



Merrifield View Homeowners Association

Managed by POA Management Associates LLC

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HOA Dues Assessment for 2012

The Merrifield View Homeowners Association assessment for 2012 has been set at \$1,188 per unit. The assessment may be paid in several ways:

Monthly Installments: \$99 due by the first day of each month.

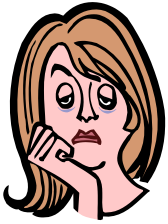
Other: Owners may choose to make a single payment of \$1,188 for the year which would be due by January 1, 2012. They may also pay any number of months in advance as long as they are postmarked within the 30-day grace period of the earliest month being paid.

Coupon Books: Coupon booklets for 2012 are currently being processed and are scheduled to be mailed to each homeowner to the address on file with the Association. While most HOA members receive these in the mail without incident, please contact (703) 938-8761 or poa-management@cox.net if you have not received yours in the mail by December 15. Additionally, please mark the monthly due dates on your calendar, as failure to receive a coupon booklet in the mail will not be an acceptable reason for a waiver of the late charge.

After a 30-day grace period, a \$10 late charge plus interest at the rate of 6% per annum is added to overdue accounts.

Payment Options: If paying by mail, please use the new coupons and the envelopes provided. Note that the mailing address for payments changed this summer to: Merrifield View HOA; c/o POA Management, P. O. Box 105007, Atlanta, GA 30348-5007. Payments mailed to the Merrifield Post Office will be returned to sender. All other correspondence may still be sent to Merrifield.

On-line payments: All homeowners may pay on-line via the HOA website at www.merrifieldview.org. Click the on-line payment option at the top of the home page and it will direct you to the Smartstreet website, the platform for making on-line payments. When accessing Smartstreet via the HOA website, the Merrifield View HOA will automatically fill in as your HOA of choice. Homeowners may either pay by credit card (a \$9.95 fee per transaction) or make one-time payments (no fee) or set up recurring payments (no fee). If setting up recurring payments, homeowners will need to create their own user name and password.



Crabby's Corner

We all thought Dear Crabby had retired (her last column was in April 2008) but, based on the types of emails and phone calls POA Management still receives and our own personal observations, we begged Crabby to come out of retirement to pass along some highly educational information to Merrifield View residents. In fact, in April 2008 Crabby was griping about the same types of issues. Poor Crabby, apparently everyone has forgotten her words of wisdom.

Here's the story; this past Friday, Crabby's friend, the Merrifield View Community Manager (Terri to most of you) was on Balliett Ct. to look at some stuff (signs, trees, the usual). Just like the other streets, Balliett Ct. has a common area pickup point for trash and recyclables. On that day, the Balliett Ct. pickup point had quite an assortment of jumbled up trash and recyclables and, in fact was a perfect storm of what not to do when placing trash and recyclables out. Keeping in mind that American Disposal crews are on a time crunch to pick up trash in many communities and make multiple trips to the landfill, do they have time to sort through everyone's stuff to pick out exactly what is what? No; which is why many times Crabby gets phone calls and emails of complaint that the trash crew didn't pick something up.

So, what was observed on that Friday? Cardboard boxes; one filled with plastic bubble wrap, the other filled with some paper, Styrofoam and some other miscellaneous household items. A pile of flattened boxes with the top box having packaging paper still within. White plastic trash bags; all with drawstrings, but several not cinched shut so that a large hole was at the top for trash to easily fall out of. Mixed within all of that were several recycling bins.

Here are some pictures to beautifully illustrate:



Here's where Crabby's educational information starts: 1) cardboard boxes are recyclable material and are not trash containers; 2) heavy duty wrapping paper is trash; 3) bubble wrap and Styrofoam is trash. 4) If you mix recyclable materials and trash together, neither will get picked up by American Disposal.

Here's what we (I recruited an innocent bystander) had to do that day: we took the wrapping paper, plastic bubble wrap, and Styrofoam (all trash) out of the cardboard boxes (recyclables) and put the trash into trash bags. We flattened the cardboard boxes and put them all in a pile. We cinched up the drawstring bags so the trash would not fall out. We called American Disposal and asked them to return to pick up the now properly situated recyclables.

Really, not that hard to do week to week. On Fridays, when two trucks (trash and recycling) are coming through the community, why

don't we make it easier for them to do their job and the community will actually be

cleaner as a result. Look at each common area pickup point and imagine each one is divided in two parts; one part for recycling, one part for trash. Put all of the recycling materials on one side and all of the trash on the other. If you have recyclables and trash within the same container, or are using a cardboard box for trash, then there is no proper side, meaning you need to separate and contain them properly.

The final thing is that so many are putting out loose light-weight boxes such as cereal and pizza boxes. First, pizza boxes can rarely be recycled because of the grease, so just put them inside a trash bag. Second, even if the light-weight items are weighted down, if the trash truck comes in first, there goes your

anchor and stuff blows around. If you don't want to use a recycling bin, then just purchase large clear plastic trash bags or the blue plastic recycling trash bags (Crabby has purchased them in quantity and will sell them to you at cost. \$20 for 50, 30-gallon blue recycling bags which should last about 1 year). You can co-mingle all recyclables in those bags.

If you have any questions about what can be recycled, either ask Crabby at poa-management@cox.net or go directly to the Fairfax County Government website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling> where they have a detailed list of every possible item and how it should be disposed of.

End of lecture. ***Until next time...keep those cards and letters coming.***

2012 Board of Directors

After the annual meeting of members on October 20, a brief organizational meeting of the new Board was held and the Board officers for 2012 elected. Your 2012 Merrifield View Board of Directors:

Chris Muller, President
2836 Lafora Court

Gary Cecchine, Vice-President
2840 Lafora Court

**Valerie Smith, Treasurer
& Lower Lafora Ct. Rep.**
2858 Lafora Court

Bill Reader, Secretary & Hilltop Rd. Rep.
8533 Hilltop Road

Rob Belote, Balliett Ct. Rep.
2800 Balliett Court

**Cheri Leberknight, Upper Lafora Ct. Rep.
& Landscaping Committee Chair**
2804 Lafora Court

Lilia Ramirez, Director
2801 Evelyn Court

Susan Sullivan, Director & Evelyn Ct. Rep.
2805 Evelyn Court

Thank you to all returning board members, new board members and to outgoing member Bryan Olmos of 2803 Lafora Court for their service on the board. Members unable to attend the annual meeting of members should visit the HOA website at www.merrifieldview.org to review the list of board accomplishments during the past year. It's impressive!

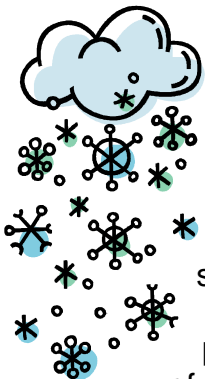


Holiday Trash Collection Schedule

Happy Holidays! As we all enter the busy holiday season, we would like to inform you of American Disposal Services' upcoming collection schedule and inclement weather policies.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day: No planned interruption of services during these holidays.

Christmas Trees Collection: Christmas trees are scheduled to be collected the 1st two Wednesdays in January (January 4 and 11). Remove any tinsel or decorations and do not place trees in plastic bags.



Inclement Weather: As we discovered during several horrific snow storms, trash services can indeed be affected by inclement weather. American Disposal Services makes a determination if roads or areas are unsafe due to snow or ice. While roads within the community may seem perfectly passable, the trash trucks need a lot of stopping and maneuvering room due to their size. Additionally, roads in-between the community and the landfill may be affected more adversely. In any event, American makes the call, and residents must adapt accordingly. Hopefully, we won't have a repeat of last winter's weather. If services are suspended, then they will resume on the next regularly scheduled pick up day.



Asphalt Repairs and Seal Coating

We previously sent out a community-wide email that asphalt repairs and seal coating maintenance work would be completed during late fall 2011 for Hilltop Road and Evelyn Court. The weather cooled down, so the work will be delayed until Spring 2012. More information will be provided closer to the time the work will happen.

Thanksgiving Thoughts and Quotes

The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving. ~H.U. Westermayer

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. ~Meister Eckhart

*He who thanks but with the lips
Thanks but in part;
The full, the true Thanksgiving
Comes from the heart.
~J.A. Shedd*

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. ~Theodore Roosevelt

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie