

----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.burmaister@springfield.il.us

for an invitation to the Millcreek
neighborhood pages contact Julie Sundquist

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 is the best security.

MILL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Our neighborhood watch system now uses the **Nextdoor** internet application. It has changed from calling the phone number. 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 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

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 Jill Stoops - Director 217/637-9411
Julie Sundquist – Treasurer 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 new web association web page at **http://www.millcreekestateshoa.com**

City of Springfield 2021

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 May 10, August 9 and November 8

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

- Leaf / Yard Waste Pickup: South Zone weeks of May 3, 17 & 31, June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26
<https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/leafPickup.aspx>

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michael.burmeister@springfield.il.us

217-741-0987(cell)

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

DUE DATE IS JULY 1

Article VI of the Association Covenants specifies that all lot owners must pay an annual fee for the maintenance of the Association. An invoice will be sent to each homeowner in June for the fee for the following fiscal year. Payment is due July 1. Payments still due after July 30 incur a late fee of \$8.50 per month overdue.

The officers and board members serve without compensation, as specified in the Covenants. Please be considerate and pay promptly to minimize the work they need to do to keep the Association running.

The fees are primarily used to maintain the common properties, which include the entranceway and the stormwater management system owned by the Association.

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.

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▪ **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.

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Mill Creek Homeowners Spring Meeting 2021

Dear Neighbors,

It is nearly time for our semi-annual association meeting as required by the association covenants. We hope you are all safe and well. Because of the uncertainty about both the Covid virus threat posed by an in-person meetings and the availability of in-person meeting space we are again scheduling this spring 2021 meeting via a Zoom call. We need 42 voting members for the quorum necessary to vote on motions. The Zoom call is scheduled for:

Sunday, May 16, 2021 3pm CDT

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2711231965?pwd=WkVKeVVkc1JEZDhUZ1pVSHcxWGJTUT09>
Meeting ID: **271 123 1965** Passcode: **YxdUt1**

or dial in by phone +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) -- All attendees will be initially muted to assist with call clarity.

Agenda Items:

- There is no need to elect officers this spring but we have two vacant positions on the board of directors. Any HOA member wishing to run to serve on the board is requested, but not required, to contact us in advance of the meeting. Nominations and self-nominations may be made at the meeting.
- A vote will be held to adopt the annual budget. The proposed budget is shown below.
- In the event that a quorum is not attained, the current board has the authority to appoint temporary directors (for one year) and approve the budget.

Updates:

- Members are reminded that the covenants prohibit architectural changes, signs, satellite dishes, and animals other than cats, dogs, and other generally recognized pets. See the covenants on our web page for details of what is and is not allowed (Article VIII, pages 13-19).
- Our web page is at www.millcreekestates.com --visit it and let us know what you like or dislike.
- Bruce Bonczyk is the point person for MCEHA for complaints or compliments regarding the landscape maintenance contractor for 2021. If you have a complaint we want to know about it immediately, telling us at the end of the season does not allow for corrective measures.
- 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

**Mill Creek Home Owner Association Budget Report
July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2022**

		7/1/20-6/30/21 BUDGETED DUES @ \$85/yr	7/1/20-3/31/21 ACTUAL (9 mo.)	7/1/21-6/30/22 PROPOSED DUES @ \$85/yr
INCOME:	Homeowner Annual Fees	\$18,105.00	\$18,020.00	\$18,105.00
	Interest Income	\$60.00	\$41.45	\$60.00
	Late Fees	\$300.00	\$28.30	\$30.00
	Total Income	\$18,465.00	\$18,089.75	\$18,195.00
EXPENSES:	Utilities	\$600.00	\$484.72	\$600.00
	Mowing/fertilize	\$9,500.00	\$4,121.00	\$9,000.00
	Landscaping/sprinkler	\$500.00	\$179.00	\$400.00
	Insurance	\$1,600.00	\$1,546.00	\$1,600.00
	Legal & Professional Fees	\$1,500.00	\$429.90	\$1,000.00
	Meeting Room Rental	\$100.00	\$14.99	\$100.00
	Office Supplies & Postage	\$700.00	\$260.57	\$850.00
	Taxes/filing fees	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
	Misc. Repairs & Maintenance	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
	Tree Service Charges	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
	Detention area	\$2,000.00	\$7,610.30	\$1,000.00
	Bank Service Charges	\$60.00	\$4378.90	\$60.00
	Web Page Hosting	\$200.00	\$119.40	\$200.00
	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$321.50	\$0.00	\$100.00
	Total Expenses	\$19,866.50	\$14,809.66	\$18,195.00
NET INCOME:		0	n/a	0
Checking Account Balance: 3/31/21			\$32,713.47	

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 send paper versions on request.

The City of Springfield has set the number of **branch pickups** to four per year. Branches left at the curb for a long time are a hazard and, in some cases, attract vermin. **This spring put your branches out by 6AM on Monday, May 10.** We are in the SW quadrant of the city and other pickup dates are August 9, and November 8 this year. **See the city website for details.**

If you have any suggestions or comments to make our wonderful neighborhood even better, myself and the Board members would love to hear from you. Enjoy your summer!

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.

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