

MERIFIELD ACRES NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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FINANCIAL NOTES - The Merifield Acres Landowners Association Board of Directors is pleased with the number of responses regarding its concerns about the financial status of MALA as outlined in the recent Newsletter. Many of our members expressed the opinion that an effort should be made to equalize assessments throughout the community, and many stated that they would prefer the use of special assessments to raise funds for necessary projects rather than increasing mandatory dues.

The matter of equalizing assessments throughout Merifield Acres was reviewed with legal counsel in 1992. Since Merifield Acres was developed over a long period beginning in 1955 by four different developers, different types of Covenants & Restrictions were used, some requiring annual assessments and some not. MALA has been advised that only some of the Covenants might be changed and the costs of litigation would be very high. With scarcity of funds, under these circumstances this is not a viable approach to increasing our income. In addition to the mandatory assessments, our approach has been to seek voluntary assessments from those other MALA members who are willing to help bear the cost of maintaining our community as a quality residential area. Every well-informed, fair-minded person owning property here cannot fail to realize the low taxes and other costs we bear compared to those in comparable communities in other locations. However as of now, 1995 mandatory assessments are in arrears by \$3007 and voluntary assessments, by \$4766. As a result of this situation, it is most likely that in the coming year a special assessment will be required to meet our obligations.

ROADS - The rains in May and June have forced the postponement of many events, including our major road repairs. Originally scheduled for June, it now looks like it will be late September before this is done. Fortunately, nothing is deteriorating very fast. The edges have been backed with crushed rock where needed, herbicide has been applied, and limb trimming along the right of way is progressing.

The grass has also grown at a rapid rate, and we have had to mow more frequently than the planned schedule provided. We are hoping for a dry August or September so we can catch up. If not, we will have to find the wherewithal for an additional mow. We have tried to keep Merifield groomed properly, and we hope this meets with the approval of the membership.

SECURITY - To reiterate, we are concerned about security in our community and want to remind all residents and landowners that they must take primary responsibility for safety of themselves and their property. We encourage all residents to participate in a neighborhood watch type of action, being especially alert to whom is in their area, and reporting any suspicious persons or activities to the proper authorities. Don't hesitate to call on neighbors to observe your property when you plan to be away.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE - The Architectural Committee would like to remind you that if you are planning a new home, garage, addition, deck or satellite dish, you must submit plans and obtain approval before starting any construction or lot clearing. You may contact me by mail or phone with plans or any questions about building restrictions.
Mike Gupton - PO Box 38 Clarksville, VA 23927 (804) 374-2094

SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE - Since school will be starting soon, in the interest of safety the School Liaison Committee is announcing a new boarding place for students entering and leaving the school bus at the southeast side of the Merifield Acres entrance gate. Parents are asked to deposit and pick up their children on the gravel area (not on the paved road) adjacent to the left side (if exiting) inside the entrance gate. A new walkway and culvert are being installed so pupils can walk to the side of the entrance area when entering and leaving the bus without having to use the paved road and expose themselves to the possibility of being hit by cars using the road.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. MALA's Board, in the interest of community spirit, some time ago had approved the use of one end of the airstrip for soccer games by several groups in the area. This has led to some complaints by residents regarding blocking of the road by vehicles and of some noise in the area. The Executive Committee has now decided that Oak Park will be more appropriate for this activity, without inconveniencing residents, and has given its approval for the soccer to be played there.
2. Residents are reminded to display their new Emergency-911 Numbers in an approved manner along the street in front of their homes. These numbers will be mailed to you by the county. Landowners, especially residents, are urged to display the Merifield Acres identification stickers on their vehicles to help in monitoring traffic in the community.
3. No Lakefront Cleanup has been planned for this year due to the high level of the water over recent months.
4. Observation of drivers speeding on Lakepoint Drive and on Crescent Lane has led to several complaints by residents. Our restricted speed limits are posted not only as a safety measure for our residential community, but the slower speeds also result in less noise, making for more pleasant living. If the situation does not improve, this matter will be called to the attention of the Sheriff's Office.
5. Please keep sending your thoughts and comments on how to make Merifield Acres a better community for all of our members, including those who reside here and those who do not. All your ideas will be considered even if all cannot be adopted.