**CHESTERFIELD MEWS**

 ***NEWS***

**Fall 2013**

**Fall Bloom Day Set for October 19**

Buoyed by the wonderful turn out and success of the first Bloom Day held this past spring, we are pleased to announce Fall Bloom Day. This second community cleanup event will take place on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Join with neighbors and friends to “spruce up” the Mews. Lend a hand and meet others in the community. You may choose from among the following projects:

1. Sweeping and picking up debris from the aMewsments tennis court and playground.

2. Weeding parking islands.

3. Removing dirt accumulations from sidewalks and curbs.

4. Anything else you think needs done; we don’t mind freelance projects as long as they enhance the neighborhood.

You should have already received a flyer announcing this community cleanup event. If interested, please meet at Kelly’s Circle at 9:00 AM to pick your work project and register to win a free aMewsments key or Jack-o-Lantern.

***Rain date is Saturday, October 26th, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.***

**Fall Tradition Continues With Annual Halloween Parade**

It’s that time of year! The third annual Chesterfield Mews Halloween Parade will make its way through the Mews on Saturday, October 26, beginning at noon sharp. We encourage kids and adults of all ages to join in. Participants will meet at the aMewsments playground, parade the neighborhood, and then return to the playground for food and socializing. As always, we owe our thanks to Patricia and Jeremy Trillet for putting this event together.

**Fall Grounds Update**

Since April’s annual meeting, the grounds working group (GWG) has sought professional advice from arborists, erosion specialists and landscapers to guide the implementation of multi-year plans for tree care, erosion control, maintaining grass and expanding plantings throughout the community.

**Completed projects** include:

1. Phase I of dead and dangerous tree removal.

2. Grinding down of a dozen stumps.

**Scheduled projects** include:

1. Planting of ten new trees in mid-October, mainly near Kelly’s Circle, to replace those lost in in recent years.

2. Erosion remediation between 3177 and 3181 Readsborough on November 25th.

3. Phase II of tree trimming and removal.

**Pending projects** include:

1. Erosion remediation at the end of Colchester Brook Lane.

2. Warranty replanting of parking island plants lost over the past year

3. Enhancements to Kelly’s Circle to introduce more evergreens and relocate some existing shrubs.

4. Removing accumulated piles of dumped yard waste and other trash on the periphery of the community.

There is much more to be done! Community involvement is invited and welcomed. Your ideas and expertise are needed in the continuing effort to improve the attractiveness of the Mews. Over the winter the GWG will be developing plans for additional plantings in the spring; more erosion remediation; some under-planting of shrubs (for example, rhododendrons) in heavily shaded areas where grass cannot grow; and creating an “on-call” group to tackle small grounds maintenance needs (for example, after major storms) and further work on the rough areas north of Readsborough Circle and the tennis courts. For more information, contact any member of the GWG (Helen Fortner, Sherri Irving, Bill Saint, John Whitlock) or the board of directors.

**No Longer Just in Maryland and DC**

Texting while driving became a primary
offense in Virginia on July 1. This means that you no longer have to be stopped for another, separate offense. The penalties have increased as well. A first time offense is a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of $125. Any second or subsequent offense earns you a cool $250 fine. The law also increases the punishment of any person convicted of reckless driving to include a $250 mandatory minimum fine if the person was texting at the time of the reckless driving offense. So, aside from being just plain common sense not to text while driving, you will now receive a ticket if you’re caught.

**Illegal Sign Removal Program**

Authority was obtained from the General Assembly enabling Fairfax County to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Highways to act on behalf of the Commissioner to enable removing illegal signs from the public rights-of-way. As of July 1, Fairfax County began removing signs that were illegally put on or along selected roads. This includes political campaign signs, advertising signs and more. Signs will be regularly picked up every week between Tuesday and Thursday by the Sheriff’s Community Labor Force based on an established schedule. The county is removing signs to assist the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), but VDOT is still responsible for maintaining the roads. Contact VDOT about signs that cause a safety hazard on the roads by emailing VDOT at

novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov or by calling

1-800-FOR-ROAD, TTY 711.

The county program does not remove signs from neighborhood streets or private roads/property—only selected major roads across the county.

The program also does not remove trash or litter. To address these issues, we encourage you to create or join a VDOT Adopt-a-Highway group. After the county removes a sign, it will be stored for five calendar days at the I-66 Transfer Station where it may be reclaimed. Signs will be destroyed after five days. However, VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway groups may collect signs at any time on their designated roads, and they may destroy these signs immediately. For more information about the county's sign removal program, visit the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/signs/signremovalprogram.htm>

**Stop for the School Bus!!**

We recently received a report from one of our residents of an incident that could have produced catastrophic consequences. This incident occurred when the Mantua Elementary school bus was dropping off students at the Mews entrance at the end of the school day. The bus stop sign was sticking out and its lights were flashing. The neighbor, who stopped her car out of respect for the law and the safety of the children, witnessed two sedans that came up behind her, swerved around her car, and kept going onto Guysborough. All this occurred at the same time that the children were getting off the bus! It’s unimaginable that there is anyone who does not know this, but just in case here’s a news flash: Stopping for a parked school bus with flashing lights is a basic law that applies to every one of the 50 states. If a stopped school bus is displaying a flashing, alternating red lamp and/or a displayed stop sign, a driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking the stopped bus from either direction (front or back) must stop and wait until the red lights go off, the stop sign retracts, and the bus starts moving again. Below is the link to the Virginia state law:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+46.2-859>

To reinforce the notion of safety, we respectfully ask that parents who routinely drive to the bus stop in the morning and wait for the bus observe the posted "No Parking" signs posted at the intersection to Guysborough and the access road. Illegally parked or idling cars near the community's single entrance and exit often reduce the road to a single lane, which potentially creates a safety hazard where the children are congregated.

***Odds and Ends . . .***

**Election Day is November 5.** The Virginia General and Special Election is November 5, 2013 and polls are open from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm. The ballot will include elections for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, members of the House of Delegates, the unexpired term for sheriff, and a $250 million school bond question. Don’t let all the acrimony between Congress and the President deter you from going to the polls and helping to make a difference. For more information on the school bond, visit the Fairfax County Public Schools 2013 bond referendum website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/).

**Annoyance at the Intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street**. As many of you are aware, the right-hand turn lane from northbound Nutley Street onto eastbound Lee Highway has been blocked since June due to a VDOT improvement project. This obviously causes headaches for anyone trying to turn right onto Nutley Street from Nutley Street Plaza. When combined with the nearly three-minute traffic light wait to turn onto Nutley from the plaza during most hours, this project creates a “Nutley Street Nightmare”. This “double-whammy” of sorts causes many Mews residents to turn right onto Lee Highway from in front of the Starbucks and take the long way around via cutting across Ellenwood Drive back onto Route 50 to enter the Mews. On the bright side, the project will add a second left turn lane from eastbound Lee to northbound Nutley Street (though this does not benefit Mews residents so much). VDOT will also install a badly needed raised concrete median along Lee Highway just east of Nutley Street.

**The project is scheduled to be complete by December.**  If you would like more information on this project please visit

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/lee\_highway\_and\_nutley\_street.asp

or call 1-800-FOR-ROAD.

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|  | **Address** | **Original List Price** | **Sold Price** | **Days on Market** | **Model** | **Status** |
|  | 3141 Guysborough | $448,900  | $440,000  | 10 | B | Sold (14 February 2013) |
| **2013 Real Estate Activity** | 3177 Colchester Brook | $348,000  | $331,000  | 19 | C | Sold (30 January 2013) |
|  | 3177 Colchester Brook | $367,500  | $367,500  | 0 | C | Sold (11 March 2013) |
|  | 3134 Colchester Brook | $381,999 | $355,000 | 2 | B | Sold (11 July 2013) |
|  | 3140 Guysborough | $439,000 | $431,000 | 47 | B | Sold (12 July 2013)  |
|  | 3156 Colchester Brook | $389,000  |  | 0 | B | Under Contract (Contingent until 18 October 2013) |
|  | 3134 Colchester Brook | $469,900 |  | 9 | B | Under Contract (Contingent upon Appraisal until 25 October 2013) |

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| **CONTACT INFORMATION:**For information and contact with the boardvisit our community website: www.inthemews.com |
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS: | OTHER: |
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| **Jimmy Xu**Treasurer3195 Readsborough(703) 685-0077**Bill Saint**Secretary3179 Colchester Brook(703) 638-5289 | **Kevin Noca**Website, Newsletter,aMewsments keys3159 Readsborough (703) 472-6959noca514@cox.net | **Margaret Kerr–McKown**Grounds Liaison3145 Guysborough(703) 280-1311 |  | **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.*