

## **Sidewalks, Walking at night, Streetlights, & Potholes – Oh My!**

Stenning Woods has something that almost no other neighborhood of its age doesn't have and that is well kept sidewalks throughout the entire neighborhood. Most sidewalks are "owned" by, and their upkeep, repair and maintenance are the responsibility of every homeowner that has sidewalk(s) either in front of, or alongside their property. The Association makes all good faith efforts to address any issues with the sidewalks that run alongside common community open space to ensure that they are well maintained so every resident can use them safely. Reports are taken and inspections occur and quotes obtained to address the issue(s) and the Board reviews and approves any corrective work necessary to keep or return the common area sidewalks in proper condition.

Walking at night will always be fraught with possible hazards due to low lighting conditions and the fact that we live in the suburbs where our streets aren't lit up like city streets, with lots of streetlights turning night into day. Common sense should prevail and those that walk at night, should carry a flashlight for their own safety and to alerts drivers that a person is walking alongside the streets. Hopefully every walker also knows that they are legally supposed to use the sidewalks where present and if walking in any street, they must legally walk facing oncoming traffic, that is to say, walk opposite of vehicular traffic. Some municipalities also have mandatory flashlight use provisions for people walking at night.

The Association is responsible for maintaining the Community Common Open Space areas and for plowing and salting the streets, but as far as any street pavement surfaces or concrete street curbing and catch basins, vaults, grates and underground piping systems, that upkeep and maintenance falls to the Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT). We notify DELDOT of any issue that we discover when performing random inspections, from damaged or missing (stolen) street signs, broken or damaged catch basins; grates; etc., which any private citizen can also do, by simply making an online report of the issue at:

<https://deldot.gov/Traffic/ReportRoadCondition/index.shtml>

We also report and address a wide variety of other "quality of life" issues for Stenning Woods such as reporting any broken, knocked over, damaged, malfunctioning, or non-working streetlight, to Delmarva Power for servicing and repairs. Again, something anyone can also quickly and easily do themselves online at:

<https://delmarva.streetlightoutages.com/public/default.html>

We always urge homeowners to report street light outages promptly, since everyone in a community is actually paying for those lights on their County Tax bills and you should have them working every night, all the time.

All reports get logged and scheduled according to priority and urgency and tasked to the closest maintenance center. Delmarva Power has one service/repair center for street lights and they are, in our opinion, one of the most efficient and effective service centers around.

For streets, the DELDOT Maintenance District is notified for follow up inspection and action, which could mean minor repairs get done by DELDOT or assigned to another DELDOT division, crew or a contractor. Folks can always reach out to their elected officials, such as their State Representative and State Senator to have them review the situation and see what assistance they can provide to get things addressed. We do this often, but we also understand that funding for neighborhood streets is very limited and our elected officials have nowhere near the amount of Community Transportation Funds (CTF) to fix even one community's street issues, let alone the hundreds upon hundreds of neighborhoods they have in their district.

We hope you find this information helpful,

Bob Tully, Stenning Woods Board & A2Z Property Management

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