

The Meadow Lark



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

Next Sunday!

Open House

Sunday, March 8

2:00 pm

Clubhouse

Light refreshments served

Please join us to see the newly refurbished upstairs meeting room.

Stop and share your ideas and suggestions on activities and events that can be held there for our community with members of the BOD. If you can't attend, kindly submit your ideas to the office by email or telephone. These will be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

The Meadow Lark is Going High Tech!

Beginning July, 2009 *The Meadow Lark* will no longer be left on your front door or in your mailbox each month. Instead each issue will be available to you on our website, www.mymeadows.net.

This change will not only make the newsletter more easily accessible for our Co-Owners and residents, but it will also cut costs for The Meadows as we will no longer incur the expense of printing 800 paper copies, postage (for off-site Co-Owners) and the monthly door-to-door delivery charge.

In each issue of *The Meadow Lark* between now and July we will remind you of this change and will provide more details on navigating the site to get to the online version of the newsletter. If you would still like to receive a paper issue of the newsletter, please mail, email or fax your request to the Management Office and we will continue to mail your issue each month or you can pick up a copy in the office shortly after the first of each month.



Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, March 5 and 19, 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.

Pool Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 pm in the Clubhouse.

Security Committee Meeting: March 10, 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

Looking forward...

Self Defense Class for Ladies: April 4

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, May 2, St. Germain Drive.

Community Clean-up Weekend: May 2 & 3, Dumpster near Clubhouse

The President's Corner

March is here already, so Spring is just around the corner. Check out the articles in this month's *Meadow Lark* for upcoming dates for the Annual Yard Sale (May 2), the open house meeting for clubhouse use (March 8, 2:00 pm), and the Security-sponsored FREE self-defense class (April 4). The Social Events Committee, chaired by Mandy Evanson, has been hard at work to plan these and more exciting events throughout the year. Stay tuned!

We had a resident ask about getting additional outdoor lighting, and suggested we use solar lights. I have been researching these, and am having trouble finding lights that would be effective and could be installed securely on the grounds. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact the office, and ask that your suggestions be passed on to me.

One last thing: dog poop. More and more is appearing every day. We pay a company to spend two hours per week to come and pick up the "doodies", and it just is not enough. Please be advised; if you are reported to the office for letting your dog defecate anywhere on Meadows grounds, and do not pick it up immediately and dispose of it properly, it can result in a \$50 fine to you, PER OCCURANCE. None of us want to walk through it, PLEASE pick it up.

Thanks for your time, and have a good month.

~ Joy C. Foshier

Board of Directors Motions

At the February 5 Meeting:

- Passed motions to approve two Architectural Review Forms (ARF) for satellite dishes.
- Passed a motion to approve an Interior Alteration Request for a kitchen remodeling.
- Passed a motion to approve a confidentiality form to be signed by all members of the Security Committee.
- Passed a motion to approve \$2150 in roof repairs done by Katchmark Construction.
- Passed a motion to waive violation fees but not legal fees or assessments for a Co-owner.
- Passed a motion concerning collection cases to defer two cases, close four cases and report the debt to the credit bureaus, and for three cases to waive violation fees and close the cases and report remaining debt to the credit bureaus.
- Passed motions to waive one violation fee and reduce another one to \$50.

At the February 19 Meeting:

- Passed a motion to spend up to \$800 for a dumpster for the spring cleanup.
- Passed motions concerning ARFs to deny a satellite dish and a bench and approve a patio partition and a dryer vent.
- Passed a motion to approve an Interior Alteration Request for a bathroom remodeling.
- Passed a motion to approve a Board Determination concerning Security Committee members annually signing a confidentiality agreement.
- Passed a motion to waive two dog fines.
- Passed a motion to not waive a violation fee.
- Passed motions concerning two delinquency cases to close one case and report the debt to the credit bureaus and to pursue wage garnishment in the other case.
- Passed a motion to charge a \$50 fee to a Co-owner for misbehavior by a tenant towards a contractor.

Colorize Your Kitchen Cabinets

Painting kitchen cabinets brightens up dark kitchen areas and is a lot less expensive than replacing them. Keep in mind that continuing a color throughout a space (like the kitchen and family/dining area) can make it seem larger and coordinated.

Sanding cabinets may not be easy, but there is liquid sandpaper available from paint and hardware stores that creates a tacky surface to which paint can adhere. Make sure to remove hardware and clean or replace it. Usually paneling will sand down nicely. Use acrylic enamel and make sure to wait at least 24 hours between coats to insure a hardened surface before applying the second coat (humidity may make this take longer).

A miniature roller gives a smoother more uniform finish to the cabinets. Painting paneling will require a brush so that paint will go into crevices and between panels.

If you want to add a decorator's touch, you can use an artist's brush to add contrasting color to trim around the cabinets and to the inlays. Be aware that is time consuming and challenging, but many residents love the results. Polyurethane can protect your painted cabinets, but is extremely hard to remove and is generally not recommended.

We Need Your Eyes

As recent issues of the newsletter have highlighted, The Meadows employs only four full-time and one part-time staff members. Since staff can't be in all places at all times we ask that you contact the Management Office by phone, fax or email when you see an issue needing attention, such as a detached shutter, loose railing or missing shingle. Staff may already be aware of the issue or actively working on getting the issue resolved, but it is possible that the issue you observed has not yet been detected by our staff. As they say, it's better to be safe than sorry, so please call/email the office with the details.

Our staff does all they can to keep up with the ever-present maintenance needs of our 38 year old property, but we need our residents to take part in the process. Also keep in mind that the maintenance work on the property must be prioritized to ensure that safety issues are resolved before those that are of a more cosmetic nature.



Beware of Spring Fever!

As the weather grows warmer and the days are longer, folks of all ages will be outside at all times of the day and night on bikes and walking. Be extremely cautious as you back your vehicle from your parking spot, observe The Meadows speed limit of 15 mph and come to a complete stop at all stop signs.

Parents: Please go over bike safety rules with your children. Remind them that our parking lots are streets and that they should not play in them! Caution them against riding their bikes or walking behind parked cars because quite often drivers cannot see them as they back out of parking spots, especially when other vehicles are parked beside theirs. Some children are just too small to see over the back of a car.

Women's Self-Defense Clinic

Saturday, April 4 • 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse

A self-defense class for women will be presented at The Meadows by the National Security Alliance and US Security Solutions, Inc. The class is free of charge to female Meadows residents age 15 and above. Due to the nature of the program it is asked that children under 15 and males of any age not attend this class. Dress comfortably (as you normally would).

For more information and to sign up as class space is limited, please contact The Meadows Office at 703-830-4464.

Bits & Pieces

■ Spring Planting

Spring is fast approaching and many residents are planning on putting in flowers and other plants. Before planting, please check the 'Meadows Rules and Regulations'. If you have any questions, please contact the Meadows Office. The contact information is on the back of this issue.

■ 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

■ Lost & Found

In the Meadows Office, 703-830-4464.

■ Website: mymeadows.net

Security Totals

January 15 – February 14, 2009

Vehicles Ticketed: 21

Vehicles Towed: 4

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

Avocado: 1

Cool Oak: 4

Golden Oak: 6

Rustling Leaves: 1

Saguaro: 6

Saint Germain: 1

Strasburg: 5

Turin: 1

Calls referred to police/fire/rescue: 5

Pool Committee Meeting


Wednesday, March 4

7:30 PM in the Clubhouse

The Pool Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 PM in the Clubhouse. If you have any ideas for activities that can be done at the pool this summer please either bring them to the meeting, email them to the office, or drop a note in the black mailbox in front of the clubhouse.

Everyone is invited to this meeting.

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.
- Residents should maintain a fire extinguisher in their units. It should be rated at least 2A:10BC.

Satellite Dishes in The Meadows



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 A/C unit, you must install it inside your utility room.

NO EXTERIOR UNITS ARE ALLOWED

THE MEADOWS VISITOR PARKING PASS

PERMIT IS INVALID IF ALL INFORMATION IS NOT CLEARLY PROVIDED!

DATES (14-DAY LIMIT) _____ to _____

VEHICLE MAKE _____ LICENSE # _____ STATE _____

I AM A VISITOR AT _____

Please observe reserved parking • Speed Limit – 15 mph
This pass must be visible and displayed on dash of car at all times.
This pass is automatically void if user is a Meadows resident!

This pass can be copied or additional copies can be obtained from the Meadows Office. You may also access copies at the Meadows Website at www.mymeadows.net under ONLINE FORMS. Please see the bottom of the pass for the regulations in the use of this permit.

PAID AD

WINDOW SALE

**Save Up to 40%
on your heating
and cooling bills.**

Free Estimates

703-273-0101

www.nuhomewindows.com

Fully Licensed, Bonded & Insured
VA # 2705-064938A

PAID AD

A. Heatwole Plumbing Service Co.

30 years experience
in the Centreville area!
Complete plumbing repairs
No travel charges
Emergency services
Master Plumber on each job

703-830-4242

*Mention this ad and receive
\$12 off every service call!*

BUY • BARTER • TRADE • SELL

A household may place up to two ads, limited to 25 words each, per month. Ads must be submitted on 8½"x11" paper to the Office or the Council box in front of the Clubhouse. They may also be emailed to: meadowsoffice@verizon.net

Ads must be resubmitted—in writing—each month.

Make it easy on yourself—email your ad to meadowsoffice@verizon.net

CARPET INSTALLER – 20 years experience.
Free estimates. Repair, restretch, water
damaged areas. One room up to 20 yards is
\$75. Call 703-815-2549.

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: 1-800-309-4709

Security
703-628-9481

Towing
Battlefield Towing: 703-378-0059

American Disposal Services
703-368-0500
Call for special pick up, Thursdays only

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. 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. The Meadows does not endorse any advertisers.

EDITORS

Dick and Lydia Miller
