

----MILL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH---- EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Police – Fire – Ambulance911

Fire Department 788-8444

Police Non-Emergency . . . **788-8311**

CRIME STOPPERS 788-8427

Mill Creek Neighborhood Watch

Use the **Nextdoor** internet application
www.nextdoor.com

Neighborhood Police Officer:

Michael Burmeister

michael.burmeister@springfield.il.us

for an invitation to the Millcreek
neighborhood pages contact Jill Stoops

217-741-0987(cell)

How to Detect Suspicious Activity

You are additional **EYES and EARS for the Police and your Neighbors!** Detecting and reporting suspicious activity requires you to make a judgment call. Use your intuition, your gut feeling! If you think or feel something is wrong or suspicious, it probably is – **CALL & REPORT to the Police.**

Remember to get a license plate number, vehicle description (make, model, year) or suspect description (race, sex, height, weight, clothing) if possible. A GOOD NEIGHBOR our best security.

MILL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Our neighborhood watch system now uses the **Nextdoor** Internet application. This change occurred in January of this year. You can decide if you would like to receive emails or texts via your smart phone or on your computer. If you have an event you would like the neighborhood to be aware of: burglary, suspicious activity, etc. Please call the police first if you think it is warranted. Then put the notice out for neighbors to be aware. Please list details of who, where, when, and what happened. If you do not have access to the **Nextdoor** application please let your block captain know, they should be able to keep you informed or post concerns you see.

Some neighbors have signed up, then stopped using the application. They felt there was too much chatter from other neighborhoods. **To reduce this, you can go under your settings and choose only our neighborhood, or neighborhoods you care to hear from. You can also choose to just get crime & safety posts or other specific categories of posts.** Our alderman posts from his neighborhood: Cobblestone. It may be a good one to keep on your notification list in case he reaches out with pertinent information. Sometimes it is good to hear if neighbors have experienced a crime near by, we may be next, or we can be more alert to prevent an event.

If you have not signed up yet, please do! It is a great way to stay in touch with what is going on. We will announce garage sales, biannual meetings and other pertinent things happening in the neighborhood. If you have any questions, or do not have a smart phone or computer and need to be added to our call list, please call me at 217-637-9411. Thanks! Jill Stoops.

We also have an INTERNET WEB PAGE at <http://www.millcreekestateshoa.com> where you can go to get information, maps and documents about homeowner association matters.

List of Mill Creek Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

(October 2018)

3900s Eagle Wing	Norm Stoner	622-9374	4000s Old Mill	Jill Stoops	637-9411
4000s Eagle Wing	Greg Harris	546-9635	3900s Rocky Falls	Margie Bonczyk	787-9474
3900s Guilford	Jim O'Brien	793-4005	4000s Southwoods	Mary Beth Cohen	546-3784
4000s Guilford	Jim O'Brien	793-4005	3900s Springer	_____	
3900s Millstone	_____		4000s Springer	_____	
4000s Millstone	Liz Egler	971-5701	3900 Stone Bridge	_____	
1500-1530 Old Ivy	Julie Sundquist	787-6402	4000s Stone Bridge	Steve Preckwinkle	836-1678
1531-1600 Old Ivy	Julie Sundquist	787-6402	3900s Surry Place	_____	
3900s Old Mill	Jill Stoops	637-9411	4000s Surry Place	Margaret Sartore	546-3079

---Meadowbrook – 1500s with Rock Falls, 1420 with 3900 Mill Stone, 1423 with 4000 Mill Stone---
If your block does not have a block captain you might consider volunteering.

List of Mill Creek Estates Homeowners Association Board Members:

Bruce Bonczyk - President	Peter Van Gieson-Vice President	James O'Brien - Secretary
217/787-9474	217/652-1310	217/816-1515
Eddie Simpson - Treasurer	Jill Stoops - Director	Julie Sundquist - Director
217/652-1610	217/637-9411	217/787-6402

Preferred means of contact is by email to: millcreekboard@gmail.com

- For general information, announcements, copy of by-laws, maps and covenants see the association web page at <http://www.millcreekestateshoa.com>

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Mill Creek Estates Homeowners Association

Neighborhood Do's and Don'ts

Occasionally the association gets complaints about issues, which involve non-compliance with city ordinances or the covenants of the association. Often the violators say they were unaware of the restrictions. We have created a short checklist of the most frequently occurring issues. However, please refer to the exact wording in the city ordinances (https://library.municode.com/il/springfield/codes/code_of_ordinances) and our association covenants and by-laws (<http://www.millcreekestateshoa.com/documents/>) for details and exceptions.

- Association dues are assessed every year to cover the costs of the association, which aside from administrative costs principally consist of maintaining the common areas and storm water drainage system. The association has no paid officers, directors, or employees. Article VI of the covenants describes the purpose, obligations of lot owners, assessments, exceptions, due dates, and remedies for non-payment.
- Property use is limited to residential purposes only, no trade or business of any kind may be carried out.
- All plans and proposals for construction, exterior remodeling, or erection must be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee of the Board of Directors for approval. This includes:
 - fences
 - awnings
 - decks, patios, and patio covers
 - swimming pool
 - light pole or fixture
 - mailbox
 - landscaping
 - television or radio aerial or antenna or dish or signal receptacle
 - outbuildings of any type, including sheds

Submit at grade and aerial view plans, construction drawings, and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, height, materials, and location of proposed work to:
millcreekboard@gmail.com

- The following are not permitted by the covenants:
 - Stationary outside clotheslines
 - No spirituous, vinous or malt liquor to be sold, or kept for sale on any lot
 - No animals, livestock or poultry of any kind except dogs, cats and other generally recognized household pets
 - Pets allowed to cause unreasonable noise
 - Pets unless on a leash held a person when on the common area
 - Outside storage of used cars or car parts
 - Commercial vehicle parking except in the garage
 - Boats or other watercraft except in the garage

- Motor homes except in the garage
 - Trailers except in the garage
 - Campers except in the garage
 - Vehicles other than privately owned automobiles except in the garage
 - Signs of any kind except real estate sale signs, contractor signs during construction, a small sign identifying the occupants by name (advertising and advocacy signs of any type including political advocacy signs are not allowed)
- Although not specifically addressed by the covenants, the following safety and health concerns have been identified:
 - Tree limbs and branches that overhang the sidewalks within seven feet from the ground are a hazard
 - Portable basketball stands that block the sidewalk are a hazard
 - Pet feces left on common areas or on other owners lots are a health hazard
 - Branches and bush trimmings piled on the street or street verge except for one week in the spring and one week in the fall when the city conducts free branch pickup
 - No landscape waste or debris of any kind may be deposited on Common Area properties owned by the association.
 - The ownership of the lot on the NE corner of Meadowbrook and Guilford has requested that debris not be deposited on their property or the street verge bordering their property.

Resolving Issues

A good first approach is a friendly chat with your neighbor. They may not be aware that they are causing a problem for you or others. Perhaps you have a suggestion that they are not aware of that addresses the interests of all.

If you have concerns that involve violations of ordinances, rules, or law administered by the city, county, or state, please take those complaints to the appropriate authorities. You pay taxes to have elected officials and professional civil servants to address those concerns.

The association only has the authority to address violations of the covenants and by-laws. Be aware that the officers and board of directors are all volunteers that serve with no pay. Whether you are making a complaint or being notified of potential non-compliance, these folks are your neighbors and are interested in maintaining the best place for all of us to live in.

The best way to contact the association officers or directors is by email to millcreekboard@gmail.com.

Mill Creek Homeowners Fall Meeting

2018

Dear Neighbors,

It is nearly time for our semi-annual association meeting. This fall the first official meeting will be on my front porch on November 3 at 4 PM. If a quorum is not present, I will immediately adjourn the meeting until

**3 PM --Sunday 4 November 2018 at the YMCA-Kerasotes
4550 West Iles Avenue (at junction with Archer Elevator Road)**

At which time only 21 members will be needed to constitute a quorum pursuant to Sections 5 and 6 of the Association Bylaws. Each meeting a small number of members attend, but often not enough for a quorum of 42 voting members. Thus, the expected adjournment and rescheduling to lower the quorum quota. We believe that those of you who take the time to attend the meeting should be able to vote.

President's Message:

Greetings Neighbors! As fall gets into full swing, and winter approaches, just a few reminders. By the time you get this mailer, fall branch pickup will be in progress. If you failed to meet the October 20th deadline for our Mill Creek Estates neighborhood, you will need to make private arrangements to have those limbs and branches removed before winter. Watch the City of Springfield website for the upcoming leaf pickup dates and be sure to keep the bags from spilling out into the streets. Our neighborhood looks great, and we need your help to keep it that way! On that same note, this summer saw a flurry of complaints about restrictive covenant violations. We try to address these as they come, and ask for corrective compliance by the homeowners. The most frequent type of violations are repeated in this mailer for your education. The association documents posed on the website contain the official listings. Please inform yourself of these restrictions to continue to be a good neighbor. Thanks to Jill and Julie for planning another successful fall neighborhood garage sale. Finally, depending on the weather, the new drainage system for the detention area should be installed before the end of the year. Best wishes for the upcoming holiday seasons. Bruce Bonczyk

Storm Water Detention Area Update:

This is part of the continuing process of eliminating the standing water that prevents mowing and access in the detention area. The contractor plans to start during the week of October 22nd, likely on Tuesday weather permitting. They will start by "raking" the bottom of the detention area, which means to rough mow it so they can work. They will then install two 12 inch diameter solid pipes several feet deep through the middle of the area. They will then construct basins at the inlet (south east corner) and outlet areas (north west corner) so the water is forced through the pipes for the time being. There may be a short interval while the remainder of the ground dries out. Afterward, they will come in and excavate the swale (or main ditch) which they will meander a bit just for aesthetics as was shown on the sketches provided at the annual meeting. The excess dirt will be placed in the low areas on the NW and SW sides of the area to prevent the swampy areas and cattails. Their final work will be to seed the swale and put in some hay bales to slow the water to prevent erosion in high flows. Of course, they will remove any of the old pipes in the way as they excavate. On the Meadowbrook Road side, they plan to use some of the existing rip-rap that is above grade to create the basins. Where the two drain pipes come in from the roadway they will be revised to eliminate the ponding of water at those spots. This work will take place in stages over a period of time. The contractor will mostly access the detention area from the common area at the east end of Stone Bridge, so please don't be surprised when you see the work, and be cautious of any equipment in the area. Thank you for your patience.

Agenda Items:

- We will have an update on the status of the storm water retention area drainage.

- An election to fill an open board position. We currently have six board members and the association by-laws specify that an odd number is preferred (Article III, Section 3). Diane Boyle has been nominated.

Notes:

- Our web page is at www.millcreekestates.com --visit it and let us know what you like or dislike.
- Please let us know about any other issues you wish to discuss so we can research them prior to the meeting. We can be contacted at millcreekboard@gmail.com

We both mailed and emailed this notice. If you did not receive it by email please send us your email address so we can save on postage in the future. We are required to send this meeting notice by mail but we send the meeting minutes by email and only mail paper versions of the minutes on request. Other updates are sent solely by email.

Regards,
Bruce Bonczyk
President, Mill Creek Estates Homeowners Association, Inc.

Our neighborhood watch alert system now utilizes the Nextdoor.com internet application. Occasionally residents tell us about events that occurred days or weeks ago that would have been good candidates for an alert. The first person aware should post a notice, or if unable contact a block captain. Don't put any personal identifiers or specific addresses in the alerts. Typical alerts might be; "Loud noises and a person running 3900 block Old Mill Lane," or "Person in dark clothes lurking in bushes 8:10pm 4000 block Guilford". If neighbors receiving alerts look out and turn on their lights, perpetrators will be caught or discouraged.