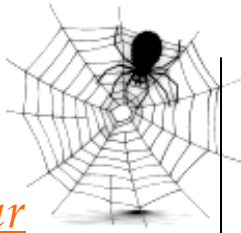


# Afton Downs Community News



A publication for the homeowners of the Afton Downs Subdivision – October 2003



## Meet your Board Members:

**Milton West**, president  
5041 Bell Drive

**Fara Gindin**, secretary  
5110 Afton Way

**Faye First**, treasurer  
5028 Bell Drive

**Talia Jeanty**, chairperson ACC  
1007 Afton Way

**Nina House**, board member  
5049 Bell Drive

**Kathy Mihlack**, board member  
5020 Bell Drive

## Feedback?

The Afton Downs Community News is published as needed for the residents of the subdivision. Your feedback and comments are welcomed and appreciated.

To submit story ideas or comments, please contact Fara at [faragindin@yahoo.com](mailto:faragindin@yahoo.com)

## Pumpkin Carving Contest!



The Afton Downs Homeowners Association is hosting a **Pumpkin Carving** contest on Halloween night! Go crazy with your designs if you expect to be one of the three winners of this year's Pumpkin Carving contest. The competition was stiff last year as many of our homeowners stepped up to the plate with some terrific designs.

This year, we're putting on the pressure, looking for the cutest, goofiest, and scariest pumpkins with the best design and the most originality. Our judges will vote on the three best looking pumpkins in the community and will award prizes accordingly.

To participate in the Pumpkin Carving contest, once you've prepared and carved your pumpkin, **be sure to place your masterpieces outside your front door no later than 7 p.m. on Halloween night for the judges to see as they come by.**

All winners and a photo of their pumpkins will be published in our next newsletter.



## Stray Cats Becoming a Nuisance to Residents

Recently, there have been several sightings of stray cats roaming through our neighborhood. Many neighbors have complained to the Association about this increasing number of stray cats and about the homeowners who feed them.

For your safety, the ADHA recommends that you do not feed stray cats. Research shows that when cats aren't domesticated, they are and act like wild animals. They can carry rabies that will enter a human system with a simple scratch or even a lick to an open wound.

Without having been vaccinated, cats can be the carriers of a multitude of diseases. Rabies is the most obvious and dangerous, but ringworm and other types of fungal infections also are common. Keeping away from stray and outdoor cats is the best method of protection against disease; however, the germs can also be spread through excrement. Since there aren't any litter boxes around, the cats relieve themselves in the areas they inhabit outside.

Also, please be aware that in the City of Smyrna, any person who harbors a cat shall be responsible for ensuring that the cat is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 14 – Animals; Article III, Cats. By Harbor, the Ordinance means “to give or allow to be given habitation, shelter, refuge, or nourishment for any period, whether or not owned.” And if you choose to harbor a stray cat, you must abide by the above City Ordinance and the ones listed below:

- Sec. 14-71. Vaccination and tags required.
- Sec. 14-73. Limit on number of cats harbored.
- Sec. 14-72. Running at large while in heat.
- Sec. 14-69. Responsibility of harborer to comply with article.
- Sec. 14-70. Unlawful presence.
- Sec. 14-67. Penalty for violation.

Please, for your protection, refrain from petting stray cats and do not encourage the strays to hang around by feeding them. Once you start to feed one stray cat, more will appear and they will continue to appear regularly.

To report strays, please contact the local Animal Control department at 770-434-6600. That department is in charge of finding homes to place these stray, feral and/or alley cats.



## *Acknowledgements from Spring 2003 Maintenance Survey!*

"Thank You" letters were sent to several homeowners who responded to our request for exterior repair from our Spring 2003 Maintenance Survey. We were very pleased to see how quickly these homeowners responded to us and completed the needed repairs. Homeowners like them help the community maintain its appeal and help property values to increase because they show great care in maintaining neat and attractive properties.

For the few who have not responded and/or have not completed the repairs needed, you should have received a letter asking you to complete the repairs at once. **Please**, do not prolong any more in doing the necessary repairs to your house. The ACC's purpose is to make sure that all homeowners abide by Afton Downs covenants, maintain their properties, and for property values to increase.

Please contact the ACC with any questions regarding your repairs or to offer reasons as to why your repairs cannot be completed at this time.



## *A Word from the ACC about Soiling your Community!*

According to the definition in Webster's Dictionary, *soiling* is to make dirty, to smirch or stain, to bring disgrace upon, to corrupt and defile. There are many other definitions associated with the term soiling – enough to fill one entire page of this newsletter, but that's not our point.

For close to 20 years now, the Afton Downs community has been and continues to be one of the kept secret in Smyrna. In large part, this is due to the efforts and commitment of all the homeowners who have worked hard to maintain their homes and the beauty and charm of the neighborhood. This appeal and charm are exactly why homebuyers choose our community over many other surrounding communities.

Afton Downs is home to first-time homebuyers, singles, young families, and established homeowners who have lived in the community since its inception. Homeowners choose to live here because Afton Downs offers a safe and pleasant environment. The same cannot be said of some of the surrounding subdivisions, even the ones with properties twice as large as ours and with duplex-style townhomes. Those properties' values have not seen the same property increases that we are experiencing currently in Afton Downs. And, the reason is simple: how well the properties are maintained in a community and how the entire neighborhood is kept has a great deal to do with property increases.

Why does one get into the habit of soiling? Could it be associated with the lack of respect for oneself and for others or is it a lack of education or consideration? Whatever the reasons, it must cease.

Throwing trash in the islands, not picking up after your pet, not maintaining properties, parking cars on your neighbor's lawn or overnight in the cul-de-sacs, playing loud, thumping music while driving, etc. do not represent Afton Downs. This is not our community's image!

Soiling has been proven to bring a community down, thus bringing down with it our property values. Is that what we want?

**Please, keep Afton Downs clean.**

**Talia Jeanty, chairperson ACC**  
**Afton Downs Homeowners Association (ADHA)**