

----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)

MILL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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 is our best security.

Our neighborhood watch system uses the **Nextdoor** Internet application. 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 let a board member know, we will try 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 217/787-6402. Thanks! Julie Sundquist. (Note: I'm now taking over as Neighborhood Lead from Jill Stoops who has done a wonderful job in that position for several years – Julie.)

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 – Co-Treasurer 217/652-1610	Julie Sundquist – Co-Treasurer 217/787-6402	Jill Stoops - Director 217/637-9411

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 November 9
<https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/branchPickup.aspx>

Leaf / Yard Waste Pickup: South Zone weeks of Nov 2, 16 & 30, Dec 14 & 28
<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

2020

It is nearly time for our semi-annual association meeting. To help prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus we will be conducting the fall meeting virtually on the internet or telephone using Zoom.

When: **Sunday, Nov 8, 2020 03:00 PM** Central Time

Join the Zoom meeting by pointing your computer browser to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2711231965?pwd=WkVKeVVkc1JEZDhUZ1pVSHcxWGJTUT09>

Meeting ID: **271 123 1965** Passcode: **YxdUt1**

Or call from your telephone **312 626 6799** (Chicago) Meeting ID: **271 123 1965** Passcode: **420252**

Jim O'Brien will be conducting a test session starting at 2pm the same day to help resolve any connection problems. On computer remember to turn on your microphone and speakers! If you can't connect, his number is 217-816-1515.

We do not anticipate voting on motions at this meeting session. If you expect to introduce a motion to be voted on please contact us in advance.

Regards,

Bruce Bonczyk

President, Mill Creek Estates Homeowners Association, Inc.

Message from the Officers and Board Members

Greetings Neighbors:

We hope you had a safe and healthy summer. Since our last meeting, we have finished repairs to the detention area. The contractor conducted final grading when the area was sufficiently dry and also removed three large dead trees from the common property on the side of the basin.

The MCEHA Neighborhood Directory is updated on a continuing basis. 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. To protect your privacy we do not post this directory on the internet, but only provide it by email to residents.

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 association covenants and city regulations. The city now only conducts branch pickups twice per year. Putting branches in the street is prohibited at other times. Your courtesy to your neighbors is appreciated. However, the Board will aggressively pursue violators in order to maintain the values of the properties.

Diane Boyle has resigned as a director and we thank her for her service. We are looking to fill that seventh director slot. Interested homeowners may contact the board.

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