



July-September 2024

# Coventry Chronicles

The quarterly newsletter for the Coventry Homeowners Association in Yorktown, VA



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8 Upcoming Events

Welcome to Summer in Coventry! In this edition we have information about upcoming events in 2024, projects completed by the Beautification Committee, a reminder of the 2024 HOA dues, and more.

If you are new to the neighborhood make sure to check out the official Coventry website at <https://coventryhoaofyorktown.org/>. You can find our covenants and resolutions, the quarterly newsletter, the monthly board meeting minutes, and numerous other important documents and forms. The following individuals are part of your 2024 Master HOA Board:

President: Julianne Post

Vice President: Ruthann Gray-Grabowski

Treasurer: Randy Wojcik

Secretary: Jiselle Anderson

Director: Gary Cusack



## From The President's Desk

**"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." - Margaret J. Wheatley**

I am so grateful to live in a community that is kind, generous, and family friendly. Thank you to those who came out and supported our annual Community Beautification Day on April 20, 2024. Your efforts made a noticeable difference and we appreciate how much you have given back to our community! I appreciate being surrounded by people who care about bringing beauty to our common grounds and help us maintain a high standard. It is so beautiful to sit by the pool and notice all the beautiful potted plants around the pool. The little things matter. In the busy season that most of us have it's important to take time to notice and enjoy those little things.

We understand there is some disagreement about canceling the annual July 4th party. I want to be clear about the board's intentions. While our July 4th party was fun, it wasn't inclusive to all members of our community as we could only fit about 250 people. Last year our grill had quite a bit of trouble so we anticipate a big expense in replacing that if we are going to have similar parties. This board is seeking opportunities that are more cost effective and more inclusive for our residents for social events. We want to make new traditions for our community! We welcome any and all ideas surrounding our social events.

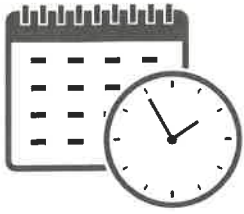
Our swim team has officially started under the new direction of Vanna Upchurch. We appreciate the many volunteers and coaches that provide our children the opportunity to swim safely and have fun this summer! Please come out and support our swim team during meets by cheering them on. We will not be hosting GSPA's city meet this year due to the parking logistics.

In regards to improvements, our tree trimming and clubhouse playground renovations are underway. Our bulkhead/erosion issues are still being discussed as we are having trouble acquiring enough bids to proceed with this project. We are excited that it is finally pool season and the pool has opened successfully! In this quarter the board has been planning for our upcoming social event, reviewing charters for committees, preparing the annual budget, reviewing the rights and responsibilities for better communities, reviewing the code of ethics for board members, and ensuring we are functioning in the most efficient and cost effective way as a community.

I'd like to say a big thank you to our current contracts US Lawns and Clearwater Pool Management for their stellar work so far! The pool opened smoothly and it looked beautiful. The lawn has been consistently cut and maintained in a professional manner.

Please attend our next board meeting to give your comments or questions. All meeting dates can be found on our website. Thank you for your support! We hope to see you at the next monthly meeting.

Cheers,  
Julianne Post  
Master Board President  
Coventry Homeowners Association



# Community and Local Events

## July 2024

- 8 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 9 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 11 Yorktown Sounds of Summer Servies 6:30-9:00 pm @ Riverwalk Landing**
- 15 Swim Team Meeting 7:00 pm**
- 20 Yorktown Market Days July 20, 2024, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm @ Riverwalk Landing**
- 22 Architectural Review Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 23 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**

## August 2024

- 1 Yorktown Sounds of Summer Consert Series w/ the Band of OZ, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm @ Riverwalk Landing**
- 7 Finch Terrace HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 12 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 13 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 19 Swim Team Meeting 7 pm**
- 26 Architectural Review Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 27 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 31 Virginia Symphony Concert, 6 pm- 9 pm @ Riverwalk Landing**

## September 2024

- 3 Pools Closed**
- 7 Watermen's Museum Oyster Roast, 12 pm - 4 pm**
- 9 Coventry HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 10 Ferguson Glade Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 21 Yorktown Folk Festival, 8 am - 7 pm @ Watermen's Museum**
- 23 Architectural Review Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 24 Smithy Glen Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**

*Current as of printing,*

*Please check Facebook and neighborhood marque for any schedule changes that may be necessary*



## Coventry Beautification

Summertime.....when living is easy.

Make summer time easier when it comes to yard work. Some simple tips when tending your yard.

1) Water your yard early in the day.

There's less evaporation than midday or in the afternoon. An evening or night watering lends to fungal diseases.

2) Mow a fescue lawn tall at least 3-4 inches. Mowing your lawn short invites more weed seed and the taller grass blades shade itself to keep it cooler. Remember, tall fescue is a cool season grass. So it does struggle with our summer heat.

3) Mulch flower beds at least once a year. A good shredded mulch preferably a hardwood, cedar or cypress. Also never mulch up to the tree trunk. Leave at least six inches to prevent rotting and disease.

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The Coventry Beautification Committee recently finished numerous projects.

Three additional benches now have pavers. The hardscaping makes these benches more handicap accessible and look outstanding. A big thanks to Ultimate Hardscapes for their thorough work.

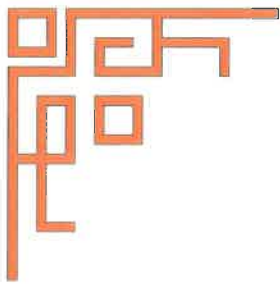
More overgrown shrubs were removed from several village stone entrance monuments. There is also better visibility at the wooded area along Coventry Boulevard to Owen Davis Boulevard.

Our swimming pools are enhanced with containers filled with seasonal color. Volunteers make this possible down to the daily watering of the flowers.

If you would like to be involved in our community, you're welcome to join the Beautification Committee. Call the Coventry Homeowner's office for details on our next meeting.

To all, have a safe summer

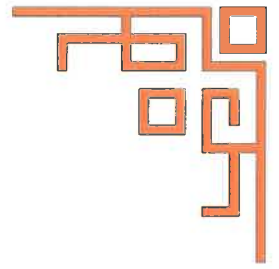
Stephen Orlando  
Beautification Committee  
Chairperson



# Critter Corner

## Eastern Painted Turtle

By resident Kelly Myers



The Eastern Painted turtle is a very common turtle in Virginia. While they are mostly aquatic, during the months of June and July, you may see these beautiful turtles on the move and crossing the roads. Please be on the lookout for them try not to run over them. If it is safe to do so, stop and help them out by moving them across the road in the direction they were headed. If you put them back heading in the opposite direction, they will try to cross again. Habitat loss and road killings have reduced the number, but even still this turtle has evolved to survive in human-disturbed settings. Most abundant in N. America

The painted turtles have bright colored stripes, usually greenish yellow in color on their heads. Sometimes there may be some red on the edge of the carapace (shell) and/or the plastron, otherwise known as the belly of the turtle. The whole plastron is typically red to orange in color. They will grow to be 4 to 12 inches long, the males being smaller than the females. The carapace is essentially smooth and oval, and the carapace is usually olive green to black in color with thin yellow stripes between the scutes (segments of the carapace).

These turtles are often mislabeled as sliders. However, sliders have a distinct red marking behind their eyes on their heads and less coloration on the carapace and plastron. The slider is an invasive species. Painted turtles are also sometimes confused with snapping turtles. Snapping turtles have large black heads, long tails, and the head tapers into a beak. The shape of a snapper is broad in the front and tapers in the back. They will grow to be much larger than the painted turtle.

Painted turtles call low-moving bodies of fresh, or brackish water including ponds, marshes, swamps, and streams home. They are easiest to spot when they are basking on rocks, logs, or banks.

# Critter Corner

## Eastern Painted Turtle

By resident Kelly Myers

Painted turtles have a mating season that runs from mid-March to mid-June. Males will stroke the females face with long claws during courtship. Following courtship, the females lay clutches of 4 to 20 eggs in sandy soil close to the water.

Where do they go when it gets cold? These turtles, like many other amphibians and reptiles, brumate during the winter under water, or frozen bodies of water; usually between October and April. Brumation is a winter cool-down which allows the turtle to survive when food is scarce. They can remain under water without oxygen for up to 147 days. They can slow their heartbeat so that it only beats once every five to ten minutes.

Painted turtles existed as far back as 15 million years ago. The oldest turtle in recent history was 55 years of age.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

# 2024

**LATE  
JULY**

**PLAYGROUND  
OPENING  
CELABRATION**

**BOOK CLUB &  
BOOK  
EXCHANGE**

**SEPT**

*Oct  
27th*

**HALLOWEEN PARADE  
& TRUNK OR TREAT**

Parade starts at 2:00 pm

**Special Holiday event coming in December!  
Stay tuned for more details!**

**Pay attention to Facebook and marquee for  
further information**



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