

Spring is Coming

Spring is almost here! The birds are singing, and the flowers are blooming! It is a great time to think about spring cleaning, taking care of your yard and the community grounds. If you see any litter please dispose of it. Below are some tips for cleaning up your yard.

- **Rake leaves and pick up sticks.**
- **Prune your plants.**
- **Weed your garden beds.**
- **Fertilize.**
- **Fill any bare spots with grass seed.**
- **Prepare your yard for mowing.**

Tree Removal

This winter, several dead trees were removed, and at least one tree fell causing some minor property damage. We monitor all the trees in the development. Please notify Christie if you think that any tree poses a hazard so that it can be evaluated.

Exterior Remodeling

Remember to consult the Architectural Review Board Rules on the [Woodstone Sentry website](#) before making any exterior changes. These rules were updated in May 2022 to include EV chargers, etc.

Upcoming Events

- Woodstone Community Clean-up is on Saturday, March 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.! Clean-up supplies will be available at the tennis courts in lower Woodstone. Please consider coming out to beautify our neighborhood. We are seeking volunteers to help with this event. Please contact Christie if you are interested in volunteering.
- Get ready for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We are seeking volunteers to help with this event, please contact Christie.



Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are plant species intentionally or accidentally introduced by human activity into a region in which they did not evolve. These plants cause harm to natural resources, local wildlife, economic activity, and/or humans.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage currently identifies [90 invasive plant species](#) that threaten or potentially threaten our natural areas, parks, and other protected lands in Virginia.

Invasive plants typically grow quickly and spread a large amount of seeds, therefore removing and controlling invasive species can be costly. They are efficient germinators and colonizers, and their growth out-competes native plant species.

When planting this spring, please use native plants. They are a better alternative to invasive plants and you will be helping the Woodstone's ecosystem!

Common Invasive Plants

English Ivy is an invasive plant commonly sold at garden centers. It can quickly take over the native habitat by blocking sunlight to trees, shrubs, and other plants. It is difficult to [remove](#).

Bamboo. Effective on January 1, 2023, property owners are required to contain running bamboo on their property and prevent it from spreading beyond their property line. [Penalties may incur.](#)

Nandina, an [evergreen shrub](#) that produces bright red berries is often used in mass plantings. The red berries are toxic to birds and other animals.

Bradford Pear trees are being [outlawed in many states](#) because they have little value to wildlife and also displace native trees.

PROPERTY MANAGER

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NEWSLETTER INFO

To contribute to our newsletter, please send your submission for consideration to:
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COMMUNITY NETWORK

- Woodstone Sentry Homeowners Website
- Woodstone Facebook Page
- Woodstone on Nextdoor
- HOA Fees Payment Site



Responsible Dog Ownership

Dogs are a big part of the Woodstone community. Please remember to pick up after your dog. Lower Woodstone has bins where dog owners and dog walkers can dispose of pet waste. Our awesome Poop Squad empties the conveniently located poop bins twice per week. Please contact Christie if you are interested in volunteering for the Poop Squad.

Fairfax County recommends these [10 Tips for Responsible Dog Ownership](#):

- **Identify Your Pet:** Make sure your dog wears a collar with a current license and ID tag and has a microchip with up-to-date information.
- **Vaccinate Your Dog:** Proof of a valid rabies vaccine is required for licensing your dog in Fairfax County. Check with your vet to determine what other vaccines are most appropriate for your dog.
- **Get Your Dog Licensed:** All dogs four months and older must have a license which is renewed annually.
- **Spay Or Neuter Your Pet:** Each year, three to four million homeless pets are euthanized in the United States. By spaying or neutering, you are doing your part to reduce pet overpopulation. Dogs that have this routine surgery tend to have longer, healthier lives and are less likely to roam.
- **Enroll Your Dog In A Training Or Obedience Class:** Positive training will allow you to control your dog's behavior safely and provides a terrific opportunity to enhance the bond you share with your dog. Training builds communication, understanding and mutual respect.
- **Keep Your Dog Physically Fit:** Up to 45 percent of pets in the United States are overweight or obese. To keep your dog happy and healthy, make sure you exercise your dog every day. Twice daily walks are enough for some dogs while others benefit from the additional exercise, play time and socialization they get from regular visits to a dog park.
- **Obey Leash Laws:** In Fairfax County, dogs are required to be on a leash at all times in public areas unless they're in a designated off-leash area.
- **Clean Up After Your Dog:** Pick up dog waste and dispose of it in a public trash can or at home. Dog waste is not only unsightly, but it pollutes groundwater and is harmful to wildlife.
- **Protect Your Dog From The Elements:** If the temperature outside is too cold or hot for you, it is also too cold or hot for your pet. Pets should be kept indoors and never leave your pet in a car when the outside temperature is above 70 degrees.
- **Give Your Dog Companionship:** Dogs left alone for long hours are more likely to exhibit undesirable behaviors including aggression and separation anxiety. If you are away from your home long hours, consider hiring a dog walker or getting a companion for your pet. The Animal Shelter has lots of loving pets waiting to meet you!

Post Your Favorite Winter Recipes on Woodstone's Facebook!

Tag your post with
#WoodstoneWinterRecipes



Woodstone Spring Yard Sale

The Woodstone Spring Yard Sale will be held on May 20 at 8 am. Rain date is May 21. Set up on the grassy areas near the tennis courts or on your lawn or driveway.

Pickleball

Pickleball season is fast approaching! We are looking for some ideas to get pickleball groups together. Please contact Christie if you are interested.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is March 20 through April 16. You can sign up for event and peak bloom [email updates](#).