

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT – FEBRUARY 3, 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The Communications Committee was formed about fourteen years ago soon after the MT website was created. The Committee's purpose was and is to coordinate the efforts of many volunteers who perform various duties to keep our residents well-informed.

NEWS AND VIEWS:

The News & Views is the primary source of current information about our community. It reaches every resident and every homeowner. Please contact Ted Ackley if you wish to receive an email version. You will still receive your paper copy. Upon Ted Ackley's retirement as Editor of the News and Views, we were fortunate to have Carol Blonowicz come on board as our Newsletter Coordinator. The scheduled delivery date for the upcoming month is always listed in the News and Views in the box on the upper left-hand corner of Page 2.

Our News & Views carriers are: Bill Alexandra, Lydia Baraga, Jean & Joe Glavan, Anne Kongvold, Phoebe Lee, Kathy Lindh, Cathy McElroy, Marie Reger, Sheilah Reynolds, Nancy Seeds, Cathy Smith and Mike & Joanna Wilcox.

WEB SITE:

Joseph Martin is our Webmaster and Bruce Williams provides assistance. Your Website contains a vast amount of useful information which we suggest you avail yourselves of. However, since we are always striving to improve and update our website, we are currently working on a policy which will determine the content of the website. We already agreed that the website is informational and not interactive and that it is useful to residents and prospective buyers as it contains the Covenants, Guidelines, Policies, News & Views, and access to forms. Our task over the next few months is to determine what other information should be included such as: Committee minutes, Board minutes, contact information and picture galleries. If you have thoughts on the content of the website, please share them with any member of the Board or the Communications Committee Chair, Mary Schaeffer.

IN MEMORIAM:

Whenever you see the Myrtle Trace flag lowered, which is done by either Sue Rudnicki, Dave Rudnicki or myself, a resident has passed, or we are recognizing certain commemorative days when it is customary to lower the flag. The name of the deceased may be found in the In Memoriam section of the website and it will also be posted at the Clubhouse entrance for three days. Please note that when a resident passes, the HOA offers to donate to a charity of the family's choosing.

GREETERS:

Our official greeters, Donna Ebling & Pam Reinhart, visited 35 new families or individuals during the past year (through November 2023) compared with 33 during the previous year. There have been occasions when the greeters were not aware of a new resident moving in; therefore, it would be appreciated if you would let Donna or Pam know when you get a new neighbor.

DIRECTORY DATABASE/TELEPHONE DIRECTORY:

Lina Janovitz and Linda Guest maintain our community directory database and also mail the News & Views each month to 11 non-resident homeowners. With their assistance, Nancy Southard, Directory Coordinator, will be publishing a new Myrtle Trace phone directory in April and October.

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FLIERS/COMMUNITY CALENDAR/CLUBHOUSE:

Jeanie Rhodes edits the News & Views fliers and Pat Paxson prepares and maintains the Community Calendar which is found on the back page of the News & Views each month. She also handles private reservations for the use of the Clubhouse. The Committee also maintains the bulletin board outside the entrance to the Clubhouse. Ted Ackley, with the assistance of Dennis Arena, manage the Clubhouse copier. Please contact either with any questions prior to any major printing projects or repair issues.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM:

Jon Bourne maintains a database for the Emergency Alert System which is used to inform residents of potentially dangerous situations impacting residents or the community such as wildfires or evacuations. Any resident or homeowner interested in availing themselves of this service should email the Communication Committee Chair to get their name on the list.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (NW)

While the NW team is not a formal security patrol, they were formed to alert visitors, delivery & service drivers that the MT community maintains a presence to ensure nothing is out of the norm. At the present time we have 16 drivers and 1 substitute driver. We remind everyone that an unknown intruder on your property requires a 911 call. The non-emergency police number is always posted in the News & Views. We appreciate the support of all our neighbors and the HOA and always welcome anyone who wishes to join the team. You may contact Ann Golden, NW Coordinator, if interested.

Our drivers are: Joe Depino, Steve Driver, Jeanne Niziol, Liz Maass, Herb Baraga, Linda Guest, Colleen Carter, Tom Kedzierski, Mary L'Heureux, Henry Harrison, Leon Buckley, Les Gerhart, Stu Sides, Linda Dey, Bob Thibodeau and Jenny Jennemann.

I would like to thank all the Committee members, in particular, our Co-Chair, Santo Perry, News & Views carriers and Neighborhood Drivers for their valuable service. They all do a great job. Our Committee assignments are listed on the back page of the Myrtle Trace Directory. Please feel free to call any of us if you have questions or need information.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Johnsen-Schaeffer, Communications Committee Chairperson