



CHESTERFIELD MEWS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWS

REMEMBER: JULY 4TH COOKOUT 4:00 PM – READSBOROUGH COURT – See Website

Spring/Summer 2014

Annual Meeting Recap

The CMCA Annual Meeting was held on April 29 at Fairfax Circle Baptist Church on Chichester Lane. Thirty-six homeowners were present, and 44 proxy votes were submitted.

President Bob Parker reported that the Mews continues to be in sound financial condition despite the record-setting winter causing us to dramatically exceed our snow-plowing budget. Treasurer Jimmy Xu provided the financial details to back up Bob's report, with emphasis on the healthy condition of our Reserve funds. Jimmy also stated that the Mews had received a clean audit for 2013. Bob also provided a complete update and history of activities (supported by a handout given to everyone in attendance) concerning the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's initiative to bring community fire lanes into compliance with existing regulations. Vice President (and ACC Chairman) Gordon Silcox announced that all ACC regulations, guidelines, and necessary forms are now available on www.inthemews.com. Board member John Whitlock highlighted the many good works of the Grounds Working Group in 2013-14, achieved with the advice and consent of the board.

Re-elected to the board of directors for new three-year terms were Bob Parker and Kevin Noca of Readsborough, and Brian Saal of Guysborough. Patrick Raitt of Lower Eakin was nominated and elected to serve the one year remaining on the term of the departing Ross Bankson. The board extends its gratitude to Ross for his many years of service on the board and to the community at large. We wish him well as he now has more time to indulge in his favorite activity...traveling.

Officers Elected at May 27 Meeting

At its May 27 monthly meeting, the board of directors elected a new slate of officers for the coming year. Bob Parker of Readsborough and Gordon

Silcox of Colchester Brook flip-flopped their roles of last year; Gordon was elected president and Bob was elected vice-president. Newly-minted director Patrick Raitt was elected secretary and Jimmy Xu of Readsborough retained his role as treasurer. Bill Saint of Colchester Brook retains his vital role as grounds liaison, and Gordon Silcox retains his role as chairman of the Architectural Control Committee. Kevin Noca of Readsborough retains his three hats of webmaster, newsletter editor, and aMewsments key coordinator. John Whitlock of Delburne and Bill Saint will continue to serve as the board conduits to the Grounds Working Group. Last but certainly not least, Margaret Kerr-McKown and Brian Saal will continue in their unsung yet priceless roles as sounding boards and voices of reason for all board activities. Their value to the board cannot be overstated. The board very much looks forward to yet another most productive upcoming year.

Parking Update

The board appreciates residents' continued patience as it diligently works to find solutions for the current parking dilemma. The less-than-aesthetic views of cars parked all around Kelly's Circle pleases no one and is a safety risk. In the near-term, board members are consulting with civil engineers to get an assessment of the current parking posture in the neighborhood and to get recommendations to free up and maximize space. One very likely solution will be to move the curb on the Upper Eakin side of Guysborough between Upper Eakin and Delburne, complying with the Fairfax County code for road width to enable parking on one side of the street. This could free up as many as 10 spaces for parking along that side of Guysborough.

In the Meantime, Unfortunately...

Fire Marshal safety inspections continue and the community is required to comply with fire code. Until we come up with some semblance of relief, any vehicle parked along the numerous "Yellow Brick Roads" of painted curbs in the Mews is subject to towing. If your vehicle is towed, please contact Accurate Towing at 703-934-1460 (alternate is 540-347-3185) to verify they have towed the vehicle and to inquire of charges due to retrieve the vehicle. Only the registered owner can retrieve the vehicle. The storage lot address is 8109 Ransell Rd. in Merrifield (off Gallows Rd, 0.4 miles north of Rt. 50) and the lot is open 24/7. Charges for towing are \$125 and up and depend upon the type of vehicle and the time of the towing, as set by Fairfax County. Additional charges may apply if towed vehicles are not claimed within 24 hours. Any charges are the owner's responsibility. Payment methods are cash or credit.

Commercial Vehicle Parking

This newsletter wouldn't be complete without identifying yet one more parking restriction, this one applying to commercial vehicles in the neighborhood. CMCA covenants state that no commercial vehicle of any kind can be kept or parked overnight upon any portion of our property. At its June 24 meeting, the board of directors discussed and approved the following definition of a "commercial vehicle":

*"A commercial vehicle is any car, truck, van or other vehicle which fits within Fairfax County's definition of commercial vehicle **OR** any vehicle which displays a company name or logo on its exterior, or which has equipment or tools attached to its exterior."* If you have questions about this definition - or anything parking-related - please contact any board member or submit a comment through the "Contact Us" feature of www.inthemews.com.

Pooped!

Over the past couple of years, community concern with uncollected dog poop has risen and fallen with the seasons - greater concern in the summer than in the winter. But the fact remains that we have a significant problem with people who do not follow the Fairfax County law (Fairfax County Code, §41-2-6) that **requires dog walkers to pick up their pet's poop**. This shortcoming has now reached worrisome proportions in our community. Recently three elementary school children stepped on dog poop left on the sidewalk near the bus stop and the bus driver had to exit the bus to clean their shoes. Observation suggests that part of the problem stems from instances where a child is given the responsibility for walking the family

dog. They think picking up poop is "icky" and tend to avoid doing it if no one is watching. As reminders of this responsibility, the board will be posting a few signs in areas of poop concentration. Please be sure to instruct your children to pick up pet poop and monitor their compliance. And don't forget to do so yourself. It will make our community a cleaner, healthier and more attractive place to live.

Prepare for Emergencies

Hurricane season may be upon us early this year. In case of emergency, you should plan ahead to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days (72 hours) and longer depending on the type of emergency. The June 29, 2012 derecho storm, which caught everyone by surprise, certainly highlighted the need to make sure we can manage without power, phone service and even drinkable water for an extended period of time, if necessary. Please visit the county's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/> for information about how to sign up for emergency alerts to stay informed, how to make an emergency plan and build an emergency kit for you and your family, including your pets. This kit would include such things as food, water, flashlights and batteries, medicines, etc. Don't forget to charge batteries on electronic devices in advance of possible power outages.

The county now also has an **emergency information blog, which is the official Fairfax County Government Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Website**. The link is: <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/> You may also contact the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711.

Odds and Ends . . .

Free Smoke Alarms Available Upon Request. Did you know that the Fire Department is offering free smoke alarms? Through a Fairfax County Community Outreach program entitled "Safety In Our Community", several Mews homeowners have taken advantage of this benefit and you can too. The goal of the program is to "prevent the 9-1-1 call." The program offers, upon request, free smoke alarms and home inspections conducted by firefighters. It also offers seasonal fire and life safety information to residents. To schedule a smoke alarm installation or a home inspection, please call Public Affairs and Life Safety Education at (703) 246-3801. More information about this and other Community Outreach Programs is at the below link:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/outreach/commoutreach.htm>

Reporting a Streetlight Outage. Streetlights in the Mews are maintained by Dominion Virginia Power. When reporting an outage, you will need to have the location of the pole. The pole number is also helpful, if available. To report a streetlight outage, call 1-866-DOM-HELP (366-4357), TTY 711. Dominion uses a coding system

when responding to repair orders where the problem cannot be resolved on the first visit. If further work is required to correct the problem, a color-coded tag is wrapped around the light post: blue (overhead repair required), green (underground repair necessary) and yellow (underground cable damaged and needs repair).

	Address	Original List Price	Sold Price	Days on Market	Model	Contract Date	Close Date	Comments
Real Estate Activity	3156 Colchester Brook	\$389,000	\$389,900	20	B	3 June 2013	21 Feb 2014	Sold as-is
	3134 Colchester Brook	\$469,900	\$470,000	9	B	3 Oct 2013	12 Nov 2013	Remodeled
	3173 Colchester Brook	\$430,000	\$425,000	40	B	18 Dec 2013	10 Feb 2014	Sold
	3133 Readsborough	\$465,000	\$455,000	10	A	23 Feb 2014	25 Mar 2014	Very private
	3160 Colchester Brook	\$390,000	\$407,400	0	C	11 Mar 2014	12 June 2014	Possible short sale
	3173 Readsborough	\$485,000	\$480,000	9	C	21 Mar 2014	5 May 2014	Remodeled
	3174 Readsborough	\$474,888	\$481,000	13	C	6 May 2014	9 June 2014	Some updating
	3132 Guysborough	\$459,000		23	C	19 June 2014		Contingent on appraisal - 15 July 2014
	3189 Colchester Brook	\$449,900		24	B	23 June 2014		Contingent on appraisal - 30 July 2014
	3144 Colchester Brook	\$479,888		5	C	6 June 2014		Contingent - Other - 11 July 2014
	3135 Guysborough	\$487,600			B			ACTIVE - Listed 27 June 2014

Real Estate Data provided by Ginny Howden, Long and Foster Realtors. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For information and contact with the board visit our community website: www.inthemews.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Gordon Silcox
PRESIDENT
Architectural Control
Committee
3159 Colchester Brook
(703) 280-1041

Bob Parker
VICE PRESIDENT
3187 Readsborough
(703) 698-9141

Patrick Raitt
SECRETARY
3173 Eakin Park
(202) 288-4012

Jimmy Xu
TREASURER
3195 Readsborough
(703) 685-0077

Margaret Kerr-McKown
3145 Guysborough
(703) 280-1311

Brian Saal
3135 Guysborough
(703) 609-4994

John Whitlock
Grounds Working Group
3132 Delburne
(703) 675-5507

Kevin Noca
Website, Newsletter,
aMewsmnts keys
3159 Readsborough
(703) 472-6959
nocas14@cox.net

Bill Saint
GROUNDS LIAISON
3179 Colchester Brook
(703) 638-5829

OTHER:

**Management Company:
Gates, Hudson
Associates**
3020 Hamaker Court
Fairfax VA 22031
(703) 752-8300
Carrie Wakefield
Portfolio Manager
(703) 750-8300 ext 708

**Bulk Trash Pickup/
Recycling Bin Request**
(703) 818-8222

**Police (non-emergency)
& Animal Control**
(703) 691-2131

County Supervisor
Linda Q. Smyth
(703) 560-6946

The Chesterfield Mews Community Association provides this newsletter for informational purposes only. It is not officially endorsed by CMCA. For official guidance, please refer to the official records of the association, maintained by the secretary.