

MERIFIELD ACRES NEWSLETTER
VOLUME III, No. 4 FALL, 1996

GENERAL INFORMATION - The next meeting of the MALA Board of Directors is December 8. The 1997 budget will be reviewed and approved at this meeting. If you have any comments you want to make, please discuss them with a board member or write to MALA, Rt. 1, Box 59-B, Clarksville, Virginia 23927.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - The MALA voice mail service has been put in place by Jim Gordon, chairman of Community Services. This service is to be used by residents and landowners to contact the Resident Manager, the Executive Board, and all Committee Chairpersons by simply calling 374-5080 and the extension of that individual. It will allow everyone an opportunity to express their concerns on important subjects, get feedback, and receive general information on MALA. **Important note: you must keep the handset about 3" from your mouth while recording.**

EXT. 211	Resident Manager	Dennis Hayes
221	President	Margaret White
222	Vice President	Frank Clippinger
223	Secretary	Judy Buccine
224	Treasurer	John Floreth
231	Security	Eric Scheidt
232	Architectural	Mike Gupton
233	Roads & Land Acquisition	Frank Clippinger
234	Legal	Roger Greenhalgh
235	Finance	Tom Lilly
236	Aviation	Joe Noah
237	Common Facilities	Marie Garratt
238	School & Youth	Theresa Garlick
239	Community Services	Jim Gordon
240	General MALA Info Line	

The Community Services Committee is developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan to include an emergency tele-notification system in the event we need to evacuate MALA in the event of fire, chemical spill, etc. Interfacing with emergency response agencies such as Forestry, Fire & Rescue, Law Enforcement and others will assist us in the event our community is in danger. All MALA residents are requested to give the committee their ideas, concerns or general opinions regarding community services by calling 374-5080, Ext. 239. Your input is appreciated.

SHORELINE CLEANUP - Although many Merifield residents have been cleaning up shoreline debris ever since Hurricane Fran blew through, our coordinated cleanup effort with the Corps of Engineers met with only limited success. Only a small handful of residents participated in the scheduled cleanup campaign on October 19. We encourage everyone to continue this activity as time and weather permits. It should also be noted that the burning of limbs and leaves is not allowed on lots within the subdivision. All such burning should be done on open shoreline land, wind conditions permitting.

COMMON FACILITIES - Our new Chairperson, Marie Garratt, thanks her predecessor, Ed Smart, for the great job he's done. As well as keeping up with the extensive maintenance, he tackled many new projects; the fence and trees by the tennis court was one of them. Thank you, Ed, we all wish you well. You all know the phrase, 'NIMBY'. Well, Merifield Acres is "our backyard" and it is up to us to see we have a yard of which we're proud. Because 'labor' is the largest item in any budget we are suggesting a Volunteer Workday some Saturday in the spring.

Dennis will gladly volunteer his time and use of his equipment, as will Frank Clippinger. We need people willing to weed, plant, trim and tidy. MALA will provide the plants and shrubs but we need willing bodies. Half a day the beginning of April and half a day later in the spring should help enormously. We also request that one or two people from each road be responsible for the beds by the road signs. Please call Marie if you have questions or suggestions: 374-5080, X237 - - and remember, Merifield IS OUR backyard.

ARCHITECTURAL - There are presently 195 homes in Merifield Acres, 4 are under construction, and plans have been approved for 3 more. Remember that all structures, including alterations, additions, and satellite dishes must be submitted to the Architectural Committee for approval, and that subsequent construction must strictly adhere to the approved plans.

SAFETY/SECURITY - The County Sheriff has requested that the Board of County Supervisors consider enacting a county noise ordinance. If members are interested in this ordinance, they may want to contact the Board of County Supervisors. You should contact Mr. W. P. Hudgins, Sr., at PO Box 307, Boydton, VA 23917. With the approach of hunting season, members are reminded that Merifield Acres is a no-hunting zone.

ROADS - The Merifield roads survived the hurricane without damage to the pavement, although the high water following it required closing a section of Merifield Drive for two weeks or so. This was not because the water was over the road but because it was into the road base and heavy traffic had the potential to shift the asphalt layer and set the stage for surface breakup. Dennis Hayes put in many extra hours cleaning the right-of-way of downed trees and brush. This work is not completed and it will be well into December before it is all done. We are extremely fortunate to have Dennis and his equipment on the scene and ready to respond to emergencies such as Hurricane Fran. This is the time of year when plans and the budget are being put together for 1997. We intend to put asphalt surface on Oak Run this year, which will complete our planned upgrade of heavily traveled roads. In the spring we will know what minor repairs are needed and what survived the winter. Like everything else, culverts have a life span, and there are three of these under Merifield Drive that need to be replaced. It seems to be prudent to change from the usual galvanized steel to concrete, which will not rust. These culverts are in the part of the roads that can be bypassed and there should be minimal disruption and inconvenience while this is being done. Next year we will face the culvert at the gate, which is on its last legs.

PIPELINE UPDATE - An important issue has been raised by the State of North Carolina and the Roanoke River Basin Association. The principal contention is that NC has been denied its right to veto the pipeline under the Federal Clean Water Act (FCWA). It is charged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has ignored or evaded provisions in the FCWA in granting a water withdrawal license without NC approval. On Sept. 9, 1996 a three judge panel of the US Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington sent the issue back to the FERC for its review within 60 days. The EPA has sent a letter to the FERC reaffirming NC's rights in the matter. There is a high probability the Court will uphold NC's position. Once NC's rights are established questions arise as to how they will exercise these rights. Will NC veto the pipeline outright or use this leverage to allow the pipeline while gaining concessions favorable to NC? Those with lake interests should make their wishes and positions known to their representatives.

MISCELLANEOUS - DOGS, DOG, DOGS. Once again there are many dogs running loose in Merifield. Complaints have been made by people who have been awakened during the night by the barking of packs of dogs running loose and accidents have occurred caused by dogs running out into traffic. Perhaps we need to reassess MALA's position on this policy and consider strict penalties to the offenders.

All lot owners should inspect their property since Hurricane Fran. There are many trees that are uprooted and in danger of blocking the roads or falling on utility lines. Some of you will receive requests for removing specific trees that are encroaching on road right-of-ways.

All lot owners should check any pine trees for the pine bark beetles; they can be very destructive.