



January-March 2024

Coventry Chronicles

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



Featured This Quarter

- 2 From The President's Desk
- 6 Critter Corner
- 9 Be In The Know
- 10 Coventry HOA DUES 2024

Welcome to the new year! We had a wonderful holiday season 2023. We want to thank everyone who participated in the Halloween Parade, Santa Visit, and Holiday Light Contest. We have the list of the 2023 light contest winners on page 5.

Be sure to check-out our two articles focused on current issues with the leaves starting on page 7 and page 11. As important, make sure to read our **'Letter from the President'** article as there is a lot of **important information about our dues, the annual meeting, and our 2024 projects!**

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



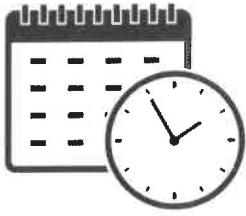
From The President's Desk

"If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you."

- Steve Jobs

Happy New Year to everyone! And thank you to all of our volunteers for your hard work over the past year! This community has really come together and I'm so grateful to see the positive effect. I would like to specifically thank our Beautification Committee members for their efforts in maintaining our monuments, restoring the old monument and for their festive holiday bows! There has been a lot of progress this year and we appreciate their hard work. Our contracts have been locked in for the 2024 season. We are grateful to utilize U.S. Lawns again for our landscaping and Clearwater Pool Management for our pools. They are phenomenal companies and we appreciated their efforts in working through the transition last year being new companies to our community. The board is excited to see how the continuity of using the same company multiple years positively impacts our community. The board has recently voted in Gary Cusack for another three-year term, approved the proposed 2024 budget, and passed the IRS resolution. Thank you to everyone who submitted a proxy or came to the annual membership meeting. We could not do this without your participation! These items are so important for our community to stay financially sound. Be sure to mark your calendars for the next annual meeting on Monday, November 11, 2024. Please note that our proposed budget was approved, so there will be a \$2 increase to monthly assessments starting in January 2024. Instead of \$58/month, homeowners will be paying \$60/month. In 2024 we have some exciting projects on the horizon! The board will be working on a complete demo and installation of a new clubhouse playground, massive tree removal/replanting, repainting the clubhouse and pavilion, repairing bulkheads, digitalizing the pool passes, and getting our new portal up and running. While change is hard, we believe that these projects will allow the community to be better served. Please attend our January board meeting to give your comments or questions. All meeting dates can be found on our website. Thank you for your support. We are grateful for residents who come together to make our community a better place. If you are interested in getting involved but aren't sure how I would love to talk with you. The community runs mostly off of volunteers. The only paid positions within Coventry are our office staff and maintenance staff. We have several committees that would welcome your talents and time to support our community. So, if you have the time, come get involved and support our local community!

Cheers,
Julianne Post
Master Board President Coventry Homeowners Association



Community and Local Events

January 2024

- 4 Evening Yoga, 6:30 pm @ the Tabb Library
- 5 Teens Sip & Paint Night, grades 6-12, 5:30 pm @ the Tabb Library
- 8 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents, 7 pm @ the Clubhouse**
- 9 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 13 Science Saturday 10:14 am grades K-2, 11:30 am, grades 3-5 @ Tabb Library
- 22 ARC MTG 6:30 PM**
- 23 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**

February 2024

- 7 Finch Terrace HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 10 Yorktown Valentine's Market, 10 am @ Riverwalk Landing
- 12 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 13 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**
- 15 Evening Yoga, 6:30 pm @ the Tabb Library
- 24 Yorktown Market, 10 am @ Riverwalk Landing
- 26 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm**
- 27 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**

March 2024

- 2 Yorktown Market, 10 am @ Riverwalk Landing
- 9 Science Saturday 10:14 am grades K-2, 11:30 am, grades 3-5 @ Tabb Library
- 11 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents, 7pm @ Clubhouse**
- 12 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting, 7pm @ Clubhouse**
- 16 Yorktown St. Patrick's Day Market, 10 am @ Riverwalk Landing
- 25 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm**
- 26 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse**

Current as of printing,

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



Coventry Beautification

The Beautification Committee (BC) volunteers were very active during the last quarter of 2023. They planted over 1,000 daffodil bulbs in the common areas along Owen Davis Blvd, and 20 drift roses in the horseshoe bed near Ferguson Bend. The Committee also managed the overgrowth along the fence by the Coventry Elementary School. The restoration of our stone monument has been progressing well; the lighting has been upgraded and the trees cut back to upgrade the monument to its original state. Upcoming approved projects include the purchase of 20 Azaleas, to be installed near the walking path and benches with pavers along Owen Davis Boulevard and Coventry Boulevard, and the relocation of the camellias on Coventry Boulevard.

FEBRUARY is a good time to prune crepe myrtles and must be done before fresh growth appears in March. There are many, many articles online that will advise you of the best way to trim these trees. Please take time to research and please do not cut your tree branches straight across at the same height. The technique of cutting Crepe Myrtle trees off straight across at the same height is often referred to as “crepe murder” and is the worst way to prune the tree as it produces a lot of knobby, gnarly, and spindly branches. It ruins any chance of ever seeing the beautiful, mottled bark that is the trademark of a mature Crepe Myrtle. The shoots that sprout up are often too weak to hold up the blooms causing the tree to droop. The Beautification Committee has contracted with a local professional arborist to do the necessary tree pruning, thinning of the canopy and shaping of the crepe myrtles that line the Main Entrance from Ferguson Bend to Coventry Boulevard.

Do you have ideas, creative energy, and a little time to help in our outstanding community? Consider joining the BC and work with residents who are focused on preserving the pride and beauty of our community.

Sincerely,
Stephen A. Orlando
Coventry Beautification Committee Chairperson



2023 Holiday Light Winners

Davis Forge: 1st Place - 101 Blacksmith Arch

2nd Place - 308 Blacksmith Arch

Faison Green: 1st Place - 234 Judith Circle

2nd Place - 106 Camille Ct

Ferguson Glade: 1st Place - 408 Ferguson Bend

2nd Place - 406 Ferguson Bend

Finch Terrace: 1st Place - 103 Chantilclair Dr

2nd Place - 217 Belmont Circle

Justinian Grove: 1st Place - 136 Ivy Arch

2nd Place - 103 Ivy Arch

Lilburne Meadows: 1st Place - 118 Lilburne Way

2nd Place - 110 Lilburne Way

Presson Arbor: 1st Place - 109 Lochmere Ct

2nd Place - 105 Leyland Ct

Smithy Glen: 1st Place - 206 Andover Ct

2nd Place - 114 Andover Ct

We truly thank everyone who
participated & who showed their holiday spirit!!

Critter Corner

Opossums

By resident Kelly Myers



Opossums, also known as possums, are a species we are all familiar with, but how much do we know about these critters. We rarely see them except for those that have sadly been run over. Many people are afraid of these animals. While it is always wise to be cautious of any animal these little creatures are not vicious. They are generally docile and non-aggressive. They tend to avoid confrontation by escaping or playing dead. Just like any animal, if cornered they will show their teeth and/or bite in self-defense. Their name is derived from Algonquian Indian word apasum meaning white animal.

They are the only marsupials native to North America. Do not mistake them for a rat just because they have a hairless tail. They are not even related and in fact, if rodents are a problem, the possum is on the job. Their diet includes rodents and other pests like cockroaches, crickets and other insects. Speaking of their tail, it is referred to as prehensile meaning it is used for grasping. It is not used to hang upside down. This is a misconception. They also have opposable thumbs on their hind feet for grasping and their hands are soft and delicate with nails that are not designed for digging.

Possums are born so small that 20 could fit into a teaspoon! They continue development in their mother's pouch just like their cousins the kangaroo and koala. When the pouch becomes too full the juveniles will come out and ride on their mother's back until they are ready to be on their own. Surprisingly, their average life span is only one to two years because of humans and our domesticated animals. These critters have survived over 70 million years. They roamed the earth at the same time the dinosaurs did.

Do not be fearful if you happen to see a possum during the daylight hours. While they are nocturnal, here are a few reasons you may see them during the day:

1. Mama possums have to spend more time looking for food so they will be seen during the day sometimes
2. A dog, or a ball that gets thrown into a bush by children playing may disturb their hiding place
3. During the winter they may have to forage while the temps are warmer
4. On a few occasions a blind, sick or injured one will be seen wandering

If you have concern that an animal is injured or not well, then contact a wildlife rehabilitator: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured/>. To learn more about these animals visit: www.opossumsocietyus.org.

WHY WE DON'T PUT LEAVES IN DRAINAGE DITCHES!

By Director Gary Cusack



Maintaining a clean and safe neighborhood is a collective responsibility that extends beyond the boundaries of our homes. One often overlooked aspect of this responsibility is the proper disposal of leaves, particularly during the fall and early winter. It is not uncommon for homeowners to rake their yards and dispose of leaves in drainage ditches, thinking it's harmless. However, this seemingly innocent act can severely affect our entire community.

Drainage ditches are crucial in preventing flooding and water accumulation in our neighborhoods. They serve as essential conduits for rainwater to flow away from homes and streets, preventing potential water damage and ensuring the community's overall safety. When leaves are deposited into these ditches, they can obstruct the natural flow of water, leading to many problems.

Flooding Risk: Blocked drainage ditches impede the smooth flow of rainwater, increasing the risk of flooding in residential areas. This not only poses a threat to individual homes but also endangers the overall infrastructure of the neighborhood.

Property Damage: Accumulated water from blocked drainage can seep into foundations and crawl spaces, causing structural damage to homes. The repair costs associated with such damages can be significant and burdensome for homeowners.

Mosquito Breeding Grounds: Stagnant water from clogged drainage ditches creates an ideal environment for mosquitoes to breed. This becomes a nuisance for residents and poses health risks due to the potential spread of diseases.

Environmental Impact: Leaves decomposing in water can release harmful chemicals and nutrients, negatively impacting water quality and harming aquatic life. This can disrupt the delicate balance of our local ecosystems.

Con't On Page 8



A Call to Action:

To preserve our neighborhoods' integrity and ensure all residents' well-being, homeowners must refrain from disposing of leaves in drainage ditches. Instead, consider the following alternatives:

- **Composting:** Transform leaves into nutrient-rich compost for use in gardens or flower beds. This sustainable practice not only reduces waste but also contributes to healthier soil.
- **Mulching:** Mulch leaves with a lawnmower and leave them on your lawn. This helps with water retention and soil quality and eliminates the need for bagging and disposal.
- **York County Collection Programs:** York County residents who reside on publicly maintained streets or roads can place an unlimited number of clear bags of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week during certain times of the year. Residents who live on private roads may place their bags of leaves on Owen Davis Blvd near the Blacksmith Arch and Ferrier Place intersections.

Conclusion:

As responsible members of our community, homeowners and tenants must recognize the impact of their actions on our neighborhood's overall well-being. By refraining from depositing leaves in drainage ditches and adopting responsible disposal practices, we can collectively contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environment for everyone. Let us work together to ensure the longevity and resilience of our community for generations to come.

Be In The KNow

Kitty Holzbach

REALTOR, CREN, GRI, MRP, SRES

(757) 725-0707

kitty.holzbach@aol.com

804 Omni Blvd., Suite 200
Newport News, VA 23606



kw ELITE
PENINSULA
KELLERWILLIAMS

Each Office is Independently
Owned & Operated

Winter **MARKETS**

SATURDAYS 10 AM to 2 PM

February 10 (*Valentine's Day*)

February 24

March 2

March 16 (*St. Patrick's Day*)



YorktownMarketDays.com

MANAGEMENT
IS OUR ONLY
BUSINESS

Lee

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Specializing in upscale,
single family homes,
townhomes, and condos.

LET YOUR HOME WORK
FOR YOU!

DON'T SELL IT!
RENT IT!



SERVING:

- York
- Williamsburg
- Newport News
- Hampton
- Poquoson
- Carrollton

757-265-1525

lpm@leepropmgt.com
11847 Canon Blvd, Ste 4,
Newport News, VA 23606
www.leepropmgt.com



Questions about the
real estate market?

Contact me to learn if the time
is right for you to make a move!

Valerie Stevens
Star Services to New Dreams

757-209-8199

valeriestevens@lizmoore.com
lizmoore.com/valeriestevens



Coventry 2024 HOA DUES

There are several changes in dues for 2024. Required dues are as followed:

**Single Family Homes: \$60 by the 1st of each month
(\$75 after the 30th)**

Ferguson Glade: \$134 (\$149 after the 16th)

Finch Terrace: \$180 (\$205 after the 16th)

Smithy Glen: \$158 (\$183 after the 16th)

These 2024 assessment amounts, and payment sheets have been posted on the Coventry HOA website and sent to homeowners through Tops email blast.

WHY USE ONLY CLEAR BAGS FOR LEAVES

By Director Gary Cusack



Environmental considerations, waste management practices, and local regulations influence the choice between clear and black bags for leaf disposal. While both types of bags serve the purpose of containing and transporting leaves, using clear bags for this specific purpose offers several advantages:

1. **Transparency for Waster Management:**

- Clear bags allow waste management personnel to quickly identify the contents, making it clear that the bag contains leaves or other green waste. This transparency streamlines the sorting process at waste facilities.
- York County residents who reside on publicly maintained streets or roads can place an unlimited number of clear bags of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week.
- Collection weeks for Coventry will be December 18, January 1, and January 15. York County will make one final sweep throughout the County during the week of January 29.

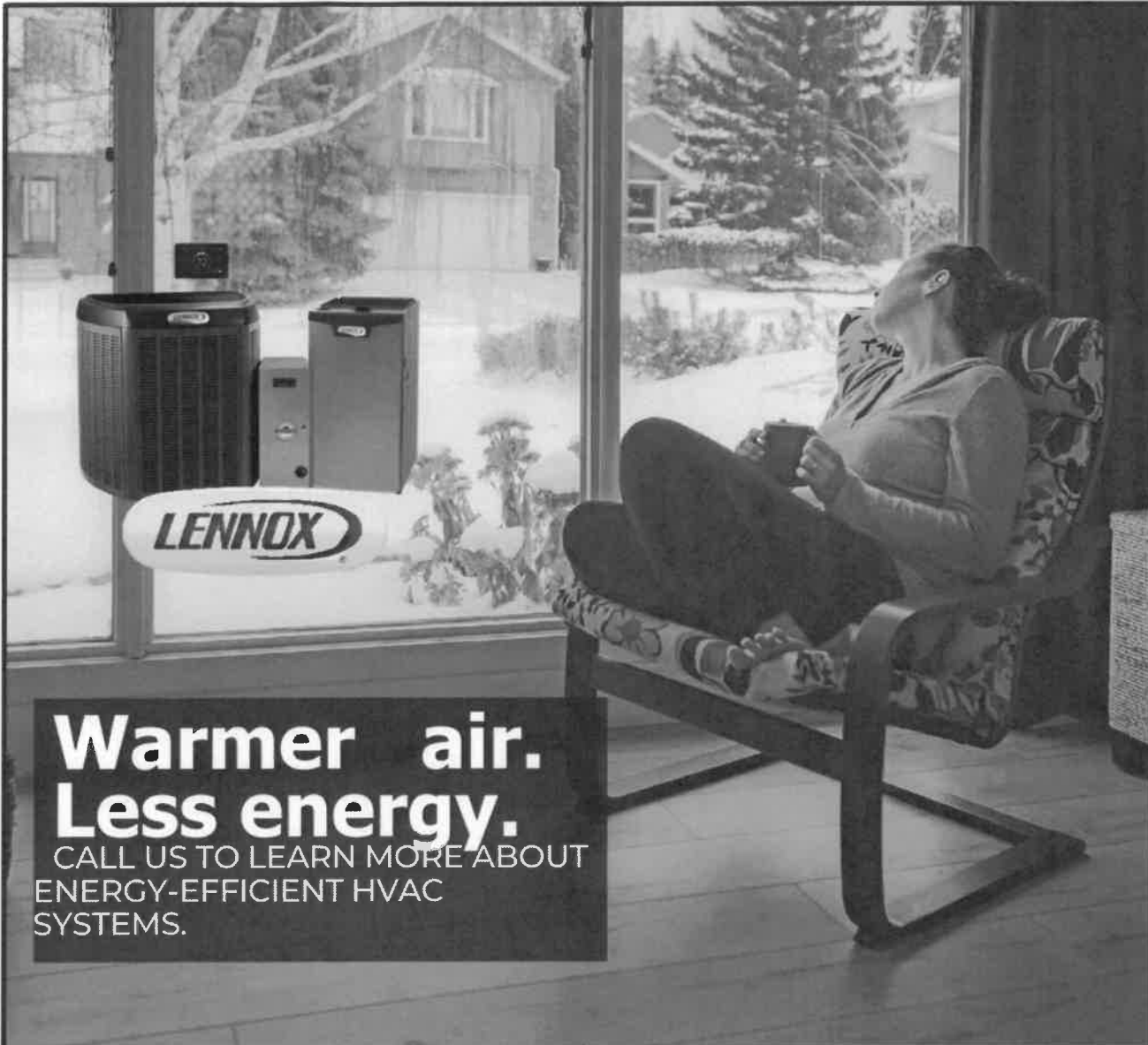
2. **Facilitates Recycling and Composting:**

- Clear bags help differentiate yard waste, such as leaves and grass clippings, from other types of waste. This separation is crucial for effective recycling and composting efforts.
- The transparency of clear bags reduces the risk of contamination. Waste management facilities can quickly identify and divert green waste for composting, preventing it from ending in landfills.

3. Environmental Awareness: Using clear bags for leaves promotes an environmentally conscious mindset. Homeowners and community members may be more inclined to adopt eco-friendly practices when visually observing the separation of organic waste from general trash.

4. Compliance with York County Regulations: Leaves must be in clear bags, no thicker than one millimeter with no drawstrings, and bags must be easily handled by one person with a maximum weight of 40 pounds. Bags containing other yard debris, such as sticks and pet waste, will not be accepted.

5. Prevention of Illegal Dumping: Clear bags; transparency is a deterrent against illegal dumping. Since the contents are visible, it becomes easier for authorities to identify and penalize individuals who dispose of prohibited items improperly.



Warmer air. Less energy.

CALL US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
ENERGY-EFFICIENT HVAC
SYSTEMS.

Receive a **FREE** Wi-fi
Programmable Thermostat
with purchase of any
Lennox® home comfort
products. Retail value
\$585.00

OR

Call ANI for your next
service call and we'll
waive the diagnostic
charge! (\$89.00 value)
Call for details!



ART NEWSOME, INC.
728 City Center Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23606
757-873-0345
<http://www.artnewsomeinc.com>

ANI is a proud sponsor of the Coventry Swim Team!

“Home of the **FREE** Service Call”