

**MERITAGE
BOARD**

- Kim Resnick
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- Joseph Johnson
Vice President
- Thomas Kim &
John Stipo
Treasurers
- Edith White &
Jimmy Harrington
Secretaries
- Abraham Philip

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Meritage



AUGUST 2009

Message from the President

I am Kimberly Resnick and I am honored to serve as the president of Meritage Maintenance Corporation for the year 2009-2010. My husband and I had the privilege of buying the very first home in our community and have lived here happily for the past seven years. The newly elected board and I are so thrilled to represent your interests and needs and work hard for making Meritage a friendly, peaceful, and beautiful neighborhood to live.

I would like to thank the newly elected board members— Joseph Johnson (VP), Edith White and Jim Harrington (Co- secretaries), Thomas Kim and John Stipo (Co-treasurers), and Abraham Philip — for their commitment and efforts in making Meritage an attractive place to live and call it home. Sadly, Stephanie Andrews, who was elected to our board and served as secretary for the 2009/2010 term, has resigned. I would like to thank Stephanie for her faithful service to our community last year and wish her good luck in her future endeavors.

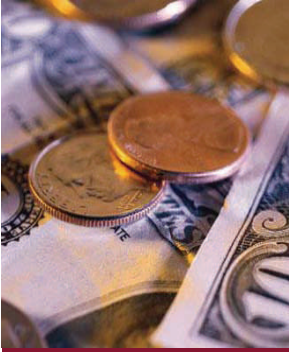
As we await the change of seasons and cooler weather, I would like to tell you about our exciting new Good Neighbor Committee. The reason for forming this committee is that we as neighbors can do more for each other in times of need. Wouldn't it be an unexpected surprise to receive a beautiful basket from your

neighbors welcoming your new baby into our Meritage family? Or if a family member in your home is seriously ill and you need help mowing your lawn, wouldn't it be wonderful to come outside and see a neighbor taking care of your lawn? When a new family moves into our community, wouldn't it be nice if our board members and close neighbors welcome our new neighbor to the neighborhood? These are just some of the ways we can improve the quality of our friendship and enhance the community spirit of Meritage.

Indeed, I am eagerly looking forward to launching the Good Neighborhood committee with the help of Barbara Kuhn, one of our community members, who has graciously volunteered her time in helping with this new venture. I hope you, too, will get involved in our community affairs and participate in everything that Meritage has to offer. "A community is like a ship," said Henrik Ibsen, "everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

As I close, I wish you and your family a fun-filled summer and look forward to seeing you around our neighborhood!

Kim Resnick



Treasurer's Report

In the final budget calendar year from June 2008 to May 2009, a total of \$53,438 was collected from the community and 15 homes remain in delinquency. In the new 2009 - 2010 budget year, the community has collected \$18,901 (53% of all homes) as of the second week of July. The ending balance at this time is \$49,142.

The community expensed a total of \$58,190 in the last calendar year. The largest expenditure during the year was for the front entrance sign totaling \$32,281. The final cost of the sign went over the budget by \$5,106 compared to the original estimate of \$27,175. The expenditures were off-set by \$6,090 savings from lower snow removal and tree removal expense.

In response by community members for detailed landscaping details, our landscaping contractor Forever Green will begin providing higher levels of detailed billing going forward and they have pro-

vided the following summary detail for last year's services:

- 15 yards of mulch applied in April.
- Core Aeration & Over Seeding: 86,000 square feet and 700 pounds of Teammates mixture grass seed was used on the entrance, active recreation area, front side of pond and end of Latour Lane.
- Pond Work: Fixed bare areas on slopes, seed, erosion mat and some soil.
- Fixed trash rack with two large bolts. Cut high vegetation around riser, outfall and rock creek from out flow, also removed excess sediment from outfall in September 2008.

Liens Filed

As of the end of July 2009, Meritage Maintenance Corporation has filed with the New Castle County Court liens on the properties of fifteen delinquent homeowners.

Expense Type	Total Expenditures	2008-2009 Expense Distribution
Special Project Entrance Sign	\$32,281	55.5%
Property Management BC Consulting	\$10,417	17.9%
Common Area Mowing	\$5,548	9.5%
Pond Maintenance	\$2,095	3.6%
Over Seeding Common Area	\$1,950	3.4%
Mulching Trees in Common Area	\$1,560	2.7%
Fertilizer in Common Area	\$1,414	2.4%
Insurance	\$1,421	2.4%
Snow Removal	\$630	1.1%
Tree Removal	\$500	0.9%
Miscellaneous	\$222	0.4%
Printing	\$69	0.1%
Sign Electric	\$24	0.0%
Taxes	\$60	0.1%
Grand Total	\$58,190	100.0%

Committee Reports

Architectural Review Committee

When you enter our community, you are reminded by the sign at the gate that we are a deed-restricted community. The purpose of the deed restrictions is not to infringe upon our freedoms but to ensure that we abide by certain architectural standards so that value, appearance, and appeal of our community is maintained for the benefit of all.

Presently, several homeowners are in violation of our deed restrictions so much so that what we say on our entrance sign is becoming almost meaningless. Below is a list of deed restrictions for your information.

- No building, fence wall or other structure shall be altered, extended, added to or modified, nor shall any additional structures or any nature be erected nor shall any exterior change or alteration be made (including, but not limited to, exterior facade color changes or change in grade or drainage) without approval of the ARC
- No additional structures shall be erected (decks, patios, etc.) without approval of the ARC
- No fences shall be a height more than 4 feet
- All fences shall be constructed only of wood or vinyl, except as required by law around in ground pool
- Aboveground swimming pools are prohibited
- In ground swimming pools are permitted only upon written approval of the ARC
- No Lot shall be used except for residential purposes
- No dwelling shall be used except as a private dwelling for one family
- Laundry lines and poles outside houses are prohibited
- No vegetable or similar non-flower gardens may be maintained in front, side or rear yards
- All lot lawns and shrubs shall be maintained in a neat and presentable conditions

- No unusual vehicles including trucks, boats, aircraft, trailers
- Garbage, rubbish, or any other material of any nature to be abandoned or disposed of shall not be placed or allowed to remain or any Lot nor shall it be placed, left or allowed to fall upon any of the open spaces, but may be placed a street side on day of collection

If you are planning to do any exterior improvements to your home, please submit your plans and specifications with illustrations showing the nature, kind, shape, color, height, materials and proposed location of the addition, alteration or change to BC consulting on the prescribe form for approval in writing by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC).

The ARC will review your request and will make every effort to approve it in a timely fashion. If the submitted plan is not acceptable, ARC will provide you guidance to make appropriate changes to your plan for approval. The goal of ARC is not to hinder your plans for your home improvement but to help implement them.

Social Committee Update

Though our picnics have been successful in past years, we have decided to hold our Meritage Community picnic bi-annually, rather than annually. We will begin planning our 2010 picnic next spring and look forward to your attendance!

Town Meeting!

We are planning a town meeting on August 30 at the open playground from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please contact Frank O'Brien of BC Consulting by August 15 and let us know if you are interested in attending. If sufficient interest is expressed we will have the town meeting.



Did you know that. . .

- Delaware has a state beverage – Milk
- Delaware has a state bug – the lady bug.
- On December 7, 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the United States Constitution.
- Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Constitution, said Delaware was like a diamond - small, but of great value. So sometimes people call Delaware the Diamond State.
- Delaware was named after the Delaware Indians, but it is not an Indian word! The tribe was named for the Delaware River. The river was named after Sir Thomas West, Lord De La Warr. Sir Thomas was governor of the Virginia colony.
- The first regularly operated steam railroad began operations in New Castle in 1831.
- The most historic site in Frederica is Barratt's Chapel east of town. The chapel is where the Methodist Church of America was organized in 1784. Barratt's Chapel is known as the Cradle of Methodism. It was built in 1780 and is the oldest surviving church built by and for Methodists in the United States.
- Tradition holds that the first time Betsy Ross's famous flag was flown was at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. This historic site is located on route 4 in Newark.

Fireworks Laws...



This issue was brought to the board's attention over the July 4th holiday weekend. A few of our community members made multiple calls to our New Castle County Police Department for fear of the safety of their homes and the homes of their neighbors. The Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office explicitly tells Delaware residents that possession, sale, and use of fireworks are illegal in the state.

The ban covers all fireworks, including sparklers, and people in violation of these laws face fines and criminal penalties. In an effort to keep our neighborhood safe, please adhere to our state laws. Bringing your family to a public display of fireworks offers safe fun and keeps our

precious family members from fire hazards. For more information about Delaware laws on consumer fireworks, please visit the following websites:

State Fire Marshal
State of Delaware
2307 MacArthur Road
New Castle, DE 19720-2426
302-323-5375
www.delawarestatefiremarshal.com

Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations
Part IV, Chapter 2 Delaware Code
Title, 16, Chap. 69
<http://statefiremarshal.delaware.gov/pdfs/chapter69fireworks.pdf>