

Dear Cathy:

I realize I live in a condo community and basically it's a "caveat emptor" situation regarding parking availability but I'm going to rant anyway. If I return home after 9 p.m. (especially on a Sunday evening) I have to park two blocks away, sometimes farther. At times it's because vehicles are parked with varying amounts of space between them – none of which is big enough to park another vehicle. Other times it just seems like there are too many vehicles. Why have no lines been painted to mark spaces on our major streets? And is there no way to limit the number of cars per unit?

Walking in the Dark

Dear WD:

As you observed, Parkfairfax is a relatively high density neighborhood (although with a remarkable amount of green space!). The truth is that when Parkfairfax was built as an apartment complex, the amount of room for parking amounted to about 1.5 spaces per unit. Things have changed since the middle of the last century and many unit owners have more than one car.

Technically, on Common Elements (the "Lanes" of Parkfairfax, and privately owned by the Association), unit owners are only allowed to park **one** vehicle without written permission from the Board of Directors, and there are lines demarcating spaces. Take a look at the official parking policy: <http://www.parkfairfax.info/content/uploads/2011/05/PR-06-Parking-Policies.pdf>.

All the other roads that provide access to Parkfairfax units are public property: the Unit Owners Association has no control over that curbside parking and cannot paint lines to provide guidance. "Walking in the dark" is no fun, and it's one reason Parkfairfax residents are encouraged to keep their front stoop lights on all night (photo-sensitive outside light fixtures are available through the USP service).

An explanation, not a solution,

Cathy Condo