



# The Messenger



September 2018

The Official Newsletter of Smithy Glen

Vol. 20 No. 2



It's that time of year again and the kids are back in school. Mornings just became a little more hectic trying to get everyone out the door on time.

Remember our children will be standing out at the bus stops, maybe not paying attention, just passing the time until their bus arrives, so let's all slow down on the roads to keep them safe. Try getting up 15 minutes earlier than usual, or refrain from checking in on Facebook or Instagram weekday mornings to save some time, so you can avoid that last minute race out the door to get to work. The speed limit along Coventry Boulevard and Owen Davis is 25 mph but in Smithy Glen it's only 15 mph, for the safety of everyone. So be extra alert as you head out of the neighborhood, and don't forget to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks – it's not only the safe and courteous thing to do, but it's the law.

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Your Homeowners Association is seeking someone to fill the open position of Director on the Board of Directors. Now is your opportunity to have a real voice in your community. Don't be content to just sit back and grumble about things you may not agree with, make a difference and volunteer a little of your time, and invest in the future of the community you have chosen to live in. Interested property owners can contact the office staff who will forward your information to the board. (757) 867-9200

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We want to acknowledge all our shining stars whose landscaping skills excelled this summer earning their home the honor of being awarded **Yard of the Month**.

- 306 Monument Ct in June
- 302 Crescent Ct in July
- 103 Sterling Ct in August
- 300 Chadwick Ct in September

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**SMITHY GLEN'S** next homeowner's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse at 100 Wrought Iron Bend. Come find out what is going on in your community and meet some of your neighbors at the same time.

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Can 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

The Smithy Glen Board of Directors wants to acknowledge Kathi Aiello for her years of service and dedication to our community. Kathi has generously volunteered her time to the betterment of our community on and off since 2001. Sadly she will soon be stepping down from her current position on the board as Secretary to peruse hobbies that have been ignored for far too long. The knowledge she has gained over the years will be greatly missed. So as she and her husband enter the next chapter in their lives we want to say a big **THANK YOU** and we wish you all the best!

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Property inspections by the HOA Board members and office staff are a necessary part of living in such close proximity to each other. These inspections are to keep our homes looking their best, making Smithy Glen a desirable place to live by keeping our property values up. So if you want to keep ahead of a violation notice ask yourself this as you look around your home, are the flower beds overgrown, do the gutters need to be cleaned out, is the fence in need of a few nails to repair loose boards or does the exterior need to be power washed? If you do get a notice, don't take it out on the staff, they are only doing their jobs, treat people in a way you want to be treated. Also, remember too that any changes you make to the exterior such as storm doors, outdoor lighting or even new windows must comply with the existing guidelines and be approved by the Architectural Committee. So before jumping into a home project consult the by-laws that you received when you purchased your home to see what can and cannot be done. A little homework before hand will save you both time and money in the long run.

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Some of you may not be aware that there is a very useful Facebook group that you can join called Coventry Neighborhood Watch, York Co. This site allows you to keep in touch with the happenings of your neighborhood, read about or post suspicious activities, or even reunite a lost pet with their family. Please join.

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## Smithy Glen 101

Remember that a complete application to the ARC is required for sheds or other storage structures that are visible above the fence. All storage sheds must be within your fenced in area. The structure should be nonmetal and stained or painted to match the townhome.

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Did you know that on the first day of autumn (autumnal equinox), the number of hours of daylight and darkness are approximately equal. September 23, 2018



**Halloween** is the one of the oldest holidays still celebrated today. It's one of the most popular holidays, second only to Christmas. While millions of people celebrate Halloween without knowing its origins and myths, the history and facts of Halloween make the holiday more fascinating.

Some people view Halloween as a time for fun, putting on costumes, trick-or-treating, and having theme parties. Others view it as a time of superstitions, ghosts, goblins and evil spirits that should be avoided at all cost. As the Christian debate goes on, celebrating Halloween is a preference that is not always viewed as participating in an evil holiday. Halloween is often celebrated with no reference to pagan rituals or the occult.

**Halloween History** - Halloween is on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar. It was originally a pagan holiday, honoring the dead. Halloween was referred to as All Hallows Eve and dates back to over 2000 years ago and is the evening before All Saints Day, which was created by Christians to convert pagans, and is celebrated on November 1st. The Catholic Church honored saints on this designated day.

**Origins** - While there are many versions of the origins and old customs of Halloween, some remain consistent by all accounts. Different cultures view Halloween somewhat differently but traditional Halloween practices remain the same.

Halloween culture can be traced back to the Druids, a Celtic culture in Ireland, Britain and Northern Europe. Roots lay in the feast of Samhain, which was annually on October 31st to honor the dead.

The Celts believed the souls of the dead roamed the streets and villages at night. Since not all spirits were thought to be friendly, gifts and treats were left out to pacify the evil and ensure next year's crops would be plentiful. This custom evolved into trick-or-treating.

Trick-or-treating is exciting for kids, but when you think about it, it seems like a perfect recipe for disaster. That excitement means unpredictable behavior from excited kids, who are dressed in awkward, dark costumes, running around our neighborhood at night focused on candy. So if you are out please remember that they may forget about safety, so both motorists and parents must be even more alert.

A good tip to parents when you dress your little superheroes and princesses this year is to think about including reflective tape, glow sticks, and flashlights which can help make your child visible to motorists. Remember to check for the official trick-or-treat times for York County as this very special day approaches.

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Remember trash totes should only be placed in the street after 5pm on Wednesday for Thursday pick-up. By 7pm on Thursday, they must be stored **INSIDE** your privacy fence, a shed or garage. If the totes are out before or after those times, you will be notified that you are in violation of this rule. Violators are subject to one warning and after that they are fined \$50.00.

**Recycle** collection is every other week so mark your calendar or set a reminder on your phone. The next scheduled recycle pick-up is: **September 13<sup>th</sup>** then again on **September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Many of our residents did not take last Monday's holiday (Labor Day) into consideration and put their trash totes out for normal pick-up although our service was delayed by one day this week. You can check the holiday schedules for trash pick-up the following website: <https://support.wm.com/hc/en-us/articles/115000068252-Holiday-Schedule%20>

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

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| New Year's Day   | Labor Day        |
| Memorial Day     | Thanksgiving Day |
| Independence Day | Christmas Day    |

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Do you hate to take the trash outside because you can't STAND the smell when the lid is open? Think about it...we put all our household trash in there, and then let it bake in the sun outside a plastic container all week until the trash truck comes to take it away. Is it any wonder our streets REEK on trash day when there are 300+ trash totes out on the curb???

During the summer months, outdoor garbage cans can get especially nasty because they usually hold food and other items that can spoil in the heat. Spoiled food can attract flies, which lay eggs and lead to maggot infestations as well. Yuck, right? Cleaning your outdoor garbage cans is really easy to do with a few household ingredients and a couple of cleaning tools. So, let's get those outdoor bins clean and deodorized!

Right after garbage day is the best time to clean out your outdoor garbage cans. You will get things started by using a degreaser or disinfecting cleaner, recipes follows:

- Homemade Disinfecting Cleaner**  
 3/4 cup of chlorine bleach  
 1 gallon warm water  
 1 tablespoon powdered laundry detergent

- Homemade Degreaser**  
 1 part distilled white vinegar  
 1 part water  
 1 Tbsp. degreaser soap like Dawn

Spray down your garbage can, inside and out.

Apply cleaner and let it soak in for 5 minutes and repeat the process 2 more times.

After the 15 minutes of soaking has passed, rinse the can thoroughly, and turn upside down to drip dry. (You may need to use a stiff brush to scrub any gunk out of the trash cans, and to get into the corners of the can to make sure it all gets clean.)

Make sure that you let the trash can dry completely before adding new garbage, or putting in a garbage bag or closing the lid. If you don't then you will have created a new breeding ground for germs and smells, because of the moistness.

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Daylight Savings Time ends November 4<sup>th</sup>, so Fall Back. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th

