♪ Melody Notes ♪

Volume 3, Issue 2 **December 2006**

A Few Words from the President

Melody Meadows Entrance Sign
The results of the questionnaire sent to all residents of the community in regards to the possible relocation of the existing sign to the opposite side of the Cann Road entrance and adding a second side to the sign to match the existing is as follows;

- Leave the sign as is - 10
- Move the sign - 34
- No preference - 6

The above being stated, I have spoken with the developer Rich Julian, Eastern States Development Co., and informed him that no further action will be taken on the sign until after our election is completed and the 2007 term Officers are in place in January. It will be up to the 2007 Board to reassess the issue.

On a related note, I would like to take a few moments of your time to address the four page diatribe that was sent to a select group of residents from Mrs. Barbara Erskine**. I have included an unedited copy of the handout so that the entire neighborhood has all the same information, or misinformation.**

I am not sure what several parts of her handout state or imply, so I will offer no response. But there are several blatant falsehoods that I would be remise if I did not respond to.

First and foremost, Mrs. Erskine was incorrect in her statement on page three where she states "*Are you aware that the President works for a developer who does work for the Long Creek developer and Mr. Julian?***"** The company I work for, Bancroft Construction, does not and has never worked for the developer of Long Creek, Eastern States Development a subsidy of Eastern States Construction. I have on several occasions worked **with** the developer on several projects. Most recently Eastern States Construction, completed the site work on North Star Elementary School, where I was the Construction Manager. Several years ago they also worked at Troop II, where I was also the Construction Manager. Both projects were State funded and they got the job because they were low bid. So, I can only imagine what Mrs. Erskine is implying with her statement.

The developer, Eastern States Development, never threatened me or the community in any regard to the sign. I never said or implied that to anyone. Quite the contrary, the developer stated that DelDoT agreed that the sign could remain where it was. I'm the one that suggested moving it across the street and the developer said he would help us with that because that would give him a better position on his property for marketing the new community.

The October meeting was not a result of Mrs. Erskine's phone call, as she implies in her "flyer." I sent an e-mail to the Board in June stating that we needed to have a meeting to get input on the sign from the community, Mrs. Erskine, and the former Board. I was waiting until I had something to present before I set the meeting up. It was never my intent to do anything with the sign until everyone's input was gathered. On August 22nd I e-mailed the Board members asking for their input for the fall newsletter and asked them what date was best for them for a meeting in October to discuss the sign, nominations and other issues.

I cannot account for conversations that Mrs. Erskine has had with employees of the builder, Benchmark. I can only vouch for correspondence I have had with the developer, Mr. Julian. I am not dealing with the builder, although I have met their Project Manager on several occasions. I am dealing with the developer. I can assure you that all my efforts were with the best of intentions and made with good faith on what I felt were in the best interest of the Community as a whole. I think the results of the questionnaire speaks to that end.

By-laws
The current board has asked for a copy of the Association's By-laws since we took office. The former President stated that there were By-laws but has not given us a copy of them after numerous requests. It has been stated by a couple of residents that we, the current board, are not following the By-laws. If we had them and knew what they were, we may be able to follow them.

I have contacted the Division of Incorporations to inquire if a copy was submitted and may be on file, when MMCA was incorporated. They have no copy and none was required when the Association was incorporated.

The current Board has several draft copies of By-laws that we are working on. We feel By-laws need to be in place and will present them to the membership for approval once the 2007 Board is in place.

Crime Report

Mrs. Erskine's first crime report submitted to the Board was printed in the January 2004 newsletter. The second report she submitted was received two days after the newsletter was printed and copied and the day before it was distributed. I explained that situation to her when she called, having received her copy of the newsletter and her report was not included. She only sent me two reports; one, which we printed in January 2004, and one that we got too late to include in the newsletter.

Again, I have no idea what she is implying at the bottom of the third page "*So he does not have to be nervous of what is being told*." I can't think of what would make me nervous in regard to the crime report either.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Erskine stated in her handout "*Wow I can not wait to see a Treasurer report after 2 years of none".* Well folks, here it is . . .

The current Board signed on in January 2004 with a starting balance of $2,556.00 in savings and 789.00 in checking. The **April 2005** Newsletter had a Treasurer's Report showing $2,894 in savings and $3,900 in checking for a total of $6,794. That's double the amount we started with in January 2004.

The current account amounts are as follows:

2006 expenses to date

Delmarva Power (park light)	$ 180.00
Marabou Meadows (yard sale ad)	$ 56.54
Ted's Snow Plowing	$1000.00

2006 income to date

DelDoT Snow refund	$ 750.00
Interest income	$ 79.66
Membership & snow donations	$ 2975.00

The balance of checking and savings as of the end of October is $10,008.88. Add to that another $1,170.00 that has been received for 2007 and we have over $11,700.00 going into 2007. Quadruple what we started with in January 2004. MMCA's finances are being managed efficiently and our balance indicates they are in "**good financial order**." Therefore, we are not requesting snow donations at this time. A big "thank you" to all residents who have contributed to the snow removal fund; it is because of your generosity, that we are in such good financial shape heading into the 2006/2007 snow season.

The above expenses, all three of them, are all the Association incurred as of the end of October for the entire year. No "hot line" monthly fee, no printing or postage costs, no donations or memberships to any other Organizations or businesses, and minimal copying costs. It was all spent here in Melody Meadows.

All memberships and snow donations were received in the form of a check with one exception. That exception was a neighbor who sent us cash and we contacted her when we received it, as she requested, and listed it as such on the deposit slip and spreadsheet.

Nominations

The August 2004 newsletter included a nomination form in it. No nominations were received. The last page of the December 2005 newsletter asked for nominations. No nominations were received.

And here we are at the end of the year 2006 and the nomination forms were sent out, nominations were made and a ballot is included in this newsletter.

Below are Comments from Questionnaire

- Dear Dave, I heartily approve of the relocation of our sign. I am also pleased with the job you are doing as President of the MMCA.
- Thanks for taking the time to handle this.
- We never really cared that the original sign was place so far from the actual beginning of Melody Meadows. So any change is alright with us.
- Thank you for all your time.
- I feel the Board should make the final decision based on what they feel is the best for the community. Our thanks to you and the Board for their efforts.
- Thank you.
- Thanks for pursuing and thanks to the developer too. Both are really appreciated. Could you also ask the developer what plans there are to correct the horrendous drainage issue that has been caused to that end of Cann Road? Especially to the folks in the very first house next to the new development. We really hope something is being done for them.
- Two sided sounds great at the other corner. However, would not want to see Long Creek sign in our old spot. We feel that would cause traffic onto Cann Road instead of Long Creek. Long Creek sign should be at their entrance.
- Of course the sign should stand alone. Therefore it seems on the opposite side of where it is now. Or it might be possible to cleverly design a way of positioning both signs on the left side in order to indicate position of these two developments, but I can't picture it unless it's sort of a map like the large stores named on a mall map.
- Leave the Board as is!

- Good luck!
- Great job!
- I have a concern about the run off on Cann Road from the new development
- If moved, cost should be borne by the developer
- I think the residents of Melody Meadows should worry more about the appearance of their homes, other than where the sign is placed. Maybe we should send out a questionnaire on how many residents enjoy the unsightly berm on the corner of Stardust and Nola
- We have no preference only concerns. First, the new developer's sign will cause more traffic down Cann Road from people thinking that to get to the new houses they need to turn down Cann Road since their sign is there. Second, the quality of our sign will diminish if moved. If the developer relocates our sign, it should be of the same quality or better – no cracks in brick work, etc.
- I'm not happy at all about you moving the sign. It needs to stay where it is at! It was there before the developer got the land and should of thought about it before. There is no reason at all for the developer to act the way they are. They need to put there sign someplace else.
- Thank you for caring.
- No real drawing of new sign. No approval from DelDot yet. Not coming to community first. Builder of Long Creek should have been at meeting. We need newsletters to let us know what is happening in our development. Who will count votes? Not the board? Not following by-laws.
- Not blocking our sight for getting out now. The other side would be too high! Put an arrow on top if no one can figure out which is Melody Meadows. Thanks for the good service.
- What are you trying to do destroy the community?
- Bad two years.
- Two votes per house.

Record of Calls and e-Mails Received from the Community Over the Last Few Years

- Neighbors throwing lawn wastes and debris in ditches
- Possible attempted break-in – window latches were broken, but nothing missing or disturbed
- Someone threw rocks in resident's pool
- Cherry bomb in mail box
- Paint balls shot at mailboxes and houses
- Water runoff from park into neighboring property
- Mail box knocked down during snow plowing
- Long term parking on street, not in driveways
- Water collecting at catch basin in front of MM sign

Please feel free to give me a call at 834-5793 if you would like to share any info that would be good for the community or have any concerns that we may be able to help you resolve.

Please take to this opportunity to complete the attached ballot and return to 13 Stardust Drive (place in box hanging on front door) by December 11. Bios on the candidates are included in this newsletter. Ballots will be counted by Annette Hickman, Tricia Riedel, and Donna Hepbron.

The MMCA Board would like to wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday!!!

