

Mews News

*Landmark Mews Community Association
Monthly Newsletter
September 2020*



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Greg Bellan
For website access, contact Maria Santos
secretary@landmarkmews.com

NEXT HOA MEETING:

Wednesday, October 21 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom (Monthly Meeting)

Thursday, October 22 @ 7:00p via Zoom (Annual Meeting)

Please be sure to check out website: <https://www.landmarknews.com/>
And request to join our Facebook page: **Landmark Mews, Alexandria Va**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

The Board met Wednesday, September 16th, as scheduled, via Zoom. Our agenda included a discussion on the naming of The Berm survey results, the 2021 budget, the RFP process for our landscape contract renewal, and officially setting the date for our Annual Meeting (October 22nd).

Naming of the Berm: The Board discussed the results of the Naming of the Berm survey. There was a large community response to the survey. Thank you to those who participated. The survey results are attached [here](#). As you can there was no majority vote for any one name. However, most respondents chose a name other than "The Berm."

Please recall that the genesis for going through this naming exercise was feedback received from a few real estate agents who indicated that having a name with more "cache" would be useful in marketing homes in Landmark Mews. We have done extensive landscaping enhancements over the past 3 years and the area is now worthy of a proper name. The Board has decided to not take any action on the name at this time, but we are not averse to discussing this issue further. Please reach out to me with any comments on this issue.

2021 Budget: The Board discussed the draft 2021 budget. As with most things these days, costs continue to increase. The Board did a line by line review of the budget and will have a final budget to approve at our October meeting. We do not plan on raising dues for 2021. However, given a general increase in overall costs, some enhanced services to the community, and to conform to our reserve requirements, it is highly likely that we will implement a dues increase in 2022. We will provide more details on that as we work towards our draft budget for 2022 in September of 2021.

RFP Process for our Landscape Contract Renewal: The community's landscape contract is up for renewal. The Board created a sub-committee of members that will draft a RFP (Request for Proposal) to the various landscape companies that would be interested in serving Landmark Mews. We hope to get this RFP out in the next couple of weeks, so that we can have the proposals back to review and approve at our November meeting.

Landmark Mews Annual Meeting: The Board officially set Thursday October 22nd at 7:00 PM for our Annual Meeting, via Zoom. Details to follow.

That's a wrap. Next month's regular meeting is scheduled for October 21st, via Zoom.

Best,

DanPresident
Landmark Mews Community Association
president@landmarkmews.com

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Fall Inspections Reminder

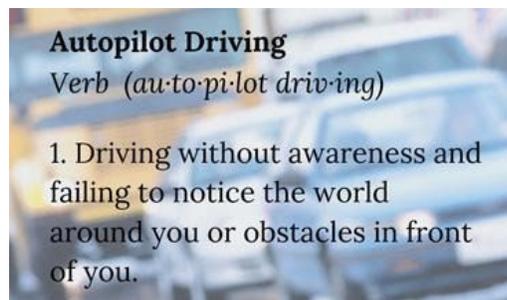
We have noticed that a lot of work has been taking place in Landmark Mews over the past few months. We appreciate residents maintaining and updating their homes, as well as complying with the Spring covenants' committee notices. Please remember if you want to make any changes to the exterior of your home, such as painting, installing a new light, etc. you must submit a Request to Modify form and submit it to the Covenants Committee for review. For more information on Architectural Standards and to download the Request to Modify form, please go [here](#).

Fall inspections will be taking place in September so please make sure to have any outstanding covenants items completed by then. Should you have a question/concern, please contact the Covenants Committee at Covenants@landarkmews.com. We thank all residents for helping maintain the high standards, beauty and serenity of the Landmark Mews community!

Please Slow Down

In the past few years, we have seen more young families move to Landmark Mews with their children. We are all now living a new normal, many of us are not only working from home, our children are learning from home. We have beautifully maintained no-through streets in a private community, which means when the kids want to take a break, they are more than likely to be playing outside on the street in front of their homes. We also have more residents taking walks to take a break away from their home office or for their daily constitutional. In short, we have a lot more pedestrian traffic than we have in the past on our neighborhood streets.

You would expect your Homeowners Association (HOA) residents to drive safer the closer they get to home and you would hope that non-resident drivers—that benefit from your neighborhood's ability to shorten their commute—would respect the speed limits as they cut-through each day. However, unique conditions make speeding prevalent in neighborhoods.



Since residents travel their home streets daily, commutes can become “autopilot journeys.” When on “autopilot,” drivers are unaware that they go over the speed limit, don’t stop at crosswalks, roll through stop signs or brake too late—sometimes they don’t even remember driving home. Since neighborhood streets are transition points from higher-speed roads, drivers also may not readily realize how fast they are still going.

Compounding the issue, distracted driving has now surpassed speeding and drunk driving as the top cause of motor vehicle accidents. It is a growing epidemic, impacting the safety of residential streets. As drivers leave and return home on streets with slower speed limits, they may feel “safe enough” to check a text, look up Google Map directions or select a music playlist. Unfortunately, it only takes a second or two with eyes off the road to miss stopping at a stop sign or not see a dog or child running into the street.¹

Please remember, our impatience could make us, or others, patients. **Please drive the speed limit of 10mph within the walls of Landmark Mews.**

¹ <https://www.speedpatrol.com/a-new-solution-to-slow-speeding-drivers-in-your-hoa/>

Four Projects to Increase Your Home's Resale Value²

Landmark Mews has seen several homes sold over the past six months. If you're considering selling your home in the future, small improvements can make a big impression on potential buyers. Not surprisingly, a recent Zillow survey found that most people — 81% — reported spending more time at home this year compared to the same time last year. Some of us might be feeling a little stir-crazy, but others are taking the opportunity to tackle home improvement projects. You may decide to change up your space for your personal enjoyment or comfort, but if you're a homeowner looking to sell, it's worth considering which projects will not only look good but offer the best return for your time and effort.

Zillow partnered with [Thumbtack](#) to determine the average costs of a few common improvements sellers make before listing their home for sale. By better understanding the costs, you can decide whether it's worthwhile to DIY or call in a pro.

Whatever route you take, a few well-chosen updates could improve your home's appeal and value. Zillow data finds homeowners who make at least one improvement are more likely to sell their home above their list price than those who don't make any improvements: 23% vs. 17%, respectively.² With [sale prices climbing](#) and homes selling at their [fastest pace in more than two years](#), this may be a good time for would-be sellers to start prepping their homes for listing.

"There are small things anyone can do to present their home in a better light," said Sue Cohn Darmon, a Zillow Premier Agent in Connecticut with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty. "First impressions go a long way, especially since buyers are now spending more time searching online for homes. Listing photos are going to look better if the home appears well-maintained. If the small things are taken care of, the assumption is that the bigger things that aren't visible have been taken care of too."

Here are five DIY projects recommended by agents that could help increase your home's value.

Upgrade your lights

Good lighting can bring out the best in your home. Updating old fixtures and adding dimmer switches are fairly simple upgrades. You could also consider replacing your fixtures with smart lights controlled by an app, which can help you save on your energy bill and sell your home faster. [Zillow research](#) finds homes mentioning smart lights in their listing description sold seven days faster than expected.

Here's a [DIY guide to changing a light fixture](#), or if you want a professional installer to do the job, Thumbtack finds the average cost is \$380.

Replace your faucets

Whether your look is modern or traditional, a new faucet can enhance the style of your bathroom or kitchen. Make it a touchless faucet for added appeal, as COVID-era buyers increasingly look for smart features that will keep their homes germ-free.

With attention to detail and a tolerance for tight spaces, [you can handle this job yourself](#), but if you'd rather leave the under-sink contortions to a pro, Thumbtack finds, on average, you can expect to pay \$205 to replace bathroom fixtures.

² <https://www.zillow.com/resources/stay-informed/2020/09/15/5-projects-to-increase-your-resale-value/>

Landscape smartly

A desire for more outdoor space is the top reason people say they would consider moving as a result of social distancing recommendations, according to a Harris Poll survey conducted for Zillow.³ There's no better time to spruce up your yard and create the functional, beautiful outdoor space buyers want.

If you don't like getting your hands dirty (literally), expect to pay \$2,600 on average, according to Thumbtack, for a professional landscaping business to clean up your yard, which typically covers mowing, pruning, weeding, planting new flowers or shrubs, and adding new soil, mulch or bark dust. Zillow research found homes mentioning landscaping in their listing description can sell for 2.7 percent more than expected, so depending on the value of your home, it could be a worthwhile investment.

Paint your front door (and more)

A freshly painted front door can boost your curb appeal, and if you're thinking about selling, you may be surprised by the winning color when it comes to ROI: Homes with black front doors can sell for up to \$6,000 more than similar homes, according to Zillow research.

If it's in your budget, consider painting the whole exterior (probably not black, though!) to create a great first impression. In a survey of Zillow Premier Agents, 77% recommended sellers paint their home.⁴ Thumbtack finds the average cost of exterior painting is \$2,535.

Just remember that the color needs to be on the LMCA Approved McCormick paint colors [list](#) and be approved by the Covenants Committee first!

City of Alexandria Provides COVID-19 Updates³

Alexandria City Council Adopts Ordinance to Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 by Requiring Masks in Public Places

At its regular meeting on September 12, the Alexandria City Council voted 5 to 2 to adopt an ordinance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by requiring masks in indoor and outdoor public places. The ordinance, which takes effect October 1, expands on a state executive order that has required masks in most indoor public settings since May 29.

"Local, state and national public health experts agree that wearing a mask is one of the simplest and most effective ways to help stop the spread of COVID-19," said Mayor Justin Wilson. "The more everyone covers their faces and keeps distance from each other, the sooner life can return to normal."

Alexandria Health Department to Host Free Drive-Through and Walk-Up Flu Shot Clinics on September 26 and October 3

The Alexandria Health Department (AHD) will host two free flu shot clinics this fall with support from the City of Alexandria. A drive-through only clinic will be held on September 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at T.C. Williams High School (3330 King St.). This clinic will be open to adults and adolescents age 12 and over, with a maximum of four people per vehicle. A walk-up only clinic will be held on October 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Francis C. Hammond Middle School (4646 Seminary Road). Parking will be available. The walk-up location on October 3 will be open to adults and children ages 6 months and older. Flu shots are available at no cost, and proof of residency or insurance are not required.

AHD encourages everyone to get a flu vaccine, particularly because the flu shares many symptoms with COVID-19. Fewer cases of flu-related illness reduces time lost from school and work, preventable hospitalizations, and strain on Alexandria's health care providers already busy treating COVID-19 patients. AHD recommends an annual flu vaccine for

³ https://www.alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=117744

everyone ages 6 months and older. Flu vaccines are also currently available at many local pharmacies and those with health insurance are likely to qualify for a free flu shot.

The General Election is November 3, 2020: Are You Registered?⁴

It's not too late to register to vote, update current Virginia voter registration, and apply to vote absentee by mail. Visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at <https://Vote.Elections.Virginia.Gov>. The website also includes information about polling places, election districts, how to check on absentee ballot status, and access voting histories.

Key Dates to Remember:

- **October 13:** Voter Registration Deadline (In-Person/By Mail) 5 p.m.; online: 11:59 p.m.;
- **October 23:** Deadline to apply to receive an Absentee Ballot by mail, fax, and online: 5 p.m.;
- **October 31:** Final day to vote absentee early/in-person, 5 p.m.; and
- **November 6:** Deadline to return your absentee ballot by mail to the Office of Elections: 12 noon.
- **Ballot must be postmarked by November 3, 2020.**

Questions? Send an e-mail to the Office of Elections at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-222-0776, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **On Election Day, polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.**

Voter Applications Available in Several Languages⁵

Voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications are available in **English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean** at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/voter-forms. To apply online for a Virginia absentee ballot, visit the Virginia State Board of Elections website at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. Additional information about absentee voting is available at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee and www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/. **Absentee ballots may be returned in the following ways:**

1. By mail at Office of Elections, Box 10161, Fairfax, VA 22038;
2. In accordance with the **Code of Virginia, § 24.2-707**, sealed ballots may be **hand-delivered** to the **General Registrar**, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323 in Fairfax, Virginia. From **September 18 - October 31**, hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; and on Saturdays, **October 17, 24, and 31**, hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. **No voting on Sundays;** or
3. **Only when satellite locations are open for in-person absentee voting**, sealed ballots may be hand-delivered to the **Assistant Registrar** at one of the [14 satellite locations](#) (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee) Monday - Friday, **October 14 - 31**, from 1-7 p.m.; and Saturdays, **October 17, 24, and 31**, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. **No voting on Sundays.**

For more information, contact the Office of Elections by e-mail at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-222-0776, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **On Election Day, polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.**

Absentee In-Person Voting Available in October at 14 Satellite Locations⁶

With the General Assembly's approval of "early voting" for the November 3, 2020 General and Special Elections, the Board of Supervisors approved (on July 14) **five new satellite**

⁴ Mason District September 2020 E-Newsletter

⁵ Mason District September 2020 E-Newsletter

⁶ Mason District September 2020 E-Newsletter

voting locations to the existing nine locations, which includes the [Mason District Governmental Center](#), located at 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. All 14 satellite in-person absentee voting locations will be open **October 14-31**, and hours are Monday-Friday, 1-7 p.m.; and on Saturdays, **October 17, 24, and 31**, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **All locations closed on Sundays.** For a complete list of satellite locations, visit the Office of Elections website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee. Hours for absentee in-person voting at the Mason District Governmental Center is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-locations/mason-governmental-center.

NOTE: On **Election Day**, **vote at your regular polling place**, as indicated on your voter information card, which lists the name and address of your voting location (polling place). For more information, visit the Fairfax County Office of Elections website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections, or call 703-222-0776; TTY 711. Not sure of where you vote? Visit either the GIS [My Neighborhood App](#) or the [Virginia Department of Elections](#) website.

Foster FIOS Report #3: Up and Running⁷

Our FIOS installer arrived 16 September, promptly as scheduled, while my home network upgrade folks (Home and Office Network Solutions) were doing their thing. As a result, they were able to bring the FIOS cable, once coiled on our fence, invisibly over the basement ceiling, install the FIOS connection box (ONT) in our utility room beside the new, high-speed router I opted to provide in lieu of the Verizon router.

- We are pleased with the results; but probably Cox would perform equally well with the home network improvements.
- Shifting to FIOS did not require a new network, but we did not want external wiring around the house, which is all that Verizon offered. We were also in need of better Internet and WIFI connections – particularly with increasing demands of “smart” home devices.
- I probably spent more time the last three months trying to get reliable information and assistance from Verizon customer support than I have with Cox for however many decades Cox has served us. I found dealing with Verizon maddening, but, since I opted out of FIOS TV – and all past problems have been with cable boxes – I do not expect to have to deal much with the company.

The following may be old-hat to most, but were eye-openers for me:

Over-the-Air TV Is Very Good

(Particularly in Landmark Mews with its altitude and proximity to broadcast antenna)

Cable TV came to Landmark Mews when we could get decent reception on maybe five analog channels. I had no idea of the impact the shift to digital transmission made. With high-definition digital TV and an attic antenna, I am now able to get 60+ channels with picture quality my installer expert claims is actually a little better than cable (programming developed and transmitted through one totally integrated system avoids compression and other adjustments to be compatible with nationwide broadcasting systems.) Each major network broadcasts four channels simultaneously; PBS; CSPAN, local sports – all there, for free.

Other reasons to consider over-the-air TV: 1) Easy and inexpensive way to bring TV to guest rooms or work areas. (maybe \$25 for today’s equivalent of the old “rabbit ear” antennas); 2) Since FIOS uses but one of the two coax cables Cox requires; the extra coax can carry the

⁷ Submitted by Landmark Mews resident, Tim Foster.

signal from one attic antenna everywhere the Cox cables serve; 3) Best free access to local and national sports – for “cord-cutters”; i.e., those of us dropping subscriptions to cable TV.

“For help in sorting out TV content”

An app (Reelgood,) lets you to browse or search for free access to TV / Movies through your membership to various streaming services; e.g., HBO, Prime, etc. If you do not have free access, the app shows where to buy / rent.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR THE MEWS NEWS?

If you have information or a helpful idea that would benefit the community and would like to include it in the Mews News, please email it to Maria Santos at secretary@landmarkmews.com. We'll do our best to include it in the next newsletter, as long as the content is appropriate.

LANDMARK MEWS REAL ESTATE UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2020

Updated on 9/27/20 10:07 PM

ACTIVE SALES LISTINGS

6252 Masefield Court

List Price: \$740,000

List Date: 8/27/20

DOM-MLS: 32

Status: Active

COMING SOON

6364 Brampton Court

List Price: \$700,000

List Date: 10/2/20

DOM-MLS: 0

Status: Pending

CANCELLED

6323 Chaucer View Circle

New List Price: \$714,888

New List Date: 8/28/20

Previous List Price: \$729,900

Previous List Date: 8/8/20

Original List Price: \$740,000

Original List Date: 7/17/20

DOM-MLS: 42

Status: Cancelled

UNDER CONTRACT/CNKO LISTINGS

N/A

SOLD

N/A

ACTIVE RENTAL LISTINGS

N/A

RENTED

N/A