



July-September 2023

Coventry Chronicles

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



2nd Quarter in Review

On March 14th, 2023 the HOA Board of Directors voted in Gary Cusack as the newest Coventry HOA Board Member. In the short period of time that Gary Cusack has been on the Board he has already contributed a plethora of knowledge and a work ethic incomparable to any other. Make sure to check out our short bio on Gary Cusack on page four.

Speaking of contributions, Coventry had an amazing Community Day thanks to you the residents! Trash can tops were painted, the maintenance area, which was in disarray, was cleaned up, we potted plants for the pool, picked-up debris from the walkways, and retrieved garbage out of the lakes.

A little bit later in the quarter we were successful in hiring two part-time maintenance technicians. Please give a warm welcome to Gregory Bowden and Frank Post. Having two maintenance managers will ensure that we can have better safety protocols in place and hopefully get double the work done in a shorter period of time. We thank you for your patience as we go through this transition.

We are also in the process of adding four new dog receptacles. We received the receptacles through a York County grant. We are excited that they will help reduce the distance between trash bins in our community and increase opportunities to keep our community clean.

Featured This Month

- **2** From The President's Desk
- **4** Community & Local Events
- **6** Addressing The Issues
- **7** Critter Corner



From The President's Desk

"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much." -Helen Keller

I am extremely grateful to serve on a board with differing values, missions, and ideas. We all come from different backgrounds and bring different perspectives to the table. While this board had a rocky start with transitioning into new positions we've never been in and dealing with my accident and recovery for the past three months, we've never stopped working towards unity. This board's main vision is to increase transparency and create unity within our community.

We are excited and so appreciative with our choices in contracts this year. Our lawn service with US Lawns has been more consistent and more communicative. Our pool contract with Clearwater has been running essentially independently and doing things with proper procedure from the beginning. While we are all human, and mistakes can be made, I see these companies striving for excellence and these are the type of companies that share the values of Coventry.

Now that we've tackled some of our biggest hurdles in starting to maintain our property better, our focus is now shifting to more strategic planning to ensure Coventry is striving to become current with systems while being financially sound. The board plans to hold a special strategic planning session where we will deep dive into our reserve study, talk about more long-term goals, and our funds to ensure the community will be able to maintain our amenities.

We are looking for members to come alongside and join us in a strategic planning committee so we can project more long-term goals and ensure anytime the board shifts that the community is still financially sound to ensure longevity. If you are a forward thinker, loves to plan, and loves numbers, we would like to join us! Please contact me for more details at Coventryboardmember@gmail.com.

As we move forward into the next planning phase, I am personally working to see how we might be able to get our systems current with an online portal. There are so many options in this arena so it requires hour long demos with our staff and board with many companies to ensure we are choosing ones that can support all our needs including online payment system, amenity rentals, bookkeeping software, board member portals, and a seamless integration for our community. I look forward to delivering you the top three choices at our August meeting.

Thank you for your continuous support, especially during my recovery. Many of you have given grace as our board works diligently to try to make our community a better place for all. Together, I'm sure we can accomplish great things over the next few months.

**Cheers,
Julianne Post
Master Board President
Coventry Homeowners Association**



Community and Local Events

July 2023

- 04 Coventry July 4th Pool Party- Harvest Lake Pool 12-2 pm
- 08, 22, 29 Yorktown Market Days 8 am- 12 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 10 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 11 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 13, 20, 27 Sounds of Summer Concert Series 6:30- 9 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 15 Yorktown Seafood Summerfest @ The Watermen's Museum 10 am-4 pm
- 17 Community Yoga @ The Watermen's Museum 6- 6:50 pm
- 25 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 24 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm

August 2023

- 5, 6 Colonial Cobia Classic Fishing Tournament 4 pm- 10 pm
- 3, 10, 24 Sounds of Summer Concert Series 6:30- 9 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 5, 12, 19, 26 Yorktown Market Days 8 am- 12 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 7, 21 Community Yoga @ The Watermen's Museum 6- 6:50 pm
- 8 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 9 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 22 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 28 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 28 York County Public Schools First Day of School

September 2023

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Yorktown Market Days 8 am- 12 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 4, 18 Community Yoga @ The Watermen's Museum 6- 6:50 pm
- 5 Coventry HOA Bingo Night 6:30 PM @ Clubhouse
- 7, 14, 21, 28 Rhythms On The Riverwalk 6:30- 8:30 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 9 Watermen's Museum Oyster Roast 12- 3 pm
- 11 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 12 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 24 Yorktown Art Stroll 8 am- 12 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 26 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 25 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 29 Coventry Elementary's Fall Festival for students and families

Current as of printing,

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

Get to Know Gary Cusack, HOA Director

Before moving to Yorktown, Virginia, I served 23 years as a command and control professional in our Air Force. After retiring from the Air Force, I worked as a defense contractor for several years, and later I accepted a civil service position as a contract specialist supporting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center in Norfolk.

I have lived in Coventry for the past 17 years and want to make a difference in our community. Before serving on our Master Board as a Director, I chaired our Architectural Review Committee (ARC) and am still a member of our ARC. Recently, I chaired a local civic organization where I honed my leadership and organizational skills. I am utilizing these skills to help our association make financial, maintenance, and rule-adherence decisions that positively affect our community.

My ultimate desire is to have Coventry be the best mid-size HOA on the peninsula by having our community function smoothly, improving our amenities, caring for our common area, growing our resident engagement, and increasing our property value.

In my free time, I enjoy keeping up with current events and I avidly read The Economist, the Washington Post, and Daily Press newspapers. I enjoy visiting Presidential Libraries, having toured six of the 14 libraries. I like riding my bicycle around our community and look forward to talking with friends and neighbors.



Coventry Beautification

So, how's your Summer going? I know it just started. Hot, cool, dry, rainy? Actually, I was referring to your lawn.

Most lawns in our area are Tall Fescue seed that is sown in the previous Fall. It's considered a cool season grass that generally struggles with hot and humid (temperatures in the upper 80's and 90's) conditions that will soon be upon us. How can you, the Homeowner, help?

1. Mow, with a sharpened blade at 4 inches. Like the name implies, Tall Fescue. This helps shade itself, and reduces weed seed from germinating.
2. Use a recycling mower. Cutting your grass one-third off each mowing helps feed nitrogen back in the soil. It also helps reduce grass clippings from going to our local landfills. Clippings do not build up if cutting at this height.
3. Water one inch per week. That's not a daily 10-15 minute daily waste of water but a once or twice deeper watering. Grass roots grow towards the precipitation. Of course, if Mother Nature helps out like more recently, turn off sprinklers.

Your lawn will thank you.

Join The Board!

As we are half way through the year it's time to think about our future. Are you interested in giving back to the community in a rewarding way? Consider becoming a Coventry Homeowner's Association Director. Keep a look out for information from the Nomination Committee so you can be put on the vote.

**Are you a teenager
in Coventry???**

Do you have a business...
like babysitting, dog sitting, cutting grass, baking?

**Then the Coventry Newsletter wants to advertise for you
for FREE!**

**To have your business listed in the next Coventry
Newsletter email HOA Secretary, Jiselle Anderson
at coventryhoasec@coventry.com**

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

Do you see a concern with our common area? Let us know using a Community Action Form, which you can find at <https://coventryhoaofyorktown.org/community-action-form>. The HOA recently corrected the erosion issue along the walkway and starting in July walk way repairs will underway.

Before



After





Critter Corner

Eastern Gray Squirrel

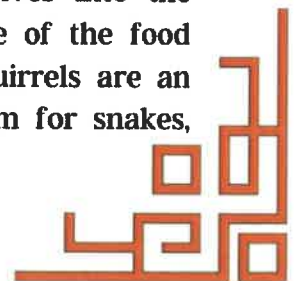
By resident Kelly Myers



The Eastern gray squirrel, we see them all the time and usually don't give much thought to them. Their usual color is gray, but not solid, it's white with gray tips. Their chest and belly are white. However, it is possible to see an all-white or all black squirrel. If you see an all-white or all-black squirrel in North America, it's probably a gray squirrel, or a fox squirrel in disguise. Some places are more prone to white squirrels, like Brevard, North Carolina, where as many as one in three squirrels have white fur. The daily movement is mostly within about 200 yards, unless the area gets to be overpopulated, then some will relocate. Sounds a bit like us humans. They do not hibernate but cold, rain, snowstorm and especially high winds cause this species to remain in the den for several days.



Squirrels reproduce February, May, August, and October. Squirrels are capable of giving birth as young as 6 months old. The potential longevity in the wild is 6 years. Did you know more than 278 species and 51 genera are living and thriving everywhere from tropical rainforests to farms, suburbs, and big cities; even in the Arctic tundra! Squirrels are native to every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The earth is home to a variety of tree squirrels, flying squirrels as well as ground-dwelling species like chipmunks, prairie dogs, and marmots. Squirrels are typically loners, but they are sometimes seen being social. A group of squirrels is called a "scurry" or "dray." In the 1850s, gray squirrels in urban city parks, like New York's Central Park were rare. Tree squirrels had been nearly eliminated from many U.S. cities by the mid-19th century. Cities responded by adding more parks and trees—and by adding squirrels. Now we have an abundance of squirrels. This is another case of humans inserting themselves into the ecosystem and disrupting the normal cycle of the food chain. It is important to recognize that squirrels are an important food source within the ecosystem for snakes, coyotes, hawks, and owls.



Eastern Gray Squirrel Continued...

If you find squirrels are in your attic during their mating season, it's possible that babies are present. If mother squirrels are sealed out of an attic with their babies inside, they will cause an extreme amount of destruction to enter again. Find a removal service that will remove humanely and relocate if possible. If you are willing, consider waiting until the young are old enough to leave on their own; this is typically when they are about 8-10 weeks old. When in the road, or near the side of the road, give them a brake, honk the horn so you don't hit them. They escape predators by darting in a zig zag pattern. This explains why they don't always get out of the way of your car like you expect they will. Slowing down is an important action for all animals, even birds. Be humane.



Squirrels are primarily herbivorous but do eat insects, eggs and young birds. They will move when the nut supply is exhausted. These industrious little neighbors can bury up to 10,000 nuts in a season, but usually only recover a quarter. This is vital to deciduous tree growth. To protect their main food source, they are known to dig fake holes to fool onlookers and throw off thieves. This involves a squirrel digging a hole and covering it up again but not depositing a nut. A classic bait-and-switch; also known as "deceptive caching." Squirrels will share their food when there's enough to go around.

Squirrels communicate using complex systems of high-frequency chirps and tail movements. Sound is used to intimidate rivals in their territory, to alert neighbors to predators in the area, to scold a predator so it will be inclined to leave, to initiate mating, and, in the case of offspring, to ask for food.

We're lucky to have these clever, charismatic creatures living among us, but like most wild animals, the best way to appreciate squirrels is to watch them, not interact with them. Feeding any wildlife is generally a bad idea since it portrays people as a food source and could discourage natural foraging.



Coventry
Elementary's
**FALL
FESTIVAL**
SEP. 29, 2022

AMERICAN
RED
CROSS

**LET'S DONATE
YOUR BLOOD**

**ONE PIN OF BLOOD
SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES**

Monday, October 2nd
9AM- 2PM
Coventry Elementary

reallygreatsite.com

BELLA
bakery bar & bistro

1215 Q George Washington Memorial Hwy
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 534-9300
bellabakerybarandbistro@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @bella_bakery_bar_and_bistro

**OPEN WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
9 AM-3 PM**

**SERVING BREAKFAST,
BRUNCH, LUNCH, DESSERTS,
SPECIALTY COFFEES, AND
COCKTAILS. BRING THIS ADD
FOR A FREE PASTRY WITH THE
PURCHASE OF ANY ENTREE!**

LOREN FRIEDRICH
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL

BRIGHT SIDE
ELECTRIC

BRIGHTSIDELELECTRIC757@GMAIL.COM
(757)-933-3052

**Mermaid Lounge
Nags Head, NC 27959
Two Bedroom Condo
Vacation Rental
Call 757 880-3072**

MANAGEMENT
IS OUR ONLY
BUSINESS



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

GIVE BACK OPPORTUNITY

**GIVE
COVENTRY
YOUR OLD
SHOES**

AND WE'LL TURN THEM
INTO \$ FOR THRIVE
FOODBANK!

CONTACT BOARD MEMBER JISELLE ANDERSON
AND THEN JUST LEAVE YOUR OLD SHOES ON
YOUR FRONT PORCH FOR PICK-UP.

**Scott
WILLIAMS**

for York-Poquoson Sheriff

P.O Box 166 Yorktown, VA 23690

757-708-1418

scott4sheriff.com

Commitment to Our Community



- Roof Cleaning with a 3 Year Warranty
- Brick/Vinyl Cleaning
- Gutter Cleaning
- Deck Cleaning
- Driveway & Sidewalk
- Fence Cleaning

Serving all of Hampton Roads

757-461-9151

www.marcspressurecleaning4u.com



**Questions about the
real estate market?**

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

Valerie Stevens
Real Estate Services to New Dreams

757-209-8199

valeriestevens@lizmoore.com
lizmoore.com/valeriestevens

