

HEATHERWOOD NEWS

2025

Prepared by Kathy Logan and Bill Taggart



Spring



Summer



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Board of Trustees

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Parks



Happy spring into summer!

Spring seems to bring out the folks soliciting for all sorts of work - roofing, siding, landscaping, etc.

We do have "No Soliciting" signs at each entrance to try to decrease some of this but, in reality, there are no laws in New Jersey specifically banning soliciting.

There are laws that state solicitors must follow certain guidelines, generally having to do with fraud and price gouging. Washington Township does have a no-knock process. You need to complete an application to receive the door sticker and there are some exceptions, such as political and charitable organizations. The form is on the www.heatherwoodnj.com website and explains the process if you are interested.

We needed only 2 snow removals this winter! A savings of about half of what is normally budgeted. This allows us to undertake needed projects. The Board has been in the process of soliciting bids and designs for a redo/upgrade of the front entrance landscaping. The evergreens have lost shape and become overgrown, the shrubs are old and tired looking. We look forward to this important project to maintain the beauty and peacefulness of our community. We hope that by the time this Newsletter is delivered a contractor will have been selected and the work scheduled. Stay tuned!

As always, this Spring Newsletter is the only one before the October Open Meeting and this year's elections for the Board of Trustees. This year all 5 positions are up for election: three 3-year terms and two 2-year terms.

The Board defines and makes the decisions on needed projects, overall maintenance and related bids. All of this impacts your monthly Association fees. The Board meets once a month for 2-3 hours.

The follow-up workload is shared and that includes Cheri Buriak, our FirstService Community Manager, who does quite a bit of the footwork for us. Please consider stepping up as several of our Board members are retiring.

Have a wonderful summer!

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Jim Sherry, Treasurer



The current Financial Brief as of February 2025 is included later in this Newsletter.

Residents are also reminded that complete financial reports are posted on the Heatherwood website, www.heatherwoodnj.com, each month where they can be viewed by all Heatherwood homeowners who have requested the password.

OPEN MEETING APRIL 24, 2025

Kathy Logan, Vice President



Heatherwood's first Open Meeting of the year was held at the Washington Township Municipal Building, Sewell, NJ.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and approval of the October 2024 Minutes, Treasurer Jim Sherry reviewed Heatherwood's financial status at the end of 2024, as well as the 2025 Budget to date. In summary, Heatherwood is in a very good budget position for the remainder of 2025.

There followed a number of ratifications of various expenditures paid from either our Operating or Capital Reserve Account, including a new fountain and lights for the pond, fence rail repair and wire replacement in several areas, and snow removal by Marksmen on 1/20/2025 and 2/12/2025.

Committee reports included an announcement by Social Committee Chairperson Charleen Orzechowski that this committee is currently on hold. Attempts to recruit additional members who may be interested continue.

Architectural Review Board Chairman Jim Sherry reviewed details regarding the annual community inspection to be conducted during the last two weeks of May. Additional details in this regard are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Resident Forum discussions included Washington Township's new trash collection regulations, as well as concerns of homeowners on Chew Lane regarding geese droppings and tree losses/replacements in areas with either too much or too little water.

In response to a question concerning a handicap ramp that has been missing for some time, it was noted the Township Public Works has been called several times by Board members emphasizing the need for a replacement and there has been no response. It was suggested that the homeowner questioning this also call Public Works.

COMMUNITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Cheri Buriak

LAWN CUTTING



All grasses will be cut to a 3.5 to 4 inch height in the spring and summer months to promote proper root growth and to avoid any damages. Edging will occur bi-weekly to the walkways, driveways, and curbs with a mechanical edger.

You are reminded that the process is as follows to report any damages to your property within 24 to 48 hours after the incident has occurred:

- The homeowner will email FirstService regarding the issue with a photo as proof.

- FirstService will contact Marksmen Landscaping with the photo as proof requesting immediate action.
- FirstService will monitor the progress until the issue is resolved.

Please keep in mind our lawn cutting day this season is once again on **THURSDAY** afternoons. You are reminded that, as with snow removal, the process is as follows:

The homeowner will call FirstService using the contact information on the first page of this Newsletter regarding a particular issue.

- FirstService will contact Marksmen Landscaping
- FirstService will monitor the progress until the issue is resolved
- **As with snow removal, BOT members should not be contacted personally.**
- Homeowners should not interfere with the workers in any way, including tipping them, which is not allowed by Marksmen.

WEEDING



When it comes to weeding, Marksmen weeds the common areas only. They are not required to hand weed mulch or stone because these are a homeowner's responsibility.

Marksmen also will weed whack around the homes, but they do not weed whack areas that could cause damage, such as the areas behind A/C units, gas, electric and sprinkler pipes, etc.

Marksmen will only cut down grass or weeds that they can get with the weed whackers and will not hand-weed behind obstructions. Again, these are a homeowner's responsibility.

IRRIGATION



Please be mindful not to water on cutting days or, should there be certain areas about your home that are saturated, please place flags in those areas to indicate **do not cut** in order to avoid costly repairs. These small red flags can be purchased at any home improvement service center for a nominal fee.

Spray zones on the sides of your homes where swales are located should be monitored carefully to avoid saturation. Each home has different issues, depending on its exposure to sunlight and other factors such as direction of downspouts. If your swale is too saturated and you do not want the area to be cut, mark the swale with flags to signify that desire. Next door neighbors should find it helpful to address the irrigation issue together.

Lawns should be watered early in the morning. Watering at night should be avoided.

Obviously, homeowners should avoid watering lawns on Thursdays.

Be sure your irrigation system is set for watering on "Odd Days Only," pursuant to Washington Township Ordinance.

TRASH AND RECYCLING



The most up-to-date information available about Washington Township's new trash containers and regulations can be found via Heatherwood's website,

www.heatherwoodnj.com under

"Bulletin Board," or using the link to the Washington Township website in the Table of Contents.

You are once again reminded that during a week in which one of the following holidays falls, **New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Christmas**, garbage and recycling

pickup will be delayed **One Day**. If the holiday falls on the weekend, there will be **No Delay**.

This is also a reminder that Gloucester County conducts **Special Waste Collection Dates** each year, **all between 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, rain or shine**. Those remaining in 2025 are as follows:

5/10/2025 Gloucester County Roads Department
1200 N. Delsea Drive (Route 47)
Clayton, NJ

9/13/2025 Gloucester County Special Waste Complex
493 Monroeville Road (Route 694)
South Harrison Township, NJ

10/25/2025 Gloucester County Road Department
1200 N. Delsea Drive (Route 47)
Clayton, NJ

MATERIALS ACCEPTED:

Solvents, pesticides, cleaners, kerosene, herbicide, gasoline, turpentine, varnish, fertilizers, rat poisons, auto and floor care products, weed killers, lighter fluid, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, fire extinguishers, propane tanks and other gas cylinders, oil based paints, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent tubes, CFL bulbs & ballasts, lead acid, lithium, Ni-cad and ALL rechargeable batteries. (30 & 55 gallon containers require prior approval.)

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

Medical waste, infectious waste, radioactive materials (including smoke detectors), explosives, and ammunition.

NO LATEX PAINT WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Participation is limited to Gloucester County residents. For additional information call 856-478-6045.

CONTRACTOR AND HOME SECURITY ALARM SIGNS



The season for outside projects has arrived and once again it is necessary to remind homeowners that **contractor signs may not be placed on properties either while work is being performed or left there following completion of the project.**

Special note should be taken that permission is necessary if there is to be a construction dumpster on your property for a limited time.

One security alarm sign may be placed in front and one in back of a home. The sign in front is to be placed in the flowerbed or attached to the mailbox post. The sign in the rear of the home is to be placed in the flowerbed.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP VACATION WATCH PROGRAM

The Washington Township Police Department (WTPD) website www.twp.washington.nj.us/departments/police/ provides information and an accompanying form to be utilized to request the police department to check on your property while you are away. This form is not to be utilized to report crimes, suspicious activity, or illegal activity. To report these types of issues, please call 911 for emergencies and 856-256-1212 for non-emergency requests for police.

You are asked to fill out the form provided and submit it at least seven (7) days prior to the requested check start date.

NOTE: The Vacation Watch Program is not intended for periods of time greater than two weeks, or homes for sale. If you will be gone for more than two weeks, you must resubmit your Vacation Watch request at the end of each two-week period. Requests submitted for longer than

two weeks will be patrolled for the first two weeks only.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY



Of possible interest to some Heatherwood homeowners, the WTPD is participating in the Special Needs Registry and Blue Envelope Program sponsored by the Gloucester County Police Chief's Association and the

Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office.

The Registry gives police quick access in an emergency to critical information about a person who is registered. Individuals will also get a blue window decal, as well as a blue envelope for their vehicle. These items let the police know that the occupants have a physical or mental condition that may not be apparent to the officer on scene.

For more information, contact Officer Nick Schmidt at njschmidt@pd.twp.washington.nj.us or at 856-256-1212 with any questions.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SURVEILLANCE CAMERA REGISTRATION



Crime prevention is a cooperative effort between homeowners and the WTPD.

In furtherance of the concept of community partnerships, the WTPD

is requesting residents, businesses, and organizations that have security cameras in place on their property to complete a short registration form.

The registration does NOT give the WTPD access to your camera system but allows the agency to maintain a database of active cameras in the event a

crime occurs in the area. For example, if a burglary occurs down the street from your property, the WTPD would know your camera may have captured an image of a vehicle or suspect that could connect investigators to the suspects involved in the burglary. A detective would phone you and ask to review the footage.

Participating properties will receive a decal with the official Washington Township Police Safe Cam logo to display as an additional deterrent to crime.

OUR HEATHERWOOD WEBSITE

Kathy Logan, Vice President



While FirstService Residential provides a website for Heatherwood, our own Heatherwood website,

www.heatherwoodnj.com, continues to

offer a wealth of information that is not only useful, but easily acquired.

In addition to our Governing Documents, it contains details regarding important matters relating to Heatherwood, an up-to-date Bulletin Board of pending events, including Township and County events, and many useful links to items of interest.

HEATHERWOOD WEBSITE

Bill Taggart, Webmaster



If anyone has any suggestions on adding any new content to the Heatherwood website that you feel would be beneficial to our residents or if you have any questions on the

website or suggestions on how I can make the website more useful to you, please contact me.

The **email address** that you should use if you need to contact me on any **website related** issue is heatherwoodnj@comcast.net

Please also be aware that much of what is reported or referenced in this and other Heatherwood

Newsletters can be found on the Heatherwood website.

HEATHERWOOD COMMITTEES



ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB)

Jim Sherry, Chairperson

ARB ANNUAL INSPECTIONS



The ARB is planning to do the annual walk-around inspection during the last two weeks of May. This inspection is conducted by the ARB members, along with our Community Manager Cheri Buriak, to ensure that all properties are being properly maintained to preserve the beauty of our community and environment.

It is the resident's responsibility to properly maintain the exterior of their home and the landscaping around the property. A large number of the violations in recent years were for dirty siding and weeds.

If any violations are noted, you will receive notice from FirstService stating the specific items that require correction. All violations must be corrected within 30 days to avoid a fine and you are required to notify FirstService in writing, via email or regular mail, that corrections have been completed.

It should be noted that the violation notices do not come without cost, and it would be much appreciated if all residents would take a proactive approach to address any potential issues prior to the inspection to limit the cost to the HOA.

ARB APPLICATIONS



You are also reminded that an ARB application must be submitted for any improvements or changes to the exterior of your property. The application must be submitted and approved

PRIOR to the start of any work. Please refer to the Governing Documents, Exhibit F, Architectural Guidelines, for specific items that do or do not require approval. Certain things, such as door and shutter colors, cannot be changed, and when replacing a roof, the new shingles must be a similar color to the original.

ADDITIONAL ARB REMINDERS FROM OUR COMMUNITY MANAGER



When submitting your Application, please be as specific as possible as to exactly what you are requesting. Best practice would be to include the drawings or plan provided by the contractor and a copy of your survey marked up, thereby leaving no room for interpretation or questions which will slow the process.

Once you have completed and signed the application and included the specs from the contractor in one packet, you can then either scan the packet and email it to me or mail it to Heatherwood, c/o FirstService Residential, 1102 Broadacres Drive, Clementon NJ 08021.

Please note: photos are not acceptable, and office hours are by appointment only.

Any questions regarding the ARB should be directed to Cheri Buriak at FirstService Residential. As always I thank you for your continued cooperation and support!

CONDOLENCES

Our deep condolences go out to the families of those who have passed away since the publication of our Fall/Winter 2024 Newsletter.

Morris Baccare
Dominic Ciccone
Mary Ellen Lynch
Anthony Popolo
Norman Robinson