

Keene Mill Village IV

The Village Voice

Volume 1, Issue 5

December 2004

HOA Board Meeting January 5, 2005 7-9 p.m.

Please join us!

Pohick Regional Library
6450 Sydenstricker Road
Meeting Room 1
703-644-733

Five Star Hauling will collect Christmas trees on Thursday during the first and second weeks of January. Please remove all tinsel and ornaments from the trees!



Annual Meeting Was a Great Success

More than 40 members of our community turned out for the KMV4 annual meeting on December 4 at Keene Mill Elementary School. That's about three times as many folks than came to last year's meeting. Nice going!

What came out of the meeting were several committees that will work toward improving the appearance, safety and neighborliness of our community.

Each committee has a chairper-

son and a handful of members. Stay tuned for our next newsletter, which will list the committees and contact phone numbers.

**Thank you to
Carol and Bernie
Ward for hosting a
holiday open house
for our community.
They are truly great
neighbors!**

Sign Up for E-mail Announcements

KMV4 has started an e-mail distribution list for urgent news and KMV4 community announcements.

The first e-mail was sent on December 2 to notify homeowners of a burglary and vandalism in our neighborhood. We want to get this type of information out as soon as possible, and the fastest, easiest and most cost-effective way for the board to communicate with the community is via e-mail. Please put your name on the list.

Some of the December 2 e-mails bounced back, which means

the address we had was incorrect and has since been deleted. If you did not receive the "KMV Crime Watch" e-mail, then you are not on the list.

To join the list, e-mail info@keenemillvillage.org from the e-mail address you'd like to add.

This is a "one-way" list for use only by the KMV board. Therefore, homeowners will not be able to reply to other recipients via this list. If you would like to participate in a community discussion, visit the message board on keenemillvillage.org.

Neighborhood Watch

Twelve volunteers met on November 12 to begin the process of forming a KMV4 Neighborhood Watch. Crime Prevention Officer Doug Coulter, from the Fairfax County Police Department's Springfield District Station, provided training in crime prevention techniques.

The group met at the home of Carol Ward, who volunteered to be the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

Please consider joining in this effort to help maintain the high standards of our community.

Don't Be a Litterbug: Put Your Butt Where It Belongs!

If you are going to smoke, please put your cigarette butts in the trash—not out the car window, not in the gutter, not on the lawn, and not in the woods and stream.

Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a plastic that degrades slowly in the environment, if at all. Filters are designed to trap cancer causing chemicals that smokers don't want in their lungs and bloodstream. Littered butts are carried by wind and stormwater runoff into nearby water bodies.

The cancer causing agents in the filters leak into creeks and streams, threatening the quality of the water and aquatic life. Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish and birds who mistake them for food.

Littering is illegal. Section 33.3-346 of the Code of Virginia makes littering or dumping trash a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500.



Please retrieve your empty trash and recycling containers no later than 7:00 p.m. on pickup days.

Sweet Potato Casserole

from the Television Food Network

Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 1 hour 45 minutes Serves 6

- 2 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes (about 3 large), scrubbed
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten with a fork
- 3 TBL unsalted butter, melted plus more for preparing the pan
- 2 TBL packed dark brown sugar
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 400°. Put sweet potatoes on baking sheet and pierce each one 2 or 3 times with fork. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes or until tender. Set aside to cool. Reduce heat to 350°. Scoop sweet potato from skin and put in a medium bowl. Discard skin. Mash potatoes until smooth. Add eggs, butter, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and pepper to taste. Whisk mixture until smooth. Butter 8 x 8-inch casserole. Pour mixture into pan and sprinkle with the pecans. Bake 30-40 minutes until a bit puffy. Serve immediately.