

meadows Messenger

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News From the Board

by: John Thurber

There's not as much outside activity during these winter months, but your Board is still on the job and working hard.

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Website Provides Current Information

www.fairlington.org/meadowsindex.htm

Slippery Sidewalks?

Thanks to the residents who grabbed their shovels and cleared areas in front of their homes. That certainly is not required, but it was appreciated.

We ask that residents not apply salt, fertilizer, or kitty litter when conditions are icy. Fertilizer melts ice, but the chemicals contained in synthetic fertilizers run off with the melting water and wind up in the Chesapeake Bay. Salt is a pollutant, as well, and can be toxic to plants and animals. Cat litter can become slippery when wet, and is very difficult to remove from a wet cement surface. Deicers containing calcium magnesium acetate are considered the best for the environment. Ordinary sand also provides traction.

Winter Weather Maintenance

We have been fortunate so far not to have had too much snow and ice, but for the times we did, we want to thank our maintenance crew for all their hard work and dedication to the job. Both Craig and Steve worked from early morning well into the evening -- once even staying overnight in the shop -- clearing porches and sidewalks. After the January

21st storm, it was necessary to call in reinforcements from DMA, our cleaning contractor, to help out.

Residents are asked to be extremely careful when walking on icy or snow-covered walkways. The crew will get to them all as quickly as possible, but with

over three miles of interior and exterior sidewalks, and 58 buildings (including the shop), each with multiple porches, it takes time.

Local Vandal Strikes Again

We were hoping to have better news about the continuing criminal activity in the community, where a number of residents have had bricks thrown through their windows. After a brief lull which we hoped signaled the end of this troubling crime spree, vandals struck again in the early evening hours of January 14. The residents were home at the time and likely visible through the window; fortunately, no one was injured. The police are working hard to apprehend the individual(s) responsible for these felonious acts, and respond in force when called. Although it is difficult to prepare for such random acts, residents are reminded to be vigilant and observe the mantra "if you see something, say something." If something (or someone) doesn't look right, report it to the police immediately.

Winter Tennis Update

by: Ed Girovasi

While this winter has been harsh, Spring—and the promise of another tennis season—is just around the corner! The June 2012 court resurfacing has held up well. The Committee is working through the Board and Community Management Corp to schedule a few warranty repairs with Bishops Tennis to get things ready for the new season.

Reserved weekend play will begin on Saturday May 3, 2014. A sign-up sheet will be posted by 7:30 am each Saturday and Sunday. Residents 16 years or older may reserve a court for one hour by printing their full name and unit number on the sign-up sheet.

Until then, court time is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two players must be present to establish their place in line when waiting for a court. One player alone cannot hold a place in line. Before starting play, set the bulletin board clock to indicate your starting time and place your ID card (pool pass) in the corresponding holder. If you fail to indicate your starting time OR fail to display your ID card in the holder, you must vacate the court at the request of waiting players. After one hour (singles), you must vacate the court if others are waiting to play. Doubles play may continue for two consecutive hours, provided that two residents have their ID cards on display.

The periodic resurfacing of our tennis courts is a considerable investment by the community. Please help us maintain the integrity of the new surface by using the courts for **ONE activity – TENNIS. ALL OTHER ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED.** Players must wear TENNIS shoes or athletic shoes with NON-MARKING SOLES. Improper use may result in forfeiture of recreation privileges (including pool usage). Please respect these rules so that we retain the investment—years of enjoyment with minimal wear and tear.

2014 Committee Chairs

The Board would like to extend a big “thank you” to our Committee Chairs, all of whom have agreed to remain at the helm of their respective committees. Those terrific folks are: Chuck Edwards and Judi Garth, Building and Grounds; Erica and Edward Brown, Pool; Hannah Lipps, Messenger; Ed Girovasi and John Stack, Recreation; and Diane Thurber, Court Chairs. All of these volunteers dedicate a great deal of their personal time to keeping the Meadows running smoothly and looking great, and it is much appreciated. Kudos also to my fellow Board members (talk about dedication!) and to our new Maintenance Manager, Craig Robbins. Craig recently received accolades from two residents he assisted, one of whom described him as “thoroughly professional and amazingly helpful.” Now *that’s* the kind of e-mail the Board enjoys receiving!

It’s a New Year! Resolve to be Nice

Please remember that the Board and committee members are *volunteers* in the community, and they deserve respect. We sometimes hear that residents are rude or condescending to them or to our maintenance crew, management representatives or contractors, and that is totally unacceptable. “I got an earful” is an unfortunate remark that we sometimes hear. We are all here to ensure that the Meadows is the best place it can be for all of our residents and – dare I say – we enjoy our leadership roles in the community. However, no one enjoys, nor should be subjected to, verbal abuse by those we are serving. Please approach every member of our team with respect – courtesy begets courtesy in the same way rudeness begets rudeness.

When in Doubt, Check the Website

As you may have noticed, there were a few changes to the Capitol Services schedule over the holidays. There was no pickup on New Year’s Day, yet some residents still put out both trash and recycling. We remind you that if you have any questions about such matters, please refer to the Association website, where the holiday schedules are posted. Leaving uncollected trash and recycling out for two days only serves to make the village look unattractive and invites rodents.

Similarly, the January Board meeting had to be rescheduled at the last minute, and that announcement was posted on the website. Our website offers a host of useful resources including announcements, schedules, calendars and archived newsletters. Do take advantage of it at www.fairlington.org/meadowindex.htm or just Google “Fairlington Meadows.”

Help us Keep Mold Under Control

A big problem we have experienced twice recently is mold. Both times, it was discovered in the B-building common storage areas between the A-1 and A-2 units, and in both cases the contractor estimated that it had been growing for well over a year without being reported. Mold can be dealt with, but it is an extremely laborious and expensive process. The procedure includes pre- and post-remediation sampling, HEPA-filtered scrubbing and collection units, controlled demolition, and intensive surface cleaning with HEPA vacuums and a biocide wipe. During the remediation process, paint, trim and drywall are often damaged, adding reconstruction costs to the equation. The latest mold remediation project cost the Association \$7,375.96, plus \$1,816.00 for drywall repair. As a result of these two issues, the Board has asked our maintenance personnel to inspect the common area storage rooms periodically to check for signs of mold. Residents are asked to keep their items neatly organized and stored so that a proper inspection can be made. If you notice any mold or moisture, please contact management immediately before it gets out of control.

Everyone Appreciates a Good Neighbor

How are your New Year’s Resolutions coming along? Here’s one that you may not have considered – “I resolve to be a good neighbor.” The Board receives many e-mails each month dealing with neighbor-to-neighbor issues. The best advice we can give is to talk it out calmly and courteously. Some of the most recent issues include smoking (particularly in B-buildings), noise in hallways and between units (the walls are thin!), barking dogs, and other Bylaw violations. We all live in close proximity to one another, so it is important that we make every effort to coexist for everyone’s benefit.

Stay warm, everyone! Spring is coming. Respectfully submitted,
John Thurber, Board President

SHORT STUFF

The maintenance crew is checking the proposal to repair rotten wood discovered during the painting cycle (indicated by strips of blue tape.) They believe they can handle more than half of the needed repairs, which will save us considerably on the contract.

Maintenance is doing a great job refinishing the court signs, and this project is nearing completion.

The maintenance crew will be sanding and painting the basketball hoop backboards, time and weather permitting.

Garbage cans may not be kept outside one’s fence, nor placed out for trash collection as a substitute for plastic bags.

Cleaning services sometimes place bags of trash out after the collection or deposit them into the recycling barrels. If you employ a cleaning service, please remind them of trash and recycling rules, and also inform them of the limitations of our sewers.

Community Farmers' Market in the Works

by: John Thurber

At its November meeting, the Fairlington Community Association (FCA) Board voted 9-0 to support the proposal for a Fairlington farmers’ market developed by a special working group of Fairlington residents. The FCA Board also agreed to reconsider its position no later than November 2014, and to share the community’s thoughts with the County at that time. This will enable the FCA Board to assess all aspects of the market at the end of the first season, after

everyone has had a chance to see how it functions and impacts the community.

The farmers’ market application has been submitted to the Arlington County Board by Field to Table, an organization that also manages the market in Westover. Field to Table will be financially responsible for the Fairlington market, but a committee of Fairlington residents will handle the week-to-week activities. The application will be reviewed by County staff and must be formally voted on by the Arlington County Board. A parking plan is a required element of the application process.

Fairlington residents overwhelmingly expressed their support for the market in an online survey conducted last fall. Of the 275 responses, 86 percent expressed support and 13 percent were opposed. The Meadows Board supports, in principle, the establishment of this weekly farmers market, which would be held on Sundays between April and November from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. However, there are concerns that such a market could adversely impact Meadows residents, particularly those living directly across from the FCC. Those concerns include parking, environmental impact/trash, unanticipated costs and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists with additional traffic.

The Board also favors “testing” the market for one year, and will request a careful review of neighborhood and facility impacts be conducted and shared with the community.

The results should include data regarding congestion, parking, noise, refuse collection and any related increase in rodents. If the concerns currently expressed by market opponents materialize, this Board will actively promote the withdrawal of the permit to use the FCC premises for the purpose of hosting a farmers market.

Check the FCA website at www.fca-fairlington.org for periodic updates on the status of the farmers’ market application and for the date of the Arlington County Board meeting when the permit will be discussed and voted on. Additional questions and offers to assist may be directed to fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

An Antidote to Spring Fever

by: Chuck Edwards and Judi Garth

Winter is in full swing, and after a few winters with only the lightest snow, we all need some reminders about how to care for our plants.

In case of snow, please help common area shrubs and trees by very gently shaking snow off of them. However, if they are covered in ice, do nothing. Trying to remove ice will damage the plant.

Winter and early spring gardening tips

Even though gardeners are home bound by winter weather, you can calm spring fever by completing a few helpful outside chores. These include:

- Resetting any plants which have heaved out of the ground due to freezing and thawing;
- Cutting the tops of perennial grasses before new growth begins;
- Applying a light fertilizer to fall-planted pansies when the weather allows, and removing spent flowers;
- Removing dead wood from shrubberies in your patio; (If you have azaleas, hydrangeas, forsythias, etc., do not prune them until after flowering.)
- Watering any fall-planted trees or shrubs when temperatures are above freezing and there has been insufficient rainfall;
- Remove the leaves of hellebores to give emerging flower buds room to grow.

This is also a good time to start planning your spring and summer border and your patio. You may wish to include at least one new plant which you have not tried before. Also consider starting a journal to record your gardening year and those to come.

Spring planting

The Committee is making plans for a small spring planting. We will wait until fall for any major work since autumn is a better time to plant trees and shrubs. Planting in the fall avoids the necessity for watering over the hot summer months. Residents that have a request or suggestion for either the spring or fall plantings should contact either Judi Garth at 3411 South Stafford (judigarth@comcast.net) or Chuck Edwards at 3460A-1 South Stafford Street (c-d@comcast.net).

Building and Grounds Meetings

The committee meets eight times a year on the first Wednesday of the month. (We do not meet in January, July, August or December.) Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and last about an hour. Please contact the committee chairs for meeting locations. Our March 5 meeting will be hosted by Chuck Edwards, 3460A-1 South Stafford Street.

Community Directory

For the most up-to-date information:
www.fairlington.org/meadowsindex.htm

Board of Directors

John Thurber, President

Mary Ellen Finigan, First Vice President

Lisa Farbstein, Second Vice President

Debbie Diener, Treasurer

Jacqueline Maguire, Secretary

Address Board correspondence to Fairlington Meadows Board of Directors, c/o Community Management Corporation.

For board meeting notes, visit our website, see the bulletin board at the corner of the tennis court near the pool house, or contact Dwayne Frazier.

Property Management

Community Management Corporation

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Dwayne Frazier, Assistant Property Manager

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Craig Robbins, Maintenance Manager

Jose Ramirez, Assistant

(703) 820-6799

Towing Requests

A-1 Towing of Northern Virginia

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