



MALA

Merifield Acres Landowner's Association

Clarksville, Virginia

www.merifieldacres.org

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Volume 7. Number 4

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Fall 2020 MALA Newsletter

Merifield Acres News

MALA Annual Meeting – October 10th, 2020

Please make a note on your calendar that the MALA Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 10, 2020, at Noon, at Oak Park**. There will be no picnic this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Appropriate social distancing will be maintained for the meeting with everyone sitting outside.

Phishing Scheme Hits the MALA Board

On Sunday, September 20th, members of the MALA Board were victims of a phishing scheme. Board members received an email, purportedly from MALA Board President Kevin Hensley, asking Board members to purchase gift cards for the Board to distribute to a veterans' charity, and included a promise to Board members that they would be reimbursed. As Kevin Hensley was out of town on that day, the email request was suspicious, but with some element of truth. After further scrutiny, it was determined that the email was not sent from Kevin Hensley's email address. After contacting Kevin by phone, MALA Board members were notified about the fraudulent email. Later, Hal Norman was able to trace the email address back to Germany.

This incident is a cautionary tale. Always remember to check the email address of any email that asks you for something or that is in any way suspicious. Also, never open an email attachment that has been sent by someone, or an organization, that you do not know. Finally, no MALA Board member will ever ask anyone to purchase gift cards and ask you to email or text the card numbers.



Spider at work guarding the Merifield Acres Entrance.
Photo by Lee Baldwin

2019-2020 **Committees**

Architectural **Committee***

Alan Weyman, Chair
aweyman@hotmail.com

(434) 738-7233

Aviation

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Rbaldwin01@aol.com

(919) 846-8001

Beautification

Chip Overton
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Common Grounds Chair

Alan Weyman
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Roads Chair

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374-2094

Database Assistant

Treasurer

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Emily Howie
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374-1590

Deer Control

Scott Diamond
374-5887

Security

David Hammer
HammerDavidA@aol.com
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* Architectural Committee
must approve tree removal
of live trees over 6"

In Memorium -- Merifield Residents

Joyce Woodfin – Joyce passed away on September 20th, 2020, at the age of 63. She was an active member of both the Clarksville community, but in particular the Merifield Acres community. Joyce was the Database Assistant Treasurer for MALA for a number of years. She maintained the Merifield Acres Directory containing contact information for all Merifield residents. She was also on the board of the Kinderton Country Club and a member of the Red Hats. Joyce is survived by her husband William “Bill” Woodfin, three stepchildren, and seven grandchildren. The MALA Board is grateful for Joyce’s years of service to all Merifield Acres residents.

Stanley Pitts – Stanley “Stan” passed away on August 8th, 2020, at the age of 82. After a career teaching physical education and serving as Head Track Coach at the University of Maryland, he eventually settled in Merifield Acres and became a real estate agent with E.R.A Clarksville Auction and Real Estate. Stan was a past president of the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce. Stan is survived by his wife Janice, four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Merifield Apple Orchard

Lee Baldwin shared news that the apple orchard bulletin board has been erected and items will be posted in October. She shared a picture of Rick Baldwin and Sambo Lewis with the newly installed bulletin board roof. Bobby Edwards also helped with the project.



Discussion about replanting plans and care of the orchard will occur at the Annual Meeting on October 10th. An announcement about donations for care of the orchard or for purchasing a tree will also be made. Donations may be sent to the Merifield PO Box (P.O. Box 70, Clarksville, VA, 23927) with a note that the money is designated for either a tree or for care.

Scott Jeffrey Rides for Charity

Scott would like to share the following message:

While all in person fundraising bike rides have been cancelled, the fundraising goes on. I participated in the Tour de Fox virtual ride from anywhere on August 29. The original plan was to ride a metric century (100 km/62+ miles) near Atlanta, since that wasn't possible, I did 63 miles around here. I ride the Tour de Fox for Parkinson's Disease research because my brother was diagnosed two years ago. If you would like to support my ride and the Michael J. Fox Foundation you can do so here:

<https://tourdefox.michaeljfox.org/atlanta/RoeJeffrey?tab=Dashboard>

This is my sixth-year riding BikeMS to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. September 26th marked the day for BikeMS Inside Out which replaced all

EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR FALLEN TREES

Call:

Kevin Hensley
434-210-1370

-or-

Kent Galvin
540-842-8902

Facebook:

Merifield

(Account is required)

Clarksville Lake Country

Chamber of Commerce:

<https://ClarksvilleVa.com>

Town of Clarksville:

<http://www.clarksvilleva.org/>

Virginia's Lake Region:

<http://www.virginiaslakeregion.com/>

in-person rides this year. I have ridden a century ride (100 miles) every year that I have participated. I did 100 miles in under 6 hours on September 26th. Many Merifield residents have supported me in the past and some have already this year. Thank you! If you would like to support me this year you can do so here:

<https://mssociety.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=2537>

Thank you,

Scott

Successful Juice/Tea Sale for Lake Country SPCA

Maya Sullivan's fresh squeezed juice and sweet tea stand at the Merifield tennis courts on Saturday, September 12th, raised 217 dollars. Her father's generous offer to match the amount raised resulted in a 450 dollar contribution to the Lake Country SPCA. A big thank you to Maya and her parents for a job well done.

A Strange Bird in Merifield – Emily's Story

One afternoon in July, I glimpsed something white walking down our driveway from a front window. Curious, I went to the front door and looked out. I saw one of the strangest birds that I have ever seen. The large bird walked in front of our garage and then suddenly flew up and perched on the edge of the garage roof. I ran for my phone and was able to take a few pictures before the bird turned, walked to the other side of the roof (out of my sight), and disappeared. Having seen Black Vultures and Red-Headed Turkey vultures in

our yard before, I knew that this bird had the characteristics of a vulture, but it was white.



**Mecklenburg County,
VA – The Official
Visitors Guide:**

www.visitmeckva.com

Lake Map:

www.kerrlake.com/map/map.htm

Lake Country Regional Airport:

<http://lakecountryregionalairport.org/>

Lake Country SPCA:

<http://www.lakecountryspca.org>

Clarksville Government:

www.clarksvilleva.org/government

Occoneechee State Park

1192 Occoneechee Park Rd.

Clarksville, VA 23927

Phone: 434-374-2210

Email Address;

Occoneechee@dcr.virginia.gov

Website:

www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/occoneechee#general_information

I shared the pictures with a neighbor who sent them to a professional wildlife biologist. He identified the bird as an albino black vulture and added that the pictures were “pretty cool.” I have decided to share the pictures with fellow Merifield residents. Please excuse the poor picture quality, but I had little time to focus my phone camera. I will say that this bird haunted me for several days. If by some chance, you see this bird in Merifield, know that you are witnessing something rather rare.

MALA Board and Annual Meetings

Please mark your calendar now for the upcoming MALA Board Meetings scheduled the 2nd Tuesday of every EVEN month and held in the Hensley’s garage: Left at the tennis courts, 2nd driveway on the right on Occoneechee.

All Board meetings start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting/Picnic – Saturday, October 10th, Noon, at Oak Park

(Appropriate social distancing will be practiced.)

Board Meeting – December 8, 2020

MALA August 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

**Merifield Acres Landowners' Association
Board Meeting—August 11, 2020**

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Kevin Hensley at 7:00 in the Hensley’s garage.
[NOTE: The Annual Meeting will be in the Oak Park barn. See details below.]
- II. **Roll Call:** Board members present: Kevin Hensley, Annie Hensley, Rick Baldwin, Lee Baldwin, Mike Gupton, Chris Crouse, Hal Norman, Phil Beck, Dave Hammer, Ed Mazur, Carolyn Ferguson, Alan Weyman, Rusty Bishop, Art Divens. Also in attendance: Sambo Lewis, Andy Ferguson, Tom Byrd.
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the June 9th meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- IV. **Committee Reports/Open Issues** (organized alphabetically by Committee after President’s and Treasurer’s reports)

Treasurer’s Report—Annie Hensley, Treasurer, presented the report. We have \$86,435.10 in our checking account at Carter’s Bank and \$104,951.52 in a Carter’s CD. We also have eight short-term \$10,000 CDs for a total of \$80,000 at Touchstone Bank. The annual interest rate on these are at 1.75%. [The Finance Committee report is below in New Business.]

Appearance and Beautification—Rusty Bishop reported that everything is beautiful.

Architectural Committee—Alan Weyman, chair: One request for Architectural Committee review and approval was received since the last report. It is currently pending, waiting for additional information. No other requests for approval are under review or pending. No issues or complaints are currently under investigation by the committee.

Directory—Lee Baldwin: We will attempt to contact homeowners to get updates of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses by September 15 and before the Annual Meeting in order to update the directory as thoroughly as possible. Please contact Lee Baldwin at lbaldwin01@aol.com with any changes that you need to be made to the directory.

Aviation Committee—Rick Baldwin, chair: There is not much to report this month. Landings are down a little, but the runway is in good shape. Kevin suggested that we might be able to make a concrete form to use to straighten, reshape and repair the damaged aluminum runway cones.

Apple Orchard Update—Lee Baldwin: Our trees suffered during the drought, and we learned from the orchardist that most of the trees that lost leaves to grasshoppers in the early summer will put out new growth once the weather cools a bit. Fruit trees go into dormancy during drought and hot weather. We still have about six trees that need tending. Regular watering is taking place during the dry weeks. AND we now have a well to use for this part of the orchard care! (Thanks to Hensley Well Drilling!)

Deer Control Committee—Everyone has deer in their yards...

Common Areas and Facilities Committee—Alan Weyman, chair: Oak Park is looking good. We have had no reservations for the Oak Park barn.

Roads and Maintenance Committee—Mike Gupton, chair: After applying the initial tar and gravel, the contractor for the entrance and culvert learned that the asphalt plant was closed temporarily due to Covid-19. They will be ready to get back to us as soon as the plant reopens. They will be working on the part of the road from the entrance to the tennis court, and will cut the roots on Center Court and on Merifield Drive.

Security Committee—David Hammer: No issues to report.

Newsletter, Email and Newcomer Welcoming—Emily Howie: Please send in stories and pictures!

Webpage—Hal Norman—The MALA website came under attack for several days in July, primarily from hostile sites in China and Vietnam. Because of this, our website hosting provider shut down all access to our site for about two days. Hal had to purchase a monthly security/firewall package from the hosting provider in order to effectively block these attacks and return website operation to normal. The security package is working very well, and for the time being, will be kept in place.

As always, please send any interesting information or photos to:

mala@halnorman.com .

V. New Business

Finance Committee: Ed Mazur, Chair: We have \$202,992.28 in Benchmark investments, but it's been at that level for a couple of months since one of our larger CDs has matured and the other one was called in. MALA can no longer look forward to earning \$4000-5000 of annual interest until there are significant changes in the interest and capital markets. Ed has been in communication with Chris Bailey of Benchmark, who is looking for safe investment options with at least some return. He has some proposals to discuss with Chris, Kathy Compton, and Sambo Lewis, but the Finance Committee is not yet prepared to present these to the Board. Once we have the finance committee conference call, the likely proposal will be to put the money in a low-rate CD until the market shakes out. The stock market is currently very volatile, so corporate bonds and annuities don't look like a good option right

now. The finance committee will present its investment proposal to the Board once the plans are solidified. Sambo pointed out that our investment goals are primarily preservation of capital and liquidity. He asked if the CDs at Touchstone were laddered. Annie said they were. He suggested asking Chris Bailey to perhaps consider a modified account at Benchmark that might provide us with short-term liquidity. In the discussion that followed, Kevin confirmed that the money available in our regular checking account is adequate for all of our regular spending requirements, including roads, so we don't really need quick access to the money in our long-term investments.

Introduction of Tom Byrd: Tom will be taking over the database and data entry work for MALA. MALA will provide required updates and equipment for this process.

Annual Meeting: will be held at noon on October 10, 2020, at the Oak Park Barn. We are going to keep this as simple as possible, with the picnic cancelled this year because of Covid concerns. Weather permitting, we will move the tables outside. Attendees should bring their own chairs. Water and hand sanitizer will be available. Please RSVP to help us prepare for the number attending. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously that these will be the general plans for the Annual Meeting.

Robert's Rules: Hal reported that we need to be aware that a major revision of Robert's Rules is coming out soon. He will purchase a copy to see if there are any changes relevant to MALA.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held December 8, 2020, at the Hensley's garage.

Clarksville -- Mecklenburg County -- News

Information on Early Voting in Boydton

Early in-person voting began in Virginia on September 18 and ends on October 31. The voter registration office in Boydton is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The voter registration office will also be open Saturday, October 24, and October 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Butch Cheatham shared the following link to a PDF with all relevant information:

https://www.mecklenburgelections.com/uploads/2/6/8/8/26881400/public_notice_of_voting_locations.pdf

Clarksville CVS Will Provide Drive-thru Covid-19 Testing

The Mecklenburg Sun reports that Covid-19 drive-thru testing will be available at the Clarksville CVS Pharmacy, 24 Gateway Lane. The self-swab tests are no cost to patients and available to individuals meeting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria. Patients must register in advance at CVS.com to schedule an appointment. A parent or legal guardian must complete the online registration for all minor patients, and patients 12 to 15 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian when they come to be tested. For more detailed information, see:

<https://www.cvs.com/store-locator/cvs-pharmacy-address/24+Gateway+Lane-Clarksville-VA-23927/storeid=5736>

Virginia State News

Proposed Virginia Constitutional Amendment to Stop Gerrymandering on the November 3rd, Ballot

Virginia residents will find a proposed constitutional amendment to stop gerrymandering, on the ballot when they go to vote on November 3rd. Gerrymandering is the practice of manipulating voting districts unfairly to gain an advantage, or to disadvantage opponents. The proposed plan would create a new 16-member redistricting commission that would be in charge of drawing Congressional and legislative district lines and sending the maps to the Virginia General Assembly for approval. Currently, the Virginia General Assembly (meaning legislators) does all the drawing of district lines before the governor approves the maps. The new redistricting commission calls for members of the public to make up half of the commission, and state lawmakers would comprise the other half. Here are several websites which contain information and arguments on both sides of the question:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/proposed-constitutional-amendment-2020/>

<https://fairmapsva.org/>

https://richmond.com/opinion/columnists/mark-levine-and-lamont-bagby-column-vote-no-amendment-would-enshrine-gerrymandering/article_8ef7ec9c-f2ba-5979-b248-b6cd10a58b35.html

<https://wtop.com/virginia/2020/10/what-supporters-and-opponents-say-about-a-plan-to-stop-gerrymandering-in-virginia/>

https://www.loudountimes.com/news/virginia-ballot-to-feature-2-proposed-constitutional-amendments-including-new-redistricting-commission/article_ab74a536-f752-11ea-aa7d-b36712f29bfe.html

Local History

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at the Library of Congress -- Part II

The last issue of the newsletter contained information on the Sanborn Fire Insurance map collection at the Library of Congress, and the news that Sanborn maps of Clarksville dated November 1902, November 1907, July 1913, and May 1921 are now available online.

After I shared this information, I discovered an interesting webpage article on the history of the Prizery in South Boston, Virginia. The Prizery is an arts and cultural center located in a 38,000 square foot building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the South Boston Historic Tobacco Warehouse District, and is considered to be the most architecturally prominent and interesting of the 15 buildings in the 20 acre district. Renovation began in 2002, and the facility includes a welcome center, a performing arts theatre, an art gallery, classrooms and a large space for community functions. I am sure that some of you have visited the Prizery in South Boston. The following online article discusses how Sanborn Fire Insurance maps were used to discover the true history of the Prizery building:

https://www.prizery.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=133&Itemid=180

In addition, a neighbor shared a story about viewing Sanborn maps at a local public library on a trip to Boise, Idaho, to identify the house in town where her grandfather had lived. Sanborn maps are a wonderful resource for both historical and genealogical research.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance map collection is housed in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress and includes some fifty thousand editions of fire insurance maps comprising an estimated seven hundred thousand individual sheets. The Library's holdings represent the largest existing collection of maps produced by the Sanborn Map Company.

Before viewing the maps, I would suggest that you read the information on how to view and interpret Sanborn maps on the following webpage:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/>

The Clarksville Sanborn maps can be found on the following webpage:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?q=clarksville+virginia>

Interesting Websites and Online Articles to Explore

Online Resources for Historical and Genealogical Research:

A guide to online Newspaper Archives, Indexes, and Morgues:

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html>

State Resources Guide for Digital Material:

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/states/>

For art lovers, see the following website. Many museums now offer virtual tours of their permanent collections and temporary exhibitions:

Links to Art Museum Websites Around the World:

<http://www.artcyclopedia.com/museums-us.html>

Fun Websites or Articles:

MapCrunch – Explore Random Street Views from Around the World:

<https://www.mapcrunch.com/>

History of the Rubik's Cube – Interesting Online Article:

<https://undark.org/2020/09/23/endurance-of-rubiks-cube/>

Recalls and Consumer Alerts:

Four Kobalt Products Sold Exclusively at Lowes – Two Types of Electric Chainsaws and One Electric Pole Saw Recalled for Possible Laceration Hazards, and One Electric Lawn Mower Recalled for Possible Fire Hazard:

https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls?combine=kobalt&field_rc_date%5Bdate%5D=&field_rc_date_1%5Bdate%5D=

Ford Recalls Approximately 700,000 Vehicles Over Rear-View Cameras That Can Distort Images and/or Go Dark:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ford-recall-700k-vehicles-backup-cameras-can-go-dark/>

WHILL Personal Electric Vehicles Recalled Over Crash and Injury Hazards:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/WHILL-Recalls-WHILL-Personal-Electric-Vehicles-Due-to-Crash-and-Injury-Hazards>

MWE Investments Recalls Westinghouse Portable Generators Due to Fire Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/MWE-Investments-Recalls-Westinghouse-Portable-Generators-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

Progresso Canned Organic Chicken Soup Recalled Over Mislabeled Product (Some Cans Contain Beef and Pork):

<https://www.eatthis.com/progresso-recalls-thousands-pounds-chicken-soup/>

Remember that you can find the entire list of Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled products at:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>

Upcoming Clarksville and Area Events:

As of the publication of this edition of the newsletter the website for the Clarksville Lake Country Chamber of Commerce has listed the following events as taking place:

The Clarksville Farm Fresh Marketplace -- Held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from **9 am -12:30 pm**. The Fresh Marketplace will take place on Saturday, **October 10th**, and Saturday, **October 24th**, corner of 4th Street and Virginia Avenue, downtown Clarksville.

Fish Fry and BBQ – October 15th, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Hosted by the Clarksville VFW Post 8163 at the VFW Home, 7488 Hwy. 15N, Clarksville. \$8.00 per person (10 and under \$4.00).

Chase City Airport Monthly Breakfast Fly-In – October 24th, 8:30 a.m., event held on the 4th Saturday of each month from June through October.

Events at Cooper’s Landing – Cooper’s Landing will hold a Winetasting, a Cooking Class, and a Halloween Party and Buffet during October. Please see their website or the Lake Country Chamber of Commerce website for up to date and detailed information on these events:

http://cooperslandinginn.net/?page_id=119

Remember to check the Lake Country Chamber of Commerce website for up to date information on these and other events:

<https://clarksvilleva.com/chamber-of-commerce-information/>

News Alert!

Please send Emily Howie any news or items of interest for publication in the next newsletter to: Emily.howie@halnorman.com or call (434-374-1590). Thank You!



Photo by Hal Norman