

# The Meadow Lark



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

## Meadows Day Well Attended

The Fourth Annual Meadows Day was held at the pool/clubhouse area on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 100 residents came for the festivities and food. There were plenty of hot dogs, drinks, snacks and desserts for everyone to enjoy.

There were long lines for both the balloon artist and the glitter tattoo artist. Many balloon characters were made for the children and tattoos of all types were being worn. The day concluded with the Disney movie "Wreck-it Ralph", at which popcorn being served was a big hit.

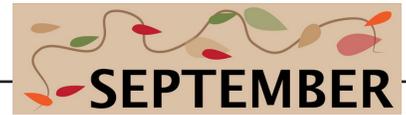
Thanks go to Valley Crest, our landscape contractor, for their donation of the drinks as well as the gift cards that were handed out as raffle prizes before the movie began. Many thanks also to the Social and Recreation Committee, headed by Jason and Abby Spessard, for all their hard work in putting together this great celebration for the people of our community.

## Important Security Info

Recently there has been a rash of vehicle break-ins in our area, some on our property. In some cases the vehicle involved was not even locked! There have also been reports of suspicious individuals in the area, so it is important that we are all on our toes regarding personal safety, and providing adequate protection for your vehicles and your home.

In order to help guard against your vehicle being broken into, the first rule is to always lock your vehicle. In addition, do not leave any valuables in plain sight. Put your phone or laptop, as well as your GPS and even your CDs in the glove box, in the trunk, or take them in the house. These items being in plain sight is a temptation to any thief.

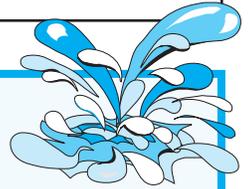
Safety while in your home is also an important issue, not only for yourself but for your entire family. Always keep your doors and windows locked. At night leave your porch lights, both front and rear, burning brightly. Having the area lighted is a deterrent to thieves and others who like to just lurk in dark areas.



**Board of Directors Meeting:** Thursday, September 17, 2015, 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 are available upon request at The Meadows office and online at [mymeadows.net](http://mymeadows.net).

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

## Pool Hours:



September 1-7

Monday–Thursday	Noon – 8 PM
Friday–Sunday	11 AM – 8 PM
Labor Day	11 AM – 8 PM



## School is Open!



**Be Careful  
Watch for Children**

## President's Corner

Hello fellow residents! I hope everyone is doing well.

I'd like to say thank you for all those who made our 2015 Meadows Day possible. It was another year of fun and festivities! Well done.

Fairfax County schools will be starting shortly. Please take extra care when driving through the neighborhood, watching for students and their parents.

This is also the time of year when sunset starts happening earlier in the evening. Soon, we'll all come home from work and the sun will have set completely. With this in mind, please make sure you leave your porch and patio lights on. Lighting the area around your unit will help in keeping you and your neighbors safe from potential hazards.

Good luck to all the students starting their new school year! Study hard and make your parents proud!

Have fun, stay safe, take care!

~ Eric Sokolowski

## Meadows Budget

The Board of Directors is in the process of preparing a budget for 2016. In order to keep The Meadows in a good financial position, it appears that there may be some increase in the condo fee next year.

Our community is now over 40 years old and more work is needed to keep things in the proper shape, which of course adds to the expenses needed to be paid for by the condo fee.

If you have budget recommendations, please submit them to The Meadows 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 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.

## Board of Directors Motions

### At the August 20 Meeting:

- Passed a motion to accept a bid from Valley Crest of \$556 for drainage repair outside the lower pool.
- Passed a motion to deny an Architectural Review Form for a decorative fence.
- Passed a motion to take the \$450 for a railing repair from the operating account.
- Passed a motion to reaffirm email votes to approve the length of the security contract as one year, a drainage improvement and waterproofing work at five units.
- Passed motions to accept a bids from Valley Crest of \$350 for tree pruning and \$1900 for removal of a dead tree.
- Passed a motion to issue one guest pass to each unit that is eligible and has had pool passes issued for its residents.

COMPLETE MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS  
AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE

## 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 green Visitor hang tag, or a red Extended 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 *2015 Meadows Rules and Regulations, Section X: Rules Governing Motor Vehicles.*

## Security Totals

July 15–August 14, 2015

Vehicles Ticketed: 25  
Vehicles Towed: 14

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

Avocado Court: 1

Cool Oak Lane: 3

Golden Oak Court/Road: 5

Rustling Leaves Lane: 3

Saguaro Place: 5

Saint Germain Drive: 4

Strasburg Drive: 7

Turin Lane: 1

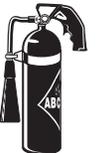
Calls referred to FCPD/FCFD: 8

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.

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## Bits & Pieces

### ■ School's In!

School begins Tuesday, September 8. Please exercise extreme caution while driving through The Meadows at stop signs and school bus stops. Remember to come to a complete stop when school bus lights are flashing, whether you are approaching from the front, rear or side of the bus. Parents—please go over safety rules and behavior expectations at bus stops and on the buses with your child(ren) before school begins.

### ■ Curfew Reminder

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

### ■ Regular Furnace Maintenance

It is critical to ensure safe and efficient operation of your furnace regardless of the age of the unit. Many heating and air conditioning companies offer discounted specials beginning in September.

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### ■ Needed

Your fall birthday and anniversary announcements! Tell everyone all about it! Send your announcement to meadowsoffice@verizon.net or drop it in the large black mailbox in front of the Clubhouse by the 20th of the month. Please include your name, address and phone number. These will not be printed.

### ■ Lost & Found

In the Meadows Office, 703-830-4464. Please check the Lost & Found for items lost or left at the pool during the summer.

## Outstanding Student

Once again this past school year one of our residents was chosen as the Outstanding Student from The Meadows. This honor this year went to Lesly Sorto Rivera who was a sixth grade student at Centre Ridge Elementary School. She was a very conscientious student and worked hard at all of her classes according to her teachers. She was awarded a gift card from The Meadows Board of Directors.

Lesly will be attending to Liberty Middle School this fall.

## Don't Feed the Critters!

It has recently been noted in some areas around the community that people are putting out various types of food items to feed the birds, squirrels, etc. It should be noted that it is against Meadows rules to do this, in fact even dogs and cats must be fed inside your unit and no food for them left on the Common Elements.

In the past we have had a rodent problem in some areas of the community, which was either caused or made worse by having a food source available for the mice, and even worse, rats. The rat problem has been controlled, we have bait stations in several places within our development; however if food items are left out, the rats are more likely to feed on this rather than the bait which will control their population.

Our feathered and furry friends for the most part have food provided for them by nature, so we do not need to feed them. And we certainly don't want to attract rats into our community. If you do see any rodents, please let the office know so action can be taken to eradicate them.

## Taking Care of Trash

Trash is an issue that no one really wants to deal with, but its existence is a fact of life. Some people just can't seem to dispose of trash properly. In order to keep our community looking as nice as possible, everyone is asked to please not leave trash on the Common Elements, and if you see some unsightly trash, please be a good citizen and pick it up.

To keep your community clean, please contact the Management Office at 703-830-4464 or meadowsoffice@verizon.net to report any neighbors who you feel are not following the rules related to trash and its removal.

## 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.

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.

EDITORS: Bill Liedtke and Joan Orvis

**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

**AAA/Republic Services**  
703-818-8222  
Call for special pick up, Thursdays only

## 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



## 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.

In addition, please do not leave the baggies you use to scoop up your dog's waste anywhere on the Common Elements. These baggies should be placed in the proper pet waste stations that we have located throughout the community or should be taken to your unit for proper disposal.



## Noise Reminder

In the warm months we like to spend time outside enjoying the warm weather and socializing with friends and neighbors. We need to remember to minimize disturbances to others even when we are outdoors. Loud music and boisterous conversations can create a lot of unwanted noise for others. During any season residents of upper units should be especially careful of heavy walking and running in their units in the late and overnight hours.

Please remind children to be respectful of others while playing: avoid rowdy horseplay and loud games near windows and patios, never use items from neighbor's porches or patios and do not bounce balls on the exterior of the buildings.

