

MILL CREEK HOME



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

Summer ends at Mill Creek

It's a lovely season in Mill Creek. We've had a cool summer and enough rain to refresh our gardens. Our neighbors' yards have been a pleasure for all to enjoy as we come and go. And the beauties of autumn are just ahead.

It's time for the annual Mill Creek picnic on Saturday, September 19. (See the article on page 3 for details.) Let's all come meet our neighbors.

And It's time to begin the fall chores that get our houses and yards ready for winter. If you are planning painting or construction projects, the Mill Creek website will give you information you need (www.millcreekhomeowners.org). You'll find lists of approved paint colors and the process for requesting Board approval for construction. And your neighbors have posted suggestions for local contractors and services. If your trees need

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special attention, get in touch with the Board before taking down any tree over 3" in diameter.

Please share your suggestions for the newsletter—get in touch with me (asc8f@virginia.edu) or any member of the Board.

Hope to see you September 19 at the picnic,

Addeane Caelleigh
newsletter editor

Apologies to Roussie Jacksina

I owe a BIG apology to Roussie Jacksina, who for many years wrote and edited our Mill Creek newsletter. In my opening comments in the Summer issue of the newsletter, I mistakenly named another person as the previous editor who had shepherded the newsletter so well.

With deeply felt apologies to Roussie--
Addeane Caelleigh

Come to the monthly Board meetings

—1st Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm—

Meetings are held in the Calvary Baptist Church
1675 Avon Street Extended
(Come in the glass double doors, turn right, then left
toward the meeting room.)

Garbage collection and recycling: changes ahead

Local recycling company van der Linde has new recycling capabilities that may soon affect your local garbage/trash collection services.

van der Linde can now process garbage, trash, and recyclables mixed together. It has equipment that separates recyclables from trash and garbage automatically. According to van der Linde, 90% of household trash can be recycled using the new system.

Some local garbage/trash removal companies are signing contracts with van der Linde to process

what they collect. Some of the companies that serve Mill Creek will soon have these contracts.

What this means is that Mill Creek homeowners would no longer need to separate recyclables before putting out the garbage each week.

You might want to check with your collection service to learn whether it plans to be part of the van der Linde system.

How's your mailbox?

Our mailboxes are one of the most distinctive features of Mill Creek, often commented on by visitors. Sooner or later, they need a little attention.

If you've installed a new mailbox onto the pillar, it needs to be painted the approved color. The HOA provides the paint, and Barbara Mann keeps a supply available all the time. You can help yourself from the drum on her front porch (1274 Gristmill). *Note:* Please remember to roll the drum onto her lawn before pouring; do not try to pour it while on the porch.



Covenants to be reviewed

Brian Markot, Vice President of the HOA Board, is putting together a committee to review the Mill Creek HOA covenants. The goal is to bring them up to date—they are over 20 years old—and to clarify them. If the committee begins work soon, there could be recommendations to discuss at the annual HOA meeting in January 2010.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please get in touch with Brian at wbn0nb@embarqmail.com.

Join the Neighborhood Watch—
*receive e-mail notices and alerts about
common concerns*

[http://www.millcreekhomeowners.org/neighbor
watch.html](http://www.millcreekhomeowners.org/neighborwatch.html)

Highlight on Covenants and By-laws: maintenance and paint colors

from the Mill Creek HOA Board

Part of the attraction of Mill Creek is its aesthetic qualities, and it is therefore incumbent on each homeowner to maintain his or her property. Fall is a great time for a little sprucing up! In doing so, however, please note that the Article VII of the HOA Covenants stipulates that:

“No building, fence, wall or other structure shall be commenced, erected or maintained upon the Properties, nor shall any exterior addition to or change or alteration (including color) therein be made until the plans and specifications showing the nature, size, kind, shape, height, materials, colors and location of the same shall have been submitted to and approved in writing to harmony of external design and location in relation to surrounding structure and typography ...”

In short, any alterations require Board approval.

With regard to “harmony of external design,” it should be noted that there’s an approved list of paint

colors for siding and a separate list for doors and trim, available on the Mill Creek website, and a color palette is available from the Architectural Review Committee. Paint must fall within the spectrum of approved colors. The Board is working to update the list with what we believe are the original colors from Duran, but what’s listed on the website is consistent with the current color spectrum.

While mailboxes are not specifically mentioned in the Covenants, the Board has interpreted the covenants as requiring that mailboxes be maintained. They are, after all, prominent structures as one drives through the neighborhood and often provide the first impression for visitors. Mailboxes should also be painted a uniform color (there is only one approved color) and free paint is available from the Board (see article on page 2).

As always, the Board welcomes your questions or comments.

Mill Creek Block Party — September 19

Come meet your neighbors at the annual Mill Creek Block Party!

All owners and renters welcome!

When: Saturday, September 19, 2009, 4:00–7:00
(rain date: Sunday, September 20)

Where: the meadow at the corner of Gristmill Drive and Southern Parkway

What’s provided: The HOA provides food and soft drinks, music, and a moon bounce for the children.

Sharing with Foxcroft: This year we will share the meadow with the Foxcroft HOA. Each neighborhood will have its own food tent and a moonbounce—all children are welcome to enjoy both moonbounces.

Food Bank Donations: Donations will be collected for a local food bank. Please bring staples, especially canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, canned fish, beans, soup, peanut butter, pasta and sauce, and baby food.





Get to know your HOA Board members

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All board members are volunteers who work on the Board to serve the Mill Creek community. They welcome your comments and suggestions—and hope to see you at upcoming Board meetings (1st Tuesday of each month).

Have you taken a walk through Mill Creek woods?

The cooler fall weather will persuade many of us to take long walks. Have you tried Mill Creek's own woodland walk along Biscuit Run creek?

Where is it? The path parallels Biscuit Run, the creek that runs through the western side of the Mill Creek property.

How to get there: Go to the meadow at the end of Southern Parkway and take the paved pathway down the hill. After the pathway enters the woods, watch for an *unpaved* path that branches toward the left. That path intersects the path along the creek. Turn left to walk along the whole western edge of Mill Creek.

When you return, watch carefully for the path that will take you back to the Southern Parkway meadow—it is not marked. If you miss it, you end up circling Foxcroft!

Note: The path runs through the western common areas of Foxcroft, Mill Creek, Lake Reynovia, and Mill Creek South, and leads into the Biscuit Run property. If you walk through the other areas, please be respectful of their property.

Mill Creek Home Owners Association

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