
Fairlington Commons

Newsletter

3367 S. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22206 September 2002

Parking in the Commons

This newsletter is dedicated to the subject of parking in Fairlington Commons, where parking related complaints have steadily increased over the past months. It is the sincere hope of the Board of Directors that this review of our parking rules will reverse this increasing trend, negating the necessity to take further and more drastic action.

Two types of parking are available in Fairlington Commons, on-street parking, and parking lots. With regard to on street parking, all of our streets belong to Arlington County, and are governed by the laws of the State of Virginia and the County. Enforcement of those laws is provided by the Arlington County Police Department, which patrols our community on a regular basis. In addition to compliance with those laws, the Board would like to request that our Co-Owners maximize the amount of space available by not taking up two parking spaces, parking second vehicles away from your units, and asking guests traveling with you out-of-town to not park directly in front of your neighbor's homes.

Our Parking Lot Rules

There really aren't that many. The few that we do have are simple, and are based on common courtesy and a desire to provide an equitable sharing of our parking resources. Those rules are:

Rule 1 - Two Vehicles Per Unit. No unit may park more than two vehicles, including guests, in a parking lot. Any vehicles in excess of the two-vehicle limit must park on the street.

Rule 2 - Storage. Vehicles may not be stored in Fairlington Common's parking lots. Any vehicle parked in a parking lot and not moved for more than 45 days will be considered a stored vehicle and will be towed. Residents who plan to be absent for more than 45 days and who wish to leave a vehicle in their regular parking lot should coordinate in writing with the Board of Directors prior to your absence. The south (walled) side of the upper Utah Street Parking lot has been designated a vehicle storage area, however, no vehicle may be stored there without the written permission of the Board.

Rule 3 - Vehicle Repair or Maintenance. No vehicle repair or changing of fluids is permitted; however, checking of fluid levels or replacement of a flat tire is permissible. Vehicles with significant fluid leaks must be

removed from the parking lot until repairs can be made.

Rule 4 - Tandem or Double Parking.

Arlington County law designates the center portion of our parking lots as fire lanes that must be kept open for the passage of emergency vehicles. To conform to this law, vehicles may not be parked one behind the other, only one vehicle may be parked in each marked space, and vehicles may not be parked outside of marked spaces. Motorcycle owners should contact the Board of Directors regarding parking for their vehicles.

Rule 5 – Keep It Legal. The license, state inspection sticker, and personal property tax sticker must be up to date. The Board of Directors has granted permission to the Arlington County Police to enter our parking lots for the purpose of enforcing these government mandates.

Reserved Parking

You might have noticed that there was no mention of reserved parking during the preceding discussion of the rules. That is because there isn't any reserved parking.

Over the years, many of our residents whose homes border a parking lot have established voluntary agreements amongst themselves regarding where they customarily park. The Board of Directors does not enforce these agreements, however, residents are encouraged to respect them by parking only in unnumbered spaces when visiting these parking lots.

Threatening Notes

Recently, several Co-owners have found threatening notes placed on their vehicles after those vehicles were legally parked in our parking lots. The notes threatened towing if they parked in these locations again. Folks,

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hear your Board of Directors loud and clear on this – the practice of placing threatening notes on Co-owner’s vehicles is unacceptable and will terminate immediately. Only the Board of Directors or a vehicle’s owner can authorize towing from our parking lots. Any Co-owner who directs towing of another’s vehicle does so at severe risk, including felony criminal charges for grand theft auto and civil lawsuits.

Enforcement

The Board of Directors has the power to enforce our parking rules. Enforcement can range from a simple reminder notice to revocation of a Co-Owners parking privileges, towing, and legal action. The Board has taken such actions in the past, and will not hesitate to act again in the event such action becomes necessary.

Another possible course of action is the issuance of parking permits. Permits would be required to be displayed any time that a resident’s vehicle was parked in our parking lots. This approach, coupled with a towing contract, has resolved parking problems in other communities, and is a real possibility here in the event that voluntary compliance is not achieved.

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