

MERIFIELD ACRES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, No. 3 SUMMER, 1996

GENERAL INFORMATION - The next meeting of the MALA Board of Directors is September 15, 1996 following the picnic and annual meeting. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, but have comments you want to make, please discuss them with a board member or put them in writing to: MALA, P. O. Box 59-B, Clarksville, Va. 23927.

Aside from brief interruptions and power spikes, there have been occasions during the past year when sections of Merifield Acres have been without electric power. This has been caused by ice or high winds bringing trees down onto power lines. In prior years, Mecklenburg Electric Co-op has only "side-trimmed" trees, but this fall they will start taking down entire trees from their right of way. In some instances this will tend to expose properties more than owners might like, but Mecklenburg Electric Co-op has a legal right to do this under state law.

COMMON FACILITIES - Many thanks to Ed and Jean Smart, Marie and Dick Garratt, and Jerry and Eva Madura for all their volunteer work. Additional volunteers are always needed to help with plantings, mulching, minor repairs, etc. Also, a reminder that roadside litter continues to be a problem. Please be considerate of your neighbors and your community and take all trash to the dumpsters behind the J & B Mini-mart.

BARK BEETLES! - An urgent message to each of you that these beetles are devastating many pine trees in Merifield Acres. Tree cutting remains the only practical means of control. When possible, owners should survey their lots to minimize damage and to protect their investments. Our Resident Manager, Dennis Hayes, can assist owners in identifying problem areas.

ARCHITECTURAL - There are presently 195 homes in Merifield Acres, with two more under construction. 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 - We ask that you employ a neighborhood watch approach to security and display MALA vehicle stickers (see Eric Scheidt, Dennis Hayes, or write MALA). There are no noise ordinances in Mecklenburg County. If you have problems or concerns in this regard, you should contact the Board of Supervisors to see what steps can be taken to put an ordinance in place. As a point of information, we only have security jurisdiction on Merifield Acres property. For complaints regarding activity on government property (lakefront / water), call (804) 738-6101. Notice to parents: ATVs and go-carts are illegal on Merifield roads as they are under the same law enforcement regulations as roads in the Virginia highway system. Also, there have been a number of "near misses" when ATVs running the power line trail have crossed the main roads. Parents must assume responsibility for their children's safety, and instruct them in the proper safety procedures.

COMMUNITY VOICE MAIL - MALA homeowners will soon be able to utilize our own voice mail system to contact the Resident Manager, MALA Board officers, and committee chairpersons. The call-in number will be 374-5080. Full details will be available at the September 15th Annual Meeting.

ROADS - The contracted road paving and repair work was completed in late spring, but some road work continues. Edge backing of the new asphalt is about half complete, some cracks are still needing to be filled, and the cutting of limbs and brush along the right of way is a never ending job. Completion of this work is dependent upon weather and other demands on Dennis' time. Due to a rainy summer, mowing scheduled for September is now being done in August. This may sound ominous, but actually we're in better shape than we were last year at this time. Fortunately, there is some flexibility built into the system.

SCHOOL LIAISON - Parents are asked to use the left apron exiting the Merifield gate to drop students off for the school bus. This will provide safety for the children as well as facilitate proper traffic flow for incoming and outgoing cars.

MISCELLANEOUS - (1) Again, please do not let your dogs run loose! We mention this in almost every newsletter, but the problem doesn't seem to go away. If you rent your property, inform your tenants to keep their dogs confined to the lot. (2) As written in our policies, the common facilities are for the use of MALA members in good standing, ie, assessments paid. Since MALA funds are used for common facility maintenance, in the future this will be strictly enforced. (3) MALA has been asked to coordinate shoreline cleanup efforts with the Corps of Engineers. The cleanup campaign will take place in September, and all Merifield homeowners will be notified in advance by mail. (4) If you own a home and have not received a 1996 phone book, please contact Dennis Hayes (374-2083) or John Floreth (374-5734).