

MEWS NEWS

www.fairlingtonmews.org

President's Report

Renee Powlette

Our annual board meeting on Thursday, June 28th was well attended and thanks to our online voting, we had a quorum of over 50% before the meeting started. New to the board this year are Ryan Hamel, who lives in court 6 with his wife Samantha (Sam) and Jennifir Birtwhistle, who lives in court 11. Ryan will be one of our Vice Presidents and Jennifir took over the Secretary position from Jackie Livingston and will be doing this newsletter. Jackie will still be maintaining our website, where she posts updates that also post to our Facebook page. We had our first regular board meeting in July and it was a good start of a new board. Please thank the new board members for volunteering their time if you see them around the neighborhood.

During the meeting, we also voted as a community to increase our condo fees by .5% so if you have your condo fee automatically paid by your bank, please remember to update the amount by multiplying your old condo fee by 1.005 and rounding up after 50 cents. i.e. the old Clarendon fee was $\$309 \times 1.005 = 310.545$, which rounds to \$311.

We've had a couple sewer backups in the last month. One due to a broken pipe and baby wipes getting caught and the second due to a towel/rug that somehow made it into the pipe. We are repairing the sewer pipe in court 8. Please see the article in this newsletter as a reminder of what not to flush down the toilet to help prevent sewer backups.

We've had a pretty good summer at the pool this year; our new pool company is a vast improvement over last year's. We have a great head lifeguard named Stefan, who is from Serbia. We also have a great addition to the lifeguard staff, Maya O'Brien, who lives in court 12 and has grown up in Fairlington. Please take advantage of our pool before the summer ends.

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Editor: Jennifir Birtwhistle

Contributors: Jennifir Birtwhistle, Renee Powlette

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

Thanks to Judith Guerny, who has been heading up our landscape committee for the last year or so. You probably don't realize it, but Judith is walking the property almost daily, pickup up sticks, marking weeds for our landscape company and inspecting all the gardens for improvements. It's mainly a thankless job and she deserves a lot of credit for helping to maintain our grounds and keeping the Mews looking like the best property in the neighborhood.

Summertime Wine Socials

The inaugural Mews Wine Social occurred on July 6th and gatherings have continued each Friday thereafter (weather permitting). This is a great way to meet your neighbors, make new friends and have fun! The next one will be on August 10th. So grab a neighbor, a bottle of your favorite wine to share (or beer or anything you prefer), and a snack if you're able and join us for an enjoyable evening. Cups and a cooler will be provided. Meeting location – picnic tables right outside the pool entrance

Real Estate News

Fairlington continues to be a sought-after neighborhood where homes have retained their value. The first half of 2018 has brought prices to impressive highs – especially the ever-popular Clarendon I model – selling for over \$500,000 for a renovated unit. The lack of inventory in Arlington County (just under a 2 month supply) and the surrounding jurisdictions, has sparked bidding wars throughout the area – including Fairlington. The average days on the market until getting a contract is 21 days and the average sold price was \$415,000.

Rainy Weather Preparation

Recent Summertime storms have dropped tons of rain in Fairlington and the surrounding areas. Some key pointers to remember to make sure you're ready for severe rain:

- **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 Reminders

Just a few friendly reminders to keep our community looking great:

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 all 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. Homeowners’ personal plantings are being killed because of this.

Children – Trees & Toys: 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. Toys – please do not leave toys in you front stoop area, outside your patio, or in the courtyards. The best place to keep larger toys is on your back patio.

Unwanted Items: Please do not dump unwanted items behind fences, especially along the King Street fence. That area is been continuously cleared of debris – with the new fence in place, we want to ensure this area remains clean.

Finally, the committee members routinely walk the property for problems. If we miss something, please contact the Fairlington Board so we may address it or 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.

Fence Update

The fence installation has been completed and the new fences look beautiful. As has been reported, there was an issue with the wooden fence caps that were installed in a few sections – as they started to split immediately. Other options were explored and ultimately, black plastic post caps were chosen. These caps are currently being installed throughout the community.

In addition, installation of house numbers on the outside of each unit fence is being finalized. Once these two items are finished, the fence project will be almost completed. Court 6 fences will be installed after the retaining wall has been finalized.

Backups Cause Unit Damage

Although a relatively low occurrence, recently a sewer backup occurred causing major damage to the unit's lower level basement. Please remember 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.
- Pulp 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.

After Hours Emergency Number

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.

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 a court representative is needed for Court 7. This court has 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



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



- 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

August 10: Mews Wine Social, 6pm, Mews Pool Picnic Area – 4639 36th St, S

August 23: Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, Fairlington Community Center

September 1: Large Trash Pickup

September 3: Yes, there is 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:	Ryan Hamel	4694B 36th St S, 202-309-7744, ryanthamel@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Lori Stuntz	4608 36th St S, 202-527-2116, stuntle@gmail.com (Finance Liaison)
Secretary:	Jennifir Birtwhistle	3422 Wakefield St S, 703-835-1256, jennifirbirtwhistle@gmail.com (Newsletter Liaison)

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fence:	VACANT
Landscape:	VACANT – NEED VOLUNTEER
Finance:	VACANT – NEED VOLUNTEER
Recreation:	Kim Whittet, kimwhittet@yahoo.com
Carriage Lamps:	Janice & Larry Peters, 4605B 36th St. S, 703-307-4992

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	<i>VACANT – NEED VOLUNTEER</i>	
Court 3: 4632-4636 36th St. S	<i>VACANT – NEED VOLUNTEER</i>	
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 Wakefield St. S	Ashley Walsh	3426 Wakefield St. S, 757-705-9348
Court 12: 3500-3544 Wakefield St. S	Victoria Lipnik	3512 Wakefield St. S, 703-379-7160
Court 13: 4601-4611 36th St. S	Janice Peters	4605B 36th St. S, 703-307-4992
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