

PORTSMITH NEWS

Welcome |Hurricanes |Plants

QUOTE:

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a NEW DREAM."
C.S. Lewis

Hurricane Season

This is a reminder that hurricane season begins on **June 1**. If you are a snowbird and plan to leave for the season, ensure that all of your outside decorations, hoses, etc. are removed or fastened securely. It's your responsibility to do this before you leave. Those who remain for the season will help if you forget something but please plan ahead.

Hurricane Shutters

Hurricane Shutters must be of an approved design per the Rules and Regulations dated 3/18/25. Wooden panels will not be allowed to be used this season. Please plan accordingly.



WELCOME TO THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is another mode of getting your attention and providing local worthy news and information about the Portsmouth Association in which you reside. The goal of this newsletter is to communicate, inform and educate the community about what is happening around them. And yes, this newsletter will also be posted on the Portsmouth website, so if you lose this paper, it is easily found on-line. On this website you can find social events, rules and regulations, alteration forms and instruction, podcasts with the board of directors, and communication from the board President. <https://portsmithcoa.com>

Here is an interesting tidbit of information.....this past Saturday, March 22, 2025, our Landscape POC and Vice-President, Dave Barrett (pictured above), just became the Kings Point Lawn Bowling Club Champion, winning the final match. It was a closely fought battle, but Dave pulled out the win by a score of 16-10. Congratulate Dave next time you see him trimming your trees, or planting your bushes, or hanging around with Garcia....

Can I Plant Bushes around the TECO transformer?

Many people ask if they can plant bushes around the TECO ground transformers so they can hide the big green box. That's a very good question and we are going to answer this question, and others like it by going to basic research tools, via the internet.

The short answer to this question is **NO**. The Transformer box is in a common element space and therefore does not explicitly belong to the unit owner. It belongs to the association and is owned and maintained by the TECO electric power company. And power companies dictate what can and can't be put around the transformer box for safety reasons, and for equipment maintenance. Following are the guidelines from the power company:

<https://www.tampaelectric.com/blog/2023/Essential-Tips-for-Staying-Safe-Around-Pad-Mounted-Transformers/>

<https://www.whe.org/community/safety/safety-education/planting-digging/planting-near-electrical-boxes.html>

Any questions or concerns always contact your Board of Directors...

Can I plant around the green box in my yard?

You may have a green metal box near or in front of your home. These are called padmounted transformers and are a key part of the electrical system that delivers power to your home. They are only found in areas where electric service is buried underground.

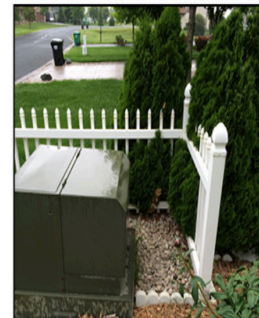
Planting shrubs or trees too close to these boxes creates a hazard for WH linemen. At times, crews need quick access to unlock and open the cover. Two examples of this are in a power outage when linemen need to access the equipment inside, or in the event of a fire at your home, when power would need to be turned off.

When considering landscaping near electrical equipment, please keep these guidelines in mind:

1. Always maintain a clearance of 10 feet in front of the transformer. This is the side with the lock, generally facing the front of your house.
2. Maintain a clearance of 4 feet on the other three sides of the transformer.
3. Never dig beside the transformer.
4. Adequate space is needed for air circulation around transformers. This allows heat to escape during hot weather and extends the life of the equipment. Please do not cover this equipment in any way.



WH linemen need a clearance of 10 feet in front of the padmount transformer to safely work.



Please do not put objects in front of a transformer, as this restricts the work that can be done. In an emergency WH would need to remove the fence.



Please do not plant shrubs this close to a transformer. In an emergency WH would need to cut these shrubs.

PORTSMITH CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC. 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Last updated:
3/22/25

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