

Vanderhaven Farm Condominium Association

January 2024

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

Scott Alpaugh Chris Paparteys Carol Kieffer Rafal Lankamer Gary Corn James O'Donnell Rahul Sekaran

COMMITTEES

All committees are seeking additional members.

ADR Active

Architectural Control - James O'Donnell Grounds - James O'Donnell

WEBSITE

www.vanderhavenfarm.com

MANAGEMENT

Premier Management Associates Phone: 908-707-0760 • Fax: 908-722-6966

After Hours Emergency: 732-390-1100 Please use this number for true common area emergencies only.

Office Hours:

Mon., Tue.,Wed., Fri. 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

MEETINGS

Board Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Anyone wishing to have an issue placed on the agenda must request it in writing and supply Management with the necessary paperwork by the Thursday before the meeting. The next Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 PM. Please feel free to join us for our meetings!



The Board Box

Happy New Year to everyone and wishing all a healthy and prosperous 2024!

Thank you to all who turned out for our Meet and Greet in September and thank you to Premier Management for sponsoring the event! It was a great time and such a pleasure meeting so many fellow residents. We hope everyone enjoyed the pastries and ice cream truck as much as we did. The Board and the Property Management team welcomed your thoughts, ideas, opinions, and concerns. Everything will be taken into consideration.

The Board completed and adopted the 2024 budget and we are excited to share that, as "promised" last year, **there will not be any increase to the 2024 Maintenance Fees!** Given the increased costs for goods and services, a large increase in operating expenses (services and insurance), and the general cost of living, this is no small accomplishment. Moving forward, it should be anticipated that small annual increases will be the norm to coincide with increases in costs. Be assured that the Board is and will continue to work diligently to review contracts and solicit bids to ensure that the Association is getting the best products and services.

With the winter comes early evenings, snow and ice. Please be extra mindful of this when going about the day. Children may be playing in snow banks or pedestrians and animals may suddenly cross on roadways. It takes longer to stop as roads and intersections may be slick, and pedestrians and motorists may not be easily seen. Be mindful of the conditions, stop signs, and speed limits in the development. *Continued on page 2*

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The Board is working aggressively with our property manager to reign in violations that have been ongoing in the community. Violation warnings, notices, and fines are not personal. They are intended to ensure that the community remains consistent, and that rules and regulations are followed. Please, be respectful to be good residents and good neighbors.

We are excited and pleased to welcome our new on-site Property Manager, **Yamila Izquierdo**. With her extensive experience in Real Estate and Property Management, we are thrilled to have her join us and look forward to her being a valuable member of the Vanderhaven Farm community.

As we all look forward to an exciting 2024, we invite everyone to attend our Open Meetings every month. Our next Open Meeting being January 18, 2024 at 6:30PM in the clubhouse. The Board welcomes volunteers to aid and assist in a wide range of projects. Feel free to reach out to Yamila at the clubhouse office to volunteer or express your interest. We can use help on all committees, and the vast wealth of knowledge in this community is wasted if you don't share, so please consider volunteering a bit of your time to make your community better for you, your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you,

The Vanderhaven Farm Homeowners Association Board

HOA Meeting

The next Board of Trustees Open Meeting will be on January 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. You are encouraged to attend. Please call or email our Property Manager, Yamila at 908-707-0760, or yizquierdo@premiermanagement. net with any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the meeting.

Before You Dig



If you plan to do any digging around your unit, even if just for shrubs or flowers, PLEASE call 811 several days in advance to allow PSE&G to stake and mark the area and ensure that it is safe to dig. Many utilities can be found near the surface, so it is always better to be safe than sorry.





Volunteers Needed

The board is seeking volunteers for committees to be a part of the community and help in the planning and decisions moving forward. Residents can put in as much or as little time as they like because every bit helps! The committees are:

- House & Recreation plans activities for the community
- Violations and Covenants assist fellow residents and management in ensuring better awareness of problems and community concerns
- Buildings and Grounds
- Finance
- Communications assists with the planning of community announcements and information for the newsletter and website

The current board members volunteer their time to Vanderhaven Farms, so the entire community would benefit from more residents getting involved. We hope to have some volunteers for these committees, so there will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting.

Work Order Requests

Work order requests must be called in, emailed or completed on the website. If you have any issues, questions, or complaints about a contractor working at Vanderhaven Farms, please contact the property manager at 908-707-0670 or yizquierdo@premiermanagement. net.



Please Don't Feed Stray Cats!

Yes, it's fun to do! Many people feel good doing it and think they're helping the cats. They get a warm fuzzy feeling inside. But feeding stray cats hurts them and keeps them in the area to kill songbirds and chipmunks with abandon!

Feeding stray cats also results in cases of diseased and malnourished packs of stray cats because feeding causes them to get together and become dependent on human feeding. They then breed like crazy so that you've got a lot of cats in one small area, they fight, they spread disease between each other, and the population grows too large to feed. When the overwhelmed human stops feeding them, they all starve. Cats are natural hunters and will find their own food. Leaving food out also attracts other types of animals, like raccoons, mice, and foxes, and no one wants them around!

Please walk dogs on the curb side to avoid damaging the grass by homes, and please always clean up after your dog.

Holiday Decoration Guidelines

The Association would like to remind homeowners about our Holiday Decoration Guidelines. Residents may display holiday decorations during appropriate times only.

Decorations <u>must be removed</u> between holidays. Any deviations from this will need approval from the Board. NO DECORATIONS CAN BE ATTACHED WITH BRACKETS AFFIXED TO THE COMMON AREAS (WOOD) OF THE CONDOS.

FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN NEW JERSEY AND ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE PROPERTY.

•Property Management Contact information•

For Onsite Office – Yamila at 908-707-0760 or yizquierdo@premiermanagement.net For True Common Area Emergencies Only – 732-390-1100

Trash

There is **NO PICKUP** on the following holidays:

New Year's Day Memorial Day/Monday Fourth of July Labor Day/Monday Thanksgiving Christmas Day

If your pickup day falls on one of these holidays, service will resume on the next scheduled pickup day.

Trash is collected 3 days a week (Monday, Thursday and Saturday). Pick up can run late or early, depending on the load for the day and the driver's schedule. To avoid missing the pickup, put your trash can out one half hour before sunset the evening before the pickup.

Make sure your trash bags are tied and in a trash can. Be sure the trash cans have lids that close. Open lids can attract small animals to the trash cans and exposes the trash to the elements. Make sure your can is large enough to contain all your garbage. NO TRASH IS TO BE LEFT ON THE GROUND IN BAGS OR YOU WILL RECEIVE A FINE.

All cans need to have an address on them or they will be disposed of. If you are missing a can, check with the office at 908-707-0760.

DO NOT LEAVE GARBAGE BY ANYONE ELSE'S HOME.

Townhouse homeowners are **not** permitted to use the dumpsters. If a townhouse homeowner does so, they will be fined as camera footage is viewed by management.

Trash cans must be brought in the night of a pick-up (Monday, Thursday, and Saturday) and cannot remain in front of units into the day following a collection or you will receive a fine.



Here is some additional information from our trash hauler: What can I throw out on my pickup days?

Residential trash services are for regular household trash, which is essentially household waste that is commonly generated on a daily basis that include, but are not limited to, food and non-recyclable paper items. Cardboard, glass, bottles, newspapers, and other recyclables should be separated. We can take larger items, clean-ups, and construction debris, but these must be scheduled with the company.

Are there any items that you cannot take?

Yes. Hazardous materials, items containing Freon, televisions, computers, tires, concrete, large amounts of cooking oil, batteries and wet paint are all examples of items that we cannot accept. However if you are having trouble finding a place to dispose of these items you may call Grand Sanitation.

What is Bulk Pickup/Bulk Collection?

Bulk waste pickup is a special pickup for bulky waste / bulky household items. Furniture removal, appliance removal, junk removal, and construction debris removal would all fall into this category. If you are in need of any of these services, please call our office at 908-222-1566 to schedule a removal of these items.





Recycling January 3, 17 & 31

Recycling is picked up every two weeks. Please flatten and secure your cardboard and put the cans away the same day of the pickup. No cardboard is to be placed in the dumpsters or garbage cans! All recycling **MUST BE** in a can or secure container.

If you need to dispose of recycling before the pick-up date, the first Saturday of every month you can take it to the Somerset County Recycling Center at 40 Polhemus Lane in Bridgewater.

CONDO UNIT OWNERS: No garbage bags are to be stored on the balcony, patio or near your front door. Place bags inside dumpsters. Do not leave garbage bags on the ground. No cardboard boxes or recycling in the dumpsters.

There are many charitable organizations that take donations of furniture and household goods.

Homeowners should follow these rules without exception. Homeowners should take pride in the appearance of their community. Those who fail to do so will be sent violations that can escalate to fines.

Clubhouse Available to Rent

When planning your parties, don't forget that the clubhouse can be rented by any resident in good standing! Contact the office today to make your reservation.



Association Insurance Information

We have a high number of new homeowners buying into our wonderful community! Welcome to all the new homeowners. Please be sure to complete the census form and contact the management office for your parking decals.

The Association would like to inform Vanderhaven homeowners of their responsibility regarding insurance. Our hope is to educate homeowners on what the Association is responsible for, specifically regarding insurance. This way, homeowners are not overpaying for coverage that is not needed.

In the event of a large loss to a unit, the homeowner's insurance is responsible for the following items:

- Association deductible
- Personal belongings
- Any improvements made to the unit after the initial construction of the building.

All other damages will be covered by the Association's insurance. The details to this can be sent to homeowners individually, upon request. Please reach out to Management at 908-707-0760 or by email yizquierdo@ premiermanagement.net.

Attached/Hanging Items

Residents may not hang clothes, laundry, rugs or other items from lights, windows, facades, railings, patios, balconies, decks, privacy fences, etc. **Hanging item exception – lower-level condo owners may hang up to two hanging plants on the wood beam structure on the patio. Plants must be hung at least two feet above railing and must be hung on white "L" brackets. Plants must be maintained throughout the season and removed from December – March or a violation will be issued. No hanging vegetable plants allowed. Second floor condo residents may not hang any items from their railings due to safety concerns.



Mailboxes

Homeowners are reminded to transfer the mailbox keys to a new owner or new tenant when selling their home or renting it. The post office no longer changes the locks or provides new locks or keys for these mailboxes. If you have a problem with your lock, you can try spraying a lubricant into the lock. If that doesn't work, you will need to contact a locksmith.

Outgoing Mail

If there is no postal box for outgoing mail near you, you can put the outgoing mail in the back of your mailbox for the postal worker to take.

Pet Fines

All residents with pets are required to pick up after them. A \$150 fine will be charged to any homeowner that does not pick up after their pet. It is each pet owner's responsibility, and non-compliance is a health hazard. If a resident sees another resident not picking up, we encourage you to come forward and let the Property Manager know. This is a pet-friendly community and other residents live here as well, so please be responsible and courteous if you own a pet. When out on walks, please remember to bring poop bags for picking up after them, and keep them on a leash. For the safety of your pet and others, please follow these rules. Please don't leave your pets outside unattended at any time. Pets should be kept inside your property.

Modifications/Certificate of Insurance

Modification Forms are available on the website or at the clubhouse office. Any changes made to the exterior of your home require a Modification Form. Doors, windows, patios, a/c units, etc. require a Modification Form. We need the name of the contractor and a certificate of insurance. On the certificate of insurance form, there is a box at the bottom left labeled Certificate Holder. The Homeowner is the Certificate Holder, with their address. The Association requires "Vanderhaven Farm Village 1" to be listed as the Additional Insured with the address of c/o Premier Management Associates, 850-870 US Route 1 North, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. We specify it this way to put the Homeowner as the certificate holder and the Association as the additional insured. By following these steps, homeowners will avoid having to resubmit the certificate and potentially delay their project.

Front door numbers are to be polished or antique brass. They are to be a height of no more than 4" and a width of 2.25". The letter style may vary but must be consistent within the number grouping. All numbers must be installed in the horizontal direction. Townhouse units with full glass "entry" doors may install the numbers on the trim outside the front door (if they have a storm door). Units without a storm door must install the numbers on the entry door, in the vertical direction on the same side as the door handle.

Incident Reporting

For any matters pertaining to arguments between residents, noise complaints, or the commission of any ordinance violation or crime, please call the Bridgewater Police Department non-emergency number at (908) 722-4111. If it is an emergency, please dial 9-1-1. Please inform the property manager about the situation after you have contacted the police and provide a copy of any police report(s) that may have been issued.

Please continue to report directly to the property manager disagreements between residents that pertain to Association-related elements such as parking spaces, dumpster use, violations of VHF rules, etc.

Let's Keep Our Children Safe

Please keep an eye out for children and DO NOT pass school buses with flashing lights. This is NJ law. Please obey the **STOP** signs and posted speed limits of **20 mph** and **25 mph** throughout the community. They are there for everyone's safety, especially for children.

Recreation

The swimming pool is typically open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Due to the synthetic nature of the tennis courts, they are only open from March 1st to November 15^{th} weather permitting. Tennis courts are for tennis and tennis-related activities only. This means no bicycles, no scooters, no skateboards, and no other ball playing of any type (baseball, basketball, soccer, etc.). The playground is open year-round. Please, use caution and discretion during times of inclement weather.