



## CHESTERFIELD MEWS

# NEWS

July–August 2010

### Citing Family, Howden Resigns From Newly Constituted Board

Ginny Howden announced her resignation from the CMCA board of directors at the monthly board meeting on June 22. She served as president of the board for the past two years and had been a board member since May 2007.

In her announcement, Howden cited the desire to spend more time with her family. She has two children out of school for the summer. Jo Ann Andren replaces Howden as president.

The resignation comes a month after new board members were elected at the annual meeting. They are Nancy Mintner, of Eakin Park Court, and Gordon Silcox, of Colchester Brook Lane.

Also at the annual meeting, member Brian Saal reviewed his work coordinating with the Fairfax County police to rid the service road of unsightly vehicles. Police have been patrolling the road and ticketing vehicles that are in violation of new parking regulations.

Ginny Howden gave an illustrated presentation of proposed landscaping improvements to be undertaken by TruGreen. The plan emphasizes new plantings, enhancing pathways with flagstone, and improving mailbox access and trash-removal islands.

The meeting ended with a question-and-answer session and a thank-you to outgoing treasurer Bruce Pincus.

### GHA Mix-up Hexes Inspection Notes

GHA, the Mews's management company, has introduced a new system for handling the annual architectural control committee inspections, which now include photos of the violations. The new process and automated follow-up will tighten the time line on violators and help maintain properties, uphold curb appeal, and optimize property values.

But because this is a new system and because the history of violations was not loaded into the program, the ACC asked to review the letters before GHA mailed them to owners to ensure that outstanding violations were documented.

However, the letters inadvertently went out without the requested review and without the outstanding violations included. Additional violation letters will be sent to those owners.

The new process includes a response sheet. It is the owner's responsibility to advise when the work has been completed or to request a review if the owner disagrees.

### Board Stiffens Collection Policy

In an effort to discourage homeowners from putting off semiannual dues payments until they reach a perilous amount, the CMCA board of directors has instituted an aggressive policy for late payment. The new collection policy is as follows:

- *At billing.* Members will have a 30-day grace period to pay their bill.
- *30 days late.* Members will be sent a reminder.
- *45 days late.* A second notice will be sent. It will warn of what will occur at 60 days late.
- *60 days late.* The CMCA attorney will send a notice of intent to file a lien.
- *91 days late.* A lien will be filed.
- *151 days late.* A civil suit will be filed to collect the lien.

### Tossing Yard Waste? Here's How

The community's contract trash collector, AAA, has issued its guidelines on picking up yard waste. They are as follows:

- Brush and limbs must be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled into armful-size bundles.
- Grass clippings, leaves, and twigs may not be placed in dark bags. Paper bags or clear

plastic bags are acceptable (so the collectors can readily identify the contents).

- Tree stumps and tree limbs larger than 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length will not be collected.

- All unbundled trash will be considered a special pickup. Residents needing this service should call AAA for a quote.

Yard waste pickup is on Wednesday. Residents should put out the waste after 6:30 Tuesday night. Dirt, used mulch, and other landscaping by-products are not considered waste and should be considered special pickup items.

***In Brief . . .***

**National Night Out** will be celebrated Thursday, August 3, at Kelly’s Circle. Drop in

for refreshments and a chat with your neighbors, oh, around 7:30 to 8-ish.

**Real Estate Activity?** None since the last newsletter.



**For Ginny Howden**, kudos and gratitude for her dedication and energy on the redo of the Mews’s tennis courts and creation of Chesterfield aMewsments, her vigilance, organization, and communication process on snow removal during one of the worst winters on record, and her continued efforts on tree maintenance—to name just a few of her contributions and good works.

We shall miss her service. 🙏🏻



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ETC.**

*Whom to Call for What*

<p><b>Jo Ann Andren</b> PRESIDENT 3160 Readsborough (703) 560-2198</p> <p><b>Brian Saal</b> TREASURER 3135 Guysborough (703) 609-4994</p> <p><b>Margaret Kerr-McKown</b> SECRETARY 3145 Guysborough (703) 280-1311</p> <p><b>Ross Bankson</b> Newsletter 3169 Eakin Park Court (703) 280-5065</p>	<p><b>John Miller</b> Neighborhood Watch 3145 Eakin Park Court (703) 764-1416</p> <p><b>Michael Epley</b> 3173 Eakin Park Court (703) 218-5151</p> <p><b>Nancy Minter</b> Contractor Clearinghouse 3137 Eakin Park Court (703) 280-4996</p> <p><b>Gordon Silcox</b> 3159 Colchester Brook (703) 280-1041</p>	<p><b>aMewsments, tennis keys</b> Lance Howden (703) 244-4813 lancehowden@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Architectural Control</b> Tracy Thompson tat1@hotmail.com</p>	<p>AAA (trash pickup) (703) 818-8222</p> <p><b>Police</b> (nonemergency), <b>Animal Control</b> (703) 691-2131</p> <p><b>Gates, Hudson Associates</b> 3020 Hamaker Court Fairfax VA 22031 (703) 752-8300 Doug Courtney (571) 432-3785</p> <p><b>County Supervisor</b> Linda Q. Smyth (703) 560-6946</p>
---	--	---	---