

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

Meadows Messenger

VOLUME XXIX, NO. 4

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

B & G Update	2
Recycling Day	3
Rambling Rose	4
November Election	5
Arlington Reads	5
Community Contacts	6
Summer Scenes	8

Notes from the Board

*Dear Friends in Fairlington
Meadows—*

Your Board of Directors hopes you had a fun and relaxing summer and wishes you a pleasant fall. We had beautiful weather for this year's pool season and the social events were as fun as always. We thank Cliff Beasley for his time and effort as Pool Committee Chairman for this year, and for the previous four seasons. Cliff was the main force behind many of our popular events including the Luaus, the wine and beer tasting parties, and the season ending potluck picnics. Cliff is stepping down from the chairmanship but promises to stay involved with some of the future parties. Thank you, Cliff. Thanks, too, to the other members of the Pool Committee for their oversight of the pool and for scheduling all the fun parties and picnics. The Luau, in particular, continues to hit homeruns.

We would also like to thank Maureen, Anna, Thomas, and the other lifeguards for helping to make the social events fun times for us all. I have received many compliments on the way the lifeguards maintained the pool this year. We sincerely hope that Maureen and the other lifeguards will be back next season.

The Annual Meeting of the Fairlington Meadows Council of Co-Owners is right around the corner. The annual meeting will be held Thursday, October 26, at Abingdon Elementary School in North Fairlington. Our usual meeting place, the Fairlington Community Center, is closed for renovations. Your attendance or proxy is very important to the conduct of this



meeting. We need at least 50 percent representation of the co-owners in order to have a quorum, which will allow us to approve the budget and to elect members of the Board of Directors. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m.

We will be sending you a formal notification package through the mail. Enclosed you will find a proxy form and ballot for the Annual Meeting. Please send both the completed proxy and ballot forms regardless of whether

you plan to attend the meeting or not. Please mail your proxy form and ballot no later than October 19. If you attend the meeting, your proxy will be replaced by your personal vote.

The main items of business at the annual meeting will be the Council's approval of the budget for 2007 and the election of Board members. We will include a copy of the proposed budget and an explanatory letter in the mail-out. There are three positions on the Board of Directors that will be on the ballot for election. The three Board members currently filling those positions have offered to continue to serve on the Board. David Andrews is running for his second full term of office and new members, Debbie Diener and Jackie Maguire, are running for their first full terms. These three individuals are extremely capable and serve with the best interest of our Association always in mind. They are very knowledgeable on the financial and operational issues of our community and contribute insightful and well-considered ideas on how best to manage Fairlington Meadows. I strongly urge you to

-Continued on page 7

Buildings & Grounds Update



The 2006 Meadows Patio Tour was a huge success and great fun for everyone in the community!

Spring Planting

Many thanks to the residents who are watering the new trees and shrubs that were planted in May and June! This summer of extremes—record

drought, heat, and rainfall in a four-day period—has unfortunately taken its toll on our trees, shrubs, and flowers. We anticipate losing many plantings this fall.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH WATERING!

If you live near a tree or bush that is looking

parched (leaves curled and droopy), please take a few minutes to slowly pour a milk container of water on the plant at the trunk. If you have a hose, water the plant very slowly at the trunk for 30 minutes two times a week. The B&G Committee spends thousands of dollars each year for plantings, representing your

condo fees at work. We must depend on Mother Nature or kind residents to keep these plantings alive. Remember, it is more important to water the trees and shrubs than the grass. Grass goes dormant



By Chuck Edwards and Judi Garth, Co-chairs

in drought, but will turn green once we get some rain. **Thank you for your help watering!**

Patio Tour

Kudos to Kym Hill and her committee for organizing the highly successful tour of 21 lovely Meadows patios. Special thanks to those homeowners who opened their unique patios to the community. A great time was had by all participants and the tour raised more than \$200 in donations for the B&G Flower Fund.

Fall Planting

We are gathering requests for the fall planting, which is scheduled for late October or early November. Residents who have requests or suggestions should write to either Judi Garth at judi-garth@comcast.net or Chuck Edwards at c-d@comcast.net. You may also download the request form from the Meadows Web site and email that to Chuck or Judi.

Trimming

ValleyCrest, our lawns contractor, trimmed the shrubbery in August. They will trim again in the fall. If any resident would like us to consider trimming around your home, please contact the Committee by emailing Chuck or Judi.

Tree Work

The B&G Committee will

be compiling a list of trees that need trimming and diseased and dead trees that need to be removed. This work will be completed during the fall.

Did You Know?

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.

Interested in joining the Buildings and Grounds Committee?

We welcome new members and interested residents at our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m. It's a fun and satisfying way to get involved in your community!

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, October 4
Hosted by Diane Thurber
4241A-2 South 35th

Wednesday, November 1
Hosted by Marion Hinchman
3422B South Stafford

No meeting will be held in in December.

County-wide Recycling Day Set for September 30

Don't wait for spring to clean out your utility room, closets, attic, or other storage spaces. Fall is a great time to get organized and de-clutter your homes before the holiday season kicks in. You can get rid of old, out-of-date computers, monitors, televisions, and other electronic devices—as well as hazardous household wastes—on Saturday, September 30, when Arlington County hosts its annual Fall Recycling Day.

While the majority of items you may want to get rid of are accepted free of



charge, you'll have to pay a small fee for certain things such as TVs (\$20) and computer monitors (\$15).

The event will be held at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Community Center on South Glebe and South 2nd Street between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on September 30.

Hazardous Household Waste

The following materials are considered hazardous household waste and must be disposed of properly rather than thrown out for regular trash or recyclables pick-up. You can find out more by visiting Arlington County's Web site at www.arlingtonva.us or by calling 703-228-6832.

- Home or lawn and garden chemicals used for pest, insect, and weed control
- Automotive fuel or fluids including windshield wiper fluid, antifreeze, brake fluid, transmission fluid, gas additives, gear oil, and most car care products

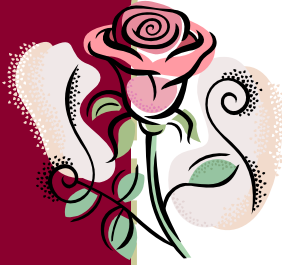
- Car batteries
- Flammable cleaning solvents such as kerosene, turpentine, varsol, mineral spirits, parts cleaners, floor strippers, rug cleaners, and spot removers
- Lamp and heating oil
- Fluorescent tubes
- Corrosives such as muriatic acid, and oven or drain cleaners with lye
- Swimming pool additives
- Photo chemicals
- Thermometers, thermostats, and barometers containing mercury
- Oil and latex paint, varnish, stains, polyurethane
- Small hand-held propane tanks (larger propane tanks from grills must be recycled at a hardware or home improvement store)

Most other flammable, corrosive, or poisonous solid, liquid, and aerosol household products.

Meadows Pool... Fun in the Sun!



Photos of the Meadows annual Luau party courtesy of Cliff Beasley. See more great pix on page 8!



Rambling Rose

Longtime Meadows resident and distribution manager for the *Messenger Rose Stack* is wearing a new hat these days. As our new roving correspondent, Rose is scouring the community in an attempt to showcase some of the interesting characters that live or work in the Meadows and its environs. For this issue, she spoke with Cliff and Tania Harcourt, part of a new generation of Meadows residents. They live in Court 13 with their daughter Alexandra and Sammy the dog.

Rose: Hi, Cliff and Tania. Our court here on the circle is really well situated, don't you think?

Tania: Yes! It's close to the community center, the pool, the dog park, Rt. 395, and Shirlington.

Rose: You are still fairly new to the Meadows, right?

Cliff: Yes, we moved here August 2002. We moved from a small one-bedroom apartment in Roslyn.

Fairlington was our first home purchase.

Rose: And how did you choose your Clarendon in the Meadows?

Tania: We were house hunting one hot day in May and had been to numerous open houses. We discovered our house at the last open house for the day and fell in love with it. The house was in great condition, which was key for two people who don't know much about home repair.

Rose: You have a beautiful daughter; she is how old now?

Tania: Alexandra will be 3 in October.

Rose: Your next-door neighbors lived here for 32 years. Did you get to know them? Was there an interesting different generations thing there?

Cliff: Yes, we got to know Paige Alba. If we were blind, we would have thought she was in her 20s, she was that hip a woman!

We definitely didn't feel any generation gap.

Rose: So, she moved to the Meadows in 1974; were you even born at that time?

Where did you two grow up?

Tania: [smiling] Cliff was two and living in Pittsburgh; and I was just one and living in Costa Rica. Cliff grew up in Springfield and I grew up in Alexandria, but we didn't meet until after college.

Rose: And here we all are in South Arlington! So where was college?

Tania: Cliff went to the University of Richmond and

Enterprise car-for-sale. I drive a different sales car to and from work everyday.

Rose: Tania, did you work before marrying?

Tania: Yes. I've worked as a reporter covering mostly business but also daily community news as well as national politics. I still work, now as a freelance writer, for various business publications, including the *Washington Business Journal* and the *Baltimore Business Journal*.

Rose: Do you think you will return to work full-time when Alexandra is a little older?

Tania: I'll probably freelance for a while. It offers me a lot of flexibility, which is key as a mother.

Rose: I've seen you jogging, Cliff. No taking Alexandra or Sammy with you?

Cliff: I have a few times, but pushing a 30 lb. child is tough. I never jog with Sammy because he's more interested in squirrels.

Rose: Tania, are you a jogger, too?

Tania: I do run. I like running half marathons and 10-mile races.

Rose: Wow! I'm a 5K-er myself. Cliff, I see myself in a BMW convertible someday, can you help me with that?

Cliff: Yes, you can buy a BMW convertible at Enterprise, and it's surprisingly affordable.

Rose: Thank you both so much.

Cliff/Tania: We truly love Fairlington. We hope we never have to move!



Don't Get Lost on Your Way to the Ballots in 2006!

Tuesday, November 7, marks the next general election. At that time, Arlington County voters will elect officials for the US Senate, US House of Representatives (8th District), County Board, and School Board. There will also be three proposed Constitutional amendments and five proposed County bond referenda on the ballot.

Renovations are scheduled to begin at the Fairlington Community Center this fall, rendering it unable to be used as a polling place, so Meadows residents will need to make the not-too-arduous journey across Route 395 to a different polling place—the Fairlington Villages Community Center on South Abingdon Street in North Fairlington. Voting will return to the Fairlington Center once renovations are complete. Amended voter card should be mailed to you sometime in September.

For people who aren't yet registered, there is still time to ensure your voice is heard in the upcoming election. The deadline to register to vote or to update your registration address is Tuesday, October 10.

If you will be away from Arlington on Election Day, or if you are unable to go to the polls because of illness or a physical disability, you can vote by absentee ballot. Absentee applications are currently being accepted at the County Voter Registration Office and ballots are expected to be mailed out on or around September 25. The deadline to submit application for a ballot to be mailed is 5:00 p.m. on October 31 and all ballots must be received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. In-person absentee voting will begin on or around September 25, as well, with regular voting hours running

from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Extended hours for in-person absentee voting

will be held Thursdays, October 19 and 26 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays, October 28 and November 4 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Arlington County Office of Voter Registration 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320, Arlington, VA 22201-5400 or telephone them at 703-228-3456. Information is also available online at www.arlingtonva.us; simply click on the link titled "voting and elections."



Arlington Kicks Off "Community Read"

This fall, Arlington County's Public Library System is launching "Arlington Reads," a program designed to get more people interested in reading while at the same time building a stronger sense of community.

Based on the notion that reading is often a much richer experience when it can be shared with others, library staff will host a range of events that play up the main themes of the selected books so residents can drop in on a book discussion at one of the local coffee shops, book stores, or library branches, as well as attend a lecture or workshop. Individuals can even host a read-in in their

homes or organize a dinner reading at a local restaurant.



For the first-ever "community read," the county's librarians have selected three terrific books: *A Single Shard* (for young readers), *Persepolis* (for teens), and *Digging to America* (for adults). According to

Diane Kresh, Director of Libraries, "all three have themes that resonate with current events and tell powerful stories that will stick with readers. All three will engender lively conversation. And all three reflect and can help us build a stronger community." She advises people to "experience the books with people you don't already know and build your own new community. The possibilities are endless."

So, stop by one of the county's libraries to borrow a copy of one of the selections and help make this innovative new program a success.

County Program Can Offer Tax Relief to Qualified Homeowners



To help Arlington County homeowners keep up with increasing property values and real estate taxes, the County Board has approved several initiatives for fiscal year 2007, which began July 2006. Some of these initiatives will be effective January 1, 2006 while some are new and some are enhancements to existing programs.

One option that might be of interest to Meadows

homeowners is the Homeowner Grant Program.

The Arlington County Homeowner Grant program is a County-funded program that provides relief to low and moderate income homeowners in the form of a check issued to eligible homeowners once per year.

All owners must reside in the home as their sole residence and the income and assets of all property owners and their relatives who reside in the

home must fall within the allowable limits. The annual income limit is \$77,407. The asset limit—excluding the residence, one automobile, and retirement accounts—is \$340,000.

For more information about Arlington County's Homeowner Grant Program, or other tax relief and affordable housing options, please call 703-228-1350. You can also visit the county Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/ click on the "Taxes and Payments" link.

Mea Culpa...

In the last issue, we sent out a heart-felt note of thanks to the dedicated volunteers who deliver the Messenger to your doors. I inadvertently forgot to mention Sylvia Skrel. Many thanks to you, Sylvia, and thanks once again to everyone who helps get the Messenger out every other month!

—Kathryn Utan, editor

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.

Community Directory

Board of Directors

John Thurber, president
David Andrews, 1st vice pres.
Judy Pisciotta, 2nd vice pres.
Lisa Farbstein, treasurer
Bryan Hochstein, 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.

Messenger Volunteers

Kathryn Utan, editor
Rose Stack, distribution

Send letters, article ideas, or other items to the editor at 3407B South Stafford Street or via 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.



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

Notes from the Board

-Continued from page 1

support David, Debbie, and Jackie either in person at the annual meeting or on the proxy ballot.

The annual meeting is your opportunity to meet directly with your Board, property management, and your neighbors to discuss issues of interest to you. The Board will not vote during the annual meeting on any item presented during this meeting except for the budget approval. We will certainly take every other item for consideration at another time. Renters are welcome to attend the meeting and to speak during Residents' Forum, however, only owners count toward the quorum and are able to vote on the budget proposal and for members of the Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bryan Hochstein for his service our community. He was a very thoughtful and dedicated Board member and his work is most appreciated. Bryan and his family have moved out of state, which represents a loss to our community but a gain for their new town. Thanks and best wishes to Bryan and his family.

We have completed a year long effort to consolidate, update, and codify the Exterior Architectural Criteria (EAC). This comprehensive document builds upon criteria and standards that are in place in our By-laws and in the Residents' Manual and incorporates updates and suggestions provided to the Board by the Architectural Review Committee. Some of the areas it covers are: doors, exterior light-

ing, cable TV installation, patios, and porch railings. The EAC will be very helpful in maintaining the architectural harmony of our beautiful community. It is now part of our governing documents and can be found at our Web site at www.fairlingtonmeadows.com.

Vandals continue to damage the sidewalk lights that run between South Stafford Street and Quaker Lane adjacent to the Fairlington Glen tennis courts. Repairs are extremely costly and, as I have mentioned in past issues, the Board has decided to replace these lights with durable



The Luau was just one of many pool events this summer designed to make the most of the hot weather and bring together members of our wonderful community!

elevated lights. Work on removing the old lights and installing the three new light poles will commence within the next several weeks.

Jack and José continue to impress us with their hard work, dedication to the community, and clever ideas. You may have noticed the new covers on the trash barrels. José made and installed them and they are good means of keeping the bees out

of the trash and containing (to a degree, anyway) the strong odor of the items deposited in the barrels.

Once again, I feel it is necessary to remind folks to NOT put trash out at the wrong times. We are seeing trash put out overnight and after the trash collectors come by. Also, people are not bagging their trash appropriately. Instead, they are putting trash out loose or in paper containers in violation of Meadows By-laws. The rules and regulations contained in our By-laws are in place for a good reason—to prevent the trash from being scattered all over the grounds and to prevent rodents and other pests from rely-

ing on trash as their food source. Your full cooperation is required. If you see a neighbor violating the trash policy, please give them a gentle reminder. If the problem persists, please call CMC, our property management company. These violations to our trash policy represent a public health concern and also greatly detract from the aesthetics of our beautiful community.

Please attend the annual meeting and don't forget to mail your proxy form and ballot. Your cooperation is critical to the success of our annual meeting. As an additional incentive for you to attend, we will be serving light snacks and beverages. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, October 26.

**—John Thurber
President, Board of Directors**

*More Summertime
Scenes From Around the Meadows...*

