

A letter from our MECA Board president:

Maintain Our Homes, Maintain Our Home Values

Any of us who have lived in this part of Fairfax County for more than a couple years have heard the horror stories about the Reston Association architectural controls. To live in Reston you must commit to having the *proper* color siding, the *exact* fence height and the *precise* exterior lighting fixtures that are approved for your development. No deviations are accepted and enforcement is tough, leading to significant fines. Many residents appreciate the rigorous conformity; but here in Monterey we have always had a slightly more laid back approach. We have broad architectural “guidelines” that call for the use of a range of colors which already exist throughout the neighborhood; we require that you screen your trash cans from the street; we prohibit chain link fences, but give you some latitude over the style of fence you erect; and we ask that you consult with the Architectural Control Committee before making exterior changes so that we can prevent the erection of poorly designed or constructed improvements.

But as our homes age, we must be careful to take care of them properly in order to preserve the values of our investments, and those of our neighbors. To promote awareness of this goal, the MECA Board of Directors is soliciting volunteers to help us do a community inspection after the holidays. Our goal is not to nitpick or find fault with minor landscaping or decorative elements, but to softly remind owners to maintain their property in a state of good repair and neat appearance. Bringing attention to peeling paint on exterior trim; mailboxes that are falling over; decks in need of repair or fences that are broken and missing parts will hopefully persuade each of us to do our part to ensure the aesthetic quality of our homes and our community. If you are willing to help with this effort, please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

Happy Holidays to all, and good luck with the Holiday Decorating contest!!

Jim Zavrel

Community Events

Santa's Visit

Santa will be here Saturday, December 14th, 1:00 PM! This is a great event for kids and kids-at-heart to visit with Santa and receive a few goodies. Santa will land in the open grassy common area near the intersection of Lyme Bay Drive and New Banner Lane. Our snow/rain date is Sunday, December 15th. Please come and visit with Santa and your neighbors during this fun time of celebration.



Holiday Decorating Contest

The Holiday Decorating Contest will be held on December 21 starting at 5:00 PM. Have your home decorated by dusk on December 21. The spirit of the Holiday Season will soon be upon us, and it's time for the Annual MECA Holiday House Decorating contest. There will be prizes for the best decorated homes in the following categories:

- Best Daytime Display
- Best Nighttime Display

We encourage everyone to tastefully decorate the front of your homes, including trees, shrubs, windows, and doors. Winners in each of the two categories will receive a \$50.00 Gift Certificate from Lowe's. Good luck!

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) News

By Dennis Fisher

Please remember these MECA guidelines in maintaining your home:

-Exterior changes to a home or existing property require prior ACC approval.

-Trash containers are not to be in public view/approved screening materials can be used to screen containers in side yards.

-Mailboxes & Supports need to be maintained.

-Fences that have broken or missing parts need to be repaired.

-Trash & debris is not to be stored on one's property and any debris on common area originating from a homeowner's property is the responsibility of the homeowner to remove.

Neighborhood Crime Report

By Rick Foelsch

We have been advised that on December 8, vehicles on New Parkland, New Concorde, New Aspen and Lyme Bay were broken into. We are told one of the vehicles was locked; another was unlocked.

Please notify your Block Neighbors to report any crime issues, and/or suspicious behavior, promptly to the police. Also, lock your cars, homes, etc. and be vigilant.

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. We need three to four members for this committee.

Community Egg Hunt Coordinator: The Board is also seeking a member to coordinate the MECA Spring Egg Hunt. The Egg Hunt is scheduled in April for 2014.

Block Captains – Monterey Estates Drive West End & New Parkland Dr West End and East End: We need a resident of Monterey Estates Drive and two residents of New Parkland Dr. (west and east 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.

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 program, as well as an adult running group, both run by MECA residents.

Winter Weather Alert

As we progress into the winter months, we need to be prepared for winter storms. Here is some important information about emergency resources for our community.

Important Numbers

- * VA Power: 1-888-667-3000
- * Emergency shelters: 211
- * Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management: 703-324-2362
- * Herndon Dept of Public Works: 703-435-6860

VDOT's winter resources:

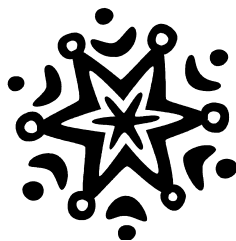
For snow removal information: <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp>

To see the status of plowing in your neighborhood: <http://www.vdotplows.org/>. Please note that the website only tracks VDOT maintained neighborhoods and that the website is only active when two or more inches of snow have fallen.

For real-time traffic updates and road conditions: Visit <http://www.511virginia.org/>, download the 511 smartphone app, or follow @511northernva on Twitter

Reporting unplowed roads or hazardous conditions: email novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov or call 1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623)

For general VDOT info: Follow VDOT on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VirginiaDOT, on Twitter @VDOT, and visit www.VirginiaDOT.org



Community Advertisements

Mommy's Helpers:

Want to make a call for business or personal and you don't want to be interrupted? Want to exercise but worried the little one will be bored? Whatever your need, we can help! Call Lauren's Little Helpers! Lauren Booth 571-244-9343 and Alyssa Gulakowski 703-801-3844

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. Please contact Jennifer Wagner at jenjwagner@yahoo.com if you would like to place an ad.

Sidewalk Repair

For sidewalk damage reports, residents can contact Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) at 1-800-367-7623. Our neighbors on Monterey Estates Drive have been successful at getting their sidewalks repaired.

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 435-9221

New Parkland Drive

Don Lyles 435-4839

East end vacant

West end vacant

If you are a Lyme Bay Drive homeowner, and would like to receive important Neighborhood Watch news (neighborhood incidents, police activity, etc.), please send your email address to Lori Goll at lorigoll@verizon.net

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 2013 Board Members:

Position	Name	Address	E-mail	Phone
President	Jim Zavrel	2619 New Concorde Court	zavmail@verizon.net	703.435.9221
Vice President	Adam Shubert	13066 Monterey Estates Drive	shubert.meca@gmail.com	703.464.7495
Treasurer	Paul Osborn	2618 New Banner Lane	pmosborn@gmail.com	
Secretary	Michael Cutler	13034 Monterey Estates Drive	mike.cutler@cox.net	
ACC Chair	Dennis Fisher	13043 Monterey Estates Drive	fisherk6@gmail.com	703.437.9003
Member	Delores Plum	13030 Monterey Estates Drive	mecadplum@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.