

MEWS NEWS

www.fairlingtonmews.org

President's Report

Renee Powlette

Our annual board meeting on Thursday, June 22nd was a success. This year's option of online voting made it easier for us to reach quorum and we had 50+% before the meeting started. Thanks to our board member Jackie Livingston for making the online voting happen. It was such a success that we may try again to update our bylaws which are sorely out of date. Please welcome our newest member, Billy Elgert, to the board; he is now the Vice President. Billy lives in court 5 with his wife Corinne and his two young daughters, Olivia and Piper. He has already been a benefit to the board with his insight after having worked for a construction company during his college years and he's looking forward to providing input during his three-year term.

Hopefully you took the time to read the comprehensive flyer that was delivered to each doorstep containing our trash and recycling policy. Suzanne Pender, a resident of court 4, was kind enough to create the flyer and deliver it to each unit. Since the flyer was distributed we have noticed that more residents are complying with the trash policies. Recycling has improved and we've noticed less trash has been left out at night. It's more important than ever to follow the trash and recycling rules to keep animals away and keep our part of Fairlington looking great. In case you missed the first distribution, the trash policy flyer is attached to this newsletter.

The fence project finally has a green light! We signed a contract with Long Fence and work will begin on the King Street fence the week of September 25th. The most common question we receive is in regards to individual patios. If Long Fence believes they will encounter any issues with your patio, you will be notified three weeks in advance of work starting in your court. Patio fence replacement will be completed by court in numerical order beginning with Court 1.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	1
Stay Connected	1
Storage in Common Areas	2
Severe Weather Preparation	2
Landscape Committee	3
After Hours Emergencies	3
Sewer Backups	4
Get Involved	4
Neighborly Reminders	5
Calendar	5
Web Resources	5
Mews Contacts	6

Editor: Jackie Livingston

Contributors: Jackie Livingston, Renee Powlette, Judith Guerny, Kim Whittet, Billy Elgert

Stay Connected

- **Website:** The Mews official website is www.fairlingtonmews.org. You'll find a list of upcoming events on the website.
- **Mews Alerts:** Alerts are sent via email with important information or in cases of an emergency. To subscribe, please sign up via the website, or send an email request to fairlingtonmews@gmail.com.
- **Facebook:** You can find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/FairlingtonMews
- **Newsletter:** This newsletter is distributed quarterly. Current and previous issues can be found on the Mews website.

President's Report, cont'd

The installation of FiOS continues throughout the community. In speaking with the on-site Verizon workers, they estimate that Verizon should start offering service by the end of October.

We are continuing to award contracts to different companies to keep the Mews looking good. There's always something that needs attention such as trees, sidewalks and gutters. We will have our gutters cleaned once most of the leaves are off the trees. We've had fewer issues with flooding basements since we installed wider gutters last year, but we did have a few issues where Crepe Myrtle flowers clogged downspouts in August during periods of heavy rain. For additional advice on what to do during periods of heavy rain, see the article in this newsletter.

One last shout out to Lori Stuntz, Mews Treasurer. Lori painstakingly reviews our books every month to ensure accuracy. She did a great job summarizing our financial health at our annual meeting and we are lucky to have her!

Storage in Common Areas

Storage of personal items in the common areas of Mews property is not permitted. Baby strollers/carriages, bicycles, toys or other personal items may not be left out or stored in any of the common areas including front stoops, walkways, or green areas. The Fairlington Mews By-laws state that the front of the building shall not be obstructed or used for any purpose other than ingress to and egress from the units. It has been noted that these personal items are being stored outside and we kindly ask that you discontinue this practice.

You also cannot store personal items in the hallways and common area in the basements of B-buildings and any area outside of your patio. Only bicycles are allowed in the common hallways of B-buildings and they must not block the exits. Please remove all items that are not allowed or they will be removed and discarded for you.

Severe Weather Preparation

Given the recent storms that hit Houston and South Florida, below are a few key pointers to make sure you're ready for severe rain, should it come our way.

- **Trim your trees.** Make sure any trees on your patio aren't overhanging your gutters. The leaves will cause the gutters to backup and not divert water away from your home. We've seen issues with crêpe myrtles, in particular, where flowers clogged the downspouts, which led to basement flooding.
- **Check your downspouts.** As a follow-on to the item above, check to make sure your downspouts are connected properly at the base and are not clogged with debris. The downspouts are designed to divert water away from your foundation.
- **Consider window well covers.** Window well covers are a great way to help divert water and prevent it from pooling in the window wells of our basements. The Mews allows window well covers that are flush with your window well.
- **Monitor the situation.** If you notice pooling near your foundation, please check first to make sure your downspout is connected properly and/or unclogged. If clogged, try to pull out any debris that may be causing the backup. If there is no visible clog and the downspout appears to be connected properly, please contact the Mews property manager, Sabiha Noorzai-Barbour at 703-230-8579 or snoorzai@cmc-management.com.

Landscape Committee

The landscape committee is busy planning for fall maintenance. We are waiting for proposals from several landscape companies to perform trimming, weeding and planting.

Front Beds: If you do not want the grounds crew working in your front bed, please place a red reflector in your bed. If we find an owner has allowed weeds to grow and has not trimmed shrubs, we will notify the owner that the landscape crew will "tidy up" the bed. We realize that we are busy, but we want the Mews to look well groomed.

If you desire to add plants and flowers to your unit's front bed, please contact the landscape chairman first.

The landscape company will not install new plantings if homeowners do not commit to watering the new plantings. Many shrubs and trees die for lack of consistent watering.

Pets: Please, please, please pick up after your dogs! Additionally, do not allow them to urinate or defecate in the planting beds and around the playground. Last week we found a pile of poop next to the playground. A child could have stepped in it or touched it. Yuck!

Children: Please do not allow your children to climb the trees because they may be injured and even damage the trees. Trees are extremely expensive to replace and we want to preserve them as long as possible.

Unwanted Items: Please do not dump unwanted items behind fences, especially along the King Street fence. That area is being cleared of debris and unwanted vegetation before the new fence is installed. New trees and shrubs will be planted along the fence in spring 2018.

Finally, the committee members routinely walk the property for problems. If we miss something, please contact Judith Guerney, Landscape Committee Chair, at guerney1@verizon.net. You may also notify Steve Burcham, Mews Maintenance, at steveburcham22@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping to make the Mews a great place to live and raise our children.

After Hours Emergencies

The CMC Emergency number is 703-631-7200 and should only be called in the event of an emergency that occurs outside normal business hours. The association is charged \$50 for every phone call received by the CMC emergency center. Events that constitute an emergency are those that cannot wait until the next work day and are under the control of the management company. Examples of an emergency include, but are not limited to: your ceiling caved in due to water damage, fallen tree on your home, or you are experiencing a sewage backup in your basement.

Please do not contact CMC if you have a loss of water or electricity as those services are controlled by Arlington County (703-228-6555) and Dominion VA Power (866-366-4357). The Mews occasionally has to turn the water off to a specific court in order to perform repairs, but this would occur during normal business hours and residents are notified in advance. Please help us control costs and contact the appropriate party in the event of an emergency or loss of utility services.

Sewer Backups

A sewage backup that affected two units occurred again in the Mews. Information below details what you can do to help prevent future backups. If you experience a sewage backup in your unit, which typically occurs in the basement, please contact our CMC Property Manager. A plumber will be dispatched to assess the blockage and determine if it is the responsibility of the Mews.

You can help prevent sewer backups and the costs associated with repairs. Your cooperation will help to keep our monthly fees low.

Only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed in toilets. The following should **NOT** be flushed down the toilet:

- Kleenex, paper towels or napkins
- Dental floss
- Hair
- Feminine hygiene products
- Baby & adult wipes (even those marked “flushable”)
- Disposable diapers
- Condoms
- Pet waste & kitty litter

Backups are also caused by improper disposal of the following items in drains and garbage disposals. You should **NOT** put any of the following in your garbage disposal or sink drains:

- Grease/oil (let solidify and place in trash)
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds
- Vegetables such as cornhusks, celery, cabbage, onions, potato peels, etc.
- Pulpulent fruit and fruit seeds
- Chicken or fish bones
- Seafood shells (i.e., shrimp)
- Paint & caulk

Most garbage should go out with the trash; these items should never enter our sewer system. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Get Involved

Would you like to become more involved in the Mews community? If so, there are opportunities to join one of our committees – the recreation, finance and landscape committees could use your help. Additionally, court representatives are needed for Courts 7, and 11. These courts have had vacancies for quite a while and the Board would greatly appreciate residents who are willing to volunteer. Please send a message to fairlingtonmews@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming involved with the Mews community.

Neighborhood Reminders

RECYCLING



On Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, residents may place the following items in the recycling bins left at each court:

- Aluminum and other metal cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic containers

These items should be rinsed prior to being placed in the bins. No bags (plastic or paper) should be placed in the bins.

Mixed paper and cardboard can also be recycled. Mixed paper should be placed in a paper bag or tied with twine. Cardboard boxes must be broken down and flattened. These items should be left next to the bins.



TRASH COLLECTION

- Trash is collected six days a week, Monday through Saturday.
- Please put trash out by 8 a.m., but not the night before.
- Large items are collected on the first Saturday of each month.

PARKING RULES



- Each unit is assigned one parking space.
- Park only in your designated space or your vehicle may be towed.
- Visitors must park on the street unless using a specially designated visitor parking space.
- Call the posted telephone numbers to request towing or if your vehicle was towed.

PETS



- Cats must not be allowed to roam freely.
- All dogs must be leashed pursuant to Arlington County law.
- **Owners must clean up after their dogs.**
- No pets are allowed on the tennis courts at any time.
- Keep pets away from flowerbeds and border plantings.
- Do not allow dogs to bark excessively or leave barking dogs unattended on your patio.

CALENDAR

September 28: Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, Fairlington Community Center

October 7: Large Trash Pickup

October 26: Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, Fairlington Community Center

November 4: Large Trash Pickup

November 23: Thanksgiving Day – NO TRASH PICKUP!

December 2: Large Trash Pick

December 25: Christmas Day – NO TRASH PICKUP!

Please see the list of upcoming events on the Mews website for any changes.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Mews Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/FairlingtonMews

Mews Website:

www.fairlingtonmews.org

Board Minutes/Newsletters

www.fairlingtonmews.org/handbook-forms/archives/

Mews Trash & Recycling Guidelines

www.fairlingtonmews.org/trash-recycling-2/

Fairlington Citizen's Association

www.fca-fairlington.org

Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/fca.fairlington/

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Renee Powlette	4670B 36th St S, 703-671-2774, rpowlette@yahoo.com (Recreation Liaison)
Vice President:	Billy Elgert	4672B 36th St S, 703-298-7668, billy.elgert@gmail.com
2nd Vice President:	Sean Beachy	4614B 36th St S, sbeachy@wendelcompanies.com (Fence Liaison)
Treasurer:	Lori Stuntz	4608 36th St S, 202-527-2116, stuntle@gmail.com (Finance Liaison)
Secretary:	Jackie Livingston	4662B 36th St S, 703-819-3013, Jackie.livingston@me.com (Newsletter Liaison)

The meeting schedule and minutes are available on the Mews website, www.fairlingtonmews.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fence:	Sean Beachy, 4614B 36th St. S, sbeachy@wendelcompanies.com
Landscape:	Lois Starkey, 4650 36th St. S, #B2, 717-903-0188, loisstarkey@yahoo.com
Finance:	VACANT - NEED VOLUNTEER
Recreation:	Kim Whittet, kimwhittet@yahoo.com
Carriage Lamps:	Janice & Larry Peters, 4605B 36th St. S, 703-578-4992

COURT REPRESENTATIVES

Court 1: 3600-3616 S Wakefield St	Lee Ware	3612 S. Wakefield St., 703-931-1270
Court 2: 4606-4630 36th St. S	Sean Beachy	4614B 36th St. S,
Court 3: 4632-4636 36th St. S	Steve Ramirez	4632B 36th St. S, 703-915-5332
Court 4: 4638-4654 36th St. S	Damon & Amy Gabriel	4640 36th St. S. #A2, 703-203-9177
Court 5: 4656-4674 36th St. S	Renee Powlette,	4670B 36th St. S, 703-671-2774
Court 6: 4676-4698 36th St. S	Fern Birtwistle	4678B 36th St. S, fern@fernb.com
Court 7: 4667-4671 36th St. S	<i>VACANT - NEED VOLUNTEER</i>	
Court 8: 4664-4686 34th St. S	Gretchen Martin	4680 34th St. S, 703-933-1368
Court 9: 4624-4658 34th St. S	David Biette	4638 34th St. S, 703-820-9589
Court 10: 4600-4618 34th St. S	Shirley Fein	4610 34th St. S, 703-553-0340
Court 11: 3408-3458 S Wakefield St.	<i>VACANT - NEED VOLUNTEER</i>	
Court 12: 3500-3544 S Wakefield St.	Victoria Lipnik	3512 S. Wakefield St., 703-379-7160
Court 13: 4601-4611 36th St. S	Janice Peters	605B 36th St. S, 703-578-4992
Court 14: 4615-4637 36th St. S	Megan Chiarelli	717-586-7494, megan.chiarelli@gmail.com
Court 15: 4641-4665 36th St. S	Gordon Avery	4655 36th St. S, 703-820-3134

COMMUNITY MANAGER

Sabiha Noorzai-Barbour
 CMC Portfolio Manager
 Phone: 703-230-8579
sabiha.noorzai-barbour@cmc-management.com

MEWS TRASH & RECYCLING RULES

Please be responsible and considerate to your neighbors! Following these rules will lessen wildlife attractants and minimize risks of negative interactions. See reverse for additional information.

TRASH

	<p>Trash must be put out ONLY: Monday – Saturday - 6 a.m. – 9 a.m. <u>ONLY</u></p>	
	<p>NO trash out at night! NO trash inside recycle bins!</p>	
	 <p>NO trash out Sunday or after trash pickup!</p>	 <p>NO household trash bags in public trashcans over the weekend.</p>

RECYCLING

****Please recycle more to reduce the amount of daily trash****

Bins out Tuesday, pickup on Wednesday

- Paper/cardboard goes on the ground, NOT INSIDE bins
- NO plastic bags at all! Harris Teeter, MOM's & other places have plastic bag recycling bins!
- 2 different pickups – one for paper, one for bins

INSIDE BIN	NEXT TO BIN (NOT inside)
<p>Glass, cans, plastic</p>	<p>Paper, cardboard (NO plastic bags)</p>
	
<p> NO PLASTIC BAGS at all!</p>	

Tips on Urban Wildlife – Prevention and Safety

Two recent, unfortunate interactions with raccoons in Fairlington Villages demonstrate a need for public education and rational, science-based solutions.

Prevention – Addressing Causes

The scientific guidance from experts including wildlife biologists points to addressing the causes of attracting wildlife as the most effective means of prevention.

- Trash – **Never** put trash out at night, on the weekends, or after pick up hours.
- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Don't feed wildlife.
- Remove birdfeeders.



Prevention – Behavioral Tips

- Never corner a raccoon which may cause them to defend themselves. Raccoons have babies in May, and are protective mothers. Give them space.
- Don't let your dog chase raccoons or otherwise force them to defend themselves.
- Though primarily nocturnal, raccoons may look for food or sun themselves during the day. Don't panic: this does not mean that they have rabies. Leave them alone. If one appears sick (staggering, walking in circles, falling, biting itself, salivating heavily), call AWLA at 703-931-9241.
- **NOTE: it is ILLEGAL to kill or trap wildlife or to abuse or torment animals in Arlington County.**

Information on Wildlife from Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

Education and information access are important tools for resolving many issues Virginians have with urban wildlife.

- Raccoons are attracted to unsecured trash, pet food, and barbeque grills. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to assure that they are not attracting wildlife.
- Keep pets from chasing or harassing wildlife, as any wild animal in the act of defending itself could potentially cause harm.
- Raccoon young are born in April or May. Reports of "aggressive" individual animals standing their ground, growling, or hissing indicates that a female is protecting her den and wants you to go away. The best thing to do is leave her alone.
- Wildlife keeps ecosystems in balance. Opossums are gentle and eat ticks (scientific studies point to low Lyme Disease instances for communities with healthy opossum populations); bats eat mosquitos, etc.