

THE LARK

May-June 2025 LARK

Meadowhill.net



Happy Spring!!

President's Message



I hope this message finds you well. As President of the Meadow Hill Condominium Association, I am grateful for your continued efforts in making our community a pleasant and respectful place to live. Our mutual commitment to high standards makes Meadow Hill a desirable community for all. I want to address a topic that often comes up in condominium communities like ours - rules. I want to explain why we have them, why they matter, and, yes, why they sometimes feel frustrating.

Let's be honest: human nature tends to resist rules. Most of us — me included — don't always like being told what we can and cannot do. We value independence and freedom, especially in our homes, and it's natural to feel a little rebellious when limits are placed on that space.

Understanding the Unique Nature of Condominium Living

That said, condominium living is a unique environment that differs significantly from owning a single-family home. While we all value our personal space and independence, condominium living involves shared responsibilities and a collective commitment to our community's well-being. Unlike single-family homeownership, where your property is your own, living in a condominium means sharing walls, spaces, responsibilities, and resources. In this setting, rules aren't arbitrary, they're essential.

This communal aspect necessitates a set of rules and regulations (collectively, our Declaration, By-laws, and Rules) designed to ensure harmony and protect everyone's interests.

The Importance of Adhering to Community Rules

Our rules cover various aspects of community living, including noise levels, pet policies, maintenance standards, and the use of common areas. Adherence to these rules is crucial for several reasons:

- **They protect everyone's rights and property investment.** Well-enforced rules help maintain property values and ensure a high quality of life for all residents. Without them, one person's actions could negatively impact another's comfort, safety, or property.
- **They ensure fairness.** The rules provide a consistent framework so that no resident is treated differently from another. The Board works diligently to enforce rules fairly and uniformly, ensuring everyone is held to the same standards.
- **They are legally and financially necessary.** State condominium laws and insurance requirements govern our community. Non-compliance can lead to legal consequences or compromise coverage, affecting every resident.
- **They foster a sense of community.** Rules help define what it means to live at Meadow Hill—a place where respect, consideration, and cooperation are essential to daily life.

Commitment to Fair and Consistent Enforcement

The Board is dedicated to implementing these rules fairly and consistently. Our goal is not to restrict freedoms but to uphold standards that benefit the entire community. We believe equitable enforcement fosters trust and ensures all residents are held to the same expectations.

Your Role in Our Community

We encourage every resident to familiarize themselves with our Declaration, By-laws, and Rules and to approach them with a spirit of cooperation. Your adherence contributes to a harmonious living environment and helps maintain property values and the overall quality of life at Meadow Hill.

So yes, while it's perfectly human to bristle at restrictions, I encourage you — as I encourage myself — to see our rules as tools for preserving what we all value about living here: a peaceful, attractive, and well-functioning community.

We also want to acknowledge that no set of rules is perfect. The Board understands that circumstances change, and what worked five or ten years ago may not meet today's needs. That's why our rules are reviewed, refined, and updated on an ongoing basis.

These rules are a living document, shaped not only by changes in state condominium statutes and insurance industry requirements but also by the feedback and experiences of our residents. Community input is essential to this process. Your voices help ensure our rules are practical and clear, reflecting Meadow Hill's shared values and evolving needs.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Board is here to support you, and values open, constructive dialogue.

Warm regards, Jim Fuda, President

Nominations Committee



We are looking for a few good Meadow Hill'ers!! The annual election of Executive Board members will be held at the Annual Meeting on June 10th. Prior board experience is not necessary – just an interest in representing your own point of view and helping to make decisions that positively impact our community. And it's a chance to learn a lot and be part of a great team of people with common interests. If you have questions about the Board or want to submit your name, contact Jim Fuda at 860-729-0354 or Deb Wellington at 860-306-4502 **by May 15th**. Voting will take place at the June 10th Annual Meeting.

Neighborhood Network - Enhancing Communication

The Board is continually working to improve communication throughout our community. One enhancement under consideration is using our existing neighborhoods - Adena Ridge, Red Hill, Riverview, Stony Hill, and The Village - as hubs of communication both to and from the Meadow Hill Board. Each neighborhood would have one or two representatives (plus assistants) to be points of contact for the neighborhood. The Board could send important or urgent information to your neighborhood rep., who would get the word to each resident in their area (using whichever form of communication you prefer). Also, if you or your neighbors wanted to send information to the Board informally and quickly, you could do so through your neighborhood representative. Adding this avenue of two-way communication to our existing methods (contacting Imagineers, through open Board meetings, meadowhill.net, the Facebook group Meadow Hill GburyCT, and The Lark, to name many) may help us stay in touch one more way. The Board has approved the Neighborhood Network in concept, subject to village rep staffing, oversight, logistics and definition of roles and protocols. If you would like to provide some input, ask questions, and/or represent your neighborhood, please contact Tim Reid at 860-578-7649. More updates as they happen! By Tim Reid

Grounds Committee Updates



Removing or planting a shrub or tree in your 4 ft space requires approval by the Maintenance Supervisor and Grounds Committee chair. If you want to remove or plant a shrub or tree in your 4-foot space, go to Vantaca and submit a Service Request (in Vantaca, click on New Request, then General Request then Service Request) or contact Imagineers. The Service Request will be forwarded to Maintenance and the Grounds chair for review.

The approval process ensures that we don't have invasive, toxic or inappropriately sized plantings, and provides documentation to avoid disputes in the future. Please be sure to follow Meadow Hill Rule Section 21.3.2 on planting restrictions in the 4-foot planting area. Thanks for your cooperation.

Landscaping/Contractor Notes

Our landscaping services will again be provided by Highlight; fertilization and weed control will be provided by TruGreen. Announcements of upcoming fertilization/weed control applications will be sent via email by Imagineers. Details about this year's landscaping program and schedule of services will be included in a flyer to be distributed in early May. A few reminders about navigating the planting/landscaping season:

- To request a landscaping/planting action, submit a Service Request to Imagineers through Vantaca. Allow adequate time for Grounds Committee volunteers and Maintenance staff to review the request and make approval decisions.
- Please do not make individual requests or give instructions to landscaping company staff. Their direction comes from their supervisors and/or MH Maintenance staff.
- Yard waste should be deposited in the dump area in the northwest corner of the complex, or behind the end of the stockade fence along Hollister Way South; please do not put it in the regular household trash bins.
- Grass seeding will again be kept to a minimum. More information about seeding plans for 2025 will be available soon.

Evaluating Grass Alternatives

Meadow Hill's long-term vision is to create a more environmentally sustainable green-space by reducing the amount of traditional turf grass throughout the campus. Therefore, we will continue testing alternative green cover using the 4 test boxes located along Dogwood Lane. The species we tested last summer did not do well, due in part to late planting. This year we will plant earlier in the season. Test species will include a retry of native northeast grass mix and a species of white clover. The other 2 species will be announced shortly. Stay tuned for updates.

By Mike Proulx

Facebook Page Update



A few years into use of our Facebook page, we now see about a third of the Meadow Hill population registered and using it. Signing up is simple – just search on Meadow Hill – Gbury in Facebook, answer a few questions to prove that you live here and then enjoy seeing our social media content. Any registered member can post – it's simple. Ask the community a question (e.g. does anyone hear strange noises?), get a referral, sell or give-away an item, thank someone in the community for their service, etc. This tool is for residents only, with MH and Imagineers staff not having access, so, within reasonable and socially conscious boundaries, use it. Questions or need help getting in, contact Kim Trela on 203-915-4125.

Some people will say anything to avoid volunteering or attending social events!!



Meadow Hill is a fun place to live with as little or as much socializing as you like. Donna Whalen and the Social Committee hold monthly coffee hours on the first Tuesday of the month and late afternoon social hours on the third Thursday. And of course, there are special events/dinners also held in the clubhouse.

Some social events are well-attended and others are not, although the “regulars” love the opportunity to catch up with one another. Newcomers are welcomed and introduced all around. For those interested in meeting others or even just getting out of the house, our social events fill the bill.

If you haven't noticed, it takes a lot of volunteers to staff all the various committees we have here. So even if you think your skills aren't valuable, think again. We have many groups where your attendance and opinion are the only hard parts. And you become part of a group of like-minded people which gives you greater connection to Meadow Hill.

But some folks still resist getting involved. And while we have not heard all the following excuses, we think we've heard them under folks' breaths:

- I have a court hearing at the same time because I stole the last cookie.
- Can't that day. That's when I wash my hair.
- I don't usually go out on days that end with the letter “y”.
- I don't like to leave my comfort zone.
- I have to go to the Post Office to see if I'm still wanted.
- I'm trying to be less popular. Someone has to do it.
- I'm currently working on my bucket list, and your invite isn't on it.
- I'm busy that hour/day/week/month. OK, not so-much busy, as finding excuses.
- I didn't get a personal invite (consider this funny article as a proper invite).

By Gene Flynn

Fire Safety Presentation

Thanks to Lt. Greg Sargis and the Glastonbury Fire Marshall's office for their fire safety presentation at the Clubhouse on February 26th. Greg's talk covered many reminders of household fire safety. Life's often too hectic to remember to drop and crawl in case of smoke/fire in the area, or to have a fire blanket and/or fire extinguisher near the kitchen. So many little tips were covered and for the two dozen folks attending, hopefully everyone at least walked away with one noteworthy tidbit. Thanks to Donna Whalen and Jim Fuda for making this happen -- another proof of the vibrancy of our community.



Newcomers



If you haven't heard, Nancy Maloney has returned to the role of Meadow Hill Welcoming Ambassador. We've recently visited some new residents and want to be sure you know who they are:

Umberto Ossino has moved into Unit 191, yet another Glastonbury resident to stay in town. His phone number is 860-250-6686.

Terry and Lee Bogli have moved into Unit 27, moving from Manchester. Phone numbers are 860-268-1549 and 860-266-9950.

Paul Frederick has moved into Unit 171. His phone number is 860-989-8330.

Kim Beauregard and Peter Rocco have moved into Unit 153. You can reach them on 203-903-3723 or 203-671-9308.

Spring Reminders

Bird Feeders -Meadow Hill Rule 6.16 states that standard bird feeders are not allowed to be placed or remain outside from May 1st to September 30th each year, except for jelly-type oriole feeders, finch thistle feeders and liquid hummingbird feeders. No feeder may be located within 10 feet horizontally or vertically of another unit's open deck.

Community Garden – All requests for any size plot in our community garden must be provided to Darien Covert by May 10th. Staff will prepare the garden within a few days thereafter for planting.

Greenhouse Closing – The community greenhouse will close on May 30th for the season. Please have your plants removed by then.

Pool Opening – Weather permitting, our community pool will open on Memorial Day weekend. Please adhere to the rules on available times, restrictions, etc.

Annual Meeting - The Meadow Hill Annual Meeting will be held on June 10th in the Clubhouse for the purpose of electing Board Members and conducting business appropriate for this Bylaws- authorized meeting. Be sure to watch for the Imagineers notice on meeting time.



April Social Hour Fun'sters

Monthly Socials – Plan to attend the monthly coffee hour on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am and/or the monthly afternoon socials on the third Thursday of the month from 4-6pm in the Clubhouse. Great chance to meet others in the community, talk about common interests and have a bite to eat.

Men's Golf – The "Over the Meadow Hill Men's Golf League" has hit the links. We are an informal men's golf league, playing on Thursday mornings. All are welcome. Contact John Whalen at 413-429-6324 or Ron King at 860-983-1685 for more details.

Hollister House – With construction of the new condominium underway, this building is closed to the public. Watch for notice of an open house once the newest Meadow Hill unit is completed.

Worth Remembering...



Meryl Streep once said "Aging is not for the faint of heart. One day you wake up and realize your youth is gone, but with it go insecurity, haste and the need to please. You learn to walk more slowly, but with greater confidence. You say goodbye without fear, and you hold close those who remain. Aging is about letting go; it's about acceptance; it's about realizing that beauty was never in our skin... but in the story we carry within us."

Intro to Pickleball

Let's meet on the Meadow Hill Pickleball court to learn the basics and have fun together! Just bring yourself. I have extra paddles and balls if you need. Regular tennis shoes are a MUST, along with water and a hat with a brim (baseball hat, etc.) and sunglasses! Date is Saturday, May 17 at 10am. Rain date Saturday 5/24. I am a Pickleball Coach, qualified to teach



beginners. The emphasis is on safety throughout our lesson. **Please be sure to contact me ahead of time if you'll be there.** Let's build a M.H. Pickleball community! By Robyn Castano 860-797-7945

No One Wants to Talk About Giving Up Their Driver's License



If you have noticed that a friend or family member shows some of the warning signs of unsafe driving, it means it is time to talk with them. Discussions about driving issues can be difficult and emotional. The conversations may need to be conducted in a sensitive and thoughtful manner, conducted by someone the individual trusts – family member, close friend or doctor, as examples. Ignoring the problem could be catastrophic.

In our current environment, there are alternatives to driving that were not available even a decade ago. Dependable cabs, Uber, Glastonbury Senior Center van, friends and family are all options – it's just a matter of planning for your rides. The Uber app is easy to set up on your phone and the credit card payment and status of the vehicle are super simple to follow, again on your phone.

Probably the best tools to use for driving assessment and safety are provided by AARP. Search online for AARP articles, driving assessment tools, tips for driving at night, warning signs of unsafe driving and access to their Defensive Driving Course. Don't procrastinate – look into options that can provide you and those around you with safety and peace of mind. By Gene Flynn

Changing your internal voice

Your mind is always looking for proof of what you believe. If you tell yourself things always go wrong, your brain will focus on every setback and inconvenience to confirm that story. It's not that life is worse – it's just your brain doing its job, reinforcing the narrative you've chosen.

But here's the good news. It works the other way, too. If you start asking "How can things get better?" or "What good is happening in my life?" your brain will look for those answers.

It will notice small wins, moments of growth and opportunities, shifting your perspective toward hope and positivity. This is "confirmation-bias" in action. Your mind finds evidence to match the reality you believe in. So, be mindful of the story you're telling yourself. The way you frame your experiences today shapes how you'll see your life tomorrow.



Key Dates

May		June	
5 – Cinco de Mayo	11 – Mother's Day	3 – Book Club	15 – Father's Day
6 – Coffee Hour	15 – Social Hour	3 – Coffee Hour	18 – Board Meeting
6 – Book Club	17 – Pickleball intro class	4 – Board Planning Mtg	19 – Social Hour
7 – Board Planning Mtg.	21 – Board Meeting	10 – Annual Meeting	20 – First Day of Summer
10 – Garden Plot Deadline	Mem Day Wknd. – Pool open	14 – Flag Day	

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](#).



Petanque & Bocce Lessons at Community Center

Join our own Luther Weeks at the Riverfront Community Center Friday June 27th at 10am to learn about Petanque, a game similar to Bocce where players compete to get as many of their boules (balls) closest to a small ball called the cochonnet (little piglet). Open play is scheduled on Mondays at 1pm or grab a friend a play any day, Monday through Saturday. Borrow equipment from the RCC or bring your own. Courts are located on the North side of the RCC.

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.

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

May - [The Diamond Eye](#) by Kate Quinn

June - [Winter Garden](#) by Kristin Hannah

July - [The Frozen River](#) by Ariel Lawhon

Free – Sears Radial Arm Saw complete with table and accessories. Call Luther at 860-918-2115.

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, Chris Keating, Luther Weeks, Jim Fuda, Board Liaison.

Finance Committee - Brenda Berk, Treasurer and Liaison, Deb Wellington, Eileen Swenson.

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

Long Term Planning Committee: Frank Cisz, Chair, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx, Vicky Germani, David Hogan, Dana Kubachka, Ed Litke, Reg Wellington, Tim Reid, Board Liaison.

Amenities: Ron King, Chair, Tim Reid, Board Liaison, Ed Litke, Robyn Castano, Cub Kubachka.

Maintenance: Walter Brownsword, Director and Chair, Paul Jenkins. Asst. Chair.

Stables, Greenhouse, Garden as subcommittee: Darien Covert.

Social: Donna Whalen, Secretary and Chair, Caroline Rhodes, Dana Kubachka, Linda Fay, Vicky Germani, Hazel Brimley,

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

Rules: Vicky Germani, Chair, Deb Wellington, Board liaison, Kathy Wanat, Marian Reid, and Lynn Rosenthal.

Legislative Liaison: Luther Weeks.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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860-578-7649

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860-463-8262

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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

**May 21 and June 18
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: Gene Flynn; Lark Designer: Denise Weeks