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Toad Hall

Please send us your email address for our database! Email us at janolting@aol.com.

TOAD HALL

adapted from April 2009 Avant Gardener

Toad Hall-- Build It and They Will Come...Of all the beneficial creatures that can inhabit a garden, the toad may not be the prettiest, but it is one of the most valuable (an exception is the giant Hawaiian cane toad).

Numerous mainland toad species are great insect eaters. They're also great entertainers – their chirps, trills, moans and grunts rivaling the songs of mockingbirds. Toads are fascinating to watch, for their sticky tongues can capture and swallow an insect in literally thousandths of a second. Way back in 1915, a scientist observed that the average American toad can consume as many as 10,000 insects each spring



and summer, including some of the most harmful caterpillars, slugs and locusts. And it's easy to welcome them into any garden. A pond or pool, of course, is ideal, but they can also live in any appropriately planted damp and shaded area with a mulch of leaves. Inverted clay pots with "doors" chipped in the rims

are also inviting habitations when sited in shade; little mounds of twigs work, too. Dry (unmortared) rock walls make luxury toad homes that provide security as well as comfort. Shallow pans of water are useful almost anywhere in the shade if kept filled, but only a little more effort is needed to make a mini water garden of a sunken bucket, half barrel, or similar container planted to shade loving aquatic plants.

One last point, though, toads are probably equal opportunity eaters and may not distinguish between the bugs you want and the bugs you don't.

If you have a story you would like to submit, please sent to _____.

1ST ANNUAL PRESTWICK GARDEN WALK

Sunday, July 12
1pm - 4pm



Prestwick

Homeowners' gardens are some of the most beautiful in Frankfort. Why not make time to see them on the 1st Annual PHA-sponsored Garden Walk? There's no charge for this neighborly event. Just watch for the mailing in late June listing the host homes and set aside time to stroll and enjoy!

Note: The PHA is still looking for host gardens. All host homeowners will be entered into a drawing for a Frankfort restaurant gift certificate as our way of saying thank you for opening your yard to your neighbors.



For more details or to volunteer your garden, please contact Sue Bloomfield by phone or email at 815-469-1974 or sueblmfd@yahoo.com or Jan Werner at janlubas@comcast.net or 815-469-1890 by **June 15**. Thank you!



PRESTWICK FIREWORK SHOW

The summer fireworks show is returning to Prestwick Country Club, co-sponsored by the Prestwick Homeowners Association. Watch your email/snail mail for a date/time.

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP



The PHA would like to thank Earth Day Clean Up volunteers Bill and Evan Matevich, Rich Misiorowski and Rod Campbell for donating time to clean up the open space areas in and around Prestwick as part of the Village of Frankfort's Earth Day celebration.

COYOTES, FOXES & SQUIRRELS, OH MY!

You may have noticed that we are seeing more foxes and coyotes cruising our neighborhood. We're all accustomed to raccoons and squirrels and how to deal with them (or not deal with them!), but what about these less common residents? One of your concerns may be pet safety. Foxes never prey on dogs. Coyotes prey on both foxes and dogs, so you may not want to send your dog out into the back forty and leave him out in the dark alone for any extended period of time. Of course, foxes and coyotes both prey on squirrels, so maybe that will help with one of your other nature problems!



Submitted by resident Kay MacNeil

CN UPDATE

Discussions continue between the Village of Frankfort and CN regarding noise mitigation efforts. The PHA continues to monitor the situation and is making plans to host a homeowners meeting in July to discuss Prestwick's options. Currently, the Village is considering vegetation screens for most of the areas affected by the increase in train traffic. PHA Board members Marc Steinman and Rich Misiorowski have conducted extensive independent research and believe Prestwick residents may benefit from other solutions. Please watch your mail for a meeting time/date.



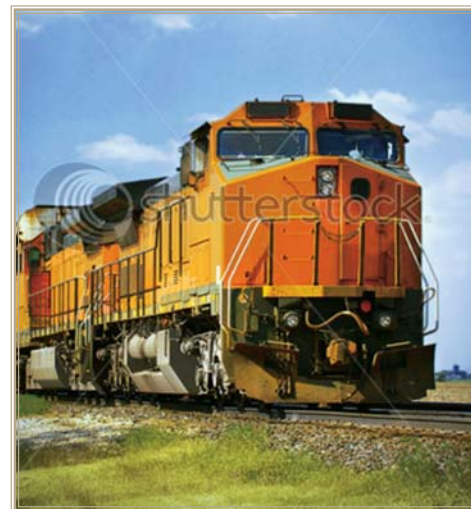
area residents who used the TRAC website to register complaints, we were able to document that CN had omitted numerous problems, including numerous grade crossing delays, excessive noise and vibration, prolonged idling by a school, and track infrastructure problems.

As a result of these numerous and serious omissions made by CN in its first monthly operational report, TRAC has asked the STB to appoint an independent monitor with investigative subpoena powers to have oversight on tracking these problems comprehensively for the duration of the monitoring oversight period. Because it is apparent that CN was trying to frustrate the STB's clear interest in understanding fully the problems with shifting CN freight to the EJ&E, TRAC feels it is appropriate that CN cover the full costs associated with the independent monitor.

In addition, TRAC (The Regional Answer to Canadian National) sent out this update in May..." On May 6, TRAC filed a report with the STB refuting CN's April report detailing problems for February and March along the EJ&E resulting from CN's acquisition of the rail line. The STB had mandated these reports from CN to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation it had imposed on the railroad. Thanks to the many

Anyone interested in reviewing the April 13 CN Operational Report and the TRAC response, can find them in the documents section at the TRAC website,

www.fightrailcongestion.com. REMEMBER, IT WAS YOUR EFFORTS TO REGISTER THESE EVENTS AS THEY OCCURRED THAT ENABLED TRAC TO KEEP CN'S FEET TO THE FIRE. So, make sure you don't slack off in reporting all problems that you witness. Let your friends and family know about this handy tool as well – Visit www.fightrailcongestion.com and just click on the "Register Rail Complaint" button on the upper left-hand corner of the home page, and you will be linked to an auto-form that can be filled out and submitted quickly."



DEAR PRESSY

In this issue, we'd like to introduce Pressy, the neighborly know-it-all of all know-it-alls and rumored to be related to advice-giving Abby. Pressy's new column will provide Prestwick residents with all your need-to-know info regarding community concerns. Feel free to send Pressy your own questions at info@prestwickhomeowners.com



Dear Pressy,
My neighbor is a wonderful guy, and I don't mean to "trash" him, but his garbage cans are out from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday or Wednesday morning, which means he's trashing me! The cans roll around in the street, sending stray garbage flying into my yard and tearing up my landscaping. I really hate to be the neighborhood Gladys Kravitz, but I'm just wondering what the garbage policy is around here or if there even is one.
Thanks for your help,
Neighbor Ned

Dear Pressy,
I thought I moved into Prestwick, but lately I'm thinking that I live in the PHA Campground. My neighbor stores his trailer on his property in between our houses. He also has a boat that lives on his lawn for most of the spring and summer. I've seen other houses in our neighborhood whose yards are starting to look like junkyards for older model trucks and cars. Aren't there rules about this?
Signed,
No RVs for Me Mike

Dear Ned,
Never fear, your yard needn't be trashed for good. The Village of Frankfort ordinance requires that trash cans be put out no earlier than 6 p.m. on Sunday. Each resident is permitted three cans and one large item per week. Cans should be pulled in promptly on Monday since they can't be out again until after 6 p.m. on Sunday. If you feel that a "hey, did you know...?" hint to your neighbor is not getting the message across, feel free to contact the Village's Code Enforcement Officer directly at 815-469-2177 to report the violation.

Dear Mike,
You make an excellent point. Even though Prestwick residents have the luxury of expansive lots, they are not storage facilities. The Prestwick covenants do not allow for storage of RVs, campers, boats or non-running vehicles on residential lots. In addition, the Village of Frankfort ordinance states that a recreational vehicle (including boats and other trailered items) can be parked in one's driveway for no more than 48 hours. If you don't feel comfortable mentioning this Village requirement to your neighbor, please contact the Village's Code Enforcement Officer directly at 815-469-2177. The Village can't write tickets unless they know the violations are occurring.

In addition NuWay (the Village's trash collection service) recommends the following strategy to keep recyclables in the bin: place these lightweight items in bags (paper or plastic) and then put them into the "green" pick up containers. The heavier weight of the recycled-bagged items will reduce air borne loss on garbage pickup day, resulting in a win-win situation: we recycle and keep our Prestwick lawns and streets clean.
Garbage cans should also be kept out of sight of your next door neighbors, so whether that's behind your garage or in your garage, just make sure they're not part of your neighbor's Prestwick panorama.

Here's to a summer of truly scenic views!
Pressy

Best of luck keeping clean,
Pressy