

The Meadow Lark



A Monthly Publication by and for the Residents of The Meadows, a Family Condominium Community

Meadows Outstanding Student

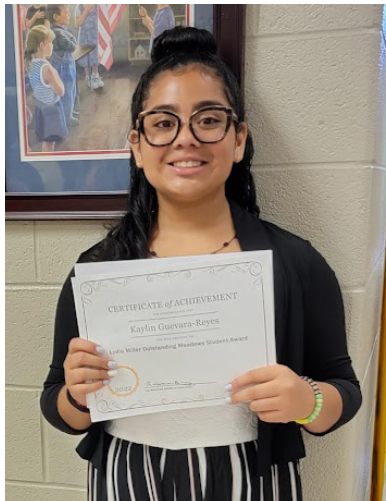
Each year a student graduating from Centre Ridge Elementary is chosen as the Lydia Miller Outstanding Meadows Student. This award was renamed a few years ago to recognize Lydia Miller who was for many years an aid and then a teacher at Centre Ridge as well as a Meadows resident. This year's winner is Kaylin Guevara-Reyes from St. Germain Drive. She has lived in The Meadows for eight years and has an older brother Romeo.

Kaylin was an A/B student with her favorite subjects being math and art. She was a member of Strings, and has been selected as Student of the Month. Her other honors were SEL Spotlight Award and President's Education Award.

Kaylin has three guinea pigs she enjoys taking pictures of and loves to draw. She also likes to do things with her family such as sleepovers with her cousins and an annual beach trip to the Outer Banks.

She will attend Liberty Middle School in the fall. She says she is excited but also a little scared about that, but says her mom tells her everything will be alright.

Congratulations to Kaylin!



Vacant Seat on the Board of Directors

Due to a current Board member moving out of state, there is an open seat on the Board of Directors. Volunteers are needed to apply for this position, if you are interested the Board would like to talk with you! To be considered for appointment you must be a Co-owner and your account must be in good standing. The Board meets on the third Thursday evening of every month. If you meet these requirements and are interested in serving, please drop an email to meadowsoffice@verizon.net or stop by the Management Office to complete an application.

Happy 51st Birthday!

*The Meadows opened
July 10, 1971*



JULY

Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2022, 7:30 PM in the Clubhouse. Residents and Co-Owners are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted online and at the Clubhouse on the Tuesday before the meeting. Minutes available upon request at The Meadows office and online at mymeadows.net.

Residents and Co-Owners are welcomed and encouraged to attend any committee meeting. Meetings are held in the Clubhouse.

NO TRASH PICK-UP Monday, July 4

Do NOT put trash out on July 3/4



REGULAR HOURS

Tuesday-Sunday 12 PM - 8 PM

Pool is CLOSED on Mondays.
Except July 4 • 12 PM - 6 PM
Closed Tuesday, July 5

President's Corner

Hello Meadows Community! There's a lot to cover this month, so I will jump right in.

The Meadows will be saying farewell to Monica Burdock, Community Manager, as she resigns from SFMC. Monica has gone above and beyond for the community and has always put the needs and happiness of its residents first. Monica will be missed dearly.

Cathy Martin will be stepping down from the Board to begin her next adventure in North Carolina! Cathy has served on the Board for many years and has been a huge asset to the community. Cathy will be greatly missed.

If you are interested in filling the vacant Board position, please contact The Meadows Office and attend next month's meeting (July 21 at 7:30 PM in the clubhouse).

The Fourth of July is right around the corner, which brings me to my last two announcements:

THERE WILL BE NO TRASH PICK UP ON MONDAY, JULY 4. Do NOT place your trash out for pickup on Sunday, July 3, or you may receive a fine.

Per The Meadows Rules and Regulations, SECTION IX: RULES GOVERNING FIRE PREVENTION, # 9: Any firework, which explodes, emits a flame, or sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile, is prohibited by the Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code. As such, no fireworks that explode, emit a flame, or spark higher than 12 feet, or perform as a projectile, may be set off within The Meadows.

If a resident observes these types of fireworks being set off, please report the violation to security/the office by providing a time and location of the incident. These types of fireworks pose a danger to the buildings and trees around them. They are also disruptive and negatively effect your neighbors and family pets. Until next month.

~ Kristina Berry

Meadows Website
www.mymeadows.net

Board of Directors Motions

*The motions from the
May 19 Board meeting.*

- Passed a motion to allow a peach tree to remain until the end of the summer.
- Passed a motion to reclassify charges for computer equipment as Reserve expenses.
- Passed a motion to authorize Reliable Rail to perform repairs totaling \$2,300.
- Passed a motion to affirm the email vote regarding a railing repair.
- Passed a motion to perform identified playground repairs up to \$19,000.
- Passed a motion regarding concrete repairs to fix the issues classified as most severe (\$9,387) out of Reserves.
- Passed a motion to reopen the Clubhouse to allow rentals.
- Passed a motion to send swimming pool and clubhouse ADA concerns back to Legal for consideration/review.

COMPLETE MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS
AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE

Keep the Lights On!

In order to promote safety in our neighborhood, everyone is reminded to leave your porch lights on, both front and rear. Generally, criminals like to operate in the dark, so the more light that is present, the less likely they will be to strike in that area.

Although we are blessed to have street lights, they cannot provide full light everywhere. If all units keep their porch lights on, the level of light in the community will be much more of a crime deterrent.

No Charcoal Grills

Everyone is reminded that due to insurance requirements charcoal grills are not allowed anywhere within The Meadows. You may use your propane grills for holiday and other cookouts, but please do so responsibly - keep the grill as far away from the walls of your unit as possible.

Security Totals

May 15, 2022 - June 14, 2022

Calls for service and/or situations involving or requiring security assistance, by street:

Avocado Court:	2
Cool Oak Lane:	4
Golden Oak Court/Road:	10
Rustling Leaves Lane:	4
Saguaro Place:	3
Saint Germain Drive:	0
Strasburg Drive:	3
Turin Lane:	0
Vehicles Ticketed:	15
Vehicles Towed:	18
Violation Letters Sent:	35
Calls referred to FCPD/FCFD:	11

The Meadows



Fire Regulations

- Kerosene, or any fuel heaters, are forbidden by Meadows regulations.
- Residents should not store combustibles in furnace rooms. It is a serious fire hazard and is against County and Meadows regulations.
- Smoke detectors are required on each level of homes in The Meadows.
- Charcoal grills only are prohibited on The Meadows property.
- Residents should maintain a fire extinguisher in their units. It should be rated at least 2A:10BC.



Carbon Monoxide Detectors

The furnaces and most hot water heaters in The Meadows use gas. It is imperative that all homes have a working carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas which can cause death.

War on Trash!



For people who live in a community like ours, one of the biggest problems faced is that contained in a very simple word—trash! The subject of trash seems to be the number one complaint of residents of condominium communities, The Meadows is no different.

Our Board of Directors has been discussing trash at recent meetings, and has been trying to come up with a way to solve the trash problem here within the community. Although we may never completely solve the problem, it is our goal to improve our living conditions. Our residents should not have to put up with so much trash, both loose small pieces of trash that just litter the ground and blow around at all times, as well as piles of trash bags and stacks of furniture that are put out on a regular basis well before the allowable time.

To achieve a cleaner community, we have to declare a war on all trash. Our maintenance staff picks up trash on a daily basis, but it seems that some of our residents just throw more litter around the community right behind them. This is unacceptable behavior. Everyone has the responsibility to help clean up our community. No one should be littering, and as a good citizen if you find litter laying around pick it up and dispose of it. Become part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. More importantly, tell those who are littering to stop it, and if necessary report their behavior to the office.

The biggest eyesore we face is created by those who put their trash out many hours and sometime even days before the mandated hour of 5 PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. We will be trying very hard to determine where trash put out early has come from, and violators will be subject to \$50 charges which we are allowed to levy for violations of our Rules and Regulations.

Catching the scofflaws who put trash out early is not generally an easy thing to do, so we need everyone's help in doing this. If you see someone putting out their trash early, report this to the office. We need the address of these people so appropriate action can be taken against them.

Do you enjoy living with piles of trash, which draw insects, rats, etc., for days at a time? The only way to prevent this is to take action against those who choose not to follow the rules, and it takes all of us to fight this menace. Again, become part of the solution and report these violations, rather than being part of the problem and just letting it happen. Unless the people causing the problem are pointed out and fined, they will most likely just continue to put trash out early. Hitting them in the pocketbook may help in getting our community cleaned up, but it will take everyone's cooperation in this effort.

What To Do If You Experience a Leak

If you experience a leak in your unit you must contact your own plumber to respond.

If your leak appears to be from a neighboring unit you should attempt to reach your neighbor and have them shut off the water to their unit to minimize damage. Most shut off valves are located in the utility closet behind the hot water heater; however, if there have been any plumbing changes in the unit by a current or previous Co-Owner, the valve may have been moved. If the neighbor is not reachable or unable to shut off the water, contact the Fire Department and they will report and turn the water off. In these cases, you may contact the Management Office on the next business day; however, since this is a neighbor-to-neighbor issue, The Meadows involvement is limited. You are encouraged to contact your neighbor directly or if that is not possible, file a claim through your homeowner's insurance company.

The only exception to the procedures outlined above is if you are in an upper unit and inspection of your attic indicates the leak is coming from the roof. If this is the case, please contact the office to schedule an appointment for a maintenance technician to inspect the leak. In the meantime, simply place a bucket or pan under the leak to keep the water from penetrating into your living space. While this is not an after-hours emergency call, we do ask that you let us know as soon as possible so that we may see the attic while it is still wet. This helps us determine where the problem is.

Reminder for Pet Owners

The Meadows Rules and Regulations state that all pet feces must be bagged and removed from the Common Elements immediately. In addition, please be reminded that the Fairfax County Leash Law is in effect at The Meadows. This law requires dogs to be on a leash at all times when outside.

For the health and safety of our residents, please immediately remove dog feces and keep dogs leashed at all times when on the Common Elements. It is important to remember that violations of these policies could result in the assessment of penalties in the amount of \$50 per occurrence.



Greetings & Good News Solicited

Everyone likes to hear good news. One thing that will allow *The Meadow Lark* to publicize good news is for our residents to submit items to us. We used to list important events or milestones in this newsletter, but it seems that people just aren't sending such news in to be recognized any more.

Accordingly, a call is being sent out to *everyone* to send in your good news! We are willing to publish all birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings, births, awards and anything else that may be noteworthy in the life of your friends and loved ones. You can drop a quick note in the black mailbox outside the clubhouse, or call or email the office.

Council of Co-Owners
The Meadows
6100 Strasburg Drive
Centreville, VA 20121

The Meadow Lark is published each month exclusively for the benefit of the residents and owners of The Meadows. It is the official publication of the Council of Co-Owners and is under the purview of the Board of Directors. News items, personal ads, and such are welcomed and should be placed in the large mailbox in front of the Clubhouse, emailed to meadowsoffice@verizon.net or faxed to 703-815-0755. The deadline is the 20th of each month. Personal ads must be 25 words or less, on 8½x11-inch paper. Include your name, Meadows address, and telephone number. They must be renewed each month. The Meadows does not endorse any advertisers.

EDITOR: Bill Liedtke

Meadows Office

Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Phone: 703-830-4464
Fax: 703-815-0755
E-Mail: meadowsoffice@verizon.net
Website: mymeadows.net

24-Hour EMERGENCY ONLY
Service First: 1-888-980-8958

Security
703-628-9481

Towing
Battlefield Towing: 703-378-0059

Trash
Champion Waste: 703-239-8540
Kramer Enterprises: 804-221-1743

Remodeling?

Any desired changes to the exterior or interior of your unit must be submitted on an ARF or Request for Interior Alteration form to the Board of Directors for approval PRIOR to the change being done.

A/C UNITS

If you replace your air conditioning unit, you may install it inside your utility room or submit an ARF for proposed exterior installation.

Satellite Dishes in The Meadows



MEADOWS ADS

Tutoring

I am an educator who specializes in online tutoring of all ages. I tutor English skills to include Reading, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary Enhancement, Essay Writing, Research Papers, and more. I offer hourly sessions on Zoom. If you are in need of assistance, please call (571) 432-8312.

Requirements for Installing Exterior HVAC Units

Recent EPA changes in air conditioning and heating standards have made future maintenance and availability of interior HVAC units much more difficult. While there should be no problem maintaining an existing interior unit for the rest of its useful life, units installed in the near future will have difficulty finding a machine that will fit into the utility closet and obtaining the refrigerant for these units will become pricey. Eventually, the refrigerant currently used will no longer be available and these units will not be able to be recharged.

As a result of these changes, The Meadows Board of Directors has reconsidered allowing HVAC units to be installed on the Common Elements. Going forward, Co-Owner's who would like to install an HVAC unit on the grounds will need to follow the steps below:

- Any Co-Owner wishing to install an HVAC unit on the Common Elements must submit their request in writing to the Management Office.
- Once a request is received an appointment will be made for The Meadows Maintenance Supervisor to meet with the Co-Owner and/or the Co-Owner's HVAC contractor to review the specifications and provide detailed requirements for the installation.
- After this meeting the Co-Owner must submit a completed Architectural Review Form (ARF) outlining the agreed upon details of the proposed installation, an Installation Agreement and a copy of the contractor's license. The Board of Directors will then review the documents and make a determination on whether or not to approve the installation.

REMEMBER:

ANY HVAC UNIT INSTALLED ON THE COMMON ELEMENTS WITHOUT WRITTEN BOARD APPROVAL MAY BE REQUIRED TO BE REMOVED AT THE CO-OWNER'S EXPENSE.