least every 2 years thereafter. If you're not sure who to call, here are several vendors to consider (tip: you may get a discount if you get several neighbors to get their cleaning done at the same time):

- Quags Dryer Vent Cleaning, Farmington, CT, phone 860-996-2240
- Dryer Vent Cleaners of Connecticut LLC, 11 Heritage Dr, Marlborough, CT, phone 860-414-4206
- Top Tier Construction LLC, 391 Route 87, Columbia, CT, phone 860-488-3158
- Ever Clean Air, Streamwood, IL 60107 (centralized scheduling), Tel: 781-399-4740 (Local contact – Ivan), EM: support@evercleanair.com
- Alpha Clean Air, Tel: 888-502-3828, EM: service@alphacleanair.com

By the way, the person with the blocked vent reports getting very little lint in the lint screen in their dryer now – an extra benefit to keeping the duct clean!

Grill Safety Reminders

Nothing says summer like a fresh-grilled burger or frank. As grilling season gets into full swing, remember to follow these guidelines to help prevent accidents, reduce risk, and contribute to a safer environment for neighbors and the Meadow Hill Community.



Grilling Safety Recommendations:

- **Distance from the Building:** The Town of Glastonbury Deputy Fire Marshall recommends that gas grills be placed at least 10 feet away from the building. While we understand that some deck areas do not have this much space, please position your grill as far away from the building as possible on your deck.
- **Types of Grills Allowed:**
 - Allowed: Electric grills and gas grills.
 - Not Allowed: Charcoal grills are strictly prohibited.
- **Avoid Grilling Under Canopies:** For your safety, do not grill under a canopy or any overhang. This practice represents a significant fire risk.
- **Do Not Leave Gas Grills Unattended:** Please ensure that gas grills are never left unattended while in use. This is crucial for preventing potential fire hazards.
- **Fire Extinguisher:** We recommend that you keep a fire extinguisher handy when grilling. This precaution can help quickly address any unexpected fire incidents.

Meadow Hill Moves to Email-Based Communication



In an effort to enhance communication efficiency and reduce costs, the Meadow Hill Board of Directors is transitioning to an email-based system for distributing information to owners and tenants. This change aims to significantly cut down on expenses associated with traditional mailing and speed up the distribution of important information.

For those who do not have an email address, rest assured that you will continue to receive notices via USPS mail. It is crucial for all residents to keep their contact information current to ensure seamless communication.

To update your contact details, you can easily access the online portal at app.pilera.com. Alternatively, you can reach out directly via email to Kristin Davis at kdavis@imagineersllc.com for any updates to your information.

Thank you for your cooperation as we make this transition to a more efficient and cost-effective communication system.

By Deb Wellington

Join the Meadow Hill Facebook Group

Did you know we had a private closed Facebook group page for residents only? Want to be in-the-know? Help our group page grow and join now! Simply click in the search bar, type exactly as you see on the right (Meadow Hill GburyCT) and answer 3 questions that pertain to our community only. Approval is no more than 1 day.

On our group page you will find what's happening, such as notifications, reminders, references, events, the Lark, pictures and more. Meet your neighbors; anyone in the community can post but please be mindful of the rules we have in place. Let's make our group page "social media of Meadow Hill".

Watch for more information and tips in future Lark issues.



Meadow Hill GburyCT >

Private group · 38 members



Questions regarding the sign-up process, please contact
Kim at kim.m.trela@gmail.com or Donna at dtwhale53@gmail.com

By Kim Trela

Update: Grass Alternative Testing Is Underway



If you've wandered down Dogwood Lane in the past few weeks, you've noticed the wooden planting boxes lying between units 227 and 292. This is the test site for our first round of evaluating alternatives to traditional turf lawn grass. The test boxes were installed on May 11. As much existing grass was removed as possible. Some topsoil was added and a dose of dolomitic lime was spread into the soil (lab analysis of MH soil samples has clearly shown that our soil is acidic and in need of lime); and the soil was allowed to rest for several weeks so the lime could work in. On June 10, the 4 test subjects were planted from seed:

- Microclover
- Creeping thyme
- Northeast native grass mix
- 50/50 blend of microclover and Northeast native grass mix

The new plantings will be watered regularly until they are established, like any new lawn. After that, we will allow nature to take its course and simply observe what happens over the course of a year as we try to simulate the conditions that would face any of these lawn alternatives if planted in some of the unirrigated areas of the MH campus. The test plots have been labeled so residents can watch the progress and offer feedback. We look forward to your comments.

By Mike Proulx

Meadow Hill Oldies Party

Save-the-Date

July 14th /3-6PM/Meadow Hill
Clubhouse
DJ playing Hits from the 50s-60s
and 70s!

\$10 per person

Get Out Your Dancing Shoes!
More info to follow!



Pickleball, Anyone?



Have you ever played Tennis? Ping-pong? Badminton? You get the idea ... Well then, you're probably all set for the next big sport that everyone (including seniors) is playing: PICKLEBALL!

Now that I'm a Pickleball coach (teacher) I'd like to offer you a chance to have a lesson and give it a try. Right here at Meadow Hill. Free! So let's get together and have fun. We'll learn the basics along with important safety issues.

Date: Saturday, July 13th at 8am (any later it's too hot!)

Rain Date: Saturday, July 20th at 8am

We'll go for one and 1/2 hrs.

Sneakers are required. No sneakers no play. A hat is also very helpful, and don't forget to bring a water bottle. Bring a Pickleball paddle if you have one (or borrow from a friend). I have a few extra paddles. Just let me know if you'd like to use one for the lesson.

Please let me know if you'll be there or if you have any questions. Hope to see you on the court!

Robyn Castano

860-797-7945 call or text

Email: rcyoga@icloud.com

MH Green Day Draws a Crowd



On May 18th, Meadow Hill held its first Green Day celebrating the beautiful landscape we all share. The event was hosted by the Grounds Committee and the Social Committee, and it was a huge success. Attendance for HOA members and board members was just over 40 and with presenters and organizers we approached close to 50 people.

The overall purpose was to familiarize our Meadow Hill residents with current and future plans for our garden environments. Members were treated to presentations by GPIP (Glastonbury Partners in Planting) on pollinator landscapes, patio and border plantings and even Pot design.

A wealth of information was shown and shared and we greatly appreciated their participation. Attendees also enjoyed some socializing with their neighbors over coffee and an amazing array of breakfast goodies.

One of the highlights of the event was the announcement of a new Meadow Hill Garden Club. The sign-up sheet and post meeting enrollees have 15 initial members. This social group will focus on our personal and mutual properties with further topics on planting and gardening. Look for an announcement soon for the first meeting at the clubhouse.

By Harris Berloe



Elder Fraud Recap



On April 25th, Meadow Hill residents turned out in a big way for the Glastonbury Police Department's informative seminar on Elder Fraud Protection.

What surprised me was the number of Glastonbury residents who have fallen victim to scams just in the last 6 months and losing big dollars. Those numbers may be larger because many do not know to report it to GPD and some are embarrassed they were a target. But remember, these scams are becoming so sophisticated that even the savviest fall prey.

Wise tips? NEVER answer your phone if you don't recognize the number. A legitimate caller will leave a message. And remember, the IRS and Social Security will never call you or send an email. They will send a letter in the mail if they need to reach you. Communications can look and sound legit, but these fraudsters are getting very creative even imitating government agencies. They bank on our fear – don't fall for it.

The best things are also the easiest. If you get a call, email or letter that is threatening or demanding payment – take a breath. Let reason take control over fear. Call your grandson and ASK him if he is in fact, in jail and needs bail money. If your computer suddenly has a pop-up message that you've been hacked – DON'T follow the instructions. Unplug and bring it to a reputable dealer (Staples, Best Buy, etc.).

Breathe, let reason take control over fear. Help is only a call away. To report fraud or get help, call the Glastonbury Police Department. 860-633-8301.

By Bonnie Brooks

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](#).



MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

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.

Needed: We need a “new” vacuum cleaner for the clubhouse. If you have a working vacuum that you no longer use, and you would like to donate it, please contact Darien.

Hollister House –closed until further notice.

MH Book Club – meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1:00 at the clubhouse.

- July 2 – [The Berry Pickers](#) by Amanda Peters
- August 6 – [Washington Black](#) by Esi Eduyuan
- Sept 3 - [All the Light We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr

Found: Photo dated 1968 and marked Gene Davis family. If it belongs to you, contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Meadow Hill will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Day for residents on July 17. Drop off materials anytime on July 16 or before 10 am on July 17. This is an opportunity to safely get rid of all the toxic materials lying around the house (no, your spouse or partner doesn't count as "toxic material" ...). For full details and a list of accepted items, see the flyer below.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Announcing Meadow Hill - 2024 Program



Safely dispose of your eligible household waste. Bring them (in a box if you have one) to the Maintenance Barn by July 16, 2024.

Aerosol cans
Brake Fluid
Chemical Paint
Strippers
Cleaning Fluids
Compact Florescent
Lightbulbs
Degreasers
Fertilizers
Flammable Liquids
Flea Powder, Dips &
Sprays
Florescent Bulbs
Fungicides
Hair Dye & Spray
Hearing Aid Batteries

Herbicides
Household smoke/CO2
detectors
Household type Fire
Extinguishers
Kerosene
Latex Paint
Lead Paint
Oil Based Paint
Road Flares Only (no
marine flares)
Muriatic Acid
Paint Removers
Paint Thinners
Pesticides
Photography Chemicals

Poisons
Polishes
Propane Cylinders/
Canisters (1 lb.)
Rechargeable Batteries
Lithium
Lithium Ion
Nickel Cadmium
Nickel Metal Hydroxide
Rodent Killers
Slug Baits
Stains
Transmission/Automotive
Fluids
Wood Preservatives

Do Not Bring:

Gas, Antifreeze
Large Quantities of Unknown Materials
Biomedical Wastes
Unknown Gas Cylinders

Industrial / Commercial Gas Cylinders of all
types
BB Gas Grill Cylinders (20 lbs)

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 Property 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, Toni Dolan, Connie Liscomb, Deb Wellington.

Communications/Welcoming: Gene Flynn, Chair, Mike Proulx, Denise Weeks, Robyn Castano, Suz Fields, Diane Sikorsky, Luther Weeks, Jim Fuda, Board Liaison.

Grounds: Mike Proulx, Chair, Harris Berloe, Dick Brimley, Dave Fillion, Ron King, Patti McNamara, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx, Peter Rothfarb, Susan Wallace; Board Liaison - TBD.

Long Term Planning Committee: Frank Cisz, Chair, Tony Dolan, David Faxon, David Hogan, Dana Kubachka, Ed Litke, Reg Wellington, Tim Reid, Board Liaison.

Amenities subcommittee: Tim Reid, Ed Litke, Frank Cisz

Clubhouse Rental: Danielle Merritt, Imagineers

Maintenance: Walter Brownsword, Director and Chair, Bob Kolwicz, 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, Ron King, Liaison TBD

Risk Management: Deb Wellington, Director and Chair, Tom Bailey

Legislative Liaison: Luther Weeks

Future Committees - Finance

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
635 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Property Manager: Kristin Davis
860-768-3319

Asst: Property Manager: Danielle Merritt
860-768-3300

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Jim Fuda
860-729-0354

VICE PRESIDENT
Deb Wellington
860-306-4502

SECRETARY
Donna Whalen
413-429-6323

TREASURER
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860-463-8262

DIRECTOR
Walter Brownsword
860-633-0207

DIRECTOR
Tim Reid
860-578-7649

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 10:00 AM

**REGULAR MEETING
July 17 and Aug 21
at 10:00 AM
AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at www.meadowhill.net

Hard copy minutes are no longer provided.

Lark Editor: Mike Proulx; Lark Designer: Denise Weeks