



THE MESSENGER

The Official Newsletter of Smithy Glen

July 2023



ANDOVER COURT * CHADWICK COURT * CRESCENT COURT * DURHAM COURT * FOUNDRY COURT * HAMLET COURT * KENSINGTON COURT
KINGSTON COURT * LINDEN COURT * MONUMENT COURT * STERLING COURT * WEXFORD COURT * WROUGHT IRON BEND

The Smithy Glen Board of Directors holds open meetings every other month, on the 4th Tuesday, at 7PM at the Clubhouse. The next 2023 open meetings are scheduled for 22 August and 24 October (Annual Meeting). All residents are invited to ask questions, say what's on their minds and give their views on community issues. We look forward to seeing you there!!!



From the President's Desk

As we reach another mid-point of our year, we can reflect back and notice how nice our community is looking. It takes many hands and time to make it so good, so a big thank you to all the homeowners and board members making sure our monument and homes are so beautiful.

This is also the time of the year that kids are out of school and outside playing. We ask that you pay particular attention when driving through the community for kinds running out in the road, from between cars and blind spots. This is the reason we have a 15-mph speed limit throughout the community!

Speaking of the kids, we also ask you as parents to know where your children are, and what they are doing. We've received numerous calls to the office regarding kids causing mischief, running between homes yelling, looking in windows. Please help and know what your children are up to.

We've completed a major project this year when we finished up with paving Monument Ct and all of Wrought Iron Bend. It was a big undertaking, but allowed us to completely close out our milling and paving issues for many years. With that, we will be looking at additional projects in the coming years that need to be completed. We look forward to the rest of the year and doing everything we can for you as homeowners and keeping our community beautiful.

Respectfully,

Rob Fitzmaurice

Rob Fitzmaurice, SG President



YARD OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Summer Smithy Glen Yards of the Month winners. Thanks for all you've done to make your yard – and our Community - look so nice!

APRIL: 104 Hamlet Court

MAY: 300 Linden Court

JUNE: 406 Kingston Court

JULY: 109 Sterling Court



CURB APPEAL & FLOWER BED MAINTENANCE
Help maintain the Appearance of the Neighborhood

It's been a humid and rainy summer, and our plants and weeds are thriving! During May, our SG Board Members reviewed all yards and issued **155** violations. Residents took on the task and got outside and worked hard on their flowerbeds. The 3rd followup in June had only **44** Tickets issued. Thank You to everyone who is planting, mulching, and pruning shrubs. Your efforts have greatly enhanced the appearance of our homes! Landscape Inspections will be done quarterly, so keep up the good work!

If you are unable to do these tasks on your own, or are an owner wanting to provide this service for your renter, please don't hesitate to reach out to a reliable lawn contractor for assistance. **The Vine** is our lawn contractor for Smithy Glen and provide good service to us and are more than willing to come give you a quote for any service you need, mulching, shrub trimming, gutter cleaning, etc. They can be reached at (757) 561-2212.



Remember this eyesore along the walking path behind Hamlet Court?

Our Board members Ann and Mary Ann took the initiative to clean out the area, add new plants, and spread mulch to make it a wonderful spot to enjoy!



NOTICE ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED?
The Community Action Form is the Easiest Way to Report an Issue or Request Assistance with a Problem

Smithy Glen is a large neighborhood and we need your help maintaining the beauty by identifying issues that require our attention. For example, if you see burned out street lights, broken and unsafe sidewalks, potholes in the road, broken or missing street signs, or a tree that appears diseased/dead, please take a moment and submit a **Community Action Form (CAF)**.

The CAF is also a way for you to request assistance from the Board, so when you need the Board to help with an issue, documenting it on a CAF is good practice. This form is also a good way to communicate an idea for the neighborhood that you want the Board to consider. Each and every form is logged in with a control number and all submissions will receive a reply.

You can obtain a copy of this form from the office or simply go online to the Coventry website and download it for printing. Visit: <https://coventryhoaofyorktown.org>, click on "MORE" in the header ribbon, then click on "COMMUNITY ACTION FORM". A page will appear – click on "DOWNLOAD" and the form will open in a new window. You can save the form or print it from here. Once you are done, drop it off at the main office so that your CAF will begin the process of being read and reviewed.



NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY
There's Lots Going On!

York County Citizen news is available free on-line at: <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/1610/Citizen-News-Quarterly>. Learn about the Summer activities, Park hours, Yorktown Market Days, Open Air Concerts, and other happenings in Yorktown. New to the area and not sure how to navigate Country Offices and Services? for a complete list of available services, visit the "HOW DO I?" page at <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/9/How-Do-I>

Household Chemical Collection, Computer Recycling, and Paper Shredding is Saturday, July 8, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 105 Service Drive. This service is free. If you miss this one, the next service will be Sept 9th. Look for more information on the Waste Management website, <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/578/Waste-Management>

Acceptable Materials are those typically found in a home environment, such as household maintenance and cleaning products, paints, fuels, automotive chemicals, and lawn and garden products. The following computer items are also accepted at this event: Computers; Desktop and laptop computers, servers, computer monitors, cell phones, computer wiring, desktop printers including multifunction printers or "All in Ones", fax machines, and desktop photocopiers and scanners. Televisions are not accepted.

The Yorktown Market 2023 regular season kicks off on April 8 and runs every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.* through October. Did you know that many of the vendors now participate in the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help ensure all families in our community have access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy food options. Please visit the website for more details: [https:// www.visityorktown.org/225/Market-Days](https://www.visityorktown.org/225/Market-Days)

Yorktown Sounds of Summer On Riverwalk Landing are free outdoor concerts held every Thursday from 6:30-9:00pm through Aug 24th, weather permitting. Bring a cooler and chair and enjoy some live music and dancing! For more information, check out the lineup at <https://www.visityorktown.org/DocumentCenter/View/6731/2023-Sounds-of-Summer>.

DO YOU KNOW HOW SMITHY GLEN GOT ITS NAME?



Owen Davis, an English Merchant, requested a land grant from King Charles in 1600. The King granted his request, and the Davis family settled in this area. Owen

became the local constable, vestryman, and blacksmith (Smithy). Smithy Glen, Wrought Iron Bend, and Davis Forge are reminders of that history. What other streets and neighborhoods in Coventry have historical names? Tune in to the next newsletter to find out!

LOCAL DOG PARKS

There are many Dog Parks in our Local Area

There are several Dog Parks in our area designed for your fur babies to exercise and run freely "off leash" while their owners can socialize.

Sandy Bottom Nature Park
1255 Big Bethel Rd, Hampton

Dogs are REQUIRED to "have a membership" which is \$10 for the first dog and \$5 for the rest in your family. You have to present the park people with proof of vaccinations, pay the fee (good for a year) and always have the tag on their collar. The dog park is one large fenced area fully shaded and does have a doggy water fountain.



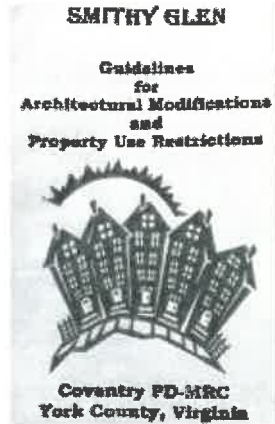
Waller Mill Dog Park
901 Airport Rd, Williamsburg

You MUST bring proof of license and rabies. Daily Passes are only \$2.00. The large park also has agility course for dogs, nice water views, a variety of terrain, and shaded benches.



TRUE OR FALSE?

All of the references to the questions below can be found in the Smithy Glen Guidelines for Architectural Modifications and Property Use Restrictions, provided in your original Homewise Documents Packet.



1. I DON'T NEED TO SUBMIT AN ARC APPLICATION TO ATTACH A TRELLIS TO MY HOME.

FALSE. A complete application to the ARC is required for trellises. Application must include drawings and measurements of the intended placement. Trellises within the fenced area must not show above the fence line. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 24, Trellises.*

2. AN ARC APPLICATION IS REQUIRED FOR STORM DOOR ADDITION/REPLACEMENT.

TRUE. A complete application is required for storm and screen doors, Doors visible from the front of the property must be 1" thick wood (painted to match the

house trim) or 1.25: aluminum baked on enamel. Half glass or cross buck doors are not permitted. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 24, Storm Doors/Screen Doors.*



3. I CAN PURCHASE A PORTABLE BACKBOARD FOR CHILDREN IN MY COURT TO PLAY BASKETBALL.

FALSE. Because of the size of the lots and closeness of residences in Smithy Glen, there is no way to screen the noise and vibrations of basketball backboards from one's neighbor. Neither portable nor permanent basketball

backboards are allowed. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 17, Basketball Backboards.*

4. I NEED TO SUBMIT AN ARC REQUEST WHEN REPLACING MY GUTTERS.

FALSE. When replacing existing gutters and/or downspouts or portions thereof, no application is necessary. However, an application is required if altering the style, changing color, adding to, or relocating the existing system. Applications for below ground gutter drainage systems must be accompanied by a diagram of the property, proposed system, drainage site, and termination point. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 19, Gutters and Down Spouts.*

5. I DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT AN ARC REQUEST WHEN REPLACING MY EXTERIOR LIGHTING.

TRUE. If you replace the existing light fixture with a realistic match to the old fixture, you do not need to submit an ARC Request. However, if you change the fixture style, size, shape, color, or location of the light, or are adding additional fixtures, security lights or flood lights then an application is required. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 20&21, Lighting (Residential) & Lighting (External).*

6. I DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT AN ARC REQUEST TO DISPLAY WINTER HOLIDAY FESTIVE LIGHTING.

TRUE. Holiday Lighting does not require an ARC. However, it cannot be operative prior to Thanksgiving and must be totally removed by January 22nd. If you wish to display Festive Lighting at other times of the year, you will need to submit an ARC Request. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 20, Lighting (Decorative).*

6. I DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT AN ARC REQUEST TO FLY A GARDEN FLAG ON MY FENCE.

FALSE. Flags flown from a pole attached to your fence (ie Decorative/Sports Flags) require an ARC Application. **Exception: American Flags.** In addition, an ARC Application is required for any statue, fountain, lawn ornament, window box, weather vane and bird bath. *The SG guideline is detailed on page 23, Statues, Fountains & Ornaments and SG Resolution 2014-1, dated 28 Oct 2014.*

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions and Policies were provided in your original Homewise Documents Packet. Each year, when the Board passes new resolutions, be sure to add the updates to your files.

There are 4 types of Resolutions:

POLICY RESOLUTIONS: These are resolutions that affect owners' rights and obligations, ie rules for the use of common areas and recreational facilities, architectural guidelines, enforcement procedures

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS: These are resolutions that address the internal operations of the community association, ie operation procedures, collection procedures and where Board meetings will be held.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS: There are resolutions stating Board decisions that apply a policy or rule to an individual situation, ie decision about alleged rules violation or authorization of a lawsuit

GENERAL RESOLUTION: These are resolutions which involve routine events, ie adoption or approval of a contract of the annual budget.

RESTRICTIONS FOR MOTORIZED SCOOTERS OR GOLF CARTS.

SG Policy Resolution #2000-3, dated 26 Sept 2000, and SG Policy Resolution #2022-2, dated 1 Sept 2022, bans the use of any motorized scooter of any kind and all golf carts within the property limits of Smithy Glen.

RESTRICTIONS FOR CAR COVERS ABANDONED VEHICLES, AND INOPERABLE CARS.

SG Policy Resolution #2016-1, dated 22 March 2016, states that no junk, derelict, abandoned or inoperable vehicle on which current registration plates, as required, are not displayed, shall be kept on any property or street. If any vehicle (automobile or motorcycle) is covered in a common area or private property, the following shall be enforced:

1. The current registration plate must be visible OR
2. A copy of the current inspection and registration must be on file in the Coventry office
3. A statement for the reason of the cover shall be presented to the office.
4. Covers must be form fitting (no tarps).

RESTRICTIONS FOR TRASH TOTES

SG Policy Resolution #2022-1, dated 1 Sept 2022, states that all garbage and trash stored within Smithy Glen must be kept in covered containers and, except for a reasonable amount of time to permit collection, these containers at no time shall be visible from any neighboring property. Hence, all trash totes must be kept inside a privacy fence, shed, or garage or other screened area. Also, totes may not be placed streetside for collection earlier than 5pm on the day before collection and must be stored NLT 7pm on the day of collection. Failure to do so will result in one warning; the second warning will be called to a hearing and assessed a \$50 fine.

RESTRICTIONS FOR NOTHING VISIBLE ABOVE THE FENCELINE.

SG Policy Resolution #2014-1, dated 28 Oct 2014, states that there shall be nothing visible above the privacy fence line. This shall include, but is not limited to trees, shrubbery, tents, gazebos, pergolas. The one exception to this rule is that homeowners are allowed ONE pole umbrella inside a privacy fence. Umbrellas must be closed when not in use.

RESTRICTIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS.

SG Policy Resolution #2022-3, dated 1 Sept 2022, states that no electric vehicle charging stations will be erected on Smithy Glen property (parking and grass areas). Additionally, no vehicle charging cord shall cross any sidewalk, or visible to any neighboring properties, causing a tripping hazard.



Smithy Glen Monument is Decorated for the 4th of July

SOME THINGS ARE WORTH REPEATING!

Our past newsletters have addressed issues that may not be comfortable, but necessary to talk about. We want to maintain a positive tone but need to be realistic about the issues that neighbors are concerned about. So let's review a few of the issues that continue to be in the top Facebook and CAF discussions.

LITTER

Don't Be a Litter Bug!

Residents have noticed that the area behind the homes on Wrought Iron Bend and Sterling Court (that border Langley Housing) are becoming dumping grounds for unwanted plants & planters, weekly yard clippings, and even old Christmas Trees. **This location should not be treated as a dumping site.**



We express our gratitude to the residents who diligently carry bags during their daily walks to collect litter. Our resident volunteers are picking up fast food wrappers, soda bottles & cans, candy wrappers, and much more on their daily walks. We strongly urge all residents to do better. **Please dispose of trash appropriately and have open conversations with your children to instill this important habit in them.**

Properly disposing of waste and litter not only maintains cleanliness but also fosters a sense of environmental responsibility. Let's work together to ensure a clean and sustainable community for all!



DOGS IN THE COMMON AREA MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES!

When waking your dog in Common area in Smithy Glen, please follow these 3 guidelines:

1. Please be courteous of your neighbors around you and please **pick up after your pet when it relieves itself.**
2. Please **do not permit your pets to go onto a neighbor's property or walk through or next to their flowerbeds.** Certainly, do not allow the animals to trample through flowers or urinate on plants/planters.
3. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, while walking your pet please ensure that your pet is on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person who can control the pet at all times.** Smithy Glen has great open spaces that make our walking paths enjoyable and provide spaces for the children to play. However, **Common Areas are not dog parks! Many residents don't cooperate with the leash requirement when in the Smithy Glen Common Areas and it's intimidating to residents who want to enjoy the walking paths.**

Smithy Glen governing document titled "Design Document Smithy Glen HOA Sub", Use restrictions, para G, page 8, Animals, states: **"NO animals should be allowed to run free. All dogs must be on a leash."**

Demonstrate your love and care for your furry companion, while also being a considerate member of the community, by adhering to the Community Rule and keep your pets and neighborhoods safe by always using a leash.

WHY YOU SHOULD CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Pet Waste can make us all sick

Many people think, 'it's nature, it's compost, so you can basically leave it without causing any harm. Won't it eventually turn into dirt anyway? No, it won't.



Dog poop is a health hazard, and leaving it out in your yard could be dangerous for your pets, your family, and the local water supply. For one thing, dog poop is loaded with microorganisms that can

get people sick. A single gram contains some 23 million E. coli and other fecal coliform bacteria, plus it hosts salmonella, giardia, and hookworm. It can make people, especially children, very sick. It can also be dangerous to wildlife and other dogs. Rodents are very attracted to pet waste left in your yard.

Some of the most common dog illnesses are transmitted by poop. Dogs can make themselves sick by contacting or eating poop, and if you have multiple pets, they can spread the illness between them. Things that can be passed through dog poop include:

Parvovirus: A dog illness that is potentially deadly.

Worms: Several types of worms can be passed through poop.

Humans can also be infected simply by touching the soil where the poop sat or walking through the grass barefooted. Parasites are a big concern, including hookworm, ringworm, and tapeworm. Also, coliform bacteria, a type of bacteria that is common in dogs, can very seriously infect humans, potentially causing kidney disorders. Poop also provides breeding grounds for bugs, parasites and molds that can harm human health. These parasites, illnesses, and other potentially infectious agents can live in the soil for years. So, it is always important to pick dog poop up promptly, or you can damage your soil for the foreseeable future.

Pet waste left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. Rain washes pet waste down storm drains and into waterways like community ponds, rivers, bays, and beaches. Pet waste is very toxic—the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that waste produced by just 100 dogs in two or three days (or one

weekend) can contain enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay to swimming and shell fishing. Pet waste also provides a nitrogen source for algae blooms, which deplete the water of oxygen.

Let's run the numbers in a way that makes sense.....

A family has **one dog** and refuses to scoop the poop. Let's assume 1 dog usually poops 2x per day.
2 poops x 30 days per month = 60 piles
60 piles x 12 months = 720 piles per year.

Families with 2 dogs who refuse to scoop the poop can be contributing to this problem in the common area by leaving behind 1,440 piles per year!



So how many families do you know who refuse to scoop their poop? We all know at least one or two. When you do the math, the number of piles deposited in our common area should make you realize the health issue that this issue poses for all of us, especially for our children who love to run and play in the common areas!

Be a responsible pet owner. Your dog is counting on you to do the right thing!

**There is no such thing as the
Dog Poop Fairy**



Please pick it up

LET'S TALK TRASH

Everything MUST be in your Tote for PickUp

When we transferred our garbage contract to GFL, every home was issued one new XL tote with their address written on the top of the tote. For example, 600 Monument Court would be "600M". We ask all residents to take a minute to see if your numbers are fading and use a permanent marker to insure your address is visible.



Recently a few residents have reported that their tote was stolen on garbage day. Please resist the urge to take your neighbor's trash tote when you need extra space to dispose of your garbage.

As a reminder, GFL will not pick up ANYTHING left on the ground next to your totes. However, they will pick up the extra bags and bulk items such as leaf bags, shrubs, carpet, and many types of furniture for a small fee. Call their Customer Service Department, Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm, at 757-487-2020, to coordinate this service.

Lastly, when pails are too full to close and contain food remnants, the evening critters have been foraging through the totes and pulling out unsecured bags. Please make sure all your trash is in a closed bag and that the lid can close. Thanks!

DON'T BE AFRAID TO PRUNE YOUR TREES!

Plan ahead for the winter months

Often when things are overgrown it looks like neglect. Google your specific tree or plant and prune when recommended. Our winter issue will provide you with some tips. When you prune properly, you'll be very pleased with your results – and so will your neighbors!



If there are trees in the common areas that are encroaching on your home, identify them on a CAF (see page 2) now to request the Board review the situation and allow them time to plan for the work if approved.

PAY YOUR MONTHLY DUES ON TIME!

Avoid a Late Fee!

Smithy Glen HOA Dues are currently set at \$151.00 and are due on the first day of each month. **A \$25 late fee will be applied to all accounts not paid on or before the 16th.**



Please note that our Bylaws state that no owners may vote at any meeting or be elected to serve on the Board if the Association has a lien against the lot at the time of the meeting/election.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR POOL PASS?

It's a Great Way to Cool off this Summer



Our 2 beautiful pools will remain open through September for all families to enjoy. If you haven't picked up your 2023 pool passes yet, be sure to visit the main office during their business hours. Homeowners will need a photo ID and your old pass (if you have it). Renters will also need to bring a signed copy of their lease. Also be sure to get a New Pool Handbook as the rules have changed slightly from previous years.

FUN FACT

Dogs enjoy summer fruits just like you do

Summer is also a great time of year for fresh, delicious, local produce, especially fruit. Before feeding your furry friend, be sure to wash the fruit and don't feed them the seeds! Summer apples, watermelon, strawberries, blueberries, cantelope, mangoes, and peaches are all healthy treats for your dog. Four summer fruits that you should never feed your dog are avocado, cherries, grapes, and tomatoes. Never feed your dog onions or garlic OR food scraps cooked with these items. Garlic and onions are toxic for dogs.



SMITHY GLEN BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Rob Fitzmaurice
VICE PRESIDENT: Ron Moore
TREASURER: Ann Goodwin
SECRETARY: MaryAnn Dawson
DIRECTOR: Matt Cobaugh

IMPORTANT LOCAL NUMBERS

SUICIDE CRISIS LIFELINE: 988
YORK COUNTY POLICE
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: 757- 890-3621
Sheriff's office: 757- 890-3630
YORK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 757-890-9631
DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER OUTAGE
Report Outages: 888-667-3000
YORK COUNTY RECYCLING: 757-890-3780

Contact the HOA office at 757-867-9200
Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 10am - 5pm
E-mail: coventryhoa@verizon.net

Main Website: www.coventryhoaofyorktown.org
www.facebook.com/CoventryNeighborhoodHOA
www.facebook.com/groups/CoventryWatch

HAVE AN IDEA FOR ARTICLES FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS?

Please be sure to let us know by dropping a note in the main office!

Newsletters are produced quarterly.
The deadline for submission for publication in the 1 October issue is 15 Sept 2023.

Thanks!



A Beautifully Landscaped area in Smithy Glen.



Thanks to the Board for scheduling the Milling and Paving of our Streets in April 2023. What a difference this has made in the overall appearance of the neighborhood!

SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Pull Weeds
- ✓ Remove Dead Plants/Bushes
- ✓ Powerwash Mold off Siding
- ✓ Repair/Stain Fences
- ✓ Repair/Clean Gutters
- ✓ Check Shutters

