

A letter from our MECA Board president:

Open To new ideas.

Thanks to all of you that came out to the MECA annual meeting on June 18th. We had a great turnout, with over 40 households represented. (There is a synopsis of the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.) And more importantly we had a number of first time attendees, bringing their questions and fresh perspectives to the discussion. This is so important to the community, as so many long time owners close in on retirement age and the neighborhood begins to turn over.

But these conversations don't have to be limited to once a year. The MECA Board of Directors meets each month on the third Wednesday of the month - and these meetings are always open to all members. Our next two meetings are on July 16th and August 20th at the Reston Regional Library, starting at 7:30 pm. Please consider this your invitation to come to any of our regular monthly meetings to learn about the current business of the association, participate in our planning, and offer your new ideas.

-Jim Zavrel

2014 MECA Annual Meeting Summary

by Jim Zavrel

The Monterey Estates Community held its 2014 annual meeting at Fox Mill Elementary School on Wednesday, June 18th. Attendance was strong, with a welcome mix of longtime residents as well as new residents. The meeting started off with committee reports which highlighted:

Our **strong financial position** as an association, with a reserve fund of approximately \$57,000. At the time of the meeting 225 of 230 homeowners were current with respect to payment of annual dues;

A report on the **status of our playground and common grounds** which focused on the results of professional surveys which revealed that a number of homeowners have built fences and other structures that encroach significantly into the association properties. The Board has sought legal advice before taking further action;

The board's decision to retain a local engineering firm to **conduct a reserve study** of the tennis court and other MECA infrastructure to determine their remaining useful life and the expected costs to repair and/or replace them; as well as the association's financial ability to pay for such repairs.

Continued on page 2.

2014 MECA Annual Meeting Summary

(continued from page 1)

The current business portion of the meeting provided information and discussion of three principal areas:

The condition of MECA streets. We reviewed the meeting in late March with VDOT officials and Delegate Thomas Rust; and the subsequent boring samples which indicate that the roadbeds in MECA are in worse condition than previously thought, thereby requiring major roadbed renovation, at increased expense. And the fact that all state maintenance funds allocated for secondary roads have been used for snow removal this past winter. Our plan is to initiate an e-mail campaign to keep the VDOT staff and elected officials aware of our discontent with these conditions.

Future Distribution of “Monterey Madness” newsletter. Several options were discussed to lower the costs of mailing our seasonal newsletter, including hand delivery and the option to “opt-out” of paper delivery. While no consensus was reached to make an immediate change, we will be testing out some options, while at the same time expanding the coverage of our e-mail list.

A proposed amendment to MECA By-Laws to specify that any proxy given to vote at association meetings may only be submitted by association members in good standing. This amendment was passed, with 88% of the votes present in favor of the change

Finally, elections were held for the vacant positions of the Board of Directors. **Jonathan Grinnon** and **Paul Shlesinger** were nominated and elected to the Board without opposition. A third position on the Board remains vacant.

Thanks to everyone that attended the meeting and participated in the lively discussions. We hope to build on the positive momentum with additional events in the upcoming year, including a forum this fall Delegate Thomas Rust and other elected officials. The full minutes of the meeting will be posted on the MECA website at www.mecahoa.org/

Easy Bins for all your dumpster needs!

Easy Bins is a family owned and operated dumpster rental company located in Woodbridge, VA. We specialize in driveway-sized, roll-off dumpsters. We are fast, efficient and reliable. Our pricing is guaranteed to match any national company and we are green. www.easy-bins.com

Community Events

MECA Common Ground Cleanup Day

Come join your neighbors on Saturday, July 26, 2014 starting around 8:30-9:00 am down at the park to help improve the park and common area. Jobs include trash pickup, mulch additions, painting, and much more.

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Monterey Estates is again requesting that a patrol car, with officer, drive through the community between 8:00 pm and 8:30 pm using the following route: starting from Pinecrest, go down Lyme Bay Drive to New Banner, up New Banner to New Parkland, down New Parkland to Monterey Estates Drive, down Monterey Estates Drive to West Ox Road (end). Where adults/children are gathered, stop and talk; run the lights/siren, let the kids into the car, talk to the parents, etc. then move on the route to the next group.

End of Summer Picnic

Saturday September 6th, to be held at the MECA Playground. More information to come. Please contact Carrie Mendelsohn and Cameron Eckhardt at mecahoasocial@gmail.com if you would like to join the picnic committee.

Neighborhood Watch

by Rick Foelsch

There have been several instances of mail, waiting for pickup, being stolen from a mailbox in our community. Please do not put anything into your mailbox for pickup unless you can afford to lose it. Please mail all important mail at the Post Office. Everyone needs to be observant and report anything unusual IMMEDIATELY to 703-691-2131, unless 911 is more appropriate.

The local police regard mail theft as a federal offense. Reporting mail theft to Postal Officials on line or at the Post Office is the appropriate procedure. That shouldn't be necessary if you mail everything at the Post Office.

MECA Spring Clean-up

On Saturday, May 31 we had our annual Monterey Estates Community Association Garage Sale. In the afternoon, we had our Spring Clean, where our residents could dispose of unwanted items. Easy Bins (www.easy-bins.com) generously donated a bin to collect old unusable household items. Additionally, the National Children's Center sent a truck to collect usable donated goods for charity. We had a lot of items donated and the day was a great success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or donated items.

VDOT Contact Information

Sidewalks – A reminder that the Virginia Department of Transportation — *not Fairfax County* — is responsible for curb and sidewalk repair on neighborhood streets. To report a problem, call **(800) 367-7623**. Be sure to note the Reference Number that you are given for future follow-up. Neighbors have had mixed success requesting action through this contact. Repairs on Monterey Estates Drive have been made in a timely fashion; requests on New Ambler Court have required multiple callbacks.

Street Paving and Repair – To request information, or lodge a complaint regarding the condition of the streets within Monterey Estates, please contact Mr. Andrew Beecher, Assistant Transportation and Land Use Director for Arlington & Fairfax Counties, Virginia Department of Transportation. His telephone number is **(703) 259-2239**, e-mail address is andrew.beecher@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Be sure to include in your message that the street referenced is located within Monterey Estates; and copy any message you send to Ms. Carol Sinclair, Legislative Assistant to Delegate Thomas Rust at csinclair@house.virginia.gov, and the MECA Board at mecaboard@gmail.com to enable us to track the number of complaints lodged. You are encouraged to contact these individuals as often as possible to keep our street re-pavement high on the VDOT priority list as funds become available.

Neighborhood Notes

New to the neighborhood? Have a rising kindergartner? Kids bored and ready to meet new friends? We are looking to put together a few play dates/meet-ups at the MECA playground before the start of the school year. Please contact Carrie Mendelsohn and Cameron Eckhardt at mecahoasocial@gmail.com.

Playground Report

Swing set replacement. The large swing set is about 30 years old. The Board is currently soliciting three bids to replace/upgrade the large swing. We hope to increase the number of swings from 2 to 3 or even 4, if space is available. Costs range from \$2,500 to \$3,500.

More mulch will be added to the playground area this summer, along with an opening in the border to allow for better access.

Ideas? Or something needs to be fixed, trimmed, etc.? The Board is always looking for good affordable ideas for additions or improvements to our MECA Community Park and common areas. Please contact Jason Lynch (jallynch@gmail.com) or any MECA board member.

Community Advertisements

Babysitter/Mommy's Helper:

Do you have kids and need a break? I am a responsible and enthusiastic babysitter. I am very reliable. Call 703-391-1759 and ask for Katie.

Our community newsletter, the Monterey Madness, is published quarterly. We are now accepting classified advertisements. The rates areas follows:

- Advertisers aged 16 and under: ads are free and good for a year.
- Advertisers over age 16: \$5 for five lines of ad; business cards are \$25, ads are good for one issue.
- Community groups are free.

This is a great place to publicize your home-based businesses, advertise babysitting or lawn care services, and reach out to the local community. Contact Jennifer Wagner at jenjwagner@yahoo.com if you would like to place an ad.

Important Local Information Sources

Fairfax County Police Department on the web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police

Helicopter information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/helicopter

Police Incident Mapping: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeevents

Police Blog: <http://fcpdnews.wordpress.com>

Volunteers Needed for Community Special Projects

The Monterey Estates Community Association is run entirely by volunteers from within our community. As the saying goes, “**Many hands make light work.**” We encourage you to join. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Jim Zavrel at zavmail@verizon.net. Thank you!

Community Picnic Committee: The board is looking for members to join the Community Picnic committee that will be in charge of organizing community picnic or block parties. Please contact Carrie Mendelsohn and Cameron Eckhardt at mecahoasocial@gmail.com.

Community Egg Hunt Coordinator: The Board is seeking a member to coordinate the MECA Spring Egg Hunt. Please contact Jim Zavrel at zavmail@verizon.net.

Block Captains – Monterey Estates Drive West End & New Parkland Dr West End: We need a resident of Monterey Estates Drive and a resident of New Parkland Dr. (west ends). The Block Captain serves as the crucial link between the Neighborhood Watch organization and the individual residents. The person will disseminate information relating to the safety of our neighborhood residents to the people on his/her block. Please contact Rick Foelsch at foelsch@verizon.net.

If you have any ideas for community events that you would like to coordinate, please let us know. Last summer we had a great children’s tennis class, as well as an adult running program, both run by MECA residents.

MECA Neighborhood Watch
Coordinator: Rick Foelsch 703-787-0645

Block Captains

Lyme Bay Drive

Lori Goll 703-435-3890

Monterey Estates Drive

Patti Mietla 703-435-2701

West end vacant

New Ambler Court

Pat Cosimi 703-689-3953

New Arden Court

Jack Eller 703-471-6232

New Aspen Court

Rose McIntyre 703-318-0741

New Austin Court

Christina & Robin Beach 703-471-1924

New Banner Lane

Richard & Sara Raines 481-5689

John & Amy Persil 742-3612

Terry Geffert 437-8644

New Belmont Court

Ron Ulle 703-796-0147

New Concorde Court

Jim Zavrel 703-435-9221

New Parkland Drive

Don Lyles 703-435-4839

Jonathan Grinnon 703-945-9184

West end vacant

If you are a New Parkland Drive homeowner, and would like to receive important Neighborhood Watch news (neighborhood incidents, police activity, etc.), please send your email address to Jonathan Grinnon at

Jonathan@Grinnon.com.

How to find out about MECA events and news?

Keep current with MECA activities and policies!

MECA webpages and Facebook page are the best way to stay current with what's happening in MECA. Also, join the Monterey Estates email list (see back page for details).

www.MECAHOA.org



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Monterey-Estates-Community-Association-MECA/217796954905093>

MECA 2014 Board Members:

Position	Name	Address	E-mail	Phone
President	Jim Zavrel	2619 New Concorde Court	zavmail@verizon.net	703.435.9221
Vice President	Paul Osborn	2618 New Banner Lane	pmosborn@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Jonathan Grinnon	12811 New Parkland Dr.	Jonathan@Grinnon.com	703.945.9184
Secretary	Delores Plum	13030 Monterey Estates Drive	mecadplum@gmail.com	
ACC Chair	Dennis Fisher	13043 Monterey Estates Drive	fisherk6@gmail.com	703.437.9003
Member	Paul Shlesinger	13004 New Parkland Dr.	paul.shlesinger@gmail.com	

Mailing Label

Monterey Estates Community Email List

If you haven't already done so, please join the Monterey Estates email list. To join, please send an email to: mecaEmailList@gmail.com, with subject of 'JOIN MECA EMAIL LIST'. The MECA Board would like everyone to join this list to facilitate communication on important issues within the community. If you join, be assured that your email address will not be seen by others, and we will only send out information that is relevant to all residents of our community.