

Keene Mill Village IV

The Village Voice

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2005

HOA Board Meeting

March 3, 2005

7-9 p.m.

Please join us!

Kings Park Library
9000 Burke Lake Road
(near Rolling Road)

Community Cleanup Day: April 16

Let's clean up our homes inside and out and make our neighborhood a nicer place in which to live. Five Star Hauling will leave a dumpster for us from Friday, April 15 through Sunday, April 17.

On that Saturday we're hoping for a large turnout of kids and adults to pick up litter in the common areas, along the sidewalks, and in the stream valley. Please join us!

Thank you to Carol and Bernie Ward for hosting *another* open house for our community. You are wonderful neighbors!

Thanks also to all of those in our community who are working to make it safer and litter-free!

Announcements

Field Master Speed Bumps
KMV canvassers are waiting for VDOT to issue petitions for affected areas. We will need 75 percent of the homeowners to sign a petition in favor of the speed bumps.

Parking

It is illegal to park cars on yellow lines or block hydrants. It also is illegal to park a car with no tags. If you see an illegally parked car, call the police department's non-emergency number, 703-691-2131. Also, please send an email to the KMV board because the board is responsible for calling the towing company.

info@keenemillvillage.org

Proper Fireplace Cleaning Methods

- You should always place discarded fireplace ashes in a heavy metal container, moisten the ashes, and cover the container with a metal lid. **NEVER USE A PAPER BAG**, a cardboard box or a plastic trash bag in the cleaning process. Never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up ashes.
- Ashes should be kept in a metal container outside, away from the house, to cool. Your garage, house, or deck are dangerous locations for ashes to cool. After ashes have cooled in a metal container, find a suitable disposal site. **Never dump fireplace ashes until they have cooled for at least four days.** Even after four days, take great care in selecting a dump site. Always avoid wooded areas.

Proper Disposal of Fireplace Ashes

Garden areas or flower beds are ideal locations to dump cooled fireplace ashes, allowing many nutrients to return to the soil. Please survey the area and evaluate any additional hazards before disposing of your cooled ashes. Make sure to remove all dry leaves from the area before dumping your ashes in either a garden or flower bed that is away from the house. Remember to moisten the area.

Landscaping

Please use approved types of mulch, rocks, and borders for your lawn and garden. The Architectural Standards state the following:

MATERIALS USED – All materials used for all exterior changes (material or otherwise) shall consist of brick, stone, wood, or plant material. Plastic, metal or non-natural colored edging is not permitted.

LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS
Brightly-colored materials, white marble, white or colored rocks, chips or stones and colored/tinted mulch are prohibited. Any landscaping element except for small plants and natural-colored shredded mulch must be approved. Synthetic or carpet-like materials e.g., Astroturf and indoor-outdoor carpet are prohibited.

EDGING/BORDERS – Must be made of natural material (wood, stone, brick) and must be natural in color. Plastic, metal, vinyl or synthetic materials are prohibited.

Committee Reports

Social

The Keene Mill Village social committee is officially underway! The purpose of the committee is to bring our community closer

through social events, activities, and a supportive environment for our neighbors.

We have sent out a survey of proposed social events and would appreciate your input and suggestions. Another aspect of our committee is to welcome new neighbors by providing resource packets with information on area restaurants, services, coupons, and “hot spots.”

The social committee is also working on setting up a system for helping a fellow neighbor who is ill or otherwise homebound, welcoming a new baby, and doing other general acts of kindness. If you do know of a neighbor in need, call Sarah DiGioia at 703-569-1623.

If you are interested in joining the social committee, or would like to assist with events and activities, call Sarah or send her an e-mail at seplu@yahoo.com.

The next meeting of the Social Committee is scheduled for March 6 at 4 p.m. at 6415 Chaney Court.

Architectural Review

The Architectural Review Committee conducted a walk-through of the community on February 12. Those owners/residents who are not in compliance with the Architectural Standards will receive a letter from CAM, our property management company. **If you have an infraction, please correct it by April 30 in order to avoid possible penalties.**

Working with the Architectural Review Committee, the KMV Board has clarified the policy re-

garding trees in the front yard.

Some residents are asking to take down their cherry trees and replace them with a different tree species or not replace them at all. While it is true that some of the cherry trees originally planted in the yards of Keene Mill Village are not thriving, the Architectural Standards require a tree in the front yard.

The KMV Board consulted with AG&E, our landscaping company. AG&E recommends residents plant either a Dogwood tree or an Autumn Glory Maple tree, both of which will have adequate space to grow in the yards of Keene Mill Village, and also will fit aesthetically into the surroundings.

Some yards will not support growth of any type of tree due to the depletion of nutrients from the soil by the Cherry trees. If that is the case, you can take steps to prepare the soil for the planting of a tree. Replenish the soil by adding peat moss and fertilizer. Then aerate the yard.

If you remove a tree, you must replace it within six months.

AG&E is offering a special deal for KMV homeowners to replenish the front yard (adding peat moss and fertilizer and aerating the yard) for a cost of **\$185**. This offer is only valid for homeowners who contact AG&E by April 15. (Please note that this offer does not include the new tree or the planting of a new tree). Homeowners should call Bryan Vaughan, AG&E, at 703-239-0040 to book an appointment.