

McNeill News

Autumn 2014

They All Come Tumbling Down



We have come to the end of another summer. The landscapers will do one major **leaf pick-up** after most of the leaves have fallen.

Remember that *you* are responsible for cleaning up any planted flowerbeds around your unit.

Trash Talk

Garbage cans and other trash should be put out at the curb for pick-up no earlier than Wednesday evening. After pick-up, cans must be stored out of sight from the front of the building **no later than Friday afternoon.** They should not be visible from the street at any other time. If you do not follow these rules you will be fined.

Traffic

There are increasing concerns about traffic incidents on the property. **Stop signs** are in place to prevent accidents at intersections. **Speed limits** are set to prevent hitting pedestrians. You *can* be stopped and ticketed for reckless operation on our property. And people who speed through the property, run stop signs, are blatantly discourteous, or recklessly operate their vehicles on the property can be fined up to \$300. Be a safe and courteous driver.



Outdoor Fires

Relaxing around a backyard fire sounds like a great way to spend a fall evening. Please be aware that the Ohio Fire Code states that **outdoor fireplaces** (chimineas, fire pits, etc.) must be at least 15 feet away from a structure or combustible material.

Propane or charcoal **grills** must be at least ten feet away. A fire extinguisher or other means of fighting a fire must be present when either of these is in use.

Protect our property, possessions, and lives by following the fire safety regulations.

McNeill Farms Christmas Party

Join us at the Clubhouse for our **annual holiday party** at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2014 following the end of year Association meeting.

The festivities will include a white elephant gift exchange, and an ugly Christmas sweater contest. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Changes to Snow Removal



None of us wants to, but with colder weather approaching we have to think about snow. Starting in autumn of 2014 the snow removal policy will be slightly changed. **All unit owners are now responsible for removing snow/ice from their own sidewalk and stoop (porch) in front of their unit.** If you are unable to do so due to a handicap or medical condition, submit a statement confirming the situation to the property manager's office at the Clubhouse so it can be directed to the Board member in charge of snow removal.

In general, snow removal is initiated after 2.5 inches has fallen. During and after a snow event **DO NOT** park in front of the mailboxes. Keep in mind that any place that a vehicle is parked cannot be cleared of snow.

Cold Weather Reminders and Tips

Heating - Safely make the most of heating resources.

- Make sure furniture isn't blocking heating vents.
- Close doors to unused rooms and use a rolled up towel to block the crack at the bottom.
- When using heating sources, such as your fireplace, or a space heater, take safety precautions. Keep a fire extinguisher handy. Be sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working.
- Do not warm up your car in the garage, even if the garage door is open. Carbon monoxide can accumulate and seep into your living space.

Plumbing - Owners are responsible for their plumbing and thus for water damage to their unit and possessions as well as damage to their neighbors' if pipes break.

- Disconnect hoses from outside valves.
- Set thermostats no lower than 65°F.

- Do not shut off utilities during cold temperatures. If your unit must be empty have it properly winterized.
- Make sure you have sufficient insurance to cover the insides and contents of your unit.

General Safety

- When outdoors, walk carefully and be aware of uneven or slippery surfaces under your feet.
- Wash hands frequently to prevent the spread of colds and flu.

2015 Clubhouse Passes

New Clubhouse Passes will be issued beginning December 1, 2014. *All* residents are required to bring proof of residence and a photo ID in order to have their pass renewed or get a new pass. After Sunday, February 15, 2015 no one will be admitted to the exercise room or pool without a new pass.

Keep Fit During the Cold Months

The Clubhouse is open all year to help you stay healthy and in shape. In addition to the weights and other equipment, a DVD player is available for aerobic exercise or yoga workouts. If you are interested in finding others to workout with, sign the sheet on the Clubhouse bulletin board. We have a great facility. Come up and use it!

Clubhouse hours are 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the weekend.

CRAFTS, GAMES, MOVIES & MORE

McNeill Farms has a **Social Committee** whose projects have included decorating the Clubhouse for holidays and the Annual Christmas Party. Some of our residents would like to take this group further along. Ideas have been presented to start a card club, movie and theater outings, knit/crochet club, crafts, progressive dinner parties, and so forth. Anyone interested in joining this group, can leave their contact information at the Clubhouse.

Responsible Pet Ownership

Last Friday I walked my dogs on the north walking path, and wound up picking up 21 piles of dog feces, and I am sure I missed some. Monday I walked the same path and picked up another seven. Today I picked up five more. If the walking path is this bad I cannot imagine how bad the rest of the community is. It is a health issue, not to mention cleanliness! The

Board will continue to fine residents who fail to clean up after their dogs and can take action to **legally remove individual dogs from the community if owners cannot clean up after them.** This is your responsibility.

Home Decorating



Remember that holiday decorations should be displayed no earlier than Thanksgiving and must be taken down by January 15.

Resident Author

McNeill Farms East Resident Ava Bleu announces the release of her edgy, inspirational romance, **Glorious Sunset** (amazon .com and barnesandnoble.com.) Subscribe to Ava's mailing list at www.avableu.com (book club name McNeill) within 30 days of this newsletter to enter to win a free, autographed copy.

Food Bank Donations

Non-perishable food items for donation to the Pataskala food bank can be dropped off at the Clubhouse during regular operating hours. We will make sure it gets to the bank.

Reporting Security Issues

Report suspicious or criminal activity to the Columbus Police at 645-4545 (for non-emergencies). The Board of Directors and Case Bowen do not have the legal authority to make arrests or detain anyone.

Property Manager's Hours on Site

Jody Rine is on site most Tuesdays (by appointment) and Thursdays (open office hours) from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact her at (614) 799-9800 extension 17 or via e-mail at jrine@casebowen.com.

Reporting Maintenance Issues

Report external maintenance issues to the property manager as soon as possible. Forms can be found at the Clubhouse, at www.mcneillfarms.com, or send a detailed e-mail to Jody at jrine@casebowen.com

Community Information

Web site: www.mcneillfarms.com

Twitter: [@McNeil Farms](https://twitter.com/McNeilFarms)

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/McNeillFarmsCondos>

Submit newsletter ideas or articles in writing to the Clubhouse or to Jody at jrine@casebowen.com.