

THE LARK

September/October 2024 LARK

Meadowhill.net



President's Message



As we proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Meadow Hill community, I am excited to share our vision for the future. Meadow Hill with its location adjacent to the Connecticut River reflects a beauty and charm embodied by the commitment and investment nurtured by previous generations.

Preserving Our Environment - The natural beauty of Meadow Hill is one of our most precious assets. From the lush greenery to the serene landscapes, our village setting is a sanctuary that deserves our utmost care and attention. Our commitment to maintaining the beauty and quality of our surroundings needs to be unwavering. We will continue to implement sustainable practices, promote conservation efforts, and engage in community-driven initiatives to protect our environment. Together, we can ensure that future generations enjoy the same splendor we do today.

Investing in Infrastructure - A strong and well-maintained infrastructure is essential for the success of any community. At Meadow Hill, we understand the importance of investing in our infrastructure now to prevent expensive repairs and replacements in the future. By dedicating resources to upgrade and maintain our facilities, roads, and utilities, we guarantee that our community remains operational, safe, and appealing. This proactive approach not only saves money in the long term but also improves the quality of life for all residents.

Vision for Risk Management - Ensuring the safety and well-being of our community is paramount. As part of our forward-thinking approach, we are developing a comprehensive risk management program. This initiative aims to mitigate potential hazards, safeguard our residents, and position Meadow Hill as a model community in the eyes of the insurance industry. By proactively addressing risks and implementing preventive measures, we not only enhance the security of our community but also create a favorable environment for insurance assessments, ultimately benefiting all residents.

Fostering Community - Meadow Hill is more than just a place to live; it is a community woven together with threads of friendship and spirit. Our vision is to continue building a desirable community where neighbors know each other, support one another, and take pride in their collective home. Through community events, volunteer programs, and inclusive initiatives, we aim to foster a sense of belonging and unity. Investing in our community now will preserve the essence of Meadow Hill for generations to come, ensuring that it remains a place where residents can thrive and create lasting memories.

Conclusion - As we look ahead to the next 50 years, we aim to uphold those values, and make prudent investments to build a sustainable environment. Through wise infrastructure investments, we strive to make Meadow Hill an even more desirable place for the residents who call it home. We hope the Meadow Hill community can embrace this vision to preserve our history and build a bright future for the next 50 years. Together, we can create a legacy that will endure for generations.

Jim Fuda, President

Meet Tim Reid, New Board Member



Tim and his wife Marian joined the Meadow Hill community last June and are happily settled in. They are not new to CT, as they were both born and raised in Connecticut, and previously lived in Manchester and Glastonbury for over 30 yrs.

Tim retired in 2020 after having taught chemistry at East Hartford High School for 28 years. Prior to that he was an engineer at Pratt & Whitney and Raytheon. Even in retirement he enjoys some part time employment at UConn, reading applications of prospective new undergrads for the Admissions Dept.

An interesting break in their Connecticut life was a 3-year residence in Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard during the pandemic. They assisted the library there to become reestablished so it could reopen after Covid took its toll on the island.

Tim and Marian enjoy spontaneous travel, exploring Connecticut's parks, visiting art museums (members of the New Britain Museum of American Art) and reading. Playing the guitar is another fun activity for Tim and he is considering inviting others to start a strumming circle. Marian is a retired registered nurse and enjoys watercolor painting.

Tim was drawn to the Board of Directors position to assist in fostering and deepening the sense of community at Meadow Hill. Learning what the community needs and working to meet those needs is his main objective as a new Board member.

We're lucky to have him!

By Robyn Castano

What is a Reserve Study

How do you plan for your long-term big-ticket purchases? Things like a new car, replacing your heating and air conditioning system, or even a dream vacation? You probably start by estimating how much the purchase will cost, then determine when you plan to make the purchase, and finally calculate how much you will need to save each month to reach your goal. Condo associations like Meadow Hill follow a similar process, using a tool called a reserve study.



A reserve study looks at the status of the reserve fund (our long-term savings account for major expenses) and outlines a funding plan to ensure there's enough money available when these anticipated major expenditures occur. Meadow Hill's reserve study – conducted by an external expert - will help us build such a plan and enable us to complete necessary projects.

There are two parts to a reserve study – the physical analysis and the financial analysis.

Physical analysis includes studying past records to assess the age and construction of the existing property. It also includes a walk of the property with particular interest paid to the major spend areas – roofs, siding, roads, walkway, stairs, HVAC system, clubhouse, pool, etc.

The financial analysis includes our current reserve funding amounts along with a detailed plan on the costs per year to complete those projects. The big-ticket items in the plan are the roofs (near term) and the roads (long term).

As the roof project is scheduled to begin in 2026 and continue over the next four years, we are at a critical juncture in putting together a plan to pay for the roofs. The estimated project amount is \$1.4 million; some of that money will need to be assessed to the unit owners as we would not be able to build a large enough reserve to pay for the roofs out of pocket in such a short amount of lead time.

The reserve committee will be setting up a meeting(s) within the next few weeks to present the entire plan to the community. It is important that we all have a good understanding of what the reserve plan is and the timing of the expenditures. We encourage you to attend!!

By Brenda Berk

Grounds Committee Updates

Alternative Grass Testing:

Our testing of possible grass alternatives has so far had limited results. Both test boxes seeded with micro clover germinated within about 10 days. After several weeks of daily watering to establish growth, we discontinued watering and will now observe what it does with just Mother Nature in charge. Already they are struggling against the weeds, but we will leave them alone to see who wins. The other two boxes (creeping thyme and northeast native grass mix) failed to germinate despite daily watering, and the boxes were eventually taken over by nutsedge (aka nut grass). We have some thoughts on why they may have failed to launch and will consider trying these species



again with some changes to preparation/planting procedures. In the meantime, these two boxes have been shut down. While somewhat disappointed in the results, we are also reminded that negative results in an experiment can provide as much useful information as positive ones. So, on we go. Stay tuned for further status and updates on the next steps.

Fall Landscape Schedule:

Here's a snapshot of what to expect from the landscapers as we go through the fall months:

- Mowing, string trimming, and blowing will continue weekly or as needed based on conditions
- Raking and/or blowing of all front, rear, and common lawn areas, plantings, beds, parking areas and walkways to remove fallen leaves and debris.
- Final shrub trimming in mid-September as a touch up to all shrubs that require attention.
- All shrubs adjacent to buildings will be trimmed to 12" away from structure walls regardless of the unit's Do Not Touch status. This is separate from the general trimming event noted above.

In addition, MH Maintenance staff will:

- Execute fall planting projects in common spaces as defined by the Grounds Committee and the Board
- Apply topsoil and seed in selected areas
- Begin to address shrubs/trees that have become too overgrown or are otherwise problematic (too large for their space, crowding the buildings or walkways, overhanging roofs, etc.).

Maintenance Reminders



Fall Bulk Item Clean Up Day – Oct 15:

It's time for our fall bulk pick-up opportunity. Mark your calendar now for Oct 15 with drop off permitted in front of the barn/greenhouse on Oct 14 and until 10am on Oct 15 -- 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.

River Garden Clean-Out:

To our few river gardeners this year, please remember that anything left in the Community Garden (river garden), must be cleaned out by Nov 1.

Key Dates

September:

Sept 2 – V-J Day
Sept 2 – Labor Day
Sept 4 – Board Planning Meeting
Sept 8 – Grandparents Day
Sept. 10 - Third Thursday Social Hour
Sept 18 – Board meeting
Sept 22 – Autumnal Equinox
Sept. 29 – MH 50th Birthday Party

October:

Oct 1 – 1st Tuesday Coffee Hour
Oct 2 - Rosh Hashanah begins
Oct 11 - Yom Kippur
Oct 14 – Indigenous Peoples Day
Oct 15 - Semi-annual Bulk Pickup
Oct 16 – Board meeting
Oct 26 - Halloween Party
Oct 31 – Halloween

MH Garden Club Kicks Off



The First Garden Club Meeting was held at the Clubhouse on July 27, 2024. Thanks especially to Donna Whalen for scheduling and kitchen support and Michael on staff for setup.

We had about 10 members in attendance for this organizing effort and the exchange of ideas and information was well received. Topics of discussion were: Schedule of meetings; Subject Planning which included seasonal planting, cuttings and plant sharing and establishing a list of Garden Club Projects.

These projects, among others, included consideration for:

- Garden Seating Areas using established bench locations,
- Exploring outdoor gathering locations near the Pool and Barn for picnicking or bar-b-ques
- Dog runs behind the tennis courts.
- A Designated Club Garden

We are looking forward to starting a monthly column in the Lark to provide a platform for exchanging ideas and providing information. At the end of this issue is an informative article on Privacy Planting that was discussed at our spring Green Day.

Our next meeting will be Sept 7 at 10 am in the clubhouse. The meeting topic will be Transplanting and Dividing.

By Harris Berloe

Meadow Hill Social Committee

The Meadow Hill Social Committee met August 21st and outlined the following schedule of events for fall events and some ideas for new events as well. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information in the months ahead.



MH 50th Birthday Party and Connie Abbott Conference Room Dedication - September 29, 2024 -2PM

Halloween Party – Saturday, October 26th – 4-8PM

Holiday Party – Saturday, Dec. 7th – 4-8PM

We are also planning some **new monthly events**.

Third Thursdays Social Hour-This event will take place every third Thursday of the month at 4:00. The first one is planned for September 19th. A time to come together as a community, chat with friends, and meet new people.

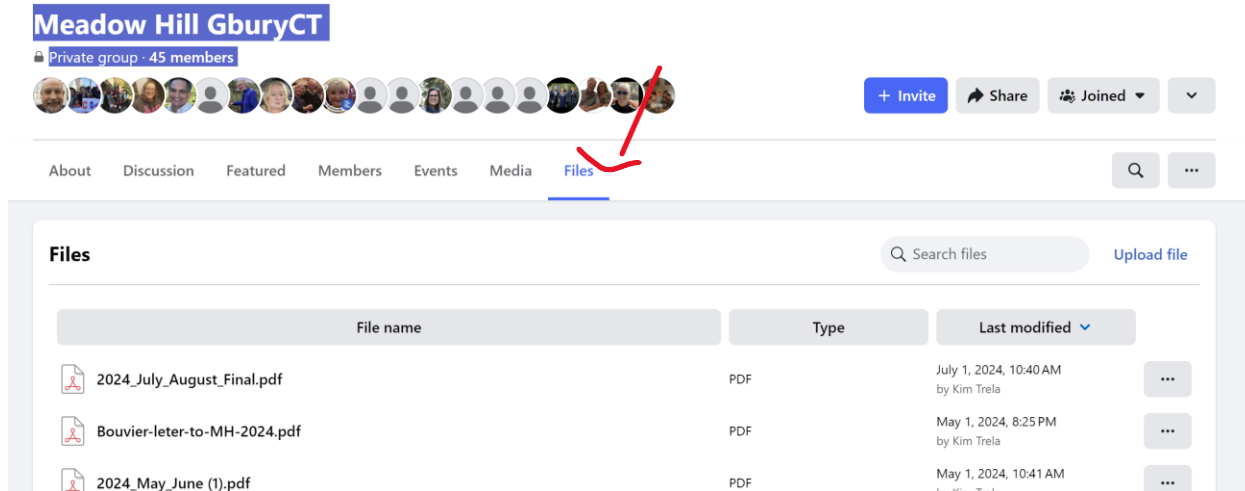
Monthly Coffee Hour – Every first Tuesday of the month, beginning on October 1st at 10:00AM. We will make coffee. Bring your mug!

We are also planning a few NFL Sundays. TBA when we pick the games.

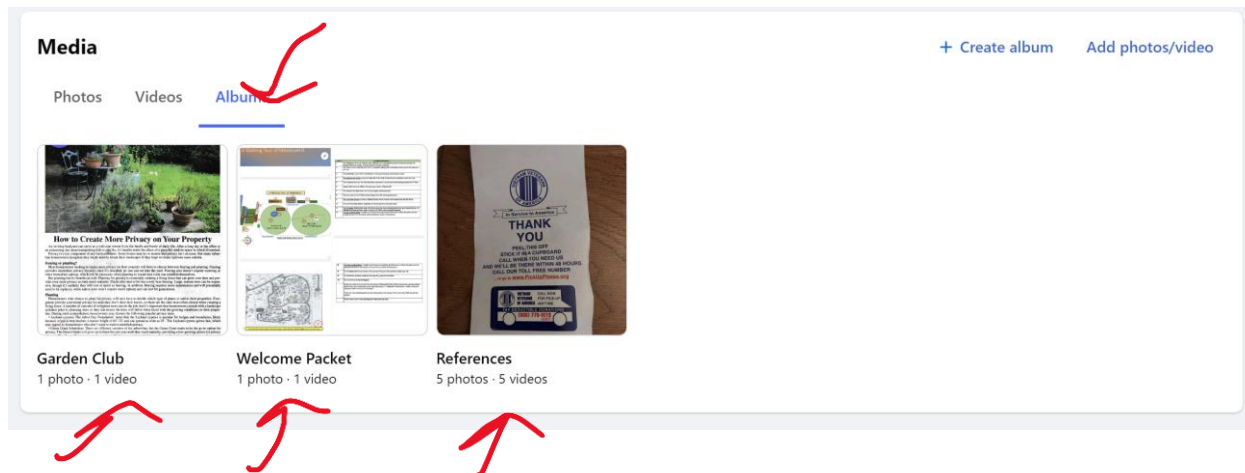
By Donna Whalen

Meadow Hill Facebook Group Tips

Did you know the little tabs (see picture) help you find what you need? Looking for a past Lark edition? Click on Files



Click on Media then Albums for a Categorized view - For gardening tips? Click on Garden Club. Walking tour? Click on Welcome Packet. Need a reference for electric or dryer cleaner? Click on References.



Fellow residentiary, this site is for Meadow Hill settlers only: no outsiders, no maintenance crew, no Imagineers, just us neighbors! We currently have about a quarter of the households and growing. This is for you: Always be kind, courteous and respectful. No hate speech, targeting or complaints.

Having an event? Post it. Going somewhere? Post it. See something others may like? Post it. Selling something, giving it away? Post it. Just admiring our nature's beauty inside or out? POST IT!

Remember anyone can post; no approval needed, just click in the bubble that says, "write something."

Questions? Contact Kim Trela at 203-915-4125.

By Kim Trela

Free Pickleball Lesson Sept. 7th



Ready to learn how to play Pickleball? Concerned about safety? Of course that's the most important; besides fun, that is! The great thing about this sport is that you don't need to run all over the court to have fun and get whatever amount of exercise is right for you.

I'll be offering another beginners' lesson to Meadow Hill residents on Sept. 7th at 9am. Rain date is Sept. 14th. We had lots of fun at the last lesson on July 20th. Thanks to Eileen Swenson for bringing her granddaughter, Mave to be the 4th player!

The emphasis, again, is on safety! I will demonstrate that throughout the lesson, showing the basic strokes and ending with playing a short game. We must have at least 4 players for this lesson, so please encourage your friends to join you!

Contact me ASAP to let me know you're coming: 860-797-7945 text or talk

I'm happy to answer any questions prior to coming to the court. Let me know if you need to borrow a paddle. Sneakers are essential! Good to wear a hat and definitely bring water.

Oh, and by the way, Pickleball is available all winter at the local tennis clubs in the area, so you can keep learning and having fun beyond these warmer months. Talk with me to learn more.

Take advantage of this great Meadow Hill amenity and improve your happiness level! Hope to hear from you soon.

By Robyn Castano - ITPA trained to teach beginner Pickleball

Pet Loss is Real Loss



Most of us call cats and dogs "pets," but for those sharing a house with animals, more appropriate terms might be companion, friend, company or good listener. But six households in the past eighteen months have experienced the loss of their canine friend. And this article is about their loss and how others may not fully appreciate the magnitude of the loss and the associated grief phases. During this same timeframe, some beloved cats may also have passed, but often neighbors don't get to know these inside animals as well as dogs. If there is enough interest, we can do a matching piece about the loss of cats.

Any walk around our grounds gives you a chance to see dogs. Often, they become a door-opener to conversation with neighbors. And you can count on most neighbors admiring the beauty of the dogs and their personalities. On the flip side, taking care of dogs involves an outdoor routine and along with the loss of a dog comes the loss of the daily exercise routine and often, the social contact with neighbors. But we know that routine change is only the tip of the iceberg in dealing with the loss of a dog.

In talking to the dog owners who have recently experienced loss, we hear that close friends, neighbors and relatives have made contact to express sympathy. Others may simply not know about the loss. But a third category might be those who really doubt that pet loss is experienced the same way as loss of a loved one of the human variety. Studies and numerous articles dispute this way of thinking, especially if the pet lives in a one-person household. Society in general has increased recognition of pet loss as very real. In the 1960's, would Hallmark ever have produced pet sympathy cards? Now, you can find them anywhere.

It's time for all of us to change with the times. It's inappropriate to dismiss pet loss and ask when a replacement will be sought. Also, it is not politically correct to say that the dog lived a long life or be glad that the dog isn't in pain anymore. Loss is loss and all you should do is acknowledge the loss. Be sensitive to the stages of grief and don't overstep and rush the process for grieving pet owners. This is especially true for pet owners who had a role in determining the timing of the death due to terminal illness. Grieving pet owners will appreciate that you respect the stages of their grief, recognize the impact to their sense of purpose, and understand the emotional connection they had with their fuzzy buddy.

Here are the Meadow Hill dogs lost over the past eighteen months, along with their "owners" (although the dog actually believed that they owned the human): Spike (Tom and Charlotte Remiszewski), Harpo (Howard and Lynn Rosenthal), Cricket (Suz Fields and Robyn Castano), Chloe (Carolyn Wray), Harvey (Nancy Maloney and "auntie" Chris Keating) and Loki (Joan Palatine). It's not too late to express sympathy. Grief has no firm timeline. Go ahead and reach out.

By Gene Flynn

The Challenge of Staying Connected with Grandchildren

Among the many things we've learned about grandparenting is that it requires ongoing adjustments and adaptations as we and the grandchildren continue to age through various life stages. True, some things - such as the need to show them unconditional love - stay constant. But figuring out how to maintain a connection and remain an active part of their lives presents a real challenge as they get older.

As little tykes, they were almost always thrilled and excited to go anywhere, anytime with Nonni and Bobbi (our grandparents' names). But as adolescents and teenagers, less so. Sports, school activities, jobs, and especially their friends consume their time and attention and effectively crowd us out of the equation. They love us. But they have less time for us.



So, as they have grown, we have adjusted our expectations, and tried to meet them on their ground. That means we spend a lot of time sitting on metal bleachers watching them play their sports. We usually get a quick hello and hug after the game (especially when we bring Nonni's homemade cookies for the team), then they head off with their teammates. It's not much, but they know we were there. Grandparenting older kids is a lot about showing up. If we invite them to do an activity, we make it clear they can bring a friend along. Instead of expecting them to stay overnight at our home - which they loved when they were little - we'll take them out to breakfast or dinner, then send them off to be with their friends.

Technology has helped. With the older ones, who have phones, we share nightly text messages. We exchange snippets about our day, maybe a funny video or emoji, a link to an item of interest, and always tell them they are loved. Often, they respond, but even when they don't, we know they have gotten the message. Friends of ours have a video chat with their only granddaughter, who lives in another state, nearly every day. Others use social media tools like Facebook or Instagram to stay in touch. If you're not sure how to get started, a recent Hartford Courant column offered some ideas from author Garrison Leykam. You can read it here:

<https://www.courant.com/2024/07/21/embracing-technology-staying-connected-with-grandchildren/>

By Mike Proulx and Kathy McCarthy-Proulx

Preparing for End of Life - Part Four



This is the final piece in our series on preparing for end of life. The first three segments covered: outlining memorial service preferences, telling your heirs about the details of your estate and preparing your financial records for your executor/executrix. Now we add a fourth dimension -cleaning out your "stuff" now.

Yes, the most procrastinated task for anyone is the cleaning-out process. I see two major reasons for procrastination - One, it involves going through boxes, trunks, closets and cabinets which is

exhausting. And two - you are forced to make decisions about whether to keep a family heirloom, donate it to charity or trash it. No one is more qualified to decide the value of an item than you. For some things, you don't want your heirs just guessing.

By taking the task on yourself, you can identify what you believe is the most valuable and tape a brief story to the treasured item. We all have relatives who are not sentimental in nature and this knowledge can help you determine now if there is someone who would fully appreciate an item and have the chance to give it to them personally.

Many folks can be overwhelmed by the thought of taking on this cleaning-out process. But as Desmond Tutu once wisely said, there is only one way to eat an elephant: a bite at a time." What he meant by this is that everything in life that seems daunting, overwhelming, and even impossible can be accomplished gradually by taking on just a little at a time. It works with closets, boxes, cabinets and storage rooms as well.

By Gene Flynn

Should I Stay or Should I Go



No one knows what the future holds. I do know I want to be prepared. I've learned what's out there and it is so much more than I could have imagined. Last October, a great many attended our Transitional Living Seminar. Since then, some of you have toured independent living communities that are all under one roof. They have well-appointed apartments including meals, housekeeping, gyms, movie theatres and much more. Further, a few have contacted our seminar presenter, Liz Cornish, of A New Season in Life and enlisted her expertise and assistance for a plan going forward.

We have had requests for another seminar and will be considering that in the future. In the interim, here are a few reminders:

- Don't wait until you are forced into a decision. Do your homework now and the best option for you personally and financially. Review your finances including what your condo would sell for in today's market. Keep in mind, going into many of these independent living facilities, you will say good-bye to mortgages, real estate taxes, utilities, condominium fees and paying for 3 meals a day!
- Visit a few of these communities – you will be surprised at what you see. Most have beautiful grounds and walking trails.
- Make good use of your time and energy now. Start downsizing, give those keepsakes to your children now rather than later. What are we waiting for?

Liz does not charge for her services, and you are welcome to contact her at 860-841-9504 or email liz.cornish@newseasoninlife.com. Please visit her web site at www.newseasoninlife.com. She is always available to assist seniors to determine the right living option for them now or in the future.

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](#).



Community Forestry Survey Seeks Resident Input



Town of Glastonbury is seeking community feedback to determine and prioritize the use of Town-owned land and forests in Glastonbury. A survey is now open for public input and responses will help inform the future development of a Forest Management Plan.

To assist with this initiative, please complete the brief survey through the link below. Thank you in advance for your comments and please share this with your Glastonbury neighbors!

Survey: [Glastonbury Forestry Community Survey - How do You Use & Value Our Forests? \(google.com\)](https://www.glastonburyct.gov/forestry)

More project information: www.glastonburyct.gov/forestry

Something to Think About

The other night our grandson who is visiting us for the weekend was taking a walk around Meadow Hill. He's a young man (25) and has energy to burn and he loves the beauty and tranquility of our campus. Someone saw him out walking and called the police out of concern, I assume, at seeing a strange young man walking around. The police arrived and had a pleasant and respectful conversation with our grandson. He returned to our condo a little shaken. He said he really wanted to go out walking again but didn't think he should. Just another day for a young Black man.

By Suz Fields

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.

Garden Club – Will meet Sept 7th at 10am in the clubhouse.

Hollister House –closed until further notice.

Wanted - Seeking One Bedroom MH unit in the near future. Wishing to downsize from a two-bedroom unit. Contact Nancy at 860-202-9396.

MH Social Club Events:

Sept. 10, 4pm - Third Thursday Social Hour

Sept. 29, 2pm – MH 50th Birthday Party

Oct 1, 10am – 1st Tuesday Coffee Hour

Oct 26, 4pm – Halloween Party

Dec 7, 4-8pm - Holiday Party

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

- Sept 3 - All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Oct 1 – The Dutch Girl by Robert Matzen

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.



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

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

Long Term Planning Committee: Frank Cisz, Chair, Tony Dolan, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx, 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

DIRECTOR
Walter Brownsword
860-633-0207

SECRETARY
Donna Whalen
413-429-6323

DIRECTOR
Tim Reid
860-578-7649

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 10:00 AM

REGULAR MEETING
Sept 18, Oct 16
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



How to Create More Privacy on Your Property

An inviting backyard can serve as a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life. After a long day at the office or an exhausting day spent transporting kids to and fro, it's hard to resist the allure of a peaceful outdoor space in which to unwind.

Privacy is a key component of any backyard oasis. Some homes may be so remote that privacy isn't an issue. But many suburban homeowners recognize they might need to tweak their landscapes if they hope to create a private oasis outside.

Fencing or planting?

Most homeowners looking to create more privacy on their property will have to choose between fencing and planting. Fencing provides immediate privacy because, once it's installed, no one can see into the yard. Fencing also doesn't require watering or other immediate upkeep, which will be necessary when planting to ensure tree roots can establish themselves.

But planting has its benefits as well. Planting for privacy is essentially creating a living fence that can grow over time and provide even more privacy as trees reach maturity. Plants also tend to be less costly than fencing. Large, mature trees can be expensive, though it's unlikely they will cost as much as fencing. In addition, fencing requires more maintenance and will potentially need to be replaced, while native trees won't require much upkeep and can last for generations.

Planting

Homeowners who choose to plant for privacy will next have to decide which type of plants to add to their properties. Evergreens provide year-round privacy because they don't shed their leaves, so these are the ones most often chosen when creating a living fence. A number of varieties of evergreen trees can do the job, but it's important that homeowners consult with a landscape architect prior to choosing trees so they can ensure the trees will thrive when faced with the growing conditions on their properties. During such a consultation, homeowners may discuss the following popular privacy trees.

- **Leyland cypress:** The Arbor Day Foundation notes that the Leyland cypress is popular for hedges and boundaries, likely because a typical tree reaches a mature height of 60'-70' and can spread as wide as 25'. The Leyland cypress grows fast, which may appeal to homeowners who don't want to wait to establish privacy.

- **Green Giant Arborvitae:** There are different varieties of the arborvitae, but the Green Giant tends to be the go-to option for privacy. The Green Giants will grow up to three feet per year until they reach maturity, providing a fast-growing option for privacy planters. The Green Giant can spread as wide as 20 feet at maturity, which is another attribute that makes it so popular among homeowners desiring privacy.

- **Eastern White Pine:** The eastern white pine, which can reach heights as high as 80 feet, is favored in spacious yards. That's likely due to its height and its potential spread, which can reach 40 feet. Homeowners who choose the eastern white pine might like it for its resemblance to a Christmas tree, and in fact it is widely used for that purpose. The privacy provided by the eastern white pine is significant, but it might be best suited to especially large properties.

Whether it's fencing or planting, homeowners have many options to consider as they seek to create more privacy on their properties.