

----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

for an invitation to the Millcreek

neighborhood pages contact Jill Stoops

Neighborhood Police Officer:

Michael Burmeister

michael.burmeister@springfield.il.us

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 Estates Homeowners Association Board Members:

Bruce Bonczyk - President 217/787-9474	Peter Van Gieson-Vice President 217/652-1310	James O'Brien - Secretary 217/816-1515
Eddie Simpson - Treasurer 217/652-1610	Jill Stoops - Director 217/637-9411	Julie Sundquist - Director 217/787-6402
Diane Boyle – Director 217/899-9700		

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>

City of Springfield 2019

Ward 10 Alderman: Ralph Hanauer <https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/CityCouncil/Ward10.aspx>
city council coordinator 217-789-2151

Branch Pickup: Southwest Area week of Oct 14 and Oct 28
<https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/branchPickup.aspx>

Leaf / Yard Waste Pickup: South Zone weeks of Oct 14 & 28, Nov 11 & 25, Dec 9 & 23
<https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/leafPickup.aspx>

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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.

Fireworks are a fire hazard and strictly regulated by city ordinance and state law. They are also a nuisance to neighbors when not on the traditional holidays. Please be safe and considerate.

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

2019

It is nearly time for our semi-annual association meeting. This fall the first official meeting will be on my front porch on November 16 at 4 PM. If a quorum is not present, I will immediately adjourn the meeting until

**3 PM --Sunday 17 November 2019 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.

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

Message from the Officers and Board Members

Greetings Neighbors:

We hope you had a wonderful and fun summer. Since our last meeting, we have upgraded the entrance to our subdivision. The work included cleaning the stone signs, replacing the landscaping with many new plants and rock, and it was also necessary to replace the old irrigation system. Many of the new plants were able to bloom with a variety of colors.

Still in progress is the detention area. While the contractor was able to get the swale and underground drain pipes in early this year, the excessive rainfall all summer stymied the grading of the soil placed in the low areas. This was done during a short dry spell, and there are just a few spots that need some more attention. The engineer is pleased the drainage is working as expected. As soon as weather allows, final work will be performed. During that time, the contractor will also remove the three large dead trees that ring the basin which are on the common property.

The MCEHA Neighborhood Directory was last updated in 2015 and distributed as a paper copy. To get a PDF version or to submit changes and updates please contact us at millcreekboard@gmail.com and provide your name, address, phone number, and preferred email address.

The Board appreciates those residents who promptly pay their annual dues. That certainly helps in planning for the year and with unexpected expenses, such as the increased number of dead trees we have experienced,

We also thank those who are mindful of the covenants and regulations of the association. Your courtesy to your neighbors is appreciated, and it seems the number of complaints have dropped. However, the Board will aggressively pursue violators in order to maintain the values of the properties.

Finally, remember the Board consists of all volunteers. Sometimes it takes a little bit of time for us to respond, and we appreciate that patience.

Best wishes for the upcoming holidays from the entire MCEHA Board.

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. We are required to send this meeting notice by postal 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.

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 an officer or director. 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.