

MILL CREEK HOME



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

Your News Needed for the Newsletter

We need your ideas for the newsletter.

- Do you have suggestions for major stories?
- Are there topics that you would like to see covered in an upcoming issue?
- Do you need updated information on issues that affect us all?
- Do you have photographs from Mill Creek's history that you can share?
- Do you have photographs of our lovely gardens and neighborhood wildlife to share?

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We would welcome your ideas and suggestions—and are open to having guest writers for stories.

Please send your ideas to me or to any Board member.

Addeane Caelleigh
asc8f@virginia.edu

Board members for 2010

Please get in touch with board members if you have questions or comments about HOA issues.

Neal Grandy, President and Treasurer
Chair, Grounds Committee
nrg2p@virginia.edu

Brian Markot, Vice President
Member, Architectural Review Committee
wbm0n@embarqmail.com

Addeane Caelleigh
Secretary & newsletter editor
asc8f@virginia.edu

Janet Eden
Member, Grounds Committee
outsidewitheden@aol.com

Lisa Heuchert
At-large member
lisa.heuchert@mjh.org

Maritza Saavedra
Chair, Architectural Review Committee
mms3u@virginia.edu

Sue Voires
At-large member
suevxyz@yahoo.com

Come to Board meetings
—1st Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm—
Meetings are held in the Calvary Baptist Church
(Come in the glass double doors, turn right,
then left toward the classrooms.)

Community Notice Board

June 12: CPR training

Monticello Fire Rescue Station, 8:00 am–12:00 noon. Registration deadline: June 4. Call 434–296–5833 for more information and the possible late registration.

July 6 & August 3: Summer Board Meetings

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church (on Avon Extended across from Southern Parkway). Come to discuss your concerns and learn more about the Board's work.

Neighborhood party in September—an early reminder. Watch for details in the September newsletter.

Update on Embezzlement Case

The May 6 hearing at which Kevin O'Conner, the former treasurer, was expected to plead guilty, was cancelled because the Albemarle County District Courthouse was unexpectedly closed for health reasons because of cooling problems in the building. The case will be added to the regular June docket on June 7.

The President is working with the Commonwealth's attorney and the defense attorney to establish the amount of the embezzlement. If a total can be agreed upon, it will be used by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for use in the Court's decisions about sentencing and restitution.

Are You a New Homeowner in Mill Creek?

The Board is checking and updating its master list of homeowners. If you have bought a home in Mill Creek within the past two years, please contact President Neal Grandy (nrg2p@virginia.edu) to let him your information, in case the records are incomplete.

The Board needs complete contact information for each homeowner in order to properly deliver official correspondence or to contact in cases of emergencies.

As a homeowner, you'll find the Mill Creek website useful (www.millcreekhomeowners.org). You will find minutes of Board meetings, the newsletter, the Covenants and Bylaws, recommendations from

fellow homeowners for local contractors and services, and information about approved paint colors.

Need to paint, repair, or replace your mailbox?

Paint: Contact neighbor **Barbara Mann** (bjm2r@virginia.edu) to get free paint (provided by the Home Owners Association).

Repairs or replacement: Contact neighbor **Mark Louisell** at 434–409–8439 or mlouisell2@hotmail.com about a custom-built replacement or repairs.

10 Ways to Be a Good Neighbor

Many of the issues that the Board discusses involve differing views about neighborly behavior or conflicts between neighbors. Some of the things that irritate homeowners fall outside the covenants and therefore cannot involved action by the Board.

How can we be good neighbors to the homeowners next door and to the whole Mill Creek community? Here are some suggestions, not in any order of importance.

1. Keep your dog(s) on a leash when outside your enclosed yard. Even the best-behaved dog can be startled into reacting aggressively. Also, both the Covenants and Albemarle County regulations require owners to keep their dogs leashed and to clean up after them.

2. Don't park in front of your neighbor's house. If you have more cars than will fit into your driveway, park them in front of *your* house. (The Covenants require parking two cars in a driveway before putting any on the street.) Also, don't block the mail carrier's access a mailbox.

3. Pull your car completely off the pavement if you park on the street. Because our streets are narrow, it is important that parked cars not prevent emergency vehicles from getting through.

4. Consult with neighbors if a project involves your property line. Whether building a fence, digging for major projects, or removing plantings, check your survey to be sure where your property line is—and as a courtesy, alert your neighbor of what is planned.

5. Read monthly Board minutes. Learn about your neighbors' concerns and the Board's discussions and decisions.

6. Maintain your yard. We all need to do spring cleanup, regular mowing in warm months, leaf raking in the fall, and cleanups after storms.

7. Keep culverts clear. Keep them clear by cutting back vegetation and clearing debris. The county will clear problems with major stonework, but ordinary clearing is the homeowner's responsibility.

8. Use the Neighborhood Watch email list. Alert your neighbors to potential problems, receive warnings, exchange useful information through the email list that Barbara Mann maintains on our behalf: bjm2r@virginia.edu.

9. Recommend contractors or services. Post recommendations (with comments, if you like) on the Mill Creek website: www.millcreekhomeowners.org

10. Maintain your mailbox. The mailboxes are a distinctive feature of Mill Creek that visitors and prospective buyers like. Homeowners are required to maintain the mailbox as part of their property.

Each of these suggestions is small in itself, but taken together these actions help create the friendly, helpful atmosphere that we all want for our community.

Mill Creek Trail

Did you know that Mill Creek has a walking trail through the woods along the north-west edge of the neighborhood? The trail runs along the edge of the Foxcroft, Mill Creek, and Reynovia communities. For much of its length, it runs alongside Biscuit Run Creek. Walking this woodland path is a special retreat from city life—and it's literally in our back yard.

Board members Janet Eden and Addeane Caelleigh plan to walk the path soon to assess its condition and check areas that need improvement. In recent years, ATVs have churned up parts of the path and created large mud holes. Last summer, a Board member trimmed back brambles and hanging vines that intruded on the walking space, but it's time to check the path again.

If you're interested in working with Janet or Addeane on the trail, please get in touch with them: Janet Eden (outsidewitheden.aol.com) and Addeane Caelleigh (asc8f@virginia.edu).

Considering an Addition to Your house or Adding a Shed or Fence?

Submit requests for additions on your property to Maritza Saavedra (mms3u@virginia.edu), chair of the Architectural Review Committee. Give details of the proposed changes, including architectural drawings for additions, garages, and sheds; specify the materials to be used for fencing; and show the placement of the addition on the property survey. The Committee and the Board will give you a prompt reply.

Clearing Out Overgrowth?

Dealing with tree damage after this winter's storms may have you thinking about cleaning out overgrown shrubs and removing diseased or overgrown trees.

You may remove any tree less than 3" in diameter without permission from the Board. For those 3" or more, send a request to President Neal Grandy, who also heads the Grounds Committee. The Board understands the need to thin or remove trees. Also, Board member Janet Eden is an arborist and can meet with you to discuss your trees' health.

Mill Creek Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 3903
Charlottesville, VA 22902

www.millcreekhomeowners.org

Glimpse of Charlottesville's Past

Are you a fan of the Charlottesville Municipal Band, which gives concerts throughout the year? A valued part of community life since 1922, it has played for everyone from local children to Queen Elizabeth II. See a short video clip from the 1930s at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/1rod/3611107780/> .

This is one of several clips taken from a 1990s documentary on the band, all available on flickr. The clips give information about the first time women were allowed in the band (1957) and that performance for the Queen.