



The Messenger



April 2019

The Official Newsletter of Smithy Glen

Vol. 21 No. 1

ANNUAL MEETING

SMITHY GLEN'S Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse at 100 Wrought Iron Bend. Homeowners will be receiving their Annual packet the first week of May. There was a proxy to be filled in and submitted to the office, if you are unable to attend. In order to hold an Annual Meeting, we must have a quorum, so please return the proxy to the office.

Our President, Rob Fitzmaurice will give a detailed account of what has been accomplished this past year and what we expect to have completed this year. There will be plenty of time to hear your voices, whether they are complaints or kudos.

Please join us for refreshments and a chance to win some door prizes!

We still have one position open on the board and are always looking for a fresh perspective, so if there is anyone that might be interested, we will take nominations from the floor! Remember the best way to implement change is to get involved!

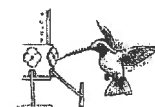


2019 Yard of the Month has started for the season. We want to acknowledge 106 Andover as April's winner for having the best yard. It is in such great shape for so early in the season. Thanks for being such an inspiration to all those other armature gardeners out there. Be sure to drive past and admire their work.

Smithy Glen provides a bulk pick-up dumpster four times a year with the existing trash collection contract. But yet we are still having a problem with large items being left curb side, i.e. grills, sofas. As neighbors come and go it is understandable that new residents may not realize that our trash man will not pick up anything unless it is inside their trash tote. Please keep the larger things that you have to dispose of until the dumpster arrives, notices will be posted on the mail boxes. If you can't wait, you can call the office to arrange a special pick-up or take the item to the landfill yourself, you many need proof of York County residency. Don't trash the community that you live in, respect it and keep it beautiful.

Hummingbirds have already been sighted in our area! You may be surprised to know that hummingbirds can be seen in coastal Virginia as early as late March. If you are interested in attracting these birds and want to put up a hummingbird feeder for the first time don't purchase premade nectar, make it yourself instead with this simple recipe:

Hummingbird Nectar



1. Bring 4 cup of water to a boil.
2. Add 1 cup of white cane granulated sugar.
3. Stir well until the sugar is dissolved.
4. Boil this mixture for 2 minutes to help prevent it from spoiling too rapidly.
5. Allow to thoroughly cool.
6. Pour into clean hummingbird feeders. (Never use soap to clean a feeder)
7. Store any unused syrup in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

As most feeders are already red to attract the birds it is also not necessary to color the water. Further, there are unverified reports that red dye can cause tumors in hummingbirds; this may or may not be true, but why take the chance? Remember you must be vigilant about changing the nectar regularly, during the heat of the summer as often as every 3 to 5 days to keep it from spoiling. Ants will find your feeder, unless you take precautions. The best advice is to buy a feeder with a built in ant mote and fill the mote with water but since chickadees and other small birds like to drink from ant moats it can be fun to use one that is separate. Have fun watching these high energy birds while the season lasts, it ends way too soon.

Summer is just around the corner and everyone will be coming out of hibernation and residents need to be on the lookout for: our children out playing, joggers running, walkers walking, and those silly birds that just don't remember that they can fly. The speed limit in Smithy Glen is 15 MPH and 25 MPH on Owen Davis and Coventry Boulevards and drivers need to slow down. Remember to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, it's not only courteous but it is the law. Children will be out in full force enjoying their summer vacation by playing outside, possibly darting unexpectedly out into the road so you need to be on alert for them. Did you know that according to the Smithy Glen Rules and Regulations bicycles are considered play/recreational equipment and must be stored inside your privacy fence and not be visible from neighboring properties? So parents, please ensure that your children put their bikes and toys away when play time is over and not leave them out on the porch.

May 12th is Mother's Day – Take a minute to tell your Mom how special she is, whether she lives near or far!



Would you be interested in keeping the community connected by becoming editor and chief of The Messenger? Could you spare a few minutes of your time once a quarter to deliver the Smithy Glen newsletter? It is an opportunity to get some exercise and even meet some of your neighbors. If you would like to help contact the office staff to let them know of your interest. (757) 867-9200

Hurricane season is just around the corner, the Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. These are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land. Potential threats from hurricanes include powerful winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, tornadoes, and landslides. Prepare now by:



- Knowing your area’s risk of hurricanes.
- Sign up for your community’s warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- If you are at risk for flash flooding, watch for warning signs such as heavy rain.
- Practice going to a safe shelter for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room or ICC 500 storm shelter. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not subject to flooding.
- Based on your location and community plans, make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.
- Become familiar with your evacuation zone, the evacuation route, and shelter locations.
- Gather needed supplies for at least three days, food, water, batteries, charge phones and computers, etc. Keep in mind each person’s specific needs, including medication. Don’t forget the needs of your pets.
- Keep important documents in a safe place, your dishwasher locks and is waterproof, or create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups. Review insurance policies.

Our trash company observes the following holidays which usually results in a delay of service:

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| New Year’s Day | Labor Day |
| Memorial Day | Thanksgiving Day |
| Independence Day | Christmas Day |

You can check the holiday schedules for trash pick-up at:
<https://support.wm.com/hc/en-us/articles/115000068252-Holiday-Schedule%20>

Thought of the Day: A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it annoys enough people to make it worthwhile.



Did you know that the Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority holds household chemical collections and computer recycling events several times each year? The 2019 schedule of events provides environmentally safe disposal to the residents of Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Hampton and Poquoson is posted on their website at www.vppsa.org. Commonly collected items are computers, printers, insecticides, household cleaning agents, fluorescent lights, and paints, for a complete listing of items accepted refer to the website. The next collection date in Yorktown is May 11, on County Drive, just off Goodwin Neck Road – just follow the signs.



Smithy Glen 101 – Section G - Animals

Dogs, cats, birds and fish are examples of appropriate pets. Pets must not be permitted to disturb neighbors with continued howling, barking or other loud animal noises. Homeowners are restricted to two four legged pets.

Pet excrement must be promptly removed from the property of neighbors and from common areas by the pet's owner if the pet is permitted outside the owner's property lines. Regular cleanup of One's own property is required to prevent odor and unsightliness from becoming public nuisances.

NO animals should be allowed to run free. All dogs must be on a leash. Animals on the loose are considered stray and are subject to pick up by the SPCA.

Tethering animals on or in reach of common property is prohibited. When tethering your animal, consideration of your neighbors needs should be uppermost in your mind.

Residential break-ins and burglaries spike over the summer months. Because as the temperature rises and the weather improves, we tend to do things that make ourselves more vulnerable to theft, like:

- Opening and forgetting to close and lock our windows, sheds and garages.
- Leaving our sunroofs open, windows down or convertible tops removed while we’re away from our vehicles.
- And going on summer vacations with our kids, making our homes a hotter target for burglars.

But, with a couple of preventative measures, you can help deter would-be thieves and keep your property safe. Rule No. 1 when you’re trying to prevent a break-in is to make sure your home and cars are properly locked up. Always:

- Close and lock outside doors and windows before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Before you walk away from your vehicle, put your windows up, close the sunroof or convertible top, lock the doors and never leave your keys inside the vehicle—even for a short period of time. Don’t leave valuables out, such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, wallets, purses, shopping bags, garage door openers, and other valuables.
- Keep your items like lawn mowers and bicycles stored out of sight and locked up.

The Bottom line is, don’t be a showboat take these simple steps to avoid advertising to burglars. Don’t allow them to see all the nice things you have that might be worthwhile to steal.