
Fairlington Commons Newsletter

3367 S. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22206

January 2008

Budget Meeting Held

The Budget Meeting of the Fairlington Commons Council of Co-Owners was held on Thursday, December 6, 2007. Co-Owners from 85 of the Commons 229 Units either personally attended the meeting or submitted proxies for a quorum of 37 percent.

During the meeting, at least one Co-Owner attempted to compare our budget line items with those of our Fairlington neighbors. While our budget may contain line items with names similar to the others, it is important to remember that the assumptions upon which each line item is based and the specifics included vary substantially between Fairlington associations. These differences may be subtle and not apparent. Any attempt at direct comparisons without all of the details may be misleading.

The Board develops budgets based on experience, analysis, and careful planning. Our budgets are distributed to each Co-Owner with the notice of the meeting. Co-Owners are encouraged to ask questions prior to the meeting to assist the Board in providing comprehensive answers and to facilitate the progress of the meeting.

The 2008 Budget was approved with 81 percent of the represented Co-Owners voting for, 12 percent against, and 7 percent abstaining. Most Co-Owners have already received their 2008 Condominium Fee Payment Coupon Books. If you have not received yours, contact Marsha Murphy Accounting at 703-370-9100.

Mail Security

A Co-Owner recently reported that an envelope containing a Starbucks Gift Card that had been placed in the foyer of one of our apartment-style buildings for pickup by the post office had disappeared.

While it is not certain if the envelope was taken or accidentally thrown away with the junk mail and trash that sometimes accumulates, there is an important lesson here with regard to mail security – and that is that mail left for pickup in the foyer of our apartment-style buildings or extending from the mail slot of your front door is not secure and can be taken by anyone.

Be safe. Protect yourself and your mail. If you live in one of our apartment style buildings, pick up your mail and packages and dispose of the junk mail. Outgoing mail can be deposited in a postbox, mailed from your place of employment, or taken to the Post Office for mailing.

Parking Passes

Residents are reminded that a Fairlington Commons Hang Tag (parking pass) is required if you wish to park a vehicle in any of our off-street parking lots. Hang Tags are not required if you park exclusively on S. 34th, Utah, or Wakefield Streets, which are Arlington County Public Streets.

A copy of our Parking Policy and Parking Pass Application is available on the web at:
<http://fairlington.org/commonsdocuments.htm>.

A recent audit of our parking passes revealed some interesting facts:

- ***363 Hang Tags have been issued***
- ***347 are active***
- ***13 are reported lost***
- ***2 are of unknown status***
- ***1 was destroyed (unserviceable)***

Hang Tags must be hung from the rearview mirror so as to be readily identifiable any time that your vehicle is in our parking lots. If yours has become worn or damaged such that it cannot be hung from the mirror, please contact Board Secretary Bernie Weaver at 703-671-7024 to request a replacement. Your current Hang Tag must be surrendered at the time a replacement is issued. There is no charge for replacement of severely worn or damaged Hang Tags.

TV Reception Revisited

Our November 2007 newsletter carried a rather extensive article on various methods that could be used to receive a useable television signal in your Fairlington Commons home. Based on reader comment, here are a few points of clarification:

- Analog “over-the-air” television transmissions cease on February 17, 2009. If you have a television with a digital (ATSC) tuner, you will still be able to receive “over-the-air” broadcasts. If you have a television with an analog tuner (NTSC), you will need a converter box between your antenna and television

Fairlington Commons Newsletter

to convert the signal from digital to analog to continue receiving “over-the-air” programming after February 17, 2009.

- The November article assumed the use of a reasonably substantial antenna as opposed to the “freebies” provided with some TVs. If you’re interested in antennas, the Channel Master website, and particularly their catalog, has a lot of good, consumer-level technical information. It’s available at <http://www.channelmaster.com>.

Doggie Update

Many thanks to volunteers Jeff Phaneuf, Jim Carbo, and Ethan Beattie. Their maintenance of our Doggie Depots ensures that residents and visitors have a safe and sanitary place to dispose of dog waste. Please support their efforts by picking up after your dog and properly disposing of waste in one of our doggie depots.

Many thanks also to Judy Barr for her past support and assistance maintaining our Doggie Depots and ordering supplies. Judy has now handed over responsibility for the Doggie Depots to our current volunteers.

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