

VILLAGES AT FREEDOM GREEN

SO CLOSE FOR SAMUEL LANE

The board met on the third Tuesday of May for their monthly meeting and the one of the topics was fixing the front steps of Samuel Lane. For those who do not venture out much, on Samuel Lane there are several house that have steps raised off the ground going from the road to the front door. It was horrible construction that barely met the required codes and the board has been working over the last year and a half to find builders who can replace it with better quality that would last longer. After hearing the bids that came in an initial vote was taken to pick a builder for the wood work and pillar work. Everything was

looking great and side bar conversations were taking place on how to inform the residents of their close to starting construction but then someone called a timeout in the bottom of the ninth inning! It was realized that we did not have the spec sheets from the bidders to compare the differences in prices and what work would actually be done. Unfortunately we only had 1 bid for the stairs and 2 bids for the pillars and yard work. It was decided by all to have ABC produce the spec sheets and try to get more bids in. When dealing with close to \$35,000 dollars, we have to make sure we have all the information before deciding.

At the next meeting, we will have enough information to hopefully make a decision and get rid of that shoddy construction and something better suited for those residents and community. Stay tuned as I continue to report from the front lines on this matter.



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OPENING DAY AT POOL A SUCCESS

The pool opened on time and it looked fabulous!!! Hats off to Doug Murphy in getting it "swim ready" and looking good. The weather wasn't the best but memorial day it was gorgeous outside and many residents came to the pool. I can tell you

that the official pool season has started when I spotted our very own Jo bringing her lounge chair to her designated spot and setting up shop for the summer. Kids were loud and splashing, parents were smart and enjoyed from the sideline and cool-

ers were near every adult. Now we just need the weather to stay hot. Early swimming starts at 6am and everyday you can catch Doug out there skimming the pool (if you get up early enough).

TOP 5 “WHAT ARE YOU DOING?”

Unfortunately with the warmer weather, more incidents start occurring around the community. Here is some stuff that is not allowed but occurring and clarification of some of the rules. 1. Dogs tied up on owner's porches. Please take the hard right over the easy wrong and keep your pets inside unless taking them for a walk. Dogs barking on the deck annoys your neighbors and is not the best solution for giving your pet some fresh air. 2. Please remind your pet that if he/she wants their pet friend from another neighbor-

hood to sleep over for a few days (or longer), they have to ask permission first. Some owners have 3-4 pets staying at their house when we all know it is only 2 pets maximum unless grandfathered. 3. Everyone enjoys different music so please do not push your taste onto other people. When at the pool, keep it low or use headphones. 4. Teenagers can enjoy the pool by themselves if they are over 16 years old, but they cannot bring guests in unless they have a unit owner over 18 with them. 5. Pool cards cannot be given to

friends, relatives or guests to use the pool without you being there. So a lot of pool incidents this month but if we all have courtesy for one another, understand the rules and just do the right thing it will be a great summer.



UPCOMING APPROVED PROJECTS

The board recently selected New Look Painting as the company selected to paint several of our houses. New Look painted some houses back in 2007 and has agreed to do a combination of sprayed on and hand brushed. The houses being painted are 1-12 Federal Square, 4-7 and 11-12 Lebanon Square, 1-10 Liberty Drive, 1-3 Ft Griswold and 72-75 Independence Dr. They should start in late June or early July and continue through the month.

The board is aggressively looking at sidewalks this month to determine an order of merit list to help with deciding which sidewalks get fixed first. ABC group and the board will be walking around the community this week to examine and look at everyone's sidewalks. At the next board meeting hopefully, we can make a decision on which sidewalks get repaired this summer so we can go out to bid for the right company to help us.

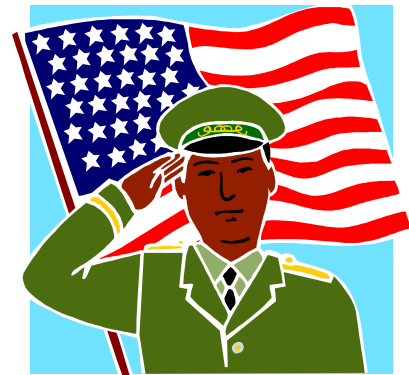
Several utility boxes and signs will be receiving some landscaping love in the very near future as we continue to beautify our community. The lucky winners are Samuel Lane 46 utility box and a nice planting bed around the sign at nutmeg court. If you happen to walk by the sign and utility box please inform them that they will be receiving a facelift very soon. As we look in the future, more utility boxes will be examined against the budget to see who the next lucky winners are.

HOW I SPENT MY MEMORIAL WEEKEND

As a career Soldier, Father and Husband, I have never been around to actually celebrate Memorial Day before. I would normally be deployed or training away from the house so this year I think I did what most American's do. I tried valiantly to talk my wife into coming with me and my son for his baseball tournament in Newburgh, NY for the weekend but instead of being cooped up in a hotel for 3 days, she stayed home to enjoy the pool with our 4 year old. We packed the car and took off heading down 84 west until we reached our destination. The weather for us was nice and sunny, while my wife kept calling with overcast news back home. The "I told you to come" didn't go over well with her. My brother drove up from NJ to see his nephew and

brother and we enjoyed two days of watching my ten year old play his heart out against good competition. The team battled all weekend while we sat in the sun eating hotdogs and drinking gatorade cheering them on. When all was said and done, our team finished 6th out of 14 and on Sunday evening around midnight we pulled in to a sleeping family. On Memorial day, we worked the yard a little (trying to get my grass to grow) and spent much of the day swimming in the pool and enjoying the weather and company of our neighbors. In the evening our close friends came over for steaks and corn and watched the kids play wiffle ball in my driveway. What struck me as odd and caught me off guard though was when my friends kids came over and

said thank you for your service to me. What a great way to spend my memorial day; the first in 18 years. The only thing I missed was the parade but after 2 years, I still cannot find the town center of Mansfield Center. My town growing up had lights and a memorial park and little shops down main street. If you know where our town center is, please drop off a strip map so I can enjoy it next year. Thanks to all who serve or have served and thanks to the residents who have been so kind to me and my family. How did you spend your weekend?



MULCH MADNESS AND SHRUBS

Some requests have been coming into the ABC Group and board asking about mulch and their yards or gardens. Just to clarify, if you built your own flower bed or garden then it is your responsibility to maintain; even if you purchased a house that was done already. The association and community will

only mulch common beds and areas like our entrance signs and around the electric boxes and such. Like the grass this year, unit owners are responsible for maintaining their flower beds. On the good news side of the house, we are compiling a list of which shrubs need to be pulled and replaced since they have outgrown

their welcome here. We have budgeted for and are planning on replacing many shrubs this summer. If you know of a shrub that needs replaced, please email the ABC Group with a good description of where it is so we can come and take a look at it so we prioritize accurately!

S E A R C H I N G F O R A G O O D A S S I S T A N T

The board is in need of a good pool assistant to work and learn from Doug Murphy during the season. After seeing all the hard work and technical knowledge you need to help maintain our pool, it was decided at the last meeting to begin a search to train an alternate to Doug in-case he decides to take a break and actually go on vacation or in case he is under the weather for some time. If you are interested in becoming the next Freedom Green Pool person, please let Doug know so we can get you trained up!

P O W E R W A S H I N G A N D P R U N I N G U P D A T E

Power washing is set to begin any day now and we want to remind those residents that when you see the trucks in front of your house to ensure your windows are locked tight so no water comes in and if you have any flowers or plants hanging near your house, you might want to move them until they are done. Power Washing is scheduled from 1-15 June. Pruning is also set to begin this month and as they walk around trimming the trees and shrubs, we would like to remind all residents to please ensure that water hoses and such are not laying around the shrubs as they work. If possible, please unhook them when not in use and keep them stored away from the shrubs. Thanks!!!!

P A I N T I N G Q U E S T I O N S F R O M T H E G R O U P

Several residents have recently asked about color schemes and desires to paint their doors, windows, and decks different colors as new residents come in with different styles and others just want something new and fresh in their eyes. Unfortunately, when living in a community like ours, residents are not authorized to deviate too much on the exterior of the buildings. When staining your deck, the by laws state that you must ensure it is water resistant stain. As far as the outside of your house, the doors and windows will be painted to their original color every 5 years in accordance with our painting schedule. As a community we must ensure that we remain consistent with the original plans of the development and community. Residents are free to express their taste of color to the insides of the house but the outside will remain with the association to keep the colors looking fresh and tasteful.

S O L I C I T A T I O N I N F R E E D O M G R E E N

Several requests and complaints have come to the board's attention on clarifying the solicitation policy. We are currently drafting up an explanation of what is allowed and what is not and we should have an article on it in the July newsletter. Right now, if you are trying to get word out about your business or an opportunity you must mail it to the residents and are not allowed to post advertisements or handouts. Anything profit related must go through the postal system. If you are unsure, please submit your request to the ABC group and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

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D O N ' T F O R G E T T H E S E D A T E S

MAY 4TH AND 14TH: POOL CARD KEY REACTIVATION (6-8PM)
MAY 15H: DON'T PRUNE MY SHRUBS AND TREES LIST DUE TO ABC
MAY 22ND TO 25TH: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (POOL TIME)
JUNE 1ST: OPEN SEASON TO TURN IN PET REGISTRATIONS TO ABC
JUNE 6TH: FREEDOM GREEN TAG SALE (8AM-2PM) RAIN OR SHINE
JULY 15TH: DEADLINE FOR PET REGISTRATIONS TO ABC
SEPTEMBER 1ST: OPEN SEASON TO TURN IN CHIMNEY INSPECTION FORMS TO ABC
OCTOBER 1ST: DEADLINE TO TURN IN CHIMNEY FORMS TO ABC
OCTOBER 31ST: ALL OF CONNECTICUT COMES TO FREEDOM GREEN FOR HALLOWEEN

GOOD IDEA STUFF TO REMEMBER:
CLEAN YOUR DRYER VENTS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

EVEN IF YOU DON'T OWN A PET OR USE YOUR FIREPLACE, WE STILL NEED THE FORM TURNED IN.

PLEASE DON'T MISS THE DEADLINES

T E N N I S U P D A T E

The tennis court has been re-surfaced and is back in business. The gate is still an issue as it has reached it's limit on functioning so we are in the process of getting a new one with a lock and key system. The company replacing the gate is the same one that did our fences around the pool last summer. A separate notice will be going out to all residents with procedures on how to obtain a key for the courts. Game, Set, Match.....the court is almost back to new!!!

R E S I D E N T O N T H E M O N T H

This month we are lucky enough to celebrate some young and talented men and women as they complete one chapter of their life and begin the next. Several of our residents have finished a set of schooling and are getting ready for the next. This month we celebrate Courtney Lawlor, Eri Semerzakis, Harry Eun, Damian Pinion, and Elizabeth Tucker. Courtney, Eri and Harry have finished high school at E.O. Smith and all three have chosen colleges around our Nation to further their education. Courtney has been accepted to UNC Charlotte to study nursing, Harry has been accepted to Michigan State and Eri will be attending Pratt College in NY to study Art Design. Damian and Elizabeth have completed their first phase of schooling at Annie Vinton Elementary and go from the big kids in the school to the new kids when they attend Mansfield Middle School. We wish all five of you the best of luck as you pursue your dreams for the future. We will miss our college students but look forward to seeing you again.

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