



September Newsletter

**LANDSCAPING UPDATE**

The Advisory Committee has been working with Ryan Homes in getting bids for improving all of the common areas and BMP's. Work will begin at the end of September when the weather has cooled a bit to insure everything will take hold.

The plan will include roto- tilling the ground at the entrance, tennis courts and the playground, mixing topsoil in and laying Bermuda Grass Sod, which is heat resistant. (Another benefit is it can be over seeded with Rye in the winter to provide a green look year-round.) The plan also includes adding additional beds in the playground and some screening with trees and shrubs between the soccer field and the residence behind the playground. The BMP's (dry ponds) on Ottoway and Ashlock will be planted with decent sized trees and shrubs to hide/screen these areas and greatly improve the view.

***Garden Club:*** Is being formed. The group will deal with local planting issues and general yard maintenance. If you are interested in joining please contact XYZ at phone # or email@ cox.net.

**GROUND BREAKING OF LAUREL GROVE PARK**

The official ground breaking of Laurel Grove Park (pool and clubhouse) took place on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at the site. Laurel Grove Park is on tract to open Memorial Day 2010. To see renderings of the park go to [www.preservationstonehouse.com](http://www.preservationstonehouse.com) or to our website.

**EMAIL ALERT**

If you would like to be added to our email list, please send an email to [colleenlynch96@gmail.com](mailto:colleenlynch96@gmail.com).

**COMMON AREAS:**

**Tennis Courts & Playground:**

Look for the new disposal/ waste barrels in these two areas in the coming days .... please use them.

There have been three incidents of damage at the playground, with all four downspouts being crushed to where water can barely flow through them. Such damage is costly to repair and unsightly before it is repaired. *Parents, please discuss this with your children.*

We have also had damage at the tennis courts that seems to be related to similar abuses effecting the operation of the winch used to adjust the net. *Parents, please discuss this with your children.* Please do not stand on the net or the winch handle, they are not as strong as they seem. The winch mechanism is made of brass, which is not prone to rusting but it is a softer metal than steel. Standing on the handle or the net puts undue stress on parts that are not built for such excessive stress. If you need help or instruction in tightening the net contact Gary Garret with United Properties at 345-5383 x491 or Bob Byrd would be glad to assist you. He can be reached at 250-3302.

**GENTLE REMINDERS**

We are an association and uniform standards have been established to protect our community. Being informed about these rules can save you time, money and aggravation. "But I didn't know" could be construed as a weak response, if you are approached on an infraction.

(from our rules & regulations)

**Application Procedure:** Plans need to be submitted to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) before commencing with the construction, erection, planting or installation, as applicable, of any building, addition, patio, deck, fence, wall, animal shelter, landscaping, exterior lighting, sign, mailbox or mailbox support, improvement or other structure (each of the foregoing being hereinafter referred to as an “Improvement”) on any Lot. Please see our website for information on application forms and instructions.

**All garbage and trash stored** on the Properties shall be kept in covered containers, and, except when placed at pick-up site the evening prior to pick-up and removed the evening after pick-up, shall be kept out of view from the street and your neighbors.

**A speed limit of 25 MPH** should be observed within the parking areas and streets unless otherwise posted. Let’s keep our children and all residents safe.

**Residents are strongly encouraged to participate in the County’s curbside recycling program**, which is funded by County taxes. County pickup for recycling at Stonehouse Glen is every Monday AM. For more information about the County’s recycling program, residents should visit the County’s website [James City County Recycling](#) or contact the Recycling Office by calling (757) 565-4000. Hazardous waste drop-off location: JCSA Staff Parking Lot -107 Tewning Road (off Ironbound Road) Williamsburg - 9:00AM-1:00PM on 4/11, 6/13, 8/8, 10/10...2009 only.

**Pet owners** are responsible for the immediate removal and proper disposal of animal waste on all portions of the Property. We have had problems at the playground area! Pets should be leashed when taken off of their property and they should not be allowed to run wild unless electric fences have been installed. Loose pets can scare our neighbors and frequently get into trouble—digging where they shouldn’t, getting into garbage.

**Lawn Maintenance:** Owners shall maintain and mow their yards (including without limitation, any portion of their yards located between their Lot lines and the curb or edge of pavement of adjacent road right-of-ways). A consistent look of properly maintained properties protects our investments. Resource: Virginia Cooperative Extension #757-564-2170 [www.ext.vt.edu/offices/james.city](http://www.ext.vt.edu/offices/james.city) Services provided include soil analysis, watering techniques, property square footage measurements, schedules for fertilization/lime/weed control. Neighbors have had positive results. Others have been happy following the complete Scott Products Regiment. *Homeowners who make little or no effort to properly maintain their lawn are subject to three warnings, a meetings with our review board and if all else fails—FINES!* Grass and shrubs need water, without it they wither, brown and often die.

**Cars in the road:** Although our by-laws do not specifically deal with this issue, we all should use good common sense. When guests come, it is nice to be able to park in the road but our roads should not be congested and become full-time parking lots. If abuses continue, there will be

pressure to change our written rules.  
*Let's not go in that direction.*

**Antennas/Satellite Dishes:** The following priorities shall be observed in determining antenna locations:

- i. Mounted directly on the roof of the house, on a roof plane facing the rear, or on the backside of a chimney.
- ii. Mounted on the ground in the rear yard.
- iii. Mounted on a pole, an existing structure or a tree in the rear yard.
- iv. If no clear acceptable quality signal may be obtained in any of the above locations, mounted on the ground or, if necessary, on a pole in the front yard, or on the front plane of the house. To the extent feasible, antennas should not be visible from the street. In so far as possible, visibility of antennas should be minimized using one or both of the following methods:
  - i. Screen the antenna from view from the street with natural plantings, trees and shrubs to the extent they do not preclude an acceptable quality signal. It is encouraged that existing trees and shrubs be utilized, when possible.
  - ii. Use antennas with a dark or muted color, or paint the antenna a muted color to blend with the background surface of the surrounding landscape. Satellite dishes that are greater than one meter in diameter do require prior ARC approval. Residents are encouraged to uphold Stonehouse Owners Foundation's high standards when considering placement of an antenna or satellite dish.

**Lawn Watering:** James City County has regulations relative to watering. Outdoor watering use is allowed between midnight and 9:00AM and between 5:00PM and midnight. Odd number addresses should water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Even number addresses should water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. There should be no watering on Mondays. For more information: [www.jccEgov.com](http://www.jccEgov.com).  
Outdoor Water Info Line: #757-259-4152.  
Water sub-meters can be installed to your irrigation system to reduce watering costs by as much as 25%. This meter and the reporting of readings prevents a sewer charge for irrigation watering. Contact your service provider for meter installation prices, which can range from \$160.00-\$200.00, depending on how many homes order the installation at one time. Some folks have successfully used Hampton Roads Irrigation in Yorktown, VA (phone) #757-877-3748.

**Common Courtesy:** It is not polite to walk through a neighbor's property without permission. Some of our young people are making new 'rights of way' across lawns and backyard wooded-areas.

### **STONEHOUSE GLEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7pm at the James City County Public Library in the McGraw room. (Croaker Road) *These meetings are open to all residents.* The next meeting is September 10th.

Financials and meeting minutes are available on the Stonehouse Glen website: <http://www.stonehouseglen.info>