



Merifield Acres Landowner's Association

www.merifieldacres.org

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

Officers:

President

Kevin Hensley
374-2803

Kevinhensley13@gmail.com

Vice President

Chris Crouse
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lbaldwin01@aol.com
(919) 623-3556

Treasurer

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kaap@kerrlake.com
374-2803

Architectural Committee*

Allen Weyman, Chair
aweyman@hotmail.com
374-5070

Newsletter

Emily Howie
emily.howie@halnorman.com
374-1590

Website

Hal Norman
Hal.Norman@halnorman.com
374-1218

Oak Park

Playground Equipment Project for Oak Park

On February 14th and 15th, 2019, a group of spirited volunteers began a project to install "new" playground equipment in Oak Park. The equipment was offered to Merifield for free by Dominion Park Homeowner's Association. The team of volunteers traveled to Raleigh to dismantle the playground and transport it back to Oak Park.

The reconstruction of the playground equipment will be undertaken in about two or three weeks. Kevin Hensley and Rick Baldwin have asked that those individuals who would like to participate in the reconstruction watch the newsletter and the website. An email will be sent out when the specific dates are set.

Participants in the project included the following individuals:

Tim Baldwin, Dean Baldwin, and Rick Baldwin (cleared the road in and helped with the project). Tim made the arrangements with Dominion Park.

Kevin Hensley	Billy Wells	Jim Burke
Butch Cheatham	Phil Beck	Rusty Bishop
Adam Hensley	David Hammer	Larry Robbins
Philip Hensley	Sambo Lewis	Greg Sansing
Joe Pecoraro	Bill Carroll	Steve Meadows
Tim Ott	Mike Chandler	

A huge **Thank You** to these wonderful and generous volunteers!!

Please note that only the photo below is included in this newsletter. All of the photos of the volunteers working hard to bring the playground equipment to Merifield are available on the Merifield website. You may click on the photo to go directly to the gallery.



2017-2018 Committees

Architectural Committee*

Allen Weyman, Chair
aweyman@hotmail.com
374-5070

Aviation

Rick Baldwin, Chair
Rbaldwin01@aol.com
(919) 846-8001

Beautification

Chip Overton
374-5867

Common Grounds

Chair

Allen Weyman
aweyman@hotmail.com
374-5070

Roads Chair

Mike Gupton
mikeg@kerrlake.com
374-2094

Database Assistant

Treasurer

Joyce Woodfin
thewoodfins@kerrlake.com

Welcoming / Email

Committee

Emily Howie
Emily.howie@halnorman.com
374-1590

Deer Control

Scott Diamond
374-5887

Security

David Hammer
HammerDavidA@aol.com
374-0967

** Architectural
Committee must
approve tree removal
of live trees over 6"*

Updates or Changes to MALA Directory:

Lee Baldwin is working to update the primary MALA directory. She has received some residence address changes or corrections and email address changes since the directory list was distributed last October, and since MALA assessments were mailed to all property owners. It is important that other vital information such as any property title transfers or private sales of MALA property be sent to Lee. Although it is certainly acceptable to call Lee, she would prefer to have the information emailed to her in order to have a written record. Lee can be reached at Lbaldwin01@aol.com or by telephone (919) 623-3556 for text messages.

Littering in Merifield Acres:

Kevin Hensley is asking for volunteers to help with keeping the neighborhood clear of litter. Individuals can volunteer to monitor their street or along the main road. Please help with the effort to keep Merifield Acres clean and beautiful.

Speeding in Merifield Acres:

For your own safety and the safety of your vehicle, please remember not to speed in Merifield. The prevalence of deer in the neighborhood make it essential for drivers to *slow down*.

Update on Apple Orchard Project and Orchard Day:

Lee Baldwin reported that they are continuing the Apple Orchard project with pruning the old trees and staking the new ones. If anyone would like to be on the call list for orchard project days, please send Lee your phone number and email address to lbaldwin01@aol.com.

Phishing Scams:

Phishing scams involve criminals sending emails that appear to be from a legitimate company or person. A Merifield resident recently was the victim of a phishing email that claimed to be from Verizon. The most important thing to remember about any suspicious email is to never click or open any attachments or links in the email. The following webpage provides information if you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from Verizon:

<https://www.verizon.com/info/reportphishing/?c=2>

Minutes of the February 2019 MALA Board Meeting:

Merifield Acres Landowners' Association Board Meeting – February 12, 2019

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Kevin Hensley, President, at 7:00 pm at the Hensley's garage.
- II. **Roll Call (by sign-in):** The following board members were present: Annie Hensley, Kevin Hensley, Rick Baldwin, Lee Baldwin, Chris Crouse, Emily Howie, Ed Mazur, David Hammer, Rusty Bishop, Katie Ott, Mike Gupton, Kent Galvin, Mike Compton, Kathy Compton. Also

[EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR FALLEN TREES](#)

Call:

Kevin Hensley

434-210-1370

-or-

Kent Galvin

540-842-8902

Facebook:

Merifield

[\(Account is required\)](#)

in attendance were Hal Norman, Tim Ott, Diane Raines, and Sambo Lewis.

III. **Approval of Minutes from Last Regular Board Meeting** – August 2018 moved, seconded, and approved.

IV. **Committee Reports/Open Issues** (organized alphabetically by Committee after President's and Treasurer's reports)

First Order of Business and President's Report—Kevin Hensley introduced Ed Mazur, who gave the Financial Committee report. MALA currently has \$203,000 in its investment account. In discussions in August with Merrill Edge, it was suggested that we put our funds in a money market account to reduce volatility, but the money remained where it was temporarily. As a result, in the Fall, we did not lose any money (it continued to earn 7-8%).

Ed has analyzed the situation and discussed our situation with a financial advisor. It was suggested that the best course for now is to put our money in CDs or a similar account, which would produce \$4000-6000 per year in interest. This preserves our \$203,000 and provides funds for future projects. Ed recommends that the Board approve placing our funds into CDs, which are insured and bring in 2-3% annually. We can go with either Merrill Edge or a local bank, such as Benchmark, both of whom offer competitive rates. Ed proposes that the president and vice president move our money from the current account and place it in a 1-year CD in a local banking organization. Discussion: What is the nature of our reserve? Ed: The money over and above \$200,000 can be used without putting our investment at risk. We should consider how the Board envisions best using these funds for the good of the community.

MALA is fortunate in the results of the initial \$50,000 investment that occurred many years ago. Let's work with the interest from these funds for a few years and see how it goes. A motion was offered to give permission to the president and vice president to move funds from Merrill Edge and to put it into a 1-year CD, to be reviewed periodically. Moved and seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Kevin – we have been checking on CDs with local banks. We're blessed with the interest that we have made and we will continue to be conservative.

Treasurer's Report—Annie Hensley, Treasurer, presented the report. We have \$101,953.29 in a CD at 2.35% and \$90,592.15 in checking at Carter's Bank. Assessments are coming in. Contributions are appreciated.

Appearance and Beautification—Kevin reported for Chip Overton, Chair, who was not present: We thank Chip and Carolyn for the Christmas lights and the new split rail fence at the entrance.

Architectural Committee—Kevin reported for Allen Weyman, Chair, who is out of town: A new house on Highpoint, a shed on Merifield, and a shed on Briarfield Road have all been approved.

Directory—Lee Baldwin reported that the Directory updates are continuing. Please email Lee (lbaldwin01@aol.com) with any changes or updates that you would like to make in your listing, including email addresses.

Aviation Committee—Rick Baldwin, Chair: We have been communicating by email. We took down all the old signs and are currently working on wording for a new sign. We will probably use Rob Rivers' suggestion, modified for length. We would also like to put a sign near the windsock with our FAA designation. We will need to use the same person who made the road signs so all of our signs will match.

We are installing the apple orchard bulletin board and plaque dedicating the orchard to Mary Fran Lewis. According to Sambo, the orchard was planted in 1948-50, originally with 100 apple trees, 100 peach trees, and a few other trees. Some of the remaining original trees are now over 70 years old.

Common Areas and Facilities Committee—Kevin reported for Allen Weyman, chair, who is on vacation. A large group of volunteers will go to Raleigh Thursday to retrieve the playground equipment that has been donated to us. We hope to get in and out in two hours. We are using a 36-foot trailer to pick up the modules. Ziplock bags and containers will be needed to save bolts and washers. We'll be putting the playground back up in a few weeks in Oak Park. We will be spending some money on tools, concrete, fuel, an excavator, etc. We'll try to get some free mulch. Some volunteers will come in to help us with limbs and other big tree cutting. Oak Park's looking good.

Deer Control Committee—Kevin reported for Scott Diamond: Please drive slowly—deer are everywhere.

Roads and Maintenance Committee—Mike Gupton, Chair: A large oak fell and wiped out the split rail fence and area near the road in Oak Park. Kent Galvin, Mike Hite, and others responded and cleared the road. We'll be assessing the road damages and repair requirements.

Security Committee—David Hammer, Chair: Nothing to report.

Newsletter, Email and Newcomer Welcoming—Emily Howie, Chair: Emily needs more material for the newsletter. She is looking for some established residents who can be spotlighted in interviews about their experiences living in Merifield. Many agree that we need more activities/occasions to get to know each other, in addition to the annual meeting. Perhaps we could have a Christmas activity, a spring or summer picnic day, etc., along with Aviation Day and Orchard Day. Please send news and other pictures and articles for the newsletter.

Webpage — Hal Norman, Webmaster: All is going well. The annual renewal for hosting services will be coming up in April. Please send any interesting photos to MALA@halnorman.com.

New Business—Kevin: Please don't forget the trip to Raleigh on Thursday.

**Clarksville Lake
Country Chamber of
Commerce:**

ClarksvilleVa.com

**Town of
Clarksville:**

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

**Virginia's Lake
Region:**

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

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

<http://www.myvirtualpaper.com/doc/visitmeckvagine/mecklenburgcountryvisitorsguide/2014071601/#0>

Lake Map:

<http://www.kerrlake.com/map/map.htm>

**Lake Country
Regional
Airport:**

<http://lakecountryregionalairport.org/>

**Lake Country
SPCA:**

<http://www.lakecountryspca.org/Home.html>

**Mecklenburg's
Veteran's
Memorial:**

<http://www.kerrlake.com/memorial/>

**Clarksville
Government:**

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

Sambo Lewis: Littering and speeding are still a problem. Please be aware of the speed limit on our roads as enforcement may be required, particularly during morning and evening hours. There will be a reminder in the newsletter.

Board members who can identify litterbugs need to tell Kevin, who may ask such offenders to volunteer for litter removal. We need to consider a no-littering sign. Everyone, please keep a litter bag with you and try to pick up trash when you see it on our roads.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Kevin Hensley at 7:51 pm.

-----End of Meeting Minutes-----

List of Remaining 2019 MALA Board Meeting Dates:

MALA Board Meetings

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 tennis courts, 2nd drive on the right on Occoneechee.

All Board meetings start promptly at 7 PM

Board Meeting – April 9, 2019

Board Meeting – June 11, 2019

Board Meeting – August 13, 2019

September/October Annual Meeting – Date to be Determined

Board Meeting – December 10, 2019

Mecklenburg County History–Woburn Winery, Clarksville:

Recently, I came across two old bottles of wine hidden away in our house here in Merifield Acres. The labels on the wine bottles are as follows: “Virginia-Carolina Brand Virginia Red Grape Wine, Produced and Bottled by Woburn Winery, Inc., Clarksville, VA, Rt. 1.” Both bottles had a tax stamp on the label dated January of 1973. Needless to say, I was curious about a winery in Clarksville. My husband, Hal, said that his father had collected wine and must have bought the bottles locally. As both of Hal's parents have passed away, our questions about the wine could not be answered.

I began to research Woburn Winery and discovered a wonderful webpage put together by the Southside Regional Library which provides a history of Woburn Plantation and the Woburn Winery. Woburn Plantation, located in the Ivy Hill section of Mecklenburg County, was owned by the Burwell family. John June Lewis, Sr., operated Woburn Winery from the 1940s until the 1970s on land



Occoneechee
State Park
calendar

Occoneechee State Park
1192 Occoneechee Park
Rd., Clarksville, VA
23927
Phone: 434-374-
2210 Email Address:
Occoneechee@dcr.vir
ginia.gov
Web Site:
<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/occonechee.shtml>

that was formally part of Woburn Plantation. Several authoritative books on the history of wines in America state that Woburn Winery was a ten-acre vineyard that made table wines that Mr. Lewis sold to his neighbors. Mr. Lewis learned about winemaking as a boy from the owner of Woburn Plantation where his mother was born a slave. In 1919, he learned more about wine production during his year of service with the U.S. Army of Occupation among the vineyards of the Rhine Valley. Returning from the war, he got a job in the lumber business and saved enough money to buy a farm where he began to plant grapes in 1940. Woburn Winery is thought to be the first winery in Virginia to manufacture wine solely from its own grapes, and the first winery to be owned by an African-American in the country.

Sources for the story of Woburn Winery are:

http://sovahomefront.org/_site_woburn.php

(Scroll down to the bottom of the webpage for the story of Woburn Winery.)

Adams, Leon D., "The Wines of America," first edition, Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1973, pgs. 57-58.

Painter, Andrew A., "Virginia Wine: Four Centuries of Change," Fairfax, VA: George Mason University Press, 2018.

Other News & Items of Interest

Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP)–Dominion Energy to Appeal Case to U.S. Supreme Court:

Dominion Energy will appeal a refusal by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider their decision to throw out a permit granted to the ACP project by the U.S. Forest Service. The permit would give permission for the ACP to cross land in two national parks, including the Appalachian Trail. Dominion Energy will now appeal the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decision to the U.S. Supreme Court:

<https://www.whsv.com/content/news/New-hearing-rejected-for-pipeline-to-cross-Appalachian-Trail-506352261.html>

Update on the Clarksville Players Theater Renovation Goal:

Please read the good news that the Clarksville Players have almost matched their fundraising goal to qualify for a matching grant from the Cabell Foundation:

http://www.sovanow.com/index.php?/news/article/clarksville_players_close_in_on_theater_renovation_goal/

Update on Solar Project Approval in Mecklenburg County:

Here is a link to an article updating the actions of the Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors regarding approval of the 'Ladybug' solar project near Bracey:

http://www.sovanow.com/index.php?/news/article/mecklenburg_supes_take_first_first_step_for_ladybug/

Consumer Alerts:

DeWalt Recalls Drills Due to Shock Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2019/DeWALT-Recalls-Drills-Due-to-Shock-Hazard>

Academy Sports + Outdoors Recalls Turkey Fryer Due to Fire Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2019/Academy-Sports-Outdoors-Recalls-Turkey-Fryer-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

Ford Issues 3 Recalls Covering 1.5 Million Ford and Lincoln Vehicles:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/02/13/ford-issues-3-recalls-covering-nearly-1-point5-million-vehicles.html>

Boston Market Frozen Meals Recalled for Glass and Plastic Bits Found by Consumers:

<https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2019/02/glass-plastic-bits-spur-recall-of-boston-market-meals-from-stores-dod-facility/>

Green Beans and Butternut Squash Sold at Walmart in 9 States Recalled for Possible Listeria: The states include Virginia and North Carolina:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2019/02/26/walmart-among-stores-hit-with-green-bean-butternut-squash-recall-listeria/2988666002/>

Upcoming Clarksville and Area Events

24th Annual Hellebores Festival at Pine Knot Farms – March 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th:

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

Big Wednesday (Family Event – Board Games & More) at The House of Prayer, Buffalo Junction – March 5th & April 3rd:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/big-wednesday-03-06-2019-7681>

Cooking Class at Cooper’s Landing – March 10th and 11th:

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

Sentara Halifax Hospice 2019 GALA “Diamonds, Denim, and Dice,” South Boston – March 15th:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/denim-diamonds-and-dice-hospice-gala-7727>

Broadway Nights Musical Review – Grand Re-Opening of the Clarksville Fine Arts Center – March 15th and 16th:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/broadway-nights-7728>

Crafts for Kids at The Cottage Barn, Clarksville – March 16th:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/crafts-for-kids-7724>

Baskets, Bags & Bowls Bingo at Clarksville Baptist Church – Benefit for Children’s Center – March 22nd:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/baskets-bags-and-bingo-7730>

Mecklenburg County Business Education Partnership (MCBEP) 2019 Annual Adult Spelling Bee (Benefits the MCBEP Scholarship Fund) – March 27th:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/annual-adult-spelling-bee-7731>

Boat Safety Course Offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kerr Lake Flotilla & Buggs Island Detachment – March 30th:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/boat-safety-course-saturday-class-7709>

Cruise in Car Show – Downtown Clarksville – April 6th:

<http://business.clarksvilleva.com/events/details/cruise-in-car-show-7438>

16th Annual Lake Country SPCA Linda Holt Memorial – Putts for Paws, Captain's Choice Golf Tournament, Kinderton Country Club, Clarksville – April 26th:

The Registration Form and a separate Sponsorship Form can be found on the MALA website at:

<https://merifieldacres.org/the-place/civic-organizations/lake-country-sPCA/>

Lake Country Wine Festival in Historic Clarksville – April 13th

Please save the date for this increasingly popular festival from Noon to 5 P.M. on Saturday, April 13th. The festival will feature great food, music, beer, and of course wine. At the present time 17 Virginia wine vintners have registered to participate. Please see the following webpage for detailed information on this event:

<https://clarksvilleva.com/festivals-celebrations/clarksville-va-wine-festival/>

Weekly/Monthly events:

- **Friday Night Dance** – Clarksville Ruritan's Thrift Shop – Every Friday Night! 7 PM, \$5.00 admission.
- **Clarksville Ruritan's Bingo** – EVERY Tuesday night 7 – 9 PM at the center.
- **Fish Fry & BBQ** – VFW Post 8163 – 3rd Thursday of every month, 5 to 7 PM.
- **Jigsaw Puzzle Social** – Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM at the Virginia Avenue Mall.
- **Tacos & Trivia** – Tuesdays at the Lamplighter Restaurant. Trivia game runs from 7 to 9 PM.



Photo courtesy of Hal Norman

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 374-1590). Thank you!