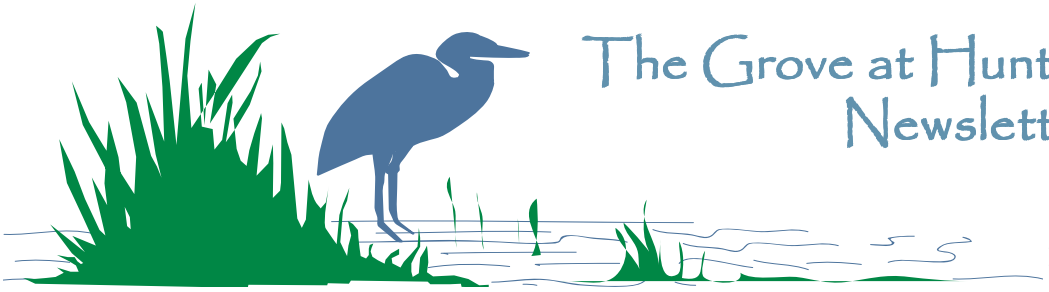

The Grove at Huntley Meadows Newsletter

Issue 10 -- July/August 2007

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A Message from the Board

By Meredith Elkins

Dear Neighbors,

The days are getting shorter, and soon school will be back in session! Fall is around the corner, and so are some interesting changes for the Grove.

As you hopefully read in previous newsletters, Centex (the Grove's developer) plans to complete its responsibilities to Fairfax County in 2007 (see bond release article on page 2). One of the most tangible results of this will be that traffic gates will be installed in the community (see page 5), eliminating cut-through traffic between Route 1 and the neighborhood to the north of us. Centex has informed us that they plan to install these gates in late October.

Because there has been mixed reaction to the gates, the HOA will be conducting a homeowner survey to determine if people want to petition the county for the gates' removal. Please watch for a mailing about this very important issue.

The Board is also thinking about the Annual Meeting, which will occur in early December (more information will be mailed to you as the date approaches). The Board is currently one member short, and two more positions will expire at the end of the year. Please consider running for a Board position—our community needs volunteers! Feel free to contact any of the Board members named at left or email questions to board@gathm.com.

If serving on the Board is too much of a time commitment, please consider serving on a committee. The Social Committee plans all our wonderful events; the Budget and Finance Committee ensures we can pay for them; and the Communications Committee makes sure homeowners know about events happening in the community. But don't forget about the Parking and Safety and Landscape and Pool Committees, which ensure we have a safe and beautiful community (respectively) as well. The neighborhood runs on the time and effort of volunteers, so please consider pitching in where you can.

The Social Committee has planned another wonderful block party for us this year. There are details inside, so mark your calendars! Hope to see you there and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Meredith

Meredith Elkins
President
GATHM HOA

Things Get Done Through Volunteers, How About You?

By Karen Goraleski

Would you like to see gatherings or groups that share your interests in topics like history, gardening, scrapbooking, or books? Perhaps you would like to see new things at the pool, or maybe you have an interest in getting people to slow down as they speed through the neighborhood? How about lush, beautiful plantings in the community? You can do this through one of our committees. It's not hard, there is a minimal time commitment, and you get to meet really great people – your neighbors!

The truth is, without you it won't happen. Make it happen, start yourself on a volunteer path that will only enrich your life. To get involved, visit www.gathm.com and complete the community interest form (located in Forms).

Vandalism

By Karen Goraleski

As you enter our community off of Beechcraft, the brick entry pillar and the neighborhood watch sign have been spray painted by vandals. A townhome on Audubon Meadow Way and a few other random places have also been hit. This is a reminder to be aware and call the police non-emergency number (703-691-2131) if you witness suspicious persons or activity. Please do not approach the person or try to handle it yourself. Above all, we want you to be safe!

Fliers in Your Door

By Karen Goraleski

Solicitation for cleaning services, handyman repairs, pizza delivery,etc, is illegal in our private community. While perhaps only a nuisance, signs are posted at the entrances to the community stating that soliciting is illegal. To stem this activity, you can call the police non-emergency number (although the solicitors may be gone by the time the police arrive); you can contact the company directly and tell them that this type of marketing is prohibited in this community; or notify John Fitch (j.fitch@cmgmt.com).

Bond Release...Huh??

By Karen Goraleski

You may have heard the phrase "bond release" from one of your neighbors and wondered what it meant. As with any developer in this county, Centex Homes was required to develop a specific and detailed plan that included every detail of the neighborhood, including the layout of streets, sidewalks, common areas, placement of trees, etc. This plan, long before the first shovel hit dirt, was presented to Fairfax County. The County reviewed it, making sure it met all the County's requirements, and it was revised, as necessary. Upon approval, both parties signed the plan, meaning that Centex agreed to deliver every detail of that plan. As an incentive, the County is holding a certain amount of Centex's money - a bond - until everything that was mutually agreed is done. Once that happens, Centex's bond will be released. Their money will be returned to them; and any and all of their obligations to this community are fulfilled. This will signal the end of any relationship between the community and Centex.

Back to those specific deliverables—what about those dead trees, are they part of the plan? Actually, yes, they are. Centex has marked dead trees with a red/white striped tape (some of you may have noticed these in your yard). These are the trees that Centex will replace, a one-time replacement, as part of fulfilling their part of the plan agreement with the County. Please note that Centex is not required to replace a three year old tree with another tree that age. It will likely be replaced with a young tree, one that will be much smaller that what you may have been accustomed to seeing.

As you can see, this is a critical issue for our community and one that your HOA Board has monitored closely from the beginning. To ensure that the community's interests are met as per plan, the Board is hiring an engineer to serve as our advocate through this process. The engineer, working closely with the HOA board and Cardinal Management, will ensure that Centex fulfills its obligations.

Stay tuned for additional updates, or attend a monthly HOA Board meeting and ask a question. We'd love to see you there. See page 6 for dates and location.

News at the Pool

By Karen Goraleski

In response to homeowners' concerns about pool cleanliness, lifeguard attentiveness, and other miscellaneous issues, two lifeguards were replaced in mid-July. Thank you to the homeowners who alerted Cardinal Management and the Board to these issues. It is only through your involvement that we can be confident that we have a safe and clean place to live and play. If you see a problem, such as lack of safety protocol or the pool closed before its scheduled time (8pm), please email Meredith Elkins, HOA President, at board@gathm.com with the date, time and specific details so that Winkler, the company that has our pool contract, can take appropriate action.

The pool will be open through Labor Day and for one additional day, September 8, from 12 to 4 pm, for our block party.

Looking ahead to next summer, we will be soliciting offers from multiple pool contractors to determine the best contract. In response to homeowners' requests, we will be seeking proposals that will enable the pool to be open 7 days a week for the summer, rather than the current 6 day week. Other suggestions? Please let us know by contacting John Fitch at j.fitch@cmgmt.com.

SEPTEMBER

8th- Block Party 12 to 4pm
Please join your community at the annual block party on Cyrene between Grey Goose Way and Lindberg Drive. Note that Cyrene Blvd. will be closed between Grey Goose Way and Lindberg Drive for this event. Catered by Red, Hot & Blue BBQ. Potluck competition for salads/sides/desserts. Highlights include games, prizes, Balloon Artist, DJ and more. You can also take a dip in the pool for the last time this season. Email social@gathm.com for more info or to volunteer. (Rain Date September 15th)

9th- 9/11 Appreciation 11am to 2pm
Please provide baked goods to be assembled into baskets to be delivered to our local emergency response personnel. Deliver your donation to 7507 Lindberg Drive between 11am and 2pm. Please contact Janice Rivera at jlrivera68@yahoo.com or call 703-768-5890 for more information or to arrange a different drop off time.

22nd- Community Garage Sale 7am to 12pm
Participating families host their own garage sale on their driveway and/or garage – advertising provided by HOA. Please email social@gathm.com for more info and to RSVP so we can advertise how many families are participating. (Rain Date: Sept. 29th)

OCTOBER

6th - Oktoberfest Beer Tasting Party 7 to 10pm
Hosted at the Rivera home on Lindberg Drive. Bring at least a 6 pack of beer and a (German inspired?) dish/appetizer to share. Email social@gathm.com for more info.

20th- Halloween Parade and Potluck 4pm
Young and young at heart, put on your costumes and meet in front of the pool house at 4pm to parade through the community. Potluck location next to playground on Great Swan Court. Email social@gathm.com for more info. (Rain date Oct. 27th)

NOVEMBER

Wine Tasting Party 7 to 10pm
Looking for a host! You choose the date. Email social@gathm.com for more info.

DECEMBER

9th- Holiday Cookie and White Elephant Gift Exchange 1pm
Hosted at the Rivera home on Lindberg Drive. Bake 5 dozen of the same cookie and join your neighbors for coffee/tea and take home 4 dozen different kinds of cookies. Package 1 dozen cookies separately to enjoy at the party. Bring Ziploc bags or other container to gather cookies in and a wrapped White Elephant gift (something from around your home that you no longer use/need but might be of value to someone else). Email social@gathm.com for more info.

Social /Welcoming Committee Update

By Erika Kelley
social@gathm.com

Plans for the block party are complete. Please see the enclosed flier for details.

On September 22nd, we'll be holding another Community Garage Sale from 7am to 12pm . Participating families host their own garage sale on their driveway and/or garage. Advertising will be provided by the HOA. Please email social@gathm.com for more information and to RSVP so we can advertise how many families are participating. (Rain Date: Sept. 29th)

Would you like to help plan neighborhood events, parties, and other gatherings? The social committee has several vacancies—including the chair. The Social Committee helps plan events such as the annual block party, the community garage sale, the neighborhood Halloween party, and the holiday cookie exchange. Do you have other ideas for fun neighborhood events? We'd love to hear them.

To volunteer, visit www.gathm.com and complete the community interest form (located in Forms).

If you would like to share an idea for a community event or are interested in hosting a community event – please contact the Social Committee at: social@gathm.com or Erika Kelley (Chairperson) at 301-467-4753.

The Grove Annual Block Party

CATERED BY:

When:
September 8th
(Rain Date September 15th)

Noon to 4pm

Where: Cyrene Blvd between Grey Goose Way and Lindberg Drive

Competition and Prize for the BEST **DESSERT!**

Bring Your Bathing Suit for an Extra Day to Swim in the Pool!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:
The block party is free for Grove residents. Due to the cost associated with having the Block Party catered, RSVPs FOR NON-GROVE RESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED by September 5th. Guests will be charged $18 for Adults and $12 for children ages 4-11. There is no charge for guests under 4. Payments will be accepted for the guests at the block party by a social committee member in the form of cash only. Wrist bands will be handed out upon arrival to the party and will be required to be served. Please respond to the Grove Social Committee via email at social@gathm.com or call Erika Kelley, Social Committee Chairperson, at 301-467-4753. If you would like to make other payment arrangements please use the contact information above. **Open to all residents of the Grove, no RSVP needed unless you want to bring a guest.**

Get Ready, Gates Coming to Lindberg

By Karen Goraleski

As the earliest residents in our community know, gates will be installed on Cyrene and Grey Goose where they intersect with Lindberg. For those new to our community, this is part of the original community plan, signed off by the developer, Centex Homes, and approved by Fairfax County. While earlier updates reported this was a Fairfax County requirement, the requirement that the plan include these gates was a response to concerns by the surrounding communities of increased car traffic on their neighborhood streets.

Once installed, the gates at the two intersections with Lindberg will remain in the closed position, preventing car traffic. Pedestrian traffic will not be impeded. Emergency vehicle access will not be affected.

Centex has informed us that they plan to install these gates in late October.

Have a question? Please email John Fitch, Cardinal Management, at j.fitch@cmgmt.com.

Pet owners, please be considerate of your neighbors and remember to clean up after your pets.

Trash and Recycling

Collection Times: Trash is collected on Monday and Thursday. Recycling is picked up on Monday, along with your trash. For pickups on holidays, you can call the number on your trash container the night before for a recorded message telling you whether or not trash will be collected on the holiday.

> Please be responsible for your recycling on windy days and make sure all recycling stays in the bin.
>
> You may have noticed that the HOA has installed trash cans around the Grove. Pitch in to help keep our community clean by picking up trash you see on the ground and tossing it in one of the new trash cans.

Trash and/or recycling bins should be placed curb-side after 6:00 pm Sunday and Wednesday and should be retrieved from the curbside by dusk on the day of collection. Please do not place your trash or recyclables out more than one day prior to pickup. Your neighbors will appreciate not having to see your garbage!

Recycling: Only certain kinds of plastics and paper are accepted as recyclables in Fairfax County.

Here's a sample of what's recyclable and what's not. For the complete list, visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/residential.htm.

What's recyclable? Glass containers; metal food and beverage containers; plastic containers only if they have a neck; plastic soda bottles and cans; newspapers; magazines; paper; flattened cereal and cracker boxes; and flattened cardboard.

What's Not? Pizza boxes; plastic bags; foam take-out containers; yogurt and dairy tubs; and container or jar lids, caps, and tops.

Please be aware that all recyclables must be **in the bin**. Large cartons, even if they are flattened, are left for the regular trash pickup unless they are in your recycling bin.

Do you have a computer, printer, copier, fax, telephone or television that you want to recycle? Please visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-comp.htm for a list of organizations that will accept your old electronics.

Before you dig, get to know Miss Utility

After receiving the appropriate approval from the HOA and before your dig, please call **811** at least 3 working days ***before*** you or a contractor dig in your yard. When planning any kind of construction, home improvement, or landscaping—no matter how large or small the project is—call Miss Utility at **811** to have underground utility lines located before beginning any digging. Your call to Miss Utility is routed to the local "one call center" in your area. The Miss Utility center notifies utilities of the upcoming excavation work so they can locate and mark their underground utility lines in advance to prevent possible damage to underground utility lines, injury, property damage and service outages. *This service is free.*

The "Miss Utility Law" (Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act) requires that Miss Utility be called at least 3 working days in advance of the planned work to allow time for marking, that the marks be respected and protected, and that excavation be completed carefully. References to "working day" means every day, except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state and national holidays.

For more information, please visit http://www.missutilityofvirginia.com.

HOA Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parker's Lane. Upcoming meeting dates are:

9/25, 10/23, and 11/27.
The annual meeting is in December--- date to be determined.

Visit *www.gathm.com* for directions.

HOA Directory

Architectural Review Committee - *architecture@gathm.com*
Board of Directors - *board@gathm.com*
Communications Committee - *comms@gathm.com*
Landscape & Open Space Committee - *landscape@gathm.com*
Parking & Safety Committee - *parkingsafety@gathm.com*
Social Committee - *social@gathm.com*
Webmaster - *webmaster@gathm.com*

Cardinal Management

John Fitch
Community Manager
j.fitch@cmgmt.com

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Social Committee Calendar and Block Party Info- see details inside!!

This is an official publication of The Grove at Huntley Meadows Homeowners Association. Publications of resolutions, rules, regulations, and meetings duly adopted or called by the Board of Directors serves as official notice to the membership and residents of meetings or the adoption and implementation of these enactments of rules for the purpose of enforcement.