

# Brentwood

My POA  
202 North Liberty St. Suite 101  
Harrisonburg, Va 22802  
(540) 434-6166  
Info@MyPoa.com



## Newsletter

December 2018

### MyPOA Holiday Hours

Offices closed Monday, **December 24<sup>th</sup>** & Tuesday, **December 25<sup>th</sup>** for the Christmas Holiday.

Offices closed Monday, **December 31<sup>st</sup>** & Tuesday, **January 1<sup>st</sup>** for the New Year's Holiday.

### Snow Policy

Contractors will plow snow if more than two inches fall and only after the storms stops for snow events that are less than ten inches. Chemicals will be applied to try and control ice problems, but extreme conditions may result in slick conditions. Large snow events often cause delays with all contractors and may require multiple service trips. For these large snow events (10+ inches expected) the contractor will come out approximately midway through the storm and then again once the storm has stopped. Snow removal for parking spaces and sidewalks is an owner/resident responsibility. We thank you for your patience and understanding. Please drive carefully.

### Christmas Tree Disposal

If you are looking for a way to dispose of your live Christmas tree after the holidays, you may take your Christmas tree to the county dump. This is a free service for county residents.

### Easy Home Weatherproofing

Some small weatherproofing jobs require little to no "handiness", but can make a real difference once cold weather hits. By doing these things before the snow flies, you'll be saving yourself some hassle (and possibly some money, too!):

- Clean gutters and downspouts in mid-fall and double-check them before winter.
- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Close any vents in your home that may have been opened for the warm weather.
- Disconnect hoses from outside faucets and turn off the water.
- Buy a snow shovel and other winter supplies before the messy weather hits.
- Keep extra water and canned food in storage just in case.
- Test your heating system, so that you know it will work properly when you need it.
- Give your deck a fresh coat of sealer to protect it from the winter elements.



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### Holiday Pre-Travel Checklist

- **Tell Your Neighbors**

The first thing that you should do when leaving your home either attended or unattended is to tell your neighbors that you will be gone. Let them know when you're leaving, and when you plan to return.

Ask them to keep an eye on your property to make sure that no one is entering without permission, and leave them a key in case they need to check the heat or plumbing. If you get mail delivered to your home, ask them to pick it up for you so that it isn't left unopened on your front step.

- **Turn the Heat Down**

Keep your heat turned up enough to prevent any seasonal freezing, but low enough that you won't be wasting power on an empty house.

If you have someone checking in on the property while you are away, ask them to turn on the faucets every couple of days to make sure that water is going through your plumbing. This helps to keep pipes from freezing, and it keeps the pea traps from drying out and causing unpleasant odors.

- **Leave a Timed Light On**

If possible, leave an outdoor light on with a timer. Having a light on for your whole absence may show that you are actually away, while having one on a timer can indicate that

someone is home. If you do have someone checking in on the house, ask them to make sure that they turn off any lights and lock any doors before leaving.

- **Plan for an Emergency**

Traveling in the winter, either by plane or by car, is always a risky business. With inclement weather and unexpected storms, you never know whether or not you can trust your return date. Keep in close contact with whoever is taking care of your home to ensure that they are up-to-date on your plans.

- **Pets**

If you have pets and will be leaving them at home, be sure to arrange for their care. Even if you only have a small pet like a fish or a gerbil, have someone check in to make sure that they have fresh water and food. If your trip is delayed, it won't matter that you left them plenty of food and water before you left, they might be out by the time you get back.

- **Seasonal Care**

If you have someone close by who you can ask, have them shovel and salt the walks while you are gone. It wouldn't be much fun to come home to a pile of snow and a driveway that you can't park in. If they're able, ask if they can check on the house in the event of a power outage as well, to make sure that the heat kicks back on properly and that your appliances (such as your fridge) are back to working order.



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### From Your Community Manager's Desk

This time of year reminds us of how blessed and grateful we are. Most of us have warm homes, food in our bellies, and friends and families that fill our hearts. But not all of us are always so fortunate, and I am a believer that charity begins at home.

Use this holiday season as a reminder to be a good neighbor, and work towards that goal every day. You and all your neighbors chose your community for several reasons, and it is up to all of you to work together to keep it a great community.

Every little thing counts, from always picking up after your pets, driving slowly and reasonably in the community, being diligent in maintaining your home and yard, and being a courteous and respectful neighbor. Other suggestions are to check on your elderly neighbors or take them a meal occasionally. Offer to trade nights of babysitting with fellow neighbors, to watch each other's homes while on vacations, or assist with dog walking or small maintenance items. If you need assistance, reach out to your neighbors.

The fourth definition for Neighbor in Webster's Dictionary is "a person who shows kindness or helpfulness towards his or her fellow humans." Let's make this definition our goal for 2019!

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