

MILL CREEK HOME



Newsletter of the Mill Creek Homeowners Association, Charlottesville, Virginia
 also available online at www.millcreekhomeowners.org

Let's Take Care of Our Own

We have neighbors who may need help. Sometimes an older homeowner has trouble maintaining a large lawn or yard. A new renter next door may need information about our community or the city. Maybe a neighbor has mobility difficulties—temporary or long term—and finds simple tasks difficult.

How can we help? Perhaps we have a lawnmower and could cut the grass for an ill or elderly neighbor, or we could loan it to the new renter who doesn't yet have one. Maybe we could run simple errands for a neighbor who is ill or has trouble getting around.

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Most of us are juggling family and friends, work and worries, pets and projects. But let's pause to see what our neighbors need and help when we can. Besides, we'll all need help sometime ...

Addeane Caelleigh, Editor
asc8f@virginia.edu

2012 Community Party

Late September / Early October

Yes, we will have a neighborhood party this year! Everyone in the community is welcome: homeowners, owners, friends, and family.

Mark your calendars: The party will be on one of these Saturdays: Sept 22, Sept 29, Oct 6, or Oct 13. Watch for a flyer.



Tell any Board member what you'd enjoy at the party:

- A full meal? ice cream truck? taco truck?
- games for children?
- food drive for a local food bank?
- information booths from local non-profit organizations?
- nature walk on the Mill Creek Trail?
- a book exchange table?

Tell us your ideas ...

and volunteer to help out!

Dog and Neighbors

Many homeowners in our community have dogs, and we all like seeing the dogs enjoy walks with their owners. Most of the dogs have perfect manners and get along with everyone.

But a few of our community members have had upsetting, even dangerous experiences with dogs that are aggressive or not well controlled.

Even the best dogs. We all understand that sometimes even the best dogs “occasionally escape from the house, break off of their leashes, or evade electric fences,” as a dog-loving homeowner expressed in a recent letter. This homeowner went on to describe recent incidents of people not having control of their dogs or assuming that other dogs will be friendly.

Being sensitive to neighbors. Our dog owners should be sensitive to their dogs’ behavior with community members. Dogs must be fenced in and when outside the fence must be under the owners’ control. Neighbors may be fearful of large or aggressive dogs, and many may not have the strength to deal with even a friendly large dog coming at them. Also, please be considerate of your neighbors—don’t let your dog defecate on your neighbors’ property ... unless you pick it up. And when walking your dog, please pick up after it. After all, it’s the law!

The important point for the neighborhood is that the dogs actually be controlled when outside their fenced yards.

County “Running at Large” Law

Albemarle County does not have a “leash law”—technically It has a “running at large law.” Dogs may be off leash when under their owner’s voice control. Dogs **must** be on leash on school grounds and in all county parks. Darden Towne Park and Chris Greene Lake have designated, fenced areas where dogs may be off leash. Otherwise, dog owners may face criminal charges, and violations can now bring a fine of up to \$250. See the county police website: <http://www.albemarle.org> → *Departments and Services* → *Police* → *Frequently Asked Questions* → *Running at Large ordinance* (#14 in list).

Mill Creek Board

Neal Grandy, President & Treasurer

Grounds Committee nrg2p@virginia.edu

Brian Lewis, Member at Large

biglew57@comcast.net

Brian Markot, Vice President &

Co-Treasurer wbm0n@embarqmail.com

Maritza Saavedra, Member at Large

Architectural Review Committee mms3u@virginia.edu

Sue Voires, Member at Large

Architectural Review Committee

Grounds Committee suevxyz@yahoo.com

Come to Mill Creek Board meetings

—2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm—

~ All homeowners welcome ~

**Share your ideas, learn about current issues,
ask questions.**

Meetings are held in members’ homes. Contact any Board member to learn the location of the next meeting.

Updates on Community Projects

Mailboxes

The Board thanks all who responded to the notices about cleaning up their mailboxes. We have a ways to go, but there's a noticeable improvement around the neighborhood!

The Board asks that everyone who received a notice about painting or repairing a mailbox complete the work by *September 15*. Board members will tour the community after that date to check the status of repairs. If you have received a notice from the Board about the need to paint, repair, or replace your mailbox, there is still time to get the work done before the inspection.

Final notices. Final notices will be sent after the tour. The Board wants to avoid having the work done and then billing the homeowners.

Special circumstances. If you have special circumstances that prevent you from undertaking the work, contact a Board member to discuss other arrangements for completely the repairs.

Mailbox paint. Mailbox paint is available from Neal Grandy (nrg2p@virginia.edu). (Please note that Barb Mann no longer has mailbox paint.)

Sidewalk

The Board is pleased to report that a vendor has been chosen to resurface the sidewalk along Mill Creek Dr. The work is expected to be done this Fall.

Getting ready. Homeowners along Mill Creek Drive will be given as much advance notice as possible before the work begins, but we ask for your cooperation and understanding. Some homeowners may be asked to trim back trees or bushes that now encroach on the sidewalk. As the work proceeds, please address any concerns to a member of the Board, not to the contractor. We will make every effort to respond the same day.

It's a big job. The vendor has promised a minimum of disruption and to keep the impact to the street side of the sidewalk. However, since the sidewalk has been largely neglected since it was first installed more than 20 years ago, it's a big job and labor intensive. Weeds and debris have to be cleared from the edges (and hauled away), cracks cleaned and filled, repairs made in the worse areas, and a new 2-inch layer of asphalt put down. Grass areas will be reseeded as necessary.

A beautiful new sidewalk. In the end we'll have a beautiful 4-foot-wide sidewalk we can all enjoy!

Welcome to Renters

Each year Mill Creek is enriched by people who rent houses in our community. We hope that neighbors have introduced themselves to new renter neighbors and answered questions about how the community works.

If you have questions, please contact any Board member. Also, if your property owner does not maintain the yard properly, please let a Board member know so we can contact the property owner.

Come to this fall's community party so we can meet you and welcome you to the community.

Neighborhood Watch: Vandalism

If you are on the list for Neighborhood Watch, you've read about recent vandalism: damage to mailboxes and "egging." Do you know how to report incidents of vandalism if you see them?

How to report non-emergencies: You can report most property and nuisance incidents by telephone or online: (434) 296-5807 or <http://www.albemarle.org/policeonlinereporting>

Report suspicious behavior: The police want to hear about suspicious behavior. Please report any you see to (434) 977-9041.

*Remember our
speed limit!*



250 Years

~ Charlottesville celebrates ~

Throughout 2012 and 2013, Charlottesville is celebrating its 250th anniversary. Look for announcements of special exhibits and events: <http://www.celebrate250.com/about>



Mill Creek Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 1301
Charlottesville, VA 22902
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