



October-December 2023

Coventry Chronicles

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



Fourth Quarter Updates

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Happy fourth quarter and the home stretch of 2023! We are excited to announce a lot of fun changes for our holiday season. First up, this Halloween Season, we are proud to announce the first annual Kids Halloween Parade. **See page 4 for more details.** We are also proud to announce Santa Clause is coming to town and we'll be starting his visit a little later this year so you, your kids, and Santa can get some extra winks in before the big event. **See page 8 for more details.** Due to lack of attendance and cost we will not be having the Holiday Mixer this year, but look out for a new, added event in 2024.

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.** Also, make sure to attend the annual Coventry Homeowners Association meeting on November 13th, 7 pm at Coventry Elementary to ensure all the voices of the community are being heard, not the just the voices of a few. If you cannot make the meeting, make sure to fill out a proxy form which you can receive at the HOA Clubhouse Office, then find a fellow Coventry homeowner to fill out your vote at the annual meeting,



From The President's Desk

**"The best way to develop the best that is in a person is
by appreciation and encouragement."**

- Charles Schwab

I want to first thank out community for the support and grace during the past year's transitions. As the board prepares for our annual meeting we've been able to strategize and plan for 2024. We we are excited to share with you our goals for the upcoming year while there are many projects that could be tackled, the board of chosen to focus on four main projects for 2024: update our systems, demo and install a new Clubhouse Playground, correct erosion issues surrounding our lakes and address major tree removal and replanting. We are excited to see how these changes positively impact our community in 2024.

I'm excited to announce that our Treasurer will be staying on for the upcoming year. We are excited for this because our Treasurer has been able to be very strategic with our finances and ensure that the community will be secure for the long term. Gary Cusack, the individual who was appointed to the board when there was a sudde vacancy, will be running again for a position on the board. If anyone is interested in running, please fill out a candidate interest form in the office. Please plan on attending our annual meeting to vote on this and our annual budget. The meeting will be held Monday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Coventry Elementary school.

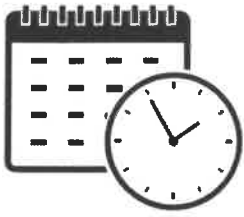
The board will be proposing a \$2 increase to monthly assessments at the annual meeting. Community members will be able to review and approve the budget as well as this increase at the meeting. We look to utilize these funds to help tackle the four projects for 2024. Our new portal system is going to launch in hoprfully early on in 2024 and will include online payments, a resident portal, a place to submit forms electronically, and automation for our staff. We are excited to see the shift for our community!

We are still looking for members to serve on our Strategic Committee. We currently have three members, but we would like at least five members to be able to launch this committee successfully. If you are interested in serving your community in this capacity please email me at coventryboardmember@gmail.com.

In closing, I want to say a big thank you to our big contractors this year, US Lawns and Clearwater Pool Management, for their service this year to our community. We are so grateful for the wonderful season.

Thank you residents for your support. We are grateful for those 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 with the only paid positions within Coventry being our office and maintenance staff. We have several committees that would welcome yout 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

October 2023

- 2 American Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 am- 2 pm @ Coventry Elementary
- 7 Yorktown Wine Festival, 12 pm- 6 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 9 Coventry HOA Meeting for all residents, 7 pm @ the Clubhouse
- 10 Ferguson Glade Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 14 Yorktown Market Days Fall Festival, 9 am- 3 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 14 Coventry Fall Yard Sale, 8 am- 2 pm
- 19 Yorktown Day, 9 am- 5 pm @ Yorktown Victory Monument
- 22 Coventry's First Annual Kid's Halloween Trunk or Treat, 2 pm @ the Clubhouse
- 23 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 24 Smithy Glen Annual HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse

November 2023

- 1 Finch Terrace Annual HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 4 York County Vintage Market, 9 am- 3 pm @ McReynold's Sports Complex
- 11 Yorktown Market Days Maritime Festival, 9 am- 3 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 13 Coventry HOA Annual Meeting for all residents, 7 pm @ Coventry Elementary
- 14 Ferguson Glade HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse
- 18 Yorktown Market Days Harvest Festival, 9 am- 3 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 20 ARC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 28 Smithy Glen HOA Meeting, 7 pm @ Clubhouse

December 2023

- 1 Yorktown Christmas Tree Lighting, 7:30 pm- 8:30 pm @ Riverwalk Landing
- 2 Santa Clause comes to Coventry, 10:30 AM- Noon @ the Clubhouse
- 2 Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade, 7 pm- 8 pm @ Yorktown Waterfront
- 3 Cookies With Santa, 1 pm- 4 pm @ Gallery at York Hall
- 7 Coventry's Holiday Light Contest
- 8 Nighttime Christmas Market, 5 pm- 9 pm @ Historic Main Street
- 12 Ferguson Glade HOA Annual Meeting
- 18 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 Children's Halloween Costume Parade and Trunk or Treat

Ages birth to 10
Line up oldest
to youngest



Trunk or Treat
to follow parade

Sunday, October 22, 2023
2 pm Harvest Lake Area



Trunk or Treat Volunteers needed for Coventry Halloween Parade



Need 10 volunteers for October 22, 2pm
Harvest Lake Area
Open your trunk with treats for
Coventry Kids
if interested send message via FB



Coventry Beautification

Finally, we have a break from the heat and humidity. And now is the best time to consider lawn overseeding, planting Spring blooming bulbs, and later this Fall, planting trees & shrubs. Don't forget to consider Fall vegetables. There are many ways to create a colorful and easy maintenance fall look for your home Even container gardens can produce cool season crops of radishes, broccoli, cabbage, kale, and lettuce, to name a few. Keep in mind a location with full sun, a good loam or composted soil, and a convenient source of water.

The Beautification Committee (BC) volunteers have been active at monthly meetings and more practically, out in our community pruning, clearing debris, weeding flower beds and most recently secured approval to power wash all eleven of the stone monuments within the community. We've coordinated with US Lawns on the annual fall plantings, which will be done in October.

The next major BC project will be done in the 4th quarter – the restoration of our stone Coventry Boulevard sign. Plans have been approved to cut back the trees, upgrade the lighting, and restore the monument to its original state. Be sure to check Facebook for the announcement of a Community Cleanup Day in October. Volunteers are needed to help the BC prepare the flower bed for the renovated monument, as well as clean out the overgrowth along the fence by the Coventry Elementary School. Any interested High Schoolers looking for Community Credit are welcome to participate.

All residents are invited to join the BC on Wednesday, December 6th, for the annual holiday bough making (with greenery gathered from our common areas) @ the Clubhouse from 7-8PM.

In the coming seasons, look for more seasonal color in the form of perennials, low maintenance shrubs and groundcovers. The mission is to have beautiful landscaping throughout our neighborhoods making it more inviting and admired without excessive maintenance.

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 preserving the pride and beauty of our community.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting on 13 Nov 2023!

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Orlando
Coventry Beautification Committee Chairperson

Critter Corner

American Bullfrog

By resident Kelly Myers



I was headed home one day last spring when I spotted something on in the road up ahead. I stopped, put my flashers on, got out and to my surprise it was a bullfrog, sitting in the middle of Honeysuckle Drive. Not one to shy away from reptiles or amphibians, I attempted to pick it up and move it so that it would not get run over and as soon as I tried, it hopped away in the direction of the lake. This frog was so large that the sound it made as it traversed the pavement was a distinct fwap, fwap fwap. I got to thinking about this frog and what it does in the winter. Well, when the temperatures are at freezing or less, many of these frogs will carve out underground lairs where they hibernate until the temperature moderates. They will also hibernate at the bottom of ponds or pools amongst leaves and other debris. Since they can breathe using their lungs or skin, they use their skin during hibernation in the mud or water.

Bullfrogs are the largest frogs found in the U.S. The picture above demonstrates an average size for this species, with males being the smaller of the sexes. Females will lay up to 20,000 eggs that float on the surface of the water. We tend to think of tadpoles as being quite small. Not these, they can grow as large as 6.75 inches and take up to 3 years to become a full-fledged frog. The picture at right demonstrates the large size of the bullfrog tadpoles. These frogs are nocturnal and 100% opportunistic carnivores eating other frogs, snakes, birds, fish and insects. They are widespread across the North American continent and we have them right here living in our neighborhood. If you hear bellowing that resembles the mowing of a cow it is most likely our amphibian neighbors.

Coventry's Fall Community Garage Sale



Make sure to dig into those attics and/or garages to find the things you just don't need anymore and let them become someone else's treasure. The Coventry Community Garage Sale will run **October 14th, 8 am to 2 pm** and will be advertised in our local Daily Press.

Holiday Light Contest



Get your yards ready with all the things this holiday season. Coventry's Annual Holiday Light Contest will be held Thursday, December 7th. Each neighborhood will have it's own winner chosen by our volunteer judges.

Santa Claus is coming to town!

Join Santa
for photos
at the
Coventry
Clubhouse
on
Saturday
Dec 2nd
10:30 am
to noon

Free for all
Coventry
residents



Sponsored by CHOA and
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ENGLISH IVY A NON-NATIVE AGGRESSIVE & DESTRUCTIVE PLANT

English ivy is a non-native species to Virginia that was introduced to North America from Europe in the 1700s as an ornamental plant. While it may have some benefits, such as erosion control and aesthetic value, it has become invasive in many areas, including Coventry.

English ivy is a fast-growing, aggressive plant that can quickly take over a yard or garden, and escape into our common areas. It is also capable of causing damage to brickwork, guttering, and hiding potentially serious structural faults. Careful planning and placement are essential.

English ivy can climb up trees and cover their bark, which can lead to damage or death of the tree. It can also add weight to the tree branches, making them more susceptible to breakage.

English ivy can outcompete other plants for water, nutrients, and sunlight and it can provide a habitat for pests like rats, snakes, and spiders, which can be a nuisance and potentially harmful to humans as well as our pets.

English ivy can create a monoculture, meaning it can dominate and decrease the diversity of plant and animal species in our yards and common areas, and create “ivy deserts”.

Once established, controlling English ivy can be difficult and an ongoing process. But here are steps you can take to keep it under control and stop its spread into the neighbor's yard and into our common areas:

Regularly trim the ivy to keep it from spreading too far. This will also help prevent the ivy from climbing up trees or structures.

If you notice new growth or leaves, remove them by hand or with pruning shears. This will help prevent the ivy from photosynthesizing and spreading.

Use a weed barrier or mulch around the base of trees or other areas where ivy tends to grow. This will help prevent the ivy from taking root and spreading.

If the ivy is growing up a structure or tree, consider using a physical barrier, such as a metal or plastic mesh, to prevent it from climbing further.

If the ivy is particularly stubborn or difficult to control, you may need to use an herbicide. Be sure to choose an herbicide suitable for ivy, safe for your plants, and follow the instructions on the label carefully.

Remember controlling English ivy will require ongoing effort, so be patient and persistent in your efforts to keep it under control.

Be In The KNow



Collectors & Upcyclers

York County has a great opportunity for you. They need merchants for the upcoming Vintage Market on November 4th. If you have painted or unpainted furniture, home decor, antiques, clothing, and jewelry you want to sell, reach out to mark@villageevent.org or call (757) 877-2933 to learn more.

coventry pta presents

THE ANNUAL FUND RUN

**03 NOV
2023**

COVENTRY
GYM

Previously Hosted by Booster. See our FAQ's
app.memberhub.gives/coventrycougars

HOMECOMING WEEK

October 9th - 14th

★ **14TH** ★
OCTOBER

HOMECOMING
DANCE

OVERALL THEME:
ENTERTAINMENT

Hallways
FRESHMEN:
BOARD GAMES AND TOYS

SOPHOMORES: ARCADES
AND MORE

JUNIORS:
AMUSEMENT PARKS

SENIORS:
MOVIE THEATERS AND
TELEVISION

! **Pep Rally**

! **Tailgate**

! **Football
Game**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Grafton
High
School

HOA OFFICE HOURS

Just a reminder, the HOA office hours have changed in hopes of achieving more efficiency for the staff and to better serve our residents who work normal business hours. Feel free to give feedback at coventryboardmember@gmail.com.

TUESDAY	10AM - 6PM
WEDNESDAY	10AM - 6PM
THURSDAY	10AM - 6PM
FRIDAY	2PM - 5PM
SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED
MONDAY	CLOSED

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