

February 2020

The MEADOWLARK

www.meadowbrookestates.org

Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association

P.O. Box 34303 • North Chesterfield, VA 23234

"Neighbors helping to create a Clean, Safe, and Enjoyable Neighborhood"

Greetings family, friends, and neighbors! As we travel through the first quarter of calendar year 2020, these are a few of my least favorite things: litter, crime, and traffic. Litter within Meadowbrook Estates for the most part is a nonissue. However, as one drives towards our community from Meadowbrook Plaza to the intersection of Hopkins and Monza, that's a horse of a different color.

Every other weekend from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. volunteers from our neighborhood, regardless of weather, remove every piece of litter within sight and reason. We know and understand that this alone does not resolve the litter issue at hand. Having said that, no one can deny the difference made from the Litter Team's hard work and determination!

In an effort to attract more volunteers, I'm going to send out our MECA Litter Team schedule to every household listed in our data base. If you would like to volunteer just 90 minutes of your time, we'll provide the orange litter bags, picker uppers, and safety vests. Besides, it's a great tangible investment towards the good order and discipline of our coveted community, providing a most lucrative dividend in the fight against litter!

Crime in comparison to other areas within our vicinity is fairly low. We're the hole in the center of the donut, that one space that's safe, sound, and secure!

Thanks in large part to you, our great neighbors, MECA Patrol, and the well-trained men and women of Chesterfield County Police Department!

"Houston, we have a traffic problem!"
The intersection at Hopkins and Edgemere has proven to be a daily danger zone for many of our neighbors who live in and around that area. According to police records (5400) cars pass through there every day. In the past three years, there have been (61) recorded accidents, mainly occurring during wet road conditions and at night. This resulted in thousands of dollars of property damage, numerous injuries, and tragically (2) deaths.

The good news is that those neighbors have recently joined forces with MECA, conducting various meeting with our police and local public officials, in an all-out effort to resolve this most serious circumstance! On Thursday, 27, February at 7:00 p.m. MECA will conduct its quarterly General Meeting featuring Chesterfield County Police Chief, Colonel Jeffrey S. Katz!

Please come out and join us, and support our neighbors on Hopkins Road. Let's show Colonel Katz that we are a vibrant, proactive, time-tested community, committed to working together for a common cause!

Julius Huggins
MECA President

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**MEADOWBROOK ESTATES CIVIC
ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
and
COMBINED PUBLIC MEETING**

**Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m. at
Falling Creek Middle School Auditorium**

***Our Guest Speaker: Col. Jeffrey Katz,
Chief of Police, Chesterfield County***

**All Parents of Falling Creek Schools' Students as
well as Residents of the Community are
encouraged to attend.**



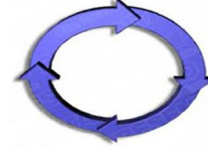
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FULL CIRCLE



Colonel Wardell Gladen Baker (USA, Ret.) of Bonnie Brae Court, passed away on January 2 after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Ward was a generous, respected neighbor, and former president of Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association. Having served on our board in other capacities for a number of years, his contributions were many. His manner was gentle but he let his thoughts be known firmly. He was a wonderful man, strong in his faith, patriotic to his country, and dedicated to his family. Ward and Helen were our neighbors in Meadowbrook for almost 38 years. He is survived by his wife, Helen; son Tony, and daughter Mironda; and three grandchildren.

Rebecca (Reba) Putnam of Monza Drive passed away on January 19 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). "Giggy" as she was called by her grandchildren, enjoyed Bible study and playing bridge, but her true delight was in being a wife, mother, and grandmother. The Putnams moved in their home here in Meadowbrook in 1988. Reba was predeceased by her son, William IV. She is survived by her husband, Bill; daughter, Shelby; daughter-in-law, Jeanne; and five grandchildren.

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New Slogan for Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association

by MECA Board of Directors

The Board of Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association (MECA) is adopting a "slogan", "theme" or "brand" for Meadowbrook Estates.

The slogan comes from input from neighbors as well as our interaction with county officials, who see many, if not all, of the neighborhoods in Chesterfield County.

County officials tell us on many occasions and in many different ways that Meadowbrook Estates neighborhood is unique. By comparison we have a low crime rate. They have even said that we look like an oasis in the crime statistics. That is because we have banded together to report suspicious activities. The police respond because we have a good relationship with them. We have a certified neighborhood watch patrol that is staffed by any neighbor who can spare an hour or two each week. Our efforts are not 100% effective, but if we continue, they will be.

County officials also tell us that we continue to have a well-maintained neighborhood. We do this through litter patrols staffed by any neighbors who can spare the time to patrol their property, street or larger eyesore areas like the fence on Hopkins Road. We like to see that our properties are in reasonable compliance with county codes. We try not to nitpick, but focus on issues that neighbors bring to our attention. We will organize volunteer teams to provide help to neighbors who need it. We have cut fallen trees out of roadways when the county was overwhelmed by storm damage. We have cleaned up streets that V-DOT has ignored. We have a board member who reports street light outages and follows up until repairs are made. We maintain the median on Edgemere.

For all these and other reasons, the County officials use Meadowbrook Estates as an example of what neighbors working together can accomplish.

MECA did a neighborhood survey in 2017 (results published in Meadowlark) and again in 2020 (results coming soon). Both surveys showed that the neighbors placed emphasis on safety and appearance. So, what the county recognizes and what the neighbors value are essentially the same.

Both are essential elements of the slogan, theme, or brand that is being adopted: "Neighbors helping to create a Clean, Safe, and Enjoyable Neighborhood". So, the next time someone asks where you live, please respond, "Meadowbrook Estates where neighbors help create a clean, safe, and enjoyable neighborhood."

To help all of us remember this phrase we will use it in Meadowlark, the web site, at meetings, etc. If we say this a lot, and believe it, over time we may create a "slogan". By working together, we will make this slogan endure for a long time.



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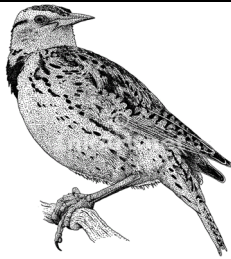


Did you know that –

Every bunch of Bananas has on its lowest row an even number of Bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Using packing factor technology this means maximum volume per unit of space.

The creator of bananas was indeed very clever.



Welcome New Neighbors

The following have become homeowners in our neighborhood since October, 2019.

Leanne Donathan, Falstone Rd., October 2019

Alexsandra Glenn, Falstone Rd., November 2019

Carmen Pelaez, Southmoor Rd., November 2019

A.J. Buchanan & K. Guthrie, Falstone Rd., November 2019

Ortega Wilson Rojas, Monza Dr., November 2019

Maria Marroquin, Stornoway Dr., December 2019

Ryan V. Hamilton, Falstone Rd., December 2019

Jose Zavala & M. Rodriguez, Lake Hills Rd., December 2019

Brittni Tate & P.L. Bowles, Southmoor Rd., January 2020



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Reminder

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2020, please do so. Please send your check for \$30.00 to

MECA

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North Chesterfield, VA 23234

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