

PUBLISHED BY THE
FAIRLINGTON
MEADOWS COUNCIL
OF CO-OWNERS
IN HISTORIC
FAIRLINGTON

Meadows Messenger

VOLUME XVX, NO. 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2007

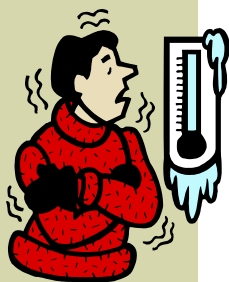
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

B & G 2
Update

Helping 3
Hand

Recycling 3
Tips

Community 4
Directory



News from the Board

Your Board of Directors wishes you a happy, healthy new year. Things are going pretty well in the community aside from the major water main work the County is doing and the usual items that pop up on a day-to-day basis. We are very lucky to have Jack and Jose on our staff to keep ahead of things.

We had two cases of vandalism in our village in December. Christmas lights on a patio in Court 15 were shredded and a car in Court 14 was heavily scratched. I don't know what motivates people to commit acts of senseless property damage, but we need to be aware that such things can happen even in our own quiet community. County police visited owners in both cases and we hope an enhanced police presence will deter those who may want to cause other problems. Be on the lookout for suspicious behavior and call the police when things don't look right. Together, we are the eyes and ears of our community and can help protect our own property and that of our neighbors.

Courts 2, 11, and 14 have unnumbered reserved parking spaces. Residents of these courts can receive one parking tag entitling them to park a single vehicle in their respec-

tive lots. Management has received several complaints about residents parking more than one vehicle in these lots thus denying, on occasion, other residents with valid tags from parking there. This violates Meadows by-laws. If you park in those courts without a valid tag, you will be subject to towing.

We are soliciting proposals for the first round of sewer lateral repair/relining. This work is sorely needed and should commence as soon as the weather warms up a bit.

We have had a mild winter, but it is bound to get colder before spring. Residents can help protect their homes as the cold sets in by following these winterizing tips:

Turn Off Outdoor Spigots

Water that sits in the pipes during cold weather is likely to freeze and split the copper pipe. Shut off the inside faucet and leave the outside faucet open so the water can drain out.

Put Your Storm Doors and Windows to Work

Re-install the glass panels on your outside doors and lower the storm windows to help insulate your home. If you don't have a storm door, this is a good time to consider installing one because it keeps

the cold air out and reduces heating costs. Check the Meadows Exterior Architectural Criteria on our Web site for guidelines on outside doors and replacement windows.

Mulch Your Garden

Inexpensive and easy to apply, mulch helps protect your outdoor plants and bulbs so that they can pop up strong and healthy in the spring.

Check Smoke Detectors

This item might be last on the list, but it certainly is one of the most important. If you haven't replaced the batteries in your smoke detectors, do it now! A new battery costs less than \$2 and it can save your life.

Our monthly Board meetings will continue to be scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month throughout 2007. We meet in the library at Abingdon Elementary School. Check the Web site to confirm each month. And a final reminder—all exterior holiday lights should have been taken down by the time you get this issue. If yours are still up, please pack them away for the season! Again, we wish you the best for 2007.

—John Thurber
President, Board of Directors

Buildings & Grounds Update

By Chuck Edwards and Judi Garth, Co-chairs

Spring Planting

The committee is making plans for a very small spring planting, with all major work being slated for autumn. Planting after the hot summer months have passed helps ensure the survival of the new plantings. If you would like to make a request for the spring planting, check the Meadows Web site for request forms or write or e-mail Judi Garth, 3445 South Utah Street, judigarth@comcast.net; or Chuck Edwards at 3460 A-1 South Stafford; c-d@comcast.net.

County Tree Work

Arlington County is assessing the condition of our street trees for pruning and possible removal of any that pose a danger. The county is also considering maintenance of the cedars along Quaker Lane in conjunction with the planting of redbud photinias and oaks along our property. This project is part of their program to repay us for the tax overcharge last year.

Seasonal Gardening

Even though it is winter and gardeners are mostly housebound, there are some outside chores that can be completed during January and February. Inspect your patio and planting beds; you may need to:

- ☞ Reset plants that have heaved out of the ground due to freezing/thawing.
- ☞ Cut the tops of perennial

grasses before new growth begins. This should be done in late winter.

- ☞ Apply a light fertilizer to those pansies you planted last fall when the weather allows and remove any spent flowers.

- ☞ Prune summer flowering shrubs, but not the early bloomers such as azaleas, hydrangeas, or forsythia. Although it is safe to remove deadwood from these, they shouldn't be pruned until after they flower.

- ☞ Water any fall-planted trees/shrubs when temperatures are above freezing, especially if there has been insufficient rainfall.

- ☞ Remove the old leaves of helleborus (Lenten rose) to allow the emerging flower buds room to grow.

- ☞ If winter actually comes to our region, please help keep our shrubbery from being damaged by gently shaking off any snow that has accumulated on the plants. If the shrubs are covered in ice, simply allow the ice to melt.

- ☞ Start planning your spring-summer plantings. Try to include at least one new plant that you have not tried before.

- ☞ Consider beginning a journal to record your

gardening successes (and lessons learned!) from year to year.

Community Pride

The Meadows encompasses about 22 acres and every morning José walks through the community checking for burned out lights, fallen shutters, strewn garbage, and other problems. Please help us keep our community looking great by picking up any debris that eludes the trash company and be sure to thank Jack and José for the great work they do for us.

If you are interested in joining the Fairlington Meadows Buildings and Grounds Committee, please feel free to attend the upcoming meetings. All begin at 7:30 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Please check the *Messenger* or the Meadows Web site for meeting places.

February 7

Hosted by Chuck Edwards
3460A-1 S. Stafford St.
(Court 15)



Note to Unit Owners:

Meadows By-laws require you to submit a written request for any changes in excess of \$1,000 that you are considering making inside your unit.

The Board of Directors must approve these changes before any work is begun.

Young Meadows Resident Struggling After Husband's Death

On November 11, Senan Sheehan—a Meadows resident for 10 years—died unexpectedly, leaving behind his wife Michelle and their 5-year old son Ethan. Recently diagnosed with throat cancer, Senan was undergoing chemotherapy last fall when he was hospitalized with a high fever. He went into septic shock and, after four attempts at resuscitation, died.

Michelle told neighbors and friends that Senan's body just started failing because of the septicemia. "He and I thought he was going to be hospitalized for a few days on IV antibiotics and then released," she says.

Everyone in his court knew Senan to be hard-working, but he was self-employed and uninsured. Following his loss, there are now a number of

financial pressures on this small family. Michelle, who has consented to this article, has been studying to be a medical assistant at Banner College (Chubb Institute) in Arlington. She is finishing up an internship, but is not yet qualified for a paying position.

Ethan is a kindergartner at Abingdon School and Michelle would like him to remain there where he is comfortable and has many friends. Michelle is committed to the neighborhood. In fact, before Senan was diagnosed with cancer, the couple was planning to look for a 2-bedroom Fairlington unit to rent in order to give their family more room. Michelle says she feels it is important to Ethan that she strive to fulfill this goal, but neither her family nor Senan's are in a position to provide much help.

Occasionally Senan did contract work for Arlington-based Renovations, Inc., and employees there have started a memorial fund for the family at Virginia Commerce Bank to get them through the next month or two.

If you would like to offer support, you can stop by the bank in person or mail a contribution to the address listed below:

Virginia Commerce Bank
Sheehan Family Memorial Fund
Account #50286854
2401 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

The bank cannot send out receipts for mailed contributions.

Recycling Refresher—Go Green in 2007!

Now that the new year is here and we're all starting off with a clean slate, it's a good time to revisit the topic of recycling. The average US citizen generates roughly four pounds of trash each day. That translates to 1,460 pounds per person each year. As a nation, we throw away more than 210 MILLION TONS of solid waste annually. Nearly 60 percent of that ends up in landfills. Recycling plays a critical role in reducing the amount garbage that makes it to a landfill.

Meadows residents are fortunate to have weekly pick-up service virtually outside our doors, which makes being more environmentally friendly a breeze. Detailed information about what can and cannot be placed curbside for recycling are available online

at www.fairlingtonmeadows.com, but the following list covers most of the basics:

Bins are only for **glass, cans, and plastic** (numbers 1, 2, and 3 only). Items must be rinsed clean with lids removed. Throw lids away in your household trash. Any items contaminated by food will ultimately wind up in the trash. **Do NOT put out plastic bags filled with paper, glass, plastic, and metal.** The Capitol crew will not sort our garbage and everything will be tossed into the trash, sabotaging our recycling efforts.

Newspapers, magazines, and flattened boxes DO NOT go in the bins. Place these items in paper bags or tie with string so they do

not blow all over the court and deposit them on the ground near the bins.

Styrofoam, plastic deli containers, cardboard orange juice, and milk containers are NOT recyclable.

Remember: When in doubt, throw it out!

—Based on material contributed by Judi Garth



Fairlington Meadows Community Directory

Board of Directors

John Thurber, president
David Andrews, 1st vice president
Lisa Farbstein, 2nd vice president
Debbie Diener, treasurer
Jacqueline Maguire, secretary

Send correspondence to the Fairlington Meadows Board of Directors in care of Community Management Corp. at the address listed below.

For copies of Board meeting minutes, see the Fairlington Meadows Web site, www.FairlingtonMeadows.com, view them on the community bulletin at the pool house, or contact John Kilkenny at CMC.

Property Management

John Kilkenny
Community Management Corp
12701 Fair Lakes Circle
Suite 400, PO Box 10821
Chantilly, Va. 20153
Tel. 703-631-7200 (x 212)
Fax 703-631-9786
E-mail: jkilkenny@cmc-management.com

On-site Maintenance

Jack Clark, manager
José Rameriz, assistant
Tel. 703-820-6799

Towing Requests

A-1 Towing of Northern VA
Tel. 703-979-2110

Messenger Volunteers

Kathryn Utan, editor
Rose Stack, distribution

Send letters, article ideas, or other items to the editor at 3407B South Stafford Street or send an e-mail to kathryn_utan@yahoo.com.

Include your name, address, and contact information with all correspondence. Items will be printed at the editor's discretion.

