

July 2017

The MEADOWLARK

www.meadowbrookestates.org

Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Every quarter as MECA President I ponder what to write about for our Meadowlark Newsletter. In this edition for the summer of 2017, it is my honor and distinct pleasure to write about one of our most storied neighbors, Mr. Ray McKinney. Ray has been a leading member of MECA since I moved here in the summer of 2009. In fact he was one of the first neighbors I met, and he successfully recruited me into MECA shortly thereafter.

As past MECA Covenants Officer, a thankless, and at times very difficult job to say the least, it is easy for us to take for granted his perseverance and tangible effectiveness. For example when we see the occasional eyesore of an abandoned vehicle in the neighborhood, it's not removed by osmosis; someone has to get directly involved, doing what's right for the upkeep of the community. That someone was none other than Mr. Ray McKinney.

When it came to litter control, he was a one-man wrecking crew for the entire subdivision, keeping the Estates litter free. From the medians on Edgemere Boulevard to the depths of Monza Court, his hard work, time, and dedication are duly noted! The impact of his efforts has had a positive effect on the property value of the over 400 homes that make up Meadowbrook Estates.

As a member of MECA Neighborhood Watch, he was always in the forefront of keeping the neighborhood safe and secure. In the spring of 2012, he single-handedly went door to door acquiring the necessary signatures needed to make MECA Patrol a certified Neighborhood Watch. Our Neighborhood Watch is renowned and respected by our local politicians and civil authorities alike. Many, if not all of the Neighborhood Watch signs you see posted throughout the Estates, were tactically placed there by Ray.

These five short paragraphs hardly do justice to his limitless contributions. If there were ever a MECA Hall of Fame, he would certainly be the first inductee with honors. At this time, and on the behalf MECA, I would like to say 'Thank You' to Ray and Sarah for their heartfelt service to the community. They both have been outstanding neighbors and supportive friends to me and my family, and words cannot express our gratitude! Wishing you both "*Fair Winds and Following Seas*" in all your future endeavors and new place of residence!

Julius Huggins
MECA President

Did You Know??

Chesterfield County Police Department recently celebrated the grand opening of the new Falling Creek station, at 5701 Jefferson Davis Highway, next to DuPont and near Chippenham Parkway. The new station will allow for better communication, community outreach opportunities, more transparency, and more convenient crime reporting for residents. The Department hopes to host community academy classes out of the station, share safety tips, and better equip our community to be safe. The station will be staffed with 25 to 35 officers during normal office hours, and will have a desk officer from 7am to 7pm, and will remain operational 24 hours a day. The Department's South Division Community Policing Officers will be based in this building. If there isn't someone present, there is an emergency phone that will go straight to dispatch.



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Change of Venue for Our National Night Out Celebration this year !!

Mel and Liz Diaz have graciously offered their home and yard for our National Night Out celebration this year. This frees us of restrictions and red tape of having it on County property, and allows us to celebrate within the boundaries of our own neighborhood. We are very appreciative of their hospitality!

PLEASE COME TO

MEADOWBROOK ESTATES
CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S
ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017
at the Home of Liz and Mel Diaz
3980 Falstone Road

(Enter through Gate to Back Yard)
Beginning at 6pm

Come and Bring a Dish (side dish or dessert)
and a lawn chair
and

Enjoy the Company of Your Neighbors

Hot Dogs! Drinks! Bounce House!
Corn Hole Game! Music! Fun!

Please Come and Bring a Neighbor !

BB Taylor Turns 90 ! by Tyla Matteson

We have a neighborhood filled with many longtime residents, for which we are grateful. We wish to show all of them our deeply felt appreciation, as they have put together a solid association, where neighbors look out for each other. We can think of many examples of kindness, neighbor to neighbor.

While some have moved away, happily one couple is still here: Hilda and BB Taylor. For over 50 years, they have lived on Marquette Road, working, volunteering, and raising their children. They were some of the first to start up the Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association, with BB serving as its president for several years. They often held MECA board meetings at their home, and sought to engage others to achieve their goals. They initiated the Neighborhood Watch program and worked to have streetlights put up throughout Meadowbrook. Hilda and another neighbor began the welcoming committee, greeting new neighbors with a bag filled with maps, useful information and most importantly, a homemade pound cake. Hilda welcomed me with her delicious dessert when we moved in fifteen years ago, and she continues to show her kind hospitality to our newest neighbors.

We salute the Taylors who provide an exemplary model for us. BB Taylor will turn 90 on October 1st. We wish him a very Happy Birthday, and we sincerely thank them both for their many contributions over a period of more than 50 years of being active and caring Meadowbrook neighbors.

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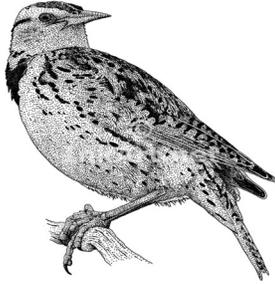
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Something to Think About:

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD !

Anibal and Wendy Hernandez
Falstone Road, June 2017

T.R. Gilchrist and D.V. Thomas
Falstone Road, June 2017

Eric Griffin
Marquette Road, May 2017

Colin Hannifin
Falstone Road, July 2017

Rydell Harris
Monza Drive, April 2017

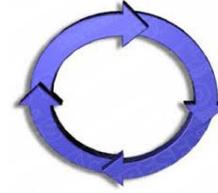
Gregory K. Kontopanos, D.D.S. & Associates
A Division of Central Virginia Dental Care, PLC
 3525 Iron Bridge Road
 Richmond, Virginia 23234
 804-275-7477

New Patients Always Welcome !

‘Goodbye’ to a Fine Neighbor

We must say Goodbye to a wonderful Meadowbrook neighbor and long time resident, Bill Futch. Bill and his wife, Norma, moved to Southmoor Road almost 42 years ago, along with their three daughters and a son. Norma passed away in 2006, and Bill continued to live in their home in Meadowbrook. Sadly, we are now losing our good neighbor as he is moving to the Midlothian area to be near his daughters. We wish you well, Bill. Thank you for all the good things you brought to our neighborhood for many years!

FULL CIRCLE



Elizabeth ‘Libbie’ Atkins died on May 22, 2017. Libbie and her husband, Eddie, moved in their home on Southmoor Road in 1989 and lived there until 2015 when they moved to Springdale at Lucy Corr, a retirement village. She is survived by her husband, Eddie, as well as a sister, brothers-in-law and sister-in-law. She retired from Fort Lee after 35 years of service and was a good neighbor in Meadowbrook for over 25 years.

Jeanette Smith died June 17. She and her husband, Howard, came to live in their home on Falstone Road in 2002. Her husband passed away in 2015. Since that time, members of her large and loving family took turns staying with her to ensure she was safe and well-attended. She was predeceased by her husband, a daughter, and a son. She is survived by three daughters and five sons, 21 grandchildren, and great and great-great grandchildren. Our condolences to her family.

MECA DUES

If you have not joined Meadowbrook Estates Civic Association, or haven’t paid your dues for 2017, please do so now! Fill out the following information and send with your \$25.00 to:

MECA
P.O. Box 34303
Richmond, VA 23234

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. Home _____

Cell _____

E-Mail: _____

Meadowbrook Estates Website

Thanks to Ed Kast, our website has been re-created and is now available to us with much needed and current information. Please visit at www.MeadowbrookEstates.org . Thank you for all your hard work, Ed!

**Rupert Ferguson turns 90 !
By Brenda Atkins**

Our fine neighbor, Rupert Ferguson, turned 90 years old on July 16. Rupert and his wife, Doris, also moved into Meadowbrook over 50 years ago. They have been active in MECA and have been kind, concerned, and thoughtful neighbors. When I moved in the neighborhood, Rupert was the first to come and welcome me to the neighborhood and to invite me to his church. And when I joined the Patrol in 1999, Rupert rode with me on my first tour and showed me the easiest route for covering all areas, and shared a history of lots of the houses, and spoke of many current and past neighbors of Meadowbrook. Rupert still walks the neighborhood and is a regular at MECA general meetings. We appreciate his consistent optimistic attitude and his being an example of what a model neighbor is. Happy Birthday, Rupert!!

Other Significant Birthdays:

John Setaro -- 94 years old -- February 2017
Tim Jennings -- 94 years old -- April 2017
Helen Partlow -- 96 years old -- July 2017



CONGRATULATIONS !!

Herb and Tina Campbell of Drakeshire Road welcomed a baby girl, August, this past Spring. August was also enthusiastically welcomed by big brother, Xavier.

THANK YOU DR. DJ !! (Dr. John Kontopanos)

Dr. John Kontopanos has volunteered his services, his talents and his equipment for many years at our National Night Out events. His music and friendly banter has made our event so much more enjoyable. From the tapping of feet to people getting out and dancing, he has made this occasion so much more than a cookout. Please stop by and say Hello and let him know how much we appreciate his contributions. He and his wife, Donna, have been our neighbors on Falstone Road since 1971.

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