

MEWS NEWS

The monthly newsletter of the Landmark Mews Community Association

FEBRUARY 2013

For Board meeting dates & locations, minutes & reports, governing documents, architectural standards, community news, residents directory, and other important information, log on to www.landmarkmews.com.

Board of Directors:

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jerry.putman@cox.net

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rocky6325@aol.com

Mews Webmaster: Heather McGhee
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Covenants Committee: Bill Evinger, Dick Fiske, Mecky Putman, Simon Bennett, Suzann Evinger, Michael Davids, Brian Koechel
covenants@landmarkmews.com,

Neighborhood Watch Chairman: Joel Kaplan
superjk2010@gmail.com

President's Message

The Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, 13 February. The Interim Treasurer presented a Financial report, as did the Property Manager and Covenants Chairman.

Financial report

All expenses were accounted for and the year-end audit should take place at the end of February.

Property /Landscape Committee report

Roger Casalengo said there were no new major

infrastructure projects underway. He would be working closely with Kathleen Ryan, the head of the Landscape Committee on various projects. Kathleen informed the Board that replanting and beautifying certain areas of the Mews would begin in the spring. This is an ongoing project and she also suggested that a spring clean-up with homeowners' participation would greatly enhance the Mews' appearance. More to follow on the date.

Covenant's Report

Bill Evinger reminded everyone that holiday decorations should now be removed. Also, as a

reminder, pizza boxes are NOT recyclable on recycling day (Thursdays). The Architectural standards are now going to be reviewed so if any homeowners are interested in participating in this, please contact Bill: covenants@landmarkmews.com

In this newsletter, I've provided an update on the Stevenson Ave. sound wall project and a memo to all residents Subject: Community Concerns, dated February 13th, 2013. These concerns are not new and are routinely expressed by many of our community residents. We need to do better.

One of our highest priorities is replacing Chris Dale, our Interim Treasurer who will relinquish her position in April 2013. We owe Chris a deep debt of gratitude for filling in after the departure of our past Treasurer. In this regard, we are investigating outsourcing this function to a professional financial management company, which will employ 21st century procedures and practices. They provide the following:

- Collect assessments
- Pursue delinquency
- Pay vendors
- Work with the auditor
- Provide first draft of annual operating budget

Additionally, our Property Manager Roger Casalengo, is conducting a study to determine how to modernize the lighting throughout the community to brighten it up. We will keep you informed as we proceed.

Lastly, some individuals seem to have a heavy foot when driving within Landmark Mews

Community property. Please slow down as we have a few elderly residents and parents walking children within the community.

This is a proud community and with your support we will only continue to prosper.

Thanks for your continued support,

Jerry Putman

Contact me: jerry.putman@cox.net

**The Mews has several new residents, and we are hoping to obtain their contact information. If you are new to the Mews or if you have updated information, please complete the form on the back of the Mews News to be sure you are on our E-Mail list. It will soon be our only method of communication.*

Landmark Mews Community Concerns

DOG WASTE

We have noticed an increasing amount of dog waste in the common areas and along the sidewalks on the exterior perimeter of the brick wall. As a friendly reminder and as a courtesy to your neighbors, please pick up after your dog when walking them and dispose of it properly, as leaving the bags on the ground is just as bad as not picking it up at all. In addition, many of our residents have spent a lot of time, care and expense in making their front yards and our community beautiful. Please show courtesy and don't let your dog go in your neighbor's yard as pet waste/urine damages grass, flowers and shrubs. Instead, have them go in the common areas and pick up after them, which makes it a pleasant community for everyone and is a Fairfax County Ordinance (see below in italics, taken from www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

Section 41.1-2-6-Animals causing unsanitary conditions

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal to animals to keep such animals or animals in such a manners as to cause unsanitary conditions. The owner of custodian of any dogs shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public places. (26-04-41.1).

http://library.municode.com/HTML/10051/level3/FACOCO_CH41.1ANCOCA_ART2ANCORACO.html#FACOCO_CH41.1ANCOCA_ART2ANCORACO_S41.1-2-6ANCAUNCO

Cleaning up dog waste, with its bacteria, parasites and viruses, is important for our health and the health of our water resources. Dog waste that is left on the ground, especially near streets and sidewalks, is usually washed into storm drains that flow to local waterways without being treated. Picking up your dog's waste and throwing it into the trash is the right and the healthy thing to do for us and our environment, so please pick up after your dog. For more on what you can do to make a difference, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater or call 703-324-5500.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts/transcripts/2012/n2u-oct31.htm#>

DOG LEASH LAWS

It has been recently brought to our attention that a few dog owners are letting their dogs off leash on Landmark Mews property and surrounding areas. Please remember that all dogs MUST be on a leash when outside of your home unless you are in a designated off-leash area, per

Fairfax County Ordinance (see below in italics, taken from www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

Section 41.1-2-4. - Unrestricted dogs prohibited; leash law.

No dog shall run unrestricted, as defined in Section 41.1-1-1, in the County. Any person who is the owner of a dog found unrestricted in the County shall be in violation of this Section. This Section shall not apply to any person who uses a dog under his direct supervision while lawfully hunting, while engaged in a supervised formal obedience training class or show, during formally sanctioned field trials, while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by Fairfax County designated by resolution of the Board of Supervisors as an off-leash dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority and designated by resolution of the Fairfax County Park Authority as an off-leash or dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area, leased, controlled, or operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and designated by resolution of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board as an off-leash or dog exercise area, or if a dog is a service animal whose handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). It is a violation of this Section for any owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed into custody of any person not

physically capable of maintaining effective control of restricting such dog.

http://library.municode.com/HTML/10051/level3/FACOCO_CH41.IANCOCA_ART2ANCORACO.html#FACOCO_CH41.IANCOCA_ART2ANCORACO_S41.1-2-4UNDOPRLELA

As a courtesy to your neighbors, we ask that all dog owners please keep their dogs on leash for their safety, as well as for the safety of others.

GARBAGE BAGS & CROWS

We have noticed an increasing amount of trash on the street during garbage collection days due to the increased number of crows that are in the neighborhood that are tearing into white garbage bags. As a reminder, we encourage residents to use black/heavy duty garbage bags or bins with lids when placing their trash out on the curb for collection. There is also an increased number of crows that are roosting in the proffer zone, the berm and other areas surrounding Landmark Mews. We also encourage residents NOT to feed wild animals, as it attracts the crows to a food source, which then attracts them to the garbage.

RECYCLING

As a reminder, please carefully **SECURE** your recycled materials in the bin when placing them out on the curb for pick-up. The weather is unpredictable and we have had several very windy days, and as a result, a great deal of recycled material left out on the curb gets blown around the neighborhood creating litter. AAA recommends

breaking down boxes and compacting containers (e.g, crushing cans), whenever possible. If you need a recycling bin, please contact Roger Casalegno, Property Manager at Rocky6325@aol.com.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Landmark Mews a clean and beautiful place to live!

February 4th Update on the Stevenson Sound Wall

Thursday evening, 31 January, VDOT and Transurban / Fluor officials held a special briefing for Landmark Mews homeowners / residents to explain what the Federal Highway Administration – approved sound wall will look like for our segment of Stevenson Avenue. They also explained the complexities of noise measurements / terminology, the noise reduction benefits calculated for nearby homeowners, the process for eliciting community approval, and which homeowners are entitled under federal regulations to vote “yes” or “no” on whether VDOT should build the wall. They answered all questions posed, then helped homeowners determine on the sound map whether they fell into the group expected to realize noticeable noise reduction; i.e., 5 decibels or greater.

The presentation was totally in line with agreements previously reached with VDOT’s Chief Engineer, Garrett Moore, as previously reported. They confirmed they will be building a 12-foot high sound wall (the height of the existing Overlook sound wall) on our segment of Stevenson Avenue – that is, 12 feet above the level of the Stevenson

Avenue roadway. Compared to the targeted goal of a 7 decibel reduction in existing highway-related noise levels, the sound model calculates a 6 to 14 decibel reduction for homeowners along Stevenson Avenue – and noticeable reduction at least for the second row of homes. The presentation was well-received; many homeowners signed their ballots – in support of building the wall.

Although cases of communities voting down a proposed sound wall to which they are legally entitled are extremely rare, VDOT is legally required to send ballots to affected homeowners giving them the opportunity to do so. Think of it as two-pronged – good public relations and a built-in legal defense against disgruntled homeowner lawsuits claiming damages as a result of an unwanted sound wall.

For affected homeowners who did not vote at the meeting, Transurban, for VDOT, will be sending out registered letters eliciting their votes. Responses not received by the due date (estimated about 20 February) will be counted as “yes” votes. Assuming community support, VDOT / Transurban will proceed to order long lead materials required to construct our sound wall.

We are fortunate that work at our end of the I-95 HOT Lanes project is at the front of the production line. Excavation alongside Stevenson Avenue is proceeding quickly. While the completion date for the entire

HOT Lanes project is “end of 2014,” we hope our end will complete much earlier. What remains is to ensure that during project execution, VDOT/Transurban workforces adhere to agreements reached.

For those receiving sound wall ballots, please return them promptly. The sooner the sound wall materials can be ordered, the sooner it can be built.

Please Slow Down

Please slow down while driving in the community and please obey the Stop signs. We have both children and the elderly living in the community, and it is simply not safe to drive fast on our narrow streets.

Reminder - Parking Policy

Please remember that the Landmark Mews Parking Policy has provisions for both residents as well as guests. Here are a few reminders:

1. Resident vehicles must display a Landmark Mews decal
2. Residents may not park in Visitors parking between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM
3. Guests need to leave a note in their car as to whom they are visiting

Board Meeting Dates and Host

March 13th, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Charles Cureton, 6303 Chaucer View Circle.

Please keep the MEWS informed about your current contact information. Please use the form below to update your contact information. As we may not have your most current information, we ask that all owners and residents complete the attached form and return with your next dues payment or E-Mail the information to Roger Casalengo at rocky6325@aol.com.

Thank you for your cooperation and in helping the community maintain an up to date database.

Name(s):

Mews Property Address:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

E-Mail(s):

Landmark Mews Parking Decal Numbers:

If you don't have a parking decal for any of your vehicles, please let us know the following about your vehicle:

Make:

Model:

Year:

License No.: