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News from the Board

Your Board of Directors wishes you a happy and healthy new year. Things are going pretty well in the community aside from usual items that pop up on a day-to-day basis and, for those, we are very lucky to have Jack and José on our staff to keep ahead of things.

We are half-way done with our sewer lateral repair and relining capital investment project. Our contractor, US Sewer and Drain, has done an outstanding job under some very difficult conditions. We found one line under South Stafford Street that was on the verge of total failure. It took some time to get the County permits to do the repair work, but that line has been totally replaced. There are still a few spots that need grounds restoration and we

will get to them soon. The next phase of work will begin in the spring.

We have had a very mild winter so far but it is bound to get colder before we get to spring. There are several things that residents can do to help protect their homes as the cold sets in. Jack Clark, our on-site maintenance manager, has provided a number of useful tips in a separate article.

I have just a couple of reminders for this issue. If your holiday lights are still up when you get this newsletter, please take them down for the season. Please use the sidewalks instead of cutting across the lawn areas. We have done a considerable amount of grounds restoration work and these areas

can be soft and muddy. The grass seeds need to be left undisturbed until they can start growing. The tennis courts are for tennis only—skateboarding, running dogs and other non-tennis activities prematurely wear out the playing surface and may cause expensive structural damage.

Our monthly Board meetings will continue to be scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month throughout 2008. We meet in the library at Abingdon Elementary School. Check the website to confirm each month.

Again, we wish you the best for 2008!

— John Thurber
President, Board of Directors



Jack Clark, John Thurber, and José Rameriz at the Dec. 14 community appreciation ceremony.

Thanks for a Job Well Done!

The Meadows hosted a small ceremony for onsite maintenance crew Jack Clark and José Rameriz Dec. 14. Several friends from the community were in attendance. Board President John Thurber made a short speech lauding the outstanding contributions Jack and José made to the community throughout 2007—which was a particularly challenging year given the bad ice storm we had in February, major contracts for building painting and roof replacement, and the sewer lateral work. Thurber also thanked Jack and José for saving the community a significant sum by doing the much of roof repairs and carpentry work needed throughout the Meadows and presented both with an end-of-year bonus and letter of appreciation. They both expressed their gratitude and mentioned how much they enjoyed working for the Meadows.

Buildings & Grounds Update

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.



The B & G Committee hopes you and yours had a joyous holiday season! We'd also like to welcome Drew Thompson as our new committee co-chair. Drew lives in Court 9.

This year, there will be an early spring planting, most likely in late March or early April. If you would like to make a request, please email Chuck Edwards at cd@comcast.net or Drew Thompson at thompson@gmail.com. Additionally, there are forms on the Web site that you can use to place requests with Chuck or Drew, <http://www.fairlingtonmeadows.com/meadowsbandgcommittee.htm#rf>.

This winter has been tough on plants throughout our community. Because of the cold temperatures, high winds, and the January drought, plants that normally survive the winter in this region will be severely affected.

Here are some steps you can take with specific plants to help ensure full growth and healthy plants for spring:

Pansies may have taken a beating from the harsh weather conditions, but they should recover. Removing their dead stems and blooms will help them grow better. As we approach Daylight Savings, applying small amounts of liquid fertilizer will also help

By Lindsey Collins, Committee Member

them flourish.

Because of freezing and thawing, some plants have come out of the ground. Unless these plants are gently reset, they will not survive. In the event that this has happened, do not attempt to perform major gardening chores until the soil dries out and becomes workable or your plants will die.

Be sure to remove the tops of perennials as new growth emerges if you haven't already done so. Cutting off the tops of perennial grasses encourages new green on these plants.

Also, summer flowering shrubs can be pruned now, but do not prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after they have blossomed.

Remember that leaf debris and improper mulch, such as wood chips, create an ideal environment for slugs.

Taking these steps to make sure our plants endure each season will make our community all the more beautiful.

As winter ends, Don Hook and ValleyCrest will be doing work on the larger trees in our community. Many of the trees are against buildings and need to have limbs removed. Others on the common

grounds need to be pruned to remove dead wood and to open them up for air circulation. This helps keep them healthy. ValleyCrest will be working on the ornamental trees and hollies, getting them off of buildings and away from front entrances. Additionally, Arlington County is replacing street trees that died during the summer drought and now pose a hazard.

The B & G Committee has decided to continue to have Jerry Dieruf as our arborist through the New Year as he knows the community and our needs. He helps us to decide what needs to be done with common area trees to maintain them properly.

We hope everyone starts the year off right and stays warm during the winter months.

If you would like join the B & G Committee, please stop by one of our upcoming meetings. Let's make 2008 a great year for the Fairlington Meadows Community!

March 5

Hosted by Drew Thompson
4307 35th St. (Court 9)

April 2

Hosted by Diane Thurber'
4241A-2 35th St. (Court 8)

Tips from the Meadows Workshop

Winter is upon us, so if you have not already done so, you need to turn off the water supply to your outside faucets and disconnect the water hoses. It is very important that once the water supply is shut off that you leave the outside faucets open so the water can drain out of the pipes. This will prevent the water from freezing and splitting the pipes.

Storm windows need to be in the closed position. This will prevent ice and snow from building up in the window sills and will really help reduce your electric bill.

During a walk-through of the grounds, it was observed that a lot of the dryer vents at the back of the buildings are damaged and missing hoods and flappers. This allows small

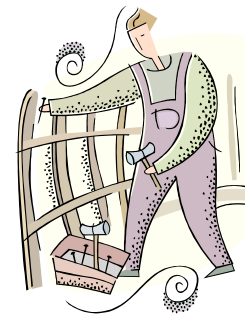
By Jack Clark, Onsite Maintenance Manager

critters to get into buildings during the winter months when they are looking for warm places to nest. It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep their dryer vent in good working order. It is a lot cheaper to repair the vent than it is to have an exterminator out. Call me if your vent is broken and I will help you find someone to repair it.

Last but not least, with snow coming please do not put salt down on your porch stoops or sidewalks. The salt eats the brick and concrete up, causing significant damage. Several winters ago we had to replace large sections of new sidewalk because someone spread the wrong kind of

salt on the walk. We use calcium chloride, which is a lot friendlier on both the brick and concrete.

If you have any questions about property maintenance and upkeep, please give us a call at the shop. The number 703-820-6799.



Recycling Refresher—It's Good to Be Green!

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 in January 2007.



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 (see Web address below), view them on the community bulletin at the pool house, or contact John Kilkenny at CMC.

Meadows Online

www.FairlingtonMeadows.com

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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.

