

A letter from our new MECA Board president:

Hello and Happy Holidays to everyone! In the midst of this very busy season I hope you have a chance to take a break from the malls, town centers, keyboards, ovens, and a thousand other places you could be to grab a moment or two to simply enjoy this festive time of the year. A great way to do this is to join Santa, his elves, and your neighbors at our annual Santa Visit on Saturday, December 15th. This is always a greatly anticipated community event and is a wonderful way to ring in the holiday season. Also make sure to dress up your house in a most spiffy manner as our annual holiday decoration competition is coming up. Two \$50 Lowes’ gift cards are on the line for the best daytime and nighttime decorations so let’s see our neighborhood shine (literally!). Complete details for these events are inside the newsletter.

Your new board has been busy working to keep our common areas and the playground clean and updated, and we hope to add a new swing set this spring. Other changes might be afoot as well so make sure you stay tuned to our Facebook page to learn about the latest news. If you have any suggestions or ideas about our community including thoughts for changes or improvements, we are always glad to hear from you. Message us through Facebook or contact us at mecaboard@gmail.com. It is our continued pleasure to serve Monterey Estates and the entire board wishes you a very safe, joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Warmest regards,
Adam Shubert
MECA President

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>

Board News

At our annual meeting in June, MECA board president Anne Himes and vice president Jason Lynch finished their terms of office and stepped down from the board. Also leaving the board was member at large Craig Reichlow. We thank them all for their service to our community. We welcome new board members Delores Plum and Jim Zavrel, who were elected for three year terms. At our monthly board meeting in July, Adam Shubert was elected president and Jim Zavrel was elected vice president.

Community Events

Santa Here Saturday, December 15th, 2:00 PM!

Santa will be visiting us again this holiday season! 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 16th.

Please come and visit with Santa and your neighbors during this fun time of celebration.



Holiday Decorating Contest

When: December 16 – starting at 5:00 PM

Have your home decorated by dusk on December 16. 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

Help keep our community looking good by not placing yard waste on the curb before its pickup day. Yard waste disposal rules are the same as for trash. You are ONLY permitted to put trash receptacles and yard waste at the curb the NIGHT before your scheduled pickup. Please place your waste in front of your own residence, and DO NOT block fire hydrants.

Home Exterior Changes - Please remember exterior changes require an approved ACC application **BEFORE** any work can begin. You can obtain an ACC change application form from the MECA webpage and contact Dennis Fisher if you have any questions. Thank you.



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

Block Captains

Lyme Bay Drive
Lori Goll 435-3890

Monterey Estates Drive
Patti Mietla 435-2701

New Ambler Court
Pat Cosimi 689-3953

New Arden Court
Jack Eller 471-6232

New Aspen Court
Vacant

New Austin Court
Christina & Robert Booth 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
Brian & Kathy Miller 481-1473
West end vacant

Neighborhood Watch - Let's Keep Our Neighborhood Safe!

We want to remind you of some important things that you can do to help keep our community safe from crime.

Keep your lamppost lit. Without street lighting, our neighborhood is very dark. If your lamppost light burns out, please replace it as soon as possible. Use your porch lights until you replace your lamppost light, too.

Close your garage doors. Unless you are going in or out of your garage, please get into the habit of closing your garage doors. If you see that your neighbor(s) may have accidentally forgotten to close a garage door, do not hesitate to be a good neighbor and let them know that they have a door open. Closing garage doors deters easy access into your garage by both vandals and rodents looking for a warm place to spend the winter.

Lock the door from the garage into your house. Vandals can get into your garage in numerous ways. One way is to use a garage door opener that is in a car parked outside of the garage. If someone gains entry into your garage, prevent them from easy access to your home by keeping your door locked. Using a keypad for entry into the garage may be convenient, but if the door into your house is unlocked, it can be an easy way for a thief to enter your home unobtrusively.

Turn on lights when you are away from home. If you are traveling, use timers to set some house lights on when you are gone. If it looks like someone is home, robbers are less likely to target your house.

Cancel papers and mail while you are away. If you are going to be away from home, cancel your papers and mail, or have a neighbor pick them up for you. Since we sometimes get unsolicited papers and advertisements in our community, please let ask a neighbor to pick up anything that gets placed onto your property so it doesn't accumulate while you're gone.

Communicate with your neighbors. Let your neighbors know if you are not at home, and ask them report suspicious activity while you are away.

MECA Common Areas and Community Park Update

Brush Removal and Brush Hogging. This winter MECA's mowing contractor will again brush hog the edges of all common areas. In addition, a large amount of brush in the New Austin Ct common area will be removed. Over the summer poison ivy was sprayed. We hope to keep the poison ivy in check in all MECA common areas.

New Austin Ct Common Area. The area near the dam has been re-graded in accordance with Fairfax County regulations. This will prevent water runoff into neighboring yards. The county will eventually rework the entire area according to their watershed plan over the next 5-10 years.

Playground. We have added new mulch to our playground area. We also removed some debris and poison ivy, as well as cutting down a dead tree behind the playground. We installed new lighting in the area and we plan to plant more trees next year, as well as evaluate the swing set with an eye to replacing it. Please remember the park is closed at dark.

Basketball court resurfacing. The basketball court has been resurfaced. We hope everyone is enjoying the new court. The board plans to add grading around the edges to protect them.

Ideas? Or something needs to be fixed, trimmed, etc.?

The Board is always looking for good ideas for additions or improvements to our MECA Community Park and common areas. Please contact Jason Lynch (mecaboard01@gmail.com) or any MECA board member. Good, affordable ideas to improve our community are always welcome.

MECA Treasurer's Report

A meeting was held on Tuesday November 20 at MECA Vice-President Jim Zavrel's house to discuss the 2013 MECA Budget. In attendance were Adam Shubert, Paul Osborn and Jim Zavrel. A draft version of the budget will be presented to the board at the December meeting. It is anticipated that the finalized version will be presented and approved at the January board meeting on January 16th.

Winter Roads Alert

The following advice is from our delegate's most recent newsletter.

- VDOT advises motorists to be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions during the winter. Have a plan. Most importantly, be where you need to be before the weather begins.
- To avoid accidents during winter storms, VDOT always suggests delaying travel when possible. And if you see a slow-moving snowplow or other vehicles treating roads, please slow down and give the operators the right of way for both their safety and yours.
- Before traveling, get the latest traffic conditions by calling 511, or go to www.511virginia.org. You can also download the free 511 mobile app at <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/511.asp#app>
- VDOT does not remove snow from sidewalks
- Crews and Contractors are asked to be mindful of pushing large amounts of snow onto sidewalk, driveways, etc. and spillover
- When shoveling driveways, leave the last 5 feet of snow at the curb until after the plow has passed.
- When shoveling your driveway, shovel to the right facing the road so that the snow plow won't plow additional snow into your driveway
- Park in your driveway, but if you must park in the street, park on the odd numbered side of the street
- Allow room for the plow to come through
- PLEASE STAY OFF ROADS to allow the plows to do their job.
- TELEWORK is a good alternative!

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 Jennifer Wagner at jenjwagner@yahoo.com. 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 March for 2013.

Community Halloween Parade Coordinator: The Board is seeking a resident who is would like to coordinate our first Halloween parade in October.

Block Captains - New Aspen Ct & New Parkland Dr West End: We need a resident of New Aspen Ct. and a resident of New Parkland Dr. (west end). 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.

Community Notices

Dominion Power is in the process of switching the entire neighborhood over to a new power circuit grid. This should reduce the number and severity of power outages in out neighborhood. They plan to have this completed in the next month or so.

VDOT now has a Web tool which tracks the status of plowing in Northern Virginia neighborhoods after the snow has accumulated two inches or more. Resident's can access this map by visiting <http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov/>.

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.

MECA 2012 Board Members:

Position	Name	Address	E-mail	Phone
President	Adam Shubert	13066 Monterey Estates Drive	shubert.meca@gmail.com	703.464.7495
Vice President	Jim Zavrel	2619 New Concorde Court	zavmail@verizon.net	703.435.9221
Treasurer	Paul Osborn	2618 New Banner Lane	pmosborn@gmail.com	
Secretary	Jennifer Wagner	13021 New Austin Ct	jenjwagner@yahoo.com	
ACC Chair	Dennis Fisher	13043 Monterey Estates Drive	fisherk6@gmail.com	703.437.9003
Member	Michael Cutler	13034 Monterey Estates Drive	mike.cutler@cox.net	
Home Packet	Bob Powell	13056 Monterey Estates Drive	bobdpowell@verizon.net	703.621.3395
Member	Delores Plum	13030 Monterey Estates Drive	mecaplum@yahoo.com	

Mailing Label