

The Smithy Glen Board of Directors holds open meetings every other month for the residents, on the 4th Tuesday, at 7PM at the Clubhouse.

The last open meeting for 2023 will be the Annual Meeting at 7PM on 24 October. 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!!!



As always, your Board is proud to serve, and try our best to keep the Community as beautiful as possible, and attack any issue faced by our homeowners as quickly as possible.

Fall is in the air and with that comes a much-welcomed break from the heat of summer. Along with fall, brings back the school buses in our community, and children running to and from the bus stop – please be alert, and remember that the speed limit within Smithy Glen is 15 mph.

We've completed the milling and paving of all of our Courts and Wrought Iron Bend, a huge project completed. However, we have other major projects that will be starting within the next couple years, to include roofing. One project we're getting ready to start is to replace portions of sidewalk and to grind down tripping hazards

along the sidewalks. At completion of the project, all sidewalks that are the responsibility of the Smithy Glen Board, will be fixed. There are a few areas that will be addressed through the Master Board; more to follow on that.

October is approaching quickly, and that means Smithy Glen Annual meeting time. Soon you'll be receiving your packets with information for the meeting, to include budget, election information (one position), voting items, and proxy letters. If you won't be able to make the meeting, we ask that you complete the Proxy letter and turn it in to the office or a Smithy Glen Board member. It's mandatory we receive a proxy or in-person homeowner to meet our 10% to have a quorum. The meeting is on October 24th, at 7 p.m. in the Coventry Clubhouse - we hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

Rob Fitzmaurice
Rob Fitzmaurice, SG President



As we close out 2023, we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the Volunteers who work to make our neighborhood such an enjoyable place to live!



Traffic problems within the neighborhood have been on the rise, with the most prominent issues being drivers violating oneway street rules and exceeding speed limits. Driving above the speed limit or taking a shortcut down a one-way road doesn't lead to time savings; instead, it can result in an accident in the blink of an eye. If this situation escalates, the Board may consider potential measures, such as the installation of extra speed bumps or traffic grates.



The turn from Coventry Blvd onto Kensington Place is ONE WAY.

Residents should NOT use this street to access Coventry Boulevard.

A number of residents have shared accounts of "near-miss" accidents due to motorists driving against the designated one-way direction on Kensington Place.





NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Exemption for Military: Active-Duty military members are exempt from paying

personal property tax in any state that is not their legal state of residence. Vehicles titled in an active-duty non-resident military person's name will be exempt as long as each owner annually furnishes a Leave & Earning statement (LES) for verification. Also, spouses of military service members may be eligible to be tax exempt on personal property in their names or titled jointly with their spouse based upon certain qualifying conditions. For more information, call 757-890-3381.

All vehicles owned by Service members who claim Virginia as their legal state of residence are subject to personal property tax. In addition, upon separating from activeduty status or choosing to retire and remain in York County, each vehicle owner should provide their DD-214.

Household Chemical Collection, Computer Recycling, and Paper Shredding is Saturday, NOV 11th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 105 Service Drive. This service is free. This is the last Recycling Event of the year. 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.

Online County Magazine: York County Citizen news is available free on-line at:

https://www.yorkcounty.gov/1610/Citizen-News-Quarterly.



This is a great resource to learn about the Fall activities, Park hours, Yorktown Market Days, Open Air Concerts, and other happenings in Yorktown.

Yorktown Day is Thursday, Oct 19th 2023. Join in the festivities to Commemorate the Siege of Yorktown in 1781 and the Revolutionary War Victory that paved the

way for America and Freedom. The day begins with a wreath-laying ceremony followed by a patriotic parade down Main Street.



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

Yorktown Calendar

OCTOBER 2023

- 5 RHYTHMS ON THE RIVERWALK CONCERTS
- 7 YORKTOWN WINE FESTIVAL
- 12 RHYTHMS ON THE RIVERWALK CONCERTS
- 14 MARKET DAYS: FALL FESTIVAL
- 14 YORKTOWN VICTORY CELEBRATION
- 19 YORKTOWN DAY
- 21 MARKET DAYS
- **22 YORKTOBERFEST**
- 28 MARKET DAYS: PAWS AT THE RIVER

NOVEMBER 2023

- 4 YORK COUNTY VINTAGE MARKET
- 10 VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY
- 11 MARKET DAYS: MARITIME FESTIVAL
- 18 MARKET DAYS: HARVEST FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 2023

- 1 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
- 2 CHRISTMAS MARKET ON MAIN
- 2 YORKTOWN LIGHTED BOAT PARADE
- **3 CHRISTMAS MARKET ON MAIN**
- **3 COOKIES WITH SANTA**
- 8 AN ENCHANTED EVENING ON MAIN ST
- 9 MARKET DAYS: MISTLETOE MARKET
- 16 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

For more details about these events, go to **VISITYORKTOWN.ORG**

Coventry Fall Calendar

As of Press Time, the following events are scheduled for Coventry Neighborhood Residents during the fall months, Oct-Dec 2023. Always Check Facebook, the Coventry Website Calendar page, and/or emails for current updates to the printed schedules.

14 Oct All Neighborhood Fall Yard Sale 8AM - 2PM

22 Oct Halloween Party 2-4 PM @Clubhouse

24 Oct SMITHY GLEN ANNUAL MTG 7PM @Clubhouse

7 Nov Election Day at Coventry Elementary

13 Nov CHOA ANNUAL MTG 7PM @Cov Elementary

2 Dec Children's Holiday Party 10-11AM @Clubhouse

6 Dec Holiday Bough Making 7PM@Clubhouse

7 Dec NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHT CONTEST

9 Dec Adult Mixer 7PM @Clubhouse

CURB APPEAL & FLOWER BED MAINTENANCE Fall Inspections Begins on September 28th!



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. 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. We have provided **tips on page 5** to prep our flowerbeds for the winter months. There are many ways to create a colorful and easy maintenance fall look for your home.

Our SG Board Volunteers will begin the 4th quarter yard inspections on September 28th, and will conduct follow-ups as necessary. All of the efforts this past year have greatly enhanced the appearance of our homes! A Huge Thank You to our residents – and please keep up the good work!



CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMITTEE The Community Needs YOU!

Volunteering on neighborhood committees is a powerful way to make a difference right in your own backyard. By lending your time and expertise, you can have a direct impact on local issues, from beautifying our common areas and organizing community social events to addressing concerns such as lake management.

Joining a neighborhood committee isn't just an opportunity to give back; it's a chance to connect with your neighbors, build lasting friendships, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations. So, step up, get involved, and be a catalyst for positive change in Coventry!

This community needs you, and you'll find that the rewards of volunteering are immeasurable. Once you decide what committee to join, simply fill out the Volunteer form on page 9 and turn it into the office.



The Annual Coventry Master Board HOA Meeting will be held on 13 Nov 2023 at 7pm @ Coventry Elementary School.

The dues increase will be discussed and new CHOA Board members will be voted on.

FALL FLOWER BED MAINTENANCE

A little work now saves time next Spring!

It might seem odd to prepare spring beds in the fall, but it is actually the ideal time. While beds can be amended in the spring, prepping new beds in the fall allows the compost to really settle and begin to enliven the soil prior to spring planting.

- Remove weeds. Clear away as many as possible now so you have fewer to deal with next spring.
- Dispose of diseased or pest-ridden plants.
 Remove any leaves, stems, and whole plants with diseases or bugs to reduce problems the following year.
- **Divide perennials.** Fall is the right time to rearrange your garden. Dig up and divide your perennials, and replant in any gaps in your garden beds through the end of Oct.
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, and many other spring-blooming bulbs are best planted in late Sept/Oct.
- Add mulch. After the ground freezes, add a 3-inch thick layer of mulch over the crown of perennials planted this growing year.

TO PRUNE OR NOT TO PRUNE Research your Shrubs before you Cut them!



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

Pruning helps shape trees, promotes growth, and keeps people and property safe. When you prune, you're selecting branches to remove while retaining the tree's natural shape. Pruning helps make trees healthier by removing broken, dead, or dying branches. You can also prevent injury and property

damage by pruning branches that could fall.

WHEN TO PRUNE

WHEN to prune depends on WHAT you're pruning. According to the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, "Late winter or early spring, before bud break, is usually the best time to prune many species because new tissue forms rapidly. However, pruning should be delayed for most spring-blooming shrubs until immediately after flowering to avoid reducing the floral display."

The extension office says you should remove dead, dying, or diseased branches immediately, no matter the season. This is especially important after a storm. But you shouldn't prune if the weather turns cold because cutting back branches triggers new growth which often can't hold up against the cold. This is why fall pruning isn't ideal. Fungi also spread more rapidly in the fall and can infest a newly pruned tree.

Since there are so many different shrubs planted within the neighborhood, we have attached the <u>Virginia Tech</u> <u>Recommended Pruning Calendar</u> at the end of this newsletter. Research your shrubs so that you are making good decisions when pruning.

WHAT SHRUBS BENEFIT FROM PRUNING IN THE FALL?

Do you want to just trim up some new growth? Or are you looking to shape a particular shrub? Is your goal to reduce the height of a tree that has gotten too tall? Take these factors into consideration before you start your pruning job.

Arborvitae, juniper, privet, and yews can all benefit from pruning during this time. Remove any deadwood you see in these plants. If you are shaping privet, take a break frequently and step back to see how the hedge is shaping up. It's easy to get off track when you are up in the plant itself. If you suspect disease is the cause of the deadwood in your plants, take the time to clean and sanitize your pruning tools. This will help to keep from spreading the disease to healthy plants. Some of your spring bloomers can benefit from pruning at this time also. Gardenia and hydrangeas can be pruned at this time. Your hydrangeas will prefer a hard pruning at this time. This will encourage bigger flowers in some varieties. Gardenias will generally need less pruning, so alternating years to prune them will probably be your best plan.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Trees that drop their leaves each year need pruning in late winter or early spring. Pruning a tree when its dormant makes it easier to see its shape without the leaves. The tree will heal in less time, and pruning won't have as much of an impact on future growth.

EVERGREENS

You don't have to prune evergreen trees as often. Many conifers fall into this category, along with some broad-leaf trees like hollies. As with any tree, prune damaged branches immediately. It's best to prune evergreens when they're young, then leave them alone as they mature.

FLOWERING TREES

You should prune spring-blooming flowering trees and shrubs right after they bloom. These species develop their flower buds the previous fall. If you prune them in late winter or early spring, you'll be trimming off some or all their blossoms. Trim late summer or fall-blooming trees in late winter or early spring. This will allow them **enough time to set their buds and blossom during the upcoming season.**

CREPE MYRTLE



"Crepe murder" is that horrible pruning technique of cutting Crepe Myrtle trees off straight across at the same height. It's 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 look is so prevalent that many believe this is the correct way to prune a crepe myrtle (Lagerstroemia). Some might even think the trees need this type of harsh treatment. Don't prune your Crepe Myrtle trees in the summer or fall. This could stress the trees out. The summer heat will be too hot and stressful for new growth. If you prune your tree in the fall then its new growth could be damaged by cold winter temperatures.

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.

In addition, there are many crepe myrtles throughout the neighborhood that were planted too close to the homes by the developer. Rather than commit crepe murder, consider removing it from your property since it was not planted in the best location years ago.

KNOCKOUT ROSES



The August 2022 Smithy Glen Newsletter included a detailed article about the dreaded rose rosette, or "witches broom" disease. Many residents, notably those on Monument Court, have lost their beloved Knockout Roses to this disease.

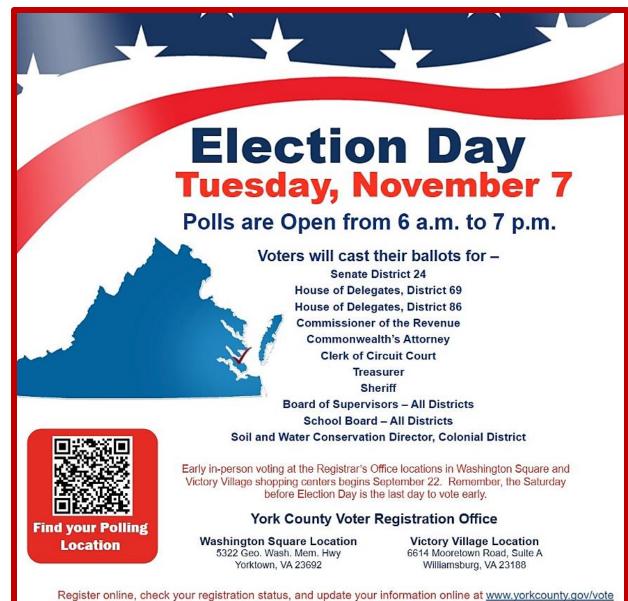
Unfortunately, simply pruning out the infected

portions has not proven to be an effective control method, and leaving the rose bush roots in place just increases the risk of transmitting the disease to other roses in your community. The only solution is to dig up the entire bush, including the roots, and destroy it immediately so that the disease doesn't spread to other roses. You may wish to cover the plant with a heavy plastic garbage bag to prevent mites from dropping off the plant during the removal. Be sure to close the bag and dispose of it in the garbage – do not compost it or add it to a brush pile. Since there is no treatment for rose rosette disease, there's nothing you can treat the soil with to kill it. It would be best to plant something other than roses in this space. However, if you do decide to go with roses again, wait until next spring. If rose rosette disease returns next year, it would be better to switch to something else next time.



Political Signs
cannot be placed
in the Common
Areas without
written
permission from
the Master
Association.

Political signs no larger than 18"x36" may be placed on private property and displayed up to one month before an election and removed within 48 hours after the election.



or call the Registrar's Office at 757-890-3440.



Holiday Lighting does not require ARC approval. However, <u>it</u> <u>cannot be operative prior to</u> <u>Thanksgiving or past Jan 7th</u> and must be totally removed by <u>January 22nd</u>.

COVENTRY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE Consider Volunteering!

The Coventry Beautification Committee (BC) volunteers have been active at monthly meetings and more practically, out in our community pruning, clearing debris, weeding flower beds and restoring our Coventry Boulevard entrance sign.

The BC recently took on several large-scale projects for the neighborhood in 2023. The Committee started the year by adding LED lighting to the main entrance area, giving it a fresh, vibrant look. During the spring, they oversaw hardscaping for the walkway benches on Owen Davis and Coventry Boulevards, which has made a huge difference for our neighborhood!

The Committee most recently secured approval to power wash all eleven of the stone monuments within the community, and has coordinated with US Lawns on the annual fall plantings, which will be done in October.

The next major project will be done in the 4th quarter – **restoring our Coventry Boulevard sign.** Plans have been approved to cut back the trees, upgrade the lighting, and restore the monument to its original state.

Below is what the monument looked like before it was abandoned, and a picture of the current state of the monument. The Committee took on this project because the members felt the original stone monuments are unique and all of the entrance signs/monuments should be standard throughout the community, just as the designers planned.





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.

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.

Most of the work done by the BC is done by volunteers, from creating the monument Holiday trims for the Clubhouse to deciding the seasonal plants that are planted in the various monument beds. Volunteers also help determine how the annual Beautification Budget will be spent and create the priorities for Neighborhood Beautification. They also roll up their sleeves and often show up to dig, plant, and clean out problem areas!

The BC is currently recruiting volunteers to join. 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 the #1 concern of Coventry — preserving the pride and beauty of our community. This is a FUN Committee, so if you are interested, please fill out the volunteer form on page 9 and turn into the office! We hope to see you at the Coventry Annual Mtg on 13 Nov 2023!

Be sure to check Facebook for the announcement of a **Community Cleanup Day in October**. Volunteers are needed to help the Beautification Committee 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.



COVENTRY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM

The Volunteer Program is a vital part of our Community. We have long standing Committees responsible for specific areas and also "one time" events that need volunteers. We welcome and encourage all our residents to become involved. If you are interested in joining an established Committee, or would like to propose and lead a new committee that is not shown below, please return this form to the CHOA office. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW: This committee meets monthly to consider and act upon applications submitted for exterior alterations of properties. The committee recommends architectural rules and guideline changes to the Master Board. Members are appointed by the Coventry Board of Directors. BEAUTIFICATION: This committee meets quarterly to assist the Master Board in maintaining the existing landscape, identifying safety hazards, and developing beautification and landscaping projects for the Common Property. Members are appointed by the President of the Organization. **HEARING COMMITTEE:** This committee meets as required to recommend rules and penalties for Board adoption, and establish procedures for identification, notification, and amicable settlement of possible violations of the rules and restrictions in the governing documents, monthly to consider and act upon applications submitted for exterior alterations of properties. Members are appointed by the President of the Organization. LAKE AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT: This committee meets quarterly to advise and assist the Board in managing the lakes and retention ponds within the development, as well as monitoring storm water drainage issues. Members are appointed by the President of the Organization. NEWSLETTER: This committee meets quarterly to generate and distribute the Coventry Chronicles, an official publication of the Association. Volunteers write articles, type/and or deliver the newsletter. Members are appointed by the President of the Organization. NOMINATING/ELECTION: This committee meets as needed to compile a slate of qualified candidates willing to serve in an elected position on the Master Board of Directors. The committee assists in monitoring annual elections. Members are appointed by the Coventry Board of Directors. SOCIAL AND RECREATION: This committee meets quarterly to plan social events (ie Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Celebration, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Fall Harvest Party, and Children's Holiday Party). The committee researches and recommends other recreation projects to the Board to maintain Community Spirit and Involvement. Members are appointed by the President of the Organization. SAILFISH SWIM TEAM: The swim team relies solely upon volunteer support. Available positions include timekeepers, pool meet preparations, award/gift coordinators, banquet volunteers, and overall team assistance. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: A member in good standing is eligible to serve on the Master Association Board of Directors. Homeowners who reside in the Sub-Associations of Finch Terrace, Ferguson Glade, and Smithy Glen are also eligible to serve on their respective Board. If interested, contact the Coventry office for election dates and Candidate Interest Form. PROPOSE A COMMITTEE:

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 OUTTAGE

Report Outages: 888-667-3000

YORK COUNTY RECYCLING: 757-890-3780

Contact the HOA office at 757-867-9200 E-mail: coventryhoa@verizon.net Office Hours: Closed: Sat/Sun/Mon Tue/Wed/Thur: 10am - 6pm Fri: 2pm - 5pm

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 January issue is 15 Dec 2023.

Thanks!





Beautiful Crepe Myrtle along the walking path behind Hamlet Court

2023 YARDS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our 2023 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
AUGUST: 302 Crescent Court
SEPTEMBER: 204 Hamlet Court

Shrub Pruning Calendar A Guide to Successful Pruning

Bonnie Lee Appleton, Extension Horticulturist Susan C. French, Extension Technician

Comments:

- Flowers are produced on new (current season) wood
- Flowers are produced on wood from past season, pruning while dormant will reduce flowers
- 3.) Make pruning cuts well below diseased wood (fire blight) disinfect shears between cuts
- Remove old stems to ground yearly to renew
- 5.) Midseason shear if a formal hedge is desired
- Do not cut into old wood that has no leaves or needles
 Spring/summer prune to remove azalea caterpillars and galls
- 8.) Fall/early winter pruning can reduce winter hardiness
- 9.) Snap candles (new growth) in half when needles are 1/2 to 2/3 their normal mature length

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or	 Best time to prune Do not prune except to correct hazards or structural defects
timing is not critical	 Best time to prune Do not prune except to correct damage, hazards or structural defects

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6	•	•				•	**				•	*	Arborvitae
2,4						-	**						Almond, Flowering
1,4	*	•											Abelia
Comments	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	





Produced by Communications and Marketing, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2009



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Yew	Witchhazel	Willow, Pussy	Weigela	Viburnum, Evergr.	Viburnum, Decid.	Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice	Sumac	Spirea, Summerblooming	Spirea, Springblooming	Smoke Tree	Serviceberry	Rose	Rhododendron	Quince	Pyracantha	Potentilla	Privet, Evergreen (Ligustrum)	Privet, Deciduous (Ligus- trum)	Pittosporum	Pine, Mugo	Pieris	Photinia	Pearlbush	Osmanthus, Holly	Nandina	Mountain-laurel (Kalmia)	
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Exceptions:

- Timing varies across USDA climate zones zones within Virginia range from 8a in the Virginia Beach area to 5b along the West Virginia border
 Prune anytime to correct vandalism damage and hazards created by equipment or weather
 Hedges maintained formally (tight shapes) require more pruning than hedges maintained informally (in their natural form)