



The Messenger



August 2020

The Official Newsletter of Smithy Glen

Vol. 22 No. 1

ANNUAL MEETING

SMITHY GLEN'S Annual Meeting was postponed due to COVID-19 and will now be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse at 100 Wrought Iron Bend. Homeowners will be receiving their Annual packet the first week of October. There will be a proxy enclosed to be filled in and submitted to the office, if you are unable to attend. In order to hold an Annual Meeting, we must have a quorum, so please return the proxy to the office.

Our President, Rob Fitzmaurice will give a detailed account of what has been accomplished this past year and what we expect to have completed this year. There will be plenty of time to hear your voices, whether they are complaints or kudos.

Please join us for refreshments and a chance to win some door prizes!



2020 Yard of the Month Thanks to our homeowners for putting so much time and effort into making their homes beautiful:



- May 2020 – 300 Chadwick Court
- June 2020 – 507 Wrought Iron Bend
- July 2020 – 102 Monument Court
- August 2020 – 100 Kensington



DUMPSTER

Smithy Glen provides a bulk pick-up dumpster four times a year with the existing trash collection contract. But yet we are still having a problem with large items being left curb side, i.e. grills, sofas. As neighbors come and go it is understandable that new residents may not realize that our trash man will not pick up anything unless it is inside their trash tote. Please keep the larger items that don't fit in your trash tote until the dumpster arrives, notices will be posted on the mail boxes. Don't trash the community that you live in, respect it and keep it beautiful.



15 MPH

A reminder to all Smithy Glen residents that the speed limit within Smithy Glen is **15 mph** and is posted along Wrought Iron Bend. With so many people staying home due to the pandemic more families are out and about walking, playing, and just enjoying being outside so we ask that you **SLOW DOWN** and pay attention to what's going on around you. Remember children are out too riding bikes,

skateboards, chasing balls and each other. They may run out from between parked cars, or from behind the mailbox station, not thinking of their own safety because they're kids, and are caught up in the moment, so be on the lookout. A special note to drivers on Hamlet Court, take care and slow down when taking the corners by the mailboxes, that area is a major blind spot, and many people tend to stop their car around the corner, out of sight, to get their mail.



Cigarette butts aren't litter - ARE THEY??



Litter is any rubbish, no matter how small, thrown in an open or public place - and includes dropped cigarette butts on the ground, thrown out the window of a vehicle, or discarded in a storm drain. In fact, cigarette butts are the most littered item in America.

Many smokers don't consider their behavior as littering. Some believe dropping cigarette butts to the ground and stepping on them is acting responsibly, preventing potential fires. Some drop butts into gutters or storm drains thinking this is a safe way to extinguish a cigarette.

Discarded cigarette butts are carried with runoff from streets to drains, to rivers, and ultimately to the ocean and its beaches. Cigarette filters are the single most collected item picked up from beaches every year. In fact, cigarette butts and fragments have been found in the stomachs of marine life, and in addition to the exposure to toxins, the butts can cause blockages leading to starvation and death.

Most of the cigarettes sold in the US are filtered and the discarded "butt" is contaminated with tar, nicotine, and other tobacco additives that are known to be carcinogenic and/or toxic. Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that is non-biodegradable.

So, the next time you go to dispose of that spent cigarette, remember that you have a personal responsibility to help keep our neighborhood a clean and inviting place to live, but you can also make an impact on preserving our waterways and marine and wildlife for future generations.



HANDICAP PARKING

Some residents or their guests are still abusing the handicapped spots. Remember you're in violation of the law and subject to a fine, if you're using a handicapped spot without displaying a handicap decal or have a dedicated plate. Just because the handicap space is closer than the nearest visitor space doesn't make it ok, no matter how long you intend on using it. Please be considerate of those who really do need that spot, you never know when that might be.

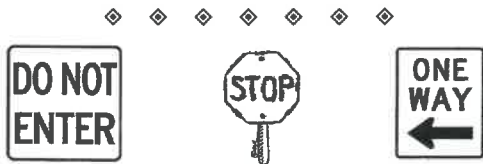


It's hard to believe but our community is now over 30 years old. The trees have matured and are hanging over roofs. If the trees on your property are touching the roof, it's time to trim them back before they cause real damage.

If these limbs are allowed to continue to lay on the roof and rub against the shingles, considerable damage and expense will occur. Although the association is responsible to replace the roof at the end of its normal life expectancy, the homeowner is responsible for all other maintenance and repairs to the roof outside of material defect, therefore, the cost of any repairs will be your responsibility.

Recently, some of your neighbors have experienced wood damage to their homes, the professionals who were contacted to assess and repair the damage said that the damage had been caused by squirrels which were getting onto the roof by jumping from trees. Last summer the Master Board had cut the trees back on the back side of Wrought Iron Bend to reduce squirrel access to the building's roof. This action by the board is ineffective until all the trees near our homes are removed or drastically trimmed.

Trees are causing damage to more than just our roofs, the roots from trees and shrubs are growing under the foundation of our homes and under the sidewalks, causing them to crack. As a homeowner it is also your responsibility to clean the leaves out of the gutters, you are responsible for any rotten wood caused by gutters that are full of growth and have not been cleaned on a regular basis. Even though you own your own home, you must remember that your home is a part of an attached structure and maintenance issues with one unit can cause problems for another home.



When most people see these signs posted at the beginning of a main road, they go to a street that doesn't have signs with those words. But for some reason people ignore them in their own neighborhood, just to save a few seconds. For safety reasons Kensington Place has been a one-way street coming into Smithy Glen from Coventry Blvd. since March of 2001. The Smithy Glen Board does not want to go to the expense, but has looked into installing a Tire Shark system to prevent Kensington from being used as a short cut. Please read and obey the street signs just as you would on any major road.



While recently reviewing the archived copies of The Messenger, I came across some interesting information. It so happens that one of our board members will be marking a milestone anniversary

later this year. It was in December of 2000, twenty years ago, that Ron Moore so graciously agreed to volunteer his time and join the Smithy Glen Board of Directors. As a retired building inspector, he is uniquely qualified to oversee the painting and maintenance schedules, identifying rotten wood and heading off other structural issues that is bound to happen as our community continues to age. So, when you see him around, thank him for this service to Smithy Glen.

To the class of 2020



Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning!

We would like to welcome our newest member of the Smithy Glen Board of Directors, Mr. Chris Adams now serving as Director. Chris and his family have been homeowners in Smithy Glen since 2018.



A few simple measures might just help in preventing a sewer back up in your home, so here are some common sense tips to help you from having that kind of nightmare happening in your household.



Grease – Never pour grease down the drain. Empty grease into a small container, allow to cool then it can be placed in the regular trash. When grease accumulates inside the drain pipe, it blocks the passage of water and leads to an overflow from the affected plumbing fixture. A common homemade cleaner is a mixture of hot water and vinegar in 1:1 ratio. Vinegar and water are non-toxic and less corrosive than a caustic cleaner. Adding boiling water will increase temperature inside a grease clogged drain, and help to melt the clog. At the same time, vinegar removes all the grease sticking to the pipe walls. After a few minutes, follow up the treatment by pouring more boiling water into the sink to flush the remaining grease. Another way to combat grease build up is to buy a bottle of Dawn dish detergent and each month go to the downstairs bathroom closest to the street. Squirt 4-5 drops of Dawn into the toilet bowl and let stand for 10 minutes, then flush. Dawn is a great degreaser and this tip came from a plumber that was cleaning out a clogged drain.

Tampons – These should not be flushed down the toilet. Tampons are designed to get bigger when they absorb liquids, and that includes toilet water. As a tampon expands, they potentially get stuck in your pipes. If they make it out to the street, they can get tangled in tree roots, again causing problems. Bottom line - flushing a large wad of tough, expandable cotton down your toilet is a bad idea, doing so can clog your toilet or your sewer pipes.

Flushable Wipes – The container might say they are flushable, and yes, they go down but they too get tangled and can cause a backup. Clogs in residential plumbing systems can also be traced to the low-flow requirements forced upon us by government officials. Years ago, the standard toilet used 3½ gallons of water per flush. Toilets now use 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Can you imagine what happens if there's not enough water to transport these through your in-house building drain and outside buried sewer line out to your city sewer? At some point, you'll get a clog. Wipes that survive the long journey from your home through miles of sewer pipes, end up at municipal sewage treatment plants. They clog giant pumps at the plants. The Internet is littered with stories about massive clogs in sewers and treatment plants caused by these wipes. If you must use them in your home, it is suggested that you dispose of them in a sanitary way in a special garbage can, much like you'd store a soiled baby's diaper until trash day. Bottom line is that the only thing that should go down a toilet is liquid and solid waste from your body and toilet paper.

Remember – Please do not call the office. If you have a problem, the first call should be to York County, their emergency sewer back up number is 890-3773. If the county determines that the problem is not at street level, then please call a plumber. We have found Zeigler and A Hampton Roads to be reliable and fairly priced. Homeowner's are responsible for any clogs from their house to the cleanout, the Association is only responsible from the cleanout to the main line.



Finally, to all the front-line workers from the first responders and healthcare professionals, to our teachers, grocery store workers, restaurant staff, delivery people and everyone in between who have worked so hard and sustained us during this trying time

Thank You...We appreciate all you do. ♥