

A letter from our MECA Board president:

Hello Monterey Neighbors—as I write with the temperatures in the 30s and Doug Kammerer excitedly predicting a winter coastal storm on its way, it is hard to believe Spring is just three weeks away. I am greatly looking forward to the wonderful colors that will soon be sprouting from bushes and hedges plus the myriad of blossoms that turn our neighborhood into a showcase for several weeks. Spring also means that MECA will be sponsoring two upcoming events for all to participate. The first will be the annual Egg Hunt, this year taking place Saturday, March 23rd at 11am at the playground (rain date Sunday the 24th). Also this year in addition to our annual yard sale day which is always the first Saturday in May (this year May 4th) we will also be having a Spring Clean-out where you can bring the items you did not sell but are in good enough condition to give away (or frankly just old junk lying around the house that needs to go out the door!) to a central location in the neighborhood where we will have a charity waiting to accept the good stuff and a roll-off bin for the rest (though please note this does NOT include any electronics or hazardous materials as we do not have a facility to accept that). If this goes well, we will hope to make the Spring Clean-out an annual event as a perfect complement to the yard sale.

Your board continues to work hard to keep Monterey Estates a great place to live. We welcome any suggestions you may have that can further that goal. Our contact information is in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing as many of our neighbors as possible over the next couple of months.

Sincerely,
Adam Shubert

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

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Annual MECA Holiday House Decorating contest.

- Best Daytime Display: 2621 New Banner
- Best Nighttime Display: 13001 New Arden

Congratulations to our winners!

Community Events

Community Egg Hunt, Saturday March 23rd, 11:00 AM

Come join us for our egg hunt at the playground! Eggs will be filled with a variety of treats and small prizes. We will have separate areas for ages 0-2 and 3-8.

Our rain date is Sunday, March 24th.



Spring Fling Yard Sale and Clean-Up

When: Saturday May 4th

Time for spring cleaning! Clean out your house and host a yard sale. In the afternoon, bring what you don't sell to us and we will donate it to charity if it is still usable or put it in a dumpster if it is not salvageable. Sorry, we do not accept electronics or hazardous materials. More details to come!



Architectural Control Committee (ACC) News

-Dennis Fisher

Wanting to update that old or broken mail box? To do so does NOT require ACC approval but must meet the US Postal Regulations.

Please help keep our community looking great by NOT placing yard waste on the curb BEFORE its pickup day. Yard waste is subject to same conditions as trash containers. They are to be placed at the curb the evening before your scheduled pick up.

Stored trash receptacles are to be screened as per the ACC Regulations or in the rear of your property. See MECA ACC guidelines on the MECA website for full details.



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

Brian & Kathy Miller 481-1473

West end vacant

MECA Neighborhood Watch

By Rick Foelsch, Coordinator, MECA Neighborhood Watch

The MECA Neighborhood Watch is set up as a passive organization. The Community has not had the level of crime, and consequently the impetus, to justify an active organization. By active, we mean walking or vehicular patrols with communication devices, uniforms, rosters with patrol assignments, etc.

The structure of the organization consists of a Coordinator supported by Block Captains. The current areas of Block Captain responsibility are depicted on the map, dated 4/23/12, on the MECA website.

The function of the Coordinator is to interface with the Reston District Station (County Police Force for our area) and the MECA Community in support of the MECA Board of Directors. The Coordinator represents the Community, on behalf of the Board, with the Reston District Station Commander and staff. The Coordinator facilitates the flow of information between the police and the Community and between the Community and the police.

The Block Captains are key members of this volunteer organization in that they know all of the neighbors in their Block and their Block neighbors know them and what their function is. The Block Captain maintains contact information for all Block neighbors, and vice-versa, so that a Block communication network is in place to rapidly disseminate information to and from the Block Captain. The Block Captains and the Coordinator maintain the same type of communication network for the same reason.

All MECA neighbors are encouraged to stay mentally alert for any potential crime situation. If anything appears amiss, he/she should get a description of the situation that will help clearly define the situation and immediately contact the police. Routine or non-life-threatening situations are reported to 703-691-2131; life threatening situations are reported to 911. Do not involve yourselves in trying to resolve the situation---that is what the police are for. The police want you to call them rather than not call them. They would rather prevent something than have to deal with the aftermath of a crime.

After notifying the police, the neighbor immediately notifies the Block Captain, who, in turn notifies the Coordinator. The Coordinator assesses whether reports indicate it is a Community problem or a Block problem. The other Block Captains and the Board are notified for information purposes. The Block Captains notify their respective neighbors and assess any feedback. Information flows back and forth as necessary to address the situation.

Block Captains have crime prevention information available for neighbors, or can get it. Neighbors can access the County websites for Public Safety and Reston District Station information. Monthly meetings are held at the Reston District Station for Neighborhood Watch discussions and Citizen Advisory Committee discussions. These meetings are open to anyone interested in what is going on in the Reston District with respect to crime prevention.

The best things we all can do is report anything unusual to the police and keep our property, home and vehicles, secure. Keep your home and vehicle doors and windows locked. Keep the exterior of your property well illuminated at night. Take appropriate action when you are not at home for an extended period with your neighbor's assistance. Crime prevention is common sense and attention to detail. Please contact me if you have any questions and I'll try to answer them. If you live in an area without a Block Captain and would like to volunteer, please contact me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all current Block Captains for volunteering to make their Community a safer and better place to live.

MECA Common Areas and Community Park Update

By Jason Lynch

Over the past few months, MECA has been working with two contractors to remove dangerous trees and brush in the Lyme Bay common area. A total of 6 trees were removed, one of which was very dangerous and could have fallen on a house. In addition to the tree removal, considerable amounts of dead brush and trees were also chipped or removed in order to help maintain a healthy forest community. Four of the trees that were removed were cut up into firewood. The firewood is available for the taking. It's in Lyme Bay common area at the edge of the forest along the fence line on the left side as you enter. The firewood is maple, cherry, and locust, all good burning wood.

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 by Paul Osborn

The board approved the budget for 2013 during the January MECA board meeting.

The budget includes:

- A \$10 increase in annual dues for 2013 to boost the reserve fund. This was done primarily to refurbish (or replace) the tennis court next year.
- Approval to buy new playground swings.
- Approval to replace our aging MECA sign boards that are used for community announcements.
- An extra amount of money to cover the emergency tree removals that occurred mid-January within the Lyme Bay common grounds.

Recipe Corner - Braided Easter Egg Bread

by Vanessa Cossio

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 eggs
- 5 whole eggs, dyed if desired
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

In a large bowl, combine 1 cup flour, sugar, salt and yeast; stir well. Combine milk and butter in a small saucepan; heat until milk is warm and butter is softened but not melted.

Gradually add the milk and butter to the flour mixture; stirring constantly. Add two eggs and 1/2 cup flour; beat well. Add the remaining flour, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring well after each addition. When the dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes.

Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour.

Deflate the dough and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface. Divide the dough into two equal size rounds; cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll each round into a long roll about 36 inches long and 1 1/2 inches thick. Using the two long pieces of dough, form a loosely braided ring, leaving spaces for the five colored eggs. Seal the ends of the ring together and use your fingers to slide the eggs between the braids of dough.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place loaf on a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a damp towel. Place loaf in a warm place and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes. Brush risen loaf with melted butter.

Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes, or until golden.

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 Parkland Dr West End & Monterey Estates Dr West End: We need a resident of New Parkland Dr. (west end) and a resident of Monterey Estates 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

Our community newsletter, the Monterey Madness, is published quarterly. For our next issue, we will be accepting classified advertisements. The rates will be as 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.

We are looking for a resident who likes to garden to write a gardening column for our newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Wagner at jenjwagner@yahoo.com.

MECA 2013 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 Member | Bob Powell | 13056 Monterey Estates Drive | bobdpowell@verizon.net | 703.621.3395 |
| Member | Delores Plum | 13030 Monterey Estates Drive | | |

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.