

The Gazebo

A Publication for the
Afton Glen
Homeowners Association



Sticking With It: Winter Touch-Ups

The Face of Our Neighborhood Is Your Very Own Front Yard

You know the saying: You only get one shot at making a first impression. When visitors come to Afton Glen, the impression they get comes from ... (drum roll) ... YOU.

Afton Glen is blessed to have many homeowners who keep their houses in good repair and their yards well maintained—especially during the difficulties and disruptions of the past year, when it has been a huge challenge to sustain the effort. Everyone is tired, and it's tempting to let things slide a little.

But it doesn't take a lot of effort to nudge first impressions in a good direction. Some simple things will help keep your home and Afton Glen looking their best.

Trash and Recycling Containers

On the days between trash and recycling pickups, don't store containers in your driveway or anywhere else in the front or side yards. They must stay out of view, either in your garage or behind the house.

If you have more trash accumulating than you can haul out for a single pickup, your extra trash also needs to stay out of sight in the garage or backyard.

Some houses hide trash receptacles from view in side yards with fencing or lattices, or behind large evergreen shrubs or trees. These solutions are OK as long as you obtain advance approval from the ARB.

If a disability or other physical limitation makes it hard for you to meet this requirement, contact the Afton Glen property manager or a Board member.

They will try to help you get a more manageable receptacle or find other assistance.

Holiday Lights and Decorations

Our by-laws require removal of holiday lights and decorations within 30 days after the holiday. It's time to put away Christmas lights and North Pole inflatables.

Lawn Signs

Every house may display up to two signs for up to 2 months without ARB approval, but ARB guidelines set out some important conditions and exceptions:

- ▶ Displaying any sign longer than 2 months requires ARB approval. If your sign from the last election is still up, it's time to take it down.
- ▶ Signs must appear neat and be in good repair.

(continued on page 2)

- ▶ No commercial or advertising signs are allowed other than to simply identify contractors who are currently performing work.
- ▶ Real estate signs must meet county regulations regarding their size, content, and placement. Real estate open house signs may be displayed only from Saturday 9 a.m. to Sunday 5 p.m. and will be removed outside those hours.

Porches and Side Yards

Keep your porch and side yards clear of ladders, landscaping supplies, firewood, lumber, DIY project leftovers, unused gutter pipes or splash blocks, and other such materials. Store them in the garage or behind the house.

Street Debris

The winter months leave behind a lot of random litter. Everyone has had the experience: You look out your front door and magically, overnight, your front lawn has acquired an empty plastic bottle, or a wad of bubble wrap, or someone’s discarded face mask.

Regularly look around your front yard and the street, and clean up whatever doesn’t belong there.

Sidewalks

Many people walk throughout Afton Glen with their children and pets, or just for the exercise. Help them out by keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice.

If a layer of ice forms where water collects on or drains across your sidewalk, toss some salt or sand on it to avert slip-and-fall accidents. Your neighbors will appreciate not having to walk or push a stroller in the street.

Getting ARB Approval for a Project

If you plan to make any changes to the exterior appearance of your house or yard, ARB approval is required in advance. You can find the necessary form to request approval online at the Afton Glen web site,

under the tab for Procedures > ARB Guidelines, at <https://www.aftonglenhoa.com/ARCHITECTURAL%20IMPROVEMENT%20REQUEST%20FORM%20032618.pdf>

The Latest on Trash Collection, Recycling, and Yard Waste

Do not mix glass in with your recyclables—either throw it out with your regular trash, or recycle it at a county “purple bin.” A map of these bin locations can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/glass>.

Yard debris pickup resumes in March. The county was scheduled to hold a public hearing Tuesday Feb. 23 on whether to permanently ban plastic bags for yard waste. Stay tuned, but until we hear otherwise, you may put out yard debris in paper yard waste bags, in black or clear plastic bags, or in a clearly marked rigid container.

2021 Board Members Elected by Mail-In Ballot

Instead of holding an annual meeting in person last year, homeowners received a mail-in proxy form and ballot in November. The ballot listed candidates to fill vacant Board seats. Homeowners returned enough proxies and ballots to constitute a quorum. Carolyn Eng and Halex Watson were reelected to the Board, and Linda Mossey was elected as a new member.

Board Selects Officers for 2021

At its January meeting the homeowners association elected officers for 2021. They are:

- ▶ President: Robert Siebens
- ▶ Vice President: Matt Herman
- ▶ Treasurer: Carolyn Eng
- ▶ Secretary: Jane Markowitz

We appreciate their generous service!

AGHOA Board of Directors, ARB, and Property Management

President	Robert Siebens
Vice President	Matt Herman
Secretary	Jane Markowitz
Treasurer	Carolyn Eng
Board Member	Geoff Clopton
Board Member	Linda Mossey
Board Member	Halex Watson

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