

FIRST QUARTER 2022

WOOD VALLEY NEWS

Official Newsletter of the
Wood Valley Homeowners Association

Happy New Year!

We hope this first newsletter of 2022 finds you and your family safe and healthy. As we continue through the pandemic, we appreciate the things that make our community strong, including our collective efforts to connect and support each other and prioritize the safety and health of our neighborhood.

In this edition, you will find friendly reminders, seasonal tips, and opportunities to get involved in the surrounding community. Additionally, the Board is pleased to share shout outs to great neighbors, and a summary of 2021 neighborhood activities.

Stay well and have a wonderful start to the year!

2022

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2021 Year in Review: Highlights

As we start a new year, the Board would like to take a moment and reflect on progress made in 2021. We met regularly to discuss, plan and carry out the duties of the association. The Board developed and disseminated a survey and evaluated results from 90 respondents. A report of the survey results including key takeaways was produced and distributed to homeowners. Thank you to all participants. We received important feedback that has been very helpful in our efforts to provide value, enjoyment and support to the neighborhood.

The following highlights some of our work in 2021 utilizing the survey report categories.

Participation and Social Activities

ANNUAL MEETING

- Some respondents showed a desire to participate in an Annual Meeting. The Board implemented one on Aug. 17 to provide an opportunity for those who wished to attend per the bylaws.
- The meeting allowed neighbors to build community, meet others in Wood Valley, receive updates on association activities, and have community discussion.
- We greatly appreciate the Meridian Township Fire Department and Officer Heinemann for attending the meeting, providing updates, and allowing children to explore a fire truck, ambulance and police vehicle. We are grateful for their continued services and support of our community throughout the year.
- Culver's frozen custard and children's activities were available.
- Attendees were also invited to bring non-perishable food donations for a neighborhood food drive. The food collected was donated to the Haslett Food Pantry housed at Haslett Community Church.
- **Public comments included:**
 - Reminders about the association bylaws regarding boats and recreational units. Some types of recreational vehicles may be in violation with Meridian Township ordinances.
 - Home care tips such as removing tree limbs and vegetation that may be blocking sidewalks.
 - Ways to stay more connected to other close neighborhoods, and our greater area.
- **Please continue to follow the bylaws. Remember we are all a reflection of our neighborhood.**
 - Residents are encouraged to dedicate time and resources to ensure their homes are well-cared for.
 - If a resident has an issue with speeders, noise complaints (e.g., barking dogs, fireworks, loud music) or parking complaints, they are encouraged to first discuss the matter with all parties involved.
 - If no resolution can be safely obtained, we encourage residents to explore appropriate next steps such as filing a complaint with Meridian Township for code violation, or contacting the police at their non-emergency number.
 - The Board is available to consult with homeowners in non-emergency issues as to what next steps may be available based on what organization has authority to intervene. In places where the Board can assist, such as sending out reminders or letters, we can do so as the Boards deems appropriate.
- Thank you to all those who participated in the meeting.

2021 Year in Review: Highlights

Participation and Social Activities

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Homeowners were interested in a variety of community events. The top activities included a community garage sale, a picnic/ice cream at the park and a winter or holiday activity.
 - The annual garage sale was held June 18-19. The Board placed newspaper and online ads, and set up neighborhood signs.
 - An ice cream social was part of the Annual Meeting on Aug. 17.
 - Holiday activities were offered for Independence Day, including neighborhood home decorating with goodie bags provided for children in the park.
- Thank you to all those who participated in these events.

Community Enhancement Ideas

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Some homeowners included feedback on enhancing the park area, such as cleaning the overgrowth and possibly adding a playground.
- **Park feedback:**
 - Homeowners noted and expressed a concern with overgrowth in the park. Some residents shared that the pathway in the common area was closing in. Board members surveyed the areas and worked with Cherithbrook to clear overgrowth and widen the path.
 - Thank you to homeowners for comments regarding lawn and snow removal issues.
- **Playground research:**
 - The Board researched liability insurance costs, maintenance upkeep, and the number and proximity of local playgrounds available in our area.
 - Given this research, the Board has determined it would be in support of adding simple play equipment to the park such as soccer nets to increase physical activity opportunities.



2021 Year in Review: Highlights

Community Enhancement Ideas

ENTRANCE SIGN LIGHTING

- Homeowners included comments on the survey regarding the types of lighting that could work best.
- Board members researched lighting types and then tested several to determine the best approach.
- The Board has determined that two sets of warm solar lights for each side work best for illumination of the sign and aesthetics.
- Lights are being purchased and installed.



Communications

The Board focused on updating communication methods and providing information on a variety of topics through different modes.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

- Our association website, woodvalleyhomeowners.com, was rebuilt and redesigned this year.
- Additionally, the Board took over ownership of the backend of the website from a prior third party vendor to reduce website costs, and oversee necessary updates and security of the platform.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTERS, SURVEYS AND REPORTS

- In 2021, the Board was excited to utilize a survey, newsletters, and reports to provide homeowners with information and receive valuable input from residents.
- For example, some survey respondents indicated that they would like to know about community events, so township resources have been included as links on our website and in the newsletters.
- Additionally, it was reported that some homeowners were not aware of the closed neighborhood Facebook group. In response, it has been promoted on our website and in newsletters.

WELCOME LETTERS TO NEW NEIGHBORS

- We were pleased to welcome many new homeowners to the neighborhood this past year.
- We updated our letter to include cards for free family meals from Culver's as a welcoming gift.

Welcome

The Wood Valley Neighborhood continues to be a great place to live. Homeowners frequently mention having friendly neighbors, great common and preserved areas, a quiet walkable community, and pride in ownership. Our standing traditions and a few small changes showcase the strength of our community. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve homeowners. We look forward to another wonderful year!



Neighbor Spotlights

Please join in thanking the following neighbors (in alphabetical order) for their time and service to our neighborhood:

- **Jeremy Baragar** - Special thanks to Jeremy for storing and hanging wreaths at our front entrance sign. We greatly appreciate Jeremy's work to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful.
- **Lauren Dyer** - Special thanks to Lauren for creating and moderating the neighborhood Facebook group. We greatly appreciate Lauren's work to keep our neighborhood connected.
- **Maureen and Rick Fellows** - Special thanks for cleaning, planting and watering the flowers in the park and at the front entrance on Spring Mill. We greatly appreciate Maureen and Rick's work to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful.
- **Ron Perry** - Special thanks to Ron for watering the flowers in the park and sharing helpful tips in the neighborhood Facebook group. We greatly appreciate Ron's work to keep us informed and to enhance the neighborhood.
- **Dany Rothfeld** - Special thanks to Dany for cleaning debris from the pond. We greatly appreciate Dany's work to keep the area beautiful.
- The Wood Valley Neighborhood continues to be a safe and sought after neighborhood for Halloween trick or treating. Thank you to all community members who participated in making this a special and safe event for children.
- **To our Board members** - special thanks to our hard working members Leah Ball, Mark Epolito, Brittany Risk, Zack Risk, and Dan Wood for their dedication to our community.
- **To all homeowners** - special thanks for making Wood Valley a great place to live!

Nominate a Neighbor

We invite you to nominate a neighbor and share a short story of how they have supported or inspired our neighborhood or communities. Please send nominations to the Board at woodvhoa@gmail.com.

Thank
you!





Annual Dues Reminder

As a reminder, the annual dues payment of \$80 for each homeowner is due by March 1, 2022. Invoices have been sent to each homeowner. Please submit payment by the deadline to avoid unnecessary fees to be assessed pursuant to our bylaws. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

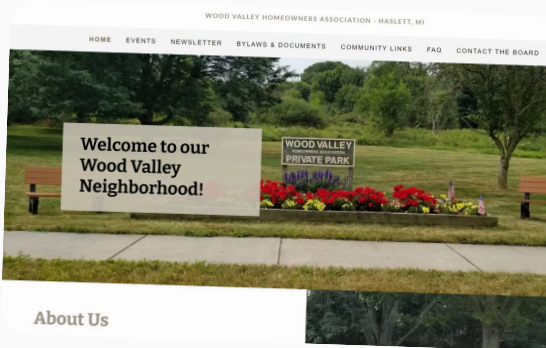
Neighborhood Directory

The Board is working to update and disseminate a new neighborhood directory. The Board may begin emailing a PDF copy of the neighborhood directory to homeowners. Please note this as you complete and return the bottom of your dues invoice to update your contact information, including directory preferences. Subdivision maps will be included, and they can also be found on the [WVHOA website](#). A new directory will be provided to each homeowner in the coming months.

WVHOA Website and Facebook Group

The WVHOA website can be accessed at woodvalleyhomeowners.com. The site contains previous newsletters, WVHOA bylaws and deed restrictions, boundary and street maps, and links to Haslett Public Schools and the Meridian Township and Ingham County Governments.

Residents can access the WVHOA Neighborhood Facebook group by going to facebook.com and searching for “Wood Valley Haslett Neighborhood” in the search bar at the top of the page. It is a private, closed group for Wood Valley homeowners. The group is moderated by homeowner Lauren Dyer.



Board and Committee Positions

The Board did not receive any interest from homeowners to serve for fall 2021 through fall 2022 by the Sept. 15 deadline. Therefore, the current Board continues to serve and complete essential functions. Please email the Board at woodvhoa@gmail.com if you are interested in serving or volunteering for the maintenance or community committees.



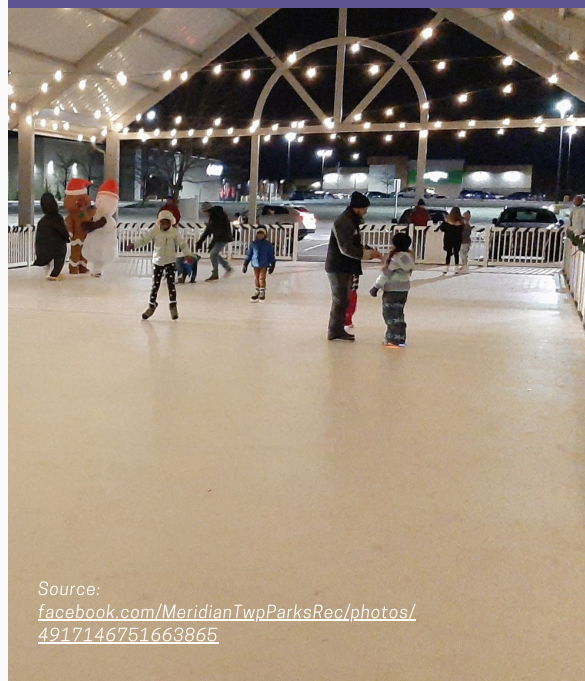
Home Care Tips

It is important to understand that we are all a reflection of our neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to dedicate time and resources to ensure that their homes are well-cared for. Additionally, residents are asked to check their property and address safety concerns related to landscaping. Please address snow and ice removal as appropriate throughout the winter months. If using a snow blower, please do not blow snow into the road. Please note that our snow removal contract for common areas is triggered by two or more inches of snowfall.

Community Activities

If you're looking for activities to make the most of the season, visit the Meridian Township website. The Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau also shares opportunities in the area. Utilize the resources below to learn more about parks, trails and activities in our township.

- **Artificial Ice Rink**
 - meridian.mi.us/Home/Components/News/News/5324
- **Parks Directory**
 - meridian.mi.us/community/explore-meridian/parks
- **Farmers' Market**
 - meridian.mi.us/community/explore-meridian/meridian-farmers-market
- **Harris Nature Center**
 - meridian.mi.us/community/explore-meridian/harris-nature-center
- **Dog Parks**
 - meridian.mi.us/about-us/departments/parks-recreation/dog-parks



Source:
facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec/photos/4917146751663865



Important Reminders: Bylaws and Deed Restrictions

The following are friendly reminders that are relevant for the current season:

Recreational and Commercial Vehicles

The Wood Valley bylaws and deed restrictions do not allow for any type of recreational or commercial vehicles to be stored in driveways or on properties for any extended period of time, even if they are behind a fence. In addition to the Association's bylaws and deed restrictions, the parking and/or storing of certain types of vehicles, including boats and recreational units, utility trailers and/or containers, may also be in violation of Meridian Township ordinances. Parking automobiles or any other type of vehicle on lawns or illegally is strictly prohibited under Township ordinance.

Neighborhood Park and Common Area

The neighborhood park and common area is open to all Wood Valley residents for family gatherings or social events, fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities. Please note that residents are responsible for cleanup. This includes cleaning up after pets.

Dogs must always be kept on a leash per Township ordinance, including in the neighborhood park and common areas. Please be mindful of the property boundaries of homeowners whose properties border the park/common area. A boundary map is available on the Association website at woodvalleyhomeowners.com.

Additional Notes

Wood Valley residents may file a complaint with the Township if they believe a homeowner is in violation of a Township ordinance. The complaint may be filed by name or anonymously. To do so, go to the Meridian Township home page at www.meridian.mi.us, click on the "Government" tab at the top the page and then select "Code Enforcement" inside the drop down box.

If a resident has an issue with speeders, noise complaints, such as barking dogs, fireworks, loud music, or parking complaints, they are encouraged to first discuss the matter with the parties involved. If no resolution can be safely obtained it is suggested that residents contact the police at their non-emergency number: 517-332-6526. Always call 911 in emergencies.

Current WVHOA Board Members and Contact Information

President: Brittany Risk | Secretary: Leah Ball | Treasurer: Zachary Risk
Trustee: Mark Epolito | Trustee: Dan Wood

Homeowners may contact the Board with their questions or correspondence via email at woodvhoa@gmail.com or by mail at WVHOA Board, P.O. Box 52, Haslett, Michigan 48840.