



# The Plane Tree Post

## The Plane Tree Townhouse Homeowners' Association Newsletter

Winter 2021

### Board of Directors

President  
Douglas Crowe  
Vice-President  
Christine Fox  
Secretary  
Lynn Caperton  
Treasurer  
Gary Nelson  
Member  
Dirk Nyren

### Holiday Trash Notice

There will be **no trash pick-up on Friday, January 1, 2021** due to the **New Year's holiday**. The **trash will be picked up on Thursday, December 31, 2020**.

If you mistakenly set your trash out on the wrong day, do not leave it there! Put it away in its regular out-of-sight storage location until it is time for the next pick-up!

### Association Meetings

In order to maintain proper social distancing requirements, it was determined that Board meetings should be held in meeting rooms larger than that at the ARMI office. Two such rooms had been available, but now that a return to stricter distancing requirements has occurred, this may not be the case. If a room is available for a meeting in January, one will be held. You may check the Association's page on the website, or call the office, to see if a Board of Directors' meeting has been scheduled.

### Management Company

Austin Realty  
Management, Inc.  
**ARMI**  
10 Rock Pointe Lane  
Box 3413  
Warrenton, VA 20188  
540-347-1901  
Account Information  
ext. 111  
Fax: 540-347-1900

## Holiday Decorating

Many homes in the community are beautifully decorated each year, and this adds to the enjoyment of the season. Thanks to all residents who decorate and give the community a festive air!

Residents who have a formerly live cut tree in their home and are keeping it in place in the home for awhile after the holiday, should be sure to water it every day, to prevent it from becoming a fire hazard. If you decorate with electric lights, on your tree or elsewhere, check the strings of lights for signs of deterioration, and remove the lights if the wires are cracked, the coating is worn away, or the plug does not fit snugly into a socket.

For homeowners who are ready to get rid of their formerly live tree, the Town of Warrenton will be collecting them for recycling, beginning on Monday, January 4, 2021, and continuing through that week, starting at one end of Town and going to the other. Residents should place their trees at the street line by 8:00 A.M. on that day. These trees are fed through a chipper to create usable mulch, so all stands, and anything else on the tree, must be removed. Call the Public Works Department at 540-347-1858 if you have any questions about the tree pick-up.

In the midst of everything else that you have to do when the holidays are over, you might not feel like rushing to take down your exterior decorations and pack them away for next year. But please remember that these decorations do need to be removed, to maintain the appearance of the community.

## Be Considerate When Clearing Away Snow

During snow storms (which we can only hope will not deposit a large amount of that fluffy white stuff), residents are requested to not pile snow in the street when clearing it from their vehicles, parking areas, or sidewalks, in addition to not placing it where it will add to the burden of other residents' snow removal. The snow should be placed onto grassy common areas whenever possible, without blocking any fire hydrants or mailboxes. If your home is not close to one of these, and the only open space available is in the street, spread the snow around as much as you can. Piles of snow left in the street increase the cost of snow removal, as this large amount of snow in one place is much harder to remove than the amounts which normally cover the streets prior to snow removal.

## Treating Concrete Areas for Icy Conditions

If concrete steps and walks in front of your home become icy due to cold, wet, winter weather, be kind to them by not coating them with rock salt or any type of chemicals used to melt ice, that contain any chloride components. These not only damage the concrete, but the run-off kills the grass.

A recommendation has been made that a "10-10-10" type of fertilizer be used to melt ice and snow on concrete steps and sidewalks. Just be careful not to overdo the application, because run-off of this treatment will also go onto the grass. This may be good for the lawn, but residents have been asked to be careful concerning the amount of fertilizer that may be in the water which runs off their properties. The chemicals in the fertilizer may be damaging to the ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay, which is where much of the water run-off from this area, ends up.

## Pet Keeping Manners

Residents should remember that living in a community, the way in which you care for your pets impacts other residents. When taken out for a walk in the neighborhood, dogs must be leashed and not allowed to go onto other residents' properties. Dogs are not to be let out unaccompanied! All waste must be removed promptly and disposed of properly, no matter where it is left, including around the pet owner's home. Pet waste not picked up during cold weather may get buried in snow, and turn into a trap for the unwary, when it defrosts! In addition, dogs must not be allowed to disturb the community with their barking.