

# The Gazebo

A Publication for  
Homeowners in Afton Glen  
Springfield, VA



## 2017 Annual Meeting Held

The 2017 Afton Glen annual meeting took place December 6 at Saratoga Elementary School. The following is summary of the meeting highlights.

### **Guest Speaker: Blake Payne, Chief of Springfield Volunteer Fire Department**

The meeting began with a guest speaker, Chief Blake Payne of the Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department (Station 422, Backlick Road). Chief Payne discussed the duties and activities of the fire department and shared practical tips and valuable information about fire safety. Our thanks to Chief Payne for his time.

### **New Members Elected to Homeowners Board**

Three upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors needed to be filled. Dan Sigg, president of the board, is vacating his spot on the board due to a work-related move. He briefly reviewed the requirements and typical activities of board members and asked for volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Board member Carolyn Eng volunteered to continue in her expiring position for another term. Meeting attendees also elected two new board members, Halex Watson (Silver Sage Ct.) and Kevin Gorecke (Groveland Dr.), who offered to fill the other two vacancies.

We thank them for their generous volunteer spirit!

### **No Change in 2018 Annual Fees**

Carolyn Eng, treasurer, reviewed the approved budget for 2018 and answered questions on some line items. Homeowner quarterly fees will remain the same this year, at \$140.

### **Board Gives Homeowners the Year in Review**

Dan Sigg reviewed neighborhood highlights of the year and answered questions. The main activities included the Spring Cleanup Day and Annual Yard Sale. Non-slip treads were installed on the walking path bridges, to improve safety.

No other significant work was done in the common areas during the past year. The neighborhood is keeping pace toward the long-term objective of building up the reserve fund to cover the cost of further needed work on the culverts and pathways.

### **ARB Review**

Dennis Dombkowski, member of the Architectural Review Board, summarized ARB activities in 2017 and fielded questions and comments regarding guidelines and chronic violations.

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Throughout 2017, the ARB received about two dozen formal requests for approval or informal general inquiries, most of them involving replacing roofs, doors, or siding. All requests for approval were approved, with a few conditionally approved with modifications.

The annual spring ARB inspection is the only comprehensive walk-through inspection of the neighborhood each year. If homeowners encounter problems or violations at neighboring houses that crop up during other parts of the year, they should notify a member of the ARB for information and assistance.

## Board Chooses Officers for 2018

At its February 2018 meeting, the Board elected the following members as officers for the coming year:

- President: Robert Siebens
- Vice-President: Matt Herman
- Treasurer: Carolyn Eng
- Secretary: Carol Ward.

## Upcoming Events in Afton Glen

### Annual Cleanup:

**Saturday, May 19, 2018, 8:30–10:30 a.m.**

Join your neighbors and help your community by giving a couple hours of your time on May 19. Cleanup volunteers focus on sprucing up the common areas by trimming overgrown brush, picking up litter, and making the paths safe.

This neighborhood activity is a great opportunity for high-school students or Scouts looking to earn credit for volunteer community service.

The meeting point is at the beginning of the path to the tot lot on Green Garland Drive. Bring your gloves and plastic bags. If you have cordless yard equipment such as leaf-blowers, chainsaws, or tree trimmers, we can put it to good use.

As in years past, free coffee and donuts will be available for volunteers.

### Annual Yard Sale:

**Saturday, June 9, 2018, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.**

Need to declutter your basement? Looking for that trash-to-treasure item? Our community-wide yard sale is

just the event. The association will advertise the event. This is a great opportunity to clean out and clean up!

### Monthly Board Meetings of the Homeowners Association

With occasional exceptions, monthly meetings of the Afton Glen Homeowners Association Board of Directors are held on the third Wednesday of every month starting at 8 p.m. (one month during the summer is usually skipped). A reminder notice identifying the location for each meeting appears several days beforehand on the Gazebo.

All Afton Glen residents are welcome to attend monthly meetings and bring up issues for discussion during homeowner time. Contact us (see the Who to Call page) if you want to add an issue to the discussion agenda.

Minutes of the monthly meetings are not posted publicly but can be viewed by any neighborhood homeowner upon request to the Board. Before release, the minutes may be redacted to remove sensitive executive session information and protect the privacy of homeowners' legal or financial data.

### Have You Visited Our Website?

The Afton Glen website, at [www.aftonglenhoa.com](http://www.aftonglenhoa.com), has useful information about the neighborhood, schools, trash pickup, rules & procedures, county pet requirements, links to local agencies and county news feeds, and much, much more. Check it out—we think you'll discover it's a very handy resource!



# Around the Gazebo

## Sketchy Vehicle in the Street?

Do you see an abandoned, junky, or suspicious vehicle parked in the neighborhood? You can report it by calling the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

## Some Reminders on Trash & Recycling

- Trash is picked up weekly on Monday and Thursday. Recyclables are picked up every Monday.
- Yard and garden waste is picked up every Wednesday starting around March 12 until December, plus the first 2 weeks of January for Christmas trees. Garden waste must be bagged or bundled. The bundles can't be longer than 4 feet or weigh more than 50 pounds. Loose piles of branches will not be taken.
- There is no pickup on July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day. Service resumes on the next regularly scheduled pickup day after those holidays. Pickup service is normal on Memorial Day, Labor Day, and other federal holidays.
- Put out trash and recycling no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before pickup; put away receptacles by 1 p.m. the day after. Yard waste may be put out the weekend before pickup, but it's preferable to not put it out until the night before.

## How to Report Potholes

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintains most primary and secondary roads in the county and fixes potholes on them. However, maintenance and repair of neighborhood pipestem drives are

the joint responsibility of all the pipestem adjacent homeowners.

- Report potholes online at <http://www.virginia-dot.org/travel/citizen.asp>.
- Call 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) to report potholes or to ask who maintains a road.
- More VDOT pothole information is at <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/faq-potholes.asp>.

## How to Report Streetlight Outages

Streetlights along the public roads in Afton Glen are maintained by Dominion Energy. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) operates the streetlights along interstates and at major interchanges.

- Look for the pole ID number, which can be found on the pole. Write it down or take a photo.
- If you can't find the pole number or if you notice a streetlight outage while driving, use the map online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/3-easy-steps-to-report-streetlight-outages/> to find pole numbers. Zoom in on the map to see streetlight locations. Zooming in shows all the lights and their location in Afton Glen. When you click on a particular one, it will pop up the pole ID number.
- After getting the pole ID number, report the outage online using the link in the pop-up map, or call Dominion at 1-866-366-4357.

**When trash and recycling pickup is not possible because of weather, there is no make-up day. Pickup resumes on the next scheduled day (Monday for trash and recycling, Thursday for trash only).**

## AGHOA Board of Directors, ARB, and Community Management Company

President	Robert Siebens   <a href="mailto:rgsiebens1978@yahoo.com">rgsiebens1978@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Matt Herman   <a href="mailto:mattherman88@gmail.com">mattherman88@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Carol Ward   <a href="mailto:jjwardjr@verizon.net">jjwardjr@verizon.net</a>
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Board Member	Jane Markowitz   <a href="mailto:janemarkowitz@gmail.com">janemarkowitz@gmail.com</a>
Board Member	Halex Watson   <a href="mailto:halexwatson@gmail.com">halexwatson@gmail.com</a>
Web site	<a href="http://www.aftonglenhoa.com">www.aftonglenhoa.com</a>
Facebook	Afton Glen Homeowners Association

Architectural Review Board (ARB):  
 John Davies | 703.440.8934 | [jedavies\\_8629@icloud.com](mailto:jedavies_8629@icloud.com)  
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 6700 Norview Court, Springfield, VA 22152  
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# Tips from Your ARB

## Preparing for the Annual Neighborhood Inspection

Each year in May, members of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) and the property manager walk the entire neighborhood to review the condition of homes. If any conditions need to be fixed, we notify the homeowners and reinspect after action is taken.

The purpose is to ensure that our neighborhood looks as good as it can. Our aim is to preserve property values and prevent or eliminate unsightly problems.

Our review looks at the parts of the house and yard publicly visible from the curb. We do not investigate the backyard or other areas not readily visible from curb.

Here are some issues that come up frequently:

- Dirty, mildewed, or moldy siding
- Poor lawn or plant bed maintenance
- Mailboxes that are tilting, rusty, or broken
- Driveways with cracks or holes that need patching
- Damaged or rotting house trim and garage doors
- Peeling or blistering paint.

You can prepare your house for inspection by checking for these and other visible issues. If you need a resource to help you exercise a critical eye, a checklist is available on the Afton Glen website at <http://www.aftonglenhoa.com/ARBChecklist.pdf>.

## Fairfax County Requirements for Homeowners

Besides the specific ARB guidelines for our neighborhood, Fairfax County enforces numerous codes and regulations pertaining to homeowners. These requirements are administered by the county's Department of Code Compliance. It investigates violations related to:

- Zoning
- Property maintenance

- Building (non-permitted construction)
- Grass
- Blight
- Noise
- Fire (some non-commercial segments).

The public can submit complaints online or by calling the department at 703-324-1300. Find out more on its web site, at <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/code/#gsc.tab=0>.

## When Do You Need ARB Approval?

All exterior alterations require ARB approval. This means that, unless specifically stated otherwise in the full ARB guidelines, approval is required for all improvements, alterations, repairs, change of paint colors, excavations, changes in grade, or other work that in any way alters the exterior of any lot, permanently or temporarily, or the exterior appearance of your property. This includes removal of healthy trees! Once a plan is approved it must be followed, or the homeowner must submit a modification and the ARB must approve it.

ARB approval is not required for changes that involve only the interior of your home.

ARB approval is unrelated to whether your project requires a Fairfax County permit or meets county zoning requirements. You are responsible for obtaining any required county permits.

You can find the ARB guidelines, approval form, and other additional information online at <http://www.aftonglenhoa.com/ARB.htm>.

## Recommended Contractors

Did you know the Afton Glen web site maintains a list of contractors recommended by your neighbors? Check it out at <http://www.aftonglenhoa.com/RecommendedContractors.htm>. Please make our list even more useful by submitting your own referrals!