

The Meadow Lark



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

Be Safe in Your Home



It seems that frequently you hear or read about crime that has affected an area near where you live or even in your own community. While you cannot stop a criminal from doing things that are hurtful or illegal, there are many actions that you can take in advance to protect your property and your family.

To protect your property at night, leaving your porch lights on, front and rear, is an excellent deterrent to criminals. The bad guys prefer to work under the cloak of darkness so no one sees them. Lighting up the area around your unit will make your area less susceptible to their actions.

If you see anything that is suspicious, always call the Police immediately. Another important safety item is to always lock all of your doors and windows. A large percentage of break-ins, etc. are at homes where the criminal entered through an unlocked door or window. Also keep your car doors locked and all valuables out of sight. In addition, make sure your children are properly supervised and you know where they are at all times.

Pick Up the Trash!

Have you from time to time noted pieces of trash or a soda can or bottle while walking to your car, or just taking a walk through the neighborhood? Unfortunately, some residents tend to leave litter on our common elements. Our maintenance staff spends many hours picking up trash all around the community. This helps in keeping our streets clean, but more trash appears soon after.

You can do your part to provide additional help in keeping our community as clean as possible. If you see a piece of trash, a candy wrapper or a soda bottle please pick it up and dispose of it properly. Also, if you have children train them to not place trash in areas where they play – but to bring their trash home to dispose of.

Regarding our trash problem, be a part of the solution by picking up whatever trash you see, rather than being a part of the problem by disposing of trash on the common areas. Be a good neighbor, care about your community and dispose all trash properly.



Happy 53rd Birthday!
The Meadows opened
July 10, 1971

JULY

Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2024, 7:30 PM. 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 Board or committee meeting. Meetings are held in the Clubhouse. (Board meetings are also held via Zoom).

Parking in The Meadows

A reminder: any vehicle parked on Meadows property must display a valid parking permit. The acceptable forms of a permit can be a Meadows parking sticker, a blue Visitor hang tag, or a red Frequent Visitor Hang tag. Residents may not use Visitor tags. For details on our parking rules and regulations, please contact The Meadows office, or refer to the 2021 Meadows Rules and Regulations, Section X: Rules Governing Motor Vehicles.



Meadows Website:
www.mymeadows.net

President's Corner

Hello Meadows Community! The Board is excited to announce that we have hired a new Property Manager, Jenny Del Cid, who will begin on July 17, 2024! Jenny will be bringing with her 16 years of Property Management experience and a multitude of new ideas to our community. Jenny's encouraging and can-do attitude will undoubtedly have a positive impact! Please join the Board in welcoming Jenny!

In the meantime, the Board appreciates the community's patience and Ashley's hard work in the office. The Board also requests that residents/Co-owners who call the office leave a message if their call is not answered. If a call is not answered, it is because our staff is on another call with another resident/Co-owner. Rest assured, your call will be returned within a few hours or less. Please **DO NOT** repeatedly call back until your call is answered.

Have a great month and try to stay cool!

Kristina Berry

Bits & Pieces

• Security Note:

Be sure to be extra vigilant when securing your home. Statistically, homes are more likely to be broken into this time of year than during any other time. Also, protect your vehicles by removing your GPS units and other valuables after you park in The Meadows.

• Announcements:

Submit your announcement to The Meadow Lark. The deadline is 20th of the month. Please include your name, address and contact information. This information will not appear in The Meadow Lark. See the back page for fax or email information.

• Curfew Reminder:

The Meadows has a curfew in effect for minors under the age of 18. Please refer to The Meadows Rules and Regulations.

Board of Directors Motions

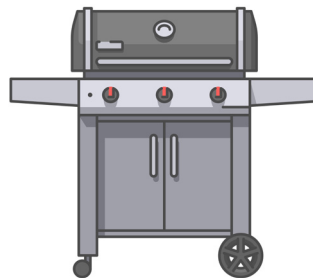
At the May 11 Meeting:

- Passed a motion to approve an Architectural Review Form to allow a bird bath.
- Passed motions to approve payment plans for two delinquent Co-owners.
- Passed a motion to approve contacting our attorney to begin the eviction process for the tenants of one unit.

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.

Meadows Website
www.mymeadows.net

Security Totals

May 15, 2024 - June 14, 2024

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

Avocado Court:	2
Cool Oak Lane:	5
Golden Oak Court/Road:	26
Rustling Leaves Lane:	6
Saguaro Place:	3
Saint Germain Drive:	4
Strasburg Drive:	7
Turin Lane:	3
Vehicles Ticketed:	7
Vehicles Towed:	28
Violation Letters Sent:	20
Calls referred to FCPD/FCFD:	12

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 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: meadowsoffice72@gmail.com
Website: mymeadows.net

24-Hour EMERGENCY ONLY
Cardinal: 703-569-5797

Security
703-628-9481

Towing
Battlefield Towing: 703-378-0059

Trash
Champion Waste: 703-239-8540

Bulk Trash
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



Requirements for Installing Exterior HVAC Units

With the hot summer months, some owners may be faced with the need for a replacement air conditioner unit in order to keep their residence cool. Previous EPA changes in heating and air conditioning standards made maintenance of some existing ac units more difficult primarily due to the unavailability of the type of refrigerant used in older units. It was also believed that finding a machine that would fit into the utility closet would become difficult.

While the Meadows Board of Directors has reconsidered allowing HVAC units to be installed on the Common Elements (following the requirements stated below), we want you to know that “through the wall” units that fit the exact opening of current units in utility closets and meet current EPA standards ARE available!! If you would like to keep your ac unit in your utility closet and within your purview, you can ask your licensed HVAC contractor to bid your replacement job for a “through the wall” unit that matches the same size as your current unit. The good news is that this type of replacement does not require any Meadows paperwork or approval. In addition, some have found that replacing their unit with another “through the wall” unit has actually saved them money over switching to having the A/C unit placed on the Common Elements ground.

Any Co-Owner who still wishes to install or replace an HVAC unit on the Common Elements must follow these steps:

- Submit your request in writing to the Management Office
- Once the 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 Management Office will then review the documents and made a determination on whether or not to approve the installation.
- Upon installation, the co-owner must schedule another meeting with the Meadows Maintenance Supervisor to verify the proper installation of the unit.

REMEMBER:

ANY HVAC UNIT INSTALLED ON THE COMMON ELEMENTS WITHOUT WRITTEN BOARD/MANAGEMENT APPROVAL MAY BE REMOVED AT THE CO-OWNER’S EXPENSE.

Meadows Website:
www.mymeadows.net