

Winners – Pumpkin Carving Contest!

The Afton Downs Homeowners Association hosted a Pumpkin Carving contest on Halloween night! Looking for homemade, carved pumpkins that met our criteria (cutest, goofiest, scariest, etc.), our judges voted on the three best looking pumpkins in the community.

Of the three winners, **Jennifer Berger** won first prize. Her pumpkins were scary, goofy, original and cute.... all at the same time. **Brannon McKay** won second prize. His pumpkin was the most original and featured an interestingly carved mouth. And the third prize went to **Karin Frost**. While **Elizabeth Webb's** glittered-face pumpkin gave **Karin's** pumpkin a run for the prize, there was something very scary and ingenious about **Karin's** pumpkin – a burning red candle inserted inside the pumpkin produced a red liquid-wax that dripped from the pumpkin's mouth... very scary! So, Karin won third prize and Elizabeth's pumpkin came in at number 4.

Jennifer, our first prize winner, won a \$17-gift certificate to The Home Depot and an elegantly hand-carved clear crystal candy dish complete with lid. Second and third prize winners also received a crystal candy dish.

Thanks to all who participated in the pumpkin carving contest and in trick-or-treating. We had many trick-or-treaters this year and the kids seemed to have a great time with the participating homeowners. For more details and to see photos of some trick-or-treaters and the winning carved pumpkins, please visit us on the Web at www.aftondowns.com and click on **Social Events**.



Do You Have a Programmable Thermostat?



Yes. It goes on and off. That's programmable, right?

Wrong! That sounds more like a regular thermostat, which must be **manually** adjusted to change the indoor air temperature. A programmable thermostat is more convenient and hip – it adjusts the temperature setting for you, **automatically**.

When you install a programmable thermostat in your house, the unit adjusts the heating or air conditioning turn-on times as the outside temperature changes. With a programmable thermostat, **in one pass**, you can set daily, weekly and/or week-end programs that allow you to store up to six or more temperature settings a day. For example, you can pre-set your thermostat to automatically reduce the temperature for times when you're not home, or increase the temperature early in the morning or just before you arrive home in the evening, so your home is comfortable when you need it to be. No sense in wasting energy in heating your home when you're not there!

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, by reducing your temperature setting 10% to 15% for 8 hours each day, you save up to 10% on your annual heating bill. A programmable thermostat allows you to do just that – automatically reducing the temperature in your house while you're away and saving you money in the process.

It's easy to install a programmable thermostat – most homeowners can do it themselves. For information on how to install a programmable thermostat, visit www.acestimates.com/thermostat.htm. If you don't feel comfortable installing one yourself, refer to our Contractor's List to have a licensed electrician or contractor install your programmable thermostat.

The cost to purchase a programmable thermostat is minimal when you compare it to the potential savings. Programmable thermostat prices range from \$30 to \$80 per unit. So, don't walk, **RUN** to Lowe's or Home Depot to get your programmable thermostat and start enjoying the convenience and savings today!



Welcome Mat

A red-carpet welcome to the new homeowners at:

- 5131 Afton Ct.
- 5076 Afton Way
- 5112 Afton Way
- 5240 Afton Way
- 5268 Afton Way
- 5008 Bell Dr.

We're glad you're here!

If you have not yet received a Welcome Packet, e-mail Fara at faraqindin@yahoo.com to obtain one.

Leaves Taking Over your Yard?

There may be an easy fix! From **November through February**, City of Smyrna Sanitation will pick up all leaves that have been neatly piled at the curb in front of your property. There's no need to bag these leaves – the City uses a vacuum-like cleaning device that sucks up the leaves! So, be sure to rake your leaves and place them in a pile at the curb **every Monday of the first week of every month by 8 a.m.**

Or, you can rake and bag your leaves in large brown paper bags and place the bags at the **curb every Wednesday by 8 a.m. for pickup.**

For more information, call 770-319-5385.

Please note: There will not be a December 2003 newsletter – we're gearing up for January 2004. See you then! Happy Holidays!